



# R B F & R S

## news release

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### **FIRE AUTHORITY LAUNCHES LARGEST EVER CONSULTATION PROGRAMME**

The largest public consultation ever held by Royal Berkshire Fire Authority is under way and will help to decide the future shape of the fire and rescue service in Berkshire.

The consultation, which runs until May 11, is on plans to make changes to the way that Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS) delivers its services in the light of changing risk levels.

Every fire and rescue service in the country is required by Government to produce an annual Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) focusing on prevention and risk reduction.

RBFRS uses a huge amount of data, including information from all of the incidents it attends, to provide a detailed 'risk map' of the county. In Berkshire, the highest risk incidents, those where people are more likely to be injured or killed, are dwelling fires and road traffic collisions (RTCs).

The new IRMP is a strategic five-year plan that proposes a number of innovations to improve its delivery of services to the people of Berkshire. The plan recommends six proposals in a linked package of measures involving the closure, amalgamation and building of new fire stations across the county.

Chief Fire Officer Iain Cox explained: "The Fire Authority believes this to be the most important consultation it has ever undertaken and we hope that as many people as possible will let us have their views.

"Parts of the IRMP are undoubtedly controversial and we understand the reasons for that. We have put together a way forward that we believe will ensure a better service overall for the whole of Berkshire and, as with any proposals for change, there will be some who prefer the idea of the status quo.

"The Fire Authority is working with an independent consultation team to ensure impartiality in the formal consultation process with stakeholders but in addition we hope that everyone who would like us to take their views into account, whether they agree with the proposals or not, will take part."

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Every household in Berkshire will receive information on the IRMP with their council tax bills and you can also find out more and take part in the consultation (which ends on May 11) by:

- **Looking on the RBFRS website at [www.rbfrs.co.uk](http://www.rbfrs.co.uk) where you can view the plan and complete an online questionnaire**
- **Write to (no stamp required):  
IRMP Consultation, Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service  
FREEPOST(RG2 669) 103 Dee Road, Tilehurst,  
Reading, Berkshire RG30 1BR**
- **Email your response to [irmp@rbfrs.co.uk](mailto:irmp@rbfrs.co.uk)**
- **Tell us over the telephone by calling 0118 932 2122 (this is a voicemail with all comments recorded daily for inclusion in the consultation)**
- **Fax your views to 0118 932 2296**

Any of these routes can also be used to request a printed copy of the plan (these can also be made available in languages other than English).

**ENDS.**