



**2022-2023 Draft
Annual Action Plan**
Consultation Feedback
Report

www.cheshirefire.gov.uk

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Introduction

This report sets out the results of the programme of public, staff and partner consultation on Cheshire Fire Authority's draft 2022-2023 Annual Action Plan, which ran between 4 October 2021 and 7 January 2022.

The purpose of this report is to enable the Authority to understand the differing level of opinion among all groups to the proposals set out in the draft Plan, in order to assist the Authority in giving consideration to the results of the consultation in its decision making process. This feedback will be among the issues considered by the Fire Authority prior to approval of the final version of the Annual Action Plan.

This report comprises seven sections, as follows:

- An executive summary, which briefly describes the consultation programme, the level of response and the key conclusions which can be drawn from the feedback received
- An overview of the consultation programme
- Detailed results of the survey that underpinned the consultation.

This report has been made available to public and partners on the Service's website - www.cheshirefire.gov.uk/consultation - and to staff on the Intranet.

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January 2022

Consultation Overview

This report details activity undertaken during the consultation on Cheshire Fire Authority's draft annual action plan for 2022-2023 between 4 October 2021 and 7 January 2022.

A standard online consultation survey was developed to gauge opinion amongst the public and a similar survey was created for staff. In addition, 12,000 postal surveys were distributed and over 250 stakeholders and partner agencies were communicated with during the consultation, along with Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service staff.

There were 170 responses received from the public consultation in total. A total of five members of staff responded via the survey for employees. In addition, 486 free text comments and responses were received from members of the public and staff via their respective electronic surveys. This feedback is summarised within the report, with verbatim comments supplied within the appendices. Submissions were received from five stakeholders and partner agencies.

The commentary on the following pages provide a summary of the feedback emerging from the consultation. More detailed analysis of feedback is provided later in the document.

Summary of Consultation Feedback

The following section provides a summary of feedback received through the consultation process and outlines key considerations to take into account through the decision making process.

Overall Views of the Service

The overwhelming majority of survey respondents (91.1%) valued the Service as a local service provider, while 81.2% stated that they were satisfied with the overall performance of the Service. A total of 69.2% felt that the Authority's current precept (£80.87 for a Band D equivalent property) represented value for money, compared to 12.4% who did not.

As with previous consultations this feedback is largely drawn from perception, with over half of respondents (61.8%) having had no contact with the Service in the past three years. Of those who did, the most common method of contact was through a station open day, safe and well visit or a meeting/event in the community. Only 11% of respondents had come into contact with the Service through an emergency incident.

2022-2023 Precept

Regarding the proposed 1.99% increase in the Authority's precept for 2022/2023, 62.5% of respondents supported an increase compared to 23% who opposed. 14.5% of respondents stated they neither supported nor opposed the proposal, or did not know.

There were 35 additional comments provided to this question, with 14 supporting an increase and 15 opposing an increase. Comments in support of an increase stated that there would be support providing an increase was necessary to maintain or improve the level of service provided. Comments opposing an increase frequently cited the impact of cumulative increase from other precepting authorities as well as impact of the increases in the cost of living.

Reducing false alarms in domestic premises

The vast majority of respondents (90.4%) identified as owning their own home with a small percentage identifying as being in social rented (3%) or private rented (6.6%) accommodation. A total of 97.1% of all respondents, regardless of tenure, stated that they had at least one working smoke alarm on each floor of their property. Over half (55.6%) indicated that they had previously accidentally activated their smoke alarm.

Respondents were invited to comment as to how they activated their smoke alarm. The most common cause for accidentally activating an alarm was through cooking (54 of a total of 86 comments), particularly burning toast (22 comments). A small number of comments also referenced their alarm activating due to steam escaping from a bathroom.

Water Safety

The consultation survey asked for qualitative feedback on the proposal to develop prevention activity around water safety. A total of 87 comments were received. The most frequently raised feedback was that a priority of this activity should be on school age children in order

to instil awareness at an early age and focusing on teaching children the ability to swim (39 comments). Other feedback suggested more visible signage around waterways and open water, as well as more readily accessible equipment such as life rings (seven comments). Additional comments suggested that Government be lobbied to make this issue a statutory duty for fire and rescue services, while two comments suggested additional provision of rescue boats across Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service.

Respondents were also asked to identify any particular local sites where they considered that people were known to enter open water. There were a small number of locations that were highlighted such as the River Dee in locations around Chester, the River Weaver at Frodsham and Nantwich; and the River Bollin at the Carrs Park in Wilmslow.

Introducing a Day Crewing duty system at Wilmslow Fire Station

The draft Plan contains a revised proposal to replace the existing crewing arrangement at Wilmslow Fire Station with a Day Crewing duty system. A total of 46.7% of survey respondents supported the revised proposal, against 15.1% who opposed it. A further 38.2% stated they neither supported nor opposed the proposal, or did not know.

There were 38 narrative comments provided against this proposal. Eight stated a preference to install a wholetime duty system and a further eight queried the impact on response times resulting from a change in the duty system. There were eight comments that referenced the plan to purchase housing, with some highlighting the need to ensure available housing and also the price of property in the local area.

Introducing a cardiac response capability

The draft Plan reaffirms the Authority's aim to introduce a cardiac response capability, which has been referenced in previous Integrated Risk Management Plans. In relation to this, 69.3% of survey respondents support the introduction of a cardiac response compared to 16.7% who oppose. A further 14% stated they did not know or neither supported nor opposed this.

Of the 59 narrative comments received, 25 stated support for this proposal. A further 16 comments stated that this was not the core role of a firefighter and six comments suggested that firefighters should be paid to do this role and should receive the appropriate training. An additional six comments questioned whether such a capability would impact upon the Service's ability to respond to fires and other emergencies.

Overall Opinion

Overall, 83% of public survey respondents and 68% of staff expressed support for the proposals as set out in the draft plan, compared to 3% of the public 11% of staff who opposed this. A further 14% of public respondents and 20% of staff indicated that they neither supported nor opposed the draft Plan or did not know.

37 additional comments were provided. Many were general in nature, however there were eight which referred to financial matters and the need to ensure value for money and efficiency. Two comments concerned the crewing arrangements at Ellesmere Port and Frodsham fire stations, while there was one comment each relating to the proposals concerning Wilmslow Fire Station, cardiac response and reducing false alarms.

Consulting with the public

Overview of this year's approach

The paragraphs below outline the engagement methods used during the consultation. Due to Covid restrictions in place, and new measures brought in during the consultation period to tackle the Omicron variant, the consultation programme was conducted primarily through electronic means.

Online survey

A standard online survey was developed to gauge opinion. This consisted of 13 questions to seek feedback on perceptions of the Service and views regarding the proposals within the draft Plan, along with some additional demographic questions. The survey was hosted virtually via surveymonkey and promoted via the CFRS website, social media platforms and online newsletters. The survey was also supported with the publication of copies of the draft Plan and supporting information on the website.

Postal survey

To complement and support the online survey, the Service procured an external provider to undertake postal distribution of paper copies of the survey and summaries of the draft Plan. Distribution of 12,000 survey packs took place in the week commencing 22 November 2021. This saw 1,500 surveys distributed in eight locations across Cheshire – Chester, Ellesmere Port, Crewe, Wilmslow, Runcorn, Widnes, Warrington and Stockton Heath.

Social Media promotion

The consultation was further supported by the use of paid-for advertising on the Facebook social media platform. This advert was targeted at Facebook users resident in Cheshire and ran for the duration of the consultation period.

Further details regarding the use of social media is contained on page 31.

Consulting with staff and internal stakeholders

Staff consultation

An online survey was developed for staff to provide their responses to the draft IRMP consultation. This was supplemented by visits to individual teams and departments across the organisation to seek views and feedback on the proposals. Each visit was facilitated by a senior manager.

Internal communications channels

The full range of internal communications channels were used to raise awareness of the consultation throughout the 13-week period. This included:

- A dedicated page on the Service intranet, plus a regular feature on the homepage of the intranet for the duration of the consultation.
- Articles in 'The Green', the Service's weekly newsletter.
- All-user emails informing staff of the consultation.

Consulting with representative bodies

The Service consulted with representative bodies through its existing Joint Consultative Negotiation Panel (JCNP) process with Fire Authority Members, Principal Officers and senior managers. Representative bodies were also invited to attend the Members Planning Day on 14 January 2022 to provide their responses to the consultation.

Responses from representative bodies are attached as appendices to this report.

Consulting with partner agencies and external stakeholders

Approach to stakeholders

Through the course of several consultations, the Authority has adopted and refined a systemised process for identifying and engaging its stakeholders throughout the consultation process.

This included ensuring relevant partners and stakeholders were informed about the consultation process, including ways to have their say and were able to obtain information about the draft proposals.

In general, partners were communicated with via an email message which set out the proposals that were being consulted on and provided contact details for those wishing to respond. A copy of the draft plan was also included to enable recipients to learn about the proposals being consulted on.

Stakeholder email

One of the key methods of engagement with stakeholders was the use of an electronic mailout. Over 250 individuals and organisations were written to or emailed with an electronic copy of the plan and encouraged to provide written feedback. Copies of written responses from stakeholders are included in an appendix to this report.

Key Stakeholders

The Service wrote directly to elected Members across Cheshire to encourage the submission of feedback and comments. The Service also contacted other statutory partners including Cheshire Constabulary, the Police and Crime Commissioner, North West Ambulance Service and neighbouring fire and rescue services. In addition, local partners were provided with an update at meetings of the Cheshire and Warrington Sub-Regional Management Group on 10 September 2021 and 12 November 2021.

The Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive briefed the Member of Parliament for Tatton, Rt Hon Esther McVey MP on 9 October 2021. The briefing covered the key consultation proposals within the draft Plan, with a specific focus on the revised proposal for Wilmslow Fire Station.

Local Town and Parish Councils

An email message was sent to the clerks of all town and parish councils within Cheshire, as well as the Charter Trustees for Chester and Ellesmere Port. This message mirrored the text contained in the message attached on the previous page and encouraged local councils to respond through submitting a written response. A list of all town and parish councils that were sent consultation material is included as an Appendix to this report.

In addition, briefings were made available on request. A presentation on the draft Annual Action Plan was made to Wilmslow Town Council on 4 October 2021.

Other stakeholders

Correspondence was also sent to the various equality and diversity teams at local authority partners with a request to cascade the message to their relevant contacts within local community, faith and voluntary groups.

Feedback, evaluation and communicating outcomes

The following section outlines the proposed methods to communicate the outcomes of the consultation and provides details on the review and evaluation of consultation activity. As with other consultation programmes, each consultation will be reviewed to ensure continued improvement and that the Service can continue to engage effectively with a wide and representative range of communities across Cheshire.

Feedback

Following the decisions taken by Members and subject to final approval of the plan, feedback on the consultation will be provided to those who participated in the process. This feedback will be communicated to the public, staff and stakeholders via the following methods:

Public

- Press releases
- Next years' Annual Report
- Using the Service's website and social media channels.
- Letters/emails to those who submitted written statements.

Staff

- Departmental and team briefings
- Articles within internal newsletters and bulletins
- Internal email messages

Stakeholders

- Correspondence to elected councillors and local partners.
- Responses to written statements submitted
- Email messages to the stakeholders who participated.

Evaluation

As the consultation planning was underway, it was decided that with the easing of Covid restrictions it would be possible to resume physical consultation events as had been carried out in previous consultations. However, it became apparent that physical access to preferred consultation locations would not be possible due to Covid restrictions put in place by premises owners. Therefore, the decision was taken to conduct the consultation primarily through online methods. This was supplemented by a postal survey distributed to 12,000 properties across Cheshire, as well as paid for advertising on Facebook.

Initial evaluation suggests that face to face engagement and consultation is considered to be more effective and yields a higher amount of responses. Further evaluation will be held following this consultation which will consider the effectiveness of partner, staff and stakeholder consultation; as well as an evaluation of media and social media engagement.

Accessibility

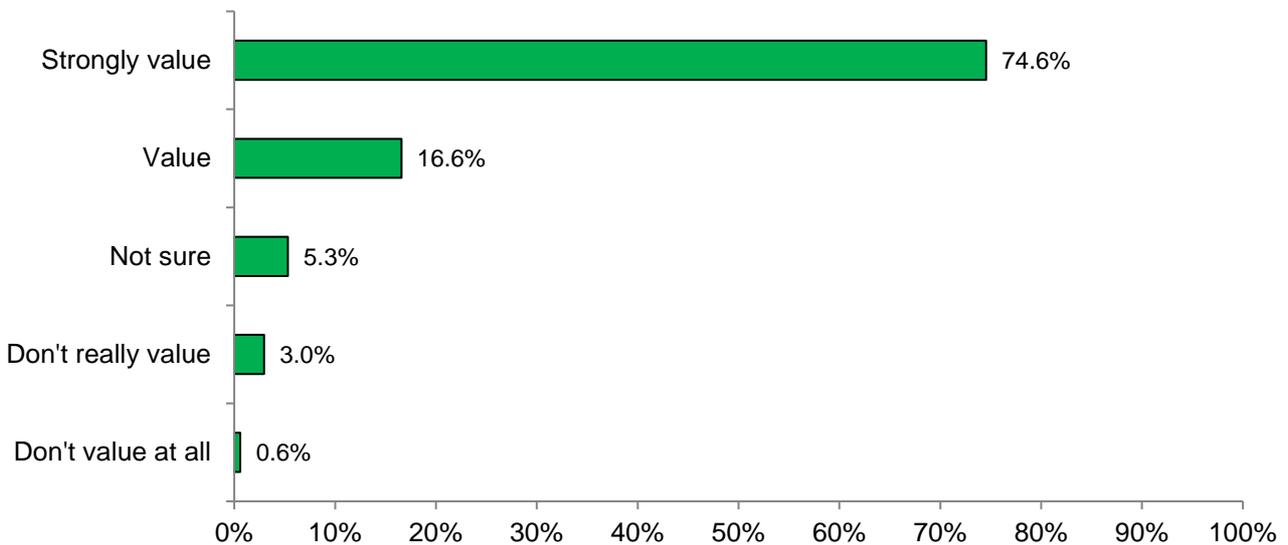
The consultation section of the Service's website – itself designed to be accessible to people with special information needs and with a translation function – made it clear that information about the proposals and the survey was available in alternative languages and formats, such as large print, Braille and audio on request.

Detailed results – public survey

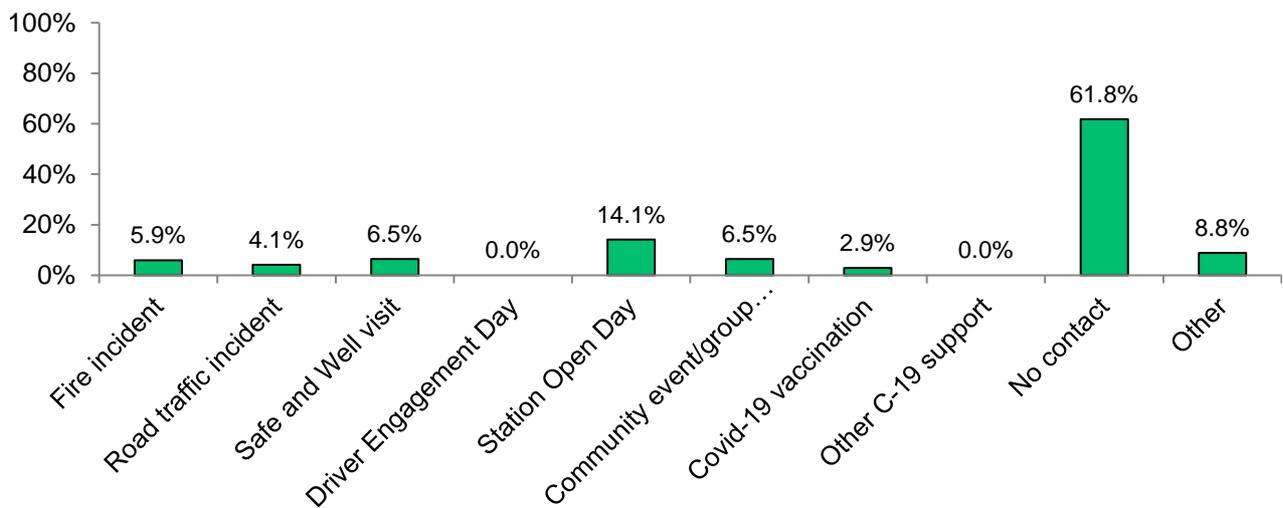
There were 170 responses received from the public consultation in total. This section sets out survey responses from the residents and staff in detail. The legend underneath each chart shows how many individuals from each group answered that particular question and the overall level of support or agreement from each group to the proposal.

