

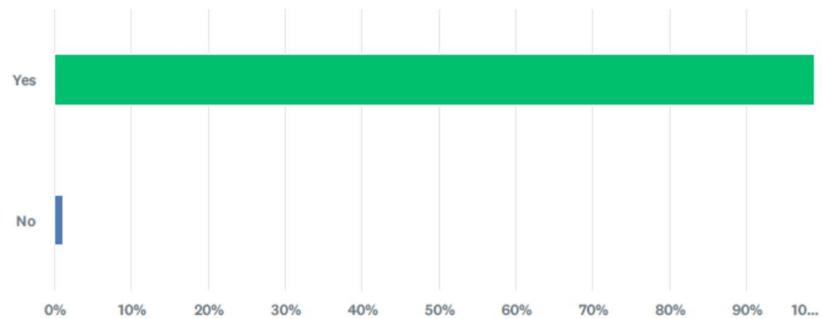
Precept Consultation 2026/27

Summary of Responses

Question 1 asked respondents to confirm that they agreed to the conditions of the survey. 269 of 272 respondents answered yes to this question.

Q1 Please confirm that you agree to the conditions of the survey.

Answered: 272 Skipped: 0

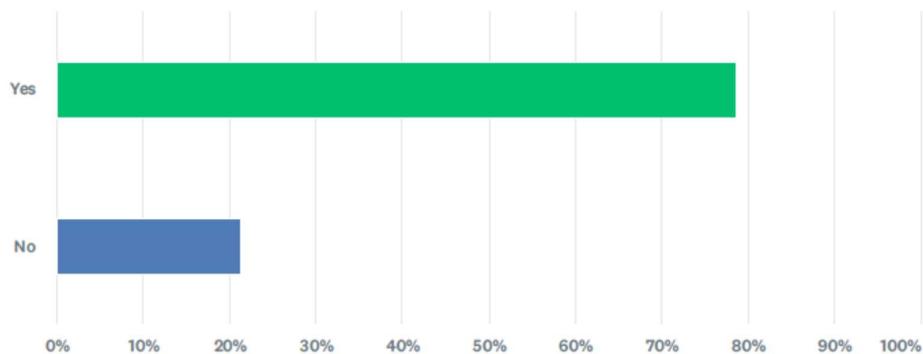


Answer Choices ↓	Percentage ↓	Responses ↓	
Yes	98.90%	269	***
No	1.10%	3	***
Total		272	

Question 2 asked respondents if they supported a £5 per annum increase in Council Tax in 2026/27 (based on a Band D property). 230 individuals responded to Question 2 below and 42 skipped the question.

Q2 Do you support an increase of £5 per annum in Council Tax in 2026/27 (based on a Band D property) to help fund Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service?

Answered: 230 Skipped: 42



Answer Choices ↓	Percentage ↓	Responses ↓	
● Yes	78.70%	181	***
● No	21.30%	49	***
Total		230	

Question 3 asked respondents if they had any additional comments to make in relation to Question 2. 91 individuals responded to Question 3 below and 181 skipped the question.

Q3 Do you have any additional comments to make?

