

# Making Cheshire Safer

## **Making Cheshire Safer Annual Action Plan for 2018/19 (IRMP 15)**

Report on public, staff and partner consultation  
February 2018



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# 1. Introduction

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This report sets out the results of the programme of public, staff and partner consultation on Cheshire Fire Authority's draft annual action plan for 2018/19 (IRMP 15), titled *Making Cheshire Safer*, between October 2<sup>nd</sup> 2017 and January 2<sup>nd</sup> 2018.

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 eleven 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
- An outline of the methods used when consulting with the public
- Outlining how the Service consulted with staff and internal stakeholders
- An overview of the approach taken to consult with partners and external stakeholders
- A description of the work undertaken to assess and evaluate the consultation against previous consultations.
- Detailed results of the survey that underpinned the consultation, showing how each group responded to the consultation questions
- A summary of social media activity and press releases issued by the Service.
- A profile of respondents who completed the consultation survey.
- Appendices including the summary action plan, the list of partners communicated with, written submissions and additional comments received and news releases.

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

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**February 6<sup>th</sup> 2018**

## 2. Executive summary

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This report details activity undertaken during the consultation on Cheshire Fire Authority's draft annual action plan for 2018/19 (IRMP 15) between October 2nd 2017 and January 2<sup>nd</sup> 2018.

Nearly 3,000 members of the public and over 250 stakeholders and partner agencies were communicated with during the consultation, along with Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service staff at a number of events across Cheshire. From this, a total of 832 members of the public, 124 members of staff and 13 stakeholders formally responded to the consultation.

Views were sought through a range of engagement activities including public and staff roadshows, online surveys and briefings with stakeholders. The consultation focused on the key proposals within the draft plan, as well as seeking views on proposals to increase the Authority's share of council tax precept and the overall value placed on Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service.

A standard online consultation survey was developed to gauge opinion amongst the public and external stakeholders. A survey was also created for staff to complete, which contained questions primarily related to the emergency response proposals contained in the draft Plan.

There were 832 responses received from the public consultation in total, which provides a margin of error of +/- 3.44% and also enables the Service to have 95% confidence level that the results fall within this +/- 3.44% range. Over 1,000 additional comments were also submitted into the consultation by both public and staff consultees.

The commentary on the following pages provide a summary of both the consultation process and the results emerging from the public and staff surveys. More detailed analysis of the survey results are provided later in the document.

## **Public and staff responses**

### **Overall**

85% of respondents stated that they valued Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service as a local service provider and 70% are satisfied with the overall performance of Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service.

44% of public respondents have not had contact with the Service in the past three years. Of those that had come into contact with the Service, the most frequent routes were through a station open day (19%) or a Safe and Well visit (16%), followed by an event or meeting within the community (14%). Only 12% of respondents have come into contact with the Service through a fire incident or road traffic collision.

### **Funding**

65% of public respondents supported the proposal to increase the Authority's precept in 2018/19 by 1.99%, compared to 19% who opposed this. Regarding staff, 73% supported the proposed increase and 15% were opposed. It should be noted that a separate consultation specifically on a proposed increase of 2.99% in the precept was held between January and February 2018 following the Government's relaxation of the precept referendum limit. The consultation on this proposal is reported separately.

### **Sprinklers**

Public responses show that 41% would be consider having a sprinkler system installed in their homes but 59% would not. 33% of staff felt that they would consider having a sprinkler system in their home, with 67% responding that they wouldn't.

There was also a free text section enabling respondents to outline why they wouldn't consider having a sprinkler system installed. A total of 380 comments on this question were received by the public, alongside 37 staff comments.

Public responses showed some concern regarding the potential cost of installing a sprinkler system (123 comments) and a feeling that such a system would either not be practical or necessary given existing fire safety measures (111 comments). Also highlighted was the perceived risk of damage to a property through accidental activation (55 comments) or the disruption of installation (37 comments). Staff comments reflected concern over the cost of installation (17 comments) and whether additional protection through sprinklers were necessary given the risks in the home (9 comments).

### **Proposals for the future**

The following section of the survey asked for views regarding the proposed review of crewing arrangements at Penketh and Wilmslow fire stations, the third aerial appliance and a programme of station replacements. These were primarily open-ended questions seeking qualitative feedback from respondents. There was also a question regarding the proposed expansion of the cardiac response scheme. Copies of all comments provided are included within Appendix 5 and 6 to this report.

### **Review of Penketh Fire Station**

Of the 340 comments on the proposed review of Penketh Fire Station received by the public, 138 comments stated an opposition to reducing the current level of service provided by existing arrangements. A further 31 responses highlighted the need to consider local risks and demands such as ensuring support for neighbouring fire engines and local developments. 23 responses referenced some concerns over the impact on on-call availability resulting from any change. 98 respondents indicated that they had no further comment to make.

66 members of staff provided responses to this question. 26 responses stated that the outcome of the review should preserve the existing level of cover provided at Penketh. 14 respondents felt that the wider resilience and cover provided by the Penketh crews should be taken into consideration. Five comments stated that the number of mobilisations for the station should be considered and a further five responses highlighted the need to consider staff welfare (e.g. work-life balance, child care) through the course of a review.

### **Review of Wilmslow Fire Station**

340 public responses were provided to this question, of which 87 had no further comment to make. Of comments received, 116 stated that consideration should be given to returning the duty system at Wilmslow to a wholetime duty system. A further 50 comments reported that the respondent felt that the current duty system was not operating effectively, with several comments referencing the availability of on-call staff at night. 16 responses stated that either the current arrangement was satisfactory or that a fully on-call system could be considered.

There were 67 staff comments provided regarding the proposed review of crewing arrangements at Wilmslow Fire Station. 26 respondents felt that the station should return to a wholetime duty system while a further 18 comments highlighted concerns around the sustainability of the current crewing arrangement, particularly at night. 6 respondents suggested that any review should consider whether sufficient numbers of on-call staff can be recruited and retained.

### **Review of the third aerial appliance**

Of the 335 public comments, 162 stated that the third aerial appliance should be maintained. 69 replies contained either N/A or no further comment. 23 responses queried whether the appliance could be located in an alternative location within Cheshire and an additional 22 comments made reference to the risk presented by high-rise premises and the Grenfell Tower fire.

36 of the 65 staff comments expressed a desire to retain the third aerial appliance. Ten respondents suggested that the appliance could be staffed using wholetime firefighters and six comments said that a review should consider particular risks, such as high-rise premises.

### **Proposed expansion of the cardiac response scheme**

75% of public respondents supported the expansion of the cardiac response scheme, while

20% opposed this proposal. Staff responses revealed that 65% of respondents support the proposal compared to 25% of staff who oppose this.

### **Station replacement programme**

105 out of 416 public comments related to the review of duty systems on the second fire engine at Crewe and Ellesmere Port or Chester, with a preference to have two wholetime fire engines at these stations. Of these 105 comments, 47 specifically referenced Crewe, 27 referenced Chester/Powey Lane and 16 made reference to Ellesmere Port (some comments contained references to several locations). 69 comments stated that new stations should be built in an appropriate locations to service local risk and demand, while 97 comments raised questions over the cost of such a programme or queried whether this funding could be used instead on frontline resources.

There were 62 comments to this question from staff. As with the public comments, there was a questioning of whether capital reserves could be used to fund frontline revenue costs and whether some elements of this proposal were required. 12 comments made reference to ensuring the provision of sufficient welfare facilities in new stations, while other comments said that ensuring staff input into the design/layout would be desirable and beneficial.

### **Other comments**

350 other comments were provided by members of the public. Again, reference was made to the duty system review of the second fire engines for Crewe and Ellesmere Port (60 and 36 comments respectively) or Chester Fire Station (35 comments). 29 respondents commented regarding the Authority's spending priorities or funding scenario, while 21 comments referred to the cardiac response scheme. Comments from 37 respondents indicated a feeling that savings requirements had fallen disproportionately on frontline resources compared to other areas such as management.

44 other comments were received from staff and covered several themes including the continued requirement to make savings (8 comments), the proposed expansion of the cardiac response scheme (7 comments) and levels of emergency cover (5 comments).

### 3. The consultation programme

#### 3.1 Overview of this year's approach

The table below outlines the engagement methods used for each of the key groups consulted during the 13-week period.

Underpinning the entire approach was a survey, which posed questions relating to the various proposals set out within the draft plan and also more general public satisfaction surveys. These standardised questions enable easy comparison of differences in opinion between groups, as shown in Section 8.

Group	Methods of engagement
Public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ten date consultation roadshow in major centres of population across Cheshire, Halton and Warrington.</li> <li>• Online survey accessible from the homepage of <a href="http://www.cheshirefire.gov.uk">www.cheshirefire.gov.uk</a> and in hard copy on request.</li> <li>• Media coverage and alerts via Facebook, Twitter and Google+ to publicise roadshow dates and raise awareness of ways to get involved with the consultation.</li> <li>• Postal surveys sent to members of the Cheshire, Halton and Warrington Race and Equality Centre's 276-strong consultation panel.</li> <li>• Emails raising awareness of the consultation sent to various black, asian and minority ethnic (BAME), disability and community groups.</li> </ul>
Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eleven staff roadshows held at various locations, giving station-based staff in each of the Service's unitary areas the opportunity to listen to the proposals within the draft IRMP and provide feedback to the Service's Management Team</li> <li>• Online survey accessible from the intranet homepage, together with a dedicated consultation intranet page which provided copies of the draft plan and supporting documentation.</li> <li>• Global emails to all staff and reminders in <i>The Green</i> (weekly staff bulletin).</li> <li>• Meetings with Fire Brigades Union (FBU) representatives and regular meetings with trade union representatives through the Joint Consultation Negotiation Panel (JCNP) process.</li> </ul>
Stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emails to key individuals, business groups and organisations on whom the proposals may have an impact, including neighbouring fire and rescue services, local partner agencies such as NHS Trusts; Clinical</li> </ul>



Group	Methods of engagement
	<p>Commissioning Groups; Cheshire Constabulary; Police and Crime Commissioner, and representative bodies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copies of the draft Plan and summary to all Members of Parliament and Peers.</li> <li>• Electronic copies of the summary draft Plan and summary to all unitary councillors and town/parish councils.</li> <li>• Face to face briefings on request to Crewe Town Council, Audlem Parish Council and Wilmslow Town Council.</li> </ul>

Over the next three sections, evidence is provided of the work undertaken to plan and promote key elements of the programme of consultation.

## 4. Consulting with the public

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### 4.1 Consultation roadshows

The Service undertakes a programme of public 'roadshow' style events to support the consultation. This involves going to locations across Cheshire with high foot-fall (e.g. supermarkets) to engage with as many people as possible from a wide demographic profile.

The roadshows took place between 11<sup>th</sup> October and 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2017 and were staffed by members of the Cheshire Constabulary and Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service Joint Corporate Services, each of whom were briefed with knowledge of the proposals within the plan. They were therefore able to talk with confidence to members of the public and encourage them to complete the survey at home to return to the Service's freepost consultation address.

Roadshows were scheduled to last for up to three hours, with the aim of distributing 250 bags at each location, with the new '#TestItTuesday' tote bags containing:



- A copy of the summary document (an example is provided in appendix one of this report)
- A copy of the survey for residents (an example is provided in appendix one of this report)
- A freepost envelope and a pen
- Safety information promoting the Service's 'How safe is your home' safety check campaign and winter driving campaigns.

A total of ten roadshows were held across Cheshire, which saw 2,500 consultation packs distributed to residents.

The table below provides greater detail on levels of response from the roadshows.

Location	Surveys Distributed	Surveys Returned
Widnes Widnes Market	250	14
Chester Sainsburys	250	45
Crewe ASDA	250	36
Macclesfield Sainsburys	250	30
Warrington Sainsburys (Chapelford)	250	31
Birchwood ASDA	250	58
Ellesmere Port ASDA	250	25
Runcorn ASDA	250	22
Winsford ASDA	250	39
Wilmslow Sainsburys	250	22
<b>2018/19 Draft Plan Consultation Roadshow Total</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>361</b>

### Roadshow images

As stated above, members of the joint Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service and Cheshire Constabulary Corporate Services staffed the roadshows. The images below show staff at various locations across Cheshire.



## Safety advice

Safety literature was distributed with the survey packs at each of the roadshows. For this consultation, it was decided to promote the Service's 'How safe is your home?' safety check campaign and the Service's winter driving campaign.

**How safe is your home?**  
The answer is at your fingertips

**HOME SAFETY CHECK**  
Risk assess your home

Online Home Safety questionnaire

**Risk Rater app**

Do our home safety check and get a personalised fire safety plan.  
[www.cheshirefire.gov.uk/homesafetycheck](http://www.cheshirefire.gov.uk/homesafetycheck)

There's lots of information on how to prevent fires in the home.

Available on Google play | Available on the App Store

**Keep up to date with what's happening.**  
There are lots of ways you can keep up to date with what is happening in Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service.

- Visit our website  
[www.cheshirefire.gov.uk](http://www.cheshirefire.gov.uk)
- Join our Facebook page  
[www.facebook.com/CheshireFRS](http://www.facebook.com/CheshireFRS)
- Follow us on Twitter  
[@CheshireFire](https://twitter.com/CheshireFire)
- Email us at  
[feedback@cheshirefire.gov.uk](mailto:feedback@cheshirefire.gov.uk)
- Call us on  
01606 868700

You could also sign up to Cheshire Fire Alert for the latest updates.  
To do this either log on to our website or give us a call.

Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service  
Headquarters  
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**CHESHIRE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE**

**WINTER DRIVING ADVICE**

Driving in winter can be challenging and so it is important that both you and your vehicle are prepared.

Please take a few minutes to read the safety tips in this leaflet and remember – if you need more information please visit our website.

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

**Preparing your vehicle:**

- **Lights** – make sure they are clean and all in working order. It is vital you can see and be seen.
- **Fuel** – stay out of the red! A serious traffic jam can easily finish off a near empty tank. Not nice at any time of year but potentially deadly in the snow.
- **Windscreen wipers** – are in working order, your windows are clean and your washer bottle is filled with screen wash.
- **Tyres** – check the condition, pressure and depth of your tyres (including the spare).
- **Brakes** – make sure they are working well.
- **Fluids** – are topped up to the correct level including oil, anti-freeze and water.
- **Emergency kit** – put one in your car just in case you get stranded. Include things such as a phone, medication, a torch, food, extra clothes and blankets.
- **Winter sun** – the sun can be dangerous in Winter too, be careful of dazzling rays when you are driving.

**Preparing yourself:**

- **Plan your journey** – before you set off and allow yourself extra time.
- **Check** – weather reports. Don't make any unnecessary journeys if there are severe weather warnings in place.
- **Tell someone** – where you are going and when you expect to get there.
- **Drive carefully** – and take account of the weather conditions. Leave a greater distance between you and the car in front. Remember it may take up to 10 times longer to stop in some conditions.

For more information about staying safe on the road visit our website or follow us on Twitter or Facebook

[www.cheshirefire.gov.uk](http://www.cheshirefire.gov.uk) | [@CheshireFire](https://twitter.com/CheshireFire) | [CheshireFRS](https://www.facebook.com/CheshireFRS)

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Headquarters  
Worsley, Cheshire  
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01606 868712  
[www.cheshirefire.gov.uk](http://www.cheshirefire.gov.uk)

Surveys, summaries, pens & freepost return envelopes and giveaways carrying the relevant safety messages were distributed in branded cotton tote bags.

Although the aim of the roadshows was to engage people regarding the proposals within the draft annual action plan, staff inevitably took enquiries from residents on other issues such as replacement smoke alarms, on-call recruitment and carbon monoxide detectors.

#### **4.2 Cheshire, Halton and Warrington Race and Equality Centre**

As with previous consultations, the Service contracted the Cheshire, Halton and Warrington Race and Equality Centre (CHAWREC) to distribute a copy of the summary and survey amongst their own 276-member strong consultation panel. Membership of the panel is drawn from ethnic minority communities from across Cheshire.

A total of 68 responses were returned from CHAWREC, which provides for an overall response rate of 24.6% - well above average for postal returns.

#### **4.3 Engaging young people**

The Service engaged with its cohort of cadets through the consultation process, with 250 consultation packs and surveys sent out to cadet units across the Service. A total of 9 responses were received which is an overall return rate of 3.6%. Contact was also made with colleges across Cheshire to raise awareness of the consultation via pastoral lessons and internal newsletters.

#### **4.4 Media and Online promotion**

The Service issued a press release to mark the launch of the consultation. The consultation also gained coverage in a number of media outlets, in part due to media coverage related to the review of duty systems of the second fire engines at Crewe and Ellesmere Port fire stations.

Efforts were made to ensure that the consultation was prominent on the Service's website [www.cheshirefire.gov.uk](http://www.cheshirefire.gov.uk) and a 'Have Your Say' feature was on the homepage of the website throughout the consultation period. In addition, there were regular updates on the Service's social media platforms and the use of two paid-for advertisements on Facebook to extend the awareness of the consultation. A link was also provided within the Service's electronic FireLink newsletter.

Further details regarding the use of social media and press coverage are contained within Annex 1.

## 5. Consulting with staff and internal stakeholders

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### 5.1 Internal Roadshows

Senior managers held eleven well-attended roadshows to brief staff from across the service on the proposed changes during the consultation period.

These took place as follows:

Date	Venue
13 <sup>th</sup> October 2017	Ellesmere Port Fire Station Ellesmere Port, Birchwood, Winsford crews
16 <sup>th</sup> October 2017	Macclesfield Fire Station Crewe, Congleton, Macclesfield, Birchwood crews
20 <sup>th</sup> October 2017	Macclesfield Fire Station Warrington, Runcorn, Lymm, Northwich crews
31 <sup>st</sup> October 2017	Penketh Fire Station Penketh, Warrington, Runcorn crews
2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2017	Sadler Road, Winsford Warrington, Widnes, Powey Lane, Congleton, Lymm crews
3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2017	Ellesmere Port Fire Station Ellesmere Port, Crewe, Penketh crews
9 <sup>th</sup> November 2017	Ellesmere Port Fire Station Ellesmere Port, Chester, Runcorn, Penketh crews
13 <sup>th</sup> November 2017	Sadler Road, Winsford Warrington, Runcorn, Lymm, Chester crews
15 <sup>th</sup> November 2017	Safety Central, Lymm Crewe, Lymm crews
21 <sup>st</sup> November 2017	Sadler Road, Winsford Widnes, Northwich, Winsford crews
27 <sup>th</sup> November 2017	Sadler Road, Winsford Widnes, Powey Lane, Chester crews

Each roadshow on station lasted for approximately two hours and included a presentation on the proposals within the plan, as well as feedback and discussion on the organisation's latest staff engagement survey. Those who attended the session then had an opportunity to put questions to the team regarding the proposals and other issues.

Line managers in both operational and support roles were also invited to attend the Service's annual management briefing that was held at Headquarters on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October. The briefing ran through a range of issues including the proposals within the plan and other updates from across the Service.

### 5.2 Online Survey

The main method of gathering the views and comments from staff was from the use of an online survey, which asked the same questions as in the residents' survey.

A breakdown of responses to these questions is provided in the following section. A total of 124 members of staff submitted a response into the survey, which is a slight decrease on the 132 responses received during last year's consultation. It is however, important to note that feedback was also received through the consultation roadshows.

Responses were received from staff based at locations across the service area. A full breakdown of responses is supplied in the following section of the report, while appendix six contains a comprehensive list of additional comments received from staff.

### **5.3 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 launch of the consultation and also further emails encouraging people to have their say prior to the closing date.
- Service roadshows for staff (as mentioned above)

### **5.4 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.

Responses from representative bodies are provided to accompany this report.

## 6. Consulting with stakeholders

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### 6.1 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 summary of the plan was also included to enable recipients to learn about the proposals being consulted on.

### 6.2 Stakeholder email

One of the key methods of engagement with stakeholders was the use of an electronic mailout.

Over 250 individuals and organisations on the Service's stakeholder database were written to or emailed with a paper or electronic copy of the summary plan and a link to a dedicated online survey for partners.

The letter and email read as follows, with slightly different versions tailored to various audiences such as Members of Parliament, voluntary bodies and public sector partners.

Dear

I am writing to let you know that having signed off the draft Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) 2018/19, Cheshire Fire Authority has launched its annual consultation, which will run until 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2018.

The latest draft plan outlines our proposals to ensure that Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service provides an effective and efficient service to the communities and businesses of Cheshire. Headline projects within the draft Plan include:

- Reviewing the provision of the Service's third aerial appliance, currently based at Macclesfield Fire Station.
- Reviewing the current crewing arrangements at Penketh Fire Station and the suitability and sustainability of the current crewing arrangements at Wilmslow Fire Station.
- Proposing to roll out the cardiac response pilot - undertaken in conjunction with the North West Ambulance Service - to all fire stations across Cheshire.
- Reviewing Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service's Protection Department to ensure it is able to meet the emerging demands following the Grenfell Tower fire.
- Developing and considering options to build new, replacement, fire stations in Chester, Crewe, Ellesmere Port and Warrington – potentially in conjunction



with local partner agencies.

- Providing additional funding to encourage local housing providers to fit sprinkler systems in their properties.
- Commence building the operational training centre at the Authority's Sadler Road site.
- Delivering against the Service's Transformation Plan to reflect the requirements of the fire reform agenda and to deliver the action plan from the 2017 staff engagement survey.
- Proposing to increase Cheshire Fire Authority's share of Council Tax by 1.99%.
- Concluding our innovative Blue Light Collaboration project with Cheshire Constabulary and the Police and Crime Commissioner to provide joint support services to both organisations from a shared headquarters.

Attached with this email is a summary document outlining the issues that are being consulted upon within the draft Plan. Further information and a copy of our full draft Plan is also available on our website <https://www.cheshirefire.gov.uk/news-events/latest-news/have-your-say-on-our-draft-plan-for-201819>. As local representatives I would very much welcome your thoughts and comments on the proposals contained in the draft Plan and encourage you to provide any comments that you may have.

Please get in touch by either replying to this email, emailing [consultation@cheshirefire.gov.uk](mailto:consultation@cheshirefire.gov.uk) or by posting to Freepost Cheshire Fire Consultation.

Once the consultation has closed, Members of the Authority will consider any feedback and make any changes before approving a final Plan and Budget in February 2018. Once finalised, the Plan will run from 1 April 2018.

I look forward to hearing from you and receiving your comments.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Hancock

**Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive,  
Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service**

### **6.3 Stakeholder responses**

Copies of written responses from stakeholders are included in an appendix to this report. So too is a list of organisations that were communicated with.

### **6.4 Key Stakeholders**

The Service wrote directly to all 11 Cheshire Members of Parliament (MPs) and provided copies of both the summary draft plan and the full draft document. In addition the Service also emailed Cheshire Members of the House of Lords, encouraging Peers to provide their views through a written response.

The Service also wrote directly to the Leader and Chief Executive of each of the four unitary authorities; Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Chester, Halton and Warrington, as well as the Chief Constable of Cheshire Constabulary, the Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Executive of the Northwest Ambulance Service.

### **6.5 Local Town and Parish Councils**

An email message was sent to the clerks of all town and parish councils within Cheshire. This message mirrored the text contained in the message attached on pages 16/17 and encouraged local councils to respond through submitting a written response.

Face to face briefings were facilitated for Audlem Parish Council, Crewe Town Council and Wilmslow Town Council. A list of all town and parish councils that were sent consultation material is included as an Appendix to this report.

### **6.6 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. The Service contacted Cheshire representatives of the UK Youth Parliament (UKYP), encouraging members and service users to submit their views and comments. Additionally, contact was made with the network of fire safety managers from industrial sites across Cheshire.

## **7. Feedback, evaluation and communicating outcomes**

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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.

### **7.1 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 response panel members and 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 plus all town and parish councils and local stakeholders communicated with.

### **7.2 Evaluation**

Following evaluation of previous consultation programmes, it was decided to continue to focus the roadshows on areas of high population and high footfall; with roadshows situated at supermarkets wherever possible so that staff could engage with a high number and wide demographic range of residents. The main giveaways this year were leaflets and the newly designed tote bags with the 'Test it Tuesday' message to act as a draw to encourage people to respond.

A 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.

Ahead of the next consultation thought will be given to using techniques and methods to improve upon this year's response rate and in working collaboratively with Joint Corporate Services teams to learn from existing consultation methods for both Cheshire FRS and Cheshire Constabulary and PCC.

### **7.3 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.

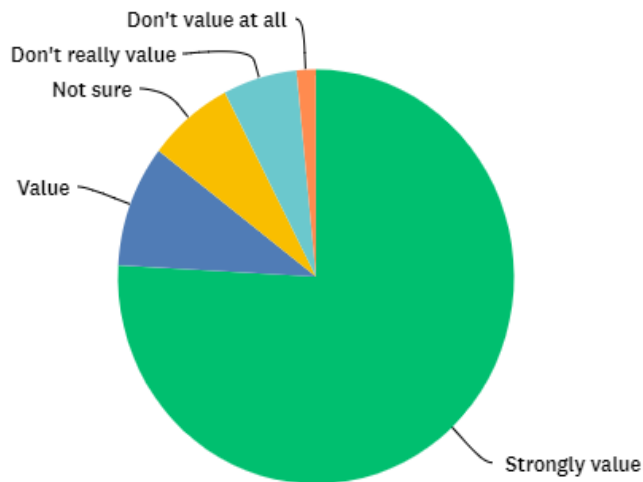
## 8. Detailed results

The number of responses received from the public consultation totaled 832. This level of response means that the results displayed give a confidence rate (margin of error) of +/- 3.44%. This level of response also enables the Service to have 95% confidence that the results fall within the +/- 3.44% range.

This section sets out survey responses from the residents, staff and partners in greater 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.

### 8.1 Your Fire and Rescue Service

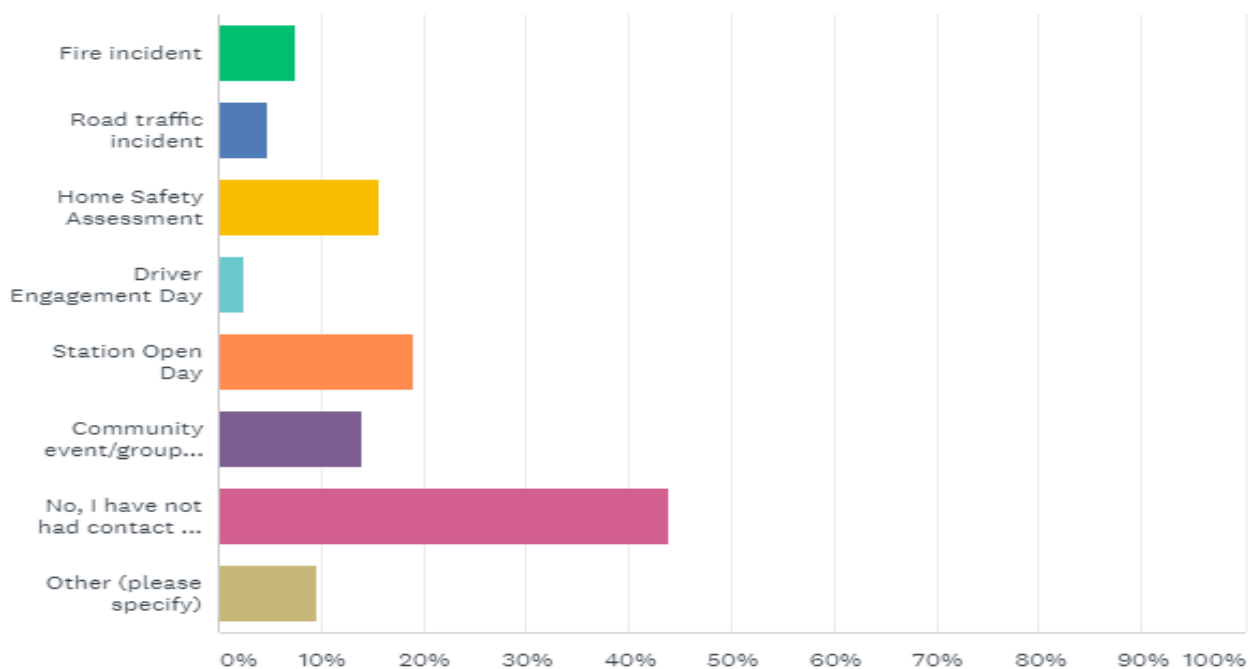
#### Question 1: How strongly do you value Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service as a local service provider?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly value	75.87%	629
Value	9.53%	79
Not sure	7.00%	58
Don't really value	6.03%	50
Don't value at all	1.57%	13

Public n=829

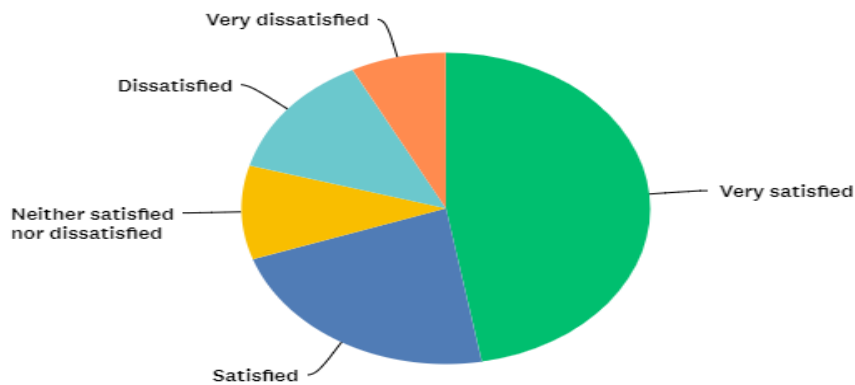
**Question 2: In the past three years, have you had contact with Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service in the following ways?**



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Fire incident	7.57% 62
▼ Road traffic incident	4.76% 39
▼ Home Safety Assessment	15.75% 129
▼ Driver Engagement Day	2.44% 20
▼ Station Open Day	19.05% 156
▼ Community event/group meeting	13.92% 114
▼ No, I have not had contact in the past three years	43.83% 359
▼ Other (please specify)	<a href="#">Responses</a> 9.65% 79

**Public n=819**

**Question 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?**

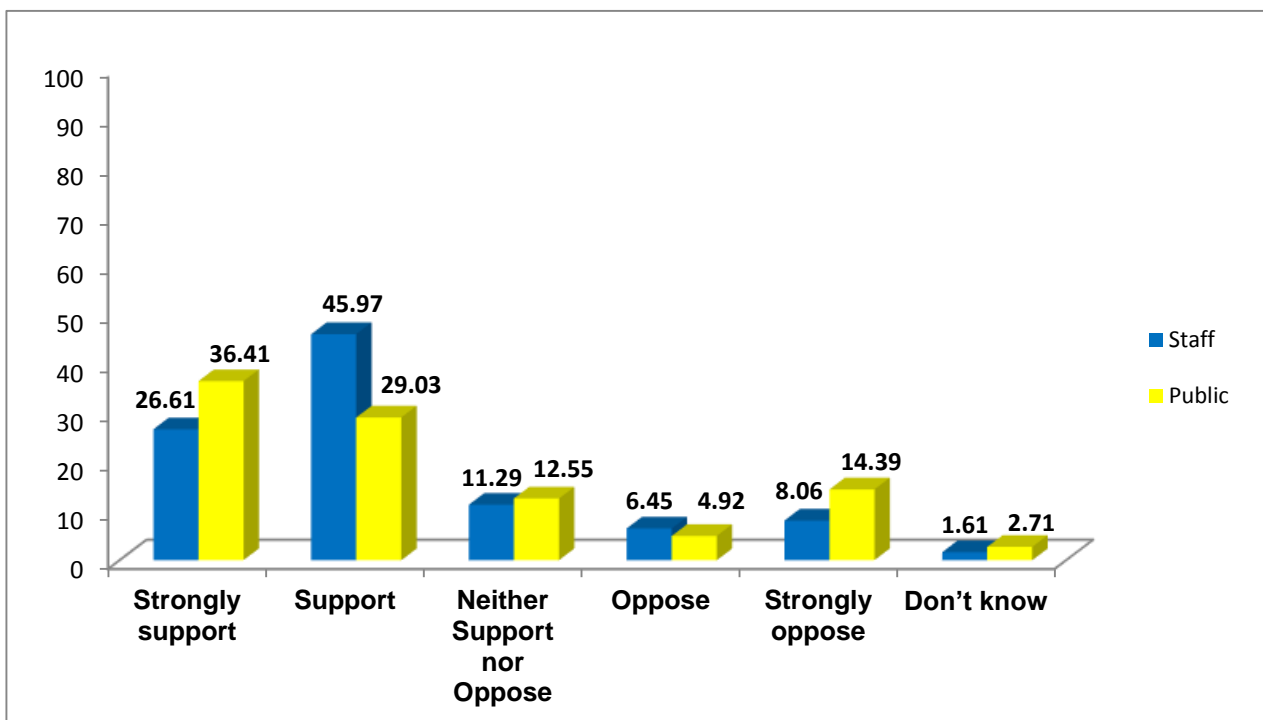


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very satisfied	47.20%	388
Satisfied	22.51%	185
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	9.73%	80
Dissatisfied	13.02%	107
Very dissatisfied	7.54%	62
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>822</b>

Public n=822

**8.2 Funding**

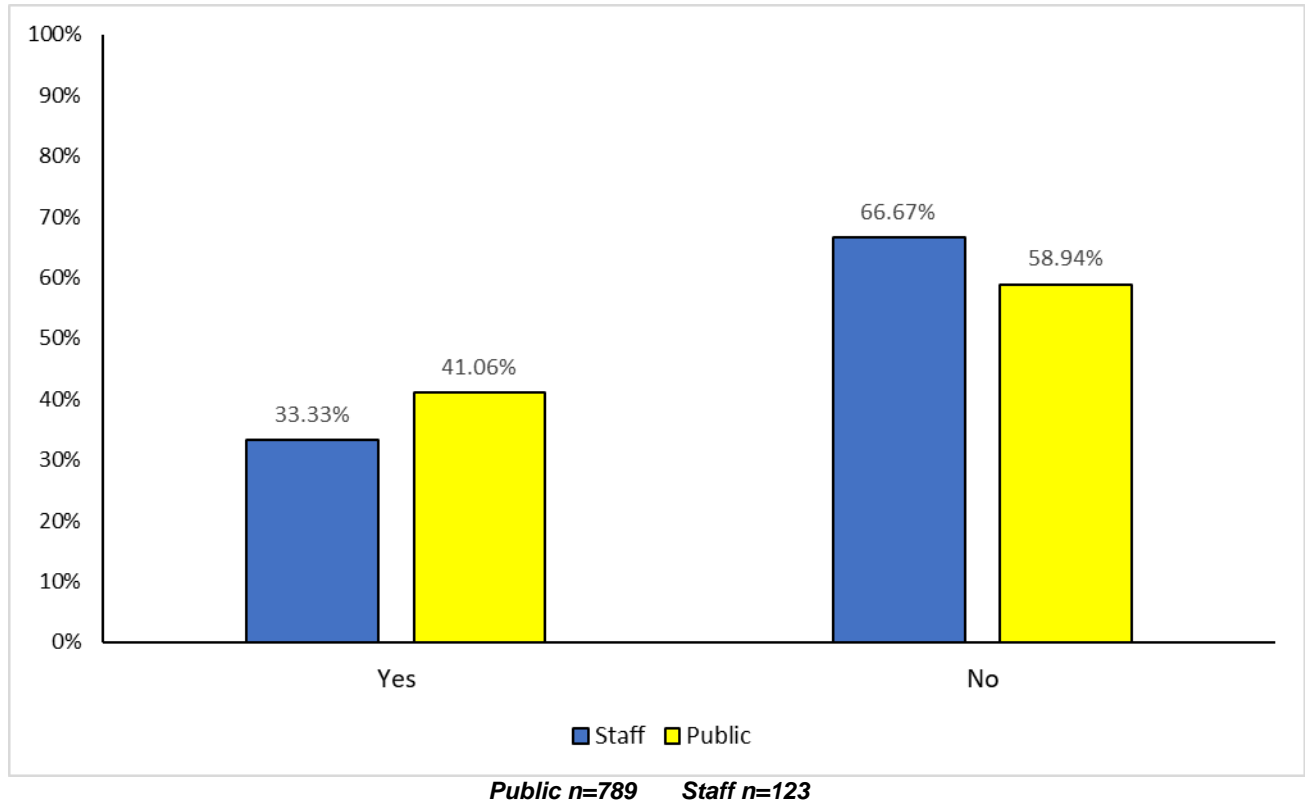
**Question 4: Do you agree with Cheshire Fire Authority’s proposal to increase its share of Council Tax by 1.99% in 2018/19?**



Public n=813    Staff n=124

### 8.3 Sprinklers

**Question 5: Would you consider having a sprinkler system installed in your home?**  
(Please note that free text responses to this question are included within appendices 5 and 6).

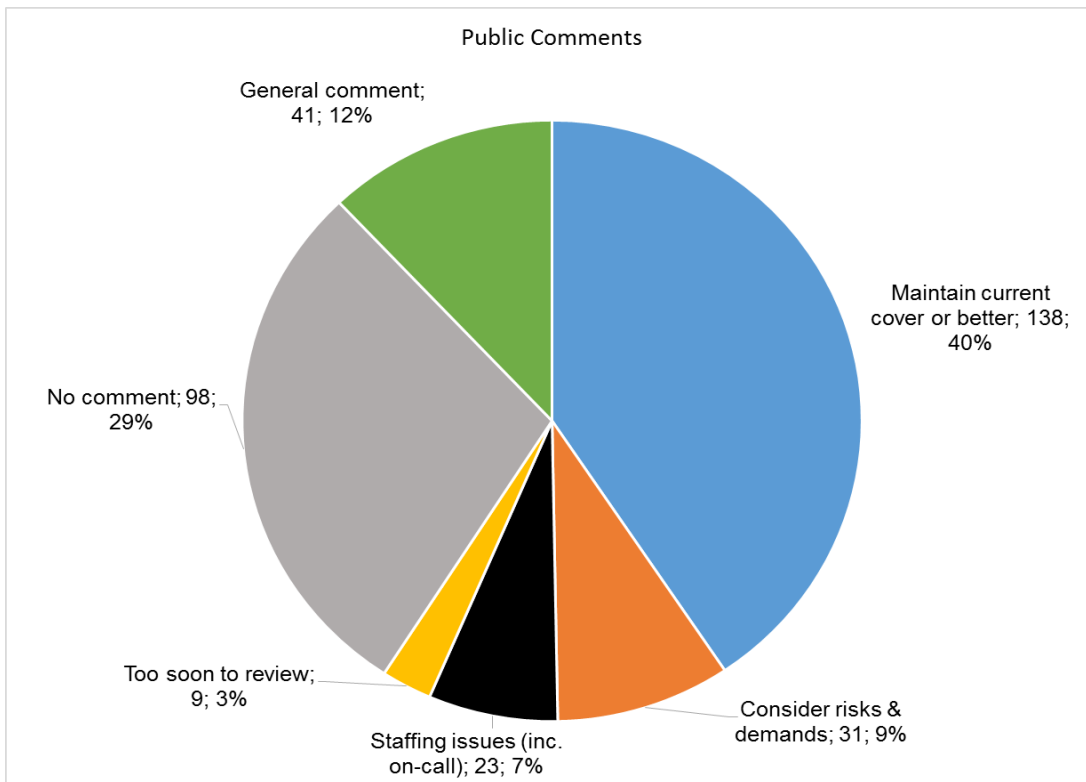


### 8.3 Our plans for the future

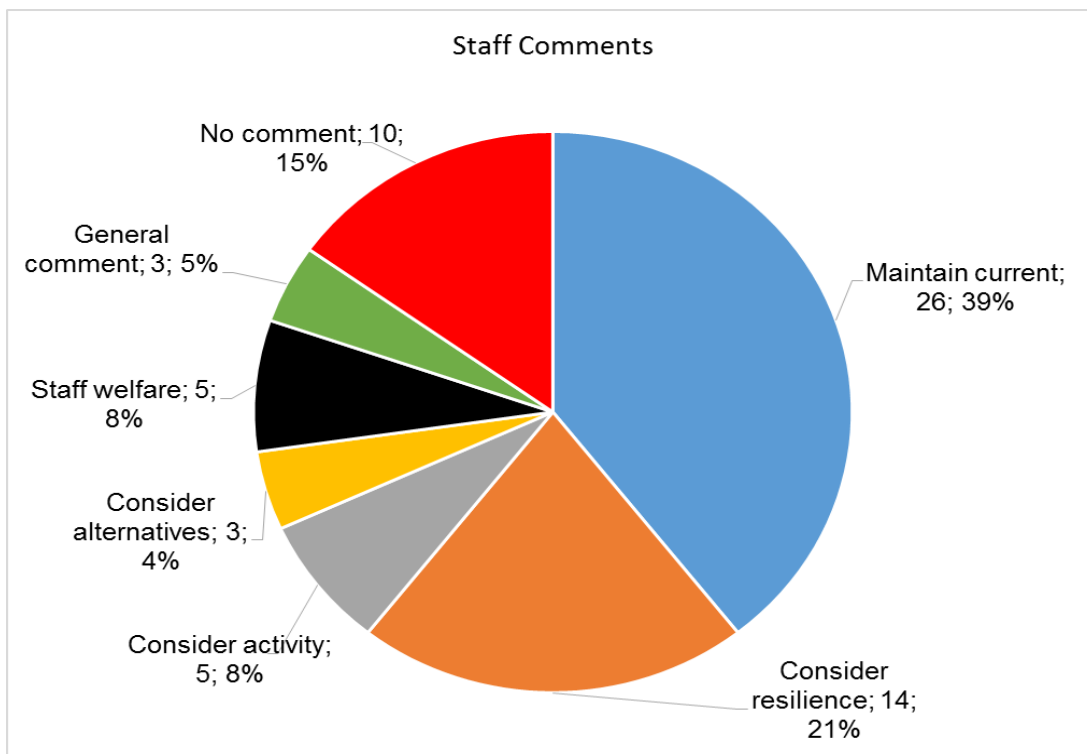
Most of the questions in the following section sought out qualitative feedback i.e. free text comments. The analysis within this section provides an overall view of responses to each question, however individual comments have been provided within Appendix 5 (Public Comments) and Appendix 6 (Staff Comments)



**Question 6: Is there anything you would like us to consider when reviewing crewing arrangements at Penketh Fire Station?**

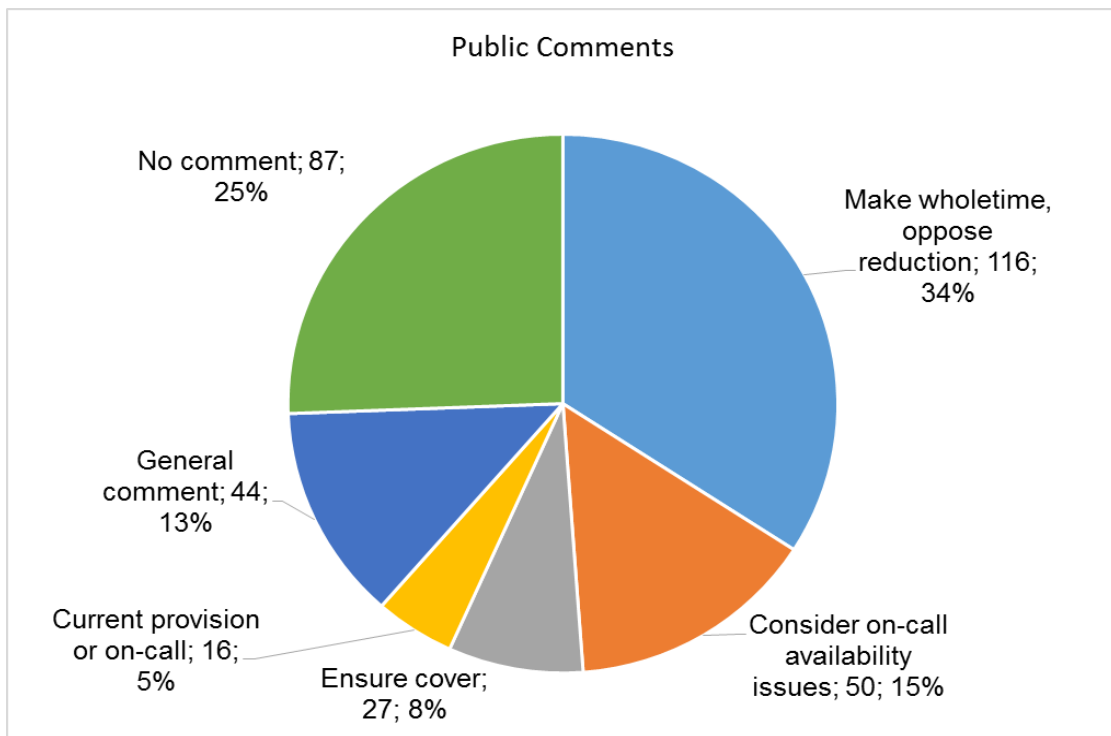


**Public n=340**

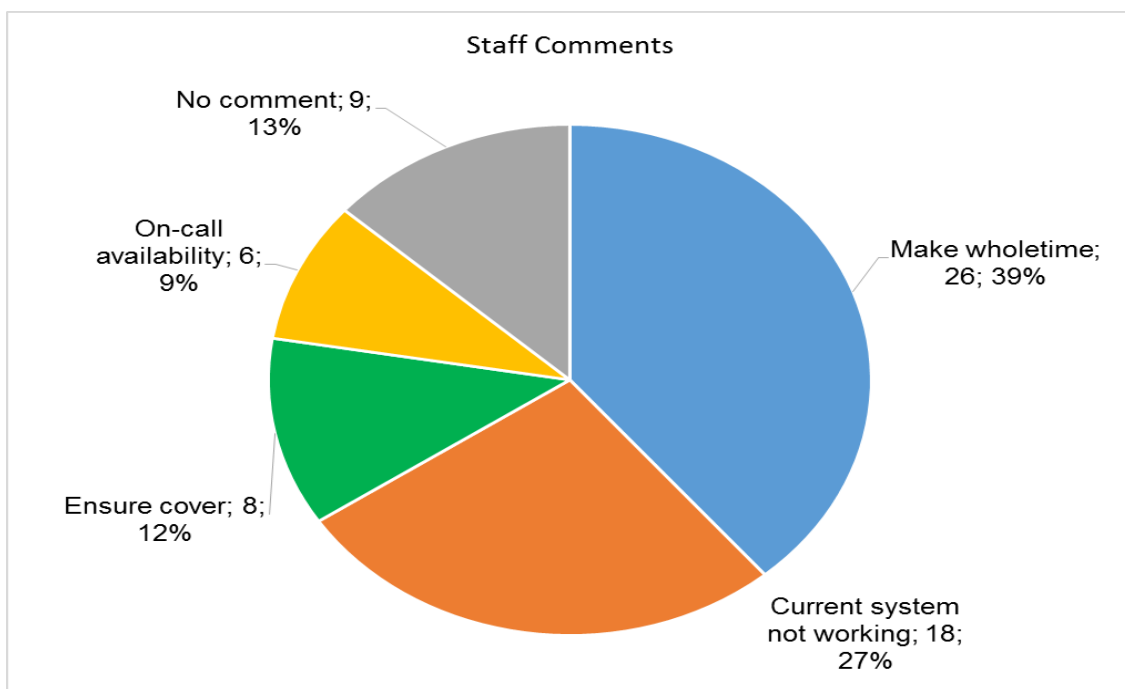


**Staff n=66**

**Question 7: Is there anything you would like us to consider when reviewing crewing arrangements at Wilmslow Fire Station?**

