

## Summary of the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority Best Value Performance Plan 2006/07

This document is intended to supplement the Best Value Performance Plan by providing a summary of the full 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 Fire and Rescue Service's website at [www.rbfrs.co.uk](http://www.rbfrs.co.uk). A hard copy is also available from... **Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service, Brigade Headquarters, 103 Dee Road, Tilehurst, Reading, Berkshire, RG30 4FS.**

### Aims

The Fire and Rescue Service 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 Fire and Rescue 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 tax payers, the remainder being funded by Government grant. The budget for 2006/07 is set at £29.96 million. This equates to just £37.08 per head of the County population per year.

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

### Comprehensive Performance Assessment

CPA is the method used by the Audit Commission, on behalf of the Government, to assess the Fire Authority. It aims to identify both the Fire Authority's strengths and weaknesses by examining in detail nine themes. These range from leadership and priorities through to future plans, thereby enabling a corporate assessment to be made. The Fire Authority underwent the CPA in February 2005 and received the final report in August 2005. The way that the Fire Authority is run and the delivery of services has been assessed as Good. The full report is available on the Fire and Rescue Service's website at [www.rbfrs.co.uk](http://www.rbfrs.co.uk).

## How Have We Performed?

Under Best Value requirements, the Fire and Rescue Service must demonstrate its performance against 35 nationally set performance indicators (BVPIs).

Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service's Chief Fire Officer, Iain Cox, reports :

*"We continue to do well in what are important performance indicators for any fire service. Those are fires involving properties and vehicles (BVPI 142ii), which are down, malicious false alarms attended (BVPI 146ii), which have fallen and accidental fires in dwellings (BVPI 142iii)."*

Chairman of the Fire Authority, Councillor Dr Paul Bryant, said : *"These figures show that community safety initiatives undertaken by the Fire and Rescue Service are working well."*

The service will continue to set challenging new targets for each of the 35 performance indicators. The full range of results for 2005/06, compared against our previous years' performance, and that of similar fire 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 Fire and Rescue Service's key focus. Both operational fire crews and specialist teams liaise 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 the Fire and Rescue Service. 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 has been amended to reflect the Fire and Rescue Service's Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP). The review programme now consists of four new Best Value reviews that comprise the IRMP year three action plan and the seven reviews that comprised the year two action plan. All of the year two reviews are due for implementation by April 2006. Those areas under review will be scrutinised using the four criteria of challenge, compare, consult and compete.

## Contacting Us

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

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