Answered: 91 Skipped: 181

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	The fire service is good value for money	1/30/2026 5:28 PM
2	The Fire and Rescue Service do a very good job	1/30/2026 3:42 PM
3	Fire and Rescue services are ridiculously underfunded for the scope and nature of the work they undertake.	1/29/2026 3:04 PM
4	Essential investment to maintain and tackle impacts of inflationary pressures and increased demand on FRSSs	1/29/2026 1:52 PM
5	Rbfrs regularly fall below minimum safety standards due to crewing deficiencies. An increase in budget is needed to ensure enough firefighters are employed.	1/29/2026 1:51 PM
6	I would support more than £5.00	1/29/2026 11:50 AM
7	THis is a tiny increase but goes to a good cause.	1/29/2026 11:48 AM
8	No	1/29/2026 11:00 AM
9	id like our councilors to be lobbying our MPs for a fairer funding within the government grant in addition to this	1/29/2026 10:46 AM
10	I want this money spent on supporting frontline response, not additional bureaucracy	1/29/2026 10:30 AM
11	Wokingham Borough is a joke of a local authority and need to restructure to ensure they fund our services appropriately within their budget envelope. Costs f council tax and all other living costs are high and growing, it is not acceptable to ask for another increase because of inadequate provision from the borough, they should arrange themselves correctly to ensure they can fund correctly	1/29/2026 8:21 AM
12	Fully justified to help provide such a valuable and diverse service	1/26/2026 10:53 PM
13	The level of council tax we pay is currently at an eye watering level and the hike last year was too much. It's just not affordable for your average working person.	1/26/2026 6:21 PM
14	The fire service must not reduce cover due to lack of appropriate funding.	1/26/2026 5:35 PM
15	I'm not prepared to pay for substandard diversity hires.	1/25/2026 6:21 AM
16	You guys do an amazing job an should have the required funding available	1/24/2026 5:19 PM
17	They deserve every penny	1/24/2026 11:33 AM
18	I already pay through the nose for my 1 bed house, more than a friends 3 bed house and my parents 3 bed house. Tax on the poor! I wouldn't pay more until there are improvements on how the money is used, less money to council bosses and more money back into the community	1/23/2026 7:58 PM
19	The fire service deserve much more! Cut adult services and the police to make if fairer	1/23/2026 6:58 PM
20	I would support increases, if I were confident that the local public services don't waste money internally- through poor choices of IT systems, etc.	1/23/2026 2:24 PM
21	The RBFRS leadership are failing us and I don't wish to give them anymore money to waste.	1/23/2026 12:49 PM
22	It would be highly preferable not to have to pay extra - if council could find economies elsewhere, seeing as council tax is already exorbitant- but this is an essential public service that should not be under funded.	1/22/2026 10:31 AM
23	I don't wish to fund the anti-male sexism and anti-indigenous racism in the Fire Service.	1/22/2026 6:49 AM
24	Following decades of cuts I support ongoing funding of the fire service.	1/21/2026 4:14 PM
25	You are putting the public and firefighters at unnecessary risk by your woke policies. You do not deserve an increase, in fact, I would like to see a reduction, until you come to your senses.	1/21/2026 3:59 PM

26	Fire fighters are a valued and essential part of our community.	1/21/2026 1:41 PM
27	Worth every penny	1/21/2026 1:22 PM
28	we already pay too much for council services	1/21/2026 9:49 AM
29	Why is funding reduced if thousands more houses are being built and lived in, which must be resulting in councils cashing in on more council tax, whilst services continue to degrade?	1/21/2026 9:07 AM
30	Until the RBFRS are reformed and the poisonous political correctness removed, I don't want to fund them.	1/21/2026 5:15 AM
31	Spend our money more wisely.	1/20/2026 4:57 PM
32	Fire & Rescue is not negotiable. We never know when we might need it.	1/20/2026 4:22 PM
33	No	1/20/2026 2:56 PM
34	Your senior management team is large and extremely well paid.	1/20/2026 2:12 PM
35	Essential funding to maintain essential services	1/20/2026 11:21 AM
36	I don't trust the leadership of RBFRS, they are activists and have no comprehension of impartiality.	1/20/2026 6:08 AM
37	Every year we see continued raises from fire, police, parish and district councils. It is becoming unaffordable for residents	1/19/2026 9:28 PM
38	The fire service offer a valuable service to the community and offer more services that many residents may be aware of	1/19/2026 8:21 PM
39	Just please do not take anything from the Care Services pot.	1/19/2026 1:52 PM
40	I have read and responded to your vile Equality Objectives Consultation, I would never want to fund a public sector service that so clearly hates straight white men.	1/18/2026 10:11 PM
41	Fire Authority need to be lobbying central govt to invest in FRS's nationally and increase funding.	1/18/2026 1:42 PM
42	I can't support the funding of an Emergency service that puts diversity above public safety.	1/18/2026 6:09 AM
43	I want a good, quick fire service if I ever should need it	1/17/2026 9:36 PM
44	The proposed RBFS precept increase is 5.793%, 5.476% and 5.192% for the next three fiscal years. We have been unable to find the detail in the consultation for the three year settlement. Nor a RBFS budget for the three years. Therefore it is impossible to understand why three years of above-inflation increase in the precept is required?	1/17/2026 3:07 PM
45	£5 for the year seems sensible	1/17/2026 2:14 PM
46	I can't support the diversity obsessed and woke Fire Service.	1/17/2026 12:52 PM
47	We are already paying too much	1/17/2026 7:07 AM
48	Very expensive	1/17/2026 2:38 AM
49	Our Fire Service needs support for the important work they do whilst risking their lives for others.	1/16/2026 5:41 PM
50	I am happy to pay the increase provided that increase is providing fire cover for Berkshire residents only, and not providing cover to a neighbouring brigade that have chosen to cut the service they provide as its on the RBWM boundary and expect the Berkshire residents to lose that cover because they are covering another FRS	1/16/2026 4:10 PM
51	No	1/16/2026 12:45 PM
52	Never every used fire service so should really get a no use service refund (say 50%)	1/16/2026 11:13 AM
53	We cannot afford for bills to go up please	1/16/2026 10:37 AM
54	No	1/16/2026 9:18 AM
55	We need a well funded fire service	1/16/2026 8:34 AM
56	I'm not prepared to pay extra for an emergency service that is allowed to strike. I am not prepared to pay extra for a Fire Service that is dangerously woke.	1/16/2026 5:24 AM
57	Retained Fire Fighters should be paid to maintain their fitness. They are required to keep to	1/15/2026 5:50 PM