Your Fire and Rescue Service

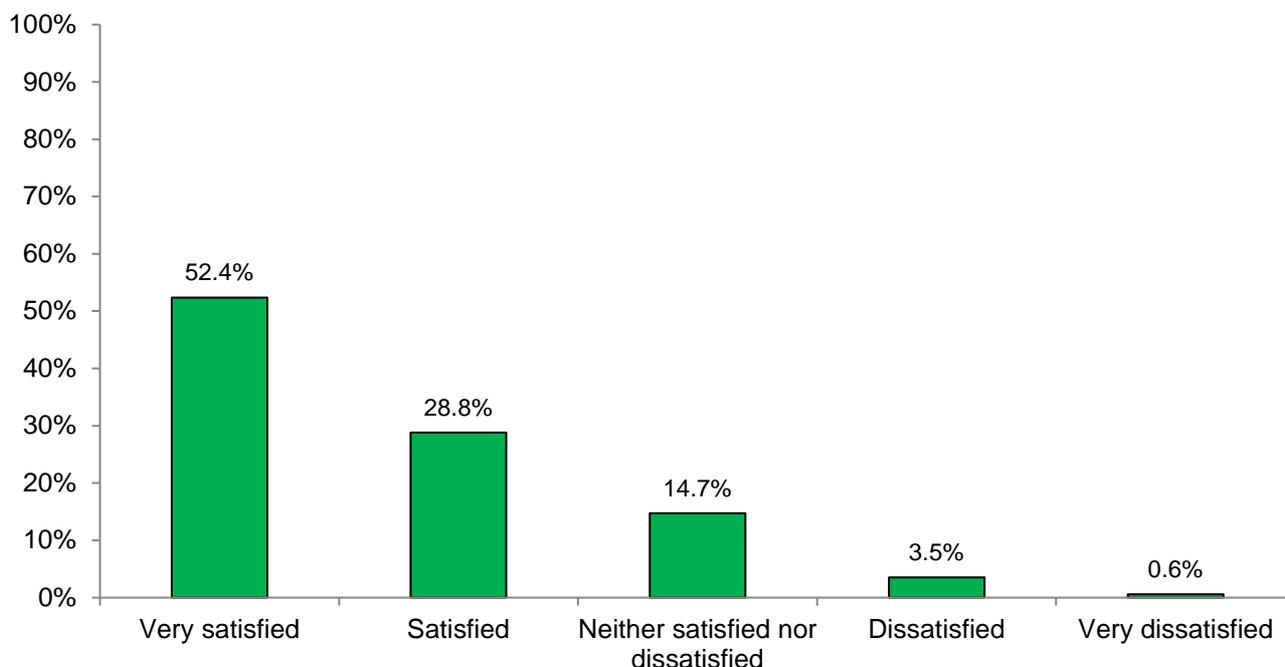
Q.1 How strongly do you value Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service as a local service provider? (169 responses)



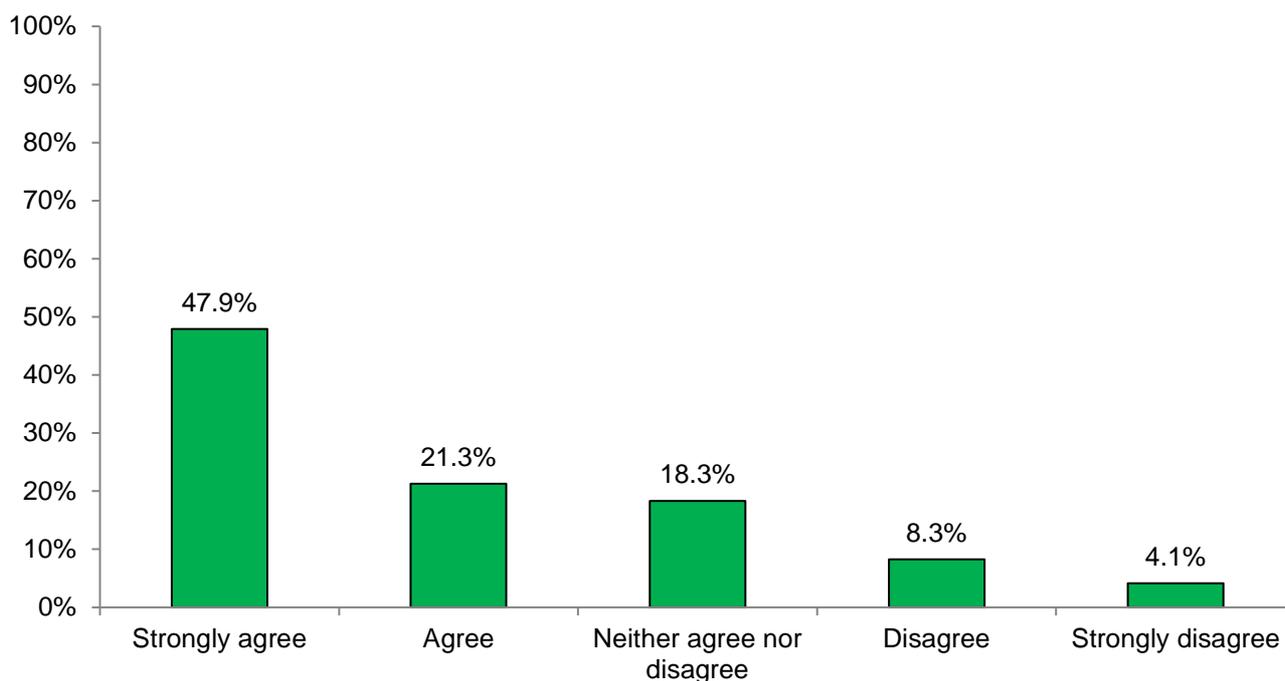
Q.2 In the past three years, have you had contact with Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service in any of the following ways? (170 responses, respondents can select multiple responses)



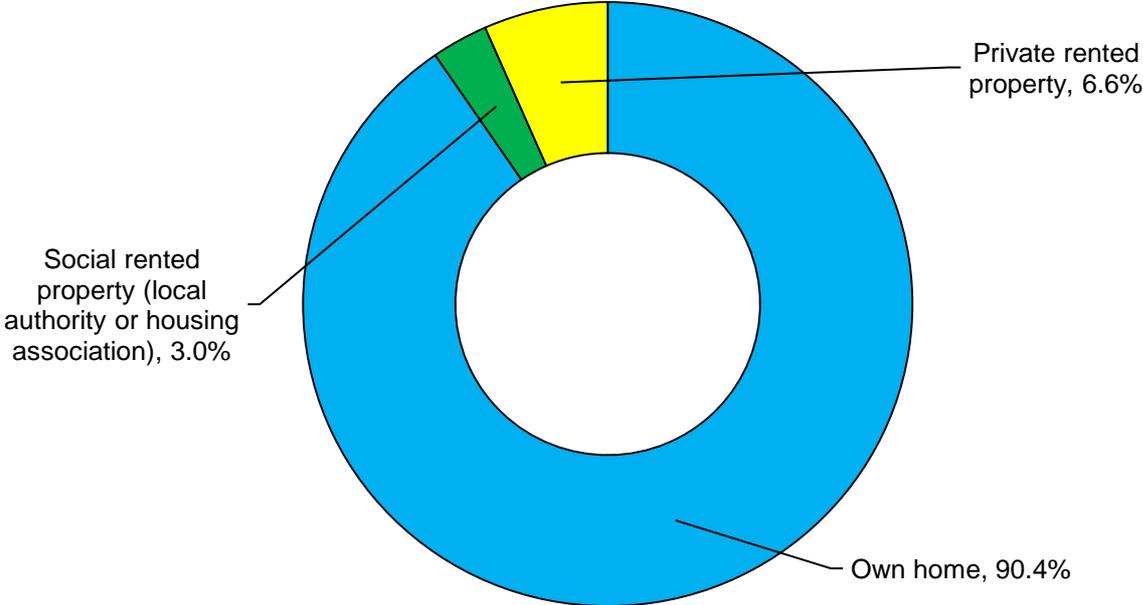
Q.3 Taking everything into account that you know about the Service, how satisfied are you with the overall performance of Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service? (170 responses)



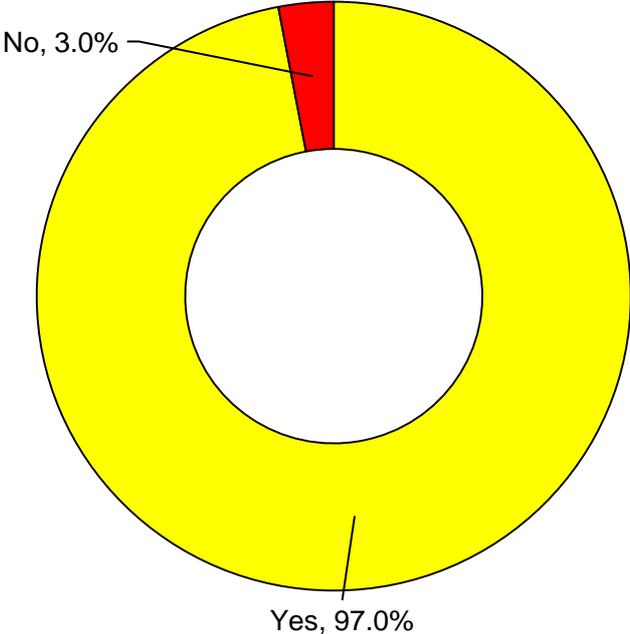
Q.4 Cheshire Fire Authority currently charges £80.87 per year in Council Tax for a Band D equivalent household. To what extent do you agree that this provides value for money? (169 responses)



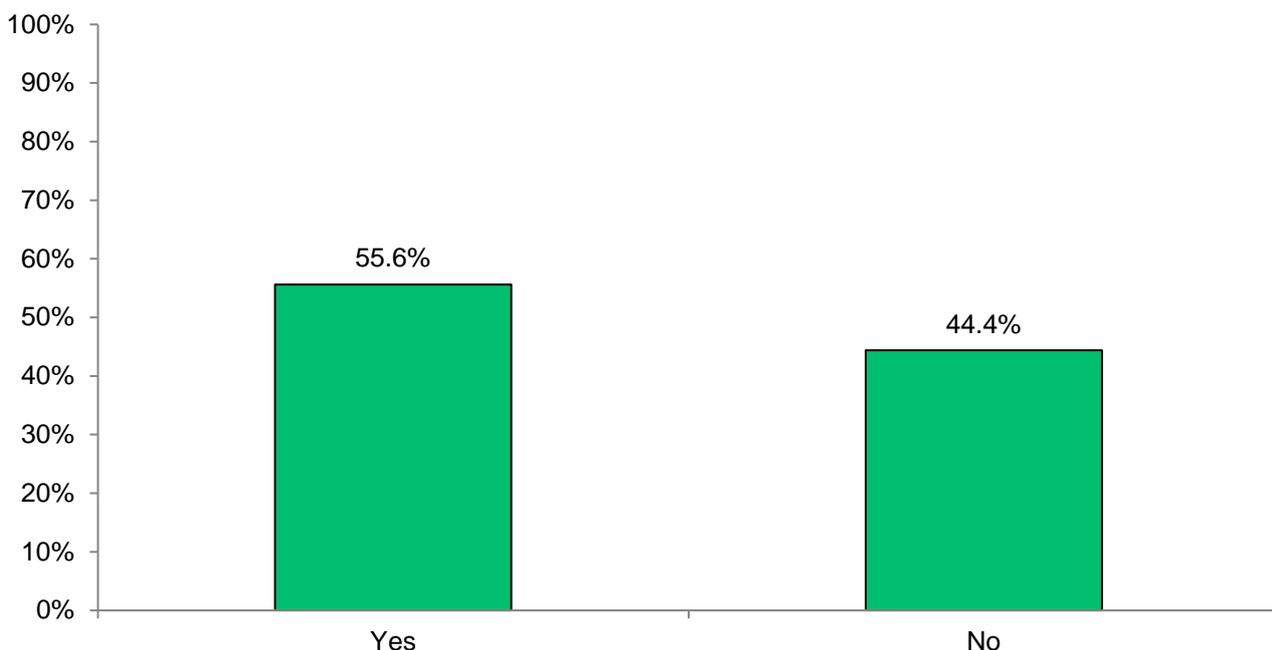
Q.5 What type of property do you live in? (167 responses)



Q.6 Do you have at least one working smoke alarm on each floor of your property? (167 responses)



Q.7 Have you ever accidentally activated your smoke alarm? (169 responses)



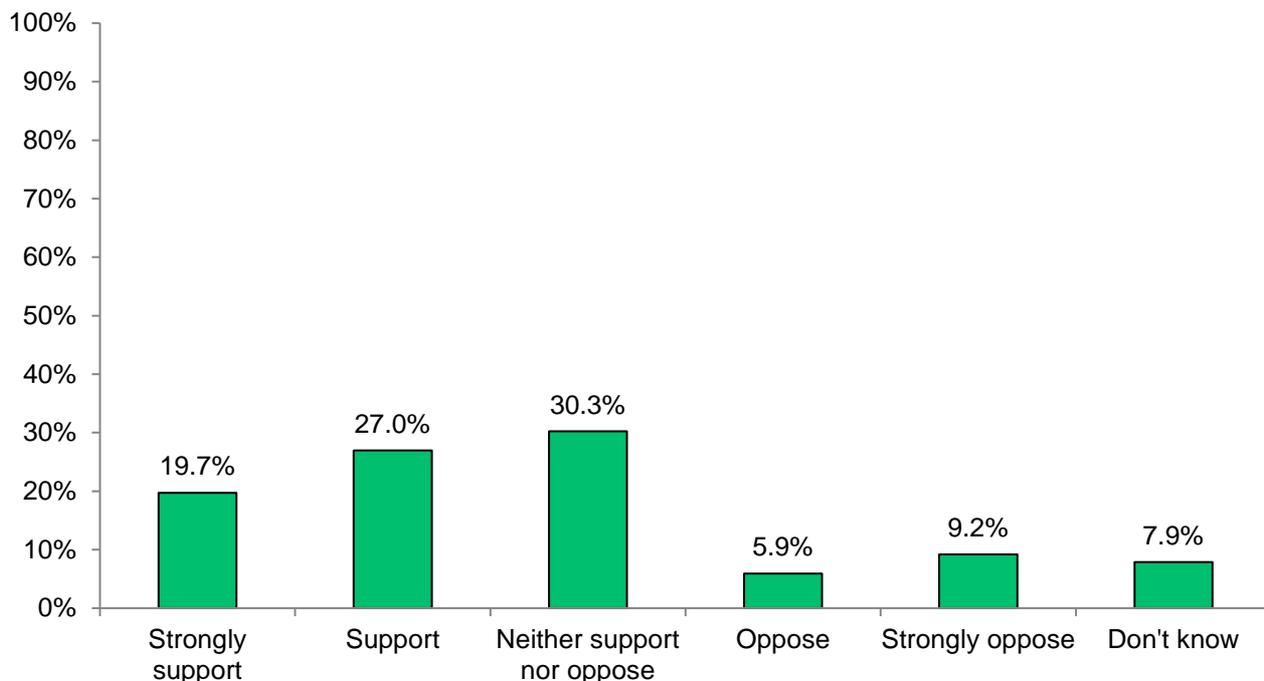
Q.8 When developing our prevention activity, are there any particular issues that you think we should focus on that would improve water safety? (87 responses)

Please note that this required a narrative response and the comments received are included in the next section.

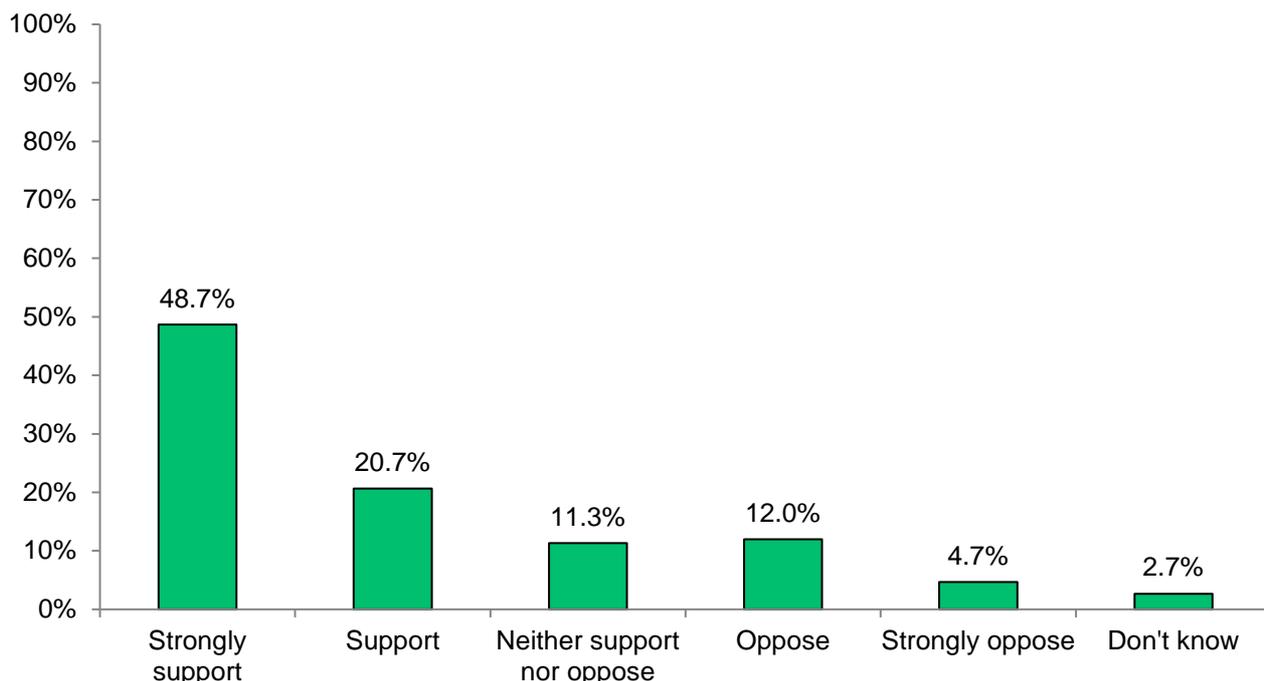
Q.9 Are there any specific local areas that you consider to be hotspots for people entering the water? (e.g. local rivers, lakes, quarries) (69 responses)

Please note that this required a narrative response and the comments received are included in the next section.

