

# All change to protect Cheshire for the future

**A**ll of Cheshire Fire Authority's four new fire stations will be fully operational within the next 12 months as part of a major programme to ensure the organisation can continue to protect local communities in the future.

The new stations will improve overall average emergency response times but changes in how some of them are crewed will help the Authority make some of the £5.1 million in savings it currently expects to have to achieve over the next four years.

Further efficiencies will come from plans to collaborate closely with Cheshire Constabulary and deliver the majority of support services from a single, shared headquarters site by April 2018.

In addition, a major public consultation will start in September 2016 as the Authority sets out further potential efficiencies to its frontline emergency services.

For 2016-17 savings of just under £1 million are required, with almost all of the money coming from cuts to support



service budgets. In addition, the Authority is increasing its Council Tax level by 1.99% which means that the amount for a Band D home will be £71.86 – an increase of £1.40 a year or 2.7p per week.

The new stations at Alsager, Penketh, Powey Lane near the M56 and Lymm – where the iconic circular building will also incorporate a state of the art training and safety facility – are expected to cost just under £17.5 million. All of the funding is being met from central grants and a dedicated reserve established by the Authority.

In addition, the Authority's capital programme for 2016-17 includes:

- £1,143,000 for four new fire engines
- £814,000 on new cutting gear used by crews to rescue people from road traffic collisions
- £154,000 to replace two boats, trailers and vehicles which respond to floods and water rescues
- £76,000 to replace and upgrade defibrillators on all fire engines.

More details about how the Authority aims to protect local communities are set out in 'Making Cheshire Safer'. This annual publication, also known as the Integrated Risk Management Plan for 2016-17, is on the Service's website.

**STAY SAFE**

Over half of all fires in the home start in the kitchen – stay safe by following our tips:

- Always clean the grill pan after use to stop fat and oil building up
- Never leave cooking unattended
- Make sure that you have a working smoke alarm
- Don't start cooking if you have had alcohol or are really tired
- Keep tea towels and cloths away from grills and hobs
- Watch out if you are wearing loose clothing.

**STAY ALERT** Cheshire Fire ALERT

Sign up to our messaging system to get vital information about major incidents and issues in your area.

The Alert System is a completely free two-way community messaging system which allows you to receive key messages from the Service by text message, email or phone.

To register go to the Service's website - [www.cheshirefire.gov.uk/MyAccount](http://www.cheshirefire.gov.uk/MyAccount) - and put in your home or work postcode or that of a relative and choose the alerts you want.

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

### Meeting dates



Wed	15	June	2016
Wed	21	September	2016
Wed	7	December	2016
Wed	15	February	2017
Wed	26	April	2017

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](http://www.cheshirefire.gov.uk)

### Facts and figures



Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service operates:

- 25 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:

- 643 operational staff
- 238 community safety and other support staff.



### Fire budget 2016-17

The Fire Authority has agreed that a budget of £42.1 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 2016-17.

A total of £25.54 million will need to be raised from local Council Tax, which is equivalent to £71.86 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 81p per week.

### Estimated expenditure and income

	2016-17 £m	2015-16 £m
Pay related expenditure		
Firefighters	23.3	22.9
Other staff	7.7	7.4
Non-pay expenditure	12.6	13.7
Income	(1.5)	(1.6)
<b>Budget requirement</b>	<b>42.1</b>	<b>42.4</b>

### How the budget compared with last year

The Fire Authority budget requirement for 2016-17 is £42.1 million compared with a budget of £42.4 million for last year. The reasons for the 0.7% decrease in the overall budget are as follows:

	£m	% increase (decrease)
Last year's budget	42.38	
Pay and price inflation	0.68	1.6
Essential growth	0.29	0.7
Efficiencies and Savings	(0.90)	(2.1)
IRMP & Financing adjustments	(0.44)	(1.1)
Other*	0.08	0.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>42.09</b>	<b>(0.7)</b>

\*Other includes:

Allocation of second homes precept, section 31 grants and collection fund adjustments

### Where the money will come from

	£m	£ Per Resident	£ Band D Equivalent
This year's budget	42.09	42.09	118.43
Less settlement funding assessment and collection fund adjustment	(16.55)	(16.55)	(46.57)
<b>Local Council Tax</b>	<b>25.54</b>	<b>25.54</b>	<b>71.86</b>

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](mailto:feedback@cheshirefire.gov.uk)