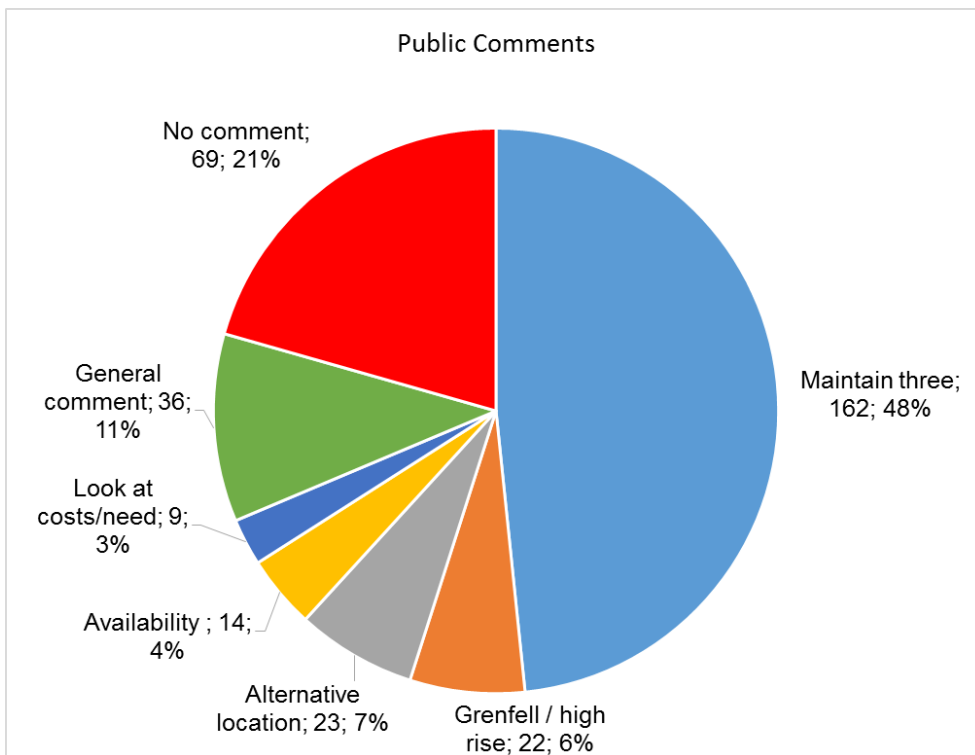


**Public n=340**

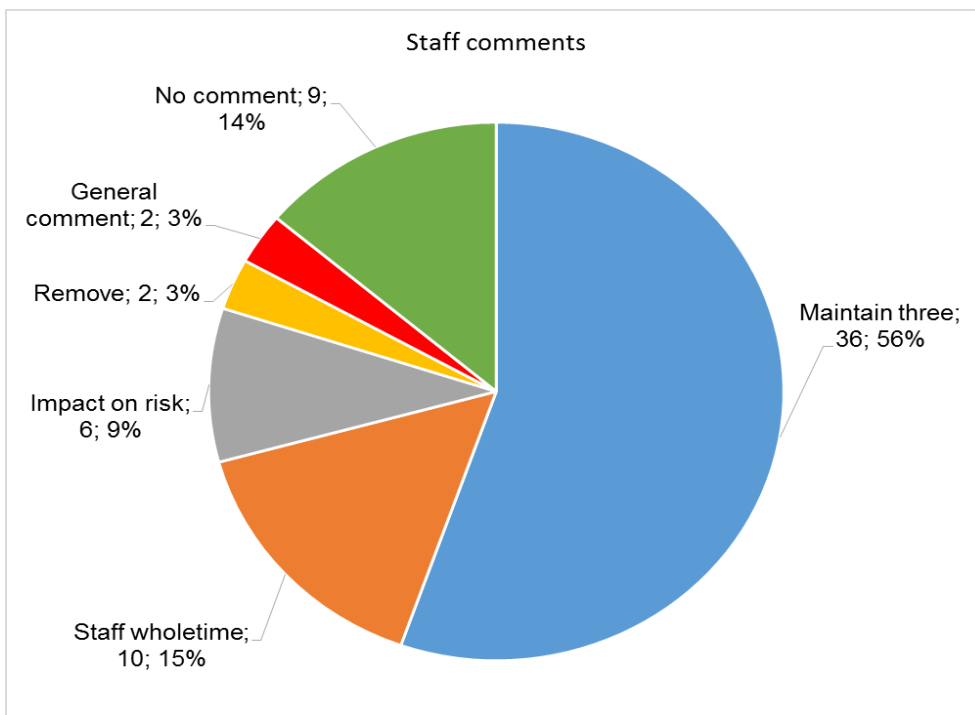


**Staff n=67**

**Question 8: Is there anything you would like us to consider when reviewing the third aerial appliance?**

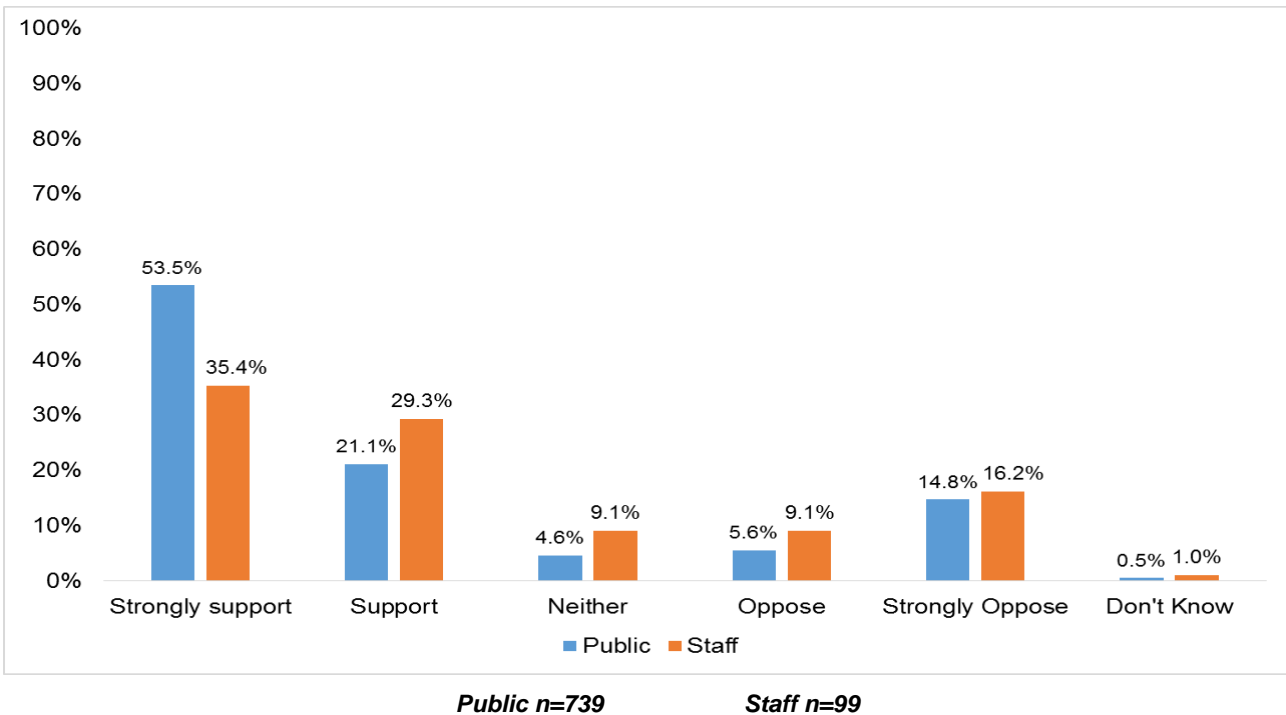


**Public n=335**

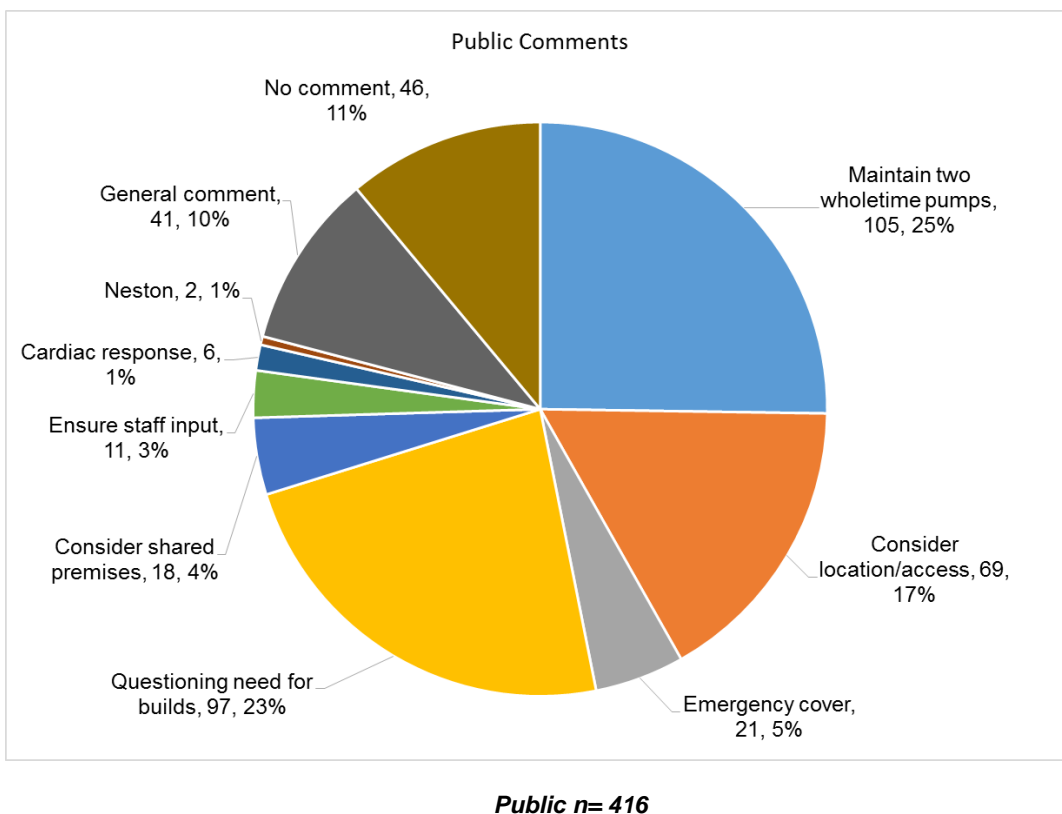


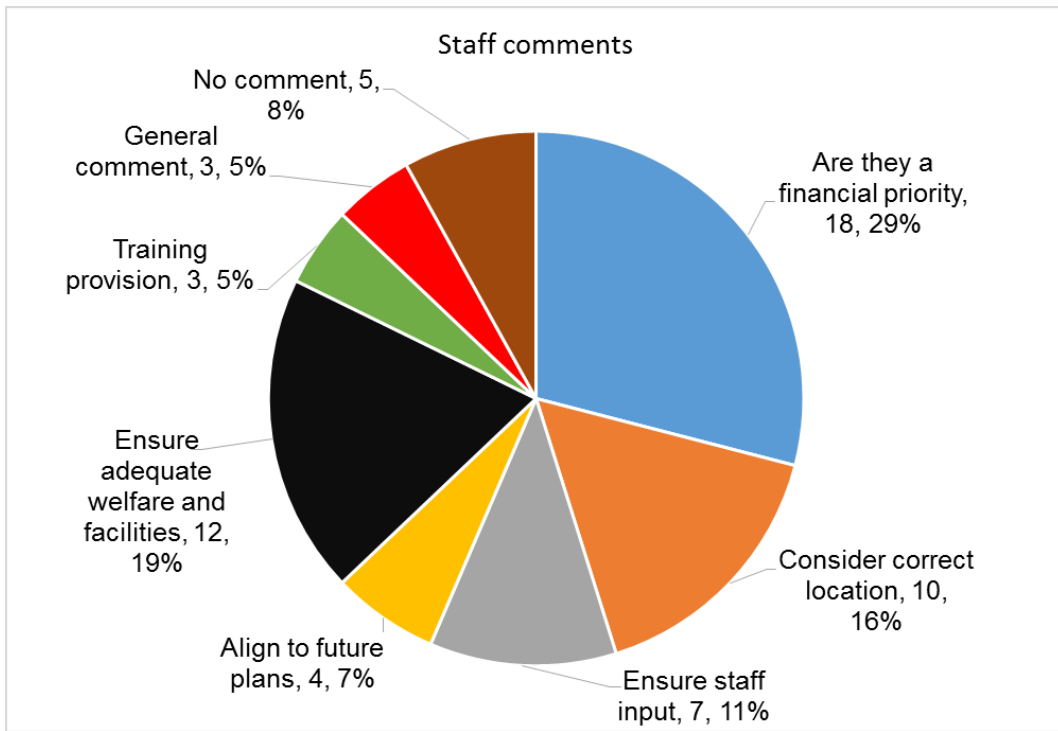
**Staff n=65**

**Question 9: Do you support our plans to roll out the Cardiac Response scheme with the North West Ambulance Service to all Cheshire fire stations?**



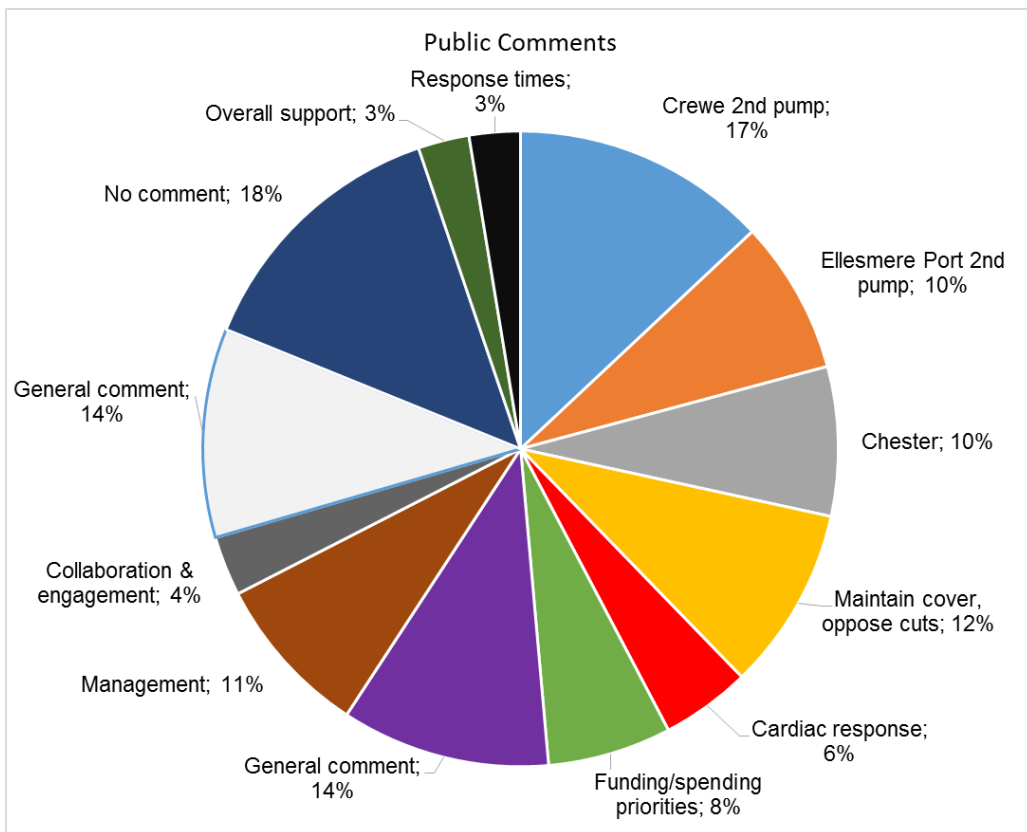
**Question 10: Are there any factors that you would like us to consider when developing options to potentially build new, replacement stations in Chester, Crewe, Ellesmere Port and Warrington?**



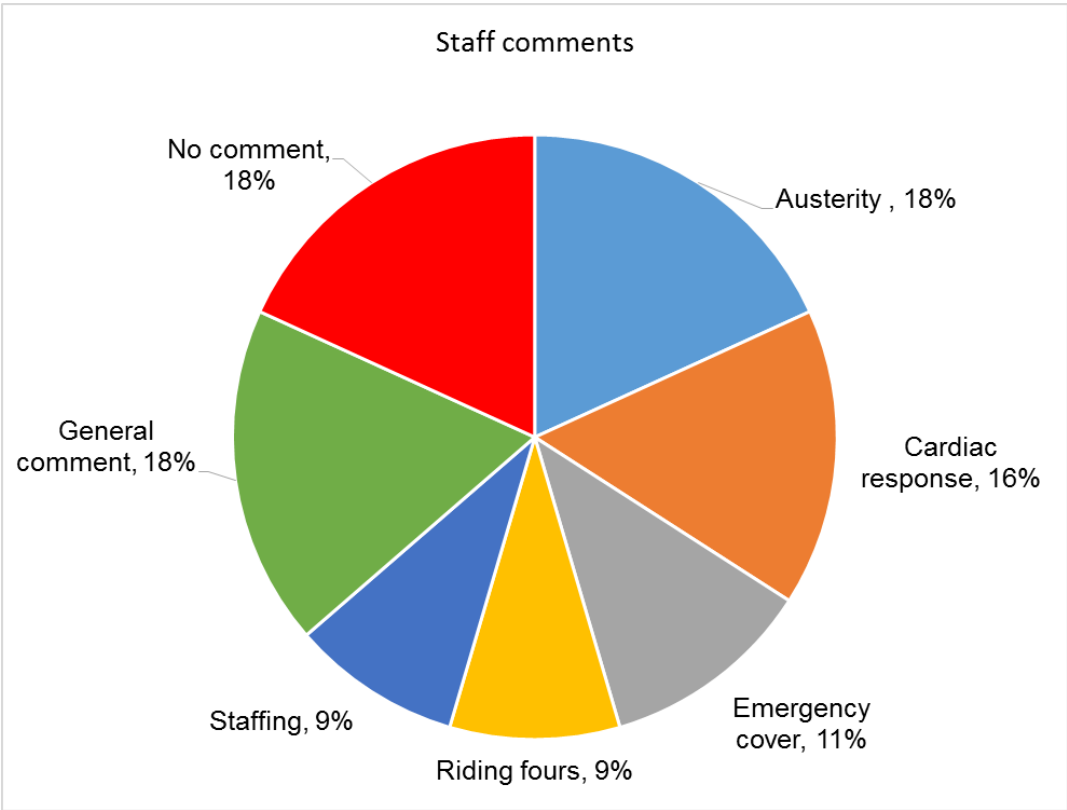


**Staff n=62**

**Question 11: Do you have any other comments on the draft Plan that you would like us to consider?** (Percentages may not add up to 100% as respondents may have referred to several subjects within a response)



**Public n=350**



**Staff n=44**

## 9. Profile of Respondents

The following section provides an analysis of both public and staff respondents.

### 9.1 Public Response Demographics

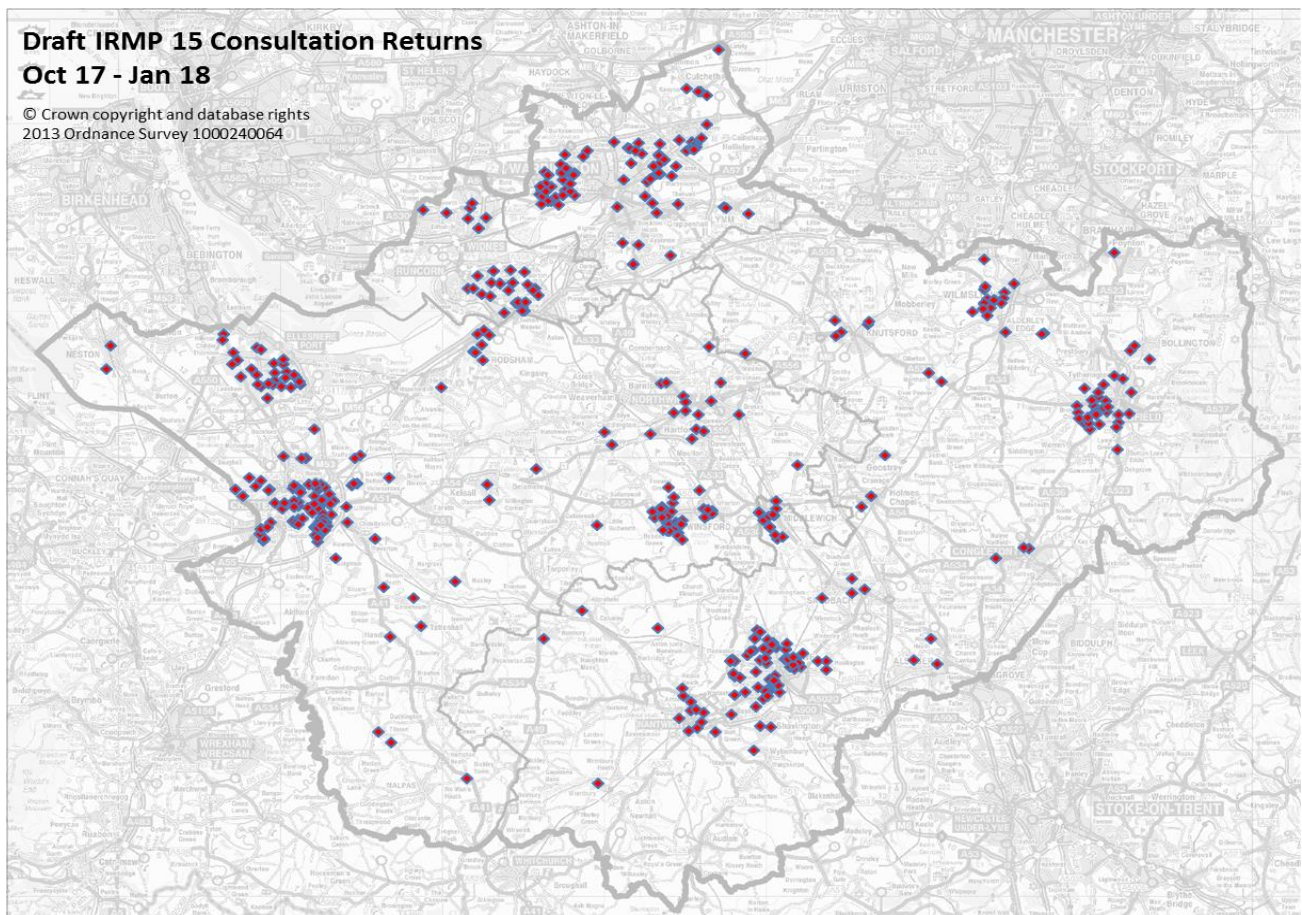
The following section will provide a demographic analysis of the responses provided by members of the public.

#### Which area do you live?

Unitary	Cheshire East	Cheshire West and Chester	Halton	Warrington
No. responses	244	313	53	107
% age of total	34.03%	43.65%	7.39%	14.92%

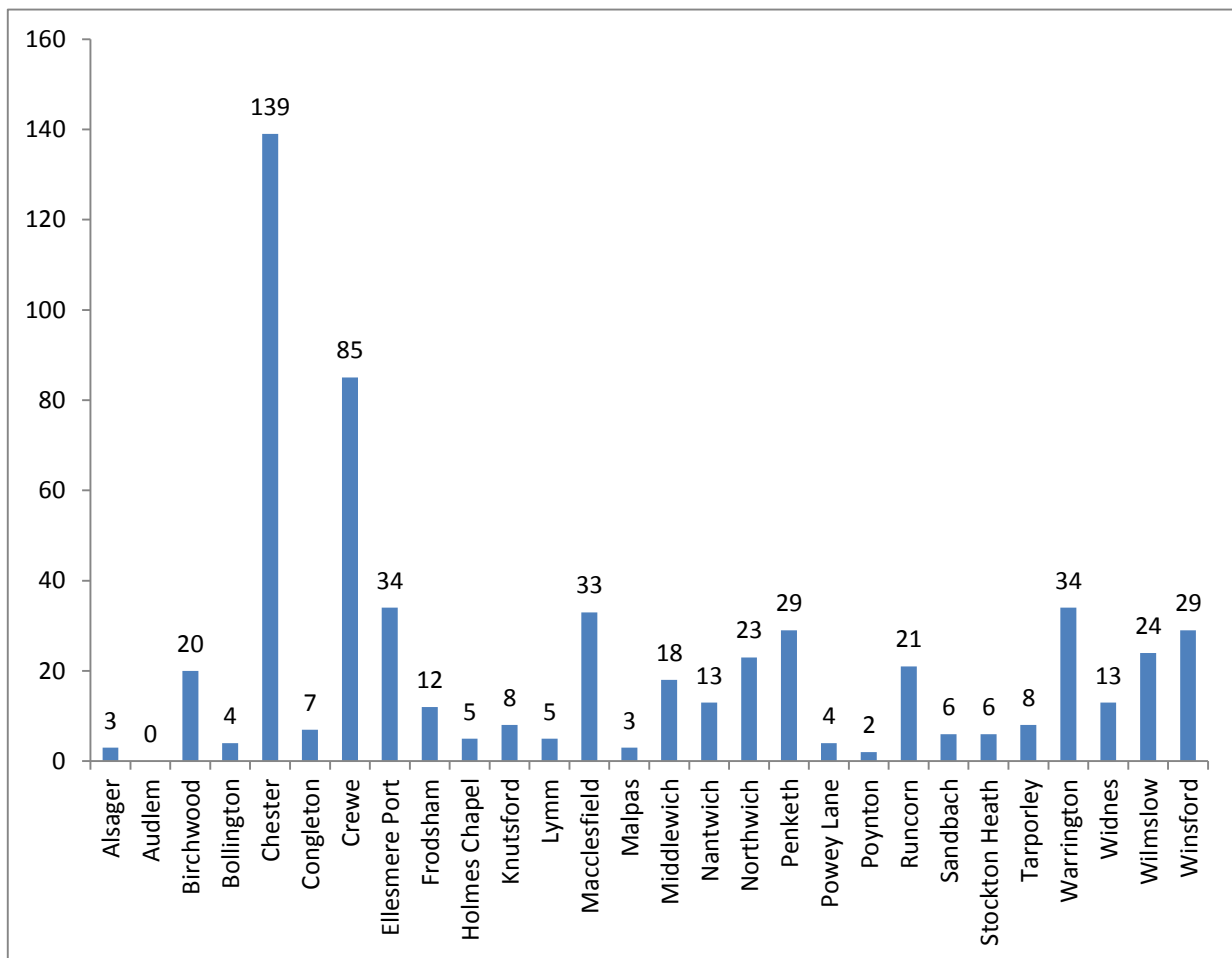
Public n=717

#### What is your postcode?



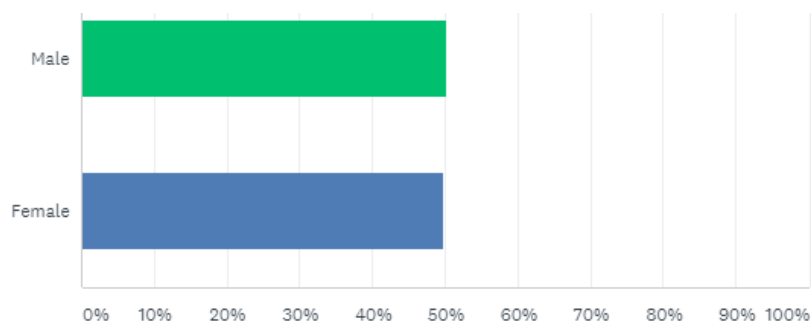
Public n=657

## Where is your nearest fire station?



**Public n=588**

## Gender

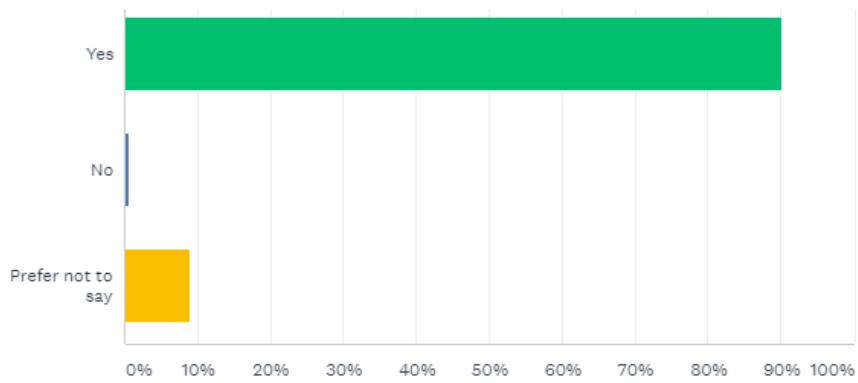


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Male	50.29% 350
Female	49.71% 346

**Public n=696**



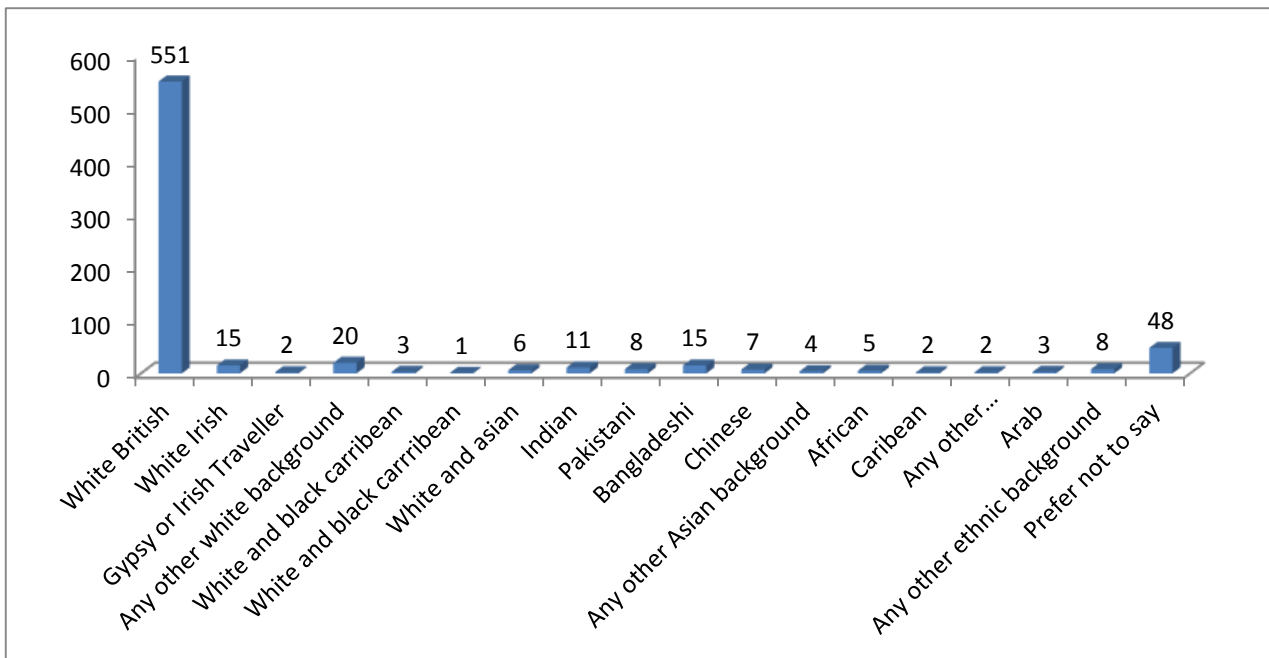
## Is your gender the same as that assigned to you at birth?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	90.24% 527
No	0.68% 4
Prefer not to say	9.08% 53

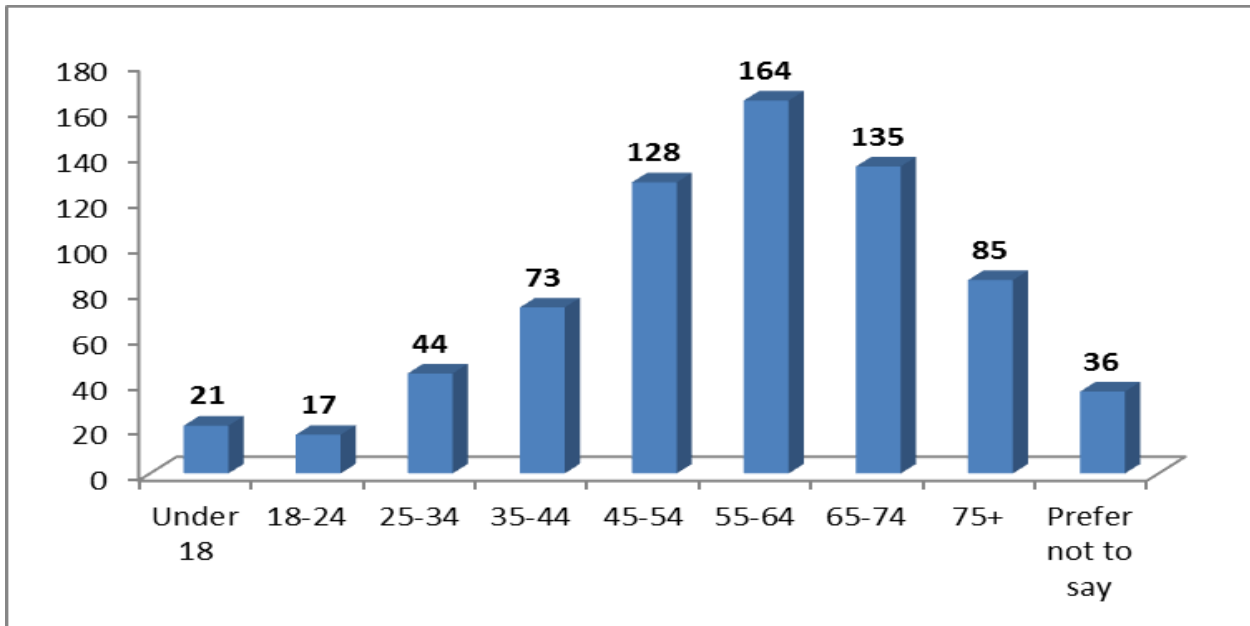
Public n=584

## Ethnic Origin



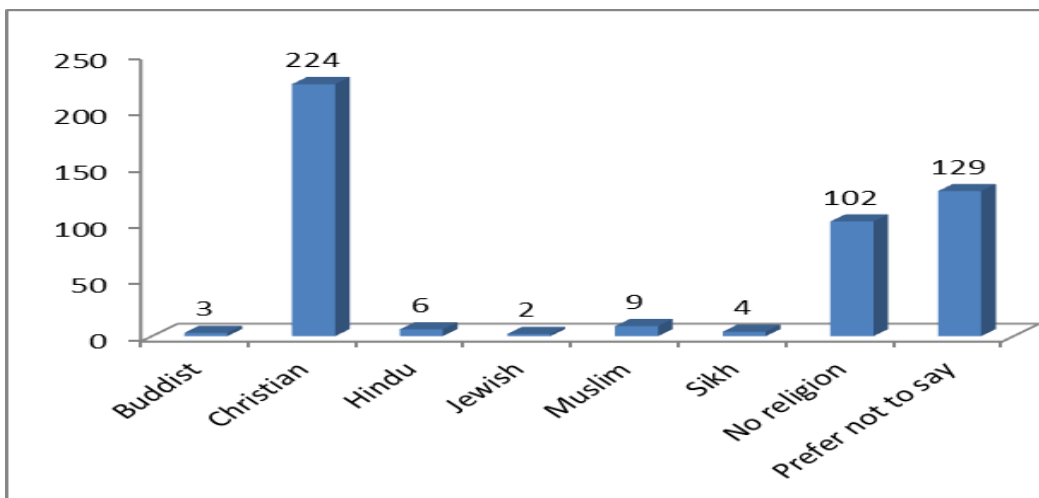
Public n=711

### Age range



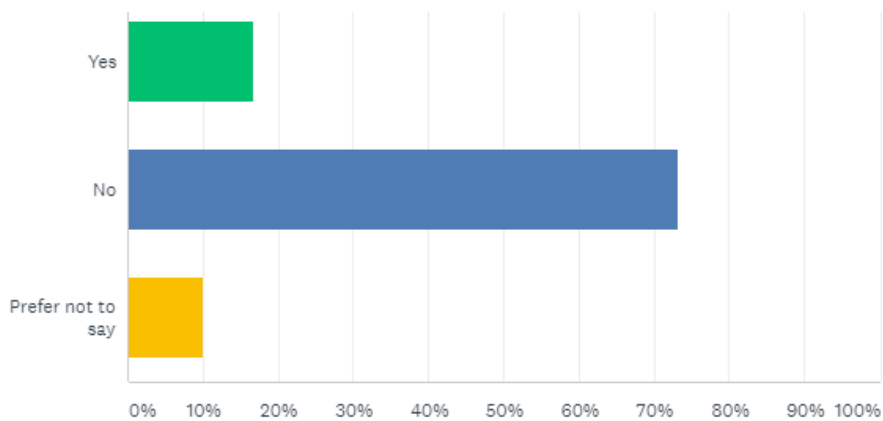
Public n=703

### Religion



Public n=479

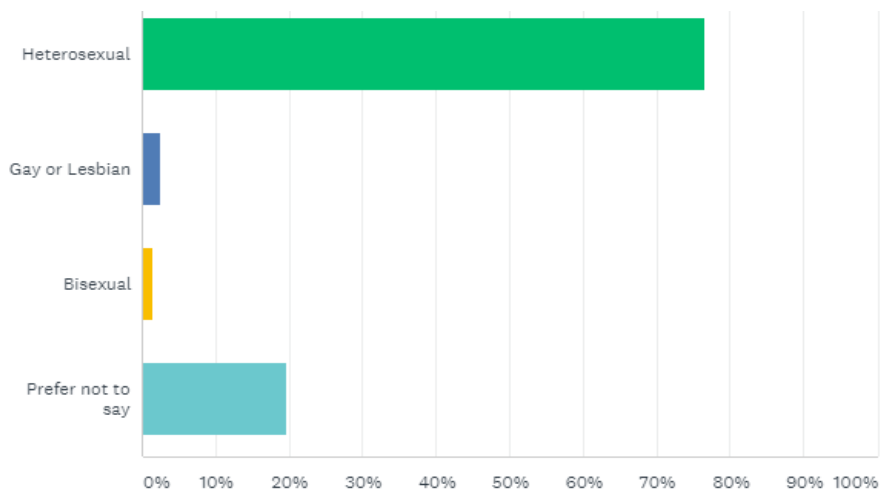
## Do you consider yourself to have a disability?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Yes	16.69% 115
▼ No	73.29% 505
▼ Prefer not to say	10.01% 69

Public n= 689

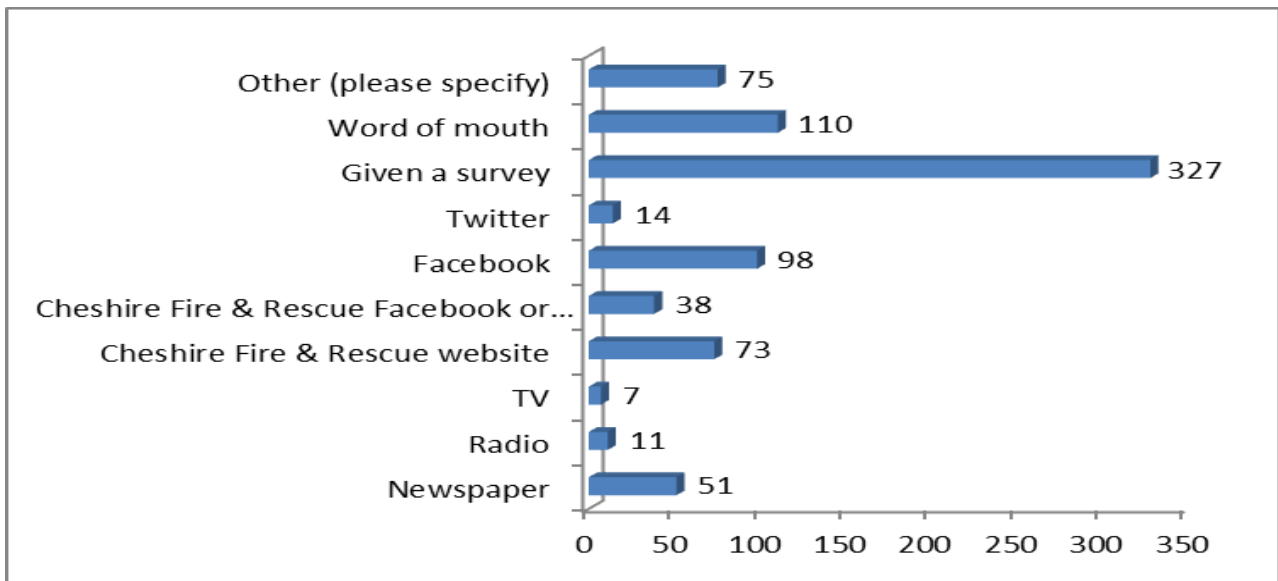
## Sexual Orientation



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Heterosexual	76.58% 497
▼ Gay or Lesbian	2.47% 16
▼ Bisexual	1.39% 9
▼ Prefer not to say	19.57% 127

Public n= 649

**How did you hear about the consultation? (Tick all that apply)**

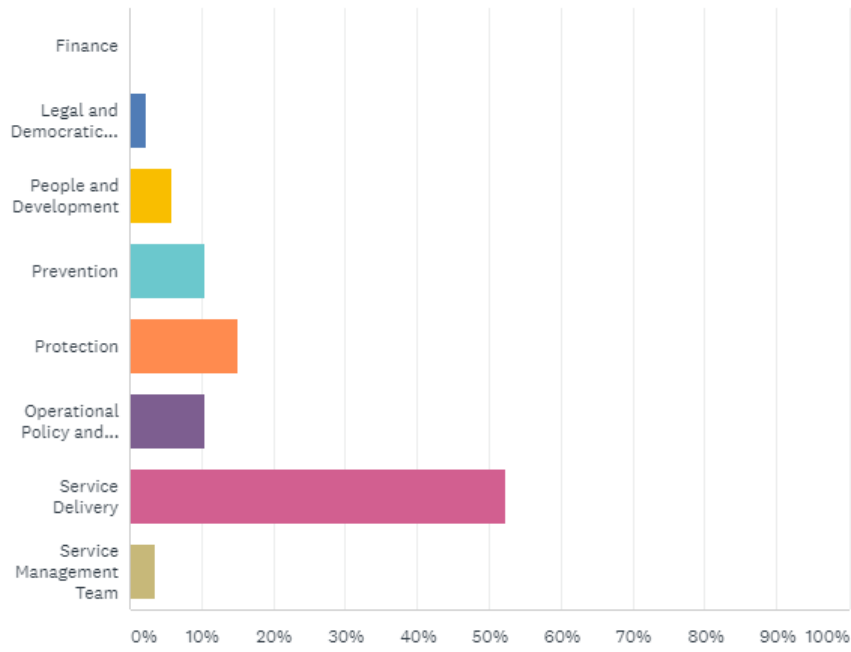


**Public n=715**

## 9.2 Staff Response Demographics

The following section will provide demographic details of staff respondents, broken down by question.

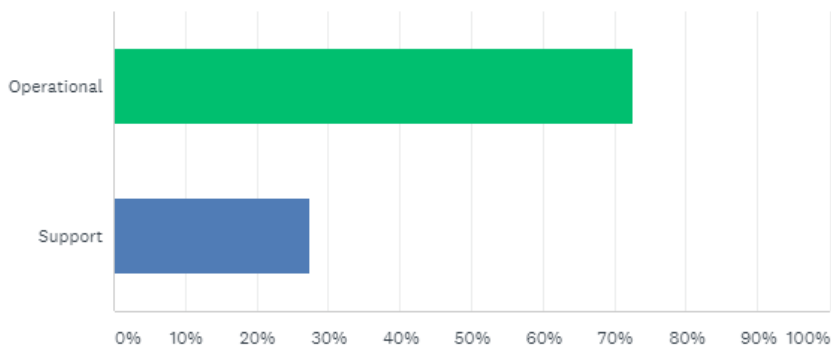
### Respondents by department



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Finance	0.00% 0
▼ Legal and Democratic Services	2.33% 2
▼ People and Development	5.81% 5
▼ Prevention	10.47% 9
▼ Protection	15.12% 13
▼ Operational Policy and Assurance	10.47% 9
▼ Service Delivery	52.33% 45
▼ Service Management Team	3.49% 3

**Staff n=86**

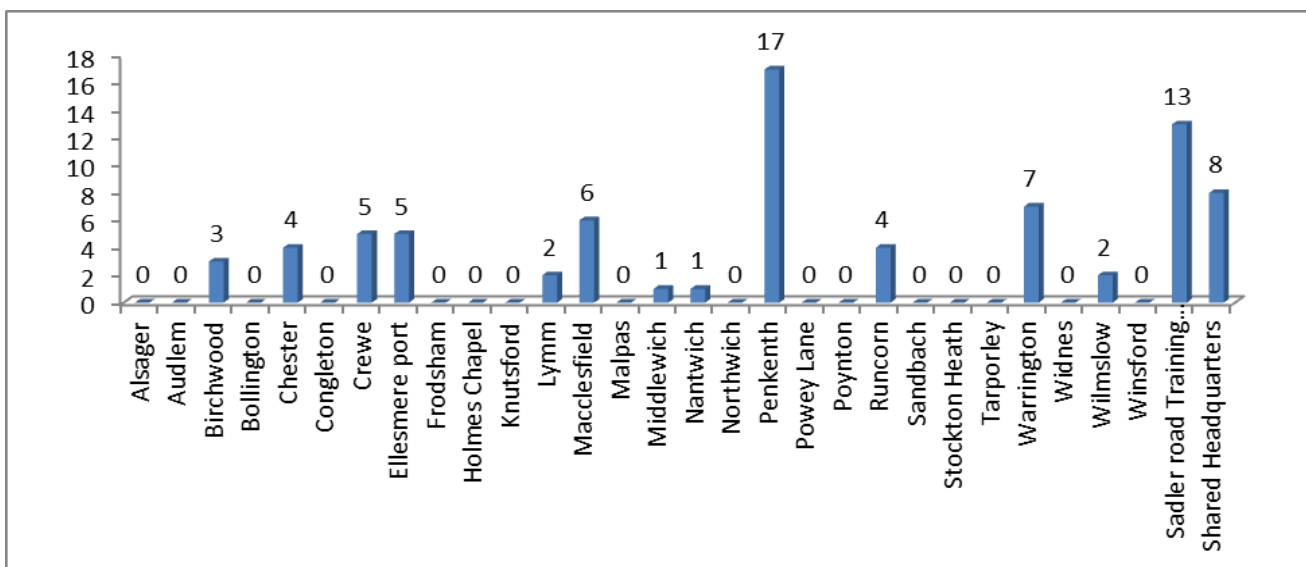
### How respondents described their primary role



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Operational	72.53% 66
Support	27.47% 25

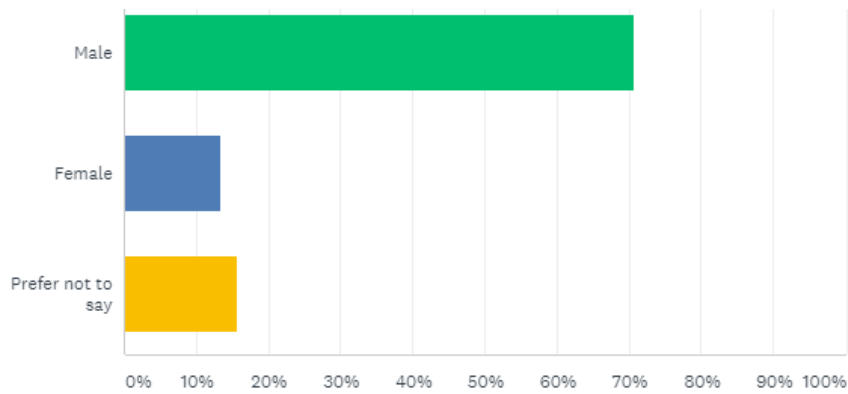
Staff n= 91

### Where respondents are based for the greatest proportion of their time.



Staff n=78

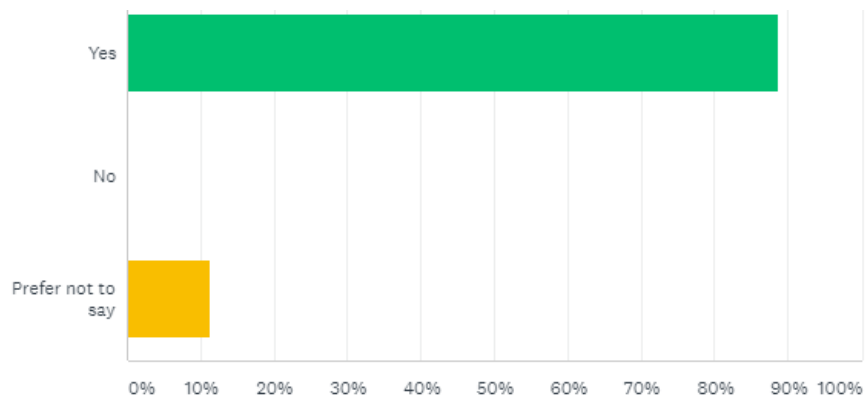
## Gender



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Male	70.79%	63
▼ Female	13.48%	12
▼ Prefer not to say	15.73%	14

Staff n=89

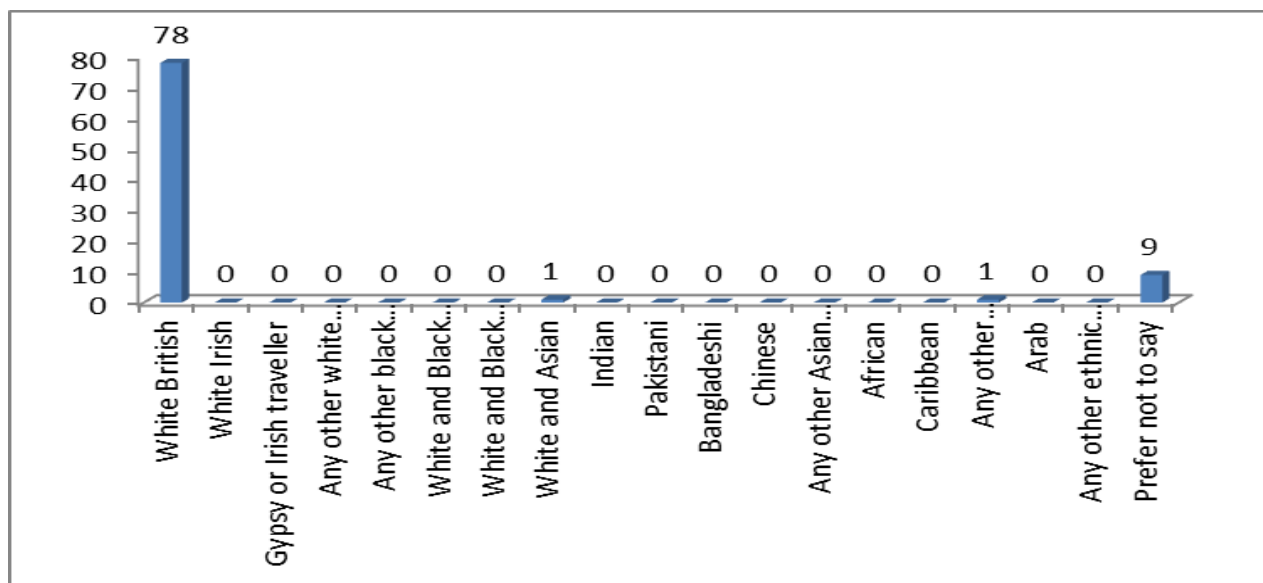
## Is your gender the same as that assigned to you at birth?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Yes	88.64%	78
▼ No	0.00%	0
▼ Prefer not to say	11.36%	10

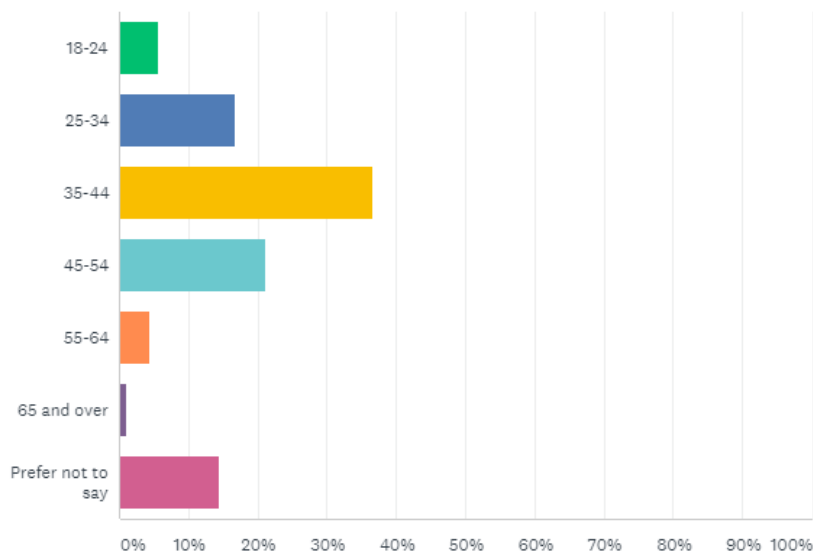
Staff n=88

## Ethnicity



Staff n=89

## Age range

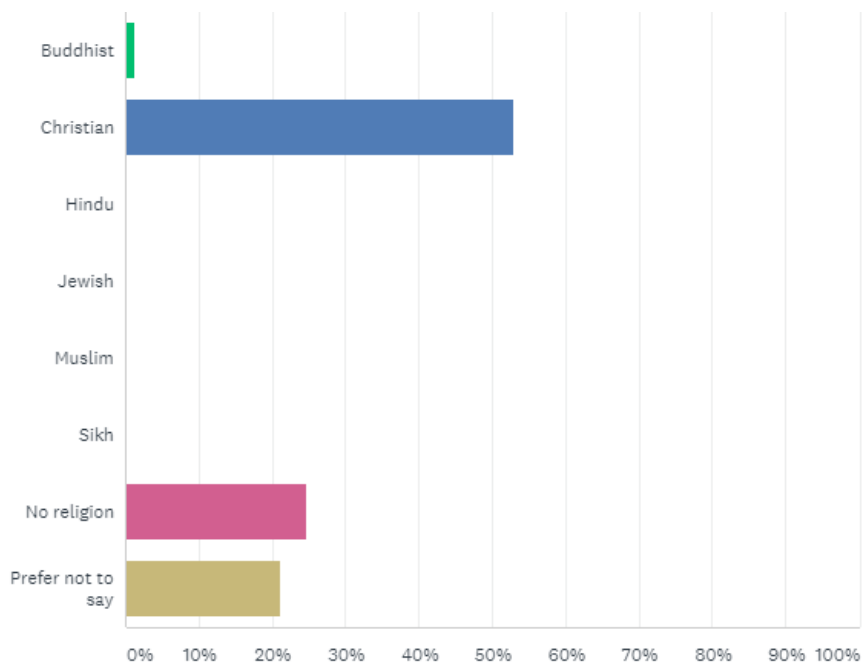


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
18-24	5.56% 5
25-34	16.67% 15
35-44	36.67% 33
45-54	21.11% 19
55-64	4.44% 4
65 and over	1.11% 1
Prefer not to say	14.44% 13

Staff n=90



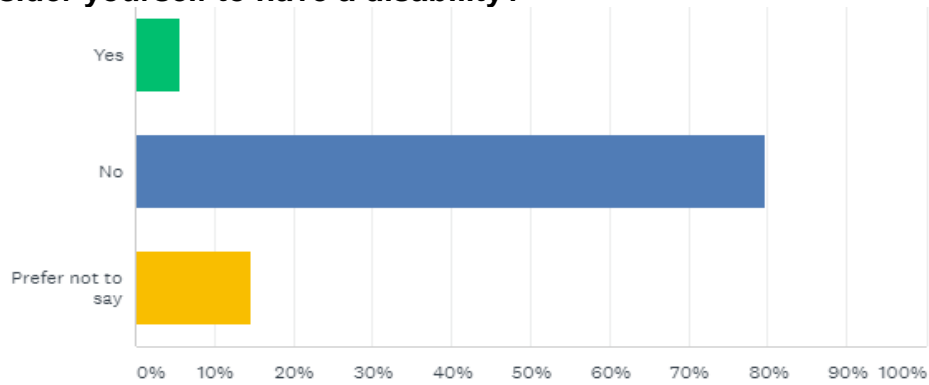
## Religion



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Buddhist	1.18% 1
▼ Christian	52.94% 45
▼ Hindu	0.00% 0
▼ Jewish	0.00% 0
▼ Muslim	0.00% 0
▼ Sikh	0.00% 0
▼ No religion	24.71% 21
▼ Prefer not to say	21.18% 18

**Staff n=85**

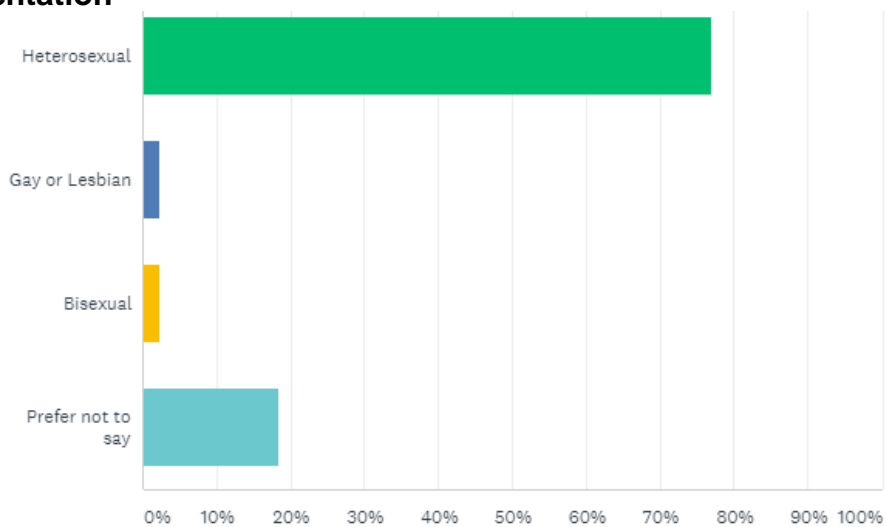
## Do you consider yourself to have a disability?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Yes	5.62% 5
▼ No	79.78% 71
▼ Prefer not to say	14.61% 13

Staff n=89

## Sexual Orientation



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Heterosexual	77.01% 67
▼ Gay or Lesbian	2.30% 2
▼ Bisexual	2.30% 2
▼ Prefer not to say	18.39% 16

Staff n=87

## Appendix 1 – Social media and press release

### Social media

In addition to the roadshows, 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 17,615 people who 'like' it and receive updates, while 42,500 people follow the Service's Twitter feed.

#### Facebook

The Service made use of its Facebook account to raise awareness of the consultation and promote the roadshows that were held in each of the locations across Cheshire.