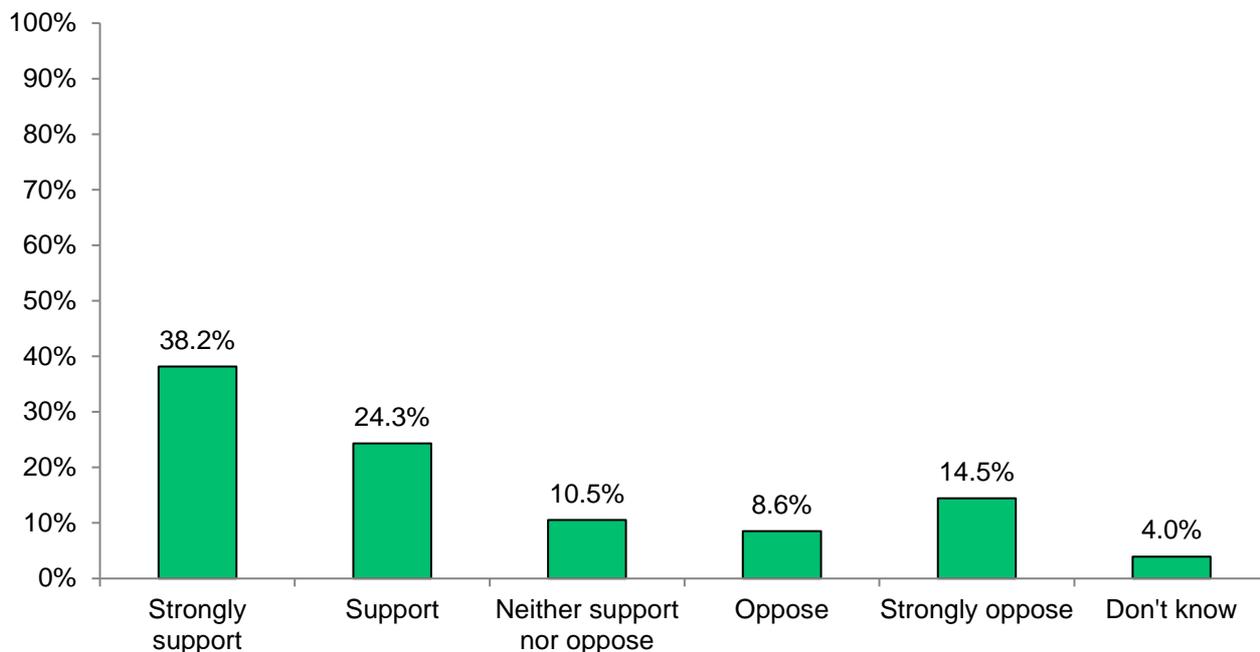
Q.10 To what extent do you support the Authority's revised approach to delivering a Day Crewing duty system at Wilmslow Fire Station? (152 responses)



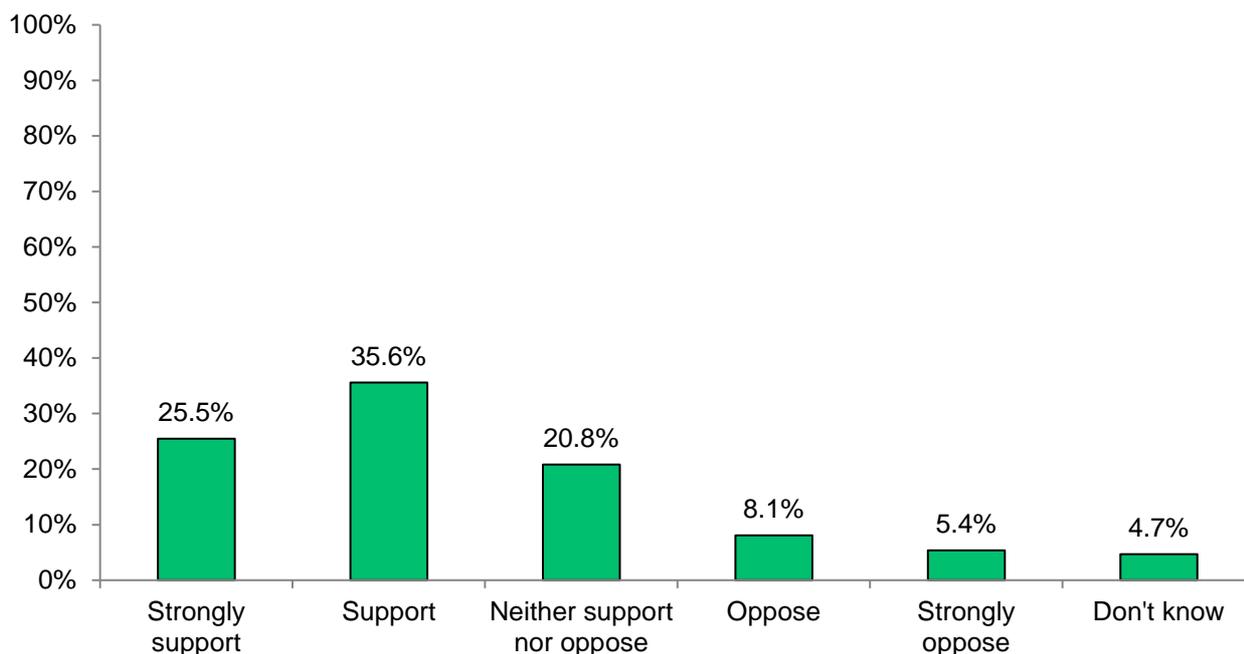
Q.11 To what extent would you support firefighters responding to cardiac arrests within Cheshire? (150 responses)



Q.12 To what extent do you support the Authority's proposal to increase its share of Council Tax by 1.99% for 2022/2023? (152 responses)



Q.13 Overall, to what extent do you support or oppose the proposals as set out in the draft 2022-2023 annual action plan? (149 responses)



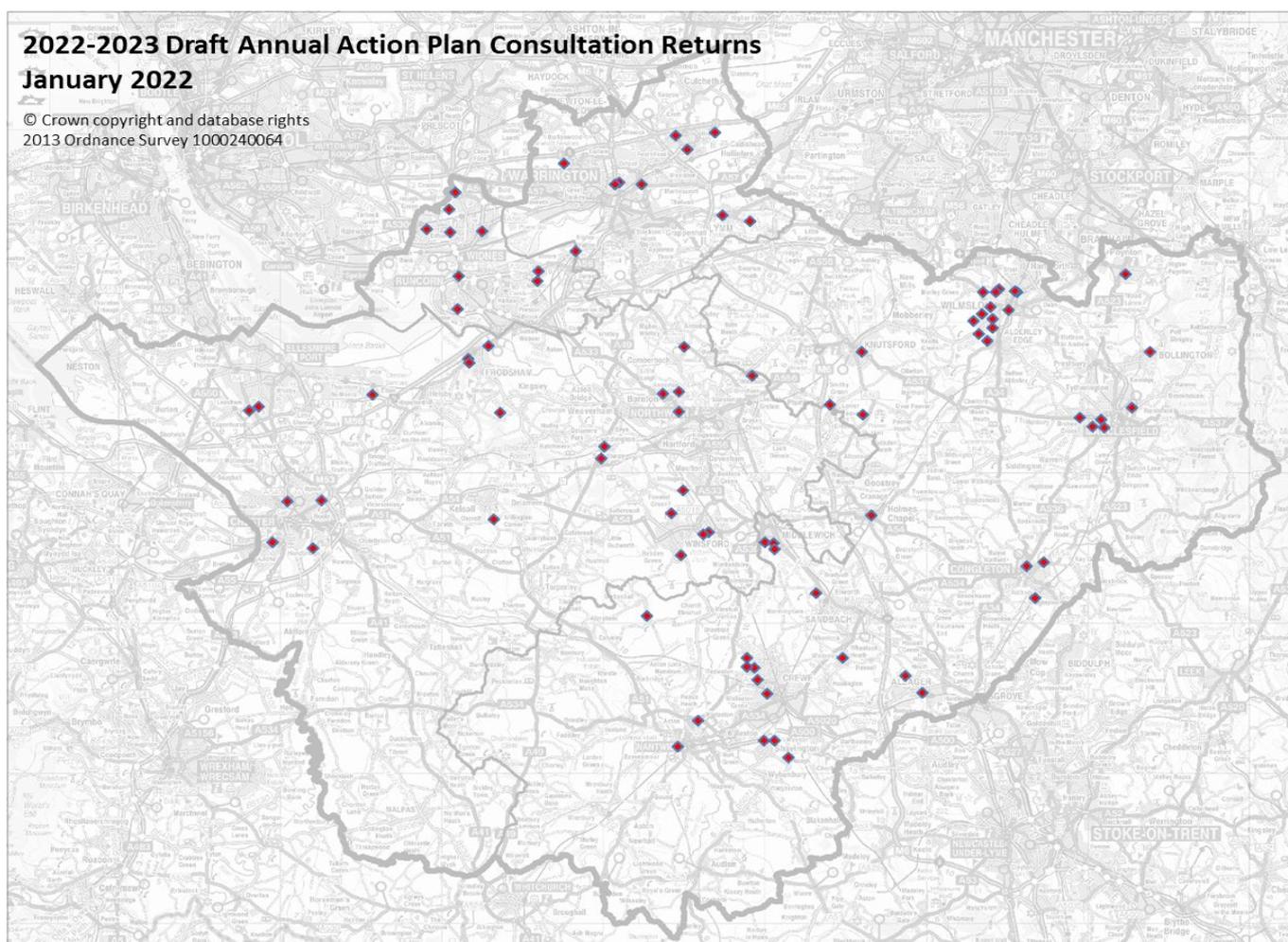
Profile of respondents

The following section provides a demographic analysis of public respondents.

Which area do you live? (134 responses)

Unitary Authority	Cheshire East	Cheshire West and Chester	Halton	Warrington
No. responses	66	37	16	17
% of total	48.5%	27.6%	11.2%	12.7%

What is your postcode? (Only applies to respondents providing a full postcode)

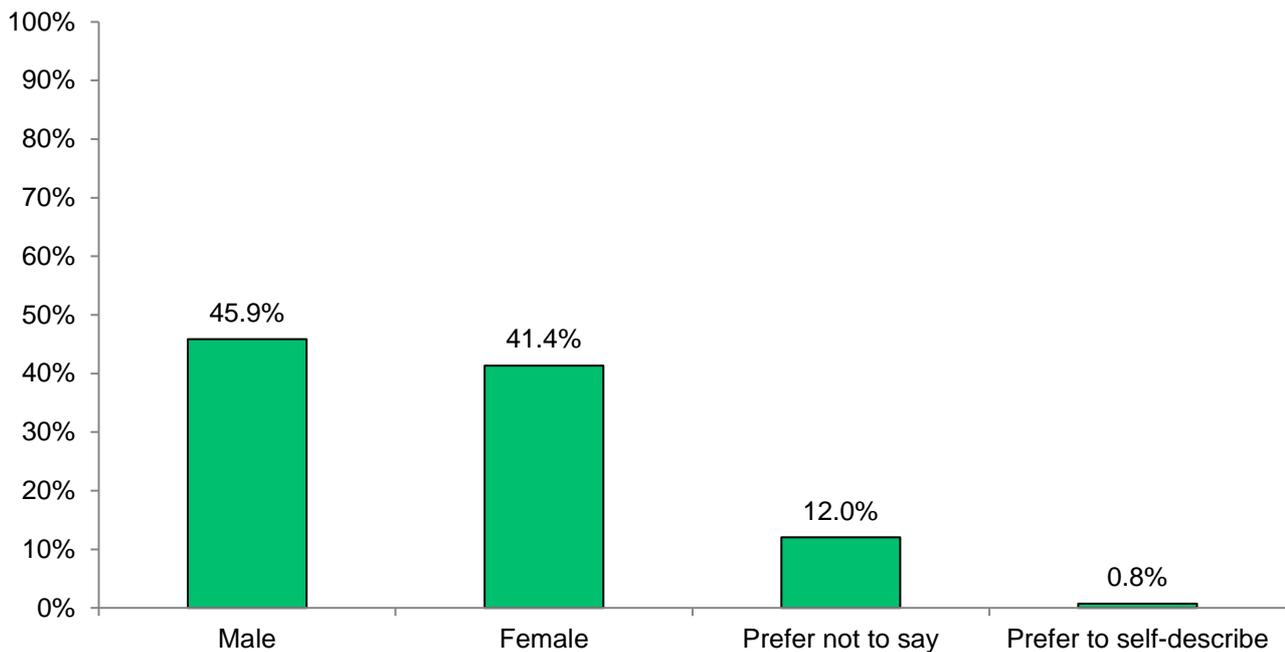


Nearest Fire Station (123 responses)

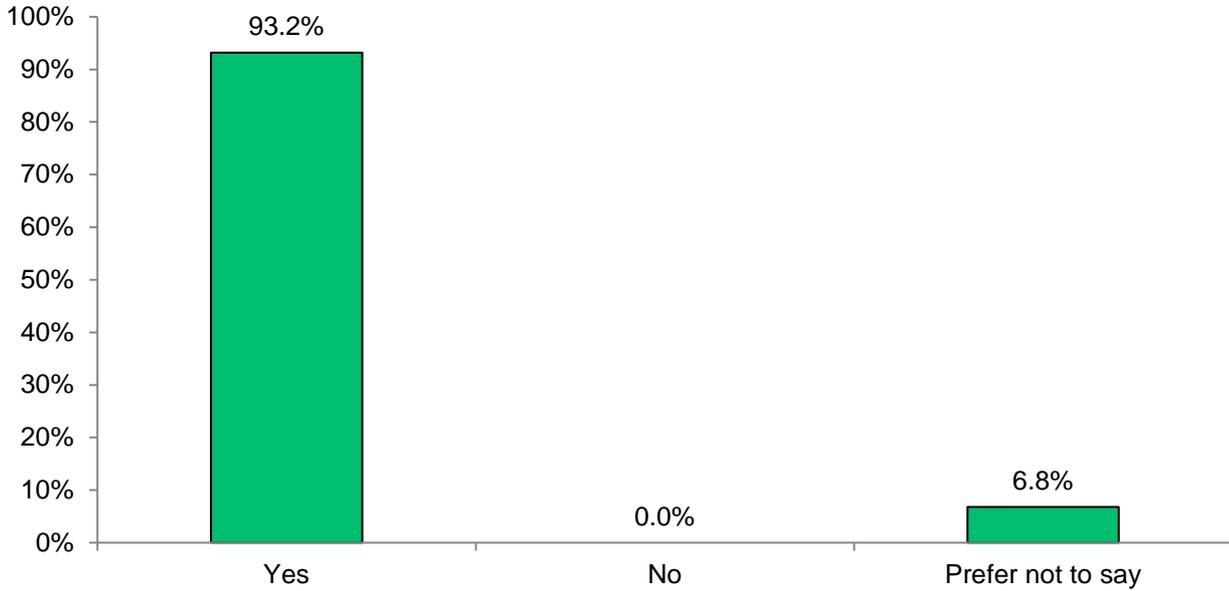
Fire Station	Responses
Alsager	2
Audlem	1
Birchwood	7
Bollington	1
Chester	10
Congleton	3
Crewe	12
Ellesmere Port	2
Frodsham	5
Holmes Chapel	2
Knutsford	4
Lymm	3
Macclesfield	4
Malpas	0
Middlewich	2

Fire Station	Responses
Nantwich	2
Northwich	10
Penketh	1
Powey Lane	1
Poynton	1
Runcorn	7
Sandbach	1
Stockton Heath	2
Tarporley	1
Warrington	7
Widnes	5
Wilmslow	21
Winsford	6

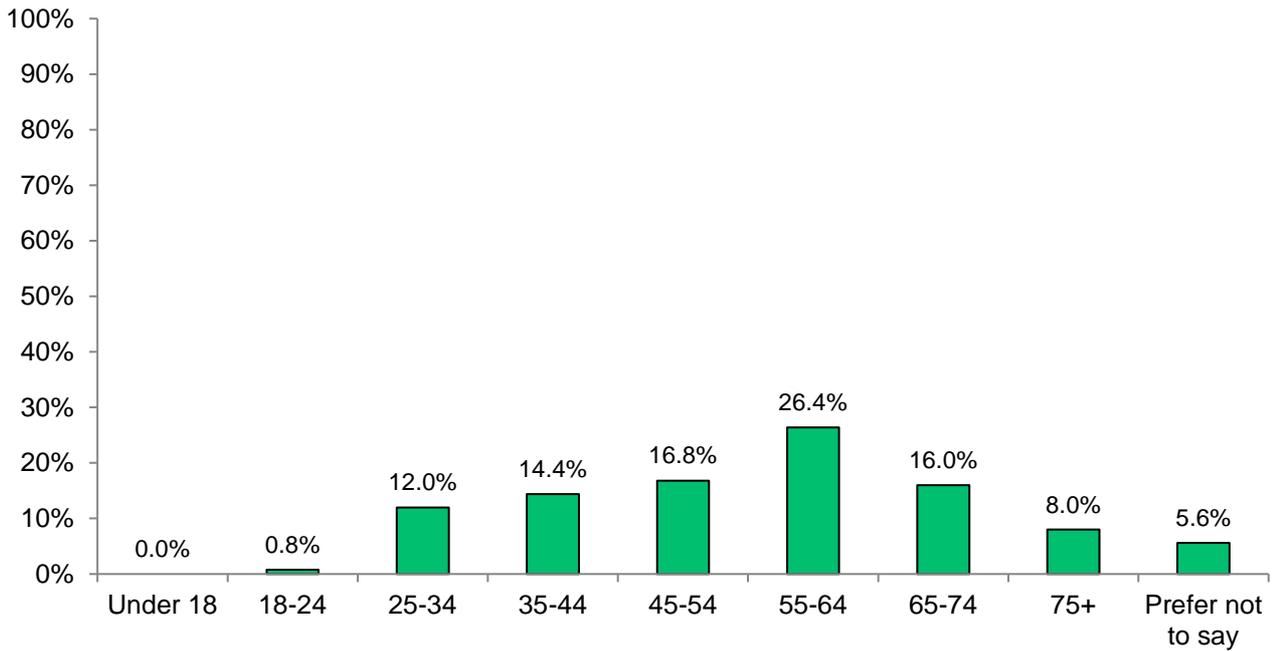
Gender (133 responses)



Is your gender the same as that assigned to you at birth? (132 responses)



Age Range (125 responses)



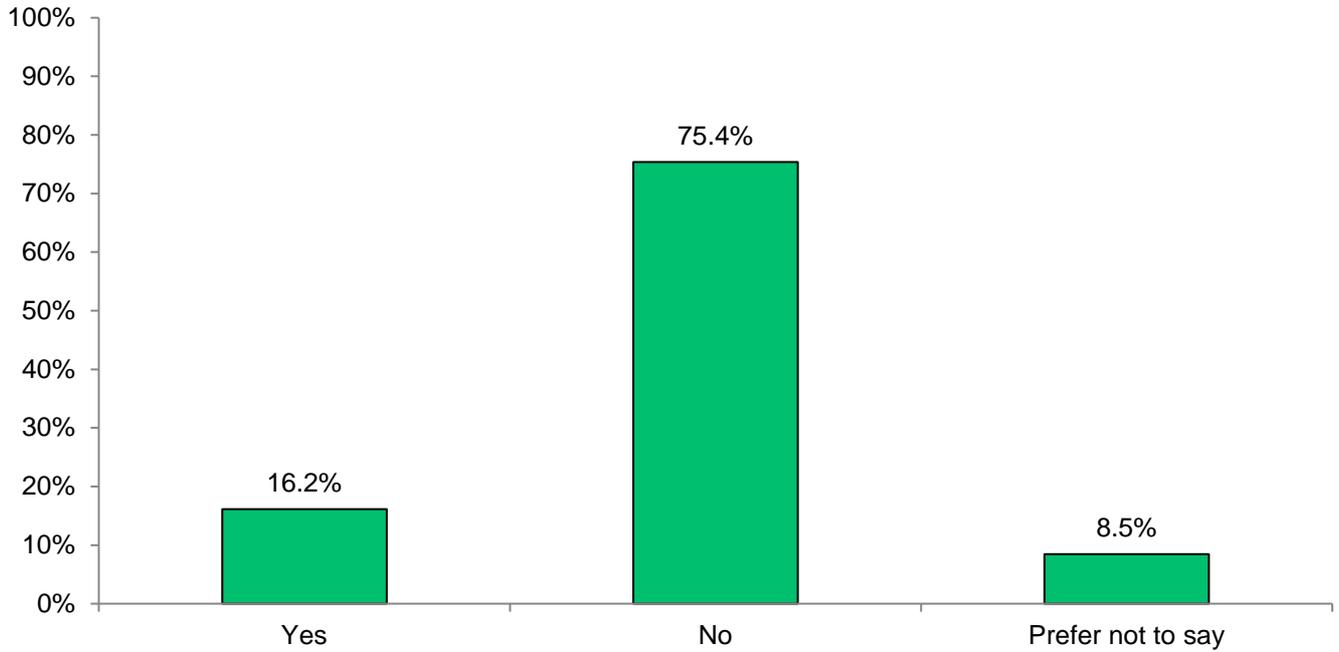
Ethnic Origin (124 responses)

