



Dear Resident,

## Royal Berkshire Fire Authority Budget and Council Tax Consultation 2022/23

The Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service revenue budget for 2021/22 is £35.8 million. Two thirds of our funding is received from Council Tax. The other main sources of income are Government grants and business rates.

Like all public services we are committed to delivering value for money across the services we provide. £4.96 million of savings were delivered between 2010/11 and 2015/16 and a further £2.4 million will have been delivered by March 2022. Whilst we have been able to use some of these savings to invest in the vital services that we provide to the public, we have also had to reduce expenditure in certain areas to balance our budget. Taking 2015/16 as the base year, central Government funding has fallen by 22%.

Additional cost pressures have also materialised in recent years. Following the Grenfell Tower tragedy additional resources have been put in place to work closely with local authorities and landlords as part of our Protection Policy. A review of our capital assets has also been completed and our 15-year [Strategic Asset Investment Framework](#) sets out the costs of renewing our fire appliances, fire stations and lifesaving IT systems.

The Government recognises that fire authorities, such as this one, that are in the lowest quartile nationally in terms of council tax charges, face the greatest challenges in addressing immediate pressures and that they require a sustainable funding baseline for the future. For this reason, the Government proposes to provide those in the lowest charging quartile with the flexibility to increase the average Band D precept by £5 in 2022/23. As the fifth lowest precepting fire authority, we welcome this additional flexibility which will enable us to build resilience in our frontline services and assets so that we can deliver a modern and effective fire service for all residents in Royal Berkshire.

We would be delighted if you could take part in our [online survey](#) or visit [rbfrs.co.uk/haveyoursay](http://rbfrs.co.uk/haveyoursay). The consultation closes on 1 February 2022.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Colin Dudley'.

Councillor Colin Dudley  
Chairman of Royal Berkshire Fire Authority

---

Councillor Colin Dudley • Chairman