The table below lists the date and content of all consultation posts on the Service's

Facebook page

#### *Date and content of consultation posts on the Service's Facebook page*

Date	Content of post	People Reached	Likes	Comments/ Shares
02/10/2017	Have Your Say On Our Draft Plans for 2018/19 (includes survey link)	3,488	12	2/6
03/10/2017	Have Your Say On Our Draft Plans for 2018/19 (includes survey link)	2,161	7	0/5
07/10/2017	Have Your Say On Our Draft Plans for 2018/19 (includes survey link)	1,552	5	0/1
10/10/2017	Have Your Say On Our Draft Plans for 2018/19 (includes survey link)	1,126	2	0/0
19/10/2017	Come and say hello in ASDA Birchwood from 11am (includes survey link)	1,078	3	0/0
25/10/2017	Come and say hello to us at Widnes Market (includes survey link)	1,159	4	0/1
07/11/2017	Come and say hello to us at Wilmslow Sainsburys (plus survey link)	1,121	4	0/0
08/11/2017	Come and say hello to us at Sainsbury's in Chapelford, Warrington (plus survey link)	1,105	1	0/1
10/11/2017	Have Your Say On Our Draft Plans for 2018/19 (includes survey link)	1,382	3	0/0
15/11/2017	Come and say hello to us at ASDA in Runcorn (plus survey link)	1,569	8	1/2
21/11/2017	Have Your Say On Our Draft Plans for 2018/19 (includes survey link)	2,434	6	2/4
23/11/2017	Come and say hello to us at ASDA in Winsford (plus survey link)	1,307	2	0/2
17/12/2017	Have Your Say On Our Draft Plans for 2018/19 (includes survey link)	2,228	6	0/0
21/12/2017	Have Your Say On Our Draft Plans for 2018/19 (includes survey link)	1,920	1	0/0

### *Paid for advertising*

Two paid-for advertisements were ran on Facebook by the joint digital media team. The adverts were a general advertisement raising awareness of the consultation, which each ran for two weeks. Details of the adverts are below:

- The advert reached a total of 37,588 Facebook users in total.
- The advert was shared 43 times.
- The two adverts each generated a comments feed. These are included within Appendix 4.

### *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.

### *Tweets on the Service's Twitter page*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Content of tweet</b>	<b>Retweets</b>
02/10/2017	Have Your Say On Our Draft Plans for 2018/19 (includes survey link)	5
03/10/2017	Have Your Say On Our Draft Plans for 2018/19 (includes survey link)	3
07/10/2017	Have Your Say On Our Draft Plans for 2018/19 (includes survey link)	1
10/10/2017	Have Your Say On Our Draft Plans for 2018/19 (includes survey link)	2
11/10/2017	Come and say hello to us at ASDA Crewe from 11am (includes survey link)	1
19/10/2017	Come and say hello to us at ASDA Birchwood from 11am (includes survey link)	0
25/10/2017	Come and say hello to us at Widnes Market (includes survey link)	1
07/11/2017	Come and say hello to us at Wilmslow Sainsbury's (includes survey link)	1
08/11/2017	Come and say hi to us at Sainsburys in Chapelford, Warrington (includes survey link)	0
10/11/2017	Have Your Say On Our Draft Plans for 2018/19 (includes survey link)	3
15/11/2017	Come and say hello to us at Asda in Runcorn (includes survey link)	1
21/11/2017	Have Your Say On Our Draft Plans for 2018/19 (includes survey link)	2
23/11/2017	Come and say hello to us today at ASDA in Winsford	3
08/12/2017	December Firelink Newsletter tweet	3
11/12/2017	Have Your Say On Our Draft Plans for 2018/19 (includes survey link)	1
17/12/2017	Have Your Say On Our Draft Plans for 2018/19 (includes survey link)	2

18/12/2017	Have Your Say On Our Draft Plans for 2018/19 (includes survey link)	1
21/12/2017	Have Your Say On Our Draft Plans for 2018/19 (includes survey link)	3

#### *Use of the E-newsletter*

The consultation was a feature of the Service's electronic FireLink newsletter, which was issued in December 2017. This was distributed via the Alert system to over 14,000 residents. A copy of the newsletter is included in the next Appendix.

#### *Use of the Service's website*

A page was created on the Service's website ([www.cheshirefire.gov.uk/consultation](http://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.

Key statistics relating to visits to the website are as follows:

<b>Website traffic relating to the consultation</b>		
	<b>Page views</b>	<b>Unique visitors</b>
Visits to <a href="http://www.cheshirefire.gov.uk">www.cheshirefire.gov.uk</a> from October 2 <sup>nd</sup> 2017 to January 2 <sup>nd</sup> 2018	215,136	95,353

#### **Consultation press release**

The press release was issued to mark the launch of the consultation on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2017.

#### **Firefighters' plans for the future as Integrated Risk Management draft Plan is launched**

Cheshire residents are being invited to share their views on Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service's plans for the future.

The Service has launched a draft version of its Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) for 2018/19. This annual action plan sets out how Cheshire Fire Authority intends to address some of the challenges it will face in the coming year.

Cllr Bob Rudd, the Chair of the Fire Authority, said: "I would encourage residents to get involved with this consultation and share your views about the direction of the Service. The feedback you provide really helps us to shape the future of your fire and rescue service."

This consultation will aim to get people's views on a range of issues such as:

- Cheshire Fire Authority's proposal to increase its share of Council Tax by 1.99%
- Expanding its cardiac response programme to all fire stations across Cheshire
- Continue work to review crewing arrangements at Penketh and Wilmslow fire stations, as well as the provision of the Service's third aerial appliance

· Seeking views on potential options to redevelop fire stations in Chester, Crewe, Ellesmere Port and Warrington

Additionally the draft Plan provides information on the Authority's campaign to promote the use of sprinklers, its work both in response to the Grenfell Tower fire and progress against the Government's fire reform programme, as well as its collaborative work with other local public services and partners.

Paul Hancock, Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive for Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service, explained: "We maintain a strong focus on both the safety of our communities and our firefighters. I would really like people to get involved with this consultation and share their thoughts about the direction we are planning to take as a Service."

If you would like to have your say you can do so by visiting [www.cheshirefire.gov.uk](http://www.cheshirefire.gov.uk) where the full draft plan can also be viewed. People could also call 01606 365404 and request a printed copy of the questionnaire.

Ends

# Appendix 2 – Summary, Survey and FireLink Newsletter

The summary document was available from the Service’s website and intranet and hard copies were given out with the questionnaire and a response envelope. The survey was also handed out at the roadshows and was accessible through the Service’s website.

## Draft Plan Summary



Summary of proposals for 2018-19

### Making Cheshire Safer: Our Plans for 2018/19

**C**heshire Fire Authority is the public body responsible for ensuring local communities are protected by an effective fire and rescue service.

In 2015 the Authority approved a five year strategy, 'Planning for a Safer Cheshire', that outlined challenges facing the organisation and set out the principles it would adopt in responding. This will be supported by a series of annual action plans or Integrated Risk Management Plans (IRMPs) as they are also known. These will be consulted on each year.

A draft action plan, *Making Cheshire Safer: Our Plans for 2018-19*, has now been approved for consultation and we would like your views on what we are proposing.

This summary document aims to provide details of key proposals as well as some information about what has been considered during their development. A full version of the document and further information can be viewed on the Service's website [www.cheshirefire.gov.uk](http://www.cheshirefire.gov.uk). We would like you to tell us whether you agree with our proposals and if you think there are alternative ideas or anything else that we should consider.

#### Focus on the future

Four years ago the Authority embarked on its first comprehensive Emergency Response Review to ensure it was able to respond to future demands.

This resulted in the implementation of a huge programme of activity, including changes to the way some stations were staffed; a new 10 minute response standard for life risk incidents; the introduction of 12 hour shifts and the building of new fire stations in Alsager, Penketh, and Povey Lane in Mollington as well as a fire station and innovative safety and lifelines centre at Lynton, Safety Central.

This work has ensured that the organisation was able to both balance its budget – saving £7.7m - and have sufficient funds to provide firefighters with the best equipment to protect both them and the communities they serve. It has also enabled us to continue our extensive community safety work.

This was followed by a second Emergency Response Review, which was initially consulted upon last year and is underway at the moment. Work to examine several options as part of that review continues and are explained in further detail later in this document.

In developing the options we are seeking your views on, careful consideration has been given to the thousands of residents, businesses, partners and staff who contributed to our previous annual consultations. Teams have also reviewed comprehensive incident data, spoken to neighbouring fire and rescue services, major industrial companies and other key stakeholders. More information can be found on our website.


#### Key projects and proposals

##### Increasing our precept

Council tax currently accounts for about 65% of the Fire Authority's funding, with the remaining 35% consisting of funds from central government. The Authority recently agreed a four year financial settlement with the Government until 2020/21. While this provides some certainty over the level of central funding until 2020/21, the Authority still needs to make revenue savings of £4m from its day-to-day operations by that point.

In addition to reviewing the way services are provided by the Fire Authority, we are proposing to increase the Authority's share of council tax (called its precept) by 1.99% to help balance its budget and want you to let us know your views.

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



### Reviewing our emergency response

We continually review the way in which we staff our stations to reflect local risks and demand. This review process has formed the basis of the changes seen across the organisation over the past four years.

The authority replaced two of our three aerial appliances, based at Chester and Lynton to reflect specific risks and enable them to be deployed effectively across Cheshire when required. Work will continue to review the operation of the Authority's third aerial appliance, currently based at Macclesfield Fire Station.

We plan to continue work to review the crewing arrangements at Penketh and Wilslow Fire Stations. Penketh currently houses one fire engine staffed by a wholetime crew and one fire engine staffed by an on-call crew who live or work nearby and respond to emergencies via an alert. Wilslow operates the nucleus duty system, where day time cover between 7:00am and 7:00pm is provided by wholetime firefighters and night time cover is provided by an on-call crew.

Please tell us your thoughts on these plans or if you think there are any alternative options or other factors that we should consider.

### Cardiac response

The Fire Authority has piloted a project at four fire stations that sees fire crews respond to cardiac arrests alongside the North West Ambulance Service in a bid to get life saving treatment to patients quicker. Reducing the time it takes to start treatment can often make a big difference in someone's chances of survival.

The Fire Authority is keen to expand the cardiac response programme to all fire stations in Cheshire and would like you to tell us if you agree with our proposal and if there are any other considerations we should take into account.

### Station build programme

Part of reviewing the way the Fire Authority's resources are structured to reflect local risks and demands also involves considering whether its fire stations are located in the most appropriate location or are still fit for current requirements.

No decision has yet been made on any redevelopment of stations in Chester, Crewe, Ellesmere Port or Warrington. However, if such proposals were progressed, the end result would mean there would still be a fire station in each town (or city) – albeit maybe in a different area to enable a more effective delivery of services.

Any construction of replacement stations would be met through the Fire Authority's capital budget and other sources of funding that are separate from its revenue budget, which funds its day-to-day operations.

In Chester, Crewe and Warrington, the Fire Authority has been approached by parties interested in making use of the current sites of the fire stations. If progressed, these discussions could lead to the development of replacement stations – or shared premises with other public services – that would better suit the needs of the Authority than the fire stations on the existing sites.

In Ellesmere Port, local agencies have been discussing the potential for a shared public services 'hub' on Civic Way in the town centre. If the Authority moved into the hub, this would release some resources from the sale of the existing fire station on Wellington Road.

The Fire Authority would like to know if there are any specific factors that you think we should consider if we look at building a replacement station in any of these locations.

### How can you have your say?

We are keen for you to let us know what you think about our proposals and if you think there are other things we need to consider, before members of Cheshire Fire Authority make a final decision on our draft plan on 14th February 2018.

We will be holding a series of public roadshows across Cheshire throughout October and November and will be regularly updating our website and Facebook and Twitter pages – please get in touch to share your views. Further details can be found on our website or by using the contact details below.

Please have a read through this document and the draft Plan and then take a few minutes to share your views. This can be done online at [www.cheshirefire.gov.uk](http://www.cheshirefire.gov.uk) or by completing a questionnaire that can be obtained at one of our roadshows, by calling 01606 365404 or emailing [consultation@cheshirefire.gov.uk](mailto:consultation@cheshirefire.gov.uk)

You can also contact us via [www.facebook.com/CheshireFRS](https://www.facebook.com/CheshireFRS) or through our Twitter handle @CheshireFRS

All responses must be received by us no later than Tuesday 2nd January 2018.

# Draft Plan Consultation Survey



**Have YOUR say on MAKING CHESHIRE SAFER**

**Our Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) 2018-19**

Thank you for taking time to complete this questionnaire and telling us what you think about our plans. Please ensure you read the **summary of proposals document** 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](http://www.cheshirefire.gov.uk)

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

## Your Fire and Rescue Service

Let us know what you think about us.



**Q1: 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

**Q2: 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
- Other emergency incident
- Safe and Well assessment
- Driver Engagement Day
- Station Open Day
- At a community event/group meeting
- Other (please give details)

No, I have not had contact with them in the past three years

**Q3: 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

## Funding

We want to know your thoughts on our proposal to increase our share of council tax by 1.99% in 2018/19.

**Q4: Do you support Cheshire Fire Authority's proposal to increase its share of Council Tax by 1.99% in 2018/19?**

- Strongly support
- Support
- Neither support nor oppose
- Oppose
- Strongly oppose
- Don't know

## Sprinklers



**Q5: Would you consider having a sprinkler system installed in your home?**

- Yes
- No

If no, please provide more information below

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## Our Proposals

Please let us know what you think about our plans for the year ahead.



**Q6: Is there anything you would like us to consider when reviewing crewing arrangements at Penketh Fire Station?**

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**Q7: Is there anything you would like us to consider when reviewing the suitability and sustainability of existing crewing arrangements at Wilmslow Fire Station?**

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**Q8: Is there anything you would like us to consider when reviewing our third aerial appliance?**

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**Q9: Do you support our plans to roll out the Cardiac Response scheme with the North West Ambulance Service to all Cheshire fire stations?**

- Strongly support
- Support
- Neither support nor oppose
- Oppose
- Strongly oppose
- Don't know

Is there anything you would like to add about the proposed extension of the Cardiac Response scheme?

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**Q10: Are there any factors that you would like us to consider when developing options to potentially build new, replacement stations in Chester, Crewe, Ellesmere Port and Warrington?**

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**Q11: Do you have any other comments on the draft Plan that you would like us to consider?**

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continue overleaf

## About You

We ask the following questions to make sure we are engaging with people from all over Cheshire. The data we collect is used in accordance with the Data Protection Act and we will not share the information you provide below with third parties. You can find out more about why we collect this data via our website [www.cheshirefire.gov.uk](http://www.cheshirefire.gov.uk)

**Which area do you live in?**

- Cheshire East
- Cheshire West and Chester

**Your postcode:** \_\_\_\_\_

- Halton
- Warrington

**Where is your nearest fire station?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Gender**  Male  Female

**Is your gender the same as that assigned to you at birth?**  Yes  No

**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  Gay or Lesbian  Bisexual  Prefer not to say

**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 **Tuesday 2nd January 2018**.  
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 365404 or email [consultation@cheshirefire.gov.uk](mailto:consultation@cheshirefire.gov.uk)



## FireLink Newsletter

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

### November edition

[Home](#) > [News & Events](#) > [Newsletters](#)

## November 2017 eNewsletter - FiRELiNK



Welcome to the November edition of the Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service e-Newsletter.

### Have your say on our draft plan for 2018/19



The consultation on our draft Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) for 2018/19 is underway and will last until Tuesday 2nd January 2018. During this time we will consult with the public, key partners and stakeholders and members of staff.

The draft plan follows on from the Service's second Emergency Response Review, which was initially consulted upon last year and is underway at the moment. Work to examine several options as part of that review continues and are explained in further detail in the draft Plan and summary document, which can be found on our website.

[Find out more - Have your say on our draft plan for 2018/19](#)

### December edition

### Have your say on our draft plan for 2018/19



The consultation on our draft Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) for 2018/19 is underway and will last until Tuesday 2nd January 2018. During this time we will consult with the public, key partners and stakeholders and members of staff.

The draft plan follows on from the Service's second Emergency Response Review, which was initially consulted upon last year and is underway at the moment. Work to examine several options as part of that review continues and are explained in further detail in the draft Plan and summary document, which can be found on our website.

[Find out more - Have your say on our draft plan for 2018/19](#)

## **Appendix 3 – Partners and stakeholders communicated with**

The following pages document each of the stakeholders the Service communicated with throughout the consultation process.

<b>Representative Bodies and Organisations</b>		
Cheshire Members of Parliament	Cheshire Members of the House of Lords	UK Youth Parliament
Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner	Fire Brigades Union	Fire Officers Association
UNISON	West Cheshire and North Wales Chamber of Commerce	South Cheshire Chamber of Commerce
Warrington Chamber of Commerce	Halton Chamber of Commerce	East Cheshire Chamber of Commerce
Macclesfield Chamber of Commerce		

<b>Town and Parish Councils</b>			
Alsager Town Council (TC)	Bollington TC	Congleton TC	Crewe TC
Knutsford TC	Macclesfield TC	Middlewich TC	Nantwich TC
Poynton TC	Sandbach TC	Wilmslow TC	Frodsham TC
Neston TC	Northwich TC	Winsford TC	
Acton, Edleston & Henhull	Adlington	Alderley Edge	Aldford, Saughton and District
Alpraham	Alvanley	Anderton with Marbury	Antrobus
Appleton	Arclid	Ashley	Ashton Heyes
Aston	Aston-by-Budworth	Audlem	Backford and District
Barnton	Barrow	Barthomley	Beeston
Betchton	Bickerton & Egerton	Birchwood	Bosley
Bostock	Bradwall	Brereton	Brindley & Faddiley
Broxton and District	Buerton	Bulkeley & Ridley	Bunbury
Burland	Burtonwood and Westbrook	Byley	Calveley
Capenhurst and Ledsham	Chelford	Choldmondeston & Wettenhall	Cholmondley and Chorley
Chorley	Christleton	Church Lawton	Church Minshull
Churton	Clotton Hoofield	Coddington and District	Comberbach
Cranage	Crewe Green	Croft	Crowton
Cuddington	Cuddington (Malpas)	Cuerdley	Culceth and Glazebury
Daresbury	Darnhall	Davenham	Delamere
Disley	Dodcott-cum-Wilkesley	Doddington and District	Doddleston and District
Duddon	Dunham on the Hill and Hapsford	Dutton	Eaton
Eaton, Eccleston and Claverton	Elton	Farndon	Foulk Stapleford
Gawsworth	Goostrey	Grappenhall and Thelwall	Great Boughton

Great Budworth	Great Warford	Guilden Sutton	Hale
Halebank	Handforth	Hankelow	Hartford
Haslington	Hassall	Hatherton and Walgherton	Hatton
Helsby	Henbury	High Legh	Higher Hurdsfield
Holmes Chapel	Hough and Chorlton	Huntington	Huxley
Ince	Kelsall	Kingsley	Kingsmead
Knutsford	Lach Dennis	Lea By Backford	Little Budworth
Little Leigh	Little Stanney & District	Little Warford	Littleton
Lostock Gralam	Lower Peover (Nether Peover)	Lower Withington	Lyme Handley
Lymm	Malpas	Manley	Marbury & District
Marston	Marton	Mere	Mickle Trafford & District
Millington	Minshull Vernon & District	Mobberley	Mollington
Moore	Moston	Mottram St. Andrew	Mouldsworth
Moulton	Nether Alderley	Newbold Astbury-cum-Moreton	Newhall
No Man's Heath and District	Norley	North Rode	Oakmere
Odd Rode	Ollerton and Marthall	Penketh	Peover Inferior
Peover Superior	Pickmere	Plumley with Toft and Bexton	Pott Shrigley
Poulton and Pulford	Poulton with Fearnhead	Prestbury	Preston Brook
Puddington and District	Rainow	Rixton with Glazebrook	Rope
Rostherne	Rowton	Rudheath	Rushton
Sandymoor	Saughall and Shotwick Park	Shavington-cum-Gresty	Shocklach Oviatt and District
Siddington	Smallwood	Snelson	Somerford
Sound & District	Sproston	Spurstow	Stapeley & District
Stockton Heath	Stoke & Hurleston	Stretton	Styal
Sutton	Swettenham	Tabley	Tarporley
Tarvin	Tattenhall & District	Thornton-le-Moors	Thrapwood
Tiverton and Tilstone Fearnall	Tushingham, Macefen and Bradley	Twemlow	Tilston
Upton-by-Chester and District	Utkinton	Walton	Wardle
Warrington	Waverton	Weaverham	Weston & Basford
Whitegate and Marton	Whitley	Willaston	Wincham
Winwick	Wistaston	Woolston	Worleston & District
Wrenbury-cum-Frith	Wynbunbury		

### Public sector organisations

Cheshire East Council	Cheshire West and Chester Council	Halton Borough Council
Warrington Borough Council	Cheshire Constabulary	LGBT staff networks at Cheshire Constabulary and CWAC
North West Ambulance Service	Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service	Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service
Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service	North Wales Fire and Rescue Service	Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service
Staffordshire Fire and	National Probation Service	HMP Risley

Rescue Service	Cheshire and Greater Manchester	
HMP Styal	HMP YOI Thorn Cross	East Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group
Halton Clinical Commissioning Group	South Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group	Vale Royal Clinical Commissioning Group
Warrington Clinical Commissioning Group	West Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group	Countess of Chester Hospitals NHS Trust
East Cheshire NHS Trust	Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust	Warrington and Halton Hospitals NHS Trust
5 Boroughs Partnership NHS Trust	Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Trust	

<b>Voluntary and community sector organisations</b>		
Vale Royal Disability Services	Cheshire Centre for Independent Living	Warrington Disability Partnership
Halton Disability Partnership	Macclesfield Eye Society	Deafness Support Network
Warrington Islamic Association	Warrington Ethnic Communities Association	Cheshire Asian and Minority Community Council
South Cheshire Multi Cultural Forum	Irish Community Care	Age UK Cheshire
Crewe Older People's Network	Body Positive	Unique Transgender
Chester Pride committee		

## Appendix 4 – Additional Public Responses

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Respondents to the consultation could also email or write instead of completing the online survey. Copies of such responses are provided below. Copies of comment threads received via social media are also included in this section.

### Response received via [feedback@cheshirefire.gov.uk](mailto:feedback@cheshirefire.gov.uk) 4<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Crewe need two fire engines, so don't get rid of them. Paul Hancock the Fire Chief is brilliant how he acknowledges the fire cadet. The computer site is excellent. Make saving without putting peoples lifes in danger

### Response from William Atteridge, received 27<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you to object to the proposed cuts in the full time manning of the appliances based at the Crewe Fire Station. I understand that one of the full time crew will be reduced to an on-call crew. I have a number of questions/comments and kindly request your response.

- 1) – I have completed your latest consultation request currently on your website but note that the proposed reduction in full time Crewe manning levels is not included in this document. Could you please explain why something so important is not included in this formal public consultation exercise? Do you intend to have a separate consultation on this manning reduction proposal?
- 2) – The reduction in full time crew will impact the response time for the Crewe serviced area. On-call crew cannot respond as quickly as resident full time crew.
- 3) – The consultation indicates that you are considering relocating the Crewe Station. The selection of any new location will need to consider the potential for response times for on-call staff (if this is to be seriously considered), local traffic and future increases in automobile traffic and the substantial increase in new homes and business premises in the Crewe area.
- 4) – Crewe and the surrounding area is scheduled to have many thousands of new homes in the next few years, with the estimated additional traffic from these dwellings and new businesses numbering in the tens of thousands.
- 5) More than 1500 new dwellings have been approved in and around Shavington alone. This will result in some 2500 additional cars on the Shavington-surround roads, potentially reducing response times during busy traffic periods. Recent traffic increases have been witnessed on key through roads such as the intersection of Crewe Road and Newcastle Road in Shavington, where cars queue at the intersection traffic lights for up to 100m or more for most of the day.
- 6) – The new dwellings on sites such as the Shavington/Wyburnbury triangle are being constructed at densities of up to 45 units/ha, substantially closer together than legacy building in surrounding areas. If there were to be a major fire incident with buildings in this proximity, response times would be even more crucial.
- 7) – Crewe has a significant number of older homes with all the potential fire hazards that this carries.
- 8) – The full time crew are also very much involved in liaison with the local community – safety checks & inspections, school and local organisation visits, etc. How will this continue if the personnel are on-call?



As I have worked in the oil & gas industry for more than 40 years I have a healthy respect for fire and the potential for fire and fully understand the importance of response times. Given the current and developing circumstances in the Crewe Station response area, it does not make any sense to reduce a full time crew to

an on-call crew. If cost is an issue, literally a few pence on the precept could be the best and safest solution to keeping the full time crew at Crewe.  
I look forward to your response.


Sincerely,

WJ Atteridge



## Facebook advertisement comments





 **Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service**  
Sponsored (demo) · 






Have your say on our draft plans for 2018/19.  
Please share your views by filling in our short survey.





**Have your say!**  
Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service - We work 24 hours a day to keep Cheshire safe from fires and other emergencies.  
[CHESHIREFIRE.GOV.UK](http://CHESHIREFIRE.GOV.UK) [Learn More](#)


  51 6 Comments 21 Shares


 Like  Comment  Share 


 Write a comment...    

Top comments ▾


 **Dorothy Flude** Keep the second pump at Crewe at 24 hour full time covered please remember that for all of Cheshire East there are only two full time pumps and they are at Crewe.  
Like · Reply ·  7 · 22 October 2017 at 09:59

 **Phil Jones** Congleton is full time 24/7 cover aswell for Cheshire east  
Like · Reply · 26 October 2017 at 20:56






 **Andrew Fox-Hewitt** Hi Phil, technically it is not, it's day crewing so an on call based response (from home not the station) at night at at weekends.  
  
The point being made is that Crewe has the only full time based response in Cheshire East, the largest unitary area in Cheshire.


 **Phil Jones** Have to disagree technically it is. Congleton currently has 2 engines 1 is available 24/7 365 days a year covered by the DC1 system and 1 is a wholly on call pump which isn't always available 24/7

Like · Reply · 27 October 2017 at 11:09


 **Andrew Fox-Hewitt** What system is operated at Congleton? Is it wholetime ? No it's day crewing, so a delayed response from Home not the station. It also doesn't have a wholetime duty system nor a wholetime establishment, it has a reduced establishment

Like · Reply · 27 October 2017 at 12:41 · Edited






 Write a reply...    


 **Tony Miller** First of all, stop all bonuses to the top bodies within the Fire Brigade, have a "cull" on top management, get rid of non jobs, employ people who can do the job and not people who tick the right boxes.

Like · Reply · 1 · 27 October 2017 at 17:18


 **Mathew Rockey** Fire chief got a stupid bonus last year ... was also splitting his time between another county.... just doesn't seem to be the correct decision ...

Like · Reply · 1 · 27 October 2017 at 21:01






 Write a reply...    


 **Mathew Rockey** Having been to both warrington and Chester fs. Don't not see the purpose for replacement fire stations... espically when warrington has now been taken to a single pump due to the lymm station...these stations are not in a bad condition. why not maintain the stations to a higher standard and invest that money in a meaningful area....


Like · Reply · 1 · 22 October 2017 at 21:07

 **Mark Bowden** Totally agree, Warrington now has 5 fire stations within its boundaries. Is this really the best value for money?






Like · Reply · 24 October 2017 at 23:21


 Write a reply...    

 **Joe Dowling** How often do Greater Manchester's fire engines attend incidents in Cheshire because you have no fire engines available with a reasonable response time?

 **Dorothy Flude** A QUESTION I ASK CONSTANTLY.

Like · Reply · 2 · 28 October 2017 at 11:00

 Write a reply...    

 **Joe Conway** What's Chester's new Fire Station going to look like

Like · Reply · 1 · 21 October 2017 at 19:23



**Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service**

1 December 2017 · 🌐



Have your say on our draft plans for 2018/19.

Please share your views by filling in our short survey.



Have your say!

CHESHIREFIRE.GOV.UK

[Learn More](#)

👍 Like    💬 Comment    ➦ Share

👍 😄 😡 37

Top comments ▾

22 shares

17 comments

👤 Write a comment... 😊 📷 GIF 🗨️

**Tony Stockton** Just noticed that we're going to pay 1.99% more for a reduced service in Crewe, I really object to that 😡  
Like · Reply · 🗨️ 4 · 1 December 2017 at 19:36

**Robert Longworth** you have paid 1.99% extra over the last few years because the council don't have to justify it if it's less than 2%. Stations firemen, fireengines and equipment have been lost and propetyg bought. Police fire and ambulance will be incorporated into these buildings in the future and you'll be asked to pay for them again!!  
Like · Reply · 🗨️ 6 December 2017 at 18:55

**Gary Williams** This has been the case since fire cover was reduced in Winslow. Pay more for less protection 😡  
Like · Reply · 🗨️ 7 December 2017 at 13:13

**Tony Belsten** The on call solution is unreliable. They are having difficulties in recruiting and retaining the staff in Frodsham. Daytime availability in Frodsham in June, July & August was 8%, 22% and 21% respectively. 50% of incidents in the area were dealt with by other stations. Now if these other stations are also cut then attendance times will increase. I think the reason why the trickle changes in is so nobody notices. Problem is the elected members of the fire authority who oversee the service are not fed these statistics so are unaware and think the service is meeting the needs of the electorate.  
Like · Reply · 🗨️ 4 · 14 December 2017 at 14:30

**Ben Wye** Sorry, I couldn't see any reference to the proposal to make a pump part time at crewe, can you highlight it please?  
Like · Reply · 🗨️ 1 · 9 December 2017 at 19:44

**Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service** Hi Ben, plans to change the crewing arrangements for the second pump at Crewe and Ellesmere Port fire stations from wholetime to on-call were agreed by Cheshire Fire Authority in February 2013, following consultation.

At the meeting of Cheshire Fire A... [See more](#)  
Like · Reply · 🗨️ 1 · 11 December 2017 at 10:15

**Ben Wye** Thanks very much for replying, I will do.  
Like · Reply · 🗨️ 1 · 11 December 2017 at 20:31

👤 Write a reply... 😊 📷 GIF 🗨️

**Lynn Tomlinson** Why? You don't listen to the public anyway. Crewe is having more houses & more Industrial Unit built, & HS2 is on its way, & your downgrading an appliance, yet our Council Tax is going up, to pay for your decommissioning.  
Like · Reply · 🗨️ 17 · 2 December 2017 at 12:05

**Tony Stockton** Why downgrade Crewe fire and rescue services just as the area is expanding, with numerous building projects +HS2. Doesnt make sense to me, but then again, nothing this government does makes much sense in my humble opinion. 🙄  
Like · Reply · 🗨️ 7 · 1 December 2017 at 19:33

**Sandra Link** The proposed down grading of Crewe fire station and the change in codes and conditions for fire fighters (on call), is nothing less than scandalous. It is my opinion that the draft plans are putting the lives of local people at risk. It is sheer nosen... [See more](#)  
Like · Reply · 🗨️ 7 · 2 December 2017 at 09:39

**Geoff Hayes** I sincerely hope all members of the Cheshire East Communities rise to the challenge, and object strongly to the proposed cuts in their fire and rescue service.  
We have to remain realistic in meeting the January consultation deadline.  
For me Cheshire Fir... [See more](#)  
Like · Reply · 🗨️ 1 · 13 December 2017 at 18:32





**Cliff Smith** If the public keep paying these rises to fund massive pensions and no improvement to services then its more fool us. Write to your MPs and demand change. You cant charge more for less.

Like · Reply · 13 December 2017 at 21:30



**Carole Eyres** This 'have your say' is , no doubt, a sham like all other so called consultations. 'They'll do what they do' Wouldn't mind paying more for improved services , but these are not real improvements. Public Services are just that, a service to the public and as such require a good level of funding. Our Public Servants should be well paid and have decent pensions. This government wants it all, on the cheap.

Like · Reply · 15 December 2017 at 06:01



**Joe Cosby** Paying more council tax next year for a downgraded service in Crewe. Horrendous decision, especially at a time where more houses are being built, HS2 is on its way, we are being promised that more businesses are on their way, and the M6 is being upgraded so will also see an increase in traffic. Unbelievably shortsighted 😡😡😡

Like · Reply · 🗳️ 3 · 10 December 2017 at 13:37



**Robert Longworth** surely that should read "try and have your say. Decisions have already been announced and the questions are not relevant to what is happening in the 'decision making depament'

Like · Reply · 🗳️ 3 · 6 December 2017 at 18:47



**Gary Williams** Have a say? Don't think so. To busy deceiving the community with regard to fire safety with your glossy manipulated stats and reports 😡

Like · Reply · 🗳️ 2 · 7 December 2017 at 13:11



**Christopher Norman** Should it read DAFT plans

Like · Reply · 🗳️ 2 · 8 December 2017 at 19:08



**Tony Miller** How about stopping obscene bonuses to the top brass?

Like · Reply · 14 December 2017 at 19:44



**Sue Harding** Tank Daniels

Like · Reply · 🗳️ 1 · 13 December 2017 at 21:35



**James Booth** Stephen Buckley John N Mary Healey Jason McGill

Like · Reply · 9 December 2017 at 12:13



**Ben Wye** Suzanne Brookfield Dorothy Flude

Like · Reply · 11 December 2017 at 21:26

## **Appendix 5 – Public comments received via the consultation survey**

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Several questions within the survey asked for narrative comment. Additionally, respondents were asked for any further comments at the end of the survey. Responses are provided by question. Responses which have provided either N/A or stated no further comment have been excluded.

### **Consideration of installing a sprinkler system (380 responses total)**

- Sometimes the smoke alarms goes off whilst cooking, sprinklers would cause damage on false alarm!
- We've heard that they are not reliable
- Seems a bit excessive would want to know more e.g. sometime my smoke alarm goes off because I have burnt my toast...it would be silly if this triggered off the sprinklers!
- Too much mess afterwards
- I'd be worried about accidentally setting it off.
- May cause damage if activated
- It's a private house, not a commercial building. I would be more concerned about it leaking than I am about having a fire. I'm also concerned that you could use the percentage of houses in your area with them fitted as excuse to further down grade your response capability.
- Sprinkler are more useful in large open areas and could cause more water damage than the fire.
- I fear it would go off accidently and ruin my possessions
- I have working hard wired smoke alarms I don't want the inconvenience and cost of installing this and it's potential to leak
- I like my things dry....
- I'm not sure how effective they are or how easily they would be set off. Could I have them just in the kitchen? If so, then maybe.
- Would need to know more about reliability of systems specially designed for domestic premises if an alternative to smoke alarms etc.
- In case of false alarm, in case of unnecessary damage
- Water damage if accidentally triggered
- Probably because of the mess water makes
- expense and possibility that it when off in error good idea in office and shared buildings
- will make a mess sorry
- danger of fault in system- could cause water damage
- I believe that it would be too costly and if operated might cause more damage than a fire
- I wouldn't want to risk an accidental activation causing extensive water damage. I think my smoke detectors are sufficient in a domestic property but would support this for all commercial properties.
- If it accidentally went off it would destroy furnishings etc.
- I would be frightened if it went off without a fire being present
- if it keeps going off all the time e.g. when I burn the toast everywhere will be ruined
- potential for it to go wrong, don't know impact to insurance premium if sprinklers installed
- may malfunction and affect insurance
- would not like the after effects of water damage, it's all about careful monitoring and responsibility of your home with other means of fire protection
- It may go off unexpectedly and cause damage. especially when were away
- House would get wet
- I do not want an accidental release of water to cause damage to my property.
- Would need to know more about the systems and nature of failure. I think I would only fit a system if I was having extensive renovations to my property.
- It is a home and not a business, if a sprinkler was accidentally set off, the property would be ruined
- because accidental use would result in damage and I live in a bungalow
- all items would be wet
- more damage on uncontrolled water on gas & oil fires
- While I feel a sprinkler system could be useful, if the sprinkler system is set off by a minor fire or smoke from cooking, it could damage belongings on our property for something that wasn't worth it.
- hear stories of them going off prematurely

- damage to furniture, carpets and decoration
- water damage
- if they went off when cooking there would be a lot of damage
- if system goes off in a false alarm, interior of home will be damaged
- Because a sprinkler system would cause more damage than a fire
- accidentally goes off- unsightly
- My luck it would go off and soak everything and I wouldn't be covered by insurance. also, we are tenants of the housing trust
- More risk of damage from water from malfunction of system than risk of damage from fire
- just in case it went off accidentally
- I consider a sprinkler system could create a lot of damage that may not be needed. In most cases our firefighters would do a lot less damage.
- no, I would be worried about damage should sprinkler develop fault and come on by itself
- water in the home would add to any potential destruction of property and would tend to damage the fabric of the building
- Not only will my toast be burnt it will be soggy too! Fire fighters cannot be replaced by sprinklers. Full time, experienced and qualified personnel is what every community needs.
- Not only will my toast be burnt, it will be soggy too!
- The prospect of the disruption is too much. New smoke alarms etc. seem adequate
- I'd be worried it would work inappropriately and cause damage
- I would not want an accidental release to cause water damage to my property. I would rather have a well prepared, resourced fire service able to respond quickly, effectively and on a 24/7 basis.
- Will get everything wet. I would get out if there was a fire.
- THE COST OF DOING SO WILL BE TOO MUCH OF AN EXTRA COST
- Probably an extortionate cost
- TOO COSTLY
- Not much info about how it works and how much it costs
- Waste of money
- Does not add any value
- Too invasive, installation and maintenance costs
- Too costly is this so managers can cut more frontline posts
- On cost grounds
- Cost
- Can't afford
- Cost at this time would not be feasible
- So long as there was no cost implication to me whatsoever.
- Cost implications, why should I pay for it.
- Cost
- Would it be free?
- Who would pay?
- Only if free fitted.
- Yes, if funded
- Cost, I suppose the fire service managers want to cut the firefighters jobs even more whilst lining their own pockets
- Retrospective fitting may be costly and result in a significant amount of disruption in order to fit.
- The cost of installation would be too much, unless it was grant aided by the government or local authority.
- Costly
- No funding?
- Who pays?
- Cost
- Cost??
- Only if paid for
- Who's paying?
- On cost grounds
- But yes, if it was free
- Budget would no support this.

- Cost prohibitive.
- The cost. Who pays
- Who's paying?
- Purely on cost
- Unless freely fitted
- purely the cost
- No, I have little money
- Only if free
- Who pays
- It's an older house, so retro fitting would be expensive.
- Only if fitted free
- Who's paying?
- No funds
- Cost
- I do not consider that I should have to consider the above, nor go the expense of such for the following reasons:
  - I adhere to all Fire safety guidance available to prevent fires in my home
  - I have working smoke alarms which are tested and will raise the alarm if a fire occurs
  - I live in a bungalow and also have a fire plan if the situation arises
  - I have a Fire Station located approximately 100 yards from where I live
  - I pay Community tax which pays for a Fire Service if I am ever in need I would expect that I would receive a quick professional service.
  - In short, I do not think the fire service should be expecting home owners to fit unsightly sprinklers around the house nor go the the expense of providing such.
  - If the Fire Service are so worried about having sprinklers installed why do they not go to the expense themselves to offer it in houses where fire setters live surrounded by other innocent family members?
- Why ask for an increase in Council Tax then ask me to pay for sprinklers?
- No savings
- Only if free
- No budget
- Cost. Simple home safety management is all that is required.
- No can't afford it
- Only if I could afford one
- Can't afford it otherwise yes.
- Only if free of costs
- If I could afford it
- Only if costs were met by council
- Yes, only if funded by government.
- Cost
- Cost and disruption
- Only if cost met by authorities
- I pay for Fire Service response and don't want pipes everywhere
- Only if free
- Who pays?
- Only if full cost met by government
- If funded by government then yes
- NO-if only those that can afford it get it. YES- if funded by government.
- waste of tax payers' money that should be spent on our fire fighters and fire engines
- Spending money on things like sprinklers and new training centres and buildings whilst cutting the front-line response is a false economy and the senior managers have got all their priorities wrong
- I don't want to pay for such equipment to be installed, but rather my taxes pay for my fire service response
- Who is to pay for this? And why would I need one, that's what I pay my council rates to the fire service for
- Not good value
- Why is there a need? And who's paying for it?
- Why? Is the fire service provided that poor that I need additional safety measures?

- Cost disruption
- Cost
- cost against risk would make fitment process and disruption unwanted
- if free installation
- too expensive
- A sprinkler system in the home could be unnecessary for a small household and would therefore not be worth the cost of instalment.
- I have smoke alarms; a sprinkler system would cost too much and wreck my house either way
- expensive and not needed & damages everything in the house if needed be better and cheaper to have fire extinguishers
- dependent on cost
- couldn't afford price
- cost factor of installation and maintenance
- not sure it is viable cost effective as we are on pensions but believe all new homes should have the options- lives are so valuable
- dependent on cost
- cost
- If Council Tax is going up for a better service why do we require sprinklers
- could not afford it
- depending on cost
- Cost and disruption
- depends on cost
- not something I have considered think these could be cons as well as pros also the expense of installing the same
- Too expensive to retro fit. but should be in new build
- Who pays
- Surely the current cost of the Service to ourselves should negate the need for sprinklers. We live in a house not a commercial property
- Too expensive
- Cost
- We pay for a fire service to attend
- Cost
- Too expensive, unsightly
- Too expensive and too much disruption
- But it would probably cost too much. I am currently happy with prevention methods i.e. smoke alarms, and doors closing, turning things off at night.
- cost - should be built in (1840 house)
- too costly
- domestic home, not feasible or economical
- expense
- not cost effective
- Cost
- couldn't afford it
- too expensive to install and will look more like a factory
- Probably would not be able to afford it. that would be my only reason
- would need more info on possible cost & work involved
- I can't afford it, I am a non-smoker living alone and careful about anything which may cause a fire
- Too expensive.
- not cost effective
- Will cost too much and how would it be fitted??
- expensive, have smoke alarms, 50/50 on extent of damage, really feel fire safe due to lifestyle
- The cost of upkeep and maintenance would be prohibitive
- COST!!!! Insurance premiums, Domestic and commercial are likely to rise as a result of the Services inability to respond to incidents within 10 minutes after an average call handling period of 3'30" Seconds. That's nearly 15 Minutes once having received a 999 call. That's simply Outrageous! One of the lowest standards in the country provided by a Service with £30 Million in reserve.
- Costs, - if met by CFRS it would no doubt lead the more fire fighters job being cut.

- Risk levels are too low to justify the expense
- Installation problems
- I would not like the thought of such a system being so intrusive in my period property
- Mess
- The disruption caused by having it installed
- Ugly, expensive and would involve extensive work. Maybe new houses ought to have sprinklers
- The mess it would cause while being installed
- It would require a lot of work to be done in the house and probably very expensive.
- I think they will be ugly
- I live in a ground floor flat which is leasehold & also do not want the disruption as there are no open fires or children so its low risk
- I don't live on a commercial building and couldn't contemplate the disruption of a retro fit plus cost
- we have smoke alarms the installation is incredibly destructive and would have to decorate everywhere
- it would probably be messy and complicated to install, I would need more info on this
- Retro fitting is expensive and disruptive
- No. Disruption & Cost
- Too messy
- Couldn't be bothered with the mess
- Cost and disruption
- Too much disruption
- An old house - cost of installation and issues which could arise from it
- I'd have to get permission from housing association, as there is asbestos in my ceilings, I doubt they'd agree to much that would disturb it
- Concerned about the cost involved and aesthetics
- Too messy and disruptive. Have smoke alarms in every room
- cost, aesthetics, assessment of risk - low exit routes accessible in emergency
- but need to know more about cost/disruption
- disruption too great
- couldn't face the upheaval
- Would like to see what would be involved first. Pulling up floorboards in bedrooms etc...
- Too old to put up with the upheaval and mess. smoke alarms work ok
- need to know installation procedure first
- building is concrete construction
- If I said yes, no doubt I would be pestered by sprinkler companies. It sounds like an expensive and intrusive installation anyway
- Disruption to existing building. New build etc. is better but costs!
- Cost / disruption balanced against risk to life where fire alarms are in place along with multiple escape options.
- If I lived in a new house yes. But I would imagine the mess and disruption to out in an old house would not be worth it.
- Too invasive and smoke alarms work
- Too much work needed to fit one. It's not realistic to fit them in domestic properties....
- Too much building work to install
- Only in kitchen
- Is the response from our fire brigade in Cheshire that poor now that we are expected to fend for ourselves?
- Already have one.
- You are continually getting rid of our fire fighters and fire engines yet you are using our money to fit sprinklers? - What so you can get rid of more people and engines?
- Seriously!
- I know Cheshire's fire engines are taking longer and longer to arrive but are we really expected to put our own fires out now
- Why, has the service from Cheshire fire become that poor that I have to look after myself now?
- Why, can't I rely on the fire service any longer?
- not sure
- not considered before this questionnaire

- Why, where is the more info on the sheets?
- should be made standard in new builds
- possibly just in the kitchen but not throughout the house
- easy egress
- Why would we with an inflation busting Council Tax rise proposed.
- I pay enough for a fire service
- Good idea on new build.
- Would have ticked Maybe if there was one
- why
- don't know what they are or how they work
- not thought about it- I would need to find out about a lot more and ask some questions
- but would need to look at it in more detail
- didn't know about it
- would not know how to use one
- we are non-smokers and don't cook with fat
- anybody should be grateful to have whatever they can get to help save people
- just don't want them
- don't know
- I think they should be mandatory in all commercial and multi residential structures in addition to a building centralized alarm system.
- I would imagine that the bean counters that run the brigade these days would then put my property on a list of houses for non-attendance.
- How is this relevant to the plans for the next year?
- Listed building.
- Small house
- Don't know how it can be fitted as we have artex ceilings in every room inc. hall, stairs and landing
- Have no naked flames and always someone at home!
- Undecided. Our 'house' is a flat. we have been assessed by fire services and have adequate warning systems in place
- Believe that others need them more than me
- We are extremely careful and reduce the risk in our home with being a fire fighter so I do think we require a sprinkler system.
- I don't want one or need one. The upheaval would be huge also. New homes should have them also vulnerable people perhaps?
- I live in a grade 2 listed cottage and don't think it would be in keeping to install such equipment
- Just don't believe it's required in a domestic premise, if adequate working smoke detectors are fitted than that should be more than enough for a safe escape from the property, also having a sprinkler system installed in a domestic premise makes the home insurance go up believe it or not, due to it being faulty and leaking.
- Living accommodation is too small to deserve a sprinkler system
- I don't like the idea of a sprinkler in my home, they are more for industrial or commercial properties
- Don't need it he firefighters are good at their job
- I and my husband just don't like the thought of having a sprinkler system installed in our home. Additionally, any money for this should come from central government and not from Cheshire Fire Authority, as this money should be spent on front line fire fighters instead.
- A sprinkler may mitigate the damage and development of a fire, but will not extinguish a fire. There are other less intrusive measures to perform the same role, namely reducing the risks, closing the doors and early detection
- We have a good alarm and detection system. Is the fire response so poor now that we are to fend for ourselves?
- We just don't want a sprinkler in our house
- I'm fire safety conscious.
- Smoke alarms are fitted. Happy with those
- Small house no need
- I have smoke detectors and common sense
- I don't feel it necessary, I know Cheshire fire service is in chaos with not enough fire engines but sprinklers in a domestic semi?

- I cannot see the need for standard domestic properties in the UK to have sprinklers, unless of course we no longer rely on our failing fire service
- Why do I need one, I know the time it takes to get a fire engine in Cheshire is taking longer and longer but really?
- I'm fit and able to walk out of my house if the smoke detectors go off and there is good fire cover according to you so I don't need to drown my house if the professionals can turn up
- My smoke alarms work what is the need for that level of protection in my home
- We live in a bungalow so not necessary
- Not practical for us
- I do not believe sprinklers for domestic private homes - detached properties - are necessary.
- I live in a bungalow is has at least 3 exterior doors so safe evacuation is fairly easy.
- We have adequate safety in place i.e. smoke alarm and carbon monoxide detectors
- Smoke alarm should be sufficient for homes
- Feel that I check that everything is switched off at night. But if I was educated re the benefits I may consider.
- We live in a small house
- Small house already has smoke alarms in working order checked frequently and fire brigade checked on home check
- The risk of fire is already very low.
- No double glazing in house so would be able to exit property and dial 999. Is it over the top in a domestic property?
- I have smoke alarms upstairs and downstairs
- Smoke alarms already installed and I have two fire extinguishers.
- Already have Smoke Detectors x 2 and Carbon Monoxide monitors x 2
- Home is a bungalow with multi outside access points
- House not suitable
- Not big enough
- It's not big enough
- Sprinklers not necessary in a three-bedroom house, should be standard in offices, shops and high-rise buildings.
- Not at present time
- Our fire alarms are good, we are happy with them in our small house
- Not Practical
- I don't think it is necessary considering the property itself, there are 3 exits, and I have 2 fire alarms one upstairs and one downstairs, so I don't think I could justify the cost.
- I am satisfied that we currently have satisfactory arrangements in place should we be unfortunate enough to sustain a fire.
- no incidents in 37 years no naked flames in property
- if it was a new build being constructed now yes, but not in my house presently as too much upheaval
- I have a small park home with a fire alarm. I think it is small enough for me to hear/see a fire, deal with it or get out. Mainly water would rot the wooden structure and floors.
- not sure it is needed in a home- public places yes
- not necessary
- Old property and happy with escape plan. Also fitted with Fire alarms.
- happy with smoke detectors
- would not be suitable for our property, we have good fire warning systems provided by fire brigade
- not sure if necessary in a residential property
- I live in a small flat
- I have 3 smoke alarms which get checked regularly
- not sure it will be useful
- already have fire alarms installed
- we do have 3 smoke alarms
- okay for factories but not suitable for family homes
- we live in a modern house with efficient smoke alarms so we feel it's unnecessary to have a sprinkler and in fact would feel less secure with one fitted
- There are smoke alarms in all the correct places (see outcome of Fire Service visit to Great Bud worth in the week beginning 20/11/17). We have also now installed a carbon monoxide alarm, as recommended



- I feel like it is a waste of money a smoke alarm is enough protection
- I don't think it would be necessary
- I feel a smoke alarm is sufficient. I would not want a sprinkler system being activated automatically when there is smoke/heat from cooking as sometimes happens with the smoke alarm. Although this is great and reassures us that we are safer with this warning system, a sprinkler system could ruin furnishings unnecessarily. Obviously, these would be ruined if there was a fire but for our personal home situation I feel our fire prevention and smoke alarms are sufficient
- I live alone and consider my home to be very low risk. My home has fire extinguisher.
- Because I live in a 2 storey semidetached house.
- I personally consider my home to be low risk. I switch all appliances off when leaving the house and at night time. I only buy new electrical appliances from authorised dealers. I have fire extinguishers both upstairs and down and I have a fire blanket upstairs and down. I have always taken fire precautions seriously.
- I don't feel it would be appropriate
- my house has adequate fire alarms installed and easy exit routes
- I wasn't of the impression that domestic homes required sprinkler systems.
- I don't think it's necessary in a small house with limited occupancy
- Have smoke alarm downstairs in kitchen
- We live in a small house and take sensible precautions against fire - well maintained smoke alarms and electric circuits, no candles except on tiled hearth, no chip pans, supervised cooking unless in a conventional oven.
- Retirement home, fire alarm checked Thursday. Fire officers check each unit
- We have smoke detectors. live in a 2-story house could be necessary exit via double doors and over Juliet balcony
- I worked installing these systems in factories, car parks etc. I would not have one in a residential property. My smoke alarms are sufficient
- smoke detectors are enough, recent rewire and non-smokers
- do not feel it is needed
- I think our fire alarms are sufficient
- got smoke alarms and the house is too small
- I have smoke alarms & extinguishers
- we have fire alarms and plenty of exits
- house too small
- We take all the safety measures we can. Close doors, never leave lights or appliances on when not in the house. Have smoke detectors installed.
- never had a problem and have smoke alarms fitted
- Older property and we have smoke alarms fitted and regularly test
- Old property and have alarms fitted
- Not in a home. Detectors and awareness is enough
- not needed
- bungalow with escape routes
- not suitable
- house too small- battery smoke alarm
- We do not smoke although we occasionally use a chip pan. Never really thought of having a sprinkler system installed. I do not consider we are high risk although there are older people who may benefit greatly from a system.
- I find this a ridiculous question I cannot think of an occasion when the people who could benefit from such a thing could afford it. More the case when is CFB going to join forces with Cheshire Ambulance Service and provide an up to date customer orientated service.
- We rent through Your Housing Ltd so the decision would be theirs but from a personal point of view I'd say no, we take every precaution we can to prevent a fire and feel a sprinkler system wouldn't be necessary.
- I have not really ever thought of having something like this done. We do not smoke although we do have a chip pan which we occasionally use. May consider this in the future but do not think of ourselves as high risk.
- I don't think I need one.
- don't consider sprinkler systems are the right direction for small domestic premises and there is the implication of insurance payouts for accidental operation of the system

- Not sure it would be practical but maybe.
- Not convinced it's necessary
- Don't really see the need in a small bungalow
- It's a 350-year-old cottage, not sure it would work aesthetically or practically. We have smoke alarms throughout and lots of exits.
- Cheshire F&RS have moved to working out the probability of fire to determine cuts in service. I too have evaluated the probability of fire in my home and as a consequence deem a sprinkler system unnecessary
- I believe that my families overall awareness surrounding fire in the home, is sufficient to prevent an occurrence.
- Don't think it's currently needed whilst there are also the financial implications
- I don't think they are necessary in a two storey house.
- It is a rented property from housing association.
- This is a decision for our housing association landlord
- I do not own my own home
- rented property
- The house is listed and owned by The National Trust - 1820's cottage
- I live in a flat the management would have responsibility for this
- housing trust
- live in a flat
- Not sure it's an option due to it being 1 of 13 rented flats in a large house. Landlord owned...
- Depending on housing association planning, would insurance cover be allowed?
- house belongs to housing trust
- I'm in shared accommodation it's not up to me
- live in sheltered independent living and the landlord would not agree
- I do not own my property- it is a wulvern/Guinness partnership home
- if I was able to because I'm in rented property
- live in rented accommodation in a small block, all residents would have to be provided with sprinklers for safety
- home is rented so no say in the matter
- live in housing association bungalow
- council property
- housing trust own our home so they would have to agree- golden gates

#### **Review of Penketh Fire Station (340 comments total)**

- There needs to be another fire engine and more staff that are on call
- Appropriate full-time staff and adequate equipment
- Do not consider on call firefighters as a replacement for whole time. You cannot recruit enough and those you have do not provide sufficient cover
- Do not consider on call firefighters as a replacement for whole time. You cannot recruit enough and those you have do not provide sufficient cover
- Guaranteed 24hr full time fire cover is essential
- Leave it whole time crewing. The delay in on call puts lives at risk
- Keep fully crewed
- Keep fully time. Chemical industry areas close by.
- Keep fully staffed as strategic back up for Warrington Widnes and runcorn chemical plants.
- Keep fully crewed to support the neighbouring stations. Major chemical risks in area.
- More Fire engines and more Firefighters.
- Yes. More firefighters please, not less!
- Fully crewed fire engines no matter which type.
- Introduce another full-time fire engine as it is clear we do not have the resilience of engines given the amount of unreliable on call engines
- Leave it as it is.
- Keep it full time to support Warrington. Widnes and Runcorn.
- Keep the fire fighters fully staffed, allowing safety
- Close to Warrington and Widnes. Keep fully crewed.