Response	Percentage
White British	84.7%
White Irish	0.8%
Gypsy or Irish traveller	0%
Any other white background	2.4%
White and black Caribbean	0.8%
White and black African	0%
White and Asian	1.6%
Indian	0%
Pakistani	0%
Bangladeshi	0%
Chinese	0%
Any other Asian background	0%
African	0%
Caribbean	0%
Any other black/African/Caribbean/black British background	0%
Arab	0%
Any other ethnic background	0%
Prefer not to say	9.7%

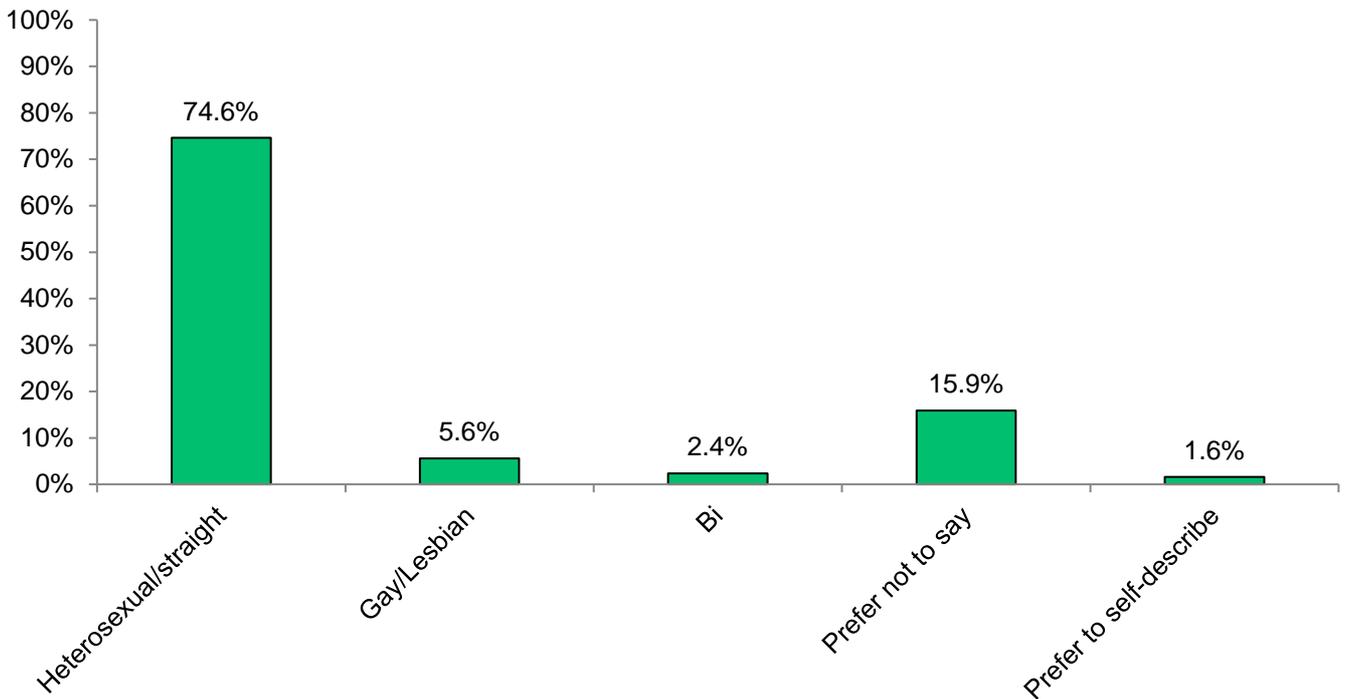
Religion (121 responses)

Religion	Percentage
Buddhist	0%
Christian	52.1%
Hindu	0%
Jewish	0.8%
Muslim	0.8%
Sikh	0%
No religion	33.1%
Prefer not to say	10.7%
Other (please specify)	2.5%

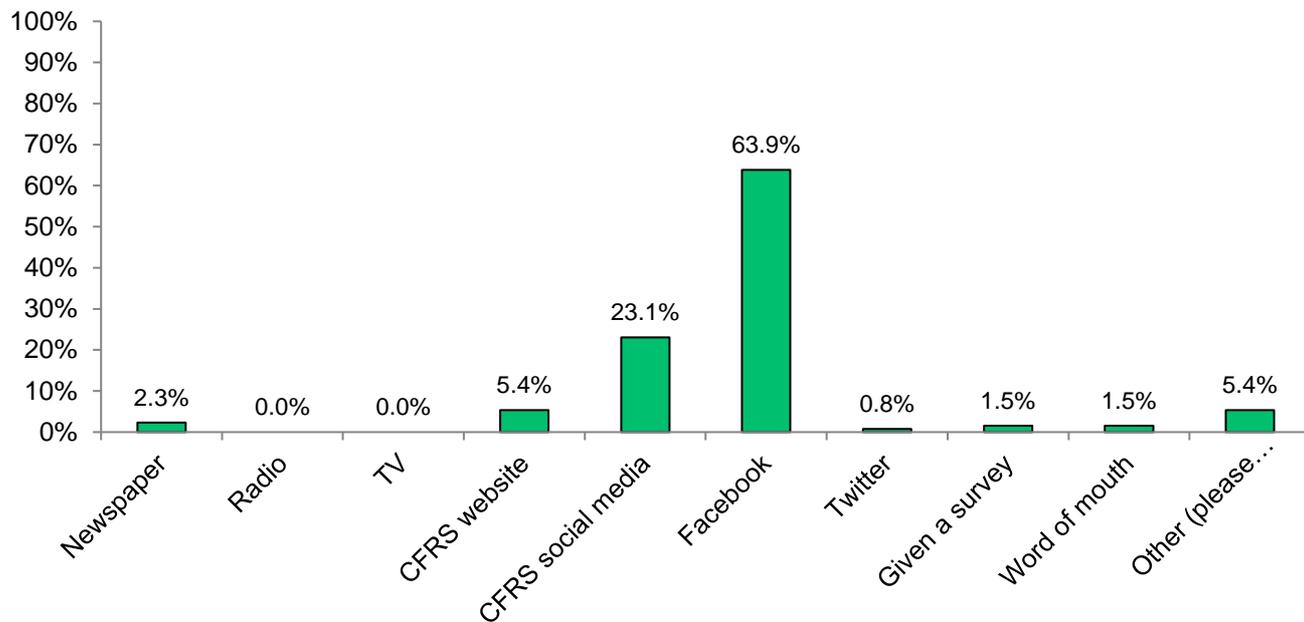
Disability (130 responses)



Sexual Orientation (126 responses)



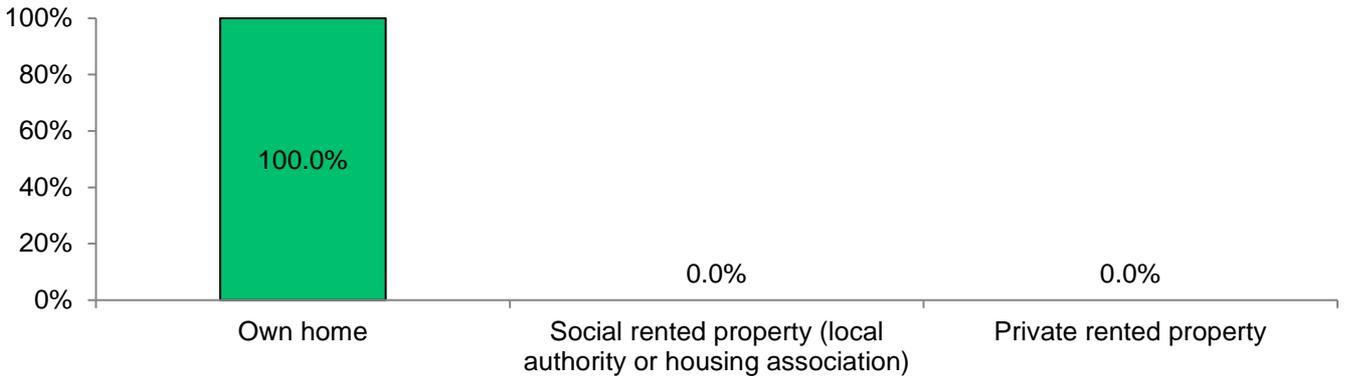
Where respondent heard about consultation (130 responses, respondents can select multiple options)



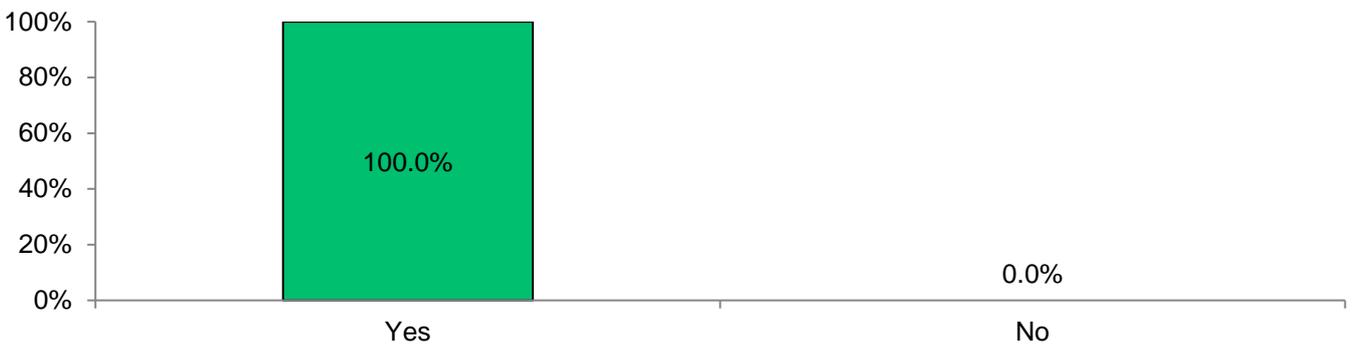
Detailed results - staff survey

The following section will provide details of survey responses received by staff, broken down by question. Please note that due to the number of survey responses certain themes such as gender, age, ethnicity have been omitted to prevent the identification of individuals.

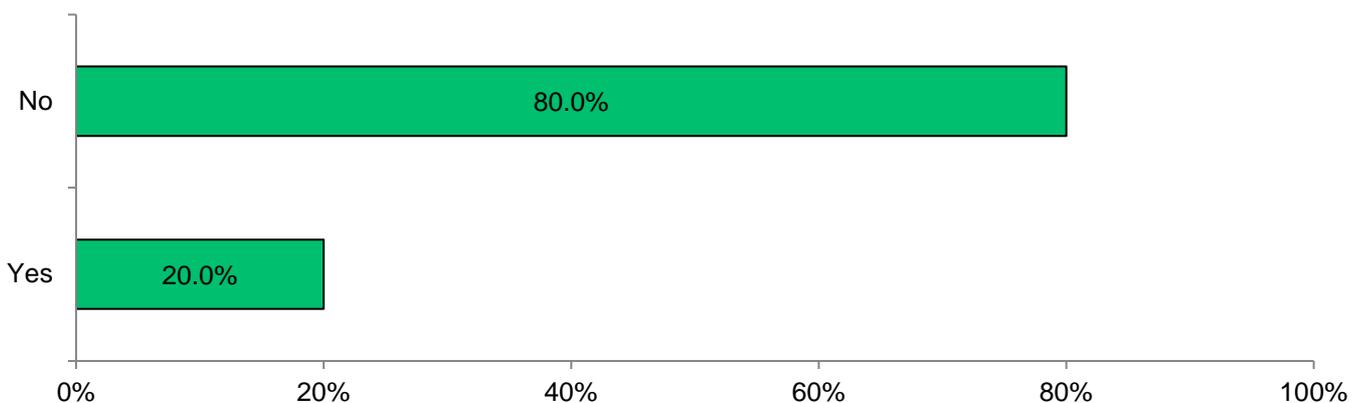
Q.1 What type of property do you live in? (5 responses)



Q.2 Do you have at least one working smoke alarm on each floor of your property? (5 responses)



Q.3 Have you ever accidentally activated your smoke alarm? (5 responses)



Q.4 When developing our prevention activity, are there any particular issues that you think we should focus on that would improve water safety?

- Ideally we need to highlight high risk areas, better promotion of safety messages using a wider range of methodology which target the most vulnerable people especially children, older people, disabled and different ethnic groups which continue to feature in drowning statistics nationally. The plan mentions rivers and lakes, but it doesn't make reference canals or meres which Cheshire is well known for.
- Water rescue capability is very limited within Cheshire East. The introduction of Swift Water capability to Crewe would provide an improved resource for the area.

Q.5 Are there any specific local areas that you consider to be hotspots for people entering the water? (e.g. local rivers, lakes, quarries)

- Meres, especially ones surrounded by woodland. Canals remain a high risk area where there are dirty, wet and slippery pathways make it high risk in the winter months for walkers. According to colleague, parts of the Macclesfield canal pathways are poor. The Shropshire union canal has set the bar high with excellent 'safe' pathways having invested in wide solid paths. Manchester ship canal is still an issue with children jumping in. The river Dee has no signage which could help raise awareness. Signage which features a combination of basic text and images could widen access for people who speak no or little English and I am thinking about places like Chester which attract overseas students from 140 countries and a growing number of ethnic minority groups (i.e. refugees). Signage in other key locations as well (i.e. River Bollin, Delamere...)

Q.6 Do you have any comments regarding the review of the operational response to floods and water incidents that you wish to make? In particular, we would be interested in comments relating to operational procedures, equipment and personal protective equipment.

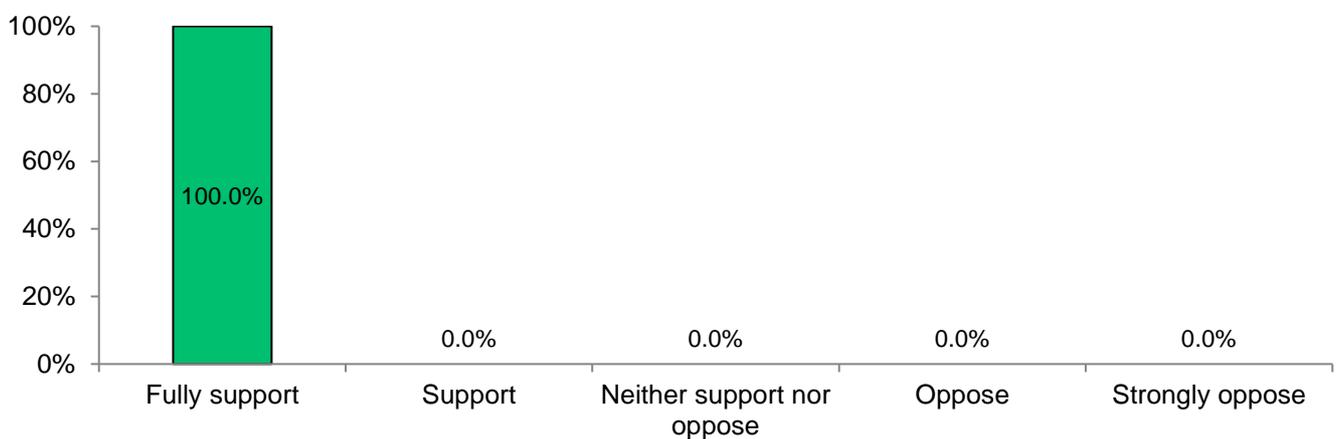
- This is not a statutory duty for the fire and rescue service to attend. Can CFRS, in conjunction with NFCC lobby Government to make this a statutory duty which will unlock new funding for equipment and PPE. This will ultimately make Firefighters safer through properly funded resources. As this is not a statutory duty any additional courses should be rewarded with an additional responsibility allowance.
- Reward staff with an additional responsibility allowance for completing additional courses. This is not a statutory duty and is additional work.
- The new 4x4 capacity is an excellent purpose, but access to water will still be tricky, especially meres that are surrounded by woodland and canals. I assume staff will be trained how to access remote areas on foot and maps of high risk areas are readily available to fire staff so they can navigate through challenge terrain. There are new recreational attraction such as Bewilderwood, so it would be useful to connect with these new businesses to scope out water risk and any potential barriers. I visited this new facility earlier this year and the place looked well planned, but access to some wetland would be challenging if a person was to get stuck in pool surrounding by trees, thick plants and harsh grass etc.

- Provide wading capability to all operational firefighters across all stations and provide swift water capability at Crewe to cover Cheshire East.

Q7. Do you have any comments regarding our Key Stage 2 programmes that you would like to be considered?

- Access is always a consideration and some schools may not wish to pay for transport due to restricted funds or even worse not prioritising a visit to the centre

Q8. To what extent would you support Safety Central taking a greater role in the coordination of Key Stage 2 programmes? (4 responses)



Q9. Do you have any suggestions you wish to make regarding the resources, capability or location of our special appliances?

