

Making Cheshire safer

The construction of four new fire stations across Cheshire is well underway as part of ambitious plans to improve emergency response across the county.

The programme, which was the subject of widespread public consultation a few years ago, followed an in depth review of the Service. The total cost is around £16million with all the money coming from Government Grants or the Authority's own reserves.

Alsager Fire Station has already cemented itself as an important part of the community. The community station on Brookhouse Road was the first of the four new fire stations to be built. The new station, which is staffed by a crew of on-call firefighters, is now fully operational, responding to emergency incidents.

February saw the official opening of Penketh Fire Station located off Widnes Road. The station has two fire engines based there. One staffed by wholetime firefighters and the other by the new crew of on-call staff who have been recruited from the local area. In addition to providing an emergency response the station will also have a number of rooms available for use by members of the community.



Powey Lane Fire Station



Powey Lane Fire Station near Mollington has also begun responding to incidents. Unlike the Service's community fire stations this is an 'emergency response hub' housing traditional fire engines and a number of specialist vehicles to tackle specific emergencies across the county. The location near to the motorway network provides these vehicles with ready access to respond to other incidents across the whole of Cheshire.



Penketh Fire Station

Lymm Fire Station, is due to open later this year. It will provide full time cover and training facilities to ensure that firefighters continue to respond effectively to a variety of scenarios. In addition, Safety Central, the area's first purpose-built education and lifeskills facility will deliver educational programmes in an interactive way to ensure visitors to the centre take away important safety information.



Alsager Fire Station

Cheshire Fire Authority

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

Representing

Cheshire East

Cllr Damian Bailey
Cllr Dorothy Flude
Cllr Dennis Mahon
Cllr David Marren
Cllr Gillian Merry
Cllr Jos Saunders
Cllr Margaret Simon
Cllr Jacqui Weatherill

Meeting dates



Wed 14	June	2017
Wed 20	September	2017
Wed 6	December	2017
Wed 14	February	2018
Wed 25	April	2018

All meetings are open to the public, start at 10.30am and are held at the Service Headquarters in Winsford.

All reports and minutes are on the Service's website - www.cheshirefire.gov.uk

Facts and figures



Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service operates:

- 28 Fire Stations
- 4 Community Safety Centres
- 3 Community Fire Protection Offices
- A Headquarters and training facility.

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

- 678 operational staff
- 245 community safety and other support staff.

Fire budget 2017-18



The Fire Authority has agreed that a budget of £41.3 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 2017-18.

A total of £26.45 million will need to be raised from local Council Tax, which is equivalent to £73.29 for each Band D dwelling. This is a rise of 1.99%, or 2.7p a week for a Band D home.

The budget equates to a cost per resident of just 76p per week.

Queries about this leaflet should be sent to: Head of Finance, CFRS Headquarters, Sadler Road, Winsford, Cheshire CW7 2FQ
t: 01606 868700 e: feedback@cheshirefire.gov.uk

Estimated expenditure and income



	2017-18 £m	2016-17 £m
Pay related expenditure		
Firefighters	21.7	23.3
Other staff	8.1	7.7
Non-pay expenditure	13.0	12.6
Income	(1.5)	(1.5)
Budget requirement	41.3	42.1

How the budget compared with last year



The Fire Authority budget requirement for 2017-18 is £41.3 million compared with a budget of £42.1 million for last year. The reasons for the 1.9% decrease in the overall budget are as follows:

	£m	% increase (decrease)
Last year's budget	42.09	
Pay and price inflation	0.66	1.6
Essential growth	1.19	2.8
Efficiencies and Savings	(2.28)	(5.4)
IRMP & Financing adjustments	(0.32)	(0.8)
Section 31 grants	(0.05)	(0.1)
Total	41.29	(1.9)

Where the money will come from



	£m	£ Per Resident	£ Band D Equivalent
This year's budget	41.30	39.74	114.44
Less Government funding assessment and collection fund adjustment	(14.85)	(14.29)	(41.15)
Local Council Tax	26.45	25.45	73.29