- Do not cut our frontline services anymore enough is enough. We want guaranteed fire engines 24/7.
- Whatever you are proposing if it means less full-time fire fighters then I am opposed, I have read about all the cuts to the front-line response in Cheshire and it is too much.
- I would like to see Crew and appliance availability increased
- Yes, increase the crewing levels.
- Keep it staffed fully. There are many chemical plants in surrounding area so. Widnes Runcorn and Warrington need support.
- Should remain fully staffed. Vital to support Warrington. Widnes. Runcorn. Lots of chemical industries in area.
- Keep fully staffed as vital support for those stations around. Many chemic factories here.
- Keep fully crewed to support neighboring stations. Many chemical plants in area.
- Surely this is a vital link to support Runcorn, Widnes and Warrington. Lots of chemical sites here. Keep staffed permanently.
- Appears to be strategically placed to support Warrington. Widnes. Runcorn with the chemical risks. Needs to be fully crewed 24/7.
- Keep station fully crewed as major chemical sites in area.
- Seems a good location to support Warrington. Widnes and Runcorn. Lots of chemical risks. Keep 24/7.
- Keep fully staffed. Close to many chemical factories. Support for Warrington. Widnes and Runcorn.
- Due to its closeness to Warrington and Widnes its full time staffing should be maintained. Lots of chemical sites in area.
- Keep fully staffed. A lot of chemical company's in that area.
- Yes, there should be no crewing changes to a station that was only built last year, which was built on a promise it was an important station strategically, which was why the very divisive decision to build on green belt land was passed. So as residents we have been lied to by Paul Hancock and Cheshire fire authority. If any changes are made to this station as a community group we will put forward a legal challenge.
- Keep it staffed fully as support for Warrington and widnes/Runcorn.
- Keep fully staffed
- Keep fully crewed
- Don't reduce it.
- To support Warrington and Widnes keep fully crewed.
- I believe this is a new station only opened in February 2017, I would ask the question of you, why do you feel the need to review the crewing on a new station? Also, your IRMP document is rather vague as to what the crewing model is and what you wish to achieve from the review. Is this station failing to work? Not responded to fires on time? so with no detail, make it staffed 24 hours a day with full time fire fighters
- Seems to be an area of chemical risks. Keep fully staffed.
- Keep it full time. Too much risk in area.
- Your plans mean third-party fire cover. Keep it staffed full time
- Seems it's near big chemical industries. Keep it fully manned all time
- This must be kept as a full-time crew.
- Keep as fully staffed day and night
- It's imperative that the crewing levels and system do not change. This will be a significant reduction in fire cover for Warrington and Widnes.
- Must be kept WT in order that attendance times are kept as short as possible.
- This is support for Warrington and Widnes. A lot of chemic works around there. Keep engines fully available. As now.
- Seems to be an area of nearby chemical risks. Keep fully staffed day and night.
- Given the risks in that area Warrington and Widnes/ Runcorn I would suggest the station and engines are fully crewed 24/7.
- Full time. Keep as is.
- Stay as now 24-7
- Remain full time
- No reduction in the level of response
- Should be fully crewed 24/7
- Full time 24/7 staff
- Needs to remain a 24/7 full time station

- Yes, keep it as it was it was sold to residents - a full time station, built on green belt land as it was a strategic station.
- If on-call arrangements are failing to provide adequate fire cover 24/7 then whole-time firefighters should be based at this station 24/7 to make it safe for the public.
- Full time crew only
- 24/7 availability only achieved through whole time crews
- Keep it as it is. We need fire cover 24hrs WITHOUT A TIME DELAY!
- Penketh should be crewed with FT firefighters 24/7
- Keep as it is.
- Keep it staffed for 24hr cover
- Keep it full time all the time
- having them all full time
- full time/ specialise in RTC
- more training in RTC and full-time station
- full time would be more ideal
- full time
- full time
- full time would be good and specialise in RTC accidents
- Should remain staffed by full time fire fighters, as promised when it was built
- Should be kept as a full time 24/7 station
- This Station should remain Wholetime 24 hrs. Staffing.
- Put safety first; 24/7 full crew.
- Maintain the current full-time appliance.
- Yes, full time Fire fighters please with enough cover
- All fire stations should have permanent full-time fire fighters on site
- Keep it full time staffed with firefighters on station day and night
- The ability of CFRS to mobilise on call staff is appalling it would have to be 24/7 crewed whole time
- full time fully manned station
- As a relative of a Councillor I understand that the Chief recently advocated mobilising whole time crews to time critical incidents. Therefore, make Penketh 24/7 Whole time
- Make them 24/7 it's safer for the public and firefighters
- The Chief Fire Officer recently stated that for time critical incidents whole time crews should be deployed. Since we don't have Cristal balls make Penketh whole time
- Stay full time
- Now that Widnes and Warrington only have 1 fire engine each it is vital that this station remains whole time
- I would like it to stay as promised in the last IRMP
- Keep it 24/7
- Part timers fail to respond regularly. Penketh should be staffed 24/7
- How does it impact on Fire Cover in Chester? Make it 24/7 whole time as On Call fail all the time
- Crewing should be 24/7. Faster response guaranteed "##
- All stations should be 24/7 crewed
- Absolutely ridiculous to downgrade the cover of a new fire station. Why build it in the first place when it has sufficient fire cover provided by other fire stations such as Warrington, Widnes, and Runcorn etc.
- to make sure there is n reduction in staffing levels
- We need more fire fighters not less
- any improvements I support
- Should see no reduction in current arrangements
- Should see no reduction in operational response
- It should remain crewed 24/7 by permanent full time firemen
- It should remain staffed 24/7 by full time fire fighters
- Why was it built? Penketh shouldn't be reduced - should've 24hr 356 days fully equipped otherwise it's a white elephant
- Don't change the current set up, as with the reductions from Warrington and Widnes down to one fire engine each it would be dangerous I believe as I always see more then one fire engine at fires and cars crashes so who would be covering this side of Warrington if the on call went???

- All staff should be full time.
- I have read that Penketh could possibly lose its retained staff over day cover, you will lose a lot of on-call staff and take a massive step backwards if this was the case, imagine if 70% of your on-call staff couldn't provide the night, this would mean that they would lose a job they love so much and you would have to take on and train more people who could do those select hours, if this is what the public are paying for then where can I opt out? Keep the staff you have, keep the station the same, I have been to the opening days and I think it's fantastically ran.
- Keep it as it is, it is providing an excellent service to its community, why would you change arrangements when they've only just been in place not even a year? Widnes and Warrington have dropped cover due to Penketh opening so let it serve its purpose! The on-call staff are incredible, if you lose them then you will lose faith of the community also
- Make it wholetime
- Given the "Specials" this should be Whole time staffed 24/7
- Any reduction in crewing is to be avoided if at all possible especially at a time when all emergency services are stretched to breaking point.
- I would prefer you ensure a permanent crew as opposed to retained crews
- Don't reduce the support
- Yes, from what I read you (the service) seem to like to tinker with everything concerned with fire stations and staff who work there. From information I have read specifically about large incidents like Grenfell Tower it strikes me that any reductions in Cheshire's capability would put the public at even greater risk than they are now due to your previous decisions to reduce cover in Widnes and Runcorn. 24 hour cover that responds without delay is what's needed not more cuts.
- Keep them fulltime 24/7. You can find money to hoard in reserves, money to increase the number of group managers, money to increase the pay of senior managers, money to unbelievably pay senior managers bonuses, but cannot find the money to provide a fit for purpose fire service.
- Don't change something that isn't broken, the crewing arrangements work fine now adding value to the stripped resources from Widnes and Warrington.
- I HAVENT SEEN ANY PLANS...
- Keep up the good work!
- Does it work?
- Don't do it
- Yes. The safety of the community you serve, response times, and the numbers of firefighters available.
- Many people don't know where this is!
- Not enough info provided to comment
- No go ahead
- Please consider importance of fire service to the community
- Do you share with paramedic crews?
- Ask the Fireman
- No trust your decisions
- dedicated employees as life and property saving team
- not knowledgeable enough to comment
- economy Vs safety
- no, 2 stations close by with multiple engines
- no I assume all the important checks are carried out, also have all the training on the job so they are safe when carry out their job
- cant think of anything
- Gender Equality
- Not sure
- I don't really know enough about it.
- Where is Penketh station?
- no. but I don't know anything plans for Penketh
- just make sure you are good and ready to go if we need you
- the wellbeing of all your staff
- not aware of this station
- I am sure it will be a balanced decision

- Why just crewing arrangements in Penketh? Each station should have equal cover? Does a resident in Penketh contribute more or less council tax to other communities who pay council tax to Cheshire fire service?
- you are doing a great job
- no if the system has not been an issue
- Does the wording mean 2 fire engines are based at Penketh - one for day and one for night or one fire engine to cover both day and night? Is the response time the same during the night via the on call crew? If so, crewing arrangements seems to be good.
- I do not have enough information to make an informed decision. I would support the decisions of the crews stationed there.
- Get rid of some top brass and make sure you have enough real people to do the job effectively.
- How to make the best use of an excellent and almost brand new facility
- These surveys make no difference. CFA have already decided what is going to happen
- Level of cover already reduced in Warrington and Halton area, reduction from 6 to 3-4 appliances is already too much. Appliances need to be guaranteed to be available 24/7. Just because a fire engine is in the garage doesn't mean that it is available to respond to an incident in enough time to make a measureable difference. I would rather pay more money to ensure the appliance was available.
- The front line response cannot sustain any more cuts, the Cheshire response model is already on the verge of collapse, with evenings, weekends, holidays all becoming a time when we do not have enough available pumps, and on medium size incidents crews are stuck on incidents without being able to be relieved as the on call model is not working and no longer sustainable.
- Yes - Consider duplicate calls occurring simultaneously and attendance times for all of the risks in all of the areas where you would expect this appliance to attend, add onto that the time it takes for the 'on call' firefighters to attend the station in the first place before even getting on the appliance and I would consider that you may well be placing someone's life at risk? I would expect agreement that in no way would you be providing the cover that has been in existence for many years? Should you not be always looking for ways to improve your performance? For me now that you have provided this station, there should be no question that it should be staffed by whole time fully trained, fully competent firefighters.... No Question! That way attendance times will be shorter and therefore public safer.
- Impact on overall capacity to deal with an incident in Cheshire. Potentially given your own stats 100% of On Call Stations may not be available at the same time that's 22 pumps off the run! Not good
- The reliance on retained/on call staff is dangerous. The model may work in other parts of country but it has been consistently proved that there is no cover guarantee with on call. Also, the management time and recruitment/ retention problems associated with in call are significant
- On call staff cannot be relied upon 24/7 so they shouldn't be relied upon to cover Warrington/Penketh. Local people need to fully understand the reality of the fire cover they are getting & paying for.
- History dictates that over 40 years the retained system reliability has declined and the attempts at full time firefighters stepping in on separate employment contracts is not sustainable due to H&S including excessive hours. It's not long ago that the fire authority forebode firefighters to work part time
- The delay that would be caused by 'on call' staff to arrive at an incident
- Are you going to carry on pretending that on call are the answer to staffing fire engines?
- The Services inability to manage current crewing levels at whole time and on call stations
- If there is a major fire during the night can sufficient staff be raised in the time an engine is supposed to arrive at fire?
- The Services ability to respond to incidents effectively should be the deciding factor. It would appear that only whole-time stations provide this guarantee.
- The current failures of the On call system
- Needs to be full time. You can't guarantee part time response. Several months ago, 4:22 stations only available. Poor show!
- Part timers don't respond nor are they trained as well as full timers
- The ability of staff to get there in the shortest time, the roads don't always allow for a quick journey.
- Ensuring that its crews are regularly available- if a machine is off the run due to lack of crew ensure that a replacement can be found rather than relocating remaining crew for rest of day to other fire stations or moving 1 pumping appliance back to Warrington whilst also increasing the crew size from a minimum of 4 to 5.
- Ability to recruit on call fire fighters within 5 minutes of the station.
- I don't think making any more cuts will improve fire fighter and community safety.

- No more cuts
- No more cuts, we have had enough
- we do not support any more cuts or reductions to our fire fighters
- Whatever you do you must realise there is no public support or appetite for any further cuts
- No more cuts to our stations and fire fighters
- The cuts have gone too far already so anymore will put firefighters and the public at risk.
- Stop cutting essential full-time fire engines.
- Why is every Cheshire proposal always to cut services, I have never seen a proposal where it is seeking views on upgrading a station or response or investing in front line services. We are all sick to death of the continued cuts.
- More cuts being proposed on a new station that appears was now built on a lie.
- stop the cuts, we have had enough
- Again, proposing cuts, the public are sick of it. This is what our fire service is - fire fighters and fire engines not gimmicks or awards, that's not what we want.
- No more cuts.
- Cuts equate to longer response times - stop making cuts - step up and manage this service or step aside
- Sick of seeing more cuts to my fire brigade yet being asked for more money in tax - where is all the money going?
- No more cuts
- It was sold to us the community that it would be a full-time station, we will not be misled by accepting a change
- The idea for Penketh FS was to cover Warrington & Widnes. Both Warrington & Widnes FS's are now down to one tender each, as this was the principle for the Penketh FS development. That now makes these fire stations, and the people that they serve, more vulnerable. A greater emphasis should therefore be placed on Penketh FS, since it is now pinnacle to the communities of two neighbouring towns. Introducing a 'nucleus duty system' would, other than save money, not deliver the security too which the general public have become accustomed, i.e. when more than one tender was based at Warrington and Widnes. The proposed crewing arrangements at Penketh FS could be the one decision to far. Serious reconsideration needs to be taken in view of this proposal. This is my considered view since the flesh and meat has gone. All that remains is the bone and once that starts getting eaten into!!!
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- No more cuts
- **SICK OF THE CONTINUED CUTS**
- Don't make cuts
- Having good level of staff at all times
- That the staffing is suited to the needs of the area
- Adequate staffing levels to support services
- The station should be staffed to reflect demand. You didn't show any stats regarding the operation. Is the on-call crew effective?
- I don't mind as long as there are enough firefighters available at all times.
- Providing not just an efficient but also an effective service to the community of Penketh and the wider Cheshire community. Crewing arrangements need to be considered with deployment to other areas of Cheshire in mind and not just local arrangements.
- Keep staffed to support nearby stations due to chemical risks.
- Keep staffed. Surrounded by chemical risks.
- Ensure staffing levels are adequate and a minimum of 5 crew members on each appliance

- Have the appropriate cover which does not compromise public safety in favour of saving money, especially when CFRS sits on 30 million in the bank.
- Consider the support needed for incidents in Warrington Runcorn Widnes. Lots of chemical plants around here.
- Impact on responding to incidents around the country
- The proximity to Widnes/Halton border and the possibility that will be in Merseyside in the future.
- Demand for services, population size and proximity of other crewed stations
- Response times
- Not sure as not known to me but I would hope the review ensures fire crews are able to reach fires etc. in time
- Is there enough people/fire crew on duty?
- Ensure cover is not jeopardised.
- This side of Warrington is being developed, omega, houses & factories also new bridge is close, good cover is important also chapelford has seen massive development
- distributions of stations to deal with current and planned traffic demands
- Maintain sufficient manpower to respond in a prompt manner.
- The increase in population in the area will mean changes for all of us and any crewing arrangements will need to be taken into account, providing there will not be any times when crews will not be available
- Call out times and cover for the area covered by Penketh
- The fact that the road it's on is single file. Surely a further lane would be of more help to get in and out of in an emergency
- staff cover re safety
- Attendance times for emergency incidents and the risk to human life and property damage.
- From what I understand. This would mean only having an on-call fire engine at night. I remember not so long ago reading that we lost a fire engine from Runcorn Widnes a Warrington we had a down grade happening at shift on heath. When I objected to that I got told not to worry as extra fire engine will be put at Penketh. Now for 50% of the time that will take longer as they are at home. And again, if what I have heard is right it might not even have enough fire fighters so won't come anyway. In the previous question I said I fully support laying more in council tax. But to get a worse service which seems to get worse every year. What am I paying more for!!!! If this question is being a vote. Then I am strongly against.
- We the public have been misled. This was green belt land, and built on as it was claimed it was a strategic need, now the chief officer wants to make cuts. Lies.
- Planning was granted due to the strategic importance of this station, has anything changed?
- It appears that the information you gave to residents in Penketh when consulting on the new station were not true, if now less than 12 months of the station opening you are now trying to change the system you recommended to us. This appears to be a way of reducing fire cover and putting the public and your firefighters at greater risk in Penketh, Widnes and Warrington.
- Review the stats for the station over a 3-year period to get a good understanding of call volume then think of changing the cover if required. it's been open less than a year surely whoever thought of the current staffing situation opted for the best plan in the first place its strange you want to review after less than 12 months, maybe review the manager's position who implemented the system?
- It's only just opened why do you have to consider the crewing arrangements already?
- You have only just opened Penketh surely a thorough review went into its crewing arrangements before it opened??
- Crazy wanting to change a new station already
- Sick of the cuts, this is a new station, sold by the chief officer as needed due its strategic location and importance, and it was built on green belt. Now all of a sudden you want to change it?
- This was built on green belt land on the understanding it was a strategic station, yet less than 12 months later you want to change it, residents feel like they have been lied too
- It's a new station, you obviously decided you needed one there so why change it after a year? It makes no sense; the money obviously could have been better spent especially when all you hear is about the cuts that need to be made
- Why have you built a new station and after less than a year of operation started considering reducing effective fire cover?



- Why you deemed the necessity to build a new station and immediately cut the crewing arrangement. Brings into question the validity and entire value for money of the business case used to justify building the new station
- Consider the costings
- shift patterns
- In an ideal world, a whole-time crew would also cover night time. However, current arrangements suit budget constraints.
- The inability for crewing to be managed effectively across the service
- 12hr shifts seem to long particularly if there is an incident early on the shift & then return to station & maybe called out later. Is it possible to have 8 hour shifts and more crew?
- Attendance times
- faster response time
- at the moment the plan to review the arrangements seems to be in order
- night time staffing
- sounds ok to me
- An allocation of a special appliance to cover north of the County.
- Bare minimum crewing of all appliances needs to be looked at. Better crewing of all existing vehicles would be great and enable front line fire fighters to respond to incidents better.

### **Review of Wilmslow Fire Station (340 comments total)**

- Do not consider on call firefighters as a replacement for whole time. You cannot recruit enough and those you have do not provide sufficient cover
- As above do not consider on call firefighters as a replacement for whole time. You cannot recruit enough and those you have do not provide sufficient cover
- I would like you to ensure there is enough firefighters available at all times.
- Ensure fire cover is guaranteed.
- Wilmslow does not work with the present model as always unavailable at night.
- Surprised this has not been kept as full time. Airport and flights a major risk. Difficulty in recruiting and holding on to on call staff. The area is too well off. GMCFS FRS REGULARLY INTO CHESHIRE ATTENDING JOBS.
- It hasn't worked properly since the changes years ago.
- Look at the true picture of availability, not the figures obtained by the drafting in of personnel or appliances from other areas.
- Downgrading Wilmslow to Nucleus (on call at night and at weekends) was a massive mistake. The level of additional resources required to maintain a pump is just crazy. It is not reasonable or fair to expect staff to keep being detached in either on their own (lone working) or to knock off appliances elsewhere just to prop it up. For heaven's sake just swallow your pride and admit it hasn't worked out and make it a full-time station again. With Macclesfield and Knutsford no longer full-time stations the risk is simply too high to carry on as we are.
- I suggest that relying on retained firemen doing a part time job in a wealthy area like Wilmslow is not sustainable. I understand that the retained system is constantly understaffed since Wilmslow is no longer a full-time station.
- Consider the airport risk. Also, how long can Manchester stations continue to do your work? On call is not viable. Mainly due to affluence of town.
- I was involved in a road traffic collision in Wilmslow and we had to wait 9 minutes for an ambulance but 22 minutes for a fire engine which is shocking. This would never have happened before the station was changed from full time to part timers. Our once great service has been torn apart
- The changes previously made to this station have proved to be totally disastrous, and needs rectifying immediately. As a county we can no longer expect to rely on greater Manchester to prop up our service. Someone needs to be made accountable for the systematic destruction of our once great fire service and heads should roll.
- You promised that the changes made would not have a detrimental effect on the fire cover to Wilmslow. You lied. Now you're propping it up by the Wholetime crews.
- Yes - Firstly completely review and report publicly just how the current on call duty system has been operating, the ability to have a full complement of competent riders available and be wholly transparent in this prior to any further decisions are made in relation to crewing arrangements for this

Station and area. Also report on the recruiting problems around this area for the numbers and caliber of person who may be recruited to become a fire fighter. Also report on the fact that Manchester Airport and other risks in the area have always been reliant on the professionalism of Firefighters and Officers alike who have provided valued service in the past for such risks, consider the qualifications, underpinning knowledge and experience in the past and what exists even now?

- As above in response to your own stats. On call model is not fit for purpose. Encourage on call personnel by offering them shifts alongside wTime personnel. They gain experience and motivation.
- A problem area. It's a well-off town and as such recruitment, not to mention retention of on call personnel is nigh on impossible. Currently very, very dependent on fire cover from neighbouring GMFRS stations. This situation is not sustainable and as such shows no respect for residents either side of the border!
- On call is not working. Area is too affluent to attract recruits. Too much reliance put on GREATER Manchester stations. Would suspect that their ratepayers are not too happy.
- Currently this area relies too much on MANCHESTER crews. NOT acceptable. On call staffing will not work here.
- Again, this has been a total failure and is letting the residents of Wilmslow down, in what must be the area that provides the greatest proportion of tax contributions
- Why not just rely on Manchester fire engines full time as the on call are never available, a terrible decision to downgrade this station years ago
- I believe it's never available but then that's the story of most of our fire service now
- It's never available, maybe all the overpaid officers could provide cover there?
- is it sustainable to keep it staffed with overtime as that is how it has been staffed for 3 years due to lack of good on call availability?
- Get rid of the useless on call system that has never worked since you got rid of 2-2-4 cover. Your fudged stats will show it has worked but only by whole time firefighters drafted in from other stations or on overtime. Hold your hands up and say yes, we made a mistake we need to change this
- Get rid of the on-call night option which hasn't worked since it started and has been propped up by overtime from firefighters either whole time or on call elsewhere so dragging down their availability in the area they are required
- Is there even a station at Wilmslow? Friends in the area say it's never available - another masterstroke by Cheshire fire claiming it to be an improvement
- Total failure
- The night time staffing seems again to be failing on a regular basis, this seems to be a recurring problem countywide but regardless of the facts, the management seems to want to push on with a system that isn't working.
- It's a joke, a failure, yet we poor residents are to cough up more money - for what? A bloody volunteer service? Full time jobs are what we way our taxes for
- The system at Wilmslow has never worked as you have said it would, if it did work then you would not need to keep propping up the on call of an evening with wholetime personnel or appliances. Would it not be in everyone's best interest to admit you got it wrong and it doesn't work?
- Ensure cover is not jeopardised.
- Is it sufficient to have night time cover provided by an on-call crew? consider whether more fire/emergencies occur at night
- Why whole-time crews which are strategically placed are moved to cover the deficiencies in crewing at Wilmslow.
- Total failure - someone should be held accountable for this disastrous mistake
- How can you justify using GMC to cover your inadequate crewing regime?
- The service has struggled for years to provide on call cover at night time at this station. The local residents deserve better.
- Same as above. Why are whole time pumps covering night time deficiencies?
- Does not work. The on call is never available unless it is covered by wholetime/overtime.
- Should never have been downgraded to a volunteer station, terrible decision
- People within the service tell us that the engine is never available - part time cover for full time costs
- It's a complete failure - a disgrace
- Wilmslow is a complete failure, why it has not been remedied is unbelievable
- I think this went retained some years ago and is proving very difficult to manage
- I believe the current crewing arrangements at Wilmslow don't work and never have and to keep the fire engine available you have been paying overtime, again another total waste of money.

- The failure of the current system. Wilmslow's on call is quite often unavailable at night time, meaning that fire engines or firefighters from other stations are required to staff them on an almost daily basis.
- Each locality needs a fire station
- Ask the Fireman
- you will know more than me
- Just make sure that the satellite dish is safe a national heritage
- I don't live in Wilmslow
- Get rid of some top brass and make sure you have enough real people to do the job effectively.
- These surveys make no difference. CFA have already decided what is going to happen
- Reinstate a full 247 crew
- Keep fully crewed. Flightpath and airport risk. Can't hold on to on call staff. Area too affluent. Major current reliance on GMCFS.
- Keep full time. Major airport risk. Cannot recruit part time firefighters. Area too well off for this. GMCFS are always running into this area.
- Airport risks. Unable to raise on call crew. Relying constantly on GMCFS. ENGINE SHOULD BE WHOLE TIME crewed.
- I'd like the firefighters to be available at all times. I'm led to believe a fire engine isn't always available due to the current crewing arrangements.
- This should be a full-time fire station given that there is a lack of guarantees cover across the area, and a reliance on greater Manchester engines,
- Must be returned to fully crew. Airport risk and always having Manchester in to support.
- Needs full time cover due to potential risks at airport. Also too much assistance coming in from Manchester stations' area is too affluent to attract on call staff.
- The on call cannot cover the evenings. Needs to be 24 hr. staffed with whole time
- The current system obviously isn't working, so it need to go back to whole time or a day crewing arrangement with an accommodation block built at the rear of the station.
- Return to full crewing. Close to airport major risk. Looks like it 'should hard to recruit on call crew. Maybe due to wealth of area, nobody wants to be Firefighters.
- Must be whole time
- Airport and flight path risks. Revert to fully crewed. Over reliant on Manchester. Unable to recruit on call staff due to affluence of area.
- Reinstate full time crews
- Return it back to a full-time 24/7 station and be truthful that its present system is not working.
- This should be a full-time station not a part time station.
- I think Wilmslow should go back to whole time cover in the evening instead of on-call.
- Change it back to a whole-time crewing because the availability of on call staff has not been as good as the service had hoped and has had to be supported by staff from other areas of the county
- Must return to full staffing. Airport is big risk. Can't go on relying on Manchester stations for support
- Surprised this is not full time. With the airport and fact that GMCFS are often coming over border to assist. Quite a well-off area and so difficult to recruit on call staff. Revert to full time cover.
- Airport is big risk. Area too affluent to support on call crew. GMCFS called in to area too often. Revert to whole time crew.
- Needs to be fully staffed. Over reliance on GM FRS. Also, not acceptable for sometimes full crew and pump from elsewhere to spend full shift there to cover shortages.
- Wil slow fire station should be permanently crewed on a whole time 24/7 staffing system with a minimum of a crew of 5 at all times
- the full-time cover and provision in this area is already threadbare, so it should be a full-time station
- Very close to airport should be fully staffed.
- We have the airport. And lots of flight paths overhead. Need to stand on our own. We rely too much on Manchester fb. Problems recruiting part time FRS, area too well off. Need 24/7 crewing.
- Wilmslow warrants better cover. Too reliant on GM FRS. Well off area will not encourage on call staff. Airport and flight path risks. Put back know to full time. The present situation is very poor. Residents deserve better.
- Airport and overhead flights. Area too well off to recruit and maintain on call staff. Currently over reliant on other stations in the Cheshire sending either staff or whole crew on engine for whole shift! Must revert to fully crewed.
- Airport risks and the regular occasions that Manchester fb cross into Cheshire. This station needs to revert to fully manned.

- Revert to 24//7 full crewing. Major risks in area. Manchester engines currently propping up service in area
- Major airport and flight path risks. Relies too much on Manchester fire service. Needs to be crewed 24/7?
- Airport and flight paths overhead are risk. GMCFS too often in Cheshire. Needs to be staffed 24/7
- Again, the risk of the airport and the aircraft flying over the area warrants a fully crewed engine 24/7. Manchester FB are currently supporting us too often.
- This is a neighbouring station to where we live and for years now we know there have been problems since it was cut from full time to volunteers. It should be turned back into a full-time station
- Airport is big risk here. Crew the station full time.
- Should be staffed 24/7. Gmcfs are constantly travelling into area to support.
- With the airport flight paths etc. Keep it fully staffed 24\_7
- Return to full time. Too much risk not to. Over reliance on GM fire brigade.
- Needs to be staffed all time. Near to airport. Can't depend on GMfrs every time.
- This is a key station. Making it Wholetime again would be a good move.
- Needs a full-time engine. Can't always be using engines from Manchester. The residents deserve better.
- Currently relying too much on Manchester fire stations. Needs full time crew.
- Make it 24/7 as it used to be with full time crews
- Again, why is there a need for a review? Your document needs to be more specific about why it needs reviewing and what you aim to achieve. Is it not working? You promised 24-hour cover in Wilmslow when the station was downgraded years ago, is this no longer the case? so with no detail, make it staffed 24 hours a day with full time fire fighters
- Revert to full time. Relying too much on support from Manchester fire engines.
- Too much reliance on Manchester FRS. Revert to full time.
- No third-party fire cover. Keep it staffed full time
- Again, on call crewing is not a sustainable method of fire cover and again the local people need to be fully aware of fire cover is or on many occasions not available and where that next fire appliance is actually travelling from. Local people need to be given the full truth, not the party line.
- Provide a proper 24/7 Service again please, with properly staffed appliance by men/women on a full-time capacity please.
- Needs to be a fully manned station. Constantly being covered by several Manchester stations.
- Near airport and understand problems signing up new part time crew. GMCFS always sending engines into this area. Make it fully manned 24-7
- Would appear having scrutinised performance stats that it should revert to wholetime
- This must be a full-time crew.
- Seems that you have problems getting on call staff. Could be due to affluence of area. Keep manned 24/7
- Keep fully staffed day and night
- It should return to a fully staffed operational fire station and not the shambles it is now with appliances not being available for long periods of time.
- An affluent area Manchester airport flight paths etc. Needs whole time crew
- Revert to permanent manning. Manchester cannot continually support Cheshire in this area.
- Revert to 24/7. Gmcfs are currently providing YOUR cover!
- Revert to full time. Stop current reliance on GM fire service.
- This needs to be returned to being a full time 24/7 station
- Should be crewed 24/7. The social profile of the area will not attract on-call staff. Also, there is a serious over reliance on GMFRS to provide basic cover in this area. Generally, from stations that used to be part of Cheshire
- This is currently a shambles. Make it a full-time station again.
- A complete and utter failure, never available, my neighbour who is in the fire service tells me it is propped up every weekend by full time staff - it should never have been downgraded in the first place. Make it a full-time station again, and stop relying on Manchester for our engines
- A total failure. Make it a full-time station
- This needs urgently addressing - what will it take, how poor does it need to be before action is taken and this is made a 24/7 full time station.
- If on-call arrangements are failing to provide adequate fire cover 24/7 then wholetime firefighters should be based at this station 24/7 to make it safe for the public.

- An absolute disgrace, a total failure to an area that pays the biggest proportion of income tax. Get it back to a 24/7 station now.
- Full time crew only
- Reinstate 24 hrs. Whole time cover as the system in place clearly isn't working if you are having to prop it up using whole time staff. Admit your wrong
- Wilmslow should revert to whole time crewing 24/7
- Make it full time again and get rid of part timers
- It's a pity it's not manned 24/7
- Should be whole-timed day and night
- As a former fireman at Wilmslow, I feel that Wilmslow Fire Station should have full time cover. The Wilmslow area has grown considerably. The Airport and M6 still need good cover. I would not be happy if I was a resident of Wilmslow.
- Yes, I would like it manned 24/7
- Wilmslow is a total failure. Make it a full-time station again. Sick of see Manchester fire engines having to drive round Wilmslow as we don't have our own engines
- This Station should remain 24 hr. Wholetime staffing.
- Put safety first; 24/7 full crew.
- Yes, full time Fire fighters please with enough cover
- All fire stations should have permanent full-time fire fighters on site
- Ensure that a fire engine is available 24 hours a day. Every day.
- Revert back to 24/7 whole time crews. That way Crewe and Ellesmere Port would be available as designed; in their own station areas not propping up Wilmslow.
- full time fully manned station
- Understand Chester and Ellesmere Port have been on Standby why? Go back to 24/7
- As above make it 24/7. Just in case it's an emergency. Let's not gamble with lives
- Needs a full-time fire crew
- I think it's now time to put it back whole time 24 7 as I've heard it's being covered by whole time so it must need to be whole time
- 24/7 cover with full time fireman
- Your own stats demonstrate failures at Wilmslow in responding to incidents. Revert it back to whole time crewed
- Should go back to whole time crewing. Why are whole time pumps being sent at night to cover deficiencies? Recently only 4 of 22 on call pumps were available, it's a disgrace
- All stations should be 24/7 crewed
- Make it full time
- make sure there are adequate staffing, training, equipment and staff presence 24hrs
- perhaps increase wholetime fire fighters at night shift not just on call
- It should go back to being full time 24/7 for the local community, I am told our cover is being propped up by greater Manchester
- I don't think it currently works so needs reviewing, it needs staff on it 24/7
- Full time due to commitment to supporting MIA
- Wholetime on a full fire engine not in a van
- Make Wilmslow Whole time crewed as CFRS does not have the capacity to incentivise or retain On Call Staff as it has demonstrated.
- return it back to 24/7 wholetime crewing
- The Fire Authority chose to ignore the historical evidence of the inability of the Service to recruit, train, and retain an adequate level of On Call staff at Wilmslow. The reduction of whole time staff has fundamentally weakened the level of fire cover for the area. This has been further aggravated by failing to recognise or choosing to ignore as inconvenient evidence the demands on the station for supporting surrounding stations leaving Wilmslow residents exposed and vulnerable. Reliance on so many occasions on a first response from Poynton, GMC, and Knutsford etc. is an inadequate provision due to time of response to a call and travel time to the Wilmslow area. An upgrade of cover is urgently needed. The Fire Authority has options but to a lay person it appears to be complacent or indifferent.
- As I understand it, the station is not staffed by full time employees, rather part time, who are not always available. I would like to think that the station should be staffed 24/7, in a full-time capacity.
- It is obvious from the information you have provided that the system that is I think called On Call does not work at any station not least Wilmslow, it should be reverted to full time cover at the earliest

opportunity in order to protect the communities of Cheshire East who pay huge amounts of council tax already yet receive a poorer service than other areas covered by full time stations.

- Make it a full time 24/7 station, it has been an absolute failure, on call never available. You can find money to hoard in reserves, money to increase the number of group managers, money to increase the pay of senior managers, money to unbelievably pay senior managers bonuses, but cannot find the money to provide a fit for purpose fire service.
- Wilmslow needs to be 24/7, the part time model does not work, Manchester engines are seen more than the Wilmslow one.
- Fire Cover 24/7.
- Not keen on on-call but if the stats show the effectiveness of this model of sustainability. I am in agreement of the current arrangement
- part time
- part time
- should be a part time station
- part time station
- part time
- part time
- part time because the airport has its own and there are no factories and houses at low risk
- Maintain the status quo and don't down grade staffing arrangements
- Sounds adequate to me
- In an ideal world, a wholtime crew would also cover night time. However, current arrangements suit budget constraints.
- proximity to motorway and major roads, please keep existing crewing arrangements
- Don't Change What Isn't Broken
- very well pleased
- Again, dependent on response time and number of call outs - this seems fine.
- No more cuts, we have had enough
- The cuts have gone too far already so anymore will put firefighters and the public at risk.
- Don't make cuts
- More consultancy to know view of others
- **HAVING SUFFICIENT STAFF ON DUTY**
- Keep staff fully trained and available especially during this cold winter
- There needs to be another fire station near the Crewe Area
- Fitness for purpose well trained fire crew
- As above. to ensure safe levels of staffing and that everyone is treated equally and fairly
- Qualified personnel. Equipment in top condition
- Yes, more firefighters please. Do not cut these stations.
- Safety of firefighters and us, the public, your clients must come before penny pinching.
- Yes, the suitability and sustainability of crewing arrangements, something that has eluded cfrs in the past.
- You need to reduce attending to incidents such as calls for rescuing pet animals as these can be dealt with volunteers rather than fire brigade
- Providing not just an efficient but also an effective service to the community of Wilmslow and the wider Cheshire community. Crewing arrangements need to be considered with deployment to other areas of Cheshire in mind and not just local arrangements.
- Yes. The safety of the community you serve, response times, and the numbers of firefighters available.
- I'm surprised that the residents are not up in arms. It's in Cheshire and yet gets most of its fire cover from Manchester.
- Have the appropriate cover which does not compromise public safety in favour of saving money, especially when CFRS sits on 30 million in the bank.
- As above. You also have a duplicitous attitude to trading and qualifications when it comes to part time firefighters. Long serving part timers (some) are not deemed suitable for full time contracts bit are still allowed to serve as part time. I believe the HOSE would take a dim view of this policy.
- No concerns
- Wilmslow fire station - I am far from it but it is a big BUT why we question crewing we need emergency COVER!

- Need to ensure that the 'on call' staff are able to respond relatively early within the area covered/Wilmslow area
- Consider public safety over personal agendas and money saving.
- Why do Manchester get paid to cover Wilmslow?
- Keep up fire stations
- shift patterns
- Service demand is not just firefighting but education, working with other agencies in the area, e.g. working with other crews at Manchester airport, the motorway network: the M56 unfortunately, has many RTCs
- That if Wilmslow justifies a fire station, it is fit for purpose, in every aspect. I like the shared public services 'hub' idea, and would support that option
- Response times
- As above, it's a busy town and near the airport, lives are more important than saving money
- Ensure the safety of Wilmslow residents
- Crewing system change
- Is there enough people/fire crew on duty?
- no - trust your decision
- I think it is very important that the service is well funded and maintained
- they offer a high-quality service and for people unable to move around came in and checked my alarms and gave electrical advice which we did immediately
- 12hr shifts seem to long particularly if there is an incident early on the shift & then return to station & maybe called out later. Is it possible to have 8 hour shifts and more crew?
- economy Vs safety
- It is near a major airport!
- It's a busy station which shouldn't be closed down. The fire service in east Cheshire is basically all on call minutes matter,
- Wilmslow should have its fire station sustained
- continue to review crewing arrangements
- Ensure adequate on call staff are readily available. Combine admin staff with police and ambulance to reduce costs
- it is reassuring to have a fire station in Wilmslow that is staffed
- level of call outs between 7pm-7am particularly winter road traffic accidents
- Attendance times
- I don't think it wise to reduce the crewing at Wilmslow to less than at present, it would not be fair on the residents
- Let me guess is it going to be part time? That's your answer to everything
- local employment
- How about getting a Cheshire appliance to service the people of Wilmslow, all we ever see are Manchester fire brigade appliances
- agree with proposal
- INVEST IN THE FRONT LINE
- Their fire service in Cheshire East in the North of the County has been paired to the bone. The authority should be considering more provision for this area due to the growth in housing numbers.
- staff cover re safety
- No as long as the area is sufficiently covered in these times of terrorism
- Attendance times for emergency incidents and the risk to human life and property damage
- Don't reduce the support
- Bearing in mind the sheer amount of cross border support you receive from GMF&RS in the Wilmslow area I find it amazing you want to cut your own service even further. Why should GM residents pay for your cuts?
- Don't know enough to comment but guess if it's a reduction they will feel the same as me
- The lack of a full-time station in this part of Cheshire and the growing population, including massive plans for housing
- Ability to recruit on call fire fighters within 5 minutes of the station.

### **Review of the third aerial appliance (335 comments total)**

- Availability

- Availability east and west of County
- Review how turn out times in Cheshire east will be affected as that is where will suffer if you remove that aerial. Is property in Cheshire east not as important as the rest of Cheshire?
- Response times
- The ALP at Chester is used frequently due to the nature of calls in its catchment. The ALP at Lymm not so much. The ALP at Macclesfield, if not mobilised often and can be covered by Lymm's ALP, should be taken away.
- Increase capacity
- How long will it take to get one to east Cheshire if it's needed, if another Bosley mill happens then what?
- Will you have staff to crew it?
- If The "East" Aerial goes then the "west" aerial will simply cover the deficiencies.
- ensure latest technology is used
- The sort of roads and traffic it will need to get through.
- Over all cover
- Attendance times for emergency incidents and the risk to human life and property damage
- Ensuring that it can attend incidents on its own fire ground without affecting the availability of Macclesfield's other appliances
- This needs to be monitored for its efficiency
- Cost and relative availability
- Is it really required?
- Are they used often enough to justify three?
- cost only
- cost
- cost
- Is it needed?
- with such a small county and the correct location of the existing two do we really require a third
- Not sure about this
- Do you mean helicopter?
- Measure the costs and benefits properly without manipulating your statistics to give the answer that saves money.
- Yes. The safety of the community you serve, response times, and the numbers of firefighters available. AND the safety of your firefighters.
- I am not fully aware of all the facts relating to Aerial Appliances: Chester & Warrington require these appliances 100% if you require a 3rd due to travel distance (Macclesfield area) then you need to reflect the facts
- Don't consider there are enough anyway
- The move from 4 such appliances (including water tower at E Port was a serious degrading of a well-executed County wide plan for large and unusual incidents.
- I am not what is aerial appliance
- Not sure what an aerial appliance is?? Drone?? Helicopter?
- Not enough info on this question
- What is an aerial appliance? A plane? A ladder on a fire engine?
- unsure
- Unsure
- I don't understand the question
- Ask the Fireman
- Improve equipment whenever machinery doesn't meet the requirements of the 21st century
- public awareness should be a priority
- If it was once considered necessary and relevant, how can it not be considered exactly the same today?
- confident you know better than myself
- not got technical knowledge to comment
- The third" Seriously, has no one reviewed the grammar in this survey? How can the East of the County be left without aerial cover?
- How much did the Building of Powey Lane remove from the budget? Money that could have financed the new Aerial Appliance
- Grammar for above question!



- Don't know what it is
- The need of two pumps at Chester
- got to be a good move
- your professionals I'm sure you don't need my advice
- keep up to date
- nothing immediately springs to mind
- Make sure you can get to the rear of the house due to the car port steel gates being locked and 12ft high hedge surrounding garden.
- What is an aerial appliance?
- You're the experts stop asking none qualified people to do your jobs
- The aerial appliances used in the UK are different than the apparatus I am use to. I will trust your discretion on the equipment you need.
- support this
- Your morals
- These surveys make no difference. CFA have already decided what is going to happen
- Future proposals for high density high rise developments
- After Grenfell and the other incident in Manchester why are we getting rid of life saving vehicles
- Where will the equipment and vehicle come from if there is a tower block fire - I understand the head of delivery manager has reduced the crewing of this vehicle to only 1 person making the engine effectively useless, and compromising the safety of your staff? Quite frankly it's a shamble.
- Grenfell Towers was a hard lesson for London and something similar happening in a Cheshire high rise could be catastrophic for the Cheshire Fire Authority,
- Someone wants sacking for even dating to propose removing this special bit of equipment following Grenfell. And what will Cheshire east do- that's right - be expected to wait longer.
- Yes, get rid of all domestic high-rise buildings first before you condemn people living in them.
- Are you really proposing this after the Grenfell fire?
- I presume we don't have any residential tower blocks in Cheshire then?
- Ludicrous- what about tower block fires
- I am astounded this is even on the agenda as a serious proposal following Grenfell.
- Has Cheshire's hi rise risk diminished at all, has working at height regs been changed.
- Studies of potential requirements for current and future high-rise building possibilities need to be undertaken and agreed with county planning chiefs
- No of high rise buildings in area
- Look at Grenfell for goodness sake. Sack the person who has even proposed this review
- Fires in tall buildings
- "Grenfell Towers"!!
- Hope to god we don't have another Grenfell
- Just look at Grenfell for goodness sake
- Look at the recent Grenfell fire. Absurd you are even considering this.
- What If we have a Grenfell
- the height will enable it to reach multi storey buildings
- the number of high rise buildings being built in Cheshire
- Keep it and make it guaranteed 24/7 availability. This machine saves lives managers need to wake up and smell the coffee Grenfell should have ensured this
- Maintain this fully crewed. Not too many of these. Cheshire East big area.
- It should be manned by full time firefighters as only they have the time to keep up the skills required, on call staff cannot be expected to acquire and maintain the skills for such complicated and dangerous equipment
- Just keep it, and keep it whole time, with two the risk is too great to have only one available
- A third aerial appliance within the county should remain and all aerial appliances should be staffed on a whole time 24/7 system
- How about you primary man them all three?
- This must be replaced and kept on the run with a full-time crew
- It should reflect the risks in the county, be staffed in the county and stationed somewhere where the staffing levels are sufficient for it to be available 24 hours a day all year.
- Yes, move one of the full time staffed ones into Cheshire east
- Well its only crewed part time so doubt it's even available like the rest of the part time pumps. more work for the full-time fire fighters

- 24/7 availability not separate alternate crewing
- Shouldn't be staffed by on call needs to be available without delay
- Got it and staff it with full time firefighters
- It must be kept available and staffed 24/7 along with the other two aerials.
- if it's working and that's fully manned
- It's the only one in Cheshire East so should remain, unfortunately I'm told this appliance is rarely available during the day as it is staffed by the on call, wouldn't it be better to have your full-time firefighters staff it so that you can ensure it is always available especially after the recent incident in London
- "The our"? Making sure it's properly manned with fully qualified personnel rather than RDS staff. Equally positioned within the county to respond in a realistic time.
- It should be primary manned
- Keeping the awful fire at Grenfell in mind, I firmly believe that any review into the 3rd aerial, needs to address location and arrival time, within the county. I find the reference to the 3rd aerial misleading, as I feel there is a real need for one on this side of Cheshire, having one in Chester and Lymm is no good for the residents and businesses of Cheshire East; a 3rd aerial also requires full time availability, not on an ad-hoc part time as it is currently. Pay for one for 100% availability.
- This appliance should be reverted to full time availability and not removed at all.
- Make it fulltime 24/, just look at Grenfell. You can find money to hoard in reserves, money to increase the number of group managers, money to increase the pay of senior managers, money to unbelievably pay senior managers bonuses, but cannot find the money to provide a fit for purpose fire service.
- There appears to be no aerial appliance to cover the south of Cheshire
- crew
- Crewe/Chester
- place at Crewe
- at Crewe or Chester
- crew
- crew
- Crew
- It is already deployed at Macclesfield - should it be moved elsewhere, is Macclesfield industry covered?
- Keep the appliance in a central site.
- Keep it in a central location
- Ensure it's central and able to get to all areas as quick as possible.
- Is the use of these appliances adequate? Looking at past usage could they be better deployed from other sites?
- base it in a central position of the population
- where tall buildings are located
- could this appliance be moved to Widnes because we have a spare bay
- Make it central to where it's needed/could be needed the most. Lots of new developments happening all over Cheshire, taking into consideration the locality of high rise buildings, that like Grenfell Tower, is an accident waiting to happen
- Locate the third aerial appliance at Knutsford FS. This FS is positioned close to the motorway infrastructure of the whole area.
- Locate the third aerial appliance at Knutsford FS. This FS is positioned close to the motorway infrastructure of the whole area.
- We need to keep it. move to a more central location so it is accessible to all the county
- I think it needs to be in west Cheshire
- Crewe is located centrally right next to major transport links with numerous high-rise buildings close by. Also, with hs2 coming it may be a good base
- It should be at Crewe as it has such a large population.
- Do not reduce the number of appliances and do not rely on other brigades providing them they are also cutting
- You need to have sufficient and suitable resources to deal with all credible scenarios. Do not rely on other brigades providing these critical appliances as they are also cutting their response levels
- I would not like you to get rid of it. I would like it to be available when needed and with enough firefighters.

- Keep a third appliance. If one breaks you will still have two to cover the area. If two are at a large fire at least you will have one left if needed
- What happens when second Ariel breaks down or needs sudden work on it? Leaves only 1 Ariel covering the whole county.
- Keep 3. Otherwise travel distances too long
- Should be maintained at Macclesfield. Only height vehicle let in area.
- Why look to remove it when its crewed by on call - the cheapest part of the workforce, you only pay when it's needed. Plus, it's a waste of the skills the crews have gained.
- Keep it three's not excessive.
- I'd like you to keep the aerial available.
- Don't do it
- Yes. Keep the appliance. It could be the difference between life and death. Look at Grenfell, tragic. This could happen again.
- Surely Cheshire needs and can afford 3 aerials.
- Keep it
- Across the county three platforms would appear to be right. Well-spaced. Allows flexibility if one is off.
- With spread of county why not keep three. Two offer no resilience.
- Cheshire is a large County. Large buildings. 9 in Chester alone. 3 in Ellesmere Port. Let's not have a Grenfell in Cheshire because of penny pinching
- The number of times this appliance has been needed to cover for break downs etc. Plus, the number of times that the specialist crews have been needed to ensure the ongoing operation of the other aerials at prolonged incidents.
- The current three are well spaced. Should be kept.
- Should continue. Only 3 as it is.
- Ensure that it is a usable asset and is available when needed.
- Maintaining and improving current arrangements
- After the amount of flat fires and Grenfell incident I think the aerial appliances are needed.
- Yes, purchase a new third appliance.
- Frankly surprised that Cheshire has only 3. Should be kept available
- Only 3 in county? Should stay at 3.
- Keep it. Three is not excessive given size of county.
- Keep this. It's already paid for. Too far to travel for other two machines.
- Should be kept. Understand only one in East.
- Two platforms would appear to be cutting it fine. What if one was off the run? Keep three.
- Keep it. Three gives more flexibility. If you reduce to two what happens when one goes off.
- Again, more cuts being proposed - the cost to keep this important vehicle must be small as its now on call, so I don't see the sense in saving a few quid to strip out the unitary area of its ALP.
- Would ale this kind that the current 3 is right for whole of Che's hire.
- Vital at large building fires and for rescue. Distance for other has to travel is too great. Should remain crewed at Macclesfield.
- Needed for tall buildings in Cheshire east. Where would the next one come from?
- Keep it. Few and far between.
- Must retain this. Vital on occasion. Not too many available as is
- Should be retained
- Three such engines for the whole of Cheshire doesn't appear over the top provision.
- Keep this machine at Macclesfield. It's the only one for miles.
- This is the big engine at Macclesfield? If so then this needs to be kept as Cheshire east needs it
- Again, this is reducing the response to us Cheshire east residents.
- You don't need it till you need it. how many miles away are the nearest platforms
- Three platforms don't appear too many given distance from other such machines. Keep it crewed.
- Cheshire is a large area. don't consider 3 to be excessive
- Need to have 3 platforms due to county size.
- Two is not sufficient given size of county.
- You mean Macclesfield's? You should consider leaving it. Aren't there a few high-rise buildings in Macclesfield? You want the people on the top floor to wait for Lymm's or Chester's? It's very interesting that you talk about Grenfell Tower in your IRMP on page 12 and I'll agree that fire safety is of the utmost importance. Not at the expense of frontline firefighters and fire appliances. Including aerial appliances that would be particularly useful in fighting a high rise building fire.