- Part of the specials review is to develop a water strategy following the beechmere fire. This water bowser will supposedly be kept in the north of the county, where a HVP is already kept. Would this not be better in the south of the county so that fire cover is evenly spread?
- I am confident careful mapping has been conducted and key locations are covered.
- Too much of the service specialty is placed at Lymm which limits the service response as when one is required the others are now off the run. Specials should be distributed across various stations again, this would also lighten the training load and allow more firefighters to undertake specials training. On call should also be offered the opportunity to train with neighbouring specials and respond in tandem. Winsford/Middlewich (heavy rescue)

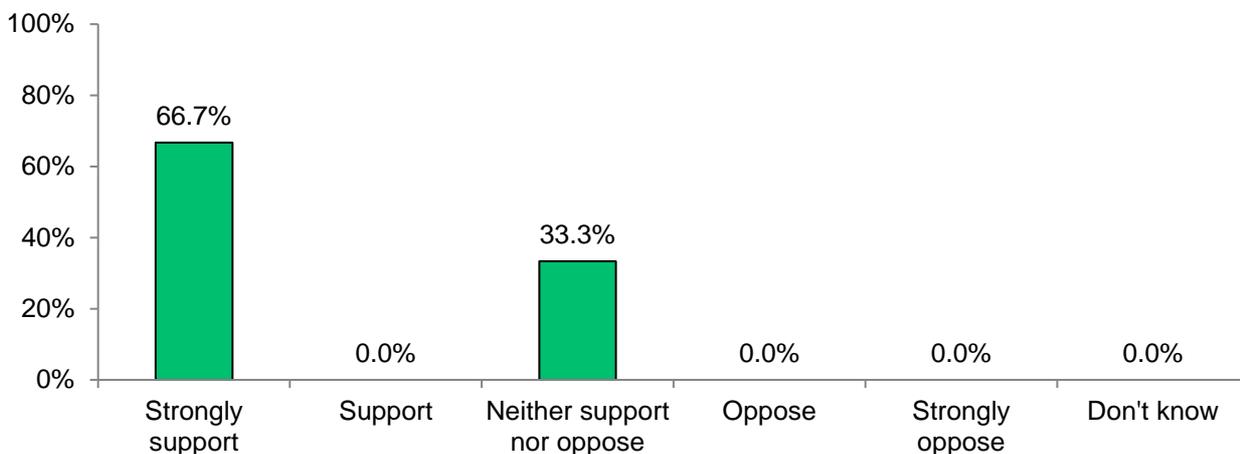
Q10. What would you like the Authority to consider in the development of a support/welfare unit on the fireground?

- Properly crewed with properly trained personnel so that it can respond effectively
- We need to ensure welfare facilities are purposeful and inclusive. Gender neutral facilities fitted with all the necessary equipment is essential to promote equal access.
- Fit for purpose and designed around welfare for the firefighters themselves. Cleaning facilities and ability to rest and eat/drink.

Q11. Are there any suggestions or improvements that you have regarding reducing the risk of contaminants that you would like to see considered?

- I don't really know enough to comment.
- Improved cleaning procedures and ability to clean kit and ba sets on station properly. Current laundry arrangements take too long and kit often missing for weeks or lost.

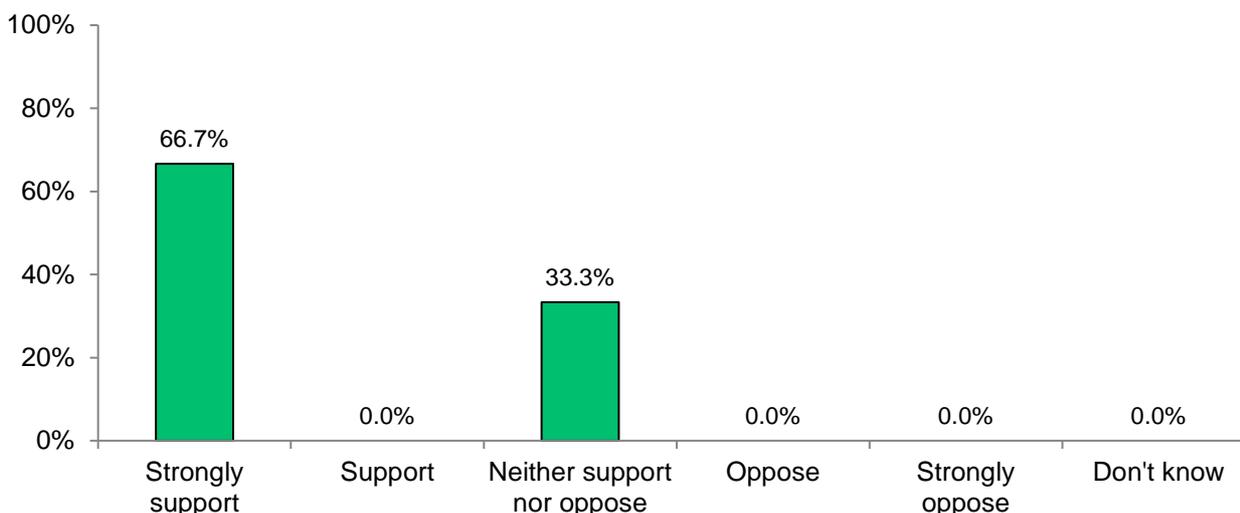
Q.12 To what extent do you support the Authority’s revised approach to delivering a Day Crewing duty system at Wilmslow Fire Station? (3 responses)



Additional Comments:

- Potential impact on staff to consider. We need to carefully manage how we communicate if response times are to increase slightly, I guess this may cause uproar in the community.
- The issue has been ongoing for far too long and requires a resolution. If this is the best option I support it. But more communication is required with the current staff at Wilmslow as this has been an issue throughout the entire process.

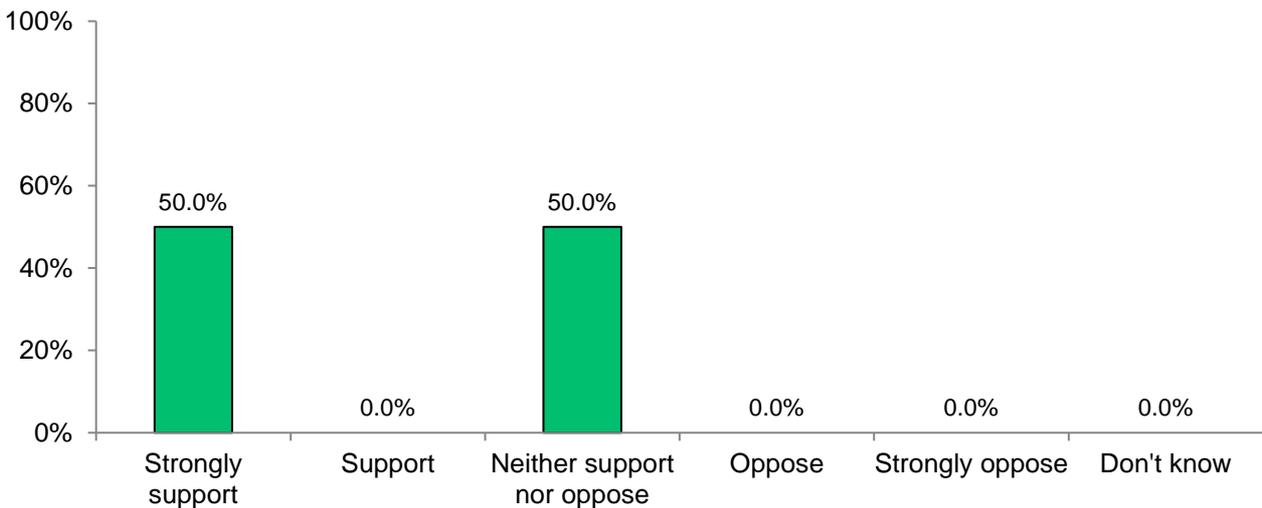
Q.13 To what extent would you support firefighters responding to cardiac arrests within Cheshire? (3 responses)



Additional comments:

- Part of national negotiations for the future of Firefighters roles. For Firefighters to start doing what is the essence of a paramedics role a substantial pay uplift should be provided with a view to providing proper resting areas for staff as responding to these types of incidents will negatively impact mental health. This can be offset by trying to let staff rest properly when possible. Needs to be properly crewed so that already reduced fire cover isn't affected.
- This has to be a positive step as long as the potential impact on staff is taking into account, especially the tumour support following an incident due to the poor survival rate with cardiac cases.
- Based on personal experience this worked very well when piloted in Greater Manchester between the fire service and NWS. With the introduction of RRRU on stations this would enable a fast capability across Cheshire. Also Nantwich is the only station to offer a co responder currently, this should be expanded across the service as it offers a highly trained and vital service that is needed to support our ambulance colleagues.

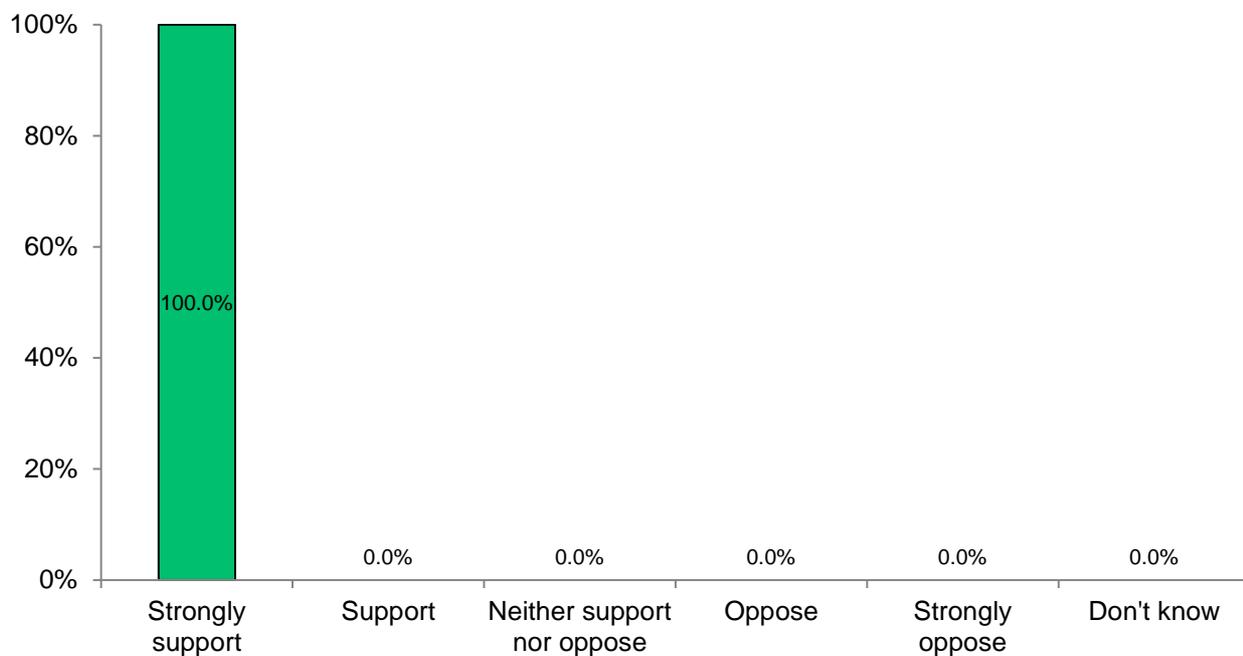
Q.14 To what extent do you support the Authority's proposal to increase its share of Council Tax by 1.99% for 2022/2023? (2 responses)



Additional comments:

- Sadly, an increase to our income it is the only way the service can maintain capacity, purchase new equipment, increase wages etc.
- With the increase in money i want to see the money being utilised properly for a purpose.

Q.15 Overall, to what extent do you support or oppose the proposals as set out in the draft 2022-2023 annual action plan? (2 responses)



Social media coverage

Social media

The Service utilised its social media channels (shown below) to widen the reach of messages promoting the consultation. The Service’s Facebook page currently has 333,369 people who follow and receive updates, while 50,261 people follow the Service’s Twitter feed.

Facebook

In addition to regular posts on the Service’s Facebook page, a targeted Facebook advert was created to raise awareness of the consultation. This ran for the duration of the consultation.



Results	Reach	Impressions	Cost per result	Amount spent
3,047 Link Clicks	169,848	513,057	£0.13 Per link click	£400.99

Twitter

Tweets’ were posted onto the Service’s Twitter page, with each post tagged with a #HaveYourSay hashtag and also containing a link to the consultation page on the Service website.



Use of the Cheshire Fire Alert

The consultation was a feature of the Service's electronic Firelink newsletter, which was issued in October, November and December 2021. This was distributed via the Alert system to over 17,000 residents. A copy of the newsletter is included in the next section.

Use of the Service's website

A page was created on the Service's website (www.cheshirefire.gov.uk/consultation) which summarised the ways in which people could have their say, provided a full and summary draft IRMP for download and a link to the online public survey. In addition, there was a regular feature placed prominently on the homepage of the website throughout the consultation.

Summary, Survey and FireLink Newsletter

The summary document was available from the Service's website and intranet. The survey was accessible through the Service's website.

Draft Plan Summary

Cheshire Fire Authority

**SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES
PROTECTING LIVES**

Draft Annual Action Plan 2022-2023: summary

Cheshire Fire Authority's draft annual action plan for 2022-2023 serves as an update to the Authority's Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP).

The IRMP sets out the Authority's plans up to 2024 to prevent and protect our communities from fire and other emergencies and our plans for providing emergency response. This draft annual plan provides an update on progress and outlines new and revised proposals that take into account emerging risks and developments since the IRMP was published in July 2020.

This summary document is intended to provide an overview of the key new or revised proposals within the annual action plan. We are consulting on these proposals so we would like you to let us know what you think.

To read draft 2022-2023 annual action plan in full, or for more information about this consultation or the proposals below, please visit www.cheshirefire.gov.uk

2 **Cheshire Fire Authority**

Prevention

Increasing awareness of water safety

Sadly each year the Service attends incidents where people have entered the water and have encountered difficulty, resulting in the need for rescue, or worse even injury or death. These are reminders of the risks presented by water and the tragic outcomes that can occur in Cheshire's rivers, lakes and waterways. The Authority is therefore looking to further develop its prevention work and work with partners to raise awareness of water safety and prevent these incidents occurring.

Reviewing fire safety education programmes

The Authority provides a range of fire safety education programmes throughout Cheshire. In addition, it utilises its innovative safety and life skills centre, Safety Central, to deliver a range of fire safety awareness to Key Stage 2 school pupils (those aged 7-11). This is conducted through school visits by firefighters and staff, as well as through the use of specially developed content at Safety Central.

Over the coming year the Authority is planning to review its provision of Key Stage 2 fire safety education. This could see our Safety Central team take on a greater role in the coordination of this activity to ensure the visits are delivered in a consistent and engaging way for the target audience.

**SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES
PROTECTING LIVES**

Annual Action Plan for 2022-2023

3 **Cheshire Fire Authority**

Protection

Reducing false alarms

The Authority has undertaken a significant amount of work to reduce the number of false alarms it attends in non-domestic premises. This includes working closely with the owners and operators of these premises and changes to the Authority's policies. Over the past five years this has seen a considerable reduction in the number of false alarms in these premises we attend.

However, false alarms in general still account for nearly 3,500 incidents we attend each year. This is nearly 40% of all the operational incidents we attend. Attending false alarms means that firefighters are therefore unavailable to respond to genuine emergencies, while the false alarm can cause disruption to those within the building where the alarm is activated.

Many of these false alarms are from domestic properties which include individual houses, blocks of flats and sheltered accommodation. Therefore over the coming year the Authority is looking to further develop its work to reduce the number of false alarms in domestic properties.

Emergency Response

Introducing a Day Crewing duty system at Wilmslow Fire Station

In its IRMP the Authority plans to introduce a day crewing duty system at Wilmslow Fire Station. A day crewing system sees firefighters staff the fire station during daytime in the week (09:00-19:00) but they are paid a supplement to provide guaranteed on-call cover outside of these times. This is more cost effective than the existing nucleus duty system and means that Wilmslow is provided with guaranteed on-call cover in a sustainable way without bringing in supporting resources from elsewhere in Cheshire, which happens under the present system.

The original plan to facilitate this change was to redevelop the existing site with our emergency service partners to create a multi-agency hub. This would release land to build housing for firefighters working the duty system. It has not been possible to pursue this in a way that benefits all parties involved. Therefore, the Authority will now look to purchase existing properties in the community near to Wilmslow Fire Station, which will serve as housing for firefighters.

The new proposal would lead to the average response time for Wilmslow increasing by around 47 seconds to 7min 46sec. However, this is still well within the Authority's standard of responding to life risk incidents within 10 minutes on at least 80% of occasions. While there is minimal difference during the week, response times during daytime hours at weekends is predicted to be around 2 minutes slower. It is expected that the revenue savings from changing the duty system will offset the repayment of borrowing to purchase the houses.

Further information on this proposals can be found via our website www.cheshirefire.gov.uk.

**SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES
PROTECTING LIVES**

Annual Action Plan for 2022-2023

4 **Cheshire Fire Authority**

Developing emergency cardiac response

The proposal would see firefighters mobilised to respond to cardiac arrests alongside paramedics. The introduction of a cardiac response was trialled during 2016 as part of national negotiations between employers and representative bodies over the future role of firefighters, however the trial ended as the negotiations stalled.

At the time of writing no agreement has been reached in these negotiations. The Authority remains committed to developing this capability within Cheshire and will engage partners such as the North West Ambulance Service, our staff and trade unions in relation to the introduction of a pilot scheme within Cheshire.

Firefighters are already trained to provide casualty care as part of their role and defibrillators are placed on every fire engine. This means that there are trained staff across Cheshire who are available to assist paramedics and respond to these incidents. This has the potential to help those in need get treatment as soon as possible and help improve their chances of survival.

Further information on this proposals can be found via our website www.cheshirefire.gov.uk.

Have Your Say

The Authority is running a consultation that runs until 7 January 2023. During this time we will be engaging with residents, staff and partner agencies to hear feedback on our proposals. The results of the consultation will be considered by the Authority at its meeting on 9 February 2023.

You can have your say by filling out a consultation survey and posting to FREEPOST CHESHIRE FIRE CONSULTATION (no stamp required) or by completing an online survey at www.cheshirefire.gov.uk. You can also write to us using our freepost address or by emailing consultation@cheshirefire.gov.uk. Alternatively you can contact us through social media, @CheshireFRS on Facebook or @CheshireFire on Twitter.

If you require any documents in different formats or have any queries then you can contact us using the details above or by calling 01606 868700.

**SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES
PROTECTING LIVES**

Annual Action Plan for 2022-2023

[f](https://www.facebook.com/CheshireFRS) @CheshireFRS [i](https://www.instagram.com/CheshireFire) @CheshireFire [in](https://www.linkedin.com/company/CheshireFire) @CheshireFRS

Draft Plan Consultation Survey



Cheshire
Fire & Rescue Service

Draft Annual Action Plan

2022-2023: residents' survey

Thank you for taking time to complete this questionnaire and telling us what you think about our plans. Please ensure you read the **draft Annual Action Plan summary document** or the full draft plan before completing the form.

If you require more information or would like to see a copy of the full plan please visit www.cheshirefire.gov.uk

SAVING LIVES, CHANGING LIVES, PROTECTING LIVES

Public Satisfaction

Q.1 How strongly do you value Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service as a local service provider?

Strongly value Value Not sure Don't really value Don't value at all

Q.2 In the past three years have you had contact with Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service in any of the following ways (tick all that apply)?

Fire incident Road traffic incident Safe and Well visit Driver Engagement Day Station Open Day
 Community event/group meeting Receiving a Covid-19 vaccination Delivering support such as prescriptions, food parcels etc
 Other (please give details) _____
 No, I have not

Q.3 Taking everything into account that you know about the Service, how satisfied are you with the overall performance of Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service?

