

More Prevention, More Protection, Better Response

Cheshire Fire Authority has approved a multi million pound investment package to complete the modernisation of fire stations, upgrade frontline firefighting equipment and adopt new technology, helping to keep communities and firefighters even safer.

Alongside approving the Service's budget for the next 12 months, members also agreed a major multi year capital investment programme to start from April, which will be funded from the Authority's reserves and around £2m of borrowing – far less borrowing than originally planned owing to work to identify savings and efficiencies. The capital plan includes:

- the £10.5m redevelopment of Ellesmere Port and Warrington Fire Stations by autumn 2027, involving partial demolition and extensive remodelling to provide modern welfare facilities for staff; dedicated 'clean' and 'dirty' areas to reduce harmful contaminants; improved gyms to support firefighter health and fitness, and enhanced community rooms.
- the refurbishment of fire stations at Malpas, Nantwich, Poynton and Stockton Heath to achieve similar benefits. All of Cheshire's 28 fire stations will then have been newly built or completely modernised over the last 10 years.



- £1.6m to replace firefighters' breathing apparatus in 2027/28 with state of the art lightweight equipment that uses digital technology to help incident commanders monitor firefighters' location and vital signs during high risk incidents.
- investment in a new digital mobilising system at North West Fire Control in Warrington, which Cheshire operates jointly with Cumbria, Greater Manchester and Lancashire fire and rescue services.
- continued improvements to housing at fire stations where firefighters live on site to respond to emergencies outside normal working hours.

- improvements at the Service's headquarters complex in Winsford including the creation of a new Occupational Health Unit, additional office space, a new on-site stores facility and modernised conference, training and meeting spaces. This work includes revisions made possible by purchasing the former Winsford Police Station building, adjacent to headquarters.

Please visit our website cheshirefire.gov.uk for more information on the fire and rescue services we provide for the people of Cheshire.





Facts and figures

Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service operates:

- 28 fire stations
- 3 community safety centres
- 3 community fire protection offices
- An operational training facility and headquarters
- Safety Central, our public safety education centre

The Authority provides a 24 hour service to just over 1 million people and employs some:

- 571 firefighters and fire officers
- 209 community safety and professional services staff



Fire budget 2026–27

The Fire Authority has agreed that a budget of £61.79 million

is required to provide a fire and rescue service to the communities of Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Chester, Halton and Warrington areas for 2026–27.

A total of £40.86 million will need to be raised from local Council Tax, which is equivalent to £100.09 for each Band D dwelling. This is a rise of 5.26%, or 10p a week for a Band D home.

The budget equates to a cost per resident of just £1.04 per week.

Estimated expenditure and income

	2026–27 £m	2025–26 £m
Employee related expenditure	46.36	43.95
Non-pay expenditure	18.21	18.51
Income	(2.78)	(3.23)
Budget requirement	61.79	59.23

How the budget requirement is built up

The Fire Authority budget requirement for 2026–27 is £61.79 million. The reasons for the increase in the overall budget requirement are as follows:

	£m	% increase (decrease)
Base budget	59.67	
Pay and price inflation	2.36	4.0%
Essential growth	0.86	1.4%
Efficiencies and Savings	(1.18)	-2.0%
One-off items not funded from reserves	0.29	0.5%
Budget requirement	61.79	3.6%

Where the money will come from

	£m	£ Per Resident	£ Band D Equivalent
This year's budget	61.79	54.21	151.37
Less Government funding assessment and collection fund adjustment	(20.93)	(18.36)	(51.28)
Local Council Tax	40.86	35.85	100.09

Cheshire Fire Authority

The Fire Authority manages the fire and rescue service on behalf of the local community. It comprises 23 councillors – nine from Cheshire East Council, seven from Cheshire West and Chester Council, three from Halton Borough Council and four from Warrington Borough Council.

Representing Halton

Cllr Phil Harris
Cllr Stef Nelson
Cllr Rob Polhill

Meeting dates

Wed 24 June 2026
Wed 30 September 2026
Wed 9 December 2026
Wed 10 February 2027
Wed 21 April 2027

All meetings are open to the public, start at 10.30am and are held at the Sadler Road site in Winsford. Meetings are also recorded and these are available to view, along with meeting agendas and minutes, on the Service's website: www.cheshirefire.gov.uk



Cheshire
Fire Authority

Queries about this leaflet should be sent to: Treasurer, Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service, Sadler Road, Winsford, Cheshire, CW7 2FQ



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