- Yes - Grenfell, also a recent fire on 30 Dec 2017 in Manchester and how on earth you replace this facility even for dealing with chimney fires and special service calls - if it not invaluable and not required please publicly explain why? Prior to making any decisions regarding this type of unique appliance, please confirm that all high-rise buildings and other buildings which do not fall under this heading but are higher than a 13.5 metre ladder could reach have no lagging in Cheshire?
- Hang on to this three is not an over provision.
- Keep it fully staffed. How close is the next one?
- Deficiencies in the east of the County will simply be met by decimating Cover in CWAC. Get and keep a third aerial staffed 24/7 not alternate
- Vital on most big fires. Don't think that 3 is over the top. Retain this appliance.
- If Cheshire east don't have an aerial you will simply deploy Chester's Aerial leaving us without one: OUTRAGEOUS
- You are asking some big questions with very little information. How are the members of the public who pay for this service supposed to give an opinion on something with no information? I feel you can't ask for an informed response with the scant information you have published in a 14-page document! I looked at older plans and they were comprehensive documents running to 45 pages, this document reads like a summary! so with no detail, keep all three
- Keep it at 3. Don't think that's too many going by size of county
- Keep it. It's paid for. Three is much error safer than proposed two. What happens when one of the two is away for repair?
- A third aerial based on a contracted-on call based could work as there is less immediate urgency required
- Three is not excessive given size of area.
- Invest in a 3rd, to fully compliment the real need to properly protect the public, property and firefighters too!
- That Cheshire is not immune from potential disaster. Who will take corporate responsibility for the disastrous decisions being made? to remove this appliance will be to court such a situation
- A vital resource. Not enough of these.
- Greenwell proved necessity of aerials
- 3 doesn't seem excessive. County is too big for just 2. What if one is away for repair?
- Nonsense to consider removing this. Where' the nearest?
- The HP at Macclesfield is necessary for the East of the county. If is withdrawn the travel distances for an alternative machine are prohibitive. Also, what do we do when one of the other two is unavailable; we're then down to one!
- Needed. What is the alternative for EAST of Cheshire?
- Would it cover Chester in an emergency? If so keep it so Chester's Aerial doesn't go East
- Hang on to this. Enables fire crews to work safely at height. Where's the next nearest?
- Keep it. It's the only one in Cheshire east. Without it other areas would become depleted when responding over greater distances.
- Maintain this vehicle. TWO such machines are not adequate. WHAT happens if one is away for repair, you'd then be down to one.
- It's a vital resource. Reducing to two totally undermines resilience.
- Yes, how about buying and upgrading our current fleet - no to reductions or cuts.
- This resource must be maintained. Effective high-rise cover for the East is vital. Also, if one of the two other aerials are not available there is no resilience in this regard. The appliance is paid for. Just maintain it!
- yes, think about how important it is to have this appliance following the Grenfell fire
- Cheshire east needs this engine, where is the alternative and how long will it take.
- Yes, make it available for the communities of Cheshire east.
- Don't get rid of it
- Keep it
- It will be necessary for the 3rd aerial appliance will to adding to the areas within Cheshire
- Keep as reserve
- We should keep it otherwise no aerial cover in eastern Cheshire (where there are many high-rise buildings)
- Yes, we should keep this fire engine at Macclesfield look what happened at Bosley this fire engine proved its worth.

- Surely the aerial appliances need to be strategically placed through the region to enable response times to be met and by cutting the numbers from 3 to 2 will have a big impact on that.
- Given the tragedy at Bosley, then replace the aerial appliance at Macclesfield if required
- YES - keep it readily available
- The aerial appliance should stay at Macclesfield. There are still old factory sites and high-rise blocks of flats.
- Are you mad, all the tower blocks across Cheshire and you propose removing this?
- Keep it at Macclesfield
- I think you should keep it
- This appliance should remain.
- Essential.
- keep it
- Maintain the third aerial appliance in light of the Grenfell fire, look at a taller appliance to increase resilience.
- keep it in service - trust your decision
- CFRS need 3 Aerials given the size of the County and the distribution of high rises
- keep it, it is an essential resource that could save lives
- I live in Bollington where we have a fire station which you do not mention. We have too many old properties so this should be kept as an aerial appliance at least in Macclesfield would be good.
- Macclesfield deserves to keep this appliance as it is in a vital location and the connecting roads for bringing one into the area are poor!
- Aerial appliances should be a minimum of two with a third for reserve.
- Keep as many aerial appliances as possible
- Need to keep it
- Yes, after Grenfell we need this type of engine to protect our residents in tower blocks
- This is an important addition to the service
- Don't leave the Fire Authority open to criticism. Keep the East aerial appliance. It's essential, ask London
- Losing it would expose the East of the County!!!
- Aerial appliances are essential for firefighting remotely and rescues at height.
- After recent events down in London I think this is a no brainer you need it
- Yes, keep it
- Grenfell. If there's no aerial cover east of County it must come from west leaving us exposed
- Yes. Grenfell tragedy demonstrated requirement to have Aerial app available. The East O County would be devoid of aerial Cover under proposals.
- It should remain available
- It needs to be kept, especially when the other aerial appliances from Chester and Lymm are alternately crewed.
- I think you need to think carefully before removing the third aerial appliance from your inventory. It's a long way from where the other two are based and there's a lot of high buildings in South and East Cheshire that may need one.
- We should have these for tower block safety
- Look at Grenfell - to even consider reducing this capability is incompetent and immoral
- Look at the recent Grenfell fire - do senior managers with the fire and rescue service have a moral compass to stand up to this government
- Just look at Grenfell, it would be ludicrous to remove this engine
- Look at the Grenfell fire, we need to keep this engine
- LOOK AT GRENFELL - KEEP IT
- In the light of the Grenfell disaster we need to have these appliances.
- After the recent tragedy at Grenfell towers I think it is a must
- When I see big fires I always see more than one or two aerial appliances, if another big fire happened who would cover it if it was gotten rid of that was local and in Cheshire?
- Not sure what is meant by third aerial appliance however I am assuming that it is equipment used for higher rise buildings. If so, I feel that it is imperative that all equipment is up to date and available for use by all when and if necessary. It is better to have the equipment and not use it then to need it and not have it.
- Yes, I think this is needed as more and more flats are being built and you may need it if there was more than one serious fire.

- CFO Cotton may find herself under extreme scrutiny for not having adequate aerial appliances available at Grenfell Towers. Do not let Cheshire Fire and Rescue expose itself to such scrutiny. Especially at The East of the County
- Aerial appliances are essential these days if response to all areas is to be as fast as possible. They are as important in built up as rural areas.
- a third appliance is required
- The third aerial appliance should not be seen as a 'luxury' item and more as a valuable asset in maintaining the resilience and operational flexibility of the service. The service should ensure a cost effective, efficient arrangement is put in place.
- Don't ever reduce men or machinery
- 1 aerial at Lymm, the other at Chester and both on an alternate crewing system. A 3rd aerial is crucial to ensure that an aerial is available constantly to provide cover. This is especially important following the Grenfell fire.
- If it's needed then it should be got. The 3 should be stationed across the county to ensure rapid deployment to incidents.
- Only seeing recent fires not just in London but on the news and paper. You always seem to have an aerial there. It shocks me that we might only have two for the whole of Cheshire
- Buy a new one, Grenfell should be worthwhile justification.
- Ensuring one can be available within a reasonable time and also resilience when they are being serviced or fixed
- No more cuts
- Again, I would not support any further cuts
- No more cuts we have had enough
- we do not know what this is or what it means, but again, we do not support any more cuts or reductions to our fire fighters
- The cuts have gone too far already so anymore will put firefighters and the public at risk.
- Don't make cuts

**Are there any factors that you would like us to consider when developing options to potentially build new, replacement stations in Chester, Crewe, Ellesmere Port and Warrington? (416 comments total)**

Following a request by a Fire Authority Member, references to either the review of duty systems for the second fire engine at Crewe or Ellesmere Port have been included within this section as individual groupings, along with more general comments that refer to the same topic. For reference, comments relating to transferring the second pump at Chester to become the Powey Lane pump have also been included separately.

**Crewe specific comments**

- Crewe should definitely maintain 2 full time pumps. We only have the DC1 system in Cheshire east which ended up shafting us on call as we were never involved in the talks even though it had massive implications for us.
- Do not downgrade Crewe - you are forgetting the HS2 programme, extra housing, increased population and risk
- Crewe needs its 2 full time engines as the fire cover and number of engines in Cheshire east is so poor. We have had enough of being asked to pay more each year only to get less for our taxes.
- Re CREWE, it is far more important to me to have TWO FULL TIME 24/7 Fire Engines available rather than a new Fire Station. I cannot comment on the others. I am know in detail about CREWE!
- As long as it supports the current level of full time manned fire engines, Crewe fire station is currently in a busy area of town
- I am strongly opposed to your plans to reduce staffing arrangements in Crewe to only one fully 24/7 pump and retained services for the second pump. In my opinion, your plans put the lives of local residents at risk. The proportion of funding from Cheshire East is not proportionately located back to Cheshire East by Fire and Rescue service.
- Crewe station really needs to keep its second full time engine, Crewe is an industrial town and expanding and is very close to the motorway. it could be better located as it's in a very busy spot
- With regards to Crewe, the plans to you remove the second pump and down grade the fire station at Crewe would appear to contradict the above point made.

- Yes - regarding Crewe. I would be supportive of and would urge a new Fire Station to be constructed in Crewe. However, I would implore all those involved in making decisions NOT to downgrade either of the pumps at Crewe Fire Station. It is imperative that the two engines in Crewe retain their full time 24/7 firefighter cover.
- Keep the second pump at Crewe
- Keep the 2nd appliance full time a Crewe as Crewe fire station is the only wholetime station in Cheshire East
- Do not remove the second whole time pump from Crewe. There are more houses, hs2 is coming and retained can't cover properly. Response time won't be 3.5 minutes as the limit is 5 min and from experience I know the pump won't leave the station as quick as you say. We will potentially have 4 fire fighters with much delayed back up responding to incidents. Where is the health and safety?
- All fire stations should have permanent full-time fire fighters on site at all times please for safety of community and firefighters keep the current levels don't cut them. In Crewe keep the second fire engine staffed with F/timers 24/7
- Crewe Fire Station due to its geographic location should be a fully manned station at all times.
- Yes, what is happening to Crewe's 2nd appliance, the town is growing at a fast rate and we should not be reducing the cover or response times to incidents.
- When considering Crewe would like you to assume there will be two engines staffed 24 hours by full time staff.
- I believe Crewe station should keep two whole time appliances. Having worked as a firefighter for 30 yrs. (West Yorkshire) I know how quickly fire can spread, and the importance of having a quick response. Also, as well as having a quick response, you need to have sufficient resources to safely manage the incident. With one appliance this is not possible. Using a day crewed system on the second appliance would add at least 5 mins to the attendance time. Also, the surrounding stations Alsager, Sandbach, Nantwich, are all retained stations which would delay an immediate response. For these reasons I strongly oppose any downgrading of fire cover in Crewe
- The staffing of Crewe fire station is a huge concern. We have more residents in Crewe than when the initial IRMP report was done in 2013, we have more business units, a lot more HMO (Houses of Multiple Occupancy) 36,000 new homes have planning permission and HS2 is on its way! Not to mention the M6 corridor and all the red routes in the area, including a new network of roads to be added. I think relying on retained firefighters with the inevitable increased population will just put more people at risk by not having a full-time staff. Please reassess the reasons and safety issues for implementing a retained staff, there has been problems across the county in recruitment and retention of retained firefighters
- The rapid expansion of Crewe suggests strongly that a smaller station with less engines could be potentially a dangerous decision. Please ensure we retain current coverage at a minimum
- Crewe cannot rely on retained fire fighters. Apart from the massive expansion plans for Crewe (that Cheshire East Council started consultation on today) there are already issues with the availability of suitable people who live within 5 minutes of the fire station. At present five minutes from Crewe consists of mostly commercial and railway, with housing split between mostly elderly on one side and mostly low income, working long hours on the other. None of the new homes will be any closer and moving the fire station is unlikely to make it any better unless you can work out how to put it in the middle of a housing estate designed for people of the right fitness levels with time to spare.
- At Crewe in view of its location near the M6, HS2 and the and major developments in the area, we need to retain two full time engines. If one was crewed by retained firemen then people will be in danger
- The location in Crewe needs to consider the traffic issues especially with the planned closures of roads and bridges. Crewe should also keep 2 full time staffed fire engines because the population of the town is growing quickly, there are frequent accidents on the smart motorway section of the M6, any incident causes immediate grid lock which means delays in attendance times and also means on call firefighters cannot attend quickly enough.
- As with all forward planning you have to second guess what Cheshire will look like in the future. Thousands of houses are planned to be built employment for 40000 people IF Hs2 is to be believed. Crewe was built for trains but full of cars restricted by rail bridges. I do have concerns about response times especially if Crewe fire station is to be reduced to one Full time engine. I appreciate that costs are restrictive but if Crewe is to have a population explosion/industry/schools/ infrastructure. Provision should be surely increased in the long term not reduced.
- The existing second engine in Crewe needs to remain full time and firefighters full time jobs in Crewe need protecting.

- Priority should be given to maintaining the current provision at Crewe (2 appliances manned on a 24/7 basis) and to protecting the FTE number of whole-time firefighters in the county.
- Crewe has to be saved, as nearly all the engines in Cheshire east are retained
- 2 full time engines at Crewe. it is the LARGEST area to cover including the M6
- go back to two fire engines at Crewe as Crewe is getting bigger with all the new houses that Cheshire east is letting being built
- Crewe needs to keep its current level of manning and fire engines, to support the local area. Cost cutting should be done at higher levels and not front-line services which keep residents safe.
- The Crewe station must be staffed at its current level and the same amount of vehicles
- Please don't reduce hours or appliances in Crewe, the town is growing and there will be further demands on services with HS2
- Disregard this plan - particularly Crewe with the impending arrival of HS2 your proposal is totally hypocritical - or have you forgotten about HS2?

### **Ellesmere Port specific comments**

- Crewing levels. As a resident of Ellesmere Port, my town is expanding at an almost exponential rate. I would not wish to see a new station built with a reduction in WHOLE TIME cover. The amount of appliances and crew should be increased.

### **Comments referring to both Crewe and Ellesmere Port**

- The local risks are far too great for any of these to have less than two whole time pumps. Chester has major life risk and heritage. Crewe has vast area of Cheshire East and Eport has seven COMAH sites listed on community risk register.
- I have read with horror the plans to downgrade the engines at Crewe and Ellesmere Port, this is not acceptable. Cheshire fire seems to be in the press every week, incidents injuries and deaths, so I believe it to be dangerous to further reduce the numbers of full time staff
- If new stations are built to replace current sites at Chester Ellesmere Port Crewe and Warrington should have a minimum of 2 whole time appliances crewed with a full-time crew of a minimum of 5 crew members 24/7
- All of these stations need full time people as they are in our biggest towns with the biggest risks, Crewe and Ellesmere Port need to engines and the reliance on part time volunteers needs to stop.
- Crewe and Ellesmere Port should have 2 full time engines
- Need updated stations they are looking tired - and Crewe and Ellesmere port should keep its two full time engines
- Crewe and Ellesmere Port should have 2 full time pumps
- Crewe and Ellesmere port must remain staffed by full time fire fighters the cuts have gone too far
- Crewe and Ellesmere Port should keep its second appliances as full time. The current response model is a farce, on call never available. You can find money to hoard in reserves, money to increase the number of group managers, money to increase the pay of senior managers, money to unbelievably pay senior managers bonuses, but cannot find the money to provide a fit for purpose fire service.

### **Comments referring to Chester or Powey Lane**

- I am very happy with the Chester fire and rescue office
- yes, consider to build & develop Chester & eport
- A fire station has been built in the edge of the county which is constantly returning to Chester the station it was taken from.
- Response times need to be tightened up. Less on call more whole time. 2 pumps in Chester after the fatal flat fire on Christmas Eve. Has exposed the need for 2 pumps.
- There have been plans to redevelop Chester for the last 20 years, yet the old station remains, this need addressing. The current location is ideal for most areas of the city but the crewing levels should increase back to, 2 whole time appliances.
- In hindsight; you should never have wasted money on Powey Lane. Then you could have used that money to refurbish those existing stations.
- Chester is a totally separate issue and this needs to be reflected in considering options: Chester is the ""Destination"" for visitors to Cheshire, whether these visitors are from the continent or UK.



Councilors, MP's, & residents must be made aware that only one fire appliance is available in the City and the consequences of damage to Chester City Centre would be devastating for the City and Cheshire alike. 100's of 1000's of visitors arrive and stay in the City. The safety of all visitors and residents needs to be revised. English Heritage needs to be made aware of the possibility of losing a large part of this historical city. Fire safety can only do so much, weight of firefighting is a real need. As to building other fire stations across the County, this issue needs to reflect modernisation of the service as many of the fire stations mentioned are too big, too old and expensive to run, sand many are possibly in the wrong location after huge house building over the years has changed the demographic of the towns

- Chester - REINSTATE the second appliance without delay.
- Why rush the building of Chester's Stn. At the cost of £5 Million how much time would it take to recoup that money via the inefficient current station. The station may be old but it's perfectly located and has capacity to get its 2nd Fire Engine back.
- Keep the Stations where the risk is. Powey Lane demonstrates the Poor judgement in determining the location of a new Station. 6 bays = 5 empty justify that.
- As a Chester resident and mindful of the recent Fire death I want a Station built within the area most at risk, guessing where it is now. Equally a Station that facilitates 2 Fire Engines, Aerial Platform and boat.
- A new building at Chester must be on the same site. It's been proven over many years to be in the correct place. It should however house two pumps and an Aerial. The investment in new property across the county should not be regarded as a forward step when operational resources and capability are being drastically reduced to fund it.
- I thought you had at Powey Lane 6 double length bays =12 Fire Engines
- Yes, make Chester new Station capable of having 2 Fire Engines 1x water rescue 1x aerial
- Chester needs to 2 stations
- Chester Fire Station is a large Station with the entire third floor out of use. Also, with proposals of some specialist appliances moving to Powey Lane then less bays are needed. Would there be an operation pump at Chester during the rebuild or would it move elsewhere for the time being?
- The Service justified a massive spend on Powey Lane doubtless it will over spend on any new Stations Proposed
- Chester
- more of an open lay out because Chester is easy to get lost in
- Availability at Chester to maintain two fire engines / crews at all times. Chester is a large heritage site and needs full and proper protection.
- The need of two pumps at Chester

#### **Comments referring to Crewe, Ellesmere Port and Chester/Powey Lane**

- Spend this money to benefit communities on more firemen and engines. Chester is big risk with only one engine. Crewe and the port should keep there's fully crewed 24/7
- Chester needs 2 full time pumps with its massive heritage economy and risks, and we are seeing an increase in fires in the area. Crewe has the only full-time provision at night and at weekends in the whole of Cheshire east, and Ellesmere Port has a massive industrial risk. Removing these two appliances would make it impossible to release staff to training events as these two pumps are used as standby cover to release pumps. All are major towns with high risk and call activity. The full-time response model CANNOT cope with any more reductions in staff or appliances, we no longer feel safe at incidents, we are taking risks with not enough people on the ground, and the delay in getting support crews in attendance is now very noticeable. The on-call crews when they arrive are not experienced or competent. We often talk back on station that it is a matter of time before a fire fighter in Cheshire is killed or seriously injured.
- Chester and Warrington stations look very rated and as you have removed half the staff from these stations they must be larger than necessary. However, the loss of one engine at those stations and proposed loss in Crews and Ellesmere Port is disgraceful, particularly in light of the recent fatal fire in Chester when the fire engine from Chester was not available as it was at an emergency in Tarporley.
- Make Chester's big enough to bring the second fire engine back and house the Firefighters as well. Make Crewe's big enough to house 2 Wholetime fire engines and the required number of Firefighters. Make Ellesmere Port's big enough to house 2 Wholetime fire engines and the required number of Firefighters.

- Chester should have 2 full time pumps, the heritage and tourism are worth millions of pounds. Crewe and Elsmere port should have 2 full time pumps.
- Chester should have two whole time pumping appliances adjacent to the city centre at a location similar to St Anne Street. Ellesmere Port should continue to have two whole time pumping appliances. Crewe should continue to have two whole time pumping appliances

### Remaining comments provided in response to question

- Cardiac Response Scheme plays an important part in SAVING LIVES, I do not know the area so I cannot fully answer the question
- Ambulance and Paramedics should respond to cardiac arrest surely not fire stations, could be a waste of funding. No
- Why have ambulance and fire service attending Cardiac events? Surely the nearest service should attend. No
- Cardiac Response is a brilliant idea, we know of several people who have passed away due to heart attacks. Good idea - up to date but I would hope cover for smaller towns/villages is covered too.
- all stations should have cardiac response facilities
- Chester Fire Station in common with Crewe, Ellesmere Port and Warrington are positioned precisely where they ought to be, amongst the risk. The land is not an asset to be sold but retained for the safety of the community. Cheshire's new 10-minute attendance standard is appalling. This will only get worse. Re Q 9 if Crews are attending Cardiac Incidents then they cannot respond to Fire Calls.
- Is this necessary or can they be located into one station per locality?
- Why waste tax payer's money on new buildings when the current buildings are fit for purpose.
- Don't waste public money.
- Why replace? Why can't the existing ones be improved?
- Yes - If you can cost effectively replace, build new stations which make geographical sense in relation the risk profile, growing community profile then do it, as long as it in no way impinges on providing less of a service, a dangerously understaffed, undertrained, less experienced slower service?
- From what I've seen, you are investing in new stations, that seem on the surface not to be working 10 months after opening them, as you want my opinion on how to change the crewing arrangements. Before you spend any more of my money make sure it works first time.
- Such extravagance in current climate. Get the basics right first.
- Cost benefit analysis. Chester £5 million to build. Land sells for £2 Million. How long would it take to spend 3 million on an inefficient station which has the current potential to be used more effectively. Move tech support press office and personal from Police Hq where it costs to have space to Chester FS where it's FREE. CURRENT STATIONS ARE CORRECTLY LOCATED AMONGST RISK
- Save the money, the old stations have worked well served the public no need to be replaced
- Budget
- 1. Keep status quo, bring back second appliance to city centre. 2. Any new locations should maintain crewing and appliances at current level 3. Locations should not have an impact on attendance times
- what is wrong with upgrading existing sites? If you sell the old buildings & land what will the money be used for?
- Perhaps keep the stations the same and pay the staff more. They risk their lives for people.
- Is this essential as it will take a large portion of the annual budget
- Is that good value for money? Can't you adapt them?
- Is that good value for money? Can't you adapt them?
- is it financially beneficial?
- Cost. The service has adequate fire Stations
- Cost and the need to replace?
- The massive cost involved for a start
- COST
- Are new, replacement FS required at these locations? Regards Chester, Crewe and Ellesmere Port, I wouldn't know but Warrington I do. Why spend money on a well maintained and a perfectly located FS? Haven't the finances spent on building Penketh FS, suffice enough for any further new builds? I can only surmise that the future holds little hope for Widnes FS. New build Penketh FS is in place, and the potential proposals for another new build, but this time Warrington, indicates an uncertain future for Widnes FS.
- Why replace a station that seems perfectly fine as it is?

- Are new, replacement FS required at these locations? Regards Chester, Crewe and Ellesmere Port, I wouldn't know but Warrington I do. Why spend money on a well maintained and a perfectly located FS? Haven't the finances spent on building Penketh FS, suffice enough for any further new builds? I can only surmise that the future holds little hope for Widnes FS. New build Penketh FS is in place, and potential proposal for another new build, but this time Warrington, gives a pointer that for the future, the Widnes community would be served by Penketh FS. Widnes FS would become surplus to requirements. A nice saving for that particular financial year.
- costs
- are these new stations necessary to ensure safety? replace only where necessary- money is short everywhere.
- Money
- Why consider building replacement fire stations when you will have less to spend. Chester fire station is currently situated within close proximity to major historical sites, where would a new station be built?
- Full need assessment
- Don't waste tax payer's money building new stations it would be cheaper to modernize existing stations. And therefore, you would not have to consider raising taxes. People have not got an endless pot of money to keep paying for tax rises for projects that are not needed.
- Why is this necessary
- cost
- It the expense really needed?
- Don't waste money as you always do
- is there a need
- Cost benefit analysis and cost reduction
- The station at Crewe works how it is and is in good repair. Why not leave these stations and give the firefighters a well-deserved rise in pay?
- Ensuring all areas in my constituency of Weaver Vale keep existing services
- That you make them big enough to increase the cover....
- Make them bigger so you can have a bigger service and maybe bigger fire engines because of tall buildings
- Maintain ALL staff
- I think they need to expand them
- expand and make bigger
- expand fire station
- Having retained staff, not an on-call pump.
- where I am I need to be fully covered as I live in the country
- I would just like to have the same protection that you have previously provided.
- Fire cover to maintain the same?
- The size of the area the fire service would be expected to cover
- increase in population and extra cars making a larger area.
- Ensuring sufficient full-time staff rather than 'on call'
- Why waste our money when the current buildings are fit for purpose? Your strategy is flawed and you are failing to deliver a credible fire & rescue service. I suggest you stop this and stand up to the government-imposed cuts. Just look at the increase in fire deaths and failures of other brigades to deal with incipient incidents. It is only a matter of time before you are in the headlines for failing the public of Cheshire
- I want you to consider the negative impact that cuts and mergers have on local communities as there would be less paid staff, more volunteers, less engines and more travel to emergencies. You should not be making any cuts to services.
- Can't see how this helps. Spend funds on frontline staff and engines first. They save lives.
- Yes. How can you think of spending such money when front line services are in need of vital funding? New buildings don't put fires out or save lives.
- Spend money on crews and fire engines NOT buildings
- Spend money elsewhere FIRST. you can't justify underfunding front line then building new stations.
- I have concerns that this should ever be considered ahead of funding front line services such as Firefighters and fire engines.

- Why are you spending the money, if you can make a guaranteed profit that can be invested to maintain improve cover levels then do it, if not then don't. Has the risk significantly changed/moved to warrant their building?
- Can't see how you are considering this when firefighters and engines have been drastically reduced.
- Postpone building new stations until frontline has been properly funded. This is where lives and property can be saved.
- Use the reserves to keep our frontline services guaranteed not building stations to make senior managers look good.
- Use this money to improve frontline. More Firefighters and pumps 24/7. New buildings will not save lives or put fires out.
- Reverse the cuts to these key fire stations
- Surely this proposal is not real. Any available reserves should be used to fund firefighters and fire engines. They put fires out and rescue people!
- Spend money instead on front line resources not new stations. At this current time, I find this difficult to understand.
- Why is money being spent here when we have less Firefighters and fire engines. Wrong priorities.
- A disgrace that this should even be considered when frontline areas need funding. Spend there first. New fire stations don't save lives.
- Monday should not be spent in this way when front line cuts are being made.
- How can this even be considered when your front-line response is suffering from funding cuts?
- Spend the money on staff and fire engines they put the fires out and rescue people, buildings don't.
- This type of expenditure should be on critical front-line services not property.
- Spend on staff and pumps first. Any building programme that takes priority over this is an obscene extravagance. People are at greater risk due to depleted resource.
- Money should directed to front line FFs and engines not new buildings. New stations don't rescue. Or put fires out.
- can't see how money can be spent here when the front line (FFs and engines) is crying out for support. Please solve these critical problems first.
- Front line is being starved of investment. Spend here first, have never heard of a shiny new building saving a life.
- Again, all of these major stations have seen significant cuts to response, and there appears to be little resilience across Cheshire now. How the service can run a large incident these days is of great concern, with fire fighters expected to work for 12 hours straight without a break. The part time model Paul Hancock is so fond of is not working and he should resign.
- New fire station buildings will never save a life or property. Money should be spent on staff to crew the fire engines.
- Please fund more engines and staff before building replacement stations which in themselves save no lives or property.
- Yes. The safety of the community you serve, response times, and the numbers of firefighters available. And again, the safety of your firefighters.
- Fund front line services first.
- Why build. Money should be spent on service delivery.
- Spend money on operational staff and engines. That's where lives can be saved.
- Use funds for more Firefighters and engines. They save lives.
- Spend money on staff and fire engines instead. Don't need new buildings.
- Improve front line services first. Money spent on this would enhance public safety more so than newer buildings.
- Spend money on Firefighters first. It's them and fire engines that do the vital work.
- More units are imperative for the safety of people who live in these areas. Firefighters are under tremendous pressure and it's a crime that available units are being decreased
- Do not build new stations at the of expense of fully crewed and resourced Fire Engines. You already have a situation where a single fire Engine can exit up to 20 minutes for support to arrive with only 4 personnel. The return to a crewing model of 5 is essential for safety. With regard to locations I believe following multiple modelling exercises that the stations are located in the right areas. Any recruits from sales of land needs to ensure the new build and any additional funds left over to be reinvested in front line staff/ resources.
- Spend the money on supporting proper fire cover across Cheshire. New stations don't put fires out or rescue people any better.

- I don't understand how firefighter numbers have been slashed over the past few years, but my council tax I have paid has increased year in year! I feel that Simone has lost touch with reality
- Why? Front line services need resourcing. New fire stations don't make public safer.
- Yes. Improve staffing and engines first.
- Sort the staffing and fire engine problems first. New buildings don't put fires out and save people
- Stop spending money on buildings during this period of austerity and only replace building where absolutely necessary.
- Priorities. Once the front-line response capability has been restored to an acceptable standard then and only then can this programme be considered.
- Spend Reserves on enhancing current poor levels of fire cover first.
- Do all need replacement? Why not spend on maintaining fire engines and crews?
- Spend money on operational resources that actually contribute to saving lives.
- New fire stations don't put fires out. Fully crewed and available fire engines DO!
- Building new stations will not rectify the current situation which shows a serious lack of available operational resources.
- Secure your front-line capabilities FIRST
- All major stations servicing major owns and all have seen cuts, enough is enough. Stop wasting our money, stop asking for more money than cutting our service. I will gladly pay more in tax but ONLY if it's for the front line.
- Rather than build shiny new stations, how about save the money and spend it on making the stations full time with 2 pumps again as we are sick of seeing cuts and the lack of available part timers
- I think you have done enough damage to these areas by reducing the number of appliances and firefighters on said appliances. Yes, the said stations are desperate for upgrade be it new stations or maintenance carried out on them as at present they are a disgrace.
- I think it's great that you are thinking about new stations but all I have read is about is cuts so would it be better spending money on having firefighters in the stations rather than a new station with no firefighters. Would it not be better to upgrade stations when you have the money as a fire station can't save my family's life I need people to save them.
- Make sure no jobs are lost and staff on the front line are safe and our community remains safe with faster response times.
- More waste of money! Use your budgets wisely. Firefighter and public safety should come first, stop cutting your staff.
- Capital cost when you're proposing making more cuts to areas that put Cheshire lives at risk
- GREAT DEVELOPEMENT FOR ALL OUR SAFETY
- Refurb with better and non-rip off contractors
- Why become an investor in people instead?
- What about Halton area?
- No, please go ahead with whatever is planned
- Runcorn
- yes
- Training camps
- Potential for builders to make a lot of money. I don't agree with centralisation of services
- If needed build them
- invite public to view operations to understand how things work and why. This would add value to peoples understanding and appreciation of the service
- do not have redundancies have a number of fire officers in each town centre maybe at some schools twice a year explaining how damaging fire can be.
- maximise the revenue potential for the sale of existing sites
- They are not investment plots to dispose of to recover funds at the expense of attendance times
- Potentially? Your IRMP states that new Stations will be built. Another misleading statement/Question
- You appear to have built Chester's and Ellesmere Ports Stations at Powey Lane
- Build them
- Why Warrington?
- they are all absolutely essential
- no current factors should be sufficient
- no, sure you must consider all options
- I am in favour if we need new or replacement fire stations
- to make sure that all the people in Cheshire are safe

- If you have stations in these areas that CFA own, what are the long-term issues of paying for others to get short term budgetary boosts out of government pots?
- Fully stand with this decision.
- These surveys make no difference. CFA have already decided what is going to happen
- Make them all two pump stations with 247 staff
- No just keep the same fire cover, no more cuts
- I know some of these stations are looking at removing a full-time pump, all of these stations are located in our busiest towns so need at least 2 full time fire engines. This obsession with part time on call fire fighters will be the end of this service.
- Yes, all of these stations are in areas where there is the greatest risks, large towns and busy road and rail networks, so all should have two full time fire engines. The current practice of changing to a volunteer part time model needs to stop as it is not fit for purpose.
- Two full-time appliances should be kept at all the above stations
- They should be staffed at the correct levels, with full time crews and be minimum of two pumps at each.
- All of these stations need be staffed by full time staff and have two pumps to respond to the large risks in these major towns
- All have seen full time fire engines removed I believe, this is frankly disgraceful given they are major towns with large populations and risks. All should have 2 full time pumps
- all need to be full time stations with two full time appliances
- yes, when you build a new station how about sticking in 2 full time pumps in there, to replace all the cuts you have made which has resulted in more deaths, more injuries and longer wait for us the public.
- All should be 24/7 stations with 2 full time pumps. Sick of the cuts
- All deserve full time engines, at least 2, as they are needed. Not all this on call rubbish, Fire service on the cheap is somebody's aim.
- All are providing cover to major towns and should have 2 full time pumps.
- All major towns and stations so need full time not part time engines
- All stations in major towns- should all have 2 full time pumps not this unreliable part time model
- All major stations services large towns, and all should have 2 full time pumps. The lack of fire engines is now frightening
- Staffed by full time firefighters 24/7!
- Future proof to enable two appliances at each station with 5 riders
- All should be full time stations. Why are tax payers being asked to increase our precept every year for a lesser service? And I bet the senior management jobs are not being cut like the fire fighters? That's what the public want - engines and fire fighters, not expensive managers.
- Only that they be fully managed, not just part time
- Retain status quo; put safety first; attendance times are crucial; 24/7 full crews.
- No reduction in the number of fire engines or firefighters
- All should have two full time fire engines - all major towns with industry
- Full time crews
- Support the building of new stations as the stations mentioned are now dilapidated and need replacing. I do think that Crewe because of its location (i.e. surrounded by part time stations) should keep two full time fire engines.
- They should be 24/7 crewed
- So long as fire cover is not downgraded i.e. wholtime cover is provided with stations having 2 pumps to sufficiently deal with life risk incidents.
- All should be full time stations and whilst we are at it why are they all so run down, you must want your highly paid managers in shiny new buildings and our fire fighters in run down stations, is this deliberate as you want to attack organised labour
- All have seen cuts, enough is enough, they should be full time firemen at these stations
- They should all be full time engines, sick of the cuts to my fire service
- Warrington fire station should not be down sized. Warrington is forever growing its population therefore no services should be less- possibly more!
- THEY SHOULD HAVE 2 FUL TIME APPLIANCES
- I think you need to keep both fire engines on call at Crewe
- Protect wholtime crewing arrangements and primary manning of special appliances

- maintain all stations with 2 appliances and wholtime crewing. Re think your poor attendance standard and introduce a standard for the 2nd appliance.
- Don't consolidate - keep fully staffed stations in all areas.
- To ensure that fire cover is not affected by also changing crewing arrangements at all the above stations.
- Two whole time pumps at all three locations
- Must be central and have good road access
- Choose quieter areas to build new fire stations
- Good access points to neighbourhoods. emergency road access
- Location for fast response staffing to reflect our local needs and demand
- Transport infrastructure possible hotspots for accidents, how proactively these could be reduced, impact on response capability
- I think building on green belt land, like you have done at Powey Lane, is wrong. I would like the new stations to stay away from green belt.
- Location and access to Stanlow and Capenhurst in the event of a disaster. EP has very well-trained officers for these locations.
- The station should stay where it is. It's perfect for the city as response times are at a minimum for the risk. Chester is a UNESCO SITE
- consider have the stations been in the wrong location all these years how will turn out times be affected if stations are moved
- Ensure they are located in areas of high risk so they can attend incidents quickly.
- Are these stations in the wrong location?
- If the replacement stations cannot be built in their current places, they should be built as close as possible to where they currently are.
- RISK RELATED LOCATIONS IE NOT ON GREEN BELT LIKE Powey lane
- The siting of the stations need to consider both the access for appliances to the highway/road system as well as the access for on-call fire fighters to get to the station in the required time. The roads are getting busier with the thousands of additional cars resulting from the current spate of massive development, esp. in the south of Cheshire East. Careful consideration of this additional traffic needs to be a factor in any new station site location.
- resident numbers in these areas
- Easy road access to all areas. More info to traffic users on how to respond when in front of red/blue emergency vehicle. Public consultation
- redo Chester & Crewe for more parking spaces
- places to park. also expand the fire station
- Locations and Response times
- Would attendance times be affected by relocating stations
- The Fire Station in Chester must remain close to the City centre.
- Need to ensure the Warrington location is still sufficiently central especially considering how difficult the traffic in the town centre can be.
- locations, ease of access for any retained employees.
- Remember rural areas. station nearer remote areas or villages, fear how long you would take to attend a serious fire in Kelsall
- consider access egress for all parties and manning levels
- consider setting up stations out of congested town centre areas in order to make it easier to get to incidents
- Warrington station is in a good central position to access Warrington, why move, improve existing site
- all too far away from Macclesfield
- They need to be easy to reach all motorways and industries within their areas!
- Keep all staff full time regardless of where the stations will be. Consider poor traffic.
- They're all based amongst the risk currently not in a beautiful location with no risk. Powey Lane is a classic example of the largest White Elephant CRRS currently have. 6 bays =1 Fire Engine: WHY?
- build one within 20-mile radius of cw7 cw8 cw9
- do not move stations purely for money the best location should be the deciding factor
- Stations need to be amongst the risk not the country side
- Cost. Slower response times. Spuriously putting arguments together to build on Green Belt Land, as Powey Lane demonstrates.
- Chester's Station is ideally placed to respond to risk. Not Powey surrounded by Green Belt

- The current locations are fit for purpose not profit. They are strategically positioned to respond
- The site adjacent to the Crewe site is owned by the council and has been demolished. Should the Crewe fire station move to a better location, the two sites could be combined and made available for sale. This would ensure a higher sale price and better future utilisation of the land for retail/business. Please ensure you liaise with Cheshire East council before either party make a decision on the future of the land.
- The current location of the Crewe station is severely impacted by the road network - given your acknowledgement in meetings that no on call operatives live within five minutes of the current station I would suggest that the station needs to be moved out of the town centre so that response times are maintained- a presence could perhaps be maintained in the town centre at the lifestyle centre or council offices for public information campaigns.
- Chester city is very old with a lot of timber station needs to be within 4 mins of city centre
- do improved response times and equipment fit for purpose represent good value for money
- just to ensure that effectiveness is not compromised by relocating possibly due to lower cost of site
- any site should be placed where it can respond quickest to any callout- therefore central
- response time vital
- any new station should have easy access to major roads
- Concern regarding how narrow some of the roads are leading from the new Ellesmere port station problems will develop in rush hour trying to escape from your emergency vehicles
- stay in eport
- siting and types of owing to new and different buildings on brown field sites
- In Eport fire station is pretty central to Eport, it self new station should not be miles away
- keep our station in eport
- just make sure we get to keep our station in Elsmere port
- where will they be situated
- just to have the station centralised
- in the towns not on green belt
- Ellesmere port is having a large amount of new homes built- an increase in service would be sensible
- not to be place at junctions of roads, danger of more accidents in access is limited due to flow of traffic, traffic lights and people crossing safer roads
- site them on the outskirts of town and near to working sites
- location to major hazards - motorway, factories etc.
- The position of the fire station in Crewe is good. The building may need updating. It is good to access major roads and the M6 motorway where there are regular accidents.
- The traffic from A-B can slow down emergency response
- the Crewe station should be built near to the town centre
- central location needed
- Penketh is on a bend. Poor visibility. Crazy. Get a decent planner who knows what they are doing
- I live in Warrington, winwick rd. gets very congested it might be better placed on a less busy road
- ease of access to motorway networks to help speedy response. Close liaison with the police and ambulance service
- Warrington Fire Station is located in a good position on Winwick Road. The amount of local traffic can sometimes be very heavy there so another location might be better? Nearer to the M62 junction perhaps.
- would the fire engines, arrive in time, with all the traffic in the Knutsford area, and Knutsford station not manned full time, as I live in the Knutsford area, I believe the mail from Warrington to Shaw heath sorting office gets delayed because of m6 traffic ??? if Knutsford was manned, we would all feel safer!!!!
- Ensure as best as possible that fire stations are accessible via public transport such as the example of Lymm fire station due to its placement.
- Speed of egress at rush hour
- Neston Fire Station
- what's happened to station planned in Neston
- Hopefully the quicker response carries on
- Ensuring that each station is able to provide an effective response to emergencies when needed by the community and to deliver continued support through community engagement programmes to prevent emergencies occurring. Also considering new and emerging threats to public safety in a rapidly changing world.



- Response times to foreseeable risk as per home office guidelines
- Risk, attendance times crewing
- The deplorable new attendance time. 10 mins plus call handling could mean waiting 15 mins for a fire engine to arrive. Based on your stats.
- Maintaining or improving the attendance times to incidents with a proportional strategic response capable of rapid intervention without waiting for a second appliance to attend. This is particularly pertinent as there is no target time for a second appliance to attend an incident.
- If fire deaths are at an all-time low then there must surely be a link to the good work that staff already do when they respond from their current locations so why would you even consider changing the locations, you appear to have built a station that has a ten-minute response area that cover into North Wales, whose ridiculous idea was that?
- As long as the response times are not increased, especially if Penketh crewing arrangements change!
- Multi use is a good option allowing an alternative revenue stream for your services which may reduce dependency on council tax increases have combined police/ambulance support close by or combined
- Joint services with Nwas & Cheshire Police. An excellent example is Wigan Fire Station (GMP)
- Build community hub next to it
- Do not use ppi. Consider ambulances being sited in the same building to save costs but not responsibilities.
- updating equipment as well, maybe consider having a point of base for police and ambulance as well
- Look at opportunities for income generation.
- Consider the suitability of a shared public services hub
- Consider joint sites with police or ambulance.
- They should when possible be on sites that include Police and ambulance staff in shared buildings
- Consider/investigate joint stations with police and ambulance services to ensure best value.
- As a Paramedic for Nwas it'd be good to see joint stations and joint training regularly.
- multi agency buildings with fire, police & ambulance
- no, the more the merrier and I think each station should have dual firemen/paramedics since often you are at the scene first
- Is there any reason more work is not done to co-locate Fire/Ambulance stations where they are relatively closely located to each other anyway (e.g. Congleton)? While I understand a fire station has very special requirements, I imagine ambulance stations less so, so could ambulances not be garaged at local fire stations, and ambulance crews make use of rest/toilet/kitchen facilities of fire stations?
- They are community dwellings. Used for the community in aspects such as polling stations.
- Build the stations where you need them. Are you considering stationing ambulances with fire? I strongly recommend it.
- Shared services to create better value for money. It doesn't take a brain surgeon to see money is being wasted with the upkeep if all these buildings
- Working with other agencies and ensuring an excellent facility in the right parts of these towns
- Must be 'fit for purpose' and well equipped
- Consult the staff working there. Make it a fire station. Not a community hub.
- Involve the people who have to work there every day and not just pay them lip service which seems to be the norm within CFRS, especially when it comes to shift patterns.
- Please ask the Fireman involved not councillors
- To make them as comfortable as can be for the crews
- Real beds
- All our fire stations look in poor condition, think of the poor firemen and women who work in them. And they should be full time not reliant on volunteers, I want a fire service that I'm paying for
- Those presently employed and local employment
- As long as the stations are netter for our firefighters I have no preferences, you deserve everything you can get
- Enough equipment available for the firefighters to use - whatever is necessary.
- It looks foolish
- Invest in technology
- Consider the local community not the fire service reserve cash bank ever expanding
- Need more efficiency
- Develop existing stations.
- favourable infrastructure should be prioritised

- All the new house building around little Sutton
- Welcoming and safe appearance and a highly efficient design
- Consult with residents and more importantly Firefighters from these stations to see what they would like to see in a new Fire station
- new replacements are good. Less fire crew staff and less fire engines are not
- I'm sure a new modern fire station would be welcomed by most people, but it needs to be well manned and in a good location with good infrastructure. It shouldn't result in a poorer service.
- Gain £ and get new fit for purpose stations
- only way to be efficient is to build new rather than make do
- if it better suits the population and does not compromise safety then this proposal should go ahead
- I think Warrington should have a new station
- I am not convinced the Authority has really grasped the changing socio - economic scenarios taking place which directly impact the ability of the service to recruit and retain On Call staff. The ' fingers crossed' attitude in planning and the constant advertising for volunteer and On Call staff is not an adequate platform for sustaining an effective service to the public. The current threadbare operational provision will become increasingly apparent as inadequate. The Fire Authority and service leaders must challenge the austerity policy as I believe it is their civic duty to tell the true story and cease glossing over the impact of Government cuts to the service budget.
- Definitely in Chester & Crewe

#### **Any other comments (350 comments total)**

As per the previous question, comments relating specifically to either the duty system review for the second fire engine at Crewe or Ellesmere Port, or regarding Chester/Powey Lane have been included separately.

#### **Crewe specific comments**

- Part time firefighter could never be recruited in sufficient numbers in the Crewe area, insufficient residential property near station. After spending 17 years (deputy. Stn Commander) at Crewe I think I have good idea of the area, and it's a lot worse now due to traffic and road conditions. 10 mins to get to the station is excessive remember they may have another 10 mins to get to the fire.
- The downgrading of Crewe Station to a single manned appliance (with on-call firefighters for the second appliance) seems to be missing from this consultation, in either the summary or detailed document. This seems to be in direct contradiction to the requirements of the Crewe area. There are many thousands of new homes to be built in and around Crewe (over 1500 new-builds in the parish of Shavington alone!) and this would indicate the need for the full time crewing to continue, to allow for visits to residents (we are all getting older, from an older demographic base), schools and new businesses that will follow the resident population boom. The Crewe station location is in a congested area at the best of times, with rush hour traffic almost static at times. How will on-call fire fighters manage to arrive within the allotted times? Much of the surrounding area is not residential, forcing the on-call crew to necessarily live further from the station than may be desirable. This needs careful consideration in any downgrading plan. I WILL BE WRITING A SEPARATE LETTER WITH FURTHER COMMENTS REGARDING THIS POTENTIAL DOWN GRADING OF CREWE STATION MANNING.
- YES. Ensure that you keep TWO 24/7 crews because the number of houses is increasing and set to increase much more (Leighton area for instance) Road traffic is increasing and HS2 is scheduled to be up and running in 10 years. This will bring yet more people, houses and businesses into the area. Travel times for Retained Firefighters cannot ever be guaranteed and I foresee major difficulties in the future as local roads become yet more congested.
- Ensure that adequate full-time manning is provided for the East Cheshire area. This would seem to indicate that the Crewe station does not see full time manning reduced to one appliance.
- Crewe needs 2 full time staffed fire engines to service Crewe, a town that is growing quickly and will continue to grow in the future, a second full time fire engine supports fire prevention work and is available to support the first fire engine faster than an 85%-part time manned fire engine!
- Retain the two pumps at Crewe full time.

- Very concerned about the review of plans to downgrade Crewe Fire Station to only one staffed fire engine. The second pump services the whole of Cheshire East! It supports the M6 and local areas. My friend is a firefighter in Sandbach who advises that the Crewe engine often gets to Sandbach before the retention firefighters from Sandbach get there. Since the plans in 2013 have been drawn up our population has grown vastly, more houses, HMO's, HS2 on the way. You cannot seriously consider with all the new house's and therefore council tax coming your way to reduce our services? This reduce response times and endanger life's. Have you ever visited the roundabout, seen the traffic? How are the on-call firefighters supposed to battle that traffic in and then battle back out and provide acceptable response times. It's an irresponsible decision that will cost lives.
- End the proposal to drop the downgrading of Crewe fire station from two pumps down to one. Protect local firefighter's jobs by re-investing the large cash reserves built upon over the past 7 years, which have been accrued via unnecessary cost cutting.
- Keeping Crewe 2nd full time pump and crew is essential to the area. As a H&S rep and railway man I am aware of the dangers which surround our communities especially dangerous goods transport through the area. A skilled workforce like what we have in fire and rescue in Crewe is essential to safety and saving lives. This is why we should retain the 2 full time pumps at Crewe.
- In respect of the comments below I would urge the Fire Authority and the CFRS to retain the full-time cover 24/7 at Crewe Fire Station. Crewe is growing and challenging town which provides service to outlying areas and the motorway. There is a plethora of Homes of Multiple Occupation, deprived areas and vast areas of congestion on the road networks. The town is envisaged to continue to expand greatly over coming years and as such no downgrading of Crewe Fire Station should take place. I find it sad that Cheshire East contributes financially and yet the principal town within Cheshire East could have their fire station service reduced. As the ward Councillor for where the current station is I can categorically state that to recruit and MAINTAIN on-call firefighters will be difficult. The nearest housing estate to Crewe station is small and comprises elderly residents. The station is surrounded by businesses including a petrol station and a railway station making it difficult to recruit.
- The plans to man the second appliance at Crewe Fire Station with on call fire fighters is unacceptable in terms of the safety of local residents. Response times as well as the actual firefighting capability will be negatively impacted if these plans are implemented. We have a right to expect a proper fire service coverage and this is a dilution that has the potential to jeopardise lives in the event of incidents.
- Keep Crewe full time
- I strongly object to the proposal to downgrade Crewe fire station to a single appliance. Fire fighters have proved themselves so adaptable in working in areas in addition to firefighting or prevention: dealing with cardiac arrests, raising awareness of safety in schools, working at road traffic incidents, rescuing obese ill people from their homes, etc., that we may be in danger of forgetting how vital their ability is, to be at the peak of fitness, and in strength of numbers, to save people's lives when professionals are required. The possible dangers are increasing - over-busy roads. overcrowded living conditions - now is not the time to reduce the service. If necessary, increase the precept a little more to continue the service all residents are proud of.
- I am very concerned regards the future fire cover for the Crewe area?
- Keep full time crews, especially in Crewe
- Makes no sense to me to replace 24 hour staffed engine with on call firefighters. Crewe has been expanding constantly since I moved here 17 years ago and this shows no sign of changing anytime soon. With the potential of HS2 hub being in Crewe fire services are likely to be on demand more than ever. The whole of Cheshire East is a very large area to cover with one engine manned by full time professionals.
- Yes, keep two 24/7 fire engines at Crewe fire station
- Put council tax up more if you need it. Ensure that the Crewe station does not move to an on-call second crew.
- I do not support an increase in council tax when you intend to take an engine away from Crewe fire station and use part time firemen.
- A reduction in active units at Crewe would be a mistake given the growing population and infrastructure of the town. With new road developments and housing developments the same number of units will logically be required and whilst I am aware of the further cuts to the budget going forward it is perhaps time to work with the local population to counter this
- Down grading Crewe fire station would be a massive mistake due to the expansion planned for Crewe over the coming years

- I'm very concerned about the prospect of firefighters in Crewe losing their jobs or having their hours dramatically reduced if the second engine gets 'downgraded'. I'm also very concerned about the time it takes getting to incidents increasing with less staff and a downgraded engine, this seems inevitable.
- Think it would be a very bad move to go to one fire engine at Crewe, lives would be put at risk.
- Priority should be given to maintaining the current provision at Crewe (2 appliances manned on a 24/7 basis) and to protecting the FTE number of whole-time firefighters in the county.
- more investment in Crewe to protect local people. as many full times crews as possible be full time. safety of the public is paramount and lives should not be sacrificed for a few pounds saving.
- It is putting the public and firefighters at risk. Do not downgrade cover anymore. keep Crewe and Ellesmere port wholetime. Put 5 riders on every appliance.
- Yes, what has happened to the proposals for Crewe and Ellesmere Port's reduced crewing, there is absolutely no mention in the plan? Have these plans been changed? The plan is far too light on detail on these planned changes to crewing.
- The proposals around removing the 2nd whole time pump from Chester I believe are fundamentally short sighted, potentially dangerous and flawed. A model that relies on whole time crewed pumps based on risk (heritage and growing population and demographics) not necessarily numbers of calls) is essential. Whilst on call is an option. Reliance is very dangerous- especially when coupled with significant reductions in whole time provision. Whilst community safety initiatives are of course worthy and proven, they cannot be resourced at the expense of operational cover (Safety net). In summary - You must rethink your agenda on removal of second pumps at Chester and Crewe and 5-person crewing. The cardiac attendance is of course worthy however it is required because NWAS are significantly under resourced and there for underperforming. Are CFRS being paid to undertake this additional work? Are any incomes then reflected in FF's pay as additional responsibility payments? New Stations have been required at a number of locations for many years so as long as the financial arrangements are acceptable and not at operational staffing expense I support.

#### **Ellesmere Port specific comments**

- Yes, nowhere in your reports do you mention the poor availability of your on-call appliances. I know for a fact that on bonfire night, there were 7 appliances either not available for the whole night, part of the night, or available only for small incidents. A pump from Ellesmere Port, one of your busiest and most populous areas, was sent to Wilmslow to cover all night, thereby reducing cover in CWAC. You cannot continue to hide the inadequacies of the on-call system. The decisions being taken by the current Fire Authority members are, in a word, DANGEROUS. If they result in the death of a member of the public or a firefighter due to reduced rider numbers, then the can will be carried by those responsible for the lack of challenge to budget cuts from central government, i.e. the FA and Senior Managers.
- Ellesmere Port second pump to on call is a disaster waiting to happen
- Much of the wording of questions in IRMP 15 Consultation Doc may be interpreted as having a bias to confirm the changes proposed. The cuts proposed go too far. The on-Call Model fails regularly and On Call Stations are an integral part of predictive attendance times under the IRMP15. Chester's and other wholetime Fire Appliance are consistently attending incidents that should be covered by On Call Appliances that are not available. This leaves Chester and other places further exposed. The Chief officer is unable to demonstrate that the On-Call Model is robust and fit for purpose. Therefore, how can they consider downgrading Crewe and Ellesmere Port to each have an on-call appliance to support a whole-time response? Ellesmere Port have a very high risk from commercial industries which can result is high loss of life, the fire cover under these proposals leave Ellesmere port and surrounding areas very exposed. With regard to the Community Risk Register and Comah/Cimah sites Cheshire is no longer capable of responding effectively in a timely manner. The on-call model simply does not support this requirement.