Very satisfied Satisfied Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied Dissatisfied Very Dissatisfied

Please provide any further comments that you may have regarding the performance of the Service.

Q.4 Cheshire Fire Authority currently charges £80.87 per year in Council Tax for a Band D equivalent household. To what extent do you agree that this provides value for money?

Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree Strongly disagree

Please provide any further comments that you may have regarding how much value for money you feel the Service provides.

About You

You do not have to answer the following questions, however we collect this data to help ensure we are speaking to all parts of the community. We do not share this information with anyone else and our data is held in accordance with data protection legislation. For more information please visit our website www.cheshirefire.gov.uk

Which area do you live in?

Cheshire East Halton
 Cheshire West and Chester Warrington

Your postcode: _____

Where is your nearest fire station? _____

Gender Male Female Prefer not to say

Is your gender the same as that assigned to you at birth? Yes No Prefer not to say

Age range Under 18 18-24 25-34 35-44 45-54 55-64 65-74 75+

Ethnic origin

White British White Irish
 Gypsy or Irish traveller Any other white background
 White and black Caribbean White and black African
 White and Asian Indian
 Pakistani Bangladeshi
 Chinese Any other Asian background
 African Caribbean
 Any other black/African/Caribbean/Black British background Arab
 Any other ethnic background

Religion: _____ Prefer not to say

Do you consider yourself to have a disability? Yes No Prefer not to say

Sexual orientation Heterosexual/straight Gay/Lesbian Bi Prefer not to say
 Prefer to self-describe _____

How did you hear about this consultation (tick all that apply)?

Newspaper Facebook
 Radio Twitter
 TV Given a survey
 Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service's website Word of mouth
 Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service's Facebook or Twitter accounts
 Other (please specify) _____

All responses need to be submitted no later than Friday 7 January 2022.
Once completed, post your survey to:

FREEPOST CHESHIRE FIRE CONSULTATION
(this is the full address and no stamp is required)

If you require this in larger print or an alternative format please contact us on
01606 868775 or email consultation@cheshirefire.gov.uk

 @CheshireFRS
  @CheshireFire
  @CheshireFRS



Cheshire
Fire & Rescue Service

Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service
Winsford, Cheshire
CW12 2UA

T: 01606 868700
www.cheshirefire.gov.uk

Q.5 What type of property do you live in?

Own home Social rented (local authority or housing association) property Privately rented property

Q.6 Do you have at least one working smoke alarm on each floor of your household?

Yes No

Q.7 Have you ever accidentally activated your smoke alarm(s)?

Yes No

If yes, what caused your alarm(s) to activate?

Plans for 2022/2023

Q.8 When developing our prevention activity around water safety, are there any particular safety issues that you think we should focus on?

Q.9 Are there any specific local areas that you consider to be hotspots for people entering the water? (e.g. local rivers, lakes, quarries)?

Q.10 To what extent do you support the Authority's revised approach to delivering a Day Crewing duty system at Winslow Fire Station?

Strongly support Support Neither support nor oppose Oppose Strongly oppose

Additional comments

Q.11 To what extent would you support firefighters responding to cardiac arrests within Cheshire?

Strongly support Support Neither support nor oppose Oppose Strongly oppose

Additional comments

Q.12 To what extent do you support the Authority's proposal to increase its share of Council Tax by 1.99% for 2022/2023?

Strongly support Support Neither support nor oppose Oppose Strongly oppose

Additional comments

Q.13 Overall, to what extent do you support or oppose the proposals as set out in the draft 2022-2023 annual action plan?

Strongly support Support Neither support nor oppose Oppose Strongly oppose

Don't know

Q.14 Do you have any further comments that you would like us to consider?

FireLink Newsletter

Articles raising awareness of the consultation were placed in the October, November and December editions of the Service's FireLink newsletter, an electronic newsletter distributed over 14,000 recipients.

October edition

2022/2023 Draft Annual Action Plan Consultation

Cheshire Fire Authority has launched a consultation on its draft annual action plan for 2022-2023.

The Plan was developed to review progress against its key objectives that are set out in the Authority's 2020-2024 Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) and to outline any emerging risks and new proposals to address these risks.

[Read the draft annual action plan and have your say](#)

<https://www.cheshirefire.gov.uk/news-events/newsletters/october-2021-eneewsletter-firelink>

November edition

2022/2023 Draft Annual Action Plan Consultation

Cheshire Fire Authority has launched a consultation on its draft annual action plan for 2022-2023.

The Plan was developed to review progress against its key objectives that are set out in the Authority's 2020-2024 Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) and to outline any emerging risks and new proposals to address these risks.

[Read the draft annual action plan and have your say](#)

<https://www.cheshirefire.gov.uk/news-events/newsletters/november-2021-eneewsletter-firelink>

December edition

2022/2023 Draft Annual Action Plan Consultation

Cheshire Fire Authority has launched a consultation on its draft annual action plan for 2022-2023.

The Plan was developed to review progress against its key objectives that are set out in the Authority's 2020-2024 Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) and to outline any emerging risks and new proposals to address these risks.

[Read the draft annual action plan and have your say](#)

<https://www.cheshirefire.gov.uk/news-events/newsletters/december-2021-eneewsletter-firelink>

Social media comments

The comments below were received through the Service's social media accounts during the course of the consultation.

Facebook advertisement

Mark Green

Pay the firefighters more money, recruit more ex forces target soldiers in their last year of military service. It can be done through military demob schemes... Far too many weasels in there, recruited through the equal opportunities numbers game... Lets get the best in the service...

Neal Phillips

Used to go in the golden lion in the 80's and have a drink with the firemen as they called then they would be a great laugh then suddenly tell you about call outs I won't repeat on here as so harrowing and still went out do it again

Mark Brickhill

Outstanding service. Wonderful, brave people. Fully deserving of the support recommended here.

Robert Johnson

I'm just hoping that there is time being made available to train young firefighters

Howard Blake

Just concentrate on the core job, fires and rescue. Let other services deal with matters that fall under their remit

Graham Simpson

Howard Blake I take it you've never had a heart attack

Howard Blake

Graham Simpson what I meant was one agency seems to be overlapping another. Basic first aid should be taught to every citizen of this fine country

John Stephenson

Plenty of money to paint the Appliances for pride etc.

Janssen Bostock

Will the fire fighters get extra payment if they take up the added responsibility of attending cardiac arrest?

Andrew Higgins

Janssen Bostock no

Graham Simpson

Janssen Bostock no, most are probably asleep at night unless they get a job, so why shouldn't they help an overstretched ambulance service, most are already trained in first aid in case they come across anyone that needs help whether it an RTA, Fire or other incidents

Janssen Bostock

Graham Simpson take on extra responsibility for nothing 🤔 interesting !

Garry Harney

"Most are probably asleep" "RTA" Graham, perhaps you should update yourself with present works practices and procedures before making comments like that.

Andrew Seary

No words can say how much I respect UK Fire, Ambulance & Emergency services & our Fantastic NHS.

Sally Hammonds

Think these had a base on ocean street in Alty next to hubby's work ❤️ the dogs were just gorgeous when they were there, interacting with him ,and all the staff were so friendly xx

Matt Sharples

Whoever gets there first should be able to deal with the first aid of anyone, cops are. I'd say do the training course every year and put out fires/rescue people from whatever is your primary purpose of your work. And yes, you all (emergency services and NHS, background) deserve a bloody good payrise. Especially after the past 3yrs.

Mark Arratoon

Reduce the top dog councilors , and their , family members, employed by the council ,give the emergency service better pay and conditions !!!??

Daniel Dove

Recruit anyone ideal for the job not specific targets

Peter G Behan

Invent a narrower fire engine... So many cars on the narrow roads near me you have no chance of getting a normal one to a fire.

Arthur Faulkner

Peter G Behan or maybe, just maybe entitled car drivers could park considerately they'd get through ok 😊

Peter G Behan

Arthur Faulkner yes right... 1880's terraced houses weren't built with parking in mind.

Ian Causer

For me, just keep putting fires out. That'll do

Maggie Mee

Ian Causer wat about road traffic accidents ..cutting people free from their cars and administering first aid such as ventilating a person and cpr...keeping the person alive until the medics arrive ..and much more...they dont only fight fires.....

Ian Causer

Maggie Mee oh Maggie, where's your sense of humour.

Graham Simpson

Maggie Mee well said

Janis Deans

Ian Causer life and death is no joke...

Ian Causer

Janis Deans lighten up

Nigel Ian Pordes

Unfortunately they become jack of all trades and masters of none the way they are getting put upon....

Bob Wilson

It should be the ambulance service dealing with cardiac arrests. They should have the correct funding to deal with them. The fire service is primarily for fires and rescues. If you do the job for the ambulance service then government will undoubtedly lower funding to the ambulance service. What if there is a fire when you are dealing with a cardiac arrest, who will be available to attend. Don't get me wrong I'm all for saving lives, but it should be the expert correctly funded ambulance service that deal with medical emergencies. Cardiac arrests will just be the tip of the iceberg.

Andrew Higgins

Bob Wilson the ambulance service is stretched already. I know the fire service is trained to deal with injuries and have medical trained staff on the pumps. So instead of complaining when sharing with the ambulance service that they keep you awake at night going to jobs, help.

Bob Wilson

Andrew Higgins I am not complaining about the ambulance service and I've carried out CPR on many occasions. But the ambulance service should be properly funded. How would you feel if trapped in your house on fire and the fire engine is not available as it's dealing with a heart attack? Also I've shared fire stations with ambulance crews and never even thought of complaining about being kept awake. I have nothing but admiration for the job they do. But they should have more funding.

Andrew Higgins

Bob Wilson I agree they should have more funding, however the money needs to come from somewhere. On the second note, unfortunately not all firefighters have your understanding.

Bob Wilson

Andrew Higgins well all I can say is during my 30 yrs in the fire service I've never know anyone complain about being woken up by the ambulance service. I just think using the fire service as the ambulance service has so many pitfalls eg what next after cardiac arrests- falls-cuts- allergic reactions. The list is endless and all very important. Also what happens when treated, they still have to wait for an ambulance to transport to hospital. Meanwhile the fire engine is unavailable for fires etc

Andrew Higgins

Bob Wilson I have seen very militant fire fighter around Manchester. When they were on strike they cut off all the plugs all the equipment in the rest room despite the people coming in to cover for the fire strike.

They also gathered outside shouting and scabs at the people who were going out to fight fires. I work with a lot of paramedics who have said that they are still being told to be quiet when going out on shouts.

Bob Wilson

Andrew Higgins thanks for your views but I won't get into the strike as conversation can get very heated. I'll just leave it at that.

William Frederick Truman

Bob Wilson in all reality first aid is what it says it is first aid. Does what it says on the tin. Increase the level of first aiders on the ground and their expertise you increase the chance of saving lives and making a difference. In most emergency incidents the FB are first on the scene, their remit is to save life first, if they have the correct training and kit to undertake FA in the first instance, then the patients level of recovery outcome is far greater. They can hand over at the scene to the Paramedic to continue further and increased levels of medical treatment free at the point of delivery.

I am a First Aider with St John Ambulance and two of my family are practicing Paramedics, that's without the friends that have made into the NHS via being a member of SJA.

Take a course, become a member, be a friend and raise funds for SJA we are solely a self funding organisation delivering community services commercially and voluntarily.

Thank you taking the time to read my response.

Bob Wilson

William Frederick Truman I have the utmost respect for what you do and the work of the ambulance service as you will see from my comments further down. However I feel it's a properly funded and expert ambulance service that should be dealing with medical emergencies. If the fire service attend, the government will see it as meeting response times and say funding is fine.

William Frederick Truman

Andrew Higgins I understand your fears. However the aim of SJA is that no one should suffer for the lack of trained first aiders. This being driven by the aim to increase membership and get first aid on the nation curriculum. To this aim we should all be working together.

Andrew Higgins

Chris Chadwick angry face for the truth! Explain yourself.

Ian Clarke

Andrew Higgins no they ain't

Andrew Higgins

Ian Clarke no they ain't. What are you making a statement about!

Ian Clarke

Andrew Higgins they aren't trained nor have the equipment.

Andrew Higgins

Ian Clarke so no first aid training or equipment on the fire appliances!

Steve Mayoh-Smith

Bob Wilson Cardiac arrest far more important than a fire I'd say 🧑

Bob Wilson

Steve Mayoh-Smith not if you were trapped in a fire! The Ambulance service should be properly funded to carry out its work.

John Stephenson

Steve Mayoh-Smith not if your House with Children inside is burning down

Steve Mayoh-Smith

John Stephenson If you're hearts stopped beating why worry about a fire you just might escape from 😬

Ian Clarke

Steve Mayoh-Smith clown

Andrew Higgins

Ian Clarke 🤪 people not property first.

Ian Clarke

Andrew Higgins I have not got a clue what ur on about !

Ian Clarke

Andrew Higgins just realised you couldn't get in !

Andrew Higgins

Ian Clarke 🤪 I only do the job when they are on strike.

Ian Clarke

Andrew Higgins it's not for every body ! Most can't get in , never mind

Andrew Higgins

Ian Clarke 🤔🤔🤔 unfortunately it looks like they do! Know be quiet you are boring.

Ian Clarke

Andrew Higgins clearly little fella , u didn't . Don't be bitter ! Some men can do and some just talk like you !!! Now trot on ! Try say something clever , useful or kind !!

Ian Clarke

If you count a 2 or 3 day training course , that's covers everything from a cut to a trauma care as the type of training you want turning up at a cardiac arrest instead of fully trained nwas person with a suite of equipment and drugs

Graham Simpson

Ian Clarke better than nobody turning up hope you don't need help in the future

Ian Clarke

Graham Simpson that's not really the best response is it , do u want a fully trained plumber turning up to fit ur boiler or do u want somebody who's had a few days look at a manual and had a bit of a go . Doesn't have the right tools or bits required to ensure it don't leak or catch fire ! Think about it ! Support a fully funded nwas

Mark Hardman

You all do an amazing job risking your lives keep safe the politics of things can just drag you down keep your chins up everyone doing a brilliant job 👍

Matthew Davies

I was born deaf in one ear. Is there an option for me to become a firefighter?

Reply Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service

Hi Matthew, you can apply to become a firefighter. (We aren't currently recruiting though) Your hearing would be looked into at medical stage as we have to access the level of hearing loss and ensure it meets the minimum requirement. if you need any further information please email recruitment@cheshirefire.gov.uk Thanks

Sue Prescott

Amazing people...!!!!!! 🍷🍷🍷🍷👍👍👍

Darren Woolner

Is that Lady Gaga? If so ,I'm in.

Alan Lea

More questions about ourselves than the proposals!

Roberta Cardoso

Is there a mandate for fire fighters to have the vaccine?

Shaun Jaffrey

What more cut backs. 4 engines to a million houses. 🙄🙄

Tony Quinn

Hope you're picking the right people for the job and not going woke and endangering people's lives

Oleg Jughashvili

Don't go woke,

Don't go broke

Brian Boyd

not ansa employee?

Dave Lamb Dean

Don't listen to the police don't be gmfrs stand up to the police

Roy Hough

Do no harm learning the skills of first aid

Michael Briggs

Let Guy Fawkes win

Alexander McGeoch

We'll still be in lockdown

Mark E Mark Smith

Trying to Americanise the fire service, we might as well get rid of the queen and prime minister and have a president instead.

Then change UK to USA X PLUS

James Thompson-Slaven

Ex Retained FF, Chester.

Andi Birkenhead

Is this what we wearing for the next fake variant

Public comments received via the consultation survey

Several questions within the survey asked for narrative comment. Additionally, respondents were also asked if they had any further comments at the end of the survey. All responses have been provided by question number. Whereby, responses have given either N/A or stated no further comment, these have been excluded.

Q.3 Taking everything into account that you know about the Service, how satisfied are you with the overall performance of Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service? (25 additional comments)

- We have a part time fire service and this is not adequate for the area I live in we do not get value for money since the full time fire service was reduced
- You provide a brilliant service to the public.
- The fire safety advice to my elderly mum was invaluable
- What the fire service does not just for emergencies but for the community is amazing.
- Underfunded
- The amount of hoax calls must impede your overall performance and, as you say, your going to address this. These calls could endanger lives and the people making them need to pay for it, literally. Fines should be imposed and they need to be identified through the media.
- Attendance times are not satisfactory. An arrival time of 10 minutes to a primary fire is a dilution of previous, historical attendance times. This is a reduction in standards. And then, it is for only 80% of the time. This is morally wrong.
- During the covid pandemic and before you seem quite happy to do nothing just stay at your stations. When the police and NWAS are so pushed out
- On the constraints that they are under to provide the amazing service they do is incredible
- Fire in property opposite a number of years ago, after which the service offered a full check up of our property and advised and fitted smoke alarms in our property.
- Fantastic service. But this is basically a cost saving exercise. In my view totally against it. Having on call firemen at night is ridiculous. Take the area at the moment roads blocked and flooded. Which is getting a regular occurrence. Fireman not able to get to firestation. Delays in reaching fires. This has not been thought of.
- The additional smoke alarm was suggested and installed by the fire service.
- I have no information or direct experience on which to base an opinion
- Never had any community input
- The mobilising of fire engines is poor and out of touch, one would think that Lymm was the only fire station in the county as their fire engines seem to be sent when it is obvious that there are other fire stations closer. I feel the fire service in cheshire is getting involved in things that other agencies cover well already.
- As I've had no contact it's hard to say
- Have never had an interaction I am thankful to say, but I know they are there if needed.
- I live in Frodsham and there have been many incidents in the area where our station can't get a crew to attend these, apart from the local area being at risk I'm sure taking the resources from stations around leave their area vulnerable.

