

# Royal Berkshire Fire Authority

## Summary of the Best Value Performance Plan 2007/08



This is a summary of the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority's Best Value Performance Plan, which is published annually under the Local Government Act (1999). The full plan will be available by the end of June. If you would like a copy, please visit the

Brigade's website at [www.rbfrs.co.uk](http://www.rbfrs.co.uk) or you can request a printed copy from Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, 103 Dee Road, Tilehurst, Reading, Berkshire. RG30 4FS.

### Aims

Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS) has developed six strategic aims to deliver its vision of 'A Safer Berkshire':

- Minimise loss of life, injury and damage from fire.
- Reduce the number of deaths, injuries and damage caused by hazards other than fire and render appropriate humanitarian services.
- Deliver community safety education, tailored to users' needs, to reduce the number of fire calls and to minimise the consequences of fire.
- Apply fire safety legislation, without bias, to maximise compliance and minimise loss of life, injury and damage from fire.
- Demonstrate continuous improvement in service delivery, based upon consultation and partnership working, within a Best Value framework.
- Be a good employer and recognised as such.

### Our Funding

The Fire Authority, which is a precepting Authority, runs the service. This enables the Authority to raise its own revenue through the levy of the council tax. The service is funded partly by income received from council taxpayers, the remainder being funded by Government grant. The budget for 2007/08 is set at £31.329 million, equating to a Band D Council tax precept of £50.09.

Preventing

The Fire Authority comprises 25 elected members appointed from the six unitary authorities in the County. For details of your local members, please contact Lynda Kenyon, the Fire Authority's Committee Manager, on 0118 932 2288.

### Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA)

CPA is the method used by the Audit Commission, on behalf of the Government, to assess Fire Authorities. It aims to identify a Fire Authority's strengths and weaknesses by examining in detail nine themes. These range from leadership and priorities through to future plans, resulting in a corporate assessment.

The Fire Authority underwent its first CPA in February 2005. The full report is available on the RBFRS website at [www.rbfrs.co.uk](http://www.rbfrs.co.uk). In 2006, a further series of assessments was carried out, to evaluate three additional areas. These were: Direction of Travel, (to assess progress against targets), Use of Resources (to examine cost-effectiveness and value for money) and Service Delivery (looking at operational performance). The results of these assessments were published by the Audit Commission in April and are also on the RBFRS website.

### How have we performed?

Under Best Value requirements, RBFRS must demonstrate its performance against 34 nationally-set Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs).

Iain Cox, RBFRS Chief Fire Officer, said: "We continue to do well against important indicators such as those for property and vehicle fires, saving casualties from dwellings, driving down arson and malicious fire calls. However, we want to reduce even further the number of accidental fires in dwellings and are working hard to target these."

The service will continue to set challenging new targets for each of the 34 performance indicators. The full range of results for 2006/07, compared against our previous years' performance, and that of similar fire

Protecting

and rescue services, will be in the full Best Value Performance Plan available by the end of June.

### Performance Links to Community Safety

Community safety continues to be the key focus for RBFRS. Both operational fire crews and specialist teams work with the community to prevent accidents and accidental fires, reduce antisocial behaviour and make local neighbourhoods safer.

You can also **do your bit** to help us. For example:

- Do you have a correctly-sited, functioning smoke detector at home?
- Do members of your family know what to do, should fire affect your home?
- Do you know that smoking materials in the home still contribute significantly to fires in the home?
- Consider your car security. Stolen cars often become involved in accidents, are abandoned and set on fire.
- Do you know the consequences of using tealights and night-lights incorrectly?
  - Replace any worn or taped-up electrical cables and leads on electrical goods and do not overload sockets.

### Best Value Reviews

The Best Value Review Programme also includes the latest RBFRS Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP). This covers the six project areas contained in the Year III IRMP. RBFRS is currently evaluating the results of a consultation programme regarding IRMP proposals for the next five years and these will be available on the website in July.

### Contacting Us

If you have any queries or comments, please contact the Performance Review department on 0118 932 2000 or by e-mail at [performrev@rbfrs.co.uk](mailto:performrev@rbfrs.co.uk).

Responding