



R B F & R S

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FIRE AUTHORITY SETS BUDGET

Royal Berkshire Fire Authority has agreed a £32,444,000 budget for 2008/09.

This equates to a council tax of £52.54 for a Band D property, compared with last year's figure of £50.09 (a rise of 4.89%).

Just under half - 47% - of the budget is funded by Government grant, with the remaining 53% funded from council tax. This year's Government grant for Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service has risen by just 1% and the increase will fall to 0.5% in both 2009/10 and 2010/11.

The Fire Authority is always striving to become more efficient and to this end efficiency savings of £239,000 have been built into the budget for 2008/09.

Chairman of the Authority, Dr Paul Bryant, said: "In common with all public sector services, we are operating under increasingly severe budgetary pressures.

"Our priority is to ensure that Berkshire not only continues to receive a high level performance from its fire and rescue service but that we improve. We have to build for the future and be flexible and resilient enough to meet the demands of our changing communities. This budget will enable us to meet the improvements identified in the Five Year Integrated Risk Management Plan."

Full details of the Budget can be found at www.rbfrs.co.uk.