- On the 21st August ,this year they attended a Fire Alarm at 5 am where I live. At 6:15 am we were told we could go back into the building as everything was safe,we went in and discovered there was a fire!. They returned at 7 15 am to put it out. Despite asking for information and clarification as to why this happened we have been told to contact our management company? Its as though it never happened?
- It was clear at the scene of my accident, that the 2 female firefighters were not physically capable of doing their job. Why has a proper risk assessment not identified that female firefighters are an unnecessary risk to themselves, their fellow firefighters, and the public. Is political correctness more important than safety of the public and firefighters?
- They provide an excellent service very quick response and very knowledgeable
- Excellent
- Excellent service
- Introduce a second whole-time fire engine at Warrington to improve response times and overall fire cover.
- I do not want a female firefighter attending any incident, they are an unnecessary risk to themselves, other firefighters, and the public. Like most every institution now, I'm sick of your cultural Marxism & Wokeness

Q.4 Cheshire Fire Authority currently charges £80.87 per year in Council Tax for a Band D equivalent household. To what extent do you agree that this provides value for money? (26 additional comments)

- We need a full time crew not a part time one , many a time there has been no fire services in my area they have been from other areas
- For a 24hr emergency service it is a reasonable amount to pay. Appliance repairers charge a lot more than this for a call out fee.
- Very happy that the fire services gets a greater percentage of CT ... to the expense of the wasted money taken by CWAC. More money should not be a matter of higher charges to residents. The broken labour council needs to deliver proficiency and keep within existing income levels.
- I always notice that you get less than the police.
- Would be happy to pay more for 24hour staffed station. A fire emergency requiring a rapid response is more likely to be important at night.
- We never know when we may need them but if we do it will be an emergency so well worth the proportion of council tax
- It is reassuring to know that in the event you need life saving services they are available in addition to the general advise given.
- You can't put my a value on saving lives in emergency situations. Always being prepared for eventualities is highly important. This could be any time of the day so requires a manned station 24/7
- Great value. Bit if they implement these changes a poor value for money
- I pay £195 a month which seems excessive
- At approx £7 per month it is really excellent value for money.
- Why as a fire service are you paying costs towards the behaviour aspects of pupils excluded from school .

- My local retained station is never available and when engines are needed they come from much further away. Why don't you just scrap this model and employ full time fire fighters, it's simply not value for money
- Cheshire Fire Authority attends an a amazing amount of incidents and scenarios, but still find the time for visits both educational and at various events throughout the year.
- The reduction in domestic fires as the result of safer house design has lowered the need for fire service provision. The service should stick to its core tasks and not seek to expand.
- I feel the service doesn't provide value for money, getting involved in other agencies areas of expertise instead on concentrating on purely firefighting fire prevention and road accidents. Money is wasted on fancy equipment that is deployed to situations that don't require it by there nature and this wastes money not only on purchasing of equipment but on fuel and wages for personnel especially those that are on call. If there is not sufficient work in traditional areas for your fire fighters then you are over staffed. Very disappointed over the way Cheshire Fire Service has developed over the last 25 years and more.
- For the money they receive they provide an great service
- Would not mind paying a bit more
- Would pay more for a safer services if money is spent in the right place
- Again I don't have any facts or figures to judge this. However having a well organised and equipped for service seems to me to be vital for any community .
- As per above statement
- We don't have enough information to assess that. A factor would be the extent to which modern precautions have reduced the risk of big fires.
- As a local taxpayer having been put in danger by the brigade I would have though an explanation was in order ,
- We need more volunteer firefighters and less full time firefighters. Full time firefighters with 2 jobs are too costly.
- £1.55 per week approx a bargain would you put your life on the line for the sort of money they get??????
- Amazed the service provided costs so little

Q.7 Have you ever accidentally activated your smoke alarm? (86 additional comments)

- Cooking (25 x responses)
- Burnt toast in the toaster
- Steam from the bathroom
- Burning food!
- But not for many years, it was through cooking
- Toast, not even burnt. Alarm is very sensitive
- Cooking in the kitchen
- Cooker
- Smoke from the kitchen
- Cooking/grilling
- More to the point - I've had smouldering which did not activate the FS installed smoke alarms.
- Cooking using a frying pan
- Smoke from grill

- Usually cooking under the grill
- Burning food
- Burnt cooking
- Toaster, smoking oven
- Toaster
- Burnt toast
- Smoke from the kitchen.
- The roof was being done
- Forgot to close the door when cooking "blackened" Cajun style
- Steam from shower
- Cooking steak
- Cooking fumes
- Toast
- Over sensitive toaster
- Grilling food. We make sure the kitchen door is closed now.
- Cooking and Frying steaks
- Aerosol
- Shower steam and cooker heat
- Cooking fumes
- Burnt toast!
- Burnt toast or cooking
- Cooking usually roasts or toast a bit to long
- Burnt toast
- Toaster
- Toaster
- Burnt toast
- Toaster and oven
- Smoke in kitchen from burning fat, quickly solved the issue and did not have to alert fire service
- Bacon cooking!

Q.8 When developing our prevention activity, are there any particular issues that you think we should focus on that would improve water safety? (87 comments)

- Children safety
- Get education to add water safety to the school curriculum which will leave fire fighters free to do what they are trained to do. Also parents should be responsible for teaching their children to escape if they fall into water. There will always be people who try to take their own life in water
- Life bouys along rivers quarries and lakes
- I think most people recognise that it would be very difficult to cover all our waterways safely, maybe more information in schools might help.
- There is a growing trend toward open water swimming, wild swimming and greater use of the natural environment. Given that water deaths are statistically low this activity is unlikely to prevent deaths or realise value for money and should be spent on response/fire safety enforcement.

- Use older pre retirement staff to do this
- Notices giving depth of water especially near canals
- Education in schools
- Reintroducing free swimming lessons to all children.
- Education
- Going into schools to teach about the dangers of entering water
- Owners of the water could provide safety equipment, particularly on angling sites. Members could be given a key to access the equipment in the case of an emergency.
- 'While not a statutory duty of fire and rescue authorities', why not? Is it another way for Government to not pay? Attending road traffic accidents was in this category some years ago, but is now a Statutory Duty, so services receive appropriate funding. Do some work, push for statutory status for water rescue.
- Water safety education for teenagers
- Compulsory swimming lessons
- Train together with other agencies so that first responders dont say that they cant go in the water.
- Kids playing in/near water
- Focus on school children & show them how dangerous open water is.
- Going into primary secondary schools to educate this generation how different our waterways are and the difficulties this can bring for any swimmer however experienced! Or provide resources to support the above for educational settings to be able to deliver a similar programme. Signage around water ways some areas safety fencing to prevent access to the water directly
- Discourage schools from teaching swimming, and lobby the Government to allow this.
- Children playing in the river
- Teens playing across the pipes in carrs, canals and cold water swimming ie drunken kids who think it's funny to swim in cold rivers/canals/reservoirs
- Raising awareness of the dangers of rivers at secondary schools.
- Better education on safety
- With the increase in the number of people taking up water sports, SUPs especially, encourage those venturing out to seek proper training through organisations such as Liverpool Canoe Club. Also with the British Canoe Union and retailers such as Go Kayaking in Runcorn to encourage responsible use of our water ways.
- Difference in temperature on a hot sunny day between the air temp and the water.
- Provide fast water response training for all crews
- Education in schools but there will always be one.
- Educational chats in schools
- Education in schools. Cooperating with the police to discourage incidents.
- teach kids danger and respect for it at a young age.. everything is to risk averse because people scared of getting sued even with playgrounds.
- Make sure the fireman are paid for taking these risks
- No, stick to day job
- Start with the young people, they need to be made aware of the dangers of water. Yes it can be great fun I'm sure jumping in the river but they youngsters see the dangers.
- Proactive prevention is the best approach and I really appreciate the approach of other emergencies such as collapse which supports ambulance service

- The fire brigade can not be held responsible for the acts of certain people , and do a stand up job regarding river safety
- As you have NO statutory responsibility for water rescues, you should stop wasting council tax money on boats trailers for them paddle boards lifejackets etc and leave it to the agencies that have an obligation to do so. Concentrate on fire fighting fire prevention road accidents which you do have an obligation to. Fed up with plans by those at the top to waste my hard earned money.
- Running campaigns before the summer in schools and having signs up in water hotspots
- Enforcement of Penalties for those caught breaching no swim and no entry orders
- Ensure landowners adequately fence off dangerous areas and have rescue equipment near by.
- Education in schools
- Focus more on kids drinking and being daft
- Patrols in hot weather where children often swim ?
- Unsupervised open water swimming
- Better fencing around ponds where children and young people are tempted to swim in hot weather
- Increased school liaison at primary and secondary level
- Education and warning/safety signage
- Education. Swimming lessons. More life savers on banks of waterways
- More education not only in schools but work places. Maybe a televised campaign to highlight the dangers
- Go into schools, explain safety to the kids and encourage them to tell their parents too, set them up for a better life for everyone, so not putting others at risk.
- Educate our children they have no fear
- Everyone being equipped correctly and not having to wait.
- Swimming lessons for school pupils
- Ellesmere Port or Powey should have a boat on station for Manchester Ship Canal
- Open water swimming and cold water shock. Not a good understanding out there of these risks
- online info
- I have 2 dogs & walk regularly. The local river is swarming with unattended children during warmer weather. Also at one point they are playing in a waterfall where Cows regularly cross the river. Education in schools maybe, if that doesn't happen all ready.
- Make sure lifebelts etc. are regularly maintained.
- Working with youth groups and high schools, particularly as the warmer weather starts and before holidays.
- Anything that ensures firefighters actually do something, rather than sitting around their station.
- School age awareness
- The drains are blocked up by road contractor this causes a lot of flooding
- People (mostly children and young adults) need to fully appreciate how dangerous open bodies of water can be! I think people think "I can swim, I'll be fine" but they do not take into consideration the temperature of the water or any currents
- Emphasise the dangers of voluntarily entering any form of open water for your own leisure purposes. Dangers will arise from unexpected depth, hidden dangers from items dumped

below the surfaces., shopping trolleys etc. Also the cold temperature and possible faster flow than expected in rivers. The dangers presented to rescuers, passers by, police, ambulance and firefighters in carrying out rescues. Drink and drugs taken may affect decisions to enter water!

- Examples of accidents and incidents to try and use scare tactics of what might happen
- Promoting this as an education program for children
- Fast flowing water & flooding.
- I have two children currently attending Helsby high school, during the hot weather there are a noticeably high percentage of students that play in local waterways in frodsham ie the river weaver. Due to the past 18 months and ongoing covid restrictions I'm unsure on your current status for attending school visits. With children playing in open water in the local area significantly rising during hot weather it would be extremely invaluable to carry out some prevention work regarding water safety in secondary schools in particular. If you already have plans for this then fantastic. Thankyou
- Approach the Government to seek Statutory duty to be imposed, to deal with such emergencies, thus securing proper and realistic funding !
- It makes sense the fire brigade answer water, as you are the most versatile of the emergency services! Especially inland waterways! A boat at every station would be an advantage for logistics!
- Education on Cold water shock,
- Risks to individuals who enter water ie rivers
- Safety around water during hot weather and alcohol related incidents
- Making sure all children are taught to swim
- Campaign to be funded for it by government and to have it as a statutory duty
- Working with others to improve signage near water. More awareness and education on social media. Involvement in swimming lessons.

Q.9 Are there any specific local areas that you consider to be hotspots for people entering the water? (e.g. local rivers, lakes, quarries) (69 comments)

- River Bollin in Carrs
- We have lakes locally & are surrounded by canals
- The river weaver
- Nantwich weir on the River weaver, known as Nantwich Beach
- The Mersey in warrington, there's a passageway under the train track and there is always children and drunks under it. The wall is low and often muddy, people could easily fall into the river
- Bollin, Pickmere
- Manchester Ship canal at Thelwall (teenagers)
- River Dee
- River Dee at Chester.
- River Dane Holmes Chapel , the tunnels in sandbach,
- I think the ongoing situation re flooding outside the Royal London is terrible, but not the job of the fire services, more a major problem with Cheshire East
- Bollin by the Carrs
- The Carrs, Wilmslow Park

- Carrs isn't deep but rat infested illnesses and very young children are left unattended during summer
- Bollin valley all areas. Water testing... Sometimes seems polluted. Very fast cc after downfalls. Fine in the summer whilst shallow but can be dangerous. Perhaps needs signage to raise awareness.
- River bollin
- Rivers
- Think the Mersey at Bridge Foot and also the water by Victoria Park. Sorry can't remember what it's called.
- River Weaver Frodsham when the weather is hot.
- Temperature
- The suspension bridge over the Dee in Chester
- A lot of people are now using inflatable paddle boards or sit on kayaks starting from Anderton nature park typically parking at Anderton boat lift and going down to the weaver. Granted they tend to have wet/dry suits and life jackets so look prepared. I've never seen kids or teens swimming in the weaver or canals near Anderton.
- River Dee and ship canal
- The river Weaver can be easily accessed and I'm sure very inviting in the warm weather.
- Eccleston Ferry
- Errwood reservoir (Derbyshire) blue lagoon, Charley lane chinley
- The fire brigade in wales should be made to attend and the environment agency in conjunction with the cheshire brigade a walk through river dee banks both sides as far as farndon bridge , cheshire council should police the bridge in town more in summer and along the cafe and public houses especially in school holidays to assist the fire brigade,
- There are various puts, ponds and water holes locally where people could enter the water
- No and its NOT your responsibility
- River weaver bridge
- M62 Birchwood junction water areas around walks / landfill site
- None aware of
- Dee
- The Mersey
- The river in chester
- Around holmes chapel there is the river Dane and Brereton pool
- I don't live near enough to a water area to be aware of any issues.
- Chester: Queen's Park footbridge, rowing clubs pontoons.
- River weaver the flash
- Local lake and canal through town!
- All are hotspots when the suns out.
- Astbury Mere
- Ellesmere Port Canal
- Macc forest
- The Bollin both sides of the A34
- Yes, Canal ,river estuary, bridges,
- Dee has many.
- Yes, local rivers, lakes, & quarries
- River weaver

- Pickmere lake
- the river bollin in the carrs
- Cheshire has many meres and rivers that are accessible to the public having no fences etc.. Warm summer weather will cause people to be tempted to enter water in any part of the county.
- Astbury Mere
- River weaver (frodsham)
- Pickmere lake
- River Bollin, Wilmslow
- Yes, local rivers, lakes, quarries

Q.10 To what extent do you support the Authority's revised approach to delivering a Day Crewing duty system at Wilmslow Fire Station? (38 additional comments)

- Frodsham only has a part time fire service so why should you spend money on Wilmslow ,is it because they are wealthy than people in my area
- Why additional pay, make it there job to be on call like other industries
- I live in Cuddington, it's a bit far away from the river weaver and dane
- Change to 10 minutes living distance
- Make it whole time. I notice that there is no mention, whatsoever, of the likely cost of the housing you intend to purchase; why not? Being in Wilmslow this is likely to run in something like £2 to £3 million pounds. What will you saving be after that??? Why hide it?
- I'm not sure what the firefighters family would think. I don't know how far away the housing would be. I have no knowledge of Wilmslow.
- Crew should be on-site at all times
- I'd rather you assist the police or ambulance service to save lives
- The police station is to be demolished and downsized so there will be room to build there. A better alternative would be 24hour staffed cover.
- Oppose the notion of purchasing houses in the local area where prices are already highly inflated.
- Time is of the essence in an emergency
- Don't see the need for 9 houses. Especially in this area where there is nothing under 350k!. Firefighters have always slept at stations. Just upgrade the facilities. Why have a station and outposts. ,
- Part time service. And as I mentioned earlier. Due the now regular occurrence of roads flooding not an option
- Staff the station with a whole time crew , LLAR is not a full service that the local residents are paying for
- Another station that went part time - part time model doesn't work, time for a rethink
- Would firefighters want to live next to their work place? Would there be enough staff that don't feel pressured to be on call constantly because there's no one else to cover?
- I don't know enough about the cost implications or the benefits to form an opinion
- as we are not told of the risks in that area we can't make a judgement If the risks for the area covered and the number of calls reduced, as well as the response times are not affected then i see no problem with it. But if the risks remain higher including the airport and the number of calls has not reduced i would be against it. How many of the present

firefighters at wilmslow will be kept how many redeployed and how many made redundant. what is the cost of . How much rent will be generated from firefighters in these houses . also what is the cost savings going to be rather than some estimation purchasing the 12 houses needed house prices are not cheap in wilmslow

- Makes sense
- Need facts figures in relation to demand / response to evidence need.
- As long as staff not at risk of over working
- As I live in Warrington I am not able to comment
- I don't know this area but would have high hopes fire service would know how best to deal with the issue
- I feel it would be better to stay 24 hour, but if this is not viable then a day station is better than none
- It's difficult to support this plan. Every on call fire station seems to be struggling with recruitment and retention, this seems like a very expensive way to fix the issue in one of the most expensive places for property in Cheshire.
- How does RNLI do it, as a charity? Police Specials another example. Nucleus full-time 24x7 somewhere. National professional Service, supplemented by locals, why still just this introvert focus, why not partnering with Manchester, Merseyside, Staffordshire and rest of UK (at least England)?
- No knowledge of the impact
- Why spend millions on housing, when the people of Wilmslow could have a full time fire station, with immediate response day / night for the next 25years. At no extra cost, than the millions, your going to plough into housing. The population is only going to expand over this time and the risk get greater. Provide full time jobs, not housing.
- The cost of housing in Wilmslow is extortionate. Will the amount spent be made public?
- I understand it's not financial viable due to government cut backs but I believe stations should be manned 24 hours unless there is a 24 hour manned station within a few miles.
- Any improvement on response time is a bonus
- it should be left to those whos work it is
- If local people are not prepared to train and operate as on call firefighters they will have to accept change to the system.
- Where are you going to find 9 properties to purchase near to the fire station? I don't think this is realistic
- Need to be mindful of growing communities and associated demands
- Fireman on duty overnight need to live close by to the station or sleep at the station overnight.
- I couldn't possibly have a fair opinion on this proposal.
- Support but not sure on the turnout times. especially during a weekend expecting FF to get into station under 5 minutes will be nearly impossible.