#### **Chester/Powey Lane specific comments**

- Q 1 : Misleading, we all value an efficient lifesaving organisation however recent events have proved CFRS fail. Q 9: Misleading you fail to mention it would take a fire engine ""off the run"" responding to a Cardiac incident. Equally once a fire crew are in attendance the priority of the call is downgraded. I intend to write to Stonewall as I believe the gay community of Chester are being penalised, having the largest percentage of gays in the community, as a direct result of cutting fire appliances at Chester to 1. Equality and diversity should not detract from front line core activities in order that CFRS receive a good review from Stonewall. Get back to core basics and protect everyone equally. I assist Pride and raise awareness within the Community of gay right issues and am mortified that you use Stonewall as

a platform to promote yourselves, especially as cutbacks impact so heavily in Chester as has recently been proven. Please feel free to contact me on the (email supplied)

- The Brigades spends far too much on community initiatives which are very worthy and commendable except when first line public emergency responses are being dangerously downgraded. For the first and second appliances to a person's reported incident in Chester to come from 2 depleted crews of the Ellesmere Port area and a third appliance not even mobilised, because the Chester crew were involved in assisting the ambulance in another area, is a disgrace. If the Brigade want to dabble in other services work then they must endure that additional funding is available to, staff, train, and sustain any response without detriment to fire and rescue. Take the bull by the horns and develop a fire and emergency medical service. This would also have a bearing on current and future Stations.
- Why has the standby policy left Chester without Fire Engine Protection on so many occasions?
- The removal of Chester's second pump still puzzles me, I cannot see with the risks the city has, increasing population with more student accommodation, heritage risks and the challenges that brings for firefighting and salvage, the added incidents that firefighters are now being asked to attend, breaking into property, cardiac incidents, water rescue etc. There will be a tipping point, let's not pretend there won't, when, who knows, but that's the nature of service. I just wonder who'll shoulder the blame when something goes wrong? The chief fire officer? His deputies? The fire authority? Unfortunately, the firefighters on the ground will continue to do their best with reduced numbers and will find themselves in positions that are unsafe due to crew sizes. I just hope that no one pays the ultimate price...
- Return the second pump to Chester City centre.
- Having read local media reports I am concerned that Chester fire station will be reduced to one fire engine. The response target of achieving 10 minutes response time is admirable but the target being only 80% of calls. I do not feel safe with this - the target should be 95 or 98% of calls within 10 minutes.
- "Chester now only has 1 Fire Fighting Appliance unlike the comparable cities of Bath, Worcester and Durham that have 3, WHY? The idea that Ellesmere Port should lose an appliance simply exposes Chester to greater risk. Bring Chester's Second appliance back to where the risk is, adjacent to the city and numerous tower blocks, not at a beautiful green field site which was ""sold"" to Fire Authority Members as a site for ""Specials"". All, bar the naive, appreciate that Powey Lane could be Ellesmere Ports new Fire Station. In January 2002 at 00:30 Hrs. Local business man and entrepreneur, Steve Jones and his business partner were rescued by Fire Fighters from the Third floor of a Bridge Street Row Flat and Shop. Steve and Chester Fire Station's former Station Commander, Richard Wilding, doubt if the same outcome would be achievable today given the fact that Chester now has only 1 Fire Engine. In 2002 Two Whole time Fire Engines were deployed with 9 Fire fighters and an Aerial Platform with Two FF. all arriving within 4 Minutes from mobilisation. This swift and proportionate deployment of resources undoubtedly led to the saving of Two Lives but also the saving of the historic Rows.
- Cuts have gone too far. Can't believe Chester's of lying got one fire engine. Apart from life risk what about heritage? Too much emphasis on matters of little or no critical importance.

#### **Comments referring to Crewe, Ellesmere Port or Chester/Powey Lane**

- Stop cutting the service and return Chester and Ellesmere Port to at least 2 pumps...
- Don't lose either second pump at Crewe or Eport. Too many varied risks across these areas. COMAH sites presenting major public risk and Crewe would be only whole-time pump in EAST of county. Also, service appears to be involved in too much peripheral activities.
- Return our missing fire engine. Do try downgrade Crewe or Ellesmere Port. Too dangerous given variety of risks. Seems the fire service ice are getting involved in all sorts, much of it not related. Re- focus on what you were once good at.
- There seems a preoccupation with achieving recognition in a whole raft of outside activities. You're losing sight of your core responsibilities. Chester is at Serious risk and Crew and E'Port are about to go same way.
- The document is worded towards confirming the changes proposed. The cuts go too far. The on-call model fails regularly and on call stations are an integral part of predictive attendance times under IRMP15. Chester is too exposed. They are attending incidents that should be covered by on call appliances that are no longer available. The on-call model is not demonstrably fit for purpose. How therefore can Crewe and Ellesmere Port be downgraded to on call appliance to support a whole-time response. Ellesmere Port is a high-risk area due to industries in the area. There is potential for huge losses, so proposals leave this area highly exposed.

- Why has there not been any questions regarding the proposal to downgrade Crewe and Ellesmere Ports second engine to on call? Surely something as important as this deserves some feedback from Cheshire residents.
- I have heard that you are trying to downgrade another two stations Ellesmere and Crewe but spend money on stations, so on one hand you have no money but the other hand has excess, so I would find an increase for properties hard to take but for more firefighters a lot easier
- Cardiac response should only be considered when the firefighters responding are given a decent pay rise to help them with the cost of living. Crewe's second fire engine should stay as a wholtime appliance otherwise at certain points you could have 1 fire engine covering a large area and second pump response to life risk incidents being delayed. This is the same as Ellesmere Ports second appliance.
- Return Chester's fire engine. Big population and heritage which supports economy. Crewe and Eport should keep second pumps whole time. Port has Cloudburst risks and Crewe has large area of EAST to cover with just one wt pump. Concentrate on your critical duties and not all the fancy incidental stuff.
- Return to basic values. Chester must have pump returned. The proposals for Eport and Crewe should be scrapped. Cheshire East is too big an area for just one 24/7 pump. Eport has number of COMAH SITES REQUIRING 4 PUMPS IMMEDIATELY. Chester has vast heritage risk which supports the economy
- The on-call system is failing. Crewe and eport need to keep two full time engines. Chester must have second returned. Too much risk each area. Lives and property will be lost. COMAH sites. Heritage properties. Service involved in too many outside issues. Need to re- focus.
- Chester warrants it's second pump returning. Major life and heritage risk. Eport should keep second full time pump COMAH risks. Crewe needs two full time pumps as this station supports many on call stations across a wide area. If reduced to on call there will be only one full time engine in the whole of Cheshire East at night. Not safe.
- Chester has major heritage and life risk. Return the other Fire engine. Meanwhile the second pumps at Crewe and Ellesmere Port should remain full time 24/7. The Port has many COMAH sites with major potential serious incidents. Crewe is surrounded by part-time stations and has a responsibility to regularly support the services. Keep both full-time pumps not on call. Across the county the on-call system is far too unreliable.
- Chester should have its second pump returned. Crewe and Eport must maintain second pumps full time. Should these cuts continue don't be surprised should there be major loss of property and loss of life in these areas. Also, it appears that the service nationally has lost sight of its primary purpose by trying to be involved
- Concentrate on core duties. Too much peripheral stuff going on. Bad move suggesting FRS props up underfunded ambulance service. Chester should have second part returned. Crewe and Ellesmere Port should keep second whole time pumps. Serious consequences in all these areas if plans go through. Chester heritage6
- County wide increase whole time pumps. The on-call system is not working. CREWE AND EPORT SHOULD HOLD ON TO SECOND PUMPS CREWED WHOLE TIME 24/7 CHESTER SHOULD GET IT'S SECOND PUMP BACK. In these three instances a disaster is not far away if these changes are passed and continue
- Return pump to Chester. Keep second pumps at Crewe and EPORT. THERE IS A SERIOUS RISK in each of these areas for a major embarrassment! What about COMAH sites and City heritage? Not to mention life risk.
- Keep second pumps at Crewe and eport. Too much risk of varying sorts in these areas. Return the other Fire engine to Chester. Collectively the loss of each of these could be disastrous! Concentrate on your core responsibilities. Too much incidental involvement which detracts from critical matters.
- Propping up the ambulance service is not a forward step. Please concentrate on what you used to be good at: putting out fires and rescuing people. Chester needs it's second engine returning. Crewe and E'Port cannot afford to have theirs downgraded. We have a disaster just around during the corner. Please listen.
- I feel very exposed now that I know Chester has but one fire engine. I live South of the river and the backup has a long distance to travel, bring back our fire engine. Crewe and Ellesmere Port are also threatened. This is a disaster waiting to happen with the refinery and chemical works
- Return Chester's second fire engine. Areas south of the river are at most risk. Don't let Crewe and Ellesmere Port go same way by losing second fully staffed pump to on call. More consideration

should be given to chemical sites in area in case of major leaks/ fires. Service appears to have lost its way and is too involved with peripheral matters which seemingly carry kudos.

- Concentrate your efforts on the delivery of an improved level of fire cover. too many sideshows going on. Chester one pump?? Eport second to on call?? Crewe second to on call?? This last one would be the only fully crewed engine in CHESHIRE EAST. STILL THINK CHESHIRE IS SAFER??
- Chester having one engine is a disaster in the making. Crewe and eport are about to be equally vulnerable. Why are we propping up an underfunded ambulance service? Have you seriously considered the COMAH risks in Ellesmere Port area?
- the loss of the second engine from Chester along with the proposal for Ellesmere Port to have its second downgraded would appear to be a dangerous step with particular regard to the number of COMAH sites in the area. Likewise, if Crewe should lose its second engine to similar changes it could leave the whole of Cheshire East to one fully staffed 24/7 pump. Cuts have gone too far.
- I'm concerned at your proposals to do ambulance work. This shows a lack of appreciation of just how qualified ambulance personnel are. At just one step down from a doctor I'd much sooner have them attend me than a firefighter who with the best intentions is less qualified. Return Chester's 2nd fire engine and keep CREWE and E'PORT fully staffed 24/7
- No cuts for Crewe or eport. Return Chester's second fire engine. Focus on basic responsibilities and not the peripheral stuff that seems to have taken over.
- Fire services should not be used to prop up underfunded ambulance services. Return Chester's fire engine and don't downgrade Crewe and E'Port.
- Return Chester's other Fire pump. We feel vulnerable. Don't lose second engines at Port and Crewe. this is dangerous.
- Be more aware of you core responsibilities rather than seeking credit for peripheral activities which flatter to deceive! Chester is vulnerable Crewe and the port are about to become so. This madness has gone too far. Listen to common sense and along with all other frs stand up to central government.
- Chester is extremely vulnerable. Ellesmere Port is too big a risk to lose its second pump. Crewe is too big and area in the EAST to have just one engine 24/7. Stop attempting to prop up a severely underfunded ambulance service.
- My concerns are that Chester has been left severely exposed and Crewe and ellesmere port read about to suffer the same fate.
- I'm totally bemused that Chester has lost a fire engine with the size of population, students etc. The city heritage is worth many millions to the economy. One significant fire would be catastrophic to this economy. Ellesmere port second pump to on call?? What about CIMA sites. Crewe second pump on call?? Leaving only one whole time pump in whole of EAST at night. Need to rethink all of these.
- Too many cuts. You've gone too far. return Chester's second pump. Don't downgrade Crewe and Ellesmere Port. The potential losses are too horrendous to imagine. Stop trying to do ambulance work. Yes, they are under resourced but your skills are being diluted.

## Remaining comments

- Support from army reserves considered - joint training ground, medical side etc. The fire service should draw on the expertise of other emergency services to enhance skills when there is 'down' time between fires. e.g. in the USA most fire fighters are also emergency medicals technicians EMTs
- I believe that a shared public hub is a good idea. I work in Winsford and the fire service has recently moved into the police HQ. Collaboration with the other services make a more effective service and shared resources
- Agree to share bases with Ambulance crews not the Police.
- Support close collaborative working with ambulance and other emergency services
- should use part time on call staff. should have dedicated police- paramedic assigned to each machine on 999 calls. this would increase team work efficiency and allow for quicker- better situation assessment and avoid over attendance at incidents leaving more capacity
- Consideration should be given to merging with GMF&RS as you appear to need their help more than they need you.
- The fire service should remain a distinct body and not merge with the police or other service providers in any shape or form

- Co responding is not part of a firefighter's job. If you want it to be, put pressure on the government to pay firefighters to do it.
- Stop propping up an underfunded ambulance service. A paramedic is one step down from a doctor. In an emergency the public deserve highly skilled personnel. The range of skills required for a firefighter are already very demanding.
- You have too few fire fighters on duty 46 when a man died. There would be less if they responded to cardiac incidents. Regrettably, though your website site advocates transparency, the reality is that this survey has no independent scrutiny and is of little value other than to tick a box.
- Set up a databank so that residents with known problems can register with contact details for ease of response by the Service - Cardiac Response
- Consider paying wholtime crews a proper amount for the cardiac response additional work you want them to do.
- Re Cardiac Response scheme - an excellent idea as first responders could be vita; to survival in an emergency. By having a purpose build scheme will be invaluable/
- Q9 - Cardiac Response scheme - more publicity about how - where it can be used.
- Q9 Increased costs of two services turning out to the same incident.
- Why are you wasting funding on a cardiac response scheme, I don't understand why the ambulance service can't do this?
- In relation to the medical response. I have opposed as I would want the firefighters to see an increase in pay to take on such a responsibility. I would also hope that they would have additional mental health support if they were to undertake such activities.
- I want a trained Paramedic if I need one. Fire crews can't administer drugs and whilst attending a medical incident they can't tackle a fire.
- Should the fire service become involved in emergency medical response they should be properly trained and receive an increase in salary to reflect the extra service provided
- Q9- for more people to be trained for cardiac arrest in first aid
- Q9- we live near Birchwood fire station, makes us feel happy that cardiac response is so close to home
- Q9- the more available services for help the better, ambulances always busy
- Q9- I think it belongs to the underfunded ambulance service
- See above. The First Responder to medical emergencies proposal is long overdue. Public funded equipment e.g. Defibrillators, Oxygen should be available to the public when required. Fire service operational staff have the skills and training to assist and when they are requested by the NHS Ambulance a charge should be raised to assist the FS costs in providing the service.
- Cardiac response is an excellent idea that can save lives but firefighters, like police and ambulance, are understaffed, under resourced and under paid. An increase in work should come with additional rewards such as an above 1% pay rise.
- The cardiac response is not great. They need full and thorough training regarding dnr status when arriving at a patient. They should not replace the paramedics. They need full clinical supervision following an incident. I am a nurse and I have had 3 years at university. Firefighters cannot assess a situation correctly and to make an informed decision on patients that may be palliative/eolc. The majority of firefighters I speak with find it draining and do not feel it should be part of their role.
- I think question 9 was a little unfair. I would of thought everyone would support having a quicker response to a life-threatening injury. But it's not as simple as that. This can't come at the expense of fire engines going to fires. If it was explained that this brought in £? That could save fire engines been reduced then am sure the support would be greater. But if this is done with no money changing hands then the government are killing you the same way they killed the ambulance service
- I think it important that the work of the ambulance service is not adopted by the FRS - if you have spare capacity ... cut it .... if not focus on FRS and divert funding for ambulances - if you want to provide medical cover train paramedic firefighters who have a contractual obligation and are trained and paid for that role
- If my council tax is going up I'd at least like the Fire Service to provide me with sufficient cover. I'm led to believe that the fire cover available at the minute is substandard and I think that is a disgrace. I'd like to think that people's lives are more valuable than money in the eyes of our public services.
- It seems like you have spent millions on all these new fancy stations that are seen on TV shows and forgot about the other fire stations that all need refurbishing, you drive past most Fire stations in Cheshire and think that's not somewhere where I'd like to work, some of them even look derelict, where as you drive past Fire Stations in Staffordshire and they look like modern, warm, inviting places to work.



- I want to first make a comment on your finances. Why did you waste money building Penketh and Powey Lane? If you hadn't bothered with Powey Lane, you could have kept the 2 fire engines in Chester, where arguably they're needed more. And Penketh houses the 2 fire engines that used to live in Widnes and Warrington. But only 1 was kept as Wholetime and you're thinking about downgrading that. I think you're trying to fool the people who live in Cheshire. You spin it so people believe they have more fire cover than they had before. When obviously that is so far from the truth. Why won't you stand up to the Government and protect your Firefighters? It's not surprising though. Not only did you not fight to keep your 999 Firefighter Control staff, you (Mr. Hancock), made damn sure you got rid of them. How much has that saved by the way? Did you adjust your original "business plan" to the Fire Authority after you started earning an income from Cumbria when you took their Firefighter Control jobs? You got extra staff after that and Cheshire weren't paying for them, Cumbria were. As a Cheshire resident I can't believe that anything you have in your "risk management plan" is for the safety of your Firefighters or the people who live here.
- It's a poor, short document with very little detail for me or anyone to form an opinion. It appears to be just a short summary document or a wish list. As a tax payer, who is paying for the service, I wonder why you are not publishing a bigger document with more detail? I have concerns that my money has been spent on a new station and it requires review 10 months after opening. Anything I'd like you to consider? make your next IRMP bigger with more information, so I can respond fully with an informed opinion. When you're talking about the service you provide and the changes you're proposing to make I feel you owe me more than a 14-page document. You also seem to concentrate quite a lot on assisting other agencies, even though this is a very noble service, is there evidence this is value for money? I see nothing in the document to show this is the best use of my tax, I pay for a Fire Service, could the money you invest be better spent on getting a fire engine to my house quicker if I need it? if it is value for money show this in your document, if it isn't I'd like you to stop and provide more fire engines and Fire Fighters with it.
- The service you provide is getting worse year on year, with less staff, yet MY council tax paid to you is INCREASING to its maximum amount! Now you propose new buildings? Again, Simone needs to rejoin the 'real' world, and defend these cuts and crazy proposals and speak publicly that government funding should be increased instead of asking the public again to dig deep again and again! It seems that senior managers are too scared to speak out, either for fear of their own position or that it may affect their next role! Get a grip please and fast.
- Performance related to a savings pot of £30 Million not an increase in Council Tax. Get back to delivering front-line response.
- Stop blaming cuts with 30 million in the reserves deliver the service the people of Cheshire deserve. CFRS used to be an excellent service now it is racing to the bottom. It is top heavy with managers to afraid to make a decision. Stop giving bonus payments to senior managers as we are in it together. When you ask your staff for their opinions listen to what they say don't berate them and say they need to accept change and move on. When having working parties stop dismissing the suggestions just because it's not the outcome you wanted. VALUE YOU OPERATIONAL STAFF not just your civilian staff. Employ more staff as there are clearly not enough. Go back to having a proper standard of response not A Cheshire Standard (which you still cannot achieve even though you made up the figures). Five riders on 1st appliances.
- I am against increasing my council tax as it is already far too high
- why does the council tax have to increase when you are selling old sites, merging with other agents, probably reducing the workforce?
- Please make sure Cheshire East Council is managing its income in a responsible manner - ensuring out council tax is not squandered as it appears to be happening just now. Do you support Cheshire Fire Authority's proposal to increase its share of Council Tax by 1.99% in 2018/19? - Not if Cheshire East proposing a possible 5% increase in rates. I'm not sure if the services should combine as this could lead to a watered-down service from both sides instead of separate first-class services.
- Would I consider a 1.99% increase to my Council Tax charge to support Cheshire Fire Authority? I'd support a 1% increase personally
- As 10 above. Also, I suggest that consideration be given to reduce the plans and associated costs (£9m) of the training centre. Also reduce the costs associated with the Fire Authority itself i.e. reduce the number of reps, reduce the subsistence benefits. All of this should be considered before reducing front line staffing costs. Also consider the benefits afforded to the senior management team i.e. new cars and increases to salary.
- If the fire service as to pay any monies to Cllr to sit on the fire service board I would suggest the monies would be better spent in other areas Cllr should be honoured to serve they already get a lot of money

- cost
- What happened to Neston Fire Station? It was in last review. If we have to rely of Merseyside (Heswall), give our council tax to them as they are our first initial response or build a retained Station if you get our council tax
- I believe residents would prefer an increase in council tax rather than firefighter and engine numbers and availability cut
- investigate private sponsorship for new builds and ongoing improvements
- ensure central government will produce funding for this plan, this will give people confidence in paying more rates precept
- Why do CFRS believe that they should not dip into reserves and investments to cover the shortfall payments by Central Gov which many view as a short-term policy?
- Why CFRS believe they have the support of the community in providing a much poorer service despite increased costs
- Q1 CFRS propose Council Tax increase 1.99% despite savings of £30 Million I can't Value a Service with that amount of audacity. That said firefighters are a valued. Senior officers. Above inflation salary increase and bonus whilst providing a poorer service. Despite increasing the cost of running the service by 18 % this year. Your figures support this. New attendance target time of 10 mins plus 999 Call time in excess of 2 minutes. That's 12 mins to get a fire engine. STAGERRINGLY POOR
- The cost of running the service continues year on year despite assurances to cut costs and make savings. Why!
- Don't raise taxes there is not an endless pot of money to live off. You should be looking at ways to keep tax bills down not ways to put taxes up
- Stop wasting public money on surveys like this and your army of civilian staff and pay firefighters what they deserve
- needs/funding common sense
- Station in Neston needs building as it was in last proposal and now seems to be ignored, otherwise put us under Merseyside so they get our council tax as it's Heswall who we really on but even that's not ideal response time
- did the cost of painting the lgtb fire appliance come out of tax payer's money and are tax payers funding its appearance at the various events if so this is a waste of my council tax money the same with car safety checks it seems the brigade if diversifying into areas it doesn't need to, if time can be spared for all these extra activities then maybe the crews need to be cut as they seem to have too much time on their hands. responses to incidents like rescuing cows from rivers etc. seem also to be over the top, a recent incident in a canal warranted 1 fire appliance 1 swift water unit 1 animal rescue unit, I've never seen a canal flow swiftly and some of them you can literally walk across, so why not send just an animal rescue unit, not so long ago a crew of 4 with one fire appliance could do the job successfully and without harm to the animal, it appears you want the fancy equipment to keep up with the jones so to speak. times are hard be more frugal put all these fancy things on a wish list for the future instead of making money off hard-working tax payers
- I would support the CFRS in getting more off the council but I oppose any increase to what the public pay to the council. Funding for most things has been cut EG bins emptied fortnightly so the savings from these hairbrained schemes should be used to give you additional funds.
- Don't waste our money on a new training centre, use what is already available and spend a small amount on improving what you have. Share other training facilities.
- I do consider this to be a waste of taxpayers' money
- Too little notice, as I have only just found out about it. Next time TELL people. you people should be fighting this mad Government, not just rolling over
- Listen to all the objectors. They can't all be wrong.
- Why do you appear to have serious opposition in the local media and on social media platforms?
- Ask yourselves, are you happy and comfortable with these proposals and past decisions?
- If your proposed plans have credibility, why then is there so much opposition in the press/ online? I'm confused!
- Why not listen to some who oppose your plans and recent decisions? I'm sure much of their concerns have merit.
- LISTEN to your stakeholders, many of whom have a wealth of fire service knowledge.
- I think there should be a fire station in every town or city. I wish the fire service was valued more, as they offer other services
- Raining camps providing cadets experience of real firefighting & building fitness
- I am sure there are experts and consultants that have reviewed this.

- Please do not spend money on pens, bags and surveys that should be given to the emergency services, then Grenfell Tower Fire and other disasters can be prevented.
- Put safety first.
- I would like to be covered if I use it
- Ask the questions on this questionnaire in an open and honest manner. If you have plans to change numbers of firefighters, fire engines or the shifts that they work I.e. immediately available or available after 5 minutes, then this should be included in the question so that the public can make informed decisions. Asking the public if 'there are is anything you want us to consider' is entirely disingenuous to the point of corruption and does not furnish the public with the correct level of information that they need to have an informed opinion.
- some of the questions are very difficult for a layman to answer!
- Yes, the Questions in the Survey Monkey are loaded in terms of acquiring a favourable response. You have significant savings please dip into them
- Can we have a number or e mail to contact if we see a potential fire hazard i.e. a shop with a passage to public exit that is always blocked by merchandise
- hard to comment when information of most householders is sparse as in all things relevant occurs when you have had experience of the service! As far as I know I have not heard of any issues with fire and rescue locally.
- sorry I don't have enough knowledge to answer q 6-11 even having read the proposal
- If the council are building houses everywhere near town centre, surely fire station could also be built near town
- simply on the basis of the summary provided I do not feel qualified to offer an informed opinion on any of the above subjects. Surely you would be better to listen to the people who do know- the fire-fighters themselves speaking through their trade unions.
- a more inclusive image, a more inclusive image of Cheshire fire and rescue service
- when setting this survey why is it considered relevant to ask, religion, gender or gender change, sexual orientation. If we were in a fire how would this information enhance us being rescued?!
- LOAD OF POMPUS OLD RUBBISH
- How many of the objectives has CFRS successfully completed out of its last 5 IRMP's before it embarks in new objectives?
- don't know enough about it
- I have many ideas but I would need a better understanding of how this service works before I can present informed and constructive criticism.
- The wording of "conclude blue light collaboration" suggests the whole collaboration is coming to an end, rather than the setting up of it.
- These surveys make no difference. CFA have already decided what is going to happen
- The whole plan is being run by monkeys who are more interested in their own personal agendas than what is actually right for the people of Cheshire
- I have worked for Cheshire for 25 years, and cannot believe how badly the on call at Congleton have been treated, it's disgusting. We have been ignored, treated like second class citizens, lied too, fobbed off, never given answers, had promises broken. How you can treat people who have given so much to their local community for little reward is shocking. We have had a number of spineless managers come through the door, all saying they will get answers or stick up for us, but none dare go against the senior management team. This would never have happened under the other Chief Fire officers I have worked under. The service I joined is unrecognizable to what we work for now.
- How about a fire service plan that takes into account, getting the firefighters to the scene of operations in the best time possible and in adequate numbers to perform their duty safely and accordingly to the high standard expected by the public, which by all accounts doesn't seem to be the current situation. Also, does CFRS have to have such a large HR dept. and so many senior managers? I seriously doubt it does.
- My friend is a firefighter who is petrified of being disciplined for the slightest thing. Senior managers do not need to have the range unmarked cars what is wrong with a marked fleet car. Senior managers are getting massive perks such as credit cards to use on first class travel and top hotels.
- I have spoken to a few fire fighters who tell me how unpleasant it is working in Cheshire now, so I have concerns over the workplace culture and bullying. I also think it's time we looked at reducing the number of managers Cheshire Fire has, and also speaking to my local resident's association it doesn't look good that the senior managers are turning up at incidents in very expensive cars that don't say fire service on them, so we can only assume the service are paying towards very expensive personal cars for these people, for a service that cares about its image I think this is totally wrong. As

is the pay rises and bonus that the Chief and his deputy get every year that was in the newspaper - this is not leading by example at all.

- Get rid of the managers, the big inflated salaries, the flashy cars, all we want is our fire fighters.
- Yes, we would like to see savings directed at the management sector, there appears to be far too many senior managers and not enough fire fighters, we have read that over 160 full time posts have been lost, this is unacceptable, and all savings should be aimed at the managers not our brave fire fighters.
- I have 4 years left to do before I retire. I have not filled in the survey at work as I don't trust the service and fear reprisals. The change in the last 3 years is terrible, since AM Waller was made head of service delivery things have been very difficult for staff, with requests for emergency leave, normal annual leave, parental leave, compassionate leave or bereavement continually rejected, and the total lack of compassion and empathy is clear. The working environment and culture is terrible, and even a number of station managers have all commented that the current trio of Hancock, Cashin and Waller is worse than the McQuirk days, staff are ignored, treated as the scum of the earth when we are the public face of the service. I only hope that when the new HMI comes in they will see how broken Cheshire is in terms of response and culture, with leadership nonexistent.
- We went to see our local fire men and woman at the Knutsford fire station open day, and were shocked to be told it was closing as a full-time station and going to a volunteer one. We were never consulted about this. So Knutsford, and Wilmslow are both now no longer guarantee to provide the engines if we need them? Someone needs to be held responsible for such decisions. Equally concerning was the fire men and women who told us they cannot raise concerns or speak out as they would be sacked, and that they fear for their jobs every day. What an appalling and dictatorial oppressive environment to work in. It seems this senior management group like to rule by fear, well we want to see real change at the top, a new broom please, and less over paid managers and a return to our stations being manned full time 24/7. Cheshire fire brigade had a brilliant reputation, now it seems to have been destroyed.
- I have spoken to my local fire fighters at an open day and they tell me the senior management culture is horrific with serious bullying and harassment a very serious problem. There also appears to be a very large pool of managers and not enough fire fighters. I think large reductions need to be made in the management level and investment in the front line. I think the chief officer and head of response need to resign and move on or retire as they have totally destroyed Cheshire fire service
- Senior management appear reluctant to take on Central Government with a collective voice. Enough is enough. The cuts; no matter how they're dressed up; cannot continue. The public deserves better.
- Yes, there don't seem to be any proposals seeking views on cutting the number of senior managers - surprise surprise. Too many chiefs and not enough Indians
- I would like to see cuts to the massive management tier, and those savings re-invested in the front line.
- my husband works for Cheshire and cannot wait to retire. The current senior management team are obsessed with their own ego's, obsessed with awards and getting their next bonus or flash car. The culture is terrible, bullying and harassment is rife, trust with the managers nonexistent and there is no fire service family anymore, which is such a shame as for 20 years he has loved his job and been so proud. The current principle officers show no leadership and no interest, promoting the most inappropriate people in to top jobs. they have destroyed a once great service. My husband and his colleagues on his watch just try to get to the end of their block without being disciplined, - what kind of workplace environment is that.
- maybe it's time to turn that eye of efficiency onto the massive manager cohort - those drawing bonuses who are on large salaries who appear to offer nothing except bully, intimidate and discipline the hell out of the workforce.
- Why are there so many managers in Cheshire fire service and why are they always rocking up at incidents in flashy motors? Why are the senior managers in the papers seen taking large bonuses? Disgraceful behavior
- Start cutting the number of managers. Too many chiefs and not enough Indians springs to mind. All we see is managers on big salaries driving flash cars, taking bonuses whilst our fire fighters are being cut and have no pay rises, it appears Cheshire fire service and its leaders are morally bankrupt.
- There don't seem to be any cuts to the senior managers? And I am sick to the back teeth of reading every year that the senior officers are getting bonuses, you are here to serve the public not run a business, if that's what you want then clear off into the private sector
- Why are there so many highly paid senior officers claiming bonuses and driving flash cars if the service has no money and are getting rid of all our full-time firemen?

- Maybe rebalance the service by recruiting more fire fighters at the expense of all the highly paid managers who seem to enjoy bonuses each year and drive around in high performance cars. Pigs in the trough springs to mind.
- Speaking to fire fighters at my local open day I was appalled to hear how they are treated, and there appears to be a major cultural problem in the service. The current senior team of managers appear to have presided over a failed service so new blood is needed.
- Sick and tired of seeing flashy senior officers in the media, get rid - too many chiefs and not enough Indians.
- Too many middle and senior managers, bleeding the service dry, time for a change, residents and tax payers don't want officers on extortionate salaries driving super cars who contribute very little to the safety and well-being of communities, we want fire fighters who are the real heroes and face of Cheshire fire service. Change at the top is needed.
- Leave the full-time fire fighters alone, invest in them, stop making Cheshire a part time volunteer service. Get rid of some of the managers. Enough is enough.
- Where are the proposed reductions in senior management? Bloody ridiculous having all these managers, THIS IS NOT WHAT THE PUBLIC WANT
- During a period of austerity and frugality how can the Fire Authority condone bonuses to Senior officers and above inflation pay increases despite the cost of running the service increasing by 18.69 % Last year Fewer top of the range lease vehicles would demonstrate frugality and may justify a Council Tax increase
- Cut those at the top not our brave men and women on our fire stations. We are totally sick to the back teeth of being asked to pay more for a worse service - too many managers get rid
- Front line staff do an amazing job without doubt. Senior officers ought to consider public perception when driving expensive lease vehicles whilst advocating frugality and a Council Tax increase.
- No mention of cuts to senior managers I see. Absolute disgrace, keep stacking those at the bottom. The public won't stand for it. How many managers have we got these days?
- Too many highly paid managers and not enough of our wonderful firemen and women
- Too many chiefs not enough Indians
- There is no mention of cutting the amount of highly paid managers
- Less highly paid managers more fire fighters, I'm sick of having to pay more in council tax for less of a service, it's all spent on bonuses and pay rises for senior officers not the fantastic fire fighters
- Sick to the back teeth of paying more for less of a service. Why are senior managers having rises and bonuses that I read in the paper?
- There seem to be too many senior managers and not enough brave fantastic fire fighters
- Don't waste money. Keep out of the political arena. Reduce the number of senior officers that will save money. You are top heavy
- Review senior managers pay and bonus structure. Explain why officers gain several promotions in the 3 years before retirement... To boost their pensions.
- Why do I read in the press about Senior Managers receiving bonuses etc. yet the staff who actually fight the fires and fit the smoke alarms are having to fight for 1% pay rise? It would seem to me that it is a very lazy style of management of budgets etc. if the only way to reduce costs is to cut frontline firefighters, why not cut the number of senior managers and stop trying to build new stations etc., have you ever heard of the saying 'make do and mend'?
- You seem to think that you can reduce the number of appliances and still deliver a credible service. You are failing to deliver now so any further cuts in resources will only make matters worse. Stand up to the government and stop these egregious cuts in service. On call firefighters are simply not able to deliver the level of response needed especially in areas where nobody lives close enough or traffic congestion prevents them getting to the fire station on time. You consistently fail to recruit enough as well as you cannot retain enough.
- I want you to stop cutting fire engines and firefighters. I worry for the safety of my family in case of a fire in our house or an accident in the car. I think you are really putting people in danger with the cuts you have implemented and would like you to stop and think what exactly is the Fire and Rescue Service's main responsibility. To me it is keeping the people of Cheshire as safe as possible and not providing the bare minimum and hoping for the best.
- It is clear that cuts are planned and I strongly oppose these.
- Fire cover is being reduced by too much. You as a fire authority have an obligation to provide a fire service suitable for the residents not the cheapest fire cover known to man. Will this only change after the needless death of fire fighters.

- It says we can cut services as the figures say so well how many times did the senior managers turn out and take over an incident in the past two years. Senior managers within Cheshire are very weak at saying no to government but exceptionally strong at disciplining staff for the most miniscule action so I say hold them accountable and stop paying them excessive wages, bonuses and benefits.
- With increases in housing and population please do not cut services
- Why are you not consulting on cutting the number of senior managers or officers? Because that would be supported overwhelmingly by the Cheshire public that's why. Our fire fighters are the heroes on the coal face, who the public trust, not the overpaid bean counters with the inflated salaries and flash cars. The only cuts I want to see is messers Hancock and Cashin after the disgraceful story regarding their bonuses. The service seems to have gone downhill recently.
- I have been told that the chief fire officer once worked part time so he could work for another fire service and then they allow him back full time so why can't other areas be reversed such as Wilmslow. Stop senior managers taking huge bonuses and benefits. Stop adjusting the times for fire engines to arrive due to management cuts
- I am concerned that any further cuts to staff numbers and appliances will result in an increase fire related incidences and deaths.
- The cuts have gone too far. Concentrate on life critical elements of the job instead of your continual quest for awards many of which are hollow when compared with the core elements of the service; an area where you continue to fail.
- On Call staff do not replace Full time staff. Full Stop. This is a fact. You can never rely on ""On Call"" staff this is not being detrimental to on call staff, but they have a primary job, the fire service is secondary. Noting on Twitter only last week it was highlighted that only 4, yes FOUR ""On Call"" appliances were available across the whole County, this is the real fact of life. You cannot run a professional fire and rescue service on the good will of on call staff. The Fire Authority need to fully understand what they are signing off on behalf of the CFO, who along with CFO's across the Country has his hands tied, but this needs to change with all CFO's long with their FA's standing up to central government and saying enough is enough (cuts/reductions to budgets).
- Please return all the stations to manning as per 2000, Stop the cuts and now is the time to stand up and be counted, to serve the public of Cheshire with the Fire and Rescue service that is required. As to the figures that you are putting out the on-call stations cannot be manned so full-time crews are travelling to cover which is leaving the big town with no cover. How you can say that by building new stations serve the public better is pulling the wool over their eyes as all you have done is move men and machines out of the 2 pump stations into these new stations, and reduced the riders to four. Now crews have to wait for back up before going into a fire.
- Cuts have gone too far. Much of these questions are to dress-up further cuts
- I'd like the government to not keep cutting these all-important services. No wonder call rate is up 8% when you've had cuts. Fire service did a really good job in prevention etc. years ago and so call volumes were low. Now because government have seen call rates are low they've cut. Now the cuts have taken toll, calls are going up again and lives are put at risk. I really do get infuriated with the government. They haven't got any idea as to the importance of our vital public services. I appreciate there are difficult decisions to make but please ensure lives aren't put at risk.
- It seems that you are reducing costs yet asking for an increased contribution from the tax payer. How can this be fair?
- How long the Chair of the Fire Authority is prepared to underwrite the Cuts proposed. Grenfell Towers Fire demonstrates the length Central gov will go to to hang people out to dry on behalf of inappropriate decisions both locally and nationally.
- Fire Authority Members should not sign off Cuts. The CEO will not be held accountable nor will Central Gov. They will be!!! CFRS continually demonstrate in "Performance" criteria that On Call Stations are not available. CFRS must concede the On-Call model is not fit for purpose.
- Sick and tired of paying more council tax for a failing service due to continued cuts. Time for an overhaul of the senior managers
- Stop the cuts now
- Services have already been cut. Whilst the Authority has sums in capital there should be no further cuts to services. The current system needs improvement, not efficiency savings.
- we need to keep our fire station fully stocked with engines and equipment, stop cutting the service because if its cut anymore and somebody is killed because we did not have enough engines etc.... then Cheshire east would be to blame because of your cuts in the service.
- THANK YOU, Emergency Services are proving, is with extra ordinary service. Why should this be questioned?!

- you are the best emergency service! you are capable of carrying out any service (emergency etal) trust the fire service totally. caring and competent. whatever you think best for the public is good enough for me. only you know how to protect us- not local govt/present govt. thank you for the outstanding service you provide!! unsung heroes.
- I think your views up to 2021 are sound
- Happy with your comprehensive plan
- you all do a great job
- you're all doing an amazing job thank you!
- I don't think so- keep up the good work you do
- not really except to say that your service is viewed exceptionally and very professional
- excellent fire service very valued and need and excellent pay rise to reflect their commitment
- great job keeps it up support you all the way
- You do an amazing job with the reduction in funding. Thank you.
- Looks like a good strong plan
- More training and awareness course for younger children and schools. Yearly checks in people's homes to see if the fire alarm is installed and working. More security of older people and vulnerable children
- Good proposals so far. May need tweaking as progression is made
- Please ensure safe staffing levels, consider multi use buildings to bring in additional funds for your good work and consider more apprenticeships for young people to begin a career with yourselves. Please hear from all faiths and cultures and do more work with young Romani children to engage better and to show them alternative careers.
- Cycle lane safety provision to reduce threat and dangers to cyclists on the roads
- Stop changing for the sake of it. The plans were satisfactory and the public were satisfied. This is no longer the case. You are dealing with people's lives and not just boxes on a map. Fire deaths are on the increase, this is directly attributable to cuts in service. As you are cutting service levels and increasing response times it is only a matter of time before you are in court facing corporate manslaughter charges. So, consider that in your plan
- Recruitment is needed. Elderly workforce and working until they are 60. Response times 10 mins for 1 fire engine. Or 20 mins if that fire engine is out on a call. Look at Echo Arena 8 mins for 1 pump to turn up. Weight of attack is needed.
- Staffing level should be maintained in line with National safe systems of work guidelines not local interpretations designed to suit the plans.
- Concentrate on core responsibilities. The public deserves better.
- Having studied the IRMP I was concerned of a number of aspects. The current staffing levels are presenting unjust and deeply concerning situations in relation to the effective response in dealing with incidents. At present and under future reductions in fire cover, crews arriving at incidents cannot effectively deal with an established or developing fire and remain within the guidelines and procedures to comply with operation risk assessments. With proposed reductions in front line whole time pumps and the fact that so many of the on-call appliances has resulted in the standards of fire cover are insufficient to deal with a moderate or large incident and certainly does not provide for any resilience for the service to effectively deal with a prolonged or protracted incident. Call handling times by staff at the North West Fire control is causing significant and potentially dangerous delays in crews being mobilised, this along with increased travel times for the fire appliance to arrive is creating a dangerous and potentially fatal delay. While I have every confidence in crews I feel that this IRMP is creating a dangerous and life threading situation and the current management of Cheshire Fire and Rescue service and that of the Fire Authority are not providing the effective emergency response that the ratepayers and population of Cheshire are paying for and deserve.
- We attended a public meeting in Wilmslow about the proposals, and we were appalled at the inappropriate behaviour of the officer - a Mr. Waller, who was rude, arrogant, dismissive and did not answer questions asked by the audience. I have encountered senior police and NHS officers and they would not dream of acting in this manner. Someone needs to be held accountable for the mess our fire service is in- Manchester fire engines are always in town as the Cheshire pump is not available. The senior officers team should resign, they have failed to lead this great service, yet drive around in expensive cars, on huge salaries and I've read in the paper that they have received bonuses for the last 5 years - for what - systematically destroying our fire service? They wouldn't keep their job for such a performance in the private sector I can tell you that!
- Yes - The plan is not well written and has a definite bias in relation to what the Service wishes to achieve? The plan does not demonstrate how effective proposals will be, it is short in the detail

required to provide quantitative and qualitative information and this is distressing considering several recent incidents where the Service simply has not come up to expectations? I would expect more detail in relation to how everything will work considering new risks arising like the new Gateway bridge and the expectations for all existing risks in Cheshire?

- How is the 10-minute response time for life risk incidents in Cheshire working out? Especially in Chester after you removed the second fire engine? Only an 8% increase in incidents? What would it be if you mobilised to Automatic Fire Alarms again? An interesting statistic for the people you serve to protect would be, how many fires did you attend after initially not mobilising when the receiving centre passed the AFA call to NWFC? With regards to reviewing "the provision of the aerial appliance currently based at Macclesfield"; I do hope that means you're going to increase the minimum staffing at the Station so the aerial appliance can respond on its own without the need of a support pump. Same applies at Lymm, obviously. I hate to imagine your plans being more like removing it from service. Are you still committed to ensuring you always have the aerial appliance at Chester available? If you remove Macclesfield's aerial, the only other aerial appliance available to provide cover, should Chester's aerial appliance be committed at an incident, is Lymm. Lymm's aerial needs to take the fire engine as support because you insist on only having 1 rider. That would mean the Rope Rescue is not available. If this truly is about risk management surely you can see that it's a terrible idea. What exactly are you considering for Wilmslow this time? Surely not downgrading it further? Can you have a Key Station being staffed by a retained/on call pump? The availability isn't very good at nights. Are you expecting it to suddenly become better by making it fully retained? I suggest that's not a risk you should take. Reviewing the current crewing arrangement Penketh. Where should I start! They are the second pump into Warrington. And Widnes. Do I need to say any more? I'll continue; when Warrington is under resourced, Penketh provides cover. When Widnes is under resourced, Penketh provides cover. Day and night. Also, what assurances did you give to all the firefighters that moved from 2 pump Wholetime Stations Widnes and Warrington to Penketh when you removed the second pumps? You've put Emergency Medical Response work in your budget plan and you hope to roll it out to all stations? I am sure that trial has ceased. Is it all the money you have saved from getting rid of your own Control Room and moving the staff that passed the enhanced DBS check to Police HQ that's going to build the new training centre at Saddled Road? What's the budget? Are you sticking to it?
- Get back to basics. You've lost sight of your true responsibilities.
- Levels of fire cover are way below what they should be. This trend needs to be reversed immediately.
- Credibility of this consultation process. I twice called CFRS to enquire where a public presentation would take place visa ve: Q&A. No response, voice mail left on the first occasions. No reply!
- On the second occasion, "we can't say as they are down to availability of staff on the day." Not good enough in my opinion as a Council Tax Payer.
- Your web page eludes to transparency. Your times to attend incidents are not published nor will this survey be independently scrutinizing
- It seems that your involvement in too many peripheral activities is a major distraction from providing a reliable fire service that the people of Cheshire deserve and once had.
- More units!!!
- Reducing pumps to one on many Stations i.e. Chester, Warrington, Widnes, Runcorn, Crewe, Macclesfield etc., will put the Publics Lives and Front-Line Firefighters lives in more serious danger. I was a Serving "Frontline" Fire firefighter for 27 years so I personally know the dangers of pumps not attending as soon as possible. "Seconds count when life is threatened" A Front-Line Firefighters first priority has always been to save life NOT to save money.
- I have many grave concerns about current appliance staffing levels and would like to fill this panel however the seeming arrogant attitude of the present management would make it a pointless exercise
- I'd like you to consider being open and honest with residents and elected members about the way the plans will truly affect the county and not be written in jargon and with remarks and language that is ambiguous and has no hidden agendas. You've not managed to do any that way so far, but I live in hope!
- Response to incidents and the poor performance of late of Retained Cover. I believe that they do not offer an alternative in some places to 24/7 firemen
- The accountability of those who make decisions on the Fire Authority that may have cost a resident's life on the Lache
- The fatal fire in the Lache demonstrated that CFRS are unable to respond adequately to anything significant in a timely manner.



- you have taken all the good will out of the on call you have lost the community spirit letting wholtime do a dual role. Whole time there to do their job and a good job they do, on call do their job for their community. two different types of firefighters giving different qualities, you cannot be the same, on call are just that, wholtime are just that. until all fire services recognise that things will not improve
- Reviewing crewing arrangements is a concern. By replacing so many wholtime firefighters by on-call, who do not provide 24/7 fire cover as most have other full-time work and family commitments, I believe that Cheshire is becoming a second-rate fire service. I appreciate that CFRS has won many accolades/awards for safety initiatives etc. and they have to balance the financial books. However, the core of the fire service is to quickly attend incidents and be effective and professional. It's what the public expect and pay for. My fear is that this will be lost by introducing more on-call firefighters. This is Cheshire, not rural Wales or Scotland or areas of Cumbria, where one could not justify wholtime firefighters in many locations as there are fewer risks.
- Whole time firefighters working a dual on call role does not work. On call firefighters want to protect their community wholtime firefighters want the extra money as their pay has not moved sufficiently with the times. On call ff need time off as well only 4 of these appliances available at Christmas prices this and I bet it will be the same at new year
- Revisit previous decisions made as frankly the service you provide is not making Cheshire safer at all. At any type of hearing or under any scrutiny I think you would be hard pressed to make such a claim.
- Accountability and transparency. Recent Fire death in Lache. Fire engine 16 minutes to attend: why. Rates up = service down
- Q6 of 10 - What happened to Macclesfield
- Level of service should be increased not diminished.
- Stop cutting front line operational staff numbers, 5 riders on appliances. Reinstate 2nd appliance at former two pump stations. Remove bonuses for senior managers ""We are in it together Team Cheshire""
- The on-call times are wrong.
- There is simply no slack in the system currently. I understand that on occasions less than 45 Whole time F/F cover the County. This despite an on-call system that fails to provide cover at some stations for over 50% if the time. OUTRAGEOUS
- in the past 12/12 there has been an increase in the fires being set off @ the estates in Winsford. I feel there should be more awareness regarding the consequences of your firemen attending fires when they could be freeing people from a traffic accident and the cont. implications for the future.
- Why facts relating to crewing levels are not transparent
- please leave arrangements as they currently apply
- no, think new fire station in Penketh is great. position of it seems good and it looks the part
- The safety and providing the highest level of training for all firefighters ranging from academy to chiefs keeping it updated
- Any further diminution in service levels would put the whole of the service to the communities it serves at risk
- I am very concerned with regards to the reduction in fire cover within the Cheshire area?
- As things change, it might be worth having some fire engines based at a 24-hour accessible location where a local stand by crew can be called upon. Like the life boat crews. for example, in more rural areas, or near hospitals, big care homes - where ever the stats say fires are more likely to occur?
- It's based on Fire Cover from On Call stations which regularly fail. It's not a plausible Document
- Whether the basic fire appliance is suitable for the roads of the town in which it is based. And what became of the simple trucks loaded with extra hoses? Train on fire (not seriously) at Calveley a few weeks back seems to have required 5 pumps just to supply enough hoses to reach it. But the fire wouldn't have needed more than one jet\*. So much for efficiency savings. don't argue, I know what caused it - the same thing that tied up 5 pumps in Shropshire a few days later.
- response times
- Chester's famous rows are vulnerable re fire- too many people still smoke on them despite the signs saying no smoking, they are small and hidden- could the fire service be more proactive?
- rather than people having to ask for checks/smoke detectors compulsory house checks because it is the more vulnerable that do not ask for/know how to access help and support e.g. elderly/disabled overcrowded homes- social housing flats etc.
- keep ellesmere port station in the centre of ellesmere port
- I hope this does not mean the closure of Birchwood fire station
- yes, leave the green belt sites well alone
- a new station for Runcorn

- consider parked cars blocking fire engines & ambulances! yellow lines on small village high streets all down one side. I.e. tarvin and Tarporley etc. Access onto estates where car block roads!
- Don't get rid of the on call in Penketh, I know people who work there and they are doing a fantastic job in the community 24/7 being our local firefighters. Keep them full timers and on call covering 24/7 in Penketh to be the backups when Warrington and Widnes are busy elsewhere.
- Keep Penketh the same!
- There is not really an issue with the response of the 1st fire engine. The bigger problem is with the 2nd fire engine responding to incidents whether that is incidents such as PDA's, primary fires or RTC's.
- Time of call should be shown on web site incident log for performance monitoring purposes
- You should state whether you use DCLG Guidance and calculate response time from Time of Call (Operator puts call through to fire control) or state how you deviate. Time of call and time in attendance should be shown on your website incident log so that performance can be monitored.
- The current response model is not fit for purpose. not enough on call appliances available, when a protracted incident occurs full time crews are stuck on the scene for 6-9 hours which demonstrates a complete disregard for the health, safety and welfare for staff. Crews of only 4 fire fighters struggling to cope at incidents, taking huge risks, waiting 20 minutes for a second on call appliance to assist. You can find money to hoard in reserves, money to increase the number of group managers, money to increase the pay of senior managers, money to unbelievably pay senior managers bonus's, but cannot find the money to provide a fit for purpose fire service.

## Appendix 6 – Staff comments received via the consultation survey

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Several questions within the survey asked for narrative comment. Additionally, respondents were asked for any further comments at the end of the survey. Responses are provided by question. Responses which have provided either N/A or stated no further comment have been excluded.

