



IRMP 2013/14 consultation

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

With budget cuts of around £5 million expected over the next four years, it has carried out a fundamental review into how its frontline emergency response service could be delivered most effectively in the future.

A comprehensive package of options has been developed which could see more fire stations in Cheshire in the future, with virtually the same number of fire engines but staffed differently than now. The average time it takes to get to life-threatening fires and other emergencies would improve and the Authority would also be able to hit its savings targets.

The options have been developed using information gained from past consultations alongside expert fire service opinion and nationally-recognised fire and rescue computer modelling systems and consultants.

The Authority now wants to understand the views of residents, businesses, partners, staff and other stakeholders about these proposals.

The attached summary document provides details about current arrangements and future options, including estimated annual salary savings between £3-5 million. It is intended to provide you with sufficient information to understand and be able to comment on the options.

The consultation will influence important decisions around:

- Whether the proposed new stations should be built

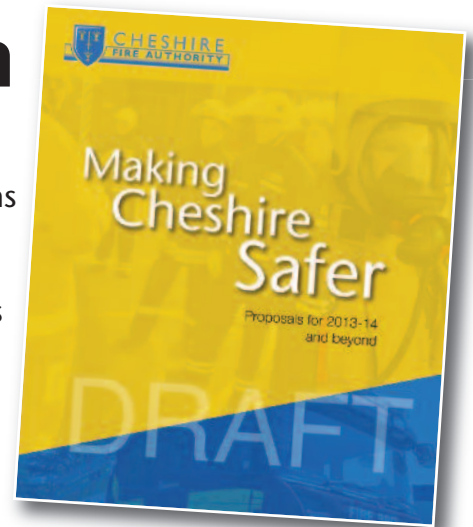
- Which of the different options for the future crewing of specific stations should be implemented; and when.

- Whether the Authority should move from its current emergency response standards to a 10 minute blanket response for incidents where lives are at risk.

We have already - or plan to - brief your authority and local town and parish councils as part of our consultation process; however as local elected representatives we want to make you aware of these proposals, which may affect you and your constituents.

We would like to hear your views and encourage you to respond using our electronic survey specifically designed for partners, which can be accessed via the following link:
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/538CG5S>.

We are undertaking a comprehensive programme of public consultation across Cheshire; though we also ask you to encourage people to have their say and complete our online residents' survey, which can be accessed via visiting our website www.cheshirefire.gov.uk



For further information please contact:

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