Q.11 To what extent would you support firefighters responding to cardiac arrests within Cheshire? (59 additional comments)

- Fire fighters are for responding to fire / rescue related issues. We are not America & I feel we need each of our emergency service for their particular specialist, amalgamation should be avoided

- It would be silly to oppose this life saving idea, I would be very grateful for help in that situation
- Should be trained anyway and why deploy alongside the ambulance service, surely to provide extra cover they need to deploy by themselves as first responder
- The more trained staff available for an emergency response the better
- Sounds like a good idea but isn't that what our ambulance and first responder services are for. Our fire service would be further stretched and would need medical training to do this.
- Let ambulance do their job
- Strongly agree with this as NWAS is under so much pressure
- I agree with firefighters being trained in the use of cardiac equipment and using it, if necessary, when attending an incident. They should not be called out to attend a cardiac arrest incident, as this is making them unavailable if needed for any other incidents.
- Firefighter are not paramedics; we don't live in America. If a loved on was having a heart attack, I would want a qualified medically trained person to attend to them, not a firefighter.
- I think all agencies should work together whenever possible but still have their own area of specialism as a first priority.
- If we had a properly funded ambulance service fire safety officers would be able to continue to do the job they are trained to do.
- I think the days of waiting at the station for a call are long over. The fire service need to diversify into paramedic / policing roles
- OK as incidental but shouldn't be a key focus
- They could be needed for an actual fire emergency
- You want to cut down fire service. Then in the next breath deploy fireman to ambulance duties. You can only stretch services so far
- It would help if they had full training in medical care if they have to wait for medics arrive.
- Encourage and invest in CPR training for the public and help people find their nearest AED.
- If lives may be saved with this initiative its got to be a good thing
- Nwas should be fully financed and staffed . Are nwas going to put fires out ?
- It's hiding the shortfalls in the ambulance service, they desperately need more funding, and by responding to red calls it's basically going to distort the figures and response times, that the ambulance crews should be going too, if fire service personnel are to respond to these calls they should be paid extra for it, you've already stated that water calls are not statutory, they should be getting paid extra for those to
- I support this, but not if it is detrimental to keeping fire cover. My idea would be that an employee of the service be trained to respond to cardiac arrests thus leaving the firefighters available for fire calls.
- This is a great idea and I'm sure will save lives. I also think having oxygen masks suitable for pets is fantastic.
- I strongly support if firefighters are personally happy to take on this duty and extra responsibility
- Competent to do so, not a problem
- I've read the firemen are not paid for this- they must be for taking on more roles
- Difficult one this, our firefighters are amazing people who do a brilliant job. If they take on this extra role it would be very useful but also is exactly that - an extra role and should perhaps be voluntary.

- Fire brigade should be readily available to attend fires, NWS should be attending cardiac arrests, therefore more funds for staffing should be made available to them
- Is there demonstrable need? If so is this the best way to meet it? Or is this another scheme to keep Fire & Rescue Service staff in employment?
- Firefighters should stick to firefighting, fire prevention and attending road accidents, not cardiac arrests giving talks on road safety and checking vehicles. Leave that to the qualified medics, motor mechanics and motoring organisations as well as the police. The present fire service in Cheshire is dipping its toes into too many waters at great cost to the tax payers
- Why is there a need to attend alongside Ambulance Crews unless there is a fire or other incident requiring the skills of Fire and Rescue. Surely this is an additional duty that will reduce capability to respond to fires etc!
- Resources are stretched enough already without taking on these additional duties
- Basic core principal of all emergency services. However should not be the norm to call, should be the exception. But first aiders sitting whilst someone dying around corner, I can't see an argument against, other than unions / politics / pay issues.
- In an arrest every second counts and with the amount of calls and pressure on the ambulance service every second counts with an arrest
- Getting to the victim in the golden hour is vital. Think the police should do this as well!
- I can see this expanding as pressures on paramedics increase into other health areas and without specific teams this may detract from your ability to respond to fires and road accidents
- Training in cardiac support should be given to all emergency service personnel
- Any diversity of response is an improvement
- Fire service should be more like EMTs in states
- Would this affect the funding the ambulance service receives? Would new firefighters be hired to fulfil the new role or would the existing crew do this? If there was a fire whilst they were on a cardiac call would this impact response times? I'd need more details to know if I support it or not.
- Are you complaining about the Ambulance Service? Careful not to confuse their scope, or attempt to seize their limited resources! Sure, have some first-aid including cardiac-related skill, at least in case your own suffer a collapse, and why not stroke too, but leave medical issues to the medical experts, don't sow confusion. Or are you confusing French society or US fire services where their crews have given up Fire Engines for vans equipped with medical equipment?
- As a nurse I know it all helps
- This is a service that is really needed and could save many lives and maybe the fire service could attend quicker than the ambulance I strongly support this
- To be married in with local first responders and other agencies
- This can only be effective if these responders are trained to administer drugs. The introduction of stop clockers, does the patients survival no favours. It's a low percentage of out of hospital cardiac survivors, as it stands. Don't do this just to bring attendance times down. The public deserves better.
- Hopefully all the new rapid response vehicles will carry one
- This is the job of the NHS/ambulance
- A great idea, hope you pay the firefighters accordingly
- Only if this didn't involve a full crew, meaning a vehicle was unavailable for fire.

- Although I think this would be a great thing to do, the fire service is stretched as it is, called upon to do many things. This should not be a priority over other aspects and the priority should remain with the ambulance service.
- This should not detract from capacity to respond to fire and rescue incidents
- I believe we should have local support for any emergency, along the lines of the American fire houses, an ambulance provided by the fire department would be advantageous as the crew would hopefully be local with local knowledge. Perhaps this could also prevent the privatisation of the ambulance service.
- This proposal gets my support provided that firefighters are given appropriate training and equipment. Agreement will have to be made with the firefighters trade union also. This was tried in GMFRS where my son in law is a ff. He commented that during his twenty previous years service he had seen/dealt with several deceased persons, however when this type of response was introduced he was attending several every month. He works the shift system, however with day crewing the same personnel are on duty most of the time and are therefore likely to be exposed to significantly more deceased individuals than previously. Suitable counselling and training should be introduced to cover this expectation.
- I'd need to see statistics to determine whether appropriate or not; ie call outs for fire vs call outs for cardiac arrests and compare
- I think the fire service is stretched enough and should not have to add this to their multiple responsibilities
- Anything that saves lives is good in my view.
- If an ambulance is required and time is of urgency for the patient, then using a firefighter who can get there quicker who is trained would be an advantage!
- Pay and training needs to reflect any change, also affect it will have on On call staff turning out to more incidents
- I think the idea is good provided it doesn't affect fire engines being available for fire service related incidents such as building fires, RTC's, chemical incidents etc.
- The sooner the better, lives would be saved if you did this

Q.12 To what extent do you support the Authority's proposal to increase its share of Council Tax by 1.99% for 2022/2023? (35 additional comments)

- Paid enough- why should it rise, can't see any value added. Every year it is assumed it is acceptable to charge us more, typical local council mentality
- If the increase is necessary then I support it. It is after all an essential service that saves lives.
- Precepts continue to rise for all services, as does council tax, while my salary raises are continuously below inflation or non-existent.
- As long as this doesn't involve increasing Council tax, then they should.
- Stop taking more and more money from us year in year out. Get statutory funding for water rescues. And if you're going to take more money, you need to improve on attendance times; 10 minutes is too long and is a degradation as you very well know.
- I'm supportive of the fire service receiving an increased share as long as it's used to provide and maintain a local service.
- They require whatever is necessary to provide an efficient and effective service.
- Very fire station I know has been rebuilt within the last few years at a great cost to the public

- Ask for more if needed
- We've just had a increase for Cheshire Police. We haven't seen any increase in police especially on the streets. I'm not sure the fire service will actually benefit from additional funding- given the increase in CP , no chance since increase in fund
- Look into so called penny pinching Service in a better view
- It has to be money well spent when you see the breadth of expertise the fire service provides
- Spend your budget on your core business and stop wasting money on glamour and vanity projects
- What service(s) are going to loose a share of the council tax to support this?
- As I've stated I'm not getting a local quick response for my part time station response - if you want more money then provide full time response
- It's not ideal but if that's how the government want to afford it
- Everyone is feeling the pinch after Covid with living costs increases
- As a homeowner I have absolutely no input, visit or advice from this service
- there are plenty of ways for the fire service to save money if only it stuck to its primary purpose of fighting fires, fire prevention and road accidents. Cheshire Fire Service is a joke amongst many correspondents to local newspapers
- The precept should increase by a set amount paid by all rather than making some pay more to subsidise others
- Surely this has to be a prior over other services?
- Cost of living is becoming ridiculous and this is yet another impact on household incomes
- At least we know that this would be money well spent
- Should look to increase funds by reducing exec pay and pensions. Cut wastage first.
- Honestly I oppose any increase in council tax that means I have to pay more, as we can barely afford to live right now. However if Council tax remains the same amount and that amount is redistributed then I'd support it.
- Prioritise school meals for kids first, please.
- If they bring in cardiac response then that in itself would be worth the increase
- Happy to pay for services
- To be a better service, it needs to be payed for.
- I oppose this unless we can get the cover which I believe we require for the area
- With the cost of living going up this would be a bad time for the community already struggling financially
- Ratepayers are at breaking point with sustained increases via rates by CW&C.
- If we want improvements to the fire department it has to be funded from somewhere, better the tax payer than private companies
- We will get the fire service that we are prepared to pay for, therefore we must be prepared to pay more for a quality professional service!
- Would be willing to have a further increase

Q.14 Any further additional comments (37 comments)

- Please keep the ""Great"" in Great Britain, we do not wish to become like America. Fire fighters love their job & want to do their best for the communities, let them do it.

- Be open, in accounting, what North West Fire Control costs Cheshire Fire Authority. Be open and publish call handling times for North West Fire Control. IE, The time it takes for an emergency call to be answered. The time it takes to process emergency call details and mobilise resources.
- Sorry didn't read them before starting the survey.
- Wonderful service/people who fully deserve the financial support requested. Thank you to all.
- Keep up the great work. Teaching water safety & responding to cardiac arrests will save lives.
- Sounds like a thorough and concise plan look forward to it coming into fruition.
- Happy for a small increase to provide NWAS with support due to their lack of provision but strongly disagree with using resources to buy local housing for fire fighters. More focus on a recruitment drive for on call firefighters to provide cover when it is quieter.
- As I said. Unfortunately the increases never find there way to the fire service? In addition slightly concerned that CTS has funds to purchase 9 houses in Wilmslow. Potential cost 1.8m to service night shifts?
- The proposals are ludicrous
- Haven't seen or heard of it
- As we see more and more dry weather in the summer, a campaign on preventing grass/forest/woodland fires, responsible BBQ use, etc...
- Emergency services all need to be properly funded.
- I do not support the fire rescue educating school aged children in anything other than fire and safety related issues. I personally feel poorly behaved children on the verge of being expelled should be dealt with in the education system.
- Yes. I have seen crews getting dressed in moving appliance under blue lights. Thought policy was to pull over safely dress, seat belts on and continue
- Why do the top officers have flash cars, other services have fleet cars, this seems to be more value for money and a better image
- Cheshire Fire Service needs to get back to the basics of firefighting, fire prevention and road accidents and stop wasting money on vanity projects like boats, fancy coloured peaks on fire helmets and fancy staff names, you could save a fortune, no rainbow fire engines just send a fire engine no rainbow flags at whatever cost they are, our firefighters now look scruffy where years ago they were smartly dressed and someone to be proud of.
- These services are under extreme financial pressure and do a fantastic job. I support an increase in council tax to provide them with the increased finance they need.
- Public are hard pushed financially. You shouldn't be expecting more money from us.
- Dropped the ball on COVID, Army covering emergency services again as well as keeping us safe, take better care of our Armed Services personnel whilst in service and as Veterans too.
- I value the service and feel safe in the knowledge that it is there
- Invest in front line staff and equipment. To many years of cuts and lack of resources. When the country heats up, the response is lacking and we're not getting any cooler.
- I have worked in a manned station supported by a retained crew with two engines I believe Frodsham should be day manned with the support of a retained crew as back up with two engines. I also believe if this could happen we could have a specialist boat crew as part of this as in past incidents boat crews have come from out of the area I think this is viable to have a boat here due to the nature of the surrounding area. I can understand when crews

- are coming to the area from other stations like Runcorn Widnes Powey Lane etc but if the roads are grid locked (which they can be quite often) they would struggle to get to incidents.
- Question 13 does not allow mixed support - it should have offered percentages or a slider.
 - Better flood response to help the public when houses are flooded. Pay firefighters a wage that meets the cost of living.
 - Authority need to make there minds up regarding Ellesmere Port Second Pump and RDS. Too many chopping and changing. Take on a RDS then close it down due go keeping 2nd Pump at Ellesmere Port and now look to relocate it. Ellesmere Port is a growing area currently and 2nd Pump should remain at Ellesmere Port and Chester should have a 2nd Pump regardless. Also with Health and Safety these days Water Pumps should look to replace 13 5m ladders and have a hydraulic lift."
 - One thing the last few years has proved is that we should have & be involved in our local community. If firefighters live near the station it makes perfect sense for them & very definitely for us if we are in need. Perfect for the staff to be medical responders too if they've had the relevant training. A quick response is vital for heart patients
 - Talk to people, residents and Listen to what's been said
 - There has got to be some belt-tightening by all local authority departments. Remember the gold plated pension scheme for them.
 - It is good to see a greater emphasis on the health and well-being of members of the service, without whom we would be quite lost.
 - If the extra funding is required then it should be supplied, improvements are a continuous cycle,
 - No further comments.
 - Keep up the great work.
 - As the fire authority co shares its headquarters, with cheshire Police in Winsford! For estate costs, cannot the police, ambulance service and fire service share more/all local station facilities? Therefore reducing costs across all services and cross service training can be improved! Just like the military, a tri service resource! 😊😊
 - make clear the three different types of false alarm. It is right that fire services attempt to reduce the amount of false alarms they attend but it needs to be made clear to the public so they understand better that one type of false alarm is good intent which in my personal view is a false alarm that the service will always have to deal with- my general view is that fire services give the impression that ALL false alarms can be avoided regardless the type.
 - I am sick to the back teeth of your Wokeness. Recruit and promote only the best candidates. Only equality of opportunity matters. We want the best fire service, and don't care whether it reflects the local community or not. I only want it to reflect the best of the community. Restore your fitness standards, I don't care if women or minorities can't pass them.

Responses received from partners and stakeholders

Partners and external stakeholders were either emailed or written to and encouraged to provide written responses and comments. Five stakeholders provided full responses to the consultation.

Alsager Town Council

Dear Sir/Madam

At a recent town council meeting councillors received the Fire Service Draft Annual Action Plan and resolved to make the following comments on the plan:

PEC21/109 16 November 2021

Alsager Town Council welcomes the Draft Plan and supports the actions especially the proposal for additional defibrillators and would welcome the requirement for all public buildings to be built to include sprinklers.

Kind Regards

Mrs Nicola Clarke

Nicola Clarke PSLCC
Town Clerk
Alsager Town Council

Disley Parish Council

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing on behalf of Disley Parish Council in response to the Cheshire Fire 2022/2023 Draft Annual Action Plan Consultation. As a Council we are extremely supportive of the work of the fire service, and the progress made on prior plans.

We would like to make the following comments on two elements within the draft:

- 1) We support your plans to develop an emergency cardiac response capability. Disley & Newtown however are some distance away from a community fire station. We wondered if the service might consider how the cardiac emergency response capability might be delivered in outlying areas such as ours?
- 2) Our Parish has several rivers, waterways, lakes, and open reservoirs. We are therefore very supportive of further prevention work to raise awareness of water safety. We would be happy to support you with this

in our community, via communications and use of our community centre.

We are open to engaging further with you on your plans at consultation or in their execution. Please do not hesitate to contact us via clerk@disleyparishcouncil.org.uk

Sincerely

Simon Brownbill

Cheshire East Council

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL CONSULTATION RESPONSE TO THE CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY DRAFT ANNUAL ACTION PLAN 22/23

Cheshire East Council welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Cheshire Fire Authority draft Annual Action Plan 22/23 and looks forward to continuing to partner with the Fire Authority on a number of the projects outlined in the action plan.

The plan references the Fire Authority's plan to review learning from the pandemic and how this may influence future working. Cheshire East Council propose a stakeholder roundtable on sharing learning and propose that this be a theme of a Cheshire East Leaders Board during 22/23.

We note, and welcome, that the plan complements the work of the Safer Cheshire East Partnership (SCEP). Cheshire Fire and Rescue are represented on the partnership and we understand that SCEP will be updated on progression against delivery of the action plan.

Cheshire East Council welcome continued involvement in the prevention work in the community, in order to make effective use of our shared resources and to avoid any duplication, and note that safe and well visits will resume, together with youth engagement activities. We would welcome any shared opportunities in relation to progressing our plans in adult social care and children's services across these areas. We welcome the continuation of the partnership between the fire service and our social work teams, particularly through safeguarding referrals to Cheshire East Council following fire service visits to people, and through the fire service undertaking welfare visits to individuals in circumstances where people are reluctant to link directly with social care.

It is noted that the draft plan refers to changes to balance resources across Cheshire West and Chester (p9). To make it clearer to the public that resources are considered fair and balanced across the wider geography it would be helpful if a sentence could be added to the plan to reference the other local authority areas in the "response" paragraph of the "Our Progress"

section. For example, “This complements our resources across Cheshire East, Halton and Warrington”.

Reducing the number of people killed and seriously injured on Cheshire roads is a goal we share as a Council. On page 13, within the prevention section, no reference is given to the reduction in KSI’s that have been seen across Cheshire between 2016-2021 which has been in part as a result of the work of Cheshire Fire and Rescue, Cheshire Constabulary. Cheshire East Council and the other Cheshire local authorities independently and through the collaborative work of all through the Cheshire Road Safety Group. Service. There are still more people killed and seriously injured on Cheshire roads than anyone wants to see and the need to continue to work together on this is ongoing and wholeheartedly supported by all organisations.

The references to projects across Cheshire East are mainly positive, particularly into the developments at Crewe and the introduction of the high reach engine at Macclesfield. In relation to the information p20 with regards to Wilmslow Fire Station (and also summarised on p26), we note that initial advice was sought from Cheshire East Council around land release, but no further progress was made after initial risks were identified. We will continue to provide advice and guidance to ensure that services can run effectively from the locations deemed most suitable to supporting our residents.

The effective partnership between Cheshire East Council and Cheshire Fire Authority is evidenced by the fact there is nothing in the draft annual plan that we were unaware of, and we hope to continue this partnership to improve the safety and wellbeing of Cheshire East residents.

Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service

Dear Mark

On behalf of Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to review and comment upon your IRMP Action Plan 2022-23.

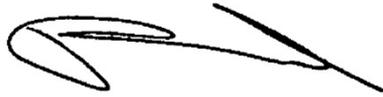
This document clearly demonstrates progress against objectives set out in your over- arching four year IRMP published in 2020, as well as outlining objectives to be delivered against in the coming years. The impact of the pandemic has impacted on all services, and your plan highlights how you responded well as a service and what you intend to do to ensure best practice and innovative ways of working are built upon.

In your recent inspection report, HMICFRS commented on the effectiveness of your approach to risk management planning, and this action plan supports their judgement.

Your action plan contains reference to a number of developments both locally and nationally that within Cumbria we will need to consider within the development of our new CRMP over the next twelve months. I wish you

success in the delivery of you action plan and hope that my team can work with yourselves to benefit from your experiences.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Beard', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

John Beard
Chief Fire Officer

Fire Brigades Union

The consultation response from the Fire Brigades Union is provided separately to this document and is included in the agenda pack for the Authority meeting of 9 February 2022 for Members to consider.