### Consideration of installing a sprinkler system (37 comments)

- Mainly cost
- Due to the cost of current sprinkler systems it would not be affordable.
- Hard wired smoke alarms, non-smoking household, fire doors, good escape routes, well maintained electrics and modern appliances mean we are a low risk household and the cost isn't justified.
- Would be too expensive and not really needed.
- Because of the cost and the work involved to install it. Whilst they are a good idea, fire services would use the fact that houses now have them to make further cuts. Fit sprinklers, but keep resources the same.
- cost
- Cost for fitting sprinklers, look unsightly, and repair/maintain costs. If small fire in property the sprinkler could do more damage than the fire. I strongly disagree with this idea
- Too expensive and unless put in on a new build would create too much mess
- the cost implications and possibility of water damage due to faults would be to high
- Too much work involved. Low risk family
- yes if it was free
- Cost
- I simply couldn't justify the expense
- I believe the cost and maintenance of a sprinkler system would not be of a huge benefit. Good fire safety and working smoke alarms are sufficient for domestic dwellings.
- Too costly and inconvenient. Also creates almost irreparable damage in case of false activation.
- Maintenance costs
- Costs and risk of water damage outweigh the benefits. I manage my home safely so hope there will never be a need for one.
- My house is very old and installing a system would cause damage to ceilings and floorboards.
- depends on visual appearance
- In case of accidental operation. I believe smoke alarms are enough to save life. Added cost and risk of sprinklers to save property and reduce smoke would not be required. Those with sprinklers you would expect would have an alarm too.
- The retro fitting of a sprinkler systems pipework would be either surface mounted in the home and / or under the floor boards. Surface mounted pipework would look ugly. Under the floor boards would create too much disruption.
- the disruption against the benefit for me is too great at the moment, if I moved to a new house I would consider one before moving
- Too much disruption during installation
- Has the water supply been designed to cater for a sprinkler system at the planning stage? Can the system be connected to the mains water supply? Will the system require a storage tank or priority valve? Is there space in the loft for a large quantity of water and a pump? If not can the tank be located on the ground floor or garage? Are the ceiling voids accessible? What are the costs to provide adequate power for the system?
- Its grade two listed so would not be possible
- I rent
- Yes but only as an extra precaution, and not so that Fire Cover is reduced even more or more of it turned over to On-Call.
- My house is 120 years old and while I fully appreciate the benefits it would not be possible
- I have working smoke alarms and don't consider the need for sprinklers in my own home. it may be of use to people who are house bound and would struggle to get out in the event of fire but for regular people I see no need

- I feel that Smoke alarms carry sufficient cover of domestic premises, sprinkler systems would incur cost outlay that in these times of austerity people cannot afford. New build properties however, could benefit from systems being fitted during their construction phase.
- I feel safe with smoke alarms and a family evacuation plan in place.
- Current provision in my home is sufficient in my opinion (relatively new house, hard-wired alarms, no fuel burning devices).
- I believe that with the current provision of smoke detection along with safety already displayed at home the cost would greatly outweigh the benefit to my property. At the moment money needs spending in other more vital areas.
- Fire safety should be a main priority in the home, through interaction with fire fighters during home safety visits they provide all key information for the occupier. The use of sprinklers could become a problem when they need servicing, also people don't look after their smoke alarms and this could become another issue for them.
- Small houses don't necessarily need a sprinkler system as the damage would be a lot more considerable than a potential fire.
- Why? I have detectors to keep me safe, and insurance to replace damaged property. Why spend thousands having a sprinkler system installed? What benefit do I get? By the time a fire is hot enough to set it off, my family and I will be outside waiting for the fire engine. So do I really need extensive water damage to add to the smoke and fire damage?
- I don't consider the risk to be great enough to warrant this type of installation

#### **Review of Penketh Fire Station (66 comments total)**

- Yes, Penketh should not have a reduction in its cover. This station provides cover for its own area as well as support for the Widnes and Warrington areas. I feel reducing this would place communities at risk from reduced cover at night, yes the on call factor is in place, but is not 100% reliable on providing that vital cover needed. Penketh and its geographical area is expanding at rapid rate, with massive commercial hubs being built and already in use, and at least 2 housing estates in development phase. Put simply, with the expansion, domestically and commercially, it is just not feasible to reduce the cover of the area from a fire and rescue point of view.
- Penketh fire station MUST stay staffed 24/7 with wholetime crews. To even consider downgrading cover at Penketh is very concerning. This does not just impact on the residents of Penketh's station area, but also on the residents of Warrington and Widnes, as Penketh is the second (and sometimes first) appliance into these areas. Penketh has been very busy since it went 'LIVE' in January 2017 and warrants its 'whole time' status. Warrington is the busiest station in Cheshire, and its closest supporting appliance is Penketh. If Penketh was downgraded at night, this means Warrington's closest supporting wholetime appliance is Widnes or Lymm.....!! Penketh station was 'sold' to the community of Penketh as a 'whole time' station when planning was applied for.....now 12 months after it has opened, the fire cover at night could be down graded.....It is clear this has been the plan all along, but did the local community know this..? The on call coverage across Cheshire is average at best. This is mirrored at Penketh....so when the on call appliance is not available, Penketh would have NO fire cover at night should the stations cover be downgraded.
- No change, fire cover has been cut in Halton and Warrington and now appliances ride with just four which is contrary to current national studies and thinking. There is no financial need to change the staffing arrangements.
- Penketh fire station currently provides vital fire cover to the communities in the immediate area around the station and surrounding areas of Warrington. I feel that to downgrade evening and night time cover to on-call would lessen the services ability to respond quickly to emergencies in the area and in some cases not be able to provide a fire engine at all.
- Leave it how it is.
- The fact that Penketh are back up to Warrington and Warrington are very busy meaning they rely on the response from Penketh as they are now down to 1 pump and have seen an increase in incidents. I feel that they should be kept as Whole time
- I think it should be kept as it is for now. It is a new station, following a lot of change previously within the service, a further reduction of fire cover within Halton & Warrington should not be the case
- Penketh is a key resource and should be kept whole time.
- Keep the on call 24/7 and keep the whole timers 24/7, due to the recent reduction in cover at Warrington and Widnes stations in the recent year, now the both stations are only 1 engine stations the back up in Penketh makes logical sense and is viable.

- Keep it wholetime. On call at night does not work at Wilmslow, and ever since it went to nucleus crewing, it has been propped up by wholetime firefighters and overtime shifts.
- Penketh fire station was a brand new build which was promised to be staffed by whole time, due to the loss of 1 fire engine from Widnes and Warrington. I feel that if this was to happen the fire cover within these areas would be at an all time high! Both town are getting larger, there are more people now living in both of these and the fire cover doesn't reflect that. If a large incident was to occur then the fire cover for the rest of Halton and Warrington is severely compromised. We would be putting lives in danger due to fire engines having to respond from further away, were as if the appliance to kept whole time then it allows the crews to cover both areas. Over all I think changing the crewing arrangements at Penketh are a bad idea for the country and both town which it serves. Lives will be put in danger due to this and it will cause serious implications in the future.
- I think the idea of Penketh becoming a Nucleus station is a poor idea, the station is there to provide extra cover now Widnes and Warrington have reduced down to one pump stations. If the station was only manned in the day by wholetime and on-call at night, there would be a significant loss of the on-call staff as the majority of on-call staff would not be able to cover the night. This would also be a waste of training and money the service have put into their current on-call staff at Penketh. I would see this as a risk if the station were to become a nucleus station.
- should be kept fully staffed 24/7
- Due to the location of the station and the surrounding risks, I feel that the crewing at Penketh should remain whole time to be able to provide guaranteed 24/7 cover.
- 24hour wholetime cover is a necessity as there will be times in the year when we get incidents which need many pumps and in as quick a time as possible. Statistics don't show this and shouldn't be used to change crewing arrangements at Penketh no matter how few calls the station has.
- Yes keeping the station wholetime. I believe this would be more efficient as the jobs are steady and we have a considerable amount at the night time. A delay could be a mistake.
- Maintain the wholetime crewing arrangement
- Increase crewing levels and keep shift system as it is. Anything less is a reduction in response times
- The station and turn out times are important for the residents of Penketh and also for incidents in Widnes / Halton and Warrington areas as a support / 1st attendance appliance. When the station was built and with the changes around the county I don't think the service was prepared for how busy Penketh would be and the incidents that it has arrived at which would fully support the station staying in a whole time role and maybe with its location adding an special appliance / Command unit to serve out of there.
- I believe Penketh needs to staff a whole-time day and night station. It is clear that appliance response times would be severally affected if Penketh was to become a day staffing system. The second appliance to either Widnes or Warrington would have to come from Runcorn or Warrington and this takes to long even under good traffic conditions. If the service does roll out responding to cardiac arrests across all stations then the potential for there to be little to no fire cover in Warrington or Widnes is significantly higher, any delay particularly at night from Penketh would put the public at risk. As Penketh so often acts as the second appliance to Widnes and Warrington this could also put firefighters at greater risk due to the delay in leaving station.
- The service has built Penketh as a strategic station and a flag pole for CFRS in this area of cheshire, and as yet have not used it to its full potential. The location and cost of the station should put this as an important station for CFRS. When Warrington or Widnes are turned out or on training, their areas can be covered without moving the Penketh appliance into Warrington or Widnes on standby, as they can cover both areas from Penketh fire station. Instead of spending money to improve the older stations in Widnes and Warrington, Penketh station and crewing systems should be maintained as they are, or even improved to two wholetime appliances, and maybe add on call appliances at Warrington or Widnes.
- This is a busy station, I would not recommend downgrading the current system. The station area may not have many incidents within it but the pump movements are on the increase due to backing up 01 & 04. I strongly oppose this
- The residents of the Penketh area, you will be putting us at significant risk by providing a lesser shift system with higher turn out times, I pay the same amount of tax as somebody in Widnes. I demand a full time fire response.
- I am strongly against the crewing at Penketh moving to Nucleolus. While I fully appreciate the financial strains that the service faces I can not accept that this is a viable option. I feel I am in a position to express an opinion on this more than most. I work the wholetime, I manage the on call, and I am a resident within the station area. I will try to structure my concerns in short bullet points

- reduction of cover at 04 an 01 was presented with an appliance being situated between the two towns to support
- On call while it has its place and is a crucial "cheap" tool for the fire service to use is far too vulnerable to be relied on.
- One of two things may happen if Penketh goes nucleolus. The on call pump gets busier which might attract more, but also might put people off due to the impact this could have. And obviously vice versa.
- Specialist skills will be lost such as swift water. The chance of training and maintain this skill for on call would be extremely hard and could prove to be extremely expensive, with a high turn over of staff.
- I also think there is a risk of reputation damage. The community have watched a fire station get built, they have had it sold to them that this is essential to their area, after they objected, for it then to be downgraded in such a short time, would make people feel lied to and unable to trust us
- There would be a loss of wholetime on call, the crew that work it now MAY feel that they are pushing nails into their own coffin. If it wasn't for the commitment and the dedication of the whole-time who work the on call, the appliance would never be available. The wholetime make up 40% of the on call team.
- I apologise if I not made my points very clear, I was trying to keep them short and to the point. I feel I could keep going more and more. As I stated at the beginning I full appreciate the financial pressure, but that is the only reason the reduction would happen at Penketh, all the other reasons will be presented to try and soften the blow, and I feel to put the public at a greater risk as well as the fire fighters serving them, then a different solution must be found.
- It has been proven since its opening, that Penketh fire station has been very busy operationally. On top of covering Penketh it's self the whole time appliance is the second pump into Warrington (The busiest station in Cheshire) and Widnes. If either of these pumps are already at an incident, then Penketh is first into both these stations areas. It is crazy to even consider down grading the fire cover at night at Penketh fire station. The down grading of Penketh at night must not happen.
- Penketh is a vital appliance which not only serves Penketh but is regular in attendance in Warrington, Widnes and Runcorn. Penketh is also the first pump in attendance at a vast amount of 2 pump and above jobs in Warrington and Widnes due to its strategic placement. The vast motorway network, retail and industrial park's and water risks in the Penketh, Warrington and Halton area's only serve to highlight the importance of a readily available Wholetime appliance. This importance is supported by the number of call outs Penketh has received. These call out's are significantly more than predicted by senior management but consistent with operational personnel's predictions. To diminish fire cover in these traditionally higher risk areas would be unjustified and negligent.
- I think that this would be a massive mistake by the service. The pump is one of the busiest pumps in the county. At the time of this, Penketh currently has more jobs in their book than Widnes, Ellesmere Port, Powey Lane and around 250 more than Birchwood. I have not spoken to other stations about their figures. Penketh provides a back up to a massive area of Halton and Warrington, as well as providing cover in their own area. When this gets looked at, it needs to be ensured that you look at pump movement and not incidents in their own station area as they are pretty low compared to the movement of the pump into other areas. The second fire appliance to an incident is as important as the first as recognised by a neighbouring services chief, however our own management do not have that view. I have been in the situation many times when a decision needed to be made on what to do first at a serious fire, luckily, the second pump turned up seconds later. I don't know how management can palm a second attending pump off like it doesn't matter and how you are happy to cut pumps when we already can not deal with incidents on our own. A serious reconsideration needs to be considered regarding this review.
- I do not understand how, with every station in Penketh area already down to 1 appliance how the service can justify removing yet another whole time pump. The station is already on over 500 calls outs for the year at this time (November 2017) and is constantly being called out into the Widnes and Warrington areas. The public and Firefighters are being put at risk due to reduction of appliances and Firefighters. I thought the services main priority was firefighter safety? how can this be when you are reducing crews and appliances while expecting us to attend a wider variety of incidents, and then having to make crucial decisions while waiting 10 minutes for the next appliance/crew to show up?.
- Please consider the fact that the station has literally only recently opened, on a promise of 24/7 wholetime cover to the residents of Halton and Warrington. It is essentially the second pump into Widnes and Warrington and is hence a valuable and vital resource that should be continually staffed and available. Even though the On Call at Penketh are doing a fantastic job, they are not available all

the time and their turn out time does effect safety of residents locally. They should be a fantastic additional resource, not a first line one in my opinion.

- I am currently employed at Penketh station. I would like you to consider the amount of times we get called into other area's to assist or deal with incidents. Your stats for Penketh alone would probably show it to be a very quiet station. If the stats are shown where we have had to go to Widnes or Warrington to assist or actually be the first pump, then I think it will tell a different story. There are times we've been called into the Widnes or Warrington area as a second pump, but have ended up being the first pump there and dealing with the incident. I understand the Authority members will be given stats that they ask for, hopefully they will be the full stats that show the true story of how busy the station actually is. With working at Penketh, I get the chance to see the availability of the On Call pump. There are quite a number of times when I'm in work that the pump is off the run. If Penketh is down graded to just day cover (nucleus), then there could be a struggle for cover at times. Relying on a part time night crew I think is very risky.
- The loss of second appliances at Widnes and Warrington were supposed to be covered by Penketh. If Penketh went to on-call at night this would lead to inadequate fire cover for the Widnes/Warrington area. Will it take another fire death for the decline of fire cover across Cheshire to cease? It's about time principal officers stood up for our fire service!
- The resilience required when the Service is operationally busy, not just first attack but reliefs etc.
- The resilience of the on call firefighters at Penketh. This is because if the crewing does move to nucleolus with on call cover at night if the on call is not available there will only be 3 fire appliances available for immediate response across Runcorn, Widnes and Warrington. I believe that Halton has already done its job in helping to reduce the current fire service budget and further savings could be made by Cheshire west.
- It's a new station and we were told that the area required a wholetime station, so why change it after a year after spending so much money building it? Nucleus shift system does not work, just look at Wilmslow
- Would Penketh work on the same shift pattern as Birchwood? Warrington area will be reduced to 2 full time pumps at night and if Warrington or Lymm are turned out for more than 30 minutes then a standby appliance will need to be brought onto station at either Stockton Heath, Penketh or Birchwood to maintain 2 available appliances in the area.
- Stop cutting the resilience of our service, and the continued reliance on a failing on call model.
- Just to ensure that adequate fire cover is available at all times in the local area.
- Be cognisant of the reasons for building Penketh in the first place; it would be very difficult to justify it going on-call so soon after arguing the case for it being needed.
- Sustainability of the on-call crew. We have had a massive advertising campaign for recruitment, and everybody who applied and met the required standard has been employed. If any of them leave, where will we find replacements? Do we have to increase the catchment area, or reduce the entrance standards? Without one or the other we can not replace staff leaving.
- Reduced fire cover at night. Reliance on on call crews is questionable due to appliances regularly going unavailable. New flagship station being downgraded 18 months after opening doesn't look great for the service image and planning procedures.
- Childcare issues
- The current Crew's opinion and public need
- Availability of other appliances in the area. Risk profile and COMAH sites in the area. Family friendly/flexible solutions. Consult with the Penketh Crews and rep bodies
- The effect on the work life balance of the employees rather than just focusing on savings as you did with the nucleus proposals.
- The welfare and thoughts of the crews based there.
- The local risk and increasing average response times, to include call handling.
- It's been running less than a year why review the system unless it was always the plan to open it whole time and then down grade to a day staffing model. shocking management decision
- Maintain five competent riders at all times
- The fact that a station was justified in the first place and required to be built for a reason.
- Why review this so close to it being opened, surely a thorough review was done to decide an appropriate level of cover before it opened?
- Maintain the On Call crewing arrangements
- A fully on-call model
- Consider making this station day crewing.

- That fits in with the risk profile for the Station and Service area. It provides value for money, is efficient and effective.
- As this was in the plan for the start, then no issues.
- Need to implement a sustainable model in response to actual and predicted risks.

#### **Review of Wilmslow Fire Station (67 comments total)**

- The need to provide a robust and full time response to the community instead of persevering with a model that is not fit for purpose and propped up by whole-time fire fighters.
- On call has never been sustainable as a system in Wilmslow, the cover only works when it is regularly propped up by overtime from wholetime firefighters or other on call staff from a different area looking for a quick buck!
- It is clear that the staffing arrangements at Wilmslow have failed from day 1. The on call have continuously been propped up by whole time staff or covering appliances, or PAS. If Wilmslow does not warrant a whole time station due to low volume of calls, then amalgamate it with Knutsford and build a new station in the middle with 1 x whole time appliance. In addition to this, the service could keep the 3rd aerial appliance and place it at this 'New' station...
- Not sustainable, on call system hasn't worked due to poor availability and retention
- Ensure that the crewing arrangements provide fire cover for the town and surrounding area 100% of the time and do not rely on staff from other stations or on overtime to maintain appliance availability so often.
- Accept it isn't working and address the problem properly.
- That the current system has never been stand alone and has had to be propped up by whole-time crews since the switch to nucleus and is still failing now. Out staffing for either a full shift or part shift on nights should never have been a long term plan. Wilmslow needs a different solution to its staffing problem as it's not the area for on call.
- I would like you to consider why you changed from a shift system that provided 24/7 cover to a system that hasn't worked since that system ended without being propped up by cover appliances or fire-fighters, whole-time or on call doing paid additional shifts.
- The current staffing provision is failing and the service needs to find a more sustainable way of maintaining the night cover at Wilmslow.
- Wilmslow is working on stats, having an appliance available, but in reality it is been propped up every single night by overtime or other on call personnel from other stations. Failing that I believe Ellesmere Port send an appliance if Wilmslow can't be staffed.
- The staffing model at Wilmslow Fire Station has not worked from the very start. It has been systematically propped up by using Whole time staff and Whole time appliances. Even to this day Wilmslow cannot sustain 'on call' fire fighters and the Service continues to cover the shortfall with Whole time fire cover.
- If the second appliance can not be staffed a new system needs implementing.
- This has failed since day 1 and needs to be changed as is costing the service too much money to staff.
- Yes I feel that the wholetime duty system is regularly propping up a failing On Call system at 23 Wilmslow, if Wilmslow is a 'KEY' station and clearly important in terms of local fire cover then why was the station downgraded in the first place?
- The on call system at Wilmslow seems not to work, often I see email requests for cover at the station for as little time as half an hour as the people who staff the system have other commitments. Often we send out staffers to the station to keep the appliance on the run or take the second appliance at Elsmere port off the run or move it to Wilmslow to maintain cover.
- I believe the current system at Wilmslow is not sufficient. The night time are being propped up by moving staff all over the county, which cannot be cost or time efficient.
- The station needs looking at ASAP and I believe that this review should have been done years ago. It should of never been allowed to become on-call as wholetime are still propping up the system. Someone should be made accountable for this decision.
- The inadequacies of the current arrangements and the impact they are having on the other shift systems. The thoughts and ideas of the crews working in Wilmslow who know the area and work on the station.
- Reverse the cuts implemented at Wilmslow fire station and make it a whole-time station. Staffing has been unacceptable for years under the smokescreen of a successful transition to on-call.



- Wilmslow is a vital station, being a border station with Manchester and so close to the airport and its infrastructure, as well as providing cover to its station area. Wilmslow can only be seen as a 24 hour shift station or a 24 staffing model equivalent. Again, Wilmslow has on call coverage there, but again is it reliable all the time? If that answer is no, Wilmslow can only be seen as a station that requires and upgrade in its staffing capability.
- Return to 24/7 wholetime crewing, Cheshire East is threadbare in terms of immediate response fire cover and this needs to be addressed. On Call is not resilient enough for Cheshire
- Make the station wholetime again, the night time cover is not working, never has, never will.
- In my opinion, the amount of time that Wilmslow has struggled to support an effective on-call watch and the amount of OCDD and PAS shifts would suggest that returning Wilmslow to Wholetime would make sense.
- Due to the high housing/land costs in Wilmslow it may be worth looking at 24hr shift patterns just for Wilmslow and building accommodation on site. I feel you would have a good response for staff and it also maintain 24hr cover.
- Return this station to whole time staffing.
- Wilmslow model isn't working it is being held together by PAS by the seems of it with all the PAS emails that get sent out for the required cover. Can it be down graded from being a key station? Or have whole time covering 24/7 again.
- Make it back to wholetime. This is an area of high council tax and I feel the residents are being short changed. Since Wilmslow went nucleus staffing, it has been propped up by overtime shifts and wholetime firefighters.
- Obviously the system in place does not work, on call cover at night is being back filled by wholetime firefighters and personnel on overtime since 2010. Surly it would be more cost effective to revert to a wholetime station?
- Consider a 224 wholetime station place strategically, this could eliminate the need for on call pumps at stations such as Poynton, Macclesfield and Bollington. We spend so much money trying to make these pumps work in that we have taken our eye off the value to focus on the cost.
- Yes 224 crewing system as the neighbouring service is always attending calls into the area.
- should be left alone or upgraded back to 2 2 4shift 24/7
- It should be made a 24/7 wholetime station, it was very poor management to downgrade it to Nucleus, it has never provided good levels of cover with on call and it will not in the future.
- due to the station failing to maintain its on-call cover and constantly being backed up by whole time fire fighters and OCDD because the service is unable to recruit fire fighters from the local area, I feel it should be returned to a WT station to ensure cover is maintained 24/7. If Wilmslow pump is unavailable at night none of the surrounding stations (including GMC pumps) can meet the 10 minute standard. Moving the station further North of the town would also affect our over the boarder assistance to Manchester airport.
- Consideration to be made regards changing back to 2-2-4 due to the issues on call faces at Wilmslow
- I believe this should go back to wholetime, this is an area with substantial houses that pay a lot of council tax to be covered and to have a delay on turn out would be a mistake.
- Yes Wilmslow as should as should Macclesfield be returned to full time cover at night time.
- make it wholetime system again
- go back to wholetime duty system
- Well, you've tried everything to make it work. Why not bite the bullet and return it to a tried, tested, and successful wholetime crewing system? Then recruitment ceases to be a problem, removing pumps from other areas to cover the shortfalls stops, and the major local risks get a highly trained crew arriving several minutes quicker than the current response times.
- Provide full time cover for the residents of Wilmslow, they pay the same as anyone else.
- For the last 7-8 years the problems have been the same at Wilmslow regarding staffing of the On Call appliance at night times and weekends. I believe now is the time to consider changing the staffing model as it is obviously not working. Ideally to a four watch whole time system again.
- 24 hour wholetime fire cover works. The current crewing arrangement has never been stand alone although this was that was the initial aim.
- The on call model at Wilmslow has failed. The on call system is regularly being propped up with either whole time staff detached in, or PAS. Consideration should be given to a whole time shift returning to Wilmslow.
- The location of the station and therefore the ability to actually get the On Call staff, could we identify another location?

- try and maintain the On call Appliance without having to supplement the deficient skill sets from wholetime appliances reducing the wholetime resilience across the county
- Large development of Manchester airport increasing risk, demographics in Wilmslow making it difficult for recruitment and retention.
- Wilmslow just isn't the type of community where the on-call model can be sustained. I think a more radical solution of single new station covering the existing Poynton, Bollington and Wilmslow areas is required.
- This should take into consideration the on going issue of on call staff and recruitment at Wilmslow.
- If calls are comparable with other On Call stations then moving to wholly On Call crewing should be considered.
- Maintain five competent riders at all times and improve availability at night, maybe through a different staffing model.
- The current Crew's opinion and public need
- Ensure adequate fire cover is maintained 24/7.
- Availability of other appliances in the area. Risk profile and COMAH sites in the area. Family friendly/flexible solutions. Consult with the Wilmslow Crews and rep bodies
- That is fits in with the risk profile for the Station and Service area. Its provides value for money, is efficient and effective
- We need to ensure that we are providing a good service to the community, as our core values says "putting customers first" this needs to be at the front of everything we do! By reducing staffing and closing stations doesn't give the public the view we are there encase of any emergency. The area which Wilmslow services deserves a fire engine which is able to get to any emergency within a reasonable time, if not then lives will be put in dangers and we must ensure plans and resources are in place to provide a flexible, efficient and resilient response to emergency incidents.
- Increase crewing levels and keep shift system as it is. Anything less is a reduction in response times
- Can current skill/staffing levels sustain the change in crewing arrangements as well as providing the same level of fire cover.
- At lot of the points I raised above fit this answer as well. I would say I know that mixed crewing option is being looked at and I don't know how that would work. The fire service I work in is all about working well as a team and helping each other through each and every task. Mix crewing at Wilmslow would me individuals working 48 hours over 8 night shifts with very little interaction with anyone else, I don't think this will work and could possibly see a high turn over in staff.

#### **Review of the third aerial appliance (65 comments total)**

- Use of aerial appliances, location and speed of response to all areas. Additional uses and PDA for aerial appliances. SSRI/COMAH Site requirement for incidents. Crewing levels of aerial appliances
- High rise risks in the area. In light of the Grenfell incident it would be worth considering making sure east Cheshire has a wholetime Aerial appliance again. Cheshire east residents are paying the most tax but getting the worst fire cover.
- Consideration of the risk to heritage and high rise and the response times
- Location of the aerial and travel time should this asset be removed. number of high rise/ buildings of height within the area
- Yes. Wait for the outcome of the Grenfell tower enquiry. Range and pennine courts, and the high rises in Handforth have all been 'clad' within the last few years. Waiting for the findings before removing the first and best option for saving the lives of the residents in these buildings is a necessity, rather than trying to save what equates to a minute fraction of our budget.
- Following some recent tragedies involving high rise buildings the need to be able to respond to this type of incident. The removal of an aerial staffed by on-call fire fighters will not deliver any significant savings but increase the risk to the communities.
- Cheshire has needed three aerial appliances for years. Just because of austerity the risk hasn't changed and therefore neither should the aerial capability of Cheshire fire service
- Response times are going to suffer in the Cheshire east area. keeping the 3 aerials at Chester Lymm and macc is a rare piece of sense due to their geographic locations within the county
- Recent events in the country have highlighted the valuable asset that having aerial appliances can bring. Having a third appliance will only add to the effective response that Cheshire can bring to its incidents, an aerial appliance can carry out so many versatile roles in todays modern service, and having our own appliances, strategically placed, and not relying on cross border assistance can only be a positive move for Cheshire.

- The 3rd aerial appliance should not be under review. It is an essential special appliance, and provides safety to both firefighters and members of the public, due to the nature of the work it can undertake.
- The location and availability. I would also strongly disagree with consideration to remove the resource.
- Yes, ensure it has the same capability as the other two
- Whilst not used as often as other appliances aials provide vital support and tactics on the fire ground when needed. I would urge the service to keep the 3rd aerial appliance even if it ultimately ends up somewhere else other than Macclesfield.
- Keep it, as on call. Having resilience is better than having nothing. It costs pennies to run on an on-call basis.
- Leave it in place.
- Maintaining an aerial in the east side of the county is vital, due to the risk profile and the distance to the other aerals in the county.
- If the revenue cost to run it is fairly small then it would make sense to replace the appliance and purchase a new one.
- I feel due to the risk of high rise buildings within Cheshire and the multiple use of these appliances even at non high rise incidents, they are a valuable asset and the third must be kept.
- Keeping it or better yet upgrading it! Used at multiple incidents and a key resource for Cheshire east and surrounding areas. It is almost difficult to believe that the service is considering removing it from our resources after Grenfell and the risks posed in that area.
- Consider purchase of a refurbished one rather than a new then continue to crew with the On Call
- Keep it at Macclesfield, primary staffed during the day.
- Could the 3rd aerial appliance be crewed on a recall to duty system similar to the system already adopted in Merseyside? This approach would give us the resilience of the third aerial without the cost of permanent staffing all year.
- More is always better and having them local in key areas in the county.
- With what happened with Grenfell it would be daft to remove the hydraulic platform or not replace it with something suitable. It is used not only in Macclesfield but can get to areas such as Wilmslow, Alderley edge, Prestbury in a short period of time significantly quicker than either of the ALPS. It is also used further afield to provide cover for the ALPS and has a large number of fire-fighters trained to use it so it is available the majority of the time.
- Due to the recent event in London, I feel that we should ensure we have the correct equipment to help fire fighters be able to tackle fires within large tower blocks. For example the resent event show that the fire could have been prevented from developing if an aerial appliance was in attendance. Therefore its import that we have the resources available to us encase of an incident like that. Also the appliance can be used for other duties, i.e. launching the boat in area were there isn't a slip way. This appliance is an essential part of being able to quickly and effectively launch the boat to carry out a rescue on water.
- Yes get one.
- The third aerial should be kept as it covers an area within the county that the other aerals would take at least 30 mins to get too!
- I feel Macclesfield's HP is a valuable asset for the service, it provides resilience for the service for when any of the other aerals are at incidents or at workshops for service/repair. With Lymm having an aerial it frequently becomes unavailable due to them having other specials with only 1 pump as a support to all the specials. As it is an on-call appliance it would cost the service very little to staff the aerial. Macclesfield also has 2 of the largest high-rise in Cheshire and also covers a large number of other high-rise in Cheshire. The service should not rely on other services to provide aerial cover as these may not always be available.
- 3 aerial appliances should be maintained, the HP at Macclesfield is staffed by on call there is a minimal cost involved.
- maintain the 3rd ALP and replace with an equivalent new appliance or an appliance with a greater overall height to enhance reliance across the north west
- Yes leave it at Macclesfield were it has always been, why it was there in the First place if it is not require now!?
- I think the 3rd aerial appliance should stay in place, there have already been incidents in which 2 aerial appliances have been required in my short time in the service, by removing the 3rd aerial appliance you remove the ability to launch the rescue boat or carry out height access safely if the other 2 aerals are at an incident, I do believe however that this 3rd appliance should be an on call appliance to reduce cost.

- Again, I don't agree with any cuts so strongly disagree with this
- Every job you see these days pretty much has an aerial involved, do you really want a scenario like Grenfell on your hands where an aerial doesn't arrive for a while?
- If this appliance is being adequately staffed and resourced by Macclesfield on Call staff then it should be kept as an additional resource. As Macc does have a history of aerial jobs and Lymm and Chester are simply too far away to be the first ones in to any incident.
- What would be the risk of removing it, would having only two ever leave us without appropriate resources to respond to large scale incidents? Also should bear in mind resources in neighbouring and comparable FRS's.
- The additional aerial appliance is important during large incidents for maintaining relief cover and resilience.
- Aerials might not be used often but from an operational point of view are essential. Our FF tactics are more defensive now than they have ever been and this will only increase the use of an aerial. When aerials are used then tend to be committed to jobs for long periods, to reduce to two aerials I think is a gamble and a gamble that could cost homeowners/business and the local community's lots of money.
- It's an essential specialist appliance for operational crews and must be kept.
- If it's not cost effective get rid of it.
- I do not see the requirement for a third aerial appliance at this present time.
- Hurry up and get one that can be staffed by whole time staff, to improve resilience across the county.
- A robust plan should have been in place before all the station moves and even now it's to be stationed at an unknown place?! Despite this crews at different stations are being asked / expected to train on a very technical piece of equipment that they may or may not have full access to. Seems a bit backward to me.
- I feel that the Ariel Appliances should be moved to stations with no specials and spread the services risk rather than put multiple specials at one station meaning when the pump or a special are mobilised the remaining specials are no longer available. this should apply to all stations and specials
- Make it back to wholetime. The on call are not always available in the day to staff the second machine or the aerial. Is this value for money?
- The aerial appliance should be staffed by wholetime personnel so that it is available as the on call staff are very rarely available during the day even though I do believe that the agreement was for the on call to make the aerial appliance and the 2nd machine available throughout the day and both appliances and the aerial over night.
- it should be left alone and kept at Macclesfield with enough full time staff to crew it
- Look at Grenfell! The third aerial appliance should be mixed crewed with the wholetime, as the on call are not keeping up their competence.
- To keep the 3rd aerial appliance, however to move it to a wholetime station to staff.
- keep it wholetime primary manned
- keep the aerial appliance wholetime primary manned
- I would like you to consider the grammar of the question.
- Cost
- Again I would just to see adequate aerial appliance cover across the county.
- What does 'reviewing' actually mean? I think we need to be honest with staff and the public and be clear on our intentions; are we reviewing whether it's actually needed? Or where it's based? Or how it's crewed? Or what model it is?
- Why there has been one there for so many years, and the incident at Grenfell Tower. The need for swift action at a high rise incident in Macclesfield.

#### **Station replacement programme (62 comments total)**

- How are we affording this? The public don't want to see this extravagant spending when services are being drastically cut (Crewe), I worry that this kind of project could be damaging. It's also sad that we have lost most of our HQ to save money and are now very fragmented, yet there seems to be money being spent elsewhere.
- Do not waste the money that you have saved not recruiting and cutting frontline posts to build new stations. The latest station are not fit for purpose and certainly not staff friendly.
- Think it through and actually plan for what will be needed, instead of building in places that might need a station then downgrading it or building a massive station with a secret plan for some kind of co-op that's not in place yet and may never happen, it's very wasteful and misleading to the public.
- Cost, is it really needed when we already have Stations available that are fit for purpose and have recently had a large amount of money spent on them.

- Location, cost effective, not to downgrade any fire cover.
- Consider if new stations are a nice to have rather than a need to have. Is it more cost effective to upgrade the existing premises rather than rebuild? Can land be sold to investors in order to reduce the cost to the public?
- So long as jobs on the front line ain't lost and the quality of equipment and training isn't lost. Is it do able?
- This seems very strange to me, as for the last few years we have been making cut backs and continue to do so. Where are we getting the money from?
- All we ever hear is cuts cuts cuts, so where does the money come from to build all these new stations? If there is money in the pot they it would be best spent on firefighter safety i.e. 5 riders which in turn would be better for public safety.
- Is it really required?? When we are riding 4's, which is the worst possible thing to do for firefighter safety, do we really need new stations at huge cost? Same applies for the new training centre, it will make training more realistic but it won't make firefighters safer. The thing that's makes firefighters safer is having the correct numbers of people on appliances to enable us to implement the safest procedures.
- Out dated fire stations need to be made modern, but we need to ensure we focus on the issue of protecting the community. We need to make sure that fire stations are not being built (Penketh!) then a year later talk of down grading it from whole time. Why not spend the money on ensuring we keep as many whole time appliances at stations so we can provide the best fire cover to the public whom you're now asking to pay more tax! I am all for redeveloping stations, but can't the money be spent in keeping whole time appliances at key stations.
- All should have 2 appliances with 5 riders to service the local communities.
- I think the money could be better used on recruiting whole time fire fighters to maintain high standard of fire cover for the Cheshire public.
- Crews should maintain two appliances to maintain resilience in C/E
- Keep them full time and staffed as they are, minimise disruption to operations and staff.
- Please do not use it as an opportunity to downgrade the staffing at any of these vital stations. An increase in council tax for a decrease in public safety and first line response is simply not acceptable in these times of austerity.
- Co-location of other services/partners, and possibly income generation opportunities.
- Cost.....
- With the recent announcement that Chester is to have a new station starting in the spring, it might be prudent to consult the people who actually work there on the internal layout of the station.
- Consultation with the operational staff who are to work at these locations would be appreciated.
- Operational staff need to be involved in the very fine detail of the design work from the word go; things like cupboards in wrong places, lack of storage and meeting space, where furniture is going to fit, how big the gym is etc. have marred the moves into Lymm and Powey Lane. I say this as non-operational member of staff, but crews are (unfairly) unappreciative of the new builds because a lot of simple things don't work for them,
- New and improved stations do seem appropriate, they are old and out dated for the modern realities of the service. I do think more attention needs to be paid to the thoughts of the firefighters staffing them as they are using the spaces and often have ideas to improve them. These does not seem to be the case for example at the newer stations.
- Costs. Learn from mistakes made at other new builds. Speak to crews on station
- Value for Money. Have crews involved from day 1. Learn from the mistakes made at Penketh & Lymm (maybe others). New stations is not just the building, have a 1 fits all working practice that can be set up in all the new stations (standard tests, smf, standards etc.)
- Input from staff based on those stations. Ensuring they are fit for purpose and take in to consideration the needs of the crews that will be working at these locations. Any future increase in staffing levels should funding be increased form government to bring crewing levels back to safe levels.
- Siting of the stations in accordance with risk in the community and response times.
- have they been in the wrong position for the last 50 years or is the dwindling cover with reduced fire appliances more of a factor in this thought
- I agree all four stations need significant modernisation. Has there been any consideration of involving partner agencies in the Chester station plans? The central location may lend itself to at least a police office for PCSOs or maybe a single bay for an ambulance or paramedic car? Could this bring in some lease/rental income? Crewe fire station is a very difficult location to envisage the on-call model working from unfortunately and a joint station is a good idea but again the location of the station may

be problematic for public to access given traffic problems. Can another location for the station be found that would alleviate traffic and maybe provide an easier on-call catchment?

- Warrington to remain in its location as it is already ideal to get around the town and to jump onto the motorway network quickly.
- Potentially moving stations to new locations where crewing them as On-call would be easier. E.g. moving Crewe and Ellesmere Port to more residential locations.
- Central Locations, access, road links, crew welfare, quality of build to provide longevity and sustainability, built in options to increase the number of appliances and staff should the future require it. Remove office staff to out of town business parks for cheaper costs, as they do not require a central location to operate. Solar panels, ground source heat pumps, glazing and insulation. Training space and facilities.
- Ensure access to and from the stations is easy. Also consider the number of residential dwellings in the area to potentially tap into for on-call recruitment.
- Please consider the traffic issues in Warrington, which affect the whole town whenever there is an incident on the M6, M56 or M62. Warrington becomes gridlocked very easily. The current location of Warrington Fire Station is perfect for accessing all parts of the town during these problematic times.
- New stations are very welcomed.....cutting the appliances that are in them or reducing fire cover from whole time to on call at night is not....!! Quality training facilities at any new station is very welcomed. A cut to target driven work so we have more time to use these facilities would be welcomed as well.
- Training facilities to be incorporated, eco/energy systems
- enhance the training facilities at these stations to allow for more realistic training to take place on station
- making them more accessible for disabled members of the community and staff
- To ensure, as much as possible, that the new stations are fit and ready for as yet unknown future demands and developments, such as; joint emergency service bases where fire, police and ambulance crews are housed in the same building. Ensuring that the duty fire crew has space to work, train (including lectures and soft skill training) and relax where appropriate.
- Staff welfare, separate toilet and shower facilities, good training facilities and built with the vision to facilitate future developments.
- I would like to see the service bring back Poles as these are safer than stairs and a Fire Service tradition. Other services have them and have no H&S issues. When building the stations we need to consider the number of pods to shower and change. As when we have 8-10 people all wanting to shower or change at the same time these can become busy.
- modern facilities for Prevention and Protection departments with adequate space to accommodate the numbers of staff present
- Impact on local communities. Practicalities of getting to the station. Location - in housing areas can be quite disruptive noise wise, and also safety if near schools, etc. Consult the communities. Single sex facilities/enough facilities for all watch members
- The proposed locations are appropriate to the risk profile of the station and service area. Provision of energy efficient and sustainable building design.
- provision to still be able to accommodate youth programmes at these venues
- Fully inclusive premises
- Solar panels, rain water used to flush toilets.
- Value for money for the public paying their tax, a station that CFRS can be proud of in prime and visible location. I would also like to see adequate space on these new stations for the duty watch to work/ rest in comfortably. Especially if there is an appetite for sharing these facilities with other emergency responders.
- provide more space for firefighters instead of being crammed into one small space within the kitchen area
- Options to update and modify the stations as times change
- Collaboration with partners and in a location where able to attract on call recruits
- To ensure the new stations are built in accordance with potential future plans, enabling the service to demonstrate flexibility in the future.
- To ensure the on call staff are retained through the process at Nantwich
- Ellesmere Port On Call Scheme Remains
- Response times
- keep Chester fire station and modernise it
- I agree that Chester and Crewe stations are in need of a refurbishment or a complete rebuild. Ellesmere Port and Warrington are old, but the addition of Powey lane and Penketh should be fully

utilized, and I believe as yet those stations are not. I do not see the benefit of rebuilding Ellesmere Port or Warrington.

- This is welcomed, these stations are now out of date and not fit to use as a modern community fire station

#### **Any other comments (44 comments total)**

- Staff need a pay rise to make up for 7 years of pay reversal. Start with CPD payments. Principal Officers share bonus payments for taking on extra responsibilities. Fire fighters been doing the same for years with less staff for little or no financial reward. Another example of the division within Cheshire Fire and Rescue service.
- Public perception of us is terrible at the moment. Laura Smith MP is running a campaign that has lots of support. We shouldn't be seen to be making investments in infrastructure when services are being reduced.
- When are we going to reach the tipping point where we can't cut anymore? When is someone going to stand up and say 'enough is enough'...? When is there going to be an acceptance that 'too much is being asked of too few'
- There is not much detail included, safety should not be compromised for financial savings
- Stop cutting - The fire Service is already so thinly spread, especially in Cheshire, please stop the cuts to our front line services.
- The service is driven to create savings and improve efficiency, I have seen cost savings but as yet I have not seen any improvements in efficiency. The building of new stations is great as long as they are fully utilized and become value for money. There is no benefit to just replacing the current stations with more of the same. CFRS need to create strategic hubs, with adequate duty systems and used these to the fullest.
- DO NOT increase the precept. When the residents discover we are not spending their additional taxation on improving their service, but just adding it to our reserves, there will be an electoral backlash on the authority members for approving it. A little respite for the residents will make future increases easier to stomach. Alternatively add 2.1% on to the precept to force a vote and register either approval or rejection of our spending model from our employers (the residents of Cheshire). The year on year savings already achieved will continue into the next few years, so additional savings are not a priority. Concentrate on maintaining or improving the current standards of service, rather than adding additional non-essential departments or staff to an already overblown corporate structure. We are an emergency service. ALL our efforts should be concentrated on making sure the best equipped and best trained firefighters get to those in desperate need in the shortest possible time.
- We are at a tipping point now with cuts, there's not enough to go round as it is. If you push on with yet even more cuts then something is going to snap within the service and it could be a disaster for all involved.
- I think it would be worth looking at more medical response work such as falls etc.
- Consider the Cardiac response scheme its additional work how about paying additional pay, this doesn't get any mention
- In regards to the cardiac response scheme, I believe the fire service should support the action of the FBU for a fair pay deal for taking on these additional responsibilities and that the PO's should make this support public.
- Yes I would be very dismayed if fire service personal tuned up at my home when what I required is an Ambulance, with fully trained Paramedic with the knowledge and drugs and equipment, not least experience to help me or my family.
- I agree with responding to cardiac arrests however I do think this needs to be thought through very carefully. I don't feel like the fire service provides enough training to deal with the situation and the use of a full fire appliance for the incident seems unnecessary. A car would be a better alternative as this would first of all keep fire cover in place as an appliance would not be tied up at an incident but also the fact that a car can get down narrower streets easier. The new appliances are very large and struggle with smaller side roads reducing response times and also take fire cover away from an area. Also a fire appliance attracts a lot of attention from the public giving rise to further problems from public interest especially as a side road may be blocked by the size of the appliance causing traffic problems potentially delaying an ambulance even further. Drug intervention seems to be the most effective method of dealing with a cardiac arrest however this isn't something the fire service can do, I believe this is something that should be considered before this programme is rolled out. This would ensure that the service and staff are fully prepared and trained before responding to these incidents meaning we provide the best service possible to the public.

- In question 6 I have supported the cardiac response. While I support it I support it with conditions. I may be the minority but I don't want a pay rise for doing this work, but I do want the service to charge NWAS/NHS/Government for providing this service that in turn will help keep fire appliances. I don't think it's acceptable to say we will do this because NWAS can't cope with the demand, while we are cutting fire appliances that we can't afford to keep. I also think training is essential not just in first aid skills but in stress management and dealing with families and the bigger picture.
- Regarding the rolling out of the cardiac response. This cannot happen until the funding, training and health and safety concerns of staff and the FBU are addressed. Should these things be put in place I agree that it is a good service for us to provide, but it cannot be provided with limited training, support, wellbeing arrangements, and certainly not without the additional funding from central government. To put it in the plan without these things in place is obscene.
- Leave the 2nd pumps in place at Ellesmere Port and, in particular, Crewe as there is a lack of resilience without them, Crewe is surrounded by on call stations whose availability cannot be guaranteed, extra back up can be a long time coming.
- Macclesfield has a large station area which is surrounded by on call stations who also are so often unavailable meaning the Macclesfield pump has to travel great distances to get to an incident. A suggestion would be to close the surrounding on call stations and build a purpose built wholetime station staffed 24hrs with 2 appliances who can then be available 100% of the time and be able to cover the area. Why do the on call receive bonuses throughout the year for doing their job, wholetime firefighters do their job and get no thanks from management? We are told a firefighter is a firefighter, on call and wholetime are the same, obviously not as it would seem that the on call are appreciated more.
- Cheshire Fire Service need to ensure we are providing the best service to the community and by increasing the tax, but reducing staffing on some stations and appliances is putting lives at risk. There needs to be an effective front line services and with the reduction in crewing at stations this will seriously put lives at risk. Fire appliances are having to come from further to attend incident which could be dealt with straight away by crew who are kept whole time (i.e. Penketh, serving two towns!) every town, city and village is getting bigger in Cheshire, but our fire cover doesn't reflect this? surly we need to change with the times and provide the fire cover which the public deserve. As stated in our core values, we put the customer first! This needs to be reflected with the level of cover over the whole county.
- Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service still look to implement 'on call' staffing models throughout Cheshire. Even though this model has failed at Wilmslow Fire Station from its very beginning. For the 'on call' model to work it requires 15 staff. If it is run with insufficient numbers it will continually be 'not available' for fire calls. The Runcorn Fire Station 'on call' model still struggles to maintain sufficient cover. The proposed 'on call' model for Ellesmere Port only has 7 potential staff, two of which are whole time fire fighters. How can you contemplate introducing a system that will fail from the start? The Fire Service nationally is in dispute with the Fire Brigades Union regarding Cardiac Response. In fact its trail has recently been stopped by the Union. Fire fighters understand the importance of saving lives but for years now they have taken on huge additional workloads without any financial reward. They have had a pay freeze for seven years and struggle to make ends meet as inflation rises every year. If you are asking fire fighters to take on more responsibilities and expand their role, pay them accordingly. In any other industry or business additional workloads and responsibilities are rewarded. Cheshire Fire & Rescue have said they need to make huge financial savings now and in the future. What they fail to mention is that they have 40 plus million in reserves that should cover such budget restraints for quite a few years.
- I would very much like to see Crewe and Ellesmere Port Fire station keep their second pumps ensuring robust fire cover and adequate firefighters to deal with incidents safely and quickly.
- The need to staff an appliance with a minimum ridership of 5 to maintain crew safety and provide an effective first response. The detailed research into second appliance response times and how this affects the outcome of an emergency.
- More wholetime frontline firefighters, five riders on first appliances and a standard attendance time for second appliances to incidents. Reduce the number of back office staff, the numbers that have transferred to Clemonds Hey under BLC is ridiculous, why so few frontline staff need so much support staff when nothing ever seems to be achieved. Concentrate on being a good fire and rescue service that treats its staff with respect and dignity instead of disciplining firefighters, have we forgotten how to manage? Too much money is wasted on vanity projects such as Lymm and new uniforms, just trying being good leaders and the workforce will follow.
- Crewing arrangements, new stations and shift reviews have all been introduced and taken on board by local crews in recent years and some of these have brought about financial savings to the service.



One area I would really encourage the service to look at again is the reintroduction of the 5th rider on frontline appliances. Many stations have seen reductions in the number of appliances in recent years and on call availability is low during certain periods. The extra crew member on an appliance can have a huge impact on crew safety and the ability of the initial attending appliance to save life or prevent an incident from escalating.

- Yes I do. You tell me a firefighter is a firefighter, so when firefighter safety is paramount, how come on call pumps can turn out with 5 or 6 riders on. While all wholetime pumps have to turn out with 4 riders all the time? Is this fair? And why should some firefighters take a greater risk with their lives than other firefighters. Surely we are all equal? Also, why do the on call firefighters get a bonus for keeping the pump available over 80% of the time? While there is no bonus scheme for the wholetime crews. Is this fair?? I would like you to consider shutting Macclesfield, Wilmslow, Bollington and Poynton and building two correctly sited wholetime stations with one wholetime pump on each, to cover all these areas.
- You take all the good will out of the retained, on call, you lose community spirit. Whole time there to do their job and such a good job, retained there to do their job for their community. 2 different types of firefighter, giving different qualities. You cannot be the same in a dual role on call are just that, whole time are just that. until all fire services recognise that things will not improve, certainly in local communities
- Response times, competency of staff and the facility to mentor development fire-fighters properly, not to use them as a bum on a seat that may lead to a compromised safety position.
- Remember we are a fire and rescue service and our core business is actually 999 calls. The amount of additional work we are required to do these days seems like people forget that part.
- Vague statement to review fire protection department has introduced real concerns regarding job security and appreciation of work undertaken
- It is now difficult to speak to ex HQ staff now they have moved to Police. Phones are not answered. IT is terrible and feels like we are not a priority.
- This is a well thought out plan.
- I would like you to consider the investment that is urgently needed at Runcorn fire station to upgrade the windows with double glazing. The current single glazed windows do not fully close and allow rain water to get into the station, they offer little thermal efficiency so the boiler has to work flat out through the winter months at a substantial cost to the service. Runcorn is the only single glazed wholetime station in the county.
- Work with your fire fighters and not against them, they want to help and understand the savings that need to be made. Stop wasting money on 'stylish new look' fire stations, just maintain the old ones.
- Consider a reduction in the Safe & Well target ... as the S&W visits become more complex and therefore longer, I believe we should change the focus to "quality & not Quantity"
- employ more firefighters
- In 13 pages, there's only one page actually alluding to the proposals - with almost no explanation of what they involve or the thinking behind them. You can't run meaningful consultation on this basis.
- Consider more creative ways of staffing. Look into 24hr shifts and 48hr shifts with station accommodation. It is not for everyone but there is an appetite for it and it would allow for less staff but keeping the vital 24/7 response times.

## **Appendix 7 – Responses received from partners and stakeholders**

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Partners and external stakeholders were either emailed or written to and encouraged to provide written responses and comments. 13 stakeholders provided full responses to the consultation, which are included below with the exception of the formal response from the Cheshire Fire Brigades Union. This is included separately on the Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service website and the response was received by Members of Cheshire Fire Authority and considered at their Planning Day on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

### **Consultation Responses**

#### **Alsager Town Council**

Dear Sir / Madam

Alsager Town Council has reviewed the Consultation plan for 2018-19 and have instructed me to comment as follows:

1. The Town Council is supportive of the proposals to carry out more Cardiac Arrest prevention work, work with cadets and disaster work (following Grenfell Tower)
2. However, it is concerned that the proposed cuts to the Crewe Fire station may impact on Alsager and will be monitoring this closely should it happen.

Nicola Clarke  
Town Clerk

#### **Christleton Parish Council**

Dear Mr Worrall

Following the meeting of Christleton Parish Council last night, when your draft integrated risk management plan was considered. The Parish Council agreed with all plan except

- Providing additional funding to encourage local housing providers to fit sprinkler systems in their properties.

It was felt that the cost was prohibitive for developers and in Wales builders are delaying starting developments and are trying to get the legislations amended. There have also been cases where the sprinkler system malfunctioned, thereby causing unnecessary extensive and expensive damage to properties.

Yours sincerely

Sue Thwaite  
Clerk – Christleton Parish Council

#### **Crewe Town Council**

This Council notes with great concern plans proposed by Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service to in effect, downgrade Crewe Fire Station by staffing Crewe's second pump solely with on-call firefighters therefore reducing the availability of Crewe's second pump. This Council recognises the contribution of Cheshire's on-call, volunteer fire fighters but cannot accept a policy through which community safety and firefighter safety will be put at risk. Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service have not proven that on-call crewing systems for second pumps are effective at large urban stations like Crewe. This Council notes with concern all of the issues surrounding the lack of fire cover in the entirety of Cheshire East. This Council wishes to see a second pump staffed 24/7 by whole-time firefighters, remaining in south east Cheshire – whether that be in Crewe or a

neighbouring town. This Council remains unconvinced by the arguments to downgrade Crewe's second pump and therefore resolves:

- Crewe Town Council formally writes to the Senior Management Team of CFRS and all members of the Cheshire Fire Authority rejecting the plans to downgrade Crewe's second pump urging an urgent re-think ahead of CFA's February meeting. This letter is to be signed by the Leader and Deputy Leader of CTC.
- Crewe Town Council writes to the Leader of Cheshire East and Cllr Margaret Simon, Chair of Corporate Overview & Scrutiny, requesting further scrutiny on the issue of fire cover and provision in Cheshire East.
- Crewe Town Council releases a press release to reassure local residents that, as a body of elected representatives, we reject the plans to downgrade Crewe's second pump.
- Crewe Town Council and its elected representatives support efforts by all local Borough Councillors and the Member of Parliament to resist plans to downgrade Crewe's second pump.

## **Neston Town Council**

Neston Town Council would like to submit the following comments to the consultation on the Integrated Risk Management Plan 2018/19:

Reviewing the provision of the Service's third aerial appliance

Although this appliance at Macclesfield does not directly impact on the Neston Parish we support the concept that this appliance is under regular review to maximise its efficiency.

Proposing to roll out the cardiac response pilot - undertaken in conjunction with the North West Ambulance Service - to all fire stations across Cheshire

Provided this does not impact on the Authority's ability to respond to its core calls, we feel this is an excellent collaboration that will benefit the whole county.

Reviewing Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service's Protection Department to ensure it is able to meet the emerging demands following the Grenfell Tower fire

It is reassuring to note that the Authority undertook a major review 4 years ago, with the new centre at Lymm contributing to training in this area, before the Grenfell Tower fire highlighted these concerns. Continuous updating in the light of developments is crucial. The Authority already has a proactive policy of communication but we would like to see much more public information available where people meet on a regular, informal basis (community centres etc).

Developing and considering options to build new, replacement, fire stations in Chester, Crewe, Ellesmere Port and Warrington – potentially in conjunction with local partner agencies

It vital to keep stations in these areas of high population density and the potential to share facilities, without compromising the services involved, is a sensible discussion. It is also possibly more practical to have these sites on the edge of the town/city where access out is much easier. However, as always, this needs to be balanced against costs involved in relocation.

