



**Wednesday,
4 December 2024
10.30 am**

**Meeting of
Cheshire Fire Authority
Sadler Road
Winsford
CW7 2FQ**

Contact Officer:
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Democratic Services

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Cheshire Fire Authority

Notes for Members of the Public

Attendance at Meetings

The Cheshire Fire Authority welcomes and encourages members of the public to be at its meetings and Committees. You are requested to remain quiet whilst the meeting is taking place and to enter and leave the meeting room as quickly and quietly as possible.

All meetings of the Authority are held at the Training Centre, Sadler Road, Winsford. If you plan to attend please report first to the Reception Desk where you will be asked to sign in and will be given a visitors pass. You should return your pass to the Reception Desk when you leave the building. There are some car parking spaces available on site for visitors at the front of the building. Please do not park in spaces reserved for Fire Service personnel.

If you feel there might be particular problems with access to the building or car parking please contact the Reception Desk at Sadler Road Winsford Tel (01606) 868700.

Access to Information

Copies of the Agenda will be available at the meeting. A copy can also be obtained from the contact officer named on the front of the Agenda. Alternatively, the Agenda and individual reports are available on the Authority's website (www.cheshirefire.gov.uk)

The Agenda is usually divided into two parts. Most business is dealt with in the first part which is open to the public. On some occasions some business may need to be considered in the second part of the agenda, in private session. There are limited reasons which allow this to take place, e.g. as confidential information is being considered about an individual, or commercial information is being discussed.

This agenda is available in large print, Braille, audio CD or in community languages upon request by contacting; Telephone: 01606868414 or email: equalities@cheshirefire.gov.uk

Recording of Meetings

The Authority audio records its meetings. Please contact Democratic Services for a copy of the recording via DemocraticServices@cheshirefire.gov.uk. The recordings are not kept indefinitely.

Fire Evacuation

If the Fire Alarm sounds you should make your way to the nearest exit as quickly as possible and leave the building. Please follow any instructions from staff about evacuation routes.



MEETING OF THE CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY

WEDNESDAY, 4 DECEMBER 2024

Time: 10.30 am

Lecture Theatre - Fire Service Headquarters, Sadler Road, Winsford,
Cheshire CW7 2FQ

AGENDA

PART 1 - BUSINESS TO BE DISCUSSED IN PUBLIC

1 PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1A Recording of Meeting

Members are reminded that this meeting will be audio-recorded.

1B Apologies for Absence

1C Chair's Announcements

To receive any announcements that the Chair wishes to make prior to the commencement of the formal business of the meeting.

1D Declaration of Members' Interests

Members are reminded to disclose any interests that are relevant to any item on the Agenda.

1E Questions from Members of the Public

To receive any questions submitted, in accordance with procedure rules 4.47 to 4.54 by members of the public within the area covered by the Fire Authority.

1F Minutes of Fire Authority

(Pages 7 - 20)

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the Fire Authority Meeting held on 25th September 2024.

1G Minutes of the Audit Committee

(Pages 21 - 30)

To receive, for information, the minutes of the Audit Committee meetings held on 18th September and 20th November 2024.

1H Minutes of Governance and Constitution Committee

(Pages 31 - 42)

To receive, for information, the minutes of the Governance and Constitution Committee meeting held on 6th November 2024.

Item 2 – Conclusion of the 2024 Review of the Members' Allowances Scheme

The Committee was satisfied with the Report of the Independent Reviewer and took her Report into account in agreeing its recommendation to the Fire Authority about the Members'

Allowances Scheme for 2025-26 and beyond.

The Report of the Independent Reviewer was shared with Members of the Fire Authority shortly after the Committee met. It can be accessed using this [LINK](#)

No decision is required about the Review, but it does provide context for the decisions being sought below.

Item 3 – Members’ Allowances Scheme: Annual Increase to be Applied to 2024-25 Scheme; and Draft 2025-26 Scheme

The Report considered by the Committee is attached as Annex 1. The Appendix to the Report, as slightly amended by the Committee, is attached as Annex 2.

Two decisions are required.

Recommended that: the Fire Authority

- [1] agrees that an annual increase of 3.83% should be applied to the Members’ Allowances Scheme 2024-25; and**
- [2] approves the Members’ Allowances Scheme for 2025-26 at Appendix 1 to the report (accepting the minor change noted during the meeting and highlighted in these minutes).**

PLEASE NOTE: Annex 2 on pages 37 to 41 is the Members’ Allowance Scheme 2025-26 that is recommended by the Committee. It assures that the 3.83% increase for 2024-25 is agreed and has been adjusted accordingly.

- 1I Minutes of Brigade Managers’ Pay and Performance Committee** (Pages 43 - 44)
To receive, for information, the minutes of the Brigade Managers’ Pay and Performance Committee meeting held on 13th November 2024.
- 1J Minutes of the Staffing Committee** (Pages 45 - 48)
To receive, for information, the minutes of the Staffing Committee meeting held on 13th November 2024.
- 1K Minutes of Performance and Overview Committee** (Pages 49 - 56)
To receive, for information, the minutes of the Performance and Overview Committee meeting held on 20th November 2024.

- 1L Notes relating to Member Training and Development** (Pages 57 - 60)
To receive, for information, notes concerned with Member training and development.

There were no Members of the Group able to meet on 1st October 2024. However, Councillor Gina Lewis, who is not a Member of the Group attended and the notes reflect her views on the agenda item.

- 1M Programme of Member Meetings for 2025-26** (Pages 61 - 62)
The Programme attached is similar to previous years, taking into account as far as possible the anticipated meeting arrangements of constituent authorities. Members are asked to note the Programme.

ITEMS REQUIRING DISCUSSION / DECISION

- 2 Draft 2025-26 Budget: Council Tax and Medium Term Financial Plan 2025-30** (Pages 63 - 70)
- 3 Treasury Management - Mid-Year Report 2024-25** (Pages 71 - 82)
- 4 Exclusion of Press and Public** (Pages 83 - 84)

PART 2 - BUSINESS TO BE DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE

- 5 Sale of Surplus Land to the Rear of Chester Fire Station** (Pages 85 - 90)

This report is contained in Part 2 of the Agenda, because it deals with commercial matters relating to the sale of surplus land held by the Fire Authority.

Reports about this were previously considered by the Fire Authority in June 2022 and the Public Report can be accessed via this [LINK](#). The Authority is being asked to determine how it wishes the sale to proceed.