Providing additional funding to encourage local housing providers to fit sprinkler systems in their properties

The Town Council welcomes the Fire Authority's efforts to encourage the fitting of sprinklers by local housing provider.

Commence building the operational training centre at the Authority's Sadler Road site

Neston Town Council would like more information on the role this will play in the Authority's training programme in conjunction with the new Lymm facility.

Proposing to increase Cheshire Fire Authority's share of Council Tax by 1.99%

It is interesting to note that, even with a 1.99% increase in the Council Tax share last year, the requirement to make savings of £1.5 million has meant that reserves have been reduced and further savings of £4.00 million need to be achieved over the next 3 years.

An increase in the Fire Service's council tax precept is never an ideal option but the financial situation indicates this is a realistic assessment of funds needed to maintain a service that is fit for the medium term without having to borrow, given continued proposed cuts from central government. However it continues to be important that capital projects are monitored closely to ensure both that they are realistic and come in on budget.

Concluding the Blue Light Collaboration project with Cheshire Constabulary and the Police and Crime Commissioner to provide joint support services to both organisations from a shared headquarters

This has been ongoing for some time and its conclusion is to be welcomed. It is to be hoped that this joint headquarters will provide the anticipated closer collaboration in the field.

Audrey Duncan  
Governance and Operations Manager

## **Warrington Borough Council**

Dear Paul,

### **Warrington Borough Council's Response to the Cheshire Fire Authority; Making Cheshire Safer Integrated Risk Management Plan 2018-19**

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above. It is commendable that the service continues to improve the efficiency of the organisation and has achieved in excess of £7.5m in savings over the last five years. The continual journey of improvement and efficiency is essential given the ongoing impact of reducing public sector spending; and once again I thank you on behalf of the council for the service's continued efforts.

The proposals provide a comprehensive overview of the intended direction of the service and in my view, supported by that of my officers, the approach taken to determine the future priorities for the service against the backdrop of efficiency savings and increased financial pressures are well-considered.

#### **Efficiency & collaboration**

The continued approach and exploration round collaborative working is welcomed. Particularly the continuation of staff working alongside multi-agency teams as part of the Complex Dependencies Programme and also the valuable input the Service has into the sub regional efforts to improve the efficiency of public services and Public Sector Reform.

The Council would also welcome the opportunity for further discussion in relation to working with businesses and the potential for a combined Primary Authority Scheme offer.

As indicated in my previous response I continue to believe that collaborative working is integral moving forward to ensure the best use of resource across the Public Sector.

It is reassuring to note the closer working with the PCC and Cheshire Constabulary and I am particularly aware of some joint planning/initiatives that are to take place within our local areas to address specific issues of anti-social behavior alongside my officers. This action is most welcome.

#### **Emergency Response**

I would be interested in understanding more detail relating to the considerations and proposals relating to the review of crewing arrangements at Penketh. I would like to understand whether the current arrangements provide sufficient resource to meet response times and what changes/future proposals would look like.

It is encouraging that our emergency services are looking beyond their original remit to engage with providing wider support to our communities in responding to urgent medical needs such as cardiac arrest, I am sure this will be extremely valuable moving forward; a positive support to our colleagues within North West Ambulance Service.

#### **Protection Review / Sprinkler Campaign**

I am aware that work is ongoing with both Council and Fire Service colleagues to address the outcomes arising out of the Grenfell Tower incident. I would like to stress the Council's commitment to ensuring any actions identified will be taken forward. The provision of additional funding to promote the adoption of sprinkler

systems by local housing providers is a positive step; however, I would ask a follow on question as to whether there is the intention to extend this to private landlords in addition to RSLs?

### **Station Build Programme**

My officers would welcome consultation and engagement relating to any proposals for a new fire station; the Council can contribute in terms of a sustainability/health impact assessment for any options being considered. The Council is fully supportive of the principle of looking collectively at estate management.

### **Increasing the Precept**

I note your proposal for an increase in precept by 1.99% and that this will be incorporated into Warrington Council Tax discussions.

### **Safe and Well Programme**

The continued emphasis on safeguarding is acknowledged and welcomed.

Safe and Well checks are an example of good practice for the increasing range of interventions, I am also informed that blood pressure and fuel poverty are to be new additions for 2018.

I am informed that there is currently a review of the programme being undertaken by LJUM and I am sure you will agree that it is important to ensure any pertinent outcomes from this review and considered locally.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued engagement with the Council I would encourage continuation of the strong working relationships at operational, tactical and strategic levels.

Yours Sincerely,

Councillor T P O'Neill  
Leader, Warrington Borough Council

## **Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service**

### **Cheshire FRS IRMP Feedback**

The overall document is clear, easy to read and promotes thought and discussion a good range of supporting images demonstrating wider commitments, services, pledges and signposts to further supporting information

It was interesting in the choice of words reference "Planning for a safer Cheshire" 2015, 5 year plan then moving to "Making Cheshire Safer" 18/19 changes in words showing the journey of change, transformation

A link to the service Core Values and priorities along with supporting performance data may have been useful to support some areas of change i.e. reviewing emergency response as this might help answer the "Why?" questions from Public, Communities, employees, partners and other stakeholders, appreciated that the infographics show some key figures and positive direction of travel

Reference the HMICFRS was there an opportunity to include this in the 18/19 in more detail as information from the inspection will be published and links across the document

Is there a need to promote the Integrated Health agenda further and the wider FRS work supporting partners in delivering safer communities?

The journey section was really useful in demonstrating some of the challenges i.e. Budget as well as the changing landscape of the FRS with clear examples of efficiency and effectiveness demonstrating a high level of service maturity

It was also really good to see evidence based and research driven fundamentals, informing decisions i.e. the availability of the PESTLO analysis

It was also clear from the document collaboration with other partners in terms of shared service i.e. finance, procurement

Reference some of the Key deliverables please see my commitments below:

- Reviewing the provision of the Service's third aerial appliance currently based at Macclesfield Fire Station.
- Reviewing the current crewing arrangements at Penketh Fire Station and the suitability and sustainability of the current crewing arrangements at Wilmslow Fire Station.

Is there opportunity to talk about the fundamental of the IRMP? Linked to the above i.e. Right Resources, Right Time in the Right Place as I feel this clearly articulates to the public, staff and other stakeholders not only the purpose of the document but also a key driver for change

- Proposing to roll out the cardiac response pilot - undertaken in conjunction with the North West Ambulance Service - to all fire stations across Cheshire.

In terms of EMR and additional medical provision by the FRS, I would be really interested to understand how Cheshire FRS overcome the current union barrier and is there an opportunity here to celebrate some really positives to the communities of delivering this piece of work?

- Reviewing Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service's Protection Department to ensure it is able to meet the emerging demands following the Grenfell Tower fire.

Really important to assure the communities of Cheshire and wider public, is there any additional partner involvement that could be linked? Signpost to the NFCC or IFE fir further information on Grenfell Investigations and on-going work?

- Developing and considering options to build new, replacement, fire stations in Chester, Crewe, Ellesmere Port and Warrington – potentially in conjunction with local partner agencies.

Again underpinned by the IRMP fundamentals but also reference to estate rationalisation, opportunities to future proof estate to accommodate collaboration opportunities? As well as evidence from data such as number of incidents, risk profiles etc. or simple signposting as per other areas of the document?

- Providing additional funding to encourage local housing providers to fit sprinkler systems in their properties.

A Link / Signposting to the benefits of sprinkles (Myth Busting in terms of water damage and cost?)

- Commence building the operational training centre at the Authority's Sadler Road site.

A short supporting statement on Fire Fighter safety and professional service to other sectors / partners?

- Delivering against the Service's Transformation Plan to reflect the requirements of the fire reform agenda and to deliver the action plan from the 2017 staff engagement survey.
- Proposing to increase Cheshire Fire Authority's share of Council Tax by 1.99%.
- 

Always an interesting concept to members of the public, really good to see a multiple offerings in terms of engagement sessions from face to face roadshows to on-line questionnaires

- Concluding our innovative Blue Light Collaboration project with Cheshire Constabulary and the Police and Crime Commissioner to provide joint support services to both organisations from a shared headquarters.

Celebrating the achievements: Cashable and non-cashable savings, benefits? Again Signposting to Case Study's?

In summary the documents delivers a positive picture of the valuable service that Cheshire FRS provide to the communities and articulates well, current opportunities, pressures and change in delivering a first class services to the communities of Cheshire whilst providing clear ownership, accountability and responsibility in order that the Public, Communities, Employees, Partners and stakeholder's can hold Cheshire FRS to account whilst being reassured of a high level of service delivery.

## **Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service**

Dear Paul,

### **Integrated Risk Management Plan Consultation**

Having read Cheshire Fire and Rescue Authority's consultation document "Making Cheshire Safer: Our Plans for 2018/19", I believe that the proposals represent a prudent mix of projects that will drive the Authority forward and improve safety for the people of Cheshire and approaches that will help you maximise the Authority's budget to support those changes.

The operational response reviews in Macclesfield, Wilmslow and Penketh show that consideration is being given to efficiency and effectiveness and the focus on Protection and sprinklers is well considered after the tragedy of Grenfell.

Your proposals for the redevelopment and renewal of your estate alongside your blue light collaboration and Service transformation plans demonstrate an understanding that during challenging times plans need to be made to create a sustainable Service for the future.

Finally your proposal for a 1.99% precept increase to help fund your plans makes sense in the difficult financial climate.

Yours sincerely,

Dan Stephens  
Chief Fire Officer  
Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service

## **Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service**

Dear Paul,

We welcome and thank you for the opportunity to feedback on your Integrated Risk Management Plan 2018/19.

The key objectives within the document allow for strong links with the Government's Fire Reform programme. The 3 areas mentioned demonstrate clear integration into Cheshire Fire & Rescue's business plan for 2018/19 and clarity as to how this will be achieved and measured.

In regard to the wider community safety challenges faced across Cheshire, we support the recognition of recent tragic events at Grenfell Tower and Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service's plans to work with local housing providers. Some additional clarity around what outcomes and improvements this will lead to and how this fits into the Service's prevent agenda would be welcome.

We support the review of the Service's provision of fire cover to reflect local risks and demand.

We welcome the roll-out of the cardiac response following its success in the pilot. A greater level of understanding of how this works with North West Ambulance Service as an effective collaboration arrangement would assist both the Fire Service sector and the Ambulance Service at a national level.

The proposal to further invest and renew Fire Stations is greatly supported. Is the intention for these to be Community Fire Stations?

We welcome the synergies that the 'Service Transformation Plan' will bring around improved workplace culture, staff engagement and development. We also support the positive action in recruiting a more diverse workforce to reflect local communities.

The proposed increase in Council Tax is understandable in order to sustain transformation and financial planning moving forward.

We welcome the work taking place with the PCC and the intention to look at joint corporate services from a shared headquarters and we look forward to learning how this will work and the improved outcomes and potential savings it will bring.

Overall, the plans are extremely positive and show clear direction and forward planning in our current climate.

Kind Regards

Helen Chadwick.

**SM Helen Chadwick**  
Corporate Safety Plan Manager

## **Crewe and Nantwich Constituency Labour Party**

*The following submission is to be considered the formal response of the Crewe and Nantwich Constituency Labour Party:*

More full-time firefighters jobs are being stripped out of the service in the medium to long-term. The resource is not the equipment, it's the firefighters! The service seems intent on discounting that fact.

Crewe & Nantwich Labour Party has grave concerns of the availability of the second pump at an urban station given the service's questionable record across the County. You are in effect reducing fire cover in South Cheshire. CFRS cannot effectively recruit on-call firefighters at Crewe given the location of the station, which is not set to change. The nearby demographics and the awkward location in the far south-east of the town means any short-term solution may not be sustained, that's even if the short term (a fully trained on-call contingent) solution can be achieved.

The Service talks about sacrifices elsewhere in the County. The fact remains you have saved the biggest sacrifice until last. When Chester was downgraded, CFRS built a brand new station and had their 'second' full time appliance positioned in close proximity at Powey Lane. No such offer has been made to the people of South Cheshire.

We also have grave concerns at response times going up. Yes, CFRS tend to hit their response time targets but there is no evidence to suggest that response times are actually coming down, in fact it is our understanding that since the current Chief Fire Officer set the services own standard – a 10 minute response (up from a response within 5 minutes) that attendance times have increased each year. With a pump that will not be available a lot of the time we want to note with concern that senior officers at Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service deem it appropriate to state on public record that the on-call model will provide a pump three and a half minutes after the arrival of a full-time pump. The public will take that as fact and we suspect the senior management team know that. That is the best case scenario and dependent on a number of factors, it would be remiss of the service not to publish the average attendance times of other such on-call times to evidence this claim, made in public to elected local authority members. The Head of Service Delivery, when pressed, has said that 'this is the model and not the reality'. So what is the reality?

We have grave concerns over the sustainability of the on call model that is advocated by the services senior management team, given that from your own documents in the public domain it appears to be consistently failing. Since you have removed a large number of full time appliances we have to ask where the resilience is coming from when these on call appliances are unavailable. We also note with concern the increasing reliance on resources being drawn from Greater Manchester just to make the attendance standard in Cheshire East.

Crewe & Nantwich Labour Party firmly rejects any plans to downgrade Crewe Fire Station. Local people do not support these changes regardless of which political party they support. This is a matter of community



safety, protecting skilled employment and defending our residents against the destruction of their public services.

On the IRMP more generally, we have been continually disappointed over a number of years in a document that merely acts as a glossy brochure rather than a detailed, comprehensive document that focuses on risk and the safety challenges faced by our communities.

The risk to our communities from austerity and continual budget cuts is becoming clear for all to see. We do not ask the Fire Authority to set an illegal budget but we are confident that the Service can find £650,000 to keep Crewe's second pump staffed by whole-time fire crews. After spending millions on a new fantastic safety centre in the far North of the Borough for example, we remain confident that the Authority is able to fund Crewe's second pump now and in the long term.

We also note and thank the Chief Fire Officer for Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service for going on record and stating in the press that 'enough is enough' in respect to austerity that is devastating our emergency services. Going onto budget 'season', is it not time that the CFO for Cheshire does the same, rather than to claim these proposals are going to improve response and efficiency, or not have any detrimental effect on attendance times?

The continued practice of making savings only to then transfer them for capital build programmes is wrong. Given the fact that you have achieved quite considerable savings from your emergency response or service delivery budget – over 2 million pounds, the residents of Crewe and the wider Cheshire East area simply do not believe the claims that the service and authority cannot afford to maintain the current second full time appliance at Crewe fire station.

As part of the IRMP, the Authority should front up to residents and be honest with them and stop pretending they are paying more and therefore getting more. The fact is the opposite. We believe there is a great need for more transparency and accountability after witnessing the consultation events at Cheshire East Council and Crewe Town Hall.

Yours,

Crewe and Nantwich Constituency Labour Party

## **Weaver Vale Constituency Labour Party**

### **Proposed Motion – Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service – Weaver Vale CLP.**

Weaver Vale Constituency Labour Party notes with concern the detrimental effects that, as a result of this Conservative Governments ideological drive for austerity, the cuts to the budget of the Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service are having on the cover provided to our diverse communities, particularly in times of emergency.

It is particularly concerned with the four year financial settlement that requires the Fire Authority to save a further £4 million by 2020/21 and the impact this will have on the already discredited Integrated Risk Management Plans entitled 'Make Cheshire Safer'.

Weaver Vale Constituency Labour Party believes that further reductions in the number of full time fire fighters and appliances being considered by the Cheshire Fire Authority as a consequence of these budget cuts will result in avoidable delays in response times to incidents leading to an increase in damage and more importantly an increase in the likelihood of preventable injuries and deaths.

Weaver Vale Constituency Labour Party therefore calls upon the Cheshire Fire Authority to:

- Ensure staffing of all whole-time appliances with five firefighters as a minimum.
- Maintain Ellesmere Port and Crewe second appliances with whole time firefighters.
- Review and introduce an attendance time standard for the second appliance to life risk incidents in Cheshire.

- Review and introduce an attendance time standard for non-life risk property fires in Cheshire.
- Ensure that response times take full account of the call handling time when responding to calls for service.
- Review the funds held in Reserves so that only the amount needed to ensure levels of service in accordance with Risk Management Plans are secured and maintained and a realistic contingency fund is available.
- Work more closely and in collaboration with the Fire Brigades Union to make Cheshire safer.
- Recruit, train and retain a cohort of on-call firefighters so Frodsham can ensure and maintain its appliance for mobilisation at all times.

Proposed: Bill Moores Frodsham, Helsby and District Branch.  
 Seconded: Lauren Cassidy East Runcorn Branch

## **Chester Retired Firefighters**

How safe is Cheshire from Fire ?

It is Whole time 24/7 guaranteed 100 % available ready for immediate deployment fire engines which give the Communities in Cheshire West and Chester, Halton, Warrington and Cheshire East a reliable, professional, effective and resilient Fire and Rescue Service.

In 2013 Cheshire Fire Authority embarked upon implementing its new plan. You used to have 18 Whole time 24/7 fire engines and soon you will have just 9. 18 down to 9  
 Resilience reduced by 50% for combined savings of just £2.59 million from an annual budget of £40.9 million. Just 6.4% of savings for a 50% reduction in front line 24/7 services.

All of this has been done under a Cheshire Fire Authority banner of 'Making Cheshire Safer.'

Just how safe are you?

This is the Chester Retired Fire Fighters Response to the Cheshire Fire Authority Public Consultation on the Cheshire Fire Authority Draft Plan 2018/19

Issued by Chester Retired Firefighters (Still Working for Cheshire's Local Communities)

### **Summary**

1. Prior to the IRMP 2013-14, Cheshire West and Chester had 6 Whole time staffed 24/7 fire engines which were ready for immediate deployment, when all of the proposals are implemented this will be reduced to just 3.
2. Equally, Cheshire East had 5 Whole time staffed 24/7 fire engines and this will be reduced to just 1.
3. Again, Halton and Warrington combined used to have 7 Whole time staffed 24/7 fire engines and now they have 5.
4. A reduction in total from 18 to 9.

### **Notes to Fire Authority Members**

1. This document is offered as an informative aide for your use when taking the upcoming and very important decisions regarding the downgrading in Status of the Whole time Fire Engines in Crewe and Ellesmere Port to On-Call.
2. We have not knowingly or purposefully made any untruths. There is one instance where we rely on hearsay evidence regarding recent events. This has been highlighted in RED for your convenience. We would have liked enough time to fully validate or discount this evidence but your Consultation Period expires on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2018.

3. We would, very respectfully ask, given the circumstances that although your Consultation expires on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2018 that you would allow us to provide an updated document once this hearsay evidence is either validated or discounted or amended.
4. Where we refer to Legislation and Government guidance we stress that this is our interpretation as former fire professionals and not as lawyers. We have in our text advised that an interpretation should perhaps be taken from your own Local Authority lawyer but we recognise that ultimately it is always the Courts which will decide if you have adequately discharged your legal duties.
5. We hope that you will consider our comments in reaching your decisions.

Dear Fire Authority Member,

**IRMP 2018-19 Consultation : Response on behalf of the Chester Retired Firefighters**

The Chester Retired Firefighters represent former Fire Officers and Firefighters who have each served in excess of 30 years at Fire Stations across the area covered by Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service. Collectively we have in excess of 1000 years of front line firefighting experience. Now, we are merely residents who may one day, like everyone else, find ourselves in need of an emergency response from Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service.

As our Elected Representatives on this issue, we can only ask that you read our comments prior to taking the very important decisions to down grade the Fire Engines at Ellesmere Port and Crewe from Whole time to On Call with the vote being scheduled for 14<sup>th</sup> February 2018. Should any Member of the Fire Authority seek more clarification or detail to help you in reaching what we can appreciate is going to be a very difficult decision, then please do not hesitate to contact us.

Before concentrating specifically on our response to the Cheshire Fire Authority Consultation on the 2018-19 IRMP we feel it important to contextualise your very important legal duty to protect the public who you are elected to serve. Quite literally, our lives are in your hands.

**The accountability of the Fire Authority Members.**

It is the Members of the Fire Authority (not the Chief Fire Officer) who would have to stand up in a Court of Law to defend any strategic failings of Cheshire Fire Authority should anything go seriously wrong. Please do not be under the misapprehension that the Role of a Fire Authority Member is to scrutinise and ratify the Chief Fire Officer's decisions. These decisions are made in the name of the Fire Authority which is the public body charged by the Legislative Duty imposed under the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 to provide a fire and rescue service fit for purpose. Consequently, it is yourselves as the Elected Representatives who the public are relying upon to protect them, and quite rightly, it is yourselves who both legally and morally would be held to account and would have to explain any serious strategic failings for fire cover provision.

The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 places the burden on discharging the duties contained therein with the Fire Authority (not the Chief Fire Officer).

The National Framework for Fire Authorities, issued by Government, is very specific in stating that '**fire Authorities are to be accountable to the communities for the service they provide**'.

Government places a further burden upon Fire Authorities to produce a plan '**that identifies and assesses all foreseeable fire and rescue related risks that could affect the community.... the plan must have regard to the Community Risk Register produced by Local Resilience Forums**' (p.7, Communities and Local Government Fire and Rescue National Framework for England) .

Please note the words, plan for '**all foreseeable fire and rescue related risks that could affect the community**' and now let us look at the Cheshire Response Standard which you have approved as the Fire Authority and this effectively sets the strategic level for fire cover provision,

**'A 10 minute response to dwelling fires and road traffic collisions on 80% of occasions'**.

Again, please note the words '**dwelling fires and road traffic collisions**' because this means that you (as a Fire Authority) do not have a planned response time standard for COMAH Sites, Hospitals, Schools, Nursing Homes, Children's Nurseries, Places of Public Assembly, Sports Grounds, *et al*.

We ask you to please consider the legal and moral burden you have to the public in the most informed and considered manner possible. Should you be called to account in any court of law or public enquiry we consider that it is doubtful that you could defend yourself fully by contending that you were acting upon the Chief Fire Officer's advice, it is your decision ultimately. The Chief Fire Officer advises and the Members then decide and are consequently accountable.

Of course, only the Courts can decide if you as a Member of the Fire Authority have appropriately discharged your legal duties. We are Retired Firefighters and not lawyers but we urge you to take an independent view on your legal duties perhaps from the lawyers of CWAC, Cheshire East, Halton and Warrington. We respect you

for the burden you carry in protecting the public and taking on this accountability. Indeed, we would probably lose sleep at night such is the burden that a Member of the Fire Authority carries.

**The Public Duty placed upon you in this instance is immense in ensuring that the communities which you serve are adequately protected.**

### **The IRMP Proposals for Ellesmere Port**

Let's recap,

Government places a further burden upon Fire Authorities to produce a plan *'that identifies and assesses all foreseeable fire and rescue related risks that could affect the community.... the plan must have regard to the Community Risk Register produced by Local Resilience Forums'* (p.7, Communities and Local Government Fire and Rescue National Framework for England) .

The **Cheshire Community Risk Register** details 42 categories of risk within Cheshire.

Examples of high level risk pertinent to Ellesmere Port listed in the Cheshire Community Risk Register are; Category H08

**A Toxic release up to 10km off site** due to loss of containment of chlorine or a number of other chemicals e.g. anhydrous hydrofluoric acid, refrigerated ammonia, sulphur di-oxide (or tri-oxide) gas with the possibility of **causing significant fatalities and casualties**. The risk register goes on to say that this would present a huge challenge to health care providers, water supplies might be at risk and the contamination of land could lead to the avoidance of certain foodstuffs.

Category H04

**A Fire or explosion at a fuel distribution site or site storing flammable and / or toxic liquids** in atmospheric pressure storage tanks with the possibility of **causing significant fatalities and casualties up to 3 km around the site**. The risk register goes on to say that impacts would include the disruption of air transport, the creation of regional excessive demands on health care services and the closure of roads in the locality.

There are many medium risks in addition to these high level risks.

Risks in the above categories will be found in Ellesmere Port at sites subject to The Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) Regulations. Cheshire has 23 Upper Tier sites. This is Cheshire's potential to hit the headlines in a manner much bigger than Grenfell, if we get this wrong the impact could be devastating and there is a serious onus upon the members of the Fire Authority to protect the public here. Without your time and care and all due diligence the public is at serious risk.

7 of the 23 Upper Tier COMAH sites in Cheshire are in Ellesmere Port and they are:

Avanti Gas Limited Ellesmere Port Britannia Road Ellesmere Port Cheshire CH65 4HB COMAH Upper Tier Operator (was Shell Gas Limited) 4325 Wirral England

CF Fertilisers UK Limited Ince Marshes Ince Marshes Ince Chester Cheshire CH2 4LB COMAH Upper Tier Operator 0660 Cheshire West and Chester UA England

CLH Pipeline System (CLH-PS) Limited Backford North PSD Backford PSD Caughall Road Chester Cheshire CH2 4BN COMAH Upper Tier Operator (was Oil and Pipelines Agency) 0660 Cheshire West and Chester UA England

Essar Oil (UK) Limited Stanlow Stanlow Manufacturing Complex PO Box 3 Ellesmere Port Cheshire CH65 4HB COMAH Upper Tier Operator (was Shell UK Oil Products Ltd) 0660 Cheshire West and Chester UA England

Innospec Limited Ellesmere Port Innospec Manufacturing Park Oil Sites Road Ellesmere Port Cheshire CH65 4EY COMAH Upper Tier Operator 0660 Cheshire West and Chester UA England

Urenco ChemPlants Limited Chester Capenhurst Chester Cheshire CH1 6ER COMAH Upper Tier Operator 0660 Cheshire West and Chester UA England

Veolia ES (UK) Limited Ellesmere Port Incineration Plant Bridges Road South Wirral Cheshire L65 4EQ COMAH Upper Tier Operator 0660 Cheshire West and Chester UA England

The Fire Authority Member *'acts as a duty holder for matters relating to Health and Safety'* (Appendix 1 to Annex 3 Cheshire Fire Authority 17 June 2015).

The Health and Safety Executive do give guidance to duty holders. A few lines here do not give the full perspective. However, duty holders need to ensure that risk is managed to be both 'so far as is reasonably practicable' and also 'as low as reasonably practicable'. It is ultimately for the Courts to decide if these principles have been adhered to. The key case is *Edwards v National Coal Board* where the Court of Appeal decided *'in every case, it is the risk that has to be weighed against the measures necessary to eliminate the risk. The greater the risk, no doubt, the less will be the weight to be given to the factor of cost'* (on line, [hse.gov.uk/risk/theory/alarp1.htm#P4-129](http://hse.gov.uk/risk/theory/alarp1.htm#P4-129)). So, the higher risk then the less cost can be used as a defence for inaction on mitigating that risk.

We, very respectfully, ask you to consider the possible impact of an off- site large scale release of toxic gas or a serious fire at any one the seven COMAH Sites in Ellesmere Port when deciding whether Ellesmere Port's

second fire engine should go to On-Call status. Another factor to consider is that the reduction in dwelling fires and road traffic collisions in recent years amounts to a fall of only 11% which means that 89% are still occurring.

It is clearly a difficult decision you have to make in balancing fire cover provision to the budget and we do not envy your position here. If you do vote the proposal through then the impact will be that the On-Call fire engine is likely to be not available between 40 to 50% of the time and when it is available it is likely to attend the incidents 5 to 10 minutes later than if it was Whole time. This could have a huge impact upon those people who live and work in the consequence zone of any Off-Site emission of toxic gas and ,as we will demonstrate later, this will seriously weaken local resilience in the Cheshire West and Chester area.  
(continued)

### **IRMP proposals for Crewe and its surrounding area**

Should the current proposals go through, then Cheshire East will have just 1 Whole time fire engine which is available 24/7 whilst at the same time contributing around 35% of the budget. Warrington and Halton who contribute around 20% and 10% respectively, 30% in total, will have 5 Whole time fire engines available 24/7. To understand how this can happen there is a need to understand the 'Cheshire Response Time Standard' which was set at a 'Blanket 10 minute response standard to all dwelling fires and road traffic accidents' in the 2013-14 IRMP. Now, 10 minutes did not sound too bad when members voted it through in 2012 and after all a 'blanket' standard surely meant the same for everyone. It appeared so when Members voted this through, but a year later a subtle but huge change occurred. The Standard was amended to 'a 10 minute response standard to all dwelling fires and road traffic accidents **on 80 % of occasions**'. This means that 20% of incidents involving dwelling fires do not have to be served in 10 minutes, as they are not important to the target. So, if you know where it is likely that the 80% of dwelling fires are likely to be, you will build your fire stations here. House fires tend to be aligned to socio-economic grouping. This explains why Halton and Warrington are well blessed with 5 Whole time 24/7 fire engines. Macclesfield, Wilmslow, Knutsford, and Congleton have all lost (or about to lose ) their 24/7 Whole time fire engines, because they are in the sacrificial 20% who will not get a fire engine in 10 minutes. These are affluent areas who do not have many dwelling fires, but if it is your house that is on fire it is equally devastating. In fact it is likely to be even more devastating because it be will burning longer before you get a fire engine.

The 'Cheshire Response Standard' actually has far more reaching failures than this, it is built on a response to dwelling fires and road traffic accidents only. Applying it just to Crewe, it does not consider COMAH sites, hospitals (Leighton), nursing homes, heritage (the Town Hall, the Lyceum, Crewe Hall ) schools, universities and their associated residential blocks (MMU Crewe Campus), sports stadia (Crewe Alex), nationally important railway hubs (Crewe Station), industry (Bentley Motors) and commerce. The 'Response Time Standard' here is that one does not exist, they get a fire engine when it gets there because the 10 minutes only applies to '*dwelling fires and road traffic accidents*'. We think it is also worth mentioning at this point that the '10 minutes' does not include the time that it takes for North West Fire Control to process the emergency call. We understand that the average time is just under 2 minutes. So the reality is that you will get a fire engine in 12 minutes if you are in the '80%' of people catered for by the target.

Let's look at the implications of Crewe only having one Whole time fire engine (which will be the circumstances for about 40 to 50% of the time when the On-Call appliance is not available), it will really make a big difference. Chester used to have two city centre Whole time fire engines until one was moved to Powey Lane Fire Station. A copy of a letter to the Chair of the Fire Authority and the Chief Fire Officer below will demonstrate the impact of relocating a fire engine, imagine the impact of losing one for 40 to 50% of the time or having it follow on 10 minutes later.

(continued)

*Dear Chair / Chief,*

### **Fire Cover concerns for the area south of the River Dee in Chester**

*I have tried to be courteous, polite and very respectful whilst writing this letter. I acknowledge that it is not me who has to balance the budget and I can appreciate the long term funding difficulties that you are presented with. However, one day myself, or one of my neighbours, may need a fire engine. We are relying on you to service our need and I appeal to you both to give some serious consideration to what I have to say.*

*The fatal fire in Lache on 24th December demonstrated the type of emergency response we are likely to get south of the river when Chester's only city centre fire engine is committed to an incident elsewhere. It is not unusual for Chester's only city centre fire engine to be committed elsewhere, this is normal. At the time of this*

*incident the situation elsewhere throughout the county was one of low operational activity and the traffic volume was probably as low as you could get. There were no extenuating circumstances and despite this it took in excess of 12 minutes for the first fire engine to arrive. In peak traffic flow conditions if these same fire engines had to make the same journey I would be surprised if they did it in less than 20 minutes. Let us contextualise the actual and possible response times, an attendance time of between 12 and 20 minutes under the old national standards was fitting for a remote rural area, it is not fit for purpose for a large suburban area on the periphery of our cities. Indeed these attendance times may get even worse when local resilience is further weakened when Ellesmere Port's second fire engine goes to On Call status.*

*In fairness to yourselves you would probably prefer a more adequate funding settlement so as not to have to impose such a poor provision of fire cover. However, my frustration here is that the 12 minutes or so attendance time, in this instance, is not a failure against your 'Response Standard' of 10 minutes to dwelling fires on 80% of occasions. It can merely be counted as one of the 20% of incidents which does not have to be serviced by your 'Standard'. You have achieved your 'Standard,' which means that I have to seriously question the adequacy of your 'Standard'. The 20% of us who will not be serviced in 10 minutes will probably have more severe fires than the 80% who are. It is not nice to feel that you could be one of the unfortunate 20% when this could be easily avoided.*

*To offer a low cost remedy, may I please implore you to mobilise a 'Standby' fire engine into St Anne Street at the exact same time that Chester's only city centre fire engine has to respond to an incident elsewhere. If such a policy had been in place at the time of this incident, then the attendance time would probably have been 5 or 6 minutes had Powey Lane been on 'Standby' at St Anne Street. In addition to those of us south of the river areas such as the City Centre, Great Boughton, and Chester Villages would also be better provided for with a more robust 'Standby' policy. This will not, in my opinion, remedy all of the inadequacies of the current fire cover arrangements but at least it will be a start. Please provide us all with a modicum of re-assurance and review your 'Standby' policy or is the money required to furnish this really in such short supply?*

*Kindest Regards,*

*Graham Badrock*

*c.c. Chris Matheson M.P. for Chester  
Councillor Jane Mercer, my local Councillor*

Indeed, we believe, that the appliance availability across the whole county whilst this incident was ongoing was at best described as dire. At 2000 hours on Christmas Eve only 4 of 22 On-Call fire engines were fully available. For the duration of the fatal fire in Chester the fire cover arrangements for Chester, Ellesmere Port, Frodsham, Malpas, and Tarporley and perhaps beyond were in the first hour serviced by a fire engine at Ellesmere Port which was staffed by just 3 fire fighters. With just 3 it means it can only attend certain incidents such as road traffic collisions, chimney fires and rubbish fires. This means that for this hour the major part of Cheshire West and Chester was probably served from Runcorn Fire Station. After an hour the Runcorn fire engine was relocated to Chester, this was an improvement in the situation but it still had to service the major part of Cheshire West and Chester effectively on its own. Please do not try to defend this by saying that Deeside and Wrexham fire engines could be used, North Wales have their own On-call difficulties and it is usual that they have to send some of their Whole time fire engines to standby for the duration of the entire shift deep into their own rural areas.

If we have got some details wrong please forgive us, we are not privy to information as much as you are but we have tried to piece together what details we have as accurately as possible and to the best of our ability. We have made a Freedom of Information Act Enquiry to validate our information but we consider that certain things need to be out in the open now or we would not forgive ourselves should the events of Christmas Eve be repeated. Information such as appliance non availability is not in the public domain. Timings for time of call and time in attendance are not on your website so it is not possible to see if your targets are being met or not. Some fire and rescue authorities give a daily report on whether they have achieved their response time target. Their performance can be clearly monitored by service users, Cheshire's performance only becomes apparent at times like Christmas Eve.

### **Past IRMP decisions and their impact upon this IRMP**

We consider that a number of previous decisions taken under the IRMP process make little sense and as a consequence need reviewing. There has, in our opinion been unnecessary reductions in the number of front

line Whole time 24/7 guaranteed 100 % available ready for immediate deployment fire engines which give the Communities in Cheshire West and Chester, Halton, Warrington and Cheshire East a reliable, professional, effective and resilient Fire and Rescue Service.

Just one example and there are several, is the change from Day Crewing to Nucleus Crewing at Northwich, Winsford and Congleton. Under the Day Crewing and Nucleus Crewing duty systems there is no difference between the hours of 0800-2000 and there is an instant operational response. However, between 2000-0800 under the Day Crewing duty system there is a guaranteed On duty crew who live in a house about 100 yards from the Fire Station, the delay in the fire engine responding is usually no more than one minute more than a Whole time shift station. Day Crewing is a bit of a misnomer in that it is both Day and Night Crewing, it is just that the designated night crew are on duty at home adjacent to the Fire Station and ready for immediate response. However, for Nucleus Crewing, at night, even assuming that a crew is actually available, the firefighters usually respond from their own homes spread throughout the community and the delay in doing this is targeted at 5 minutes. The reality is generally much more which means that the public of Northwich, Winsford and Congleton have to wait at least an extra 5 minutes for a fire engine at night when the worst fires occur. Ironically, this system now employed whilst creating at least a 5 minute delay costs £120 K more each year. We fail to see any reason for this unless you are intending to sell the Fire Authority owned housing, which is now surplus to requirement. Whilst the money raised here could be used to fund the new fire stations being considered for Chester, Crewe, Ellesmere Port and Warrington it appears that concurrently Whole time fire engine provision is diminishing. Three additional Whole time 24/7 fire engines would be provided if this decision was reversed and £120K would be saved each year.

Once all of the IRMP proposals (past and present) are rolled out there will be a significant reduction in the number of Whole time 24/7 fire engines ready for immediate deployment. It is only Whole time 24/7 fire engines which can be guaranteed to be available 100% of the time. On-Call fire engines are becoming less and less available and this will continue. On-Call staff in modern times have to have much more commitment to their primary employer than 20 or 30 years ago, this is the way of the world. It is difficult to recruit and retain such staff. Using the Fire Authorities own costings from previous IRMP Consultations we consider that to reduce the guaranteed 100% available Whole time 24/7 fire engines (i.e. shift station and day crewing stations) does not make economic sense.

CWAC used to have (prior to the 2013-14 IRMP Proposals) 6 Whole time 24/7 fire engines out of the proportion of the budget allocated to its fire engines at a total cost of £5.75 million annually. Once the whole process is rolled out CWAC will have just 3 at a cost of £5.38 million. The saving here is £0.37million and the loss is 3 Whole time 24/7 fire engines. We fail to see the economic sense here.

The situation in Cheshire East is they used to have 6 Whole time 24/7 fire engines for £6.29 million and they will soon have 1 for £5.02 million. The saving is £1.27 million for the loss of 5.

Halton and Warrington combined used to have 7 Whole time 24/7 fire engines for £6.99 million and they now have 5 for £6.04 million. The saving is £0.95 million for the loss 2.

[Note: Of course, this money comes out of the combined contributions of the four constituent local authorities, some authorities seem to do better than others considering their own proportion of contribution to this combined pot. We think if we were residents of Cheshire East we would be feeling a little aggrieved here.]

The net overall result is that we used to have 18 Whole time 24/7 fire engines ready for immediate deployment out of a total fire engine budget of £19.03 million and now we have just 9 at a cost of £16.44 million. A combined saving of just £2.59 million out of an annual total fire authority budget of £40.9 million, that's a 50% reduction in the resilience provided by Whole time 24/7 fire engines to save just 6.4% of total annual budget.

Ironically, we could have 12 Whole time 24/7 fire engines ready for immediate deployment for £16.32 million by reversing the decision to make Northwich, Winsford and Congleton Nucleus Crewed and re-instating the Day Crewed system where night time cover is 100% guaranteed by rostered for duty Whole time firefighters who live in Fire Authority houses ready for immediate response adjacent to the Fire Station. To do this and have 12 front line fire engines rather than 9 is actually marginally cheaper. We see no reason not to reverse your decision, unless of course, you wish to sell the Day Crewing houses to help fund the replacement building programme.

The sale of the 45 or so Day Crewing houses at Knutsford, Congleton, Northwich and Winsford would probably net well in excess £ 10 million. To date something in the region of £20 million has been spent on new Fire Stations. A further £5million is scheduled to be spent on a replacement Fire Station for Chester. The latest plans indicate possible replacement Fire Stations in Crewe, Warrington and Ellesmere Port, an arbitrary costing would equate to something in the region of £10 to £15million.

Something in the region of £40 million is being spent on buildings when front line 24/7 fire engines have been halved in numbers to accommodate an annual saving of just £2.59 million. An alternative to spending on buildings could have resulted in Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service keeping its compliment of Whole time 24/7 fire engines ready for immediate deployment for the best part of another 20 years.

[Note: All costings are appended and are based on Cheshire Fire Authority information and can be found in a spreadsheet in an attached separate document]

### Conclusion

It would appear to us that the Fire Authority are currently moving towards pursuing a building replacement policy to the detriment of front line services. The events of Christmas Eve illustrates how thin resources already are. What would have happened on the night had even a minor incident occurred at one of Cheshire's 23 COMAH Sites or another serious fire had occurred? Should these current IRMP proposals go through, Ellesmere Port will be vulnerable to some serious risks and Cheshire East will have just one 24/7 whole time fire engine. Please remember that the Fire Authority has to plan for all reasonably foreseeable incidents, each time a fire engine ceases to be whole time 24/7 guaranteed 100% of the time and ready for immediate deployment it weakens resilience and the impact can be severe. We used to have 18 and soon will have just 9.

It was somewhat easy to be a Fire Authority Member when national standards existed prior to 2003. You adhered to the national standards, Her Majesty's Inspectorate indicated if there were any deficiencies and you rectified them. Your job was done and you could relax in that knowledge. However, now it is different as Fire Authorities set their own standards under their own IRMP process and they have to account for their own decisions. We do not envy the invidious position that Public Office puts you in, you have to protect your constituents against all reasonably foreseeable risks whilst at the same time accommodating ongoing funding gaps.

However, we ask you to reject the proposals in the IRMP 2018-19 and also to review the impact of the decisions taken to date as the system does not appear to be working.

Sent on behalf of Chester Retired Firefighters

Graham Badrock Chair, Chester Retired Firefighters

Encs..

### Appendix 1

PRE 2013-14 IRMP				WHEN PLAN FULLY IMPLEMENTED			
	Appliance Status	VT 24 Hr Avail	Cost - £ m		Appliance Status	VT 24 Hr Avail	Cost - £ m
<b>CWAC</b>							
<b>Chester</b>	2 WT 24 hr Avail	2	1.80		1 WT 24hr Avail	1	1.00
<b>Ellesmere Port</b>	2 WT 24 hr Avail	2	1.80		1 WT 24hr Avail 1 On call	1	1.15
<b>Vinsford</b>	1 Day Crewing	1	0.70		1 Nucleus	0	0.74
<b>Vinsford</b>	1 On Call	0	0.15		1 On Call	0	0.15
<b>Northwich</b>	1 Day Crewing	1	0.70		1 Nucleus	0	0.74
<b>Northwich</b>	1 On Call	0	0.15		1 On Call	0	0.15
<b>Tarporleg</b>	1 On Call	0	0.15		1 On Call	0	0.15
<b>Frodsham</b>	1 On Call	0	0.15		1 On Call	0	0.15
<b>Tarporleg</b>	1 On Call	0	0.15		<b>1 On Call</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.15</b>
<b>Poweg Lane</b>	xx					<b>1</b>	<b>1.00</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>5.75</b>			<b>3</b>	<b>5.38</b>
<b>Cheshire East</b>							
<b>Crewe</b>	2 WT 24hr Avail	2	1.80		1 WT 24hr Avail 1 On Call	1	1.15
<b>Macclesfield</b>	1 WT 24hr Avail	1	1.00		1 Nucleus	0	0.74
<b>Macclesfield</b>	1 On Call	0	0.15		1 On Call	0	0.15
<b>Knutsford</b>	1 Day Crewing	1	0.70		1 On Call	0	0.15
<b>Congleton</b>	1 Day Crewing	1	0.70		1 Nucleus	0	0.74
<b>Congleton</b>	1 On Call	0	0.15		1 On Call	0	0.15
<b>Wilmslow</b>	1 Nucleus	0	0.74		1 Nucleus	0	0.74
<b>Nantwich</b>	1 On Call	0	0.15		1 On Call	0	0.15
<b>Sandbach</b>	1 On Call	0	0.15		1 On Call	0	0.15
<b>Middlewich</b>	1 On Call	0	0.15		1 On Call	0	0.15
<b>Holmes Chapel</b>	1 On Call	0	0.15		1 On Call	0	0.15
<b>Bollington</b>	1 On Call	0	0.15		1 On Call	0	0.15
<b>Pognton</b>	1 On Call	0	0.15		1 On Call	0	0.15
<b>Audlem</b>	1 On Call	0	0.15		1 On Call	0	0.15
<b>Alsager</b>	xxx	0	0.00		1 On Call	0	0.15
<b>Total</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>6.29</b>			<b>1</b>	<b>5.02</b>
<b>Halton and Warrington</b>							
<b>Warrington</b>	2 WT 24hr Avail	2	1.80		1 WT 24hr Avail	1	1.00
<b>Birchwood</b>	1 Nucleus	0	0.74		1 Nucleus	0	0.74
<b>Stockton Heath</b>	1 Day Crewing	1	0.70		xxx		
<b>Stockton Heath</b>	1 On Call	0	0.15		1 On Call	0	0.15
<b>Runcorn</b>	2 WT 24hr Avail	2	1.80		1 WT 24hr Avail 1 On Call	1	1.15
<b>Vidnes</b>	2 WT 24hr Avail	2	1.80		1 WT 24hr Avail	1	1.00
<b>Lymm</b>	xxx				1 WT 24hr Avail	1	1.00
<b>Penketh</b>	xxx				1 WT 24hr Avail	1	1.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>7</b>	<b>6.99</b>			<b>5</b>	<b>6.04</b>
<b>Combined Total</b>		<b>18</b>	<b>19.03</b>			<b>9</b>	<b>16.44</b>
<b>Saving just 6.4% of total annual budget</b>							
<b>At a cost of 50% reduction in 24/7 front line service</b>							



### Notes to spreadsheet.

Our costings are taken from IRMP 2013-14 which states *'it currently costs between £1.6 and £2 million a year to run each of the 6 Whole time stations with 2 fire engines and £1 million a year for Macclesfield which has 1 Whole time fire engine. Day Crewing Stations cost around £700,000 a year, current Nucleus Crewing £740,000 and On Call approximately £150,000'*.

We may have made a few, in good faith, inaccuracies but please remember that we do not have the same access to information as you. For, example we have had to average *'between £1.6 and £2 million a year'* to £1.8 million. Notwithstanding this, even if there are some unintended inaccuracies we do not think that it will fundamentally flaw our contention that a 50% reduction in front line resilience provided by Whole time 24/7 fire engines is justified by the amount saved.

### **Addendum**

Since depositing our initial response it has been pointed out to us that some behind the scenes, not in the public domain negotiation, has taken place and you have indeed U-turned on your 2013-14 IRMP Plan and followed our suggestions that Northwich, Winsford and Congleton are to remain day crewed. We are indeed pleased to hear that you have realised that you made an initial error and reversed your decision. This in no way diminishes our contention that you are not doing the correct thing by lowering 24/7 resilience in a non economic cost effective manner. You have still reduced the number of whole time pumping appliances from 18 to 12 at little cost saving.

Clearly, if this is indeed true and you have U turned on Day Crewing Stations, then we would ask you to follow our recommendations to keep Crewe and Ellesmere Port's second fire engines whole time.

We would stress that we wrote to you in November expressing our concerns that you do not make it clear what the public are being consulted upon. Regretfully, this is another example.

We would ask you to place this addendum to our initial response.

We will write separately to Members with our revised comments. All of our contentions regarding the need for 2 whole time fire engines at Crewe and Ellesmere Port still stand as the failure of resilience as demonstrated in Chester on Christmas Eve is unacceptable.

Graham Badrock, Chair Chester Retired Fire Fighters

### **West Cheshire Trades Union Council**

I am writing on behalf of West Cheshire Trades Union Council, regarding the Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service's Integrated Risk Management Plan consultation. As an organisation we have followed the thrust of changes to the Fire & Rescue Service for several years, and it seems our concerns are increasingly being picked up by the public and by politicians.

We have followed the concerns raised by our affiliate, Cheshire FBU, and by retired Cheshire Fire-fighters. Fundamentally we wish to add our support to their concerns and comments – which we believe are designed to both keep their members safe, and to ensure the safety of the public of Cheshire. Their concerns about the reducing number of full-time fire-fighters and the impact on attendance times are fundamental to our concerns. We reiterate the following points made in our consultation response last year, with some additions. We believe these continue to have substance, as the last year has simply seen the implementation of your 5 year strategy – although with minor amendments to slow the process:

It seems to us that the CF&RS has been willing to spend £millions in capital development (largely funded by the Government) in order to make our service worse. We do not consider this a good use of public money. Having maintained some staff cover levels in order to get through your proposals for new fire stations, you now seek to implement the savings they were always intended to make, by cutting that cover. Frankly this phased implementation of cuts has been designed simply to deceive the public, who see the shiny new stations you publicise, but who will probably not hear about the consequent cuts to front-line fire-fighter numbers. The thrust of all these developments has been to both reduce the number of fire-fighters attending incidents and to increase the time taken for them to arrive. The positive work done in reducing the number of fires and installing smoke detectors in most homes, over several years, has – in our view – become a cover for a

reduced service quality for the smaller numbers that need it. The fact that fewer fires occur should not make it acceptable for attendance times to increase, and fatal incidents to increase. The 12 hour shifts are designed to cover the peak period for fires in the early evening with full-time staff (tired at the end of a 12 hour shift) while allowing night cover to be reduced to on-call. Such a process risks the lives of the public and fire-fighters.

In our view an increase in attendance times has been fundamental to most of the changes implemented or proposed by the service. More often than not it is the attendance time for a second fire engine that has been increased. As the FBU have previously pointed out, the attendance of 8 or 9 fire fighters on scene can be vital to certain rescue scenarios – usually the most life-threatening. The attendance time for a second fire-engine can be a matter of life or death for both the public and for FBU members.

It seems clear to West Cheshire TUC that the more recent changes to the way attendance times are monitored and recorded by the CF&RS, at incidents where lives are at risk, has become a cover for a deteriorating service, which is deliberately hidden by the figures. We question the meaningfulness of the figures you currently provide in identifying the effectiveness of the service. 80% attendance within 10 minutes for the first engine basically means that you meet targets when 1 in 5 incidents are not attended within 10 minutes, and when the arriving fire crew are not in a position to carry out an immediate rescue if required. Is that a reasonable measure? The FBU make clear (which you do not) that the 10 minutes is not from the first receipt of the call, but from when the first appliances are called upon to attend. They suggest that this adds an average of 3 minutes 30 seconds to the actual recorded time taken.

Importantly, the failure to provide the figures for the attendance of the second and subsequent fire-engines (information you undoubtedly hold) hides the potential for the first engine to arrive – but fire-fighters not to be able to perform a rescue because of awaiting the attendance of additional crews. Clearly this could also put them under intense personal pressure. If the CF&RS is intent on being honest with the public, and even with members of the Fire Authority, it would publish those figures to allow a serious analysis of the impact of the changes currently being made to the service.

The building of new fire stations at places like Penketh and Mollington has not been designed to improve the service, but to facilitate cuts to the service. Basically the impact of these cuts, the reduced staffing levels you are now considering, will be shown in the increased attendance time for the second fire engine – as these new stations provide that back-up over a wider geographical area. The fact that the CF&RS does not publish figures for the attendance time of second and subsequent engines can only be viewed as intended to hide the real impact of these cuts – particularly the cuts in full-time fire-fighters. Housing small numbers of staff at each small station a few miles from the next must reduce flexibility of cover, make training more difficult and bring additional facilities costs.

Your review again talks in euphemisms about “reviewing the current duty systems and crewing arrangements” at various stations. We are under no illusion that this means anything other than reducing the cover to the lower levels you have always intended. By not being specific about your proposals you divert and reduce opposition. No doubt afterwards you will say that you were clear you were going to review things.

Similarly, the re-organisation of shift patterns and the steady move to reduce night cover, and some back-up cover, to a service provided largely by on-call staff, is an action that can only really be seriously measured in terms of the attendance time of all engines at an incident. Yet again this information will be hidden from the public and perhaps even elected representatives.

Related to this is the lack of any published serious analysis of the effectiveness of the increase in the on-call provision, as implemented so far. How many staff are recruited, trained and retained, and at what cost? How many are able to turn out when needed, in the time required? How often do full-time fire-fighter crews have to be sent from a distance to fill the gap because retain staff have been unable to crew an engine? What were the consequent delays? Again, this move toward the increasing use of on-call fire fighters is fundamental to the changes being pursued by the service – and should be subject to a full and transparent cost benefit analysis before more permanent posts are cut.

The only really new development in this year’s plan is your move into providing a Cardiac Response to help make up for the on-going decline of our Ambulance Service. Any judgement on this activity needs to be based upon detailed information obtained from the pilot. If this involves staff attending incidents in vehicles other than fire engines, then the question that arises is about the adequacy of the cover that remains to be

sent to a fire. Our clear preference is for the Ambulance Service to be properly funded and staffed with fully trained paramedics. There seems potential for CF&RS staff members to suffer significantly increased levels of personal trauma – dealing with people dying on a much more frequent basis, in circumstances where many may feel they were not the best equipped person to deal with the incident. We would urge you to give consideration to this point and the potential need for additional support services for these staff. It may also lead to an increase in staff absence levels that the CF&RS should be fully prepared to accept.

We were pleased to hear after last year's submission that there was a delay in reaching conclusions about the future of the 3rd Aerial Platform. We believe that the appalling incident at Grenfell Tower can lead you to conclude nothing other than it should be permanently retained (and if necessary up-graded). We have high-rise buildings in many towns across Cheshire, and 2 such specialist appliances (with appropriately trained crews) seems inadequate to provide the sort of quick response necessary to all parts of the County.

Finally, we think the recent fire at the multi-storey car park at the Echo Arena, in Liverpool, should give the authority pause for thought. It is hard to believe that such a small incident (a car engine fire) could be allowed to develop to the level where practically the whole building was destroyed with hundreds of cars. Such an incident in a multi-storey car park attached to a shopping centre (Chester City Centre, Warrington, Runcorn, etc.) hardly bears thinking about. Undoubtedly the ability to deliver enough appliances quickly enough to prevent such a small fire turning into a conflagration is the key, and hopefully one that will fully exercise the thoughts of CF&RS.

We hope you will bring our concerns to the attention of the Fire Authority and consider them as part of your consultation process.

Ray McHale

Secretary – West Cheshire TUC