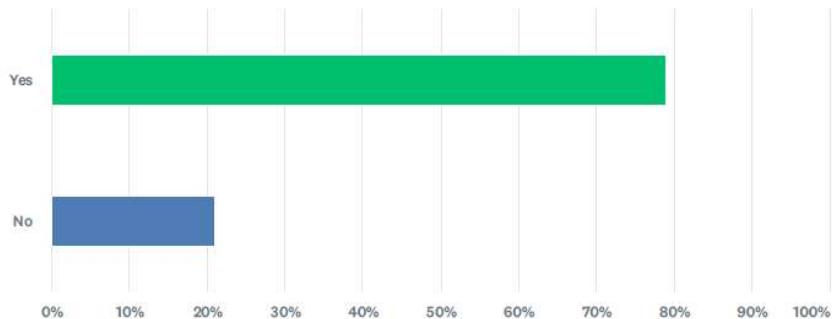
	the same fitness standards as wholetime FFs but have to do it in their own time	
58	Happy to pay this increase to support an emergency service who provides a valuable service to the public	1/15/2026 3:32 PM
59	Being so close to London and the cost of living in Berkshire being high, do your employees receive and kind of allowances to compensate for the high cost of living in or around the county and is there any intention to do so?	1/15/2026 2:19 PM
60	The cost of living is having a negative effect on all & is not sustainable. Thus I disagree with further tax increases.	1/15/2026 2:07 PM
61	The people of Berkshire need to see current funds used more efficiency. Reduce the waste associated with fire stations through greater governance and compliance.	1/15/2026 1:50 PM
62	As long as the money is invested in front line firefighters and fire stations and not used to employ more non operational staff.	1/15/2026 12:39 PM
63	It is criminal that the government (both now and past governments) have decreased funding to a vital service.	1/15/2026 11:36 AM
64	Funding is needed to provide essential services and invest to modernise	1/15/2026 11:30 AM
65	No	1/15/2026 9:58 AM
66	Given that the previous national government cut funding IN REAL TERMS to so many local authorities, this deficit needs to be restored, and the increase in reality needs to be a lot more than £5.	1/15/2026 8:25 AM
67	That sounds reasonable.	1/14/2026 9:03 PM
68	Should raise it by more to increase your number of Firefighters.	1/14/2026 7:35 PM
69	I'm fed up either way the annual above inflation increases	1/14/2026 6:46 PM
70	As long as it's not being used for all the DEI stuff. I want to know I'm getting the best person for the job, I couldn't care less what colour or background. If my house is on fire, or something needs rescuing from up a tree, down a hole, or gets stuck in something, I want somebody who knows what they are doing and can do it safely. Likewise, I expect ALL residents to be treated the same. Stop with the diversity rubbish.	1/14/2026 6:27 PM
71	This will help close the funding gap required to ensure fire fighters are adequately equipped to save lives and are protected whilst performing their duties. Additional funding is also required to ensure trucks and vehicles are retrofitted with decontamination filters and clean cab environments to reduce the risk of cancers and respiratory illnesses putting firefighters at personal risk and and RBFRS open to organisational risk. Hampshire seem able to progress with these requirements and therefore there is no excuse for Berkshire to lack behind in the protection from contaminates.	1/14/2026 5:56 PM
72	No	1/14/2026 5:44 PM
73	Fire services are important and need funded. No one wants to pay more tax but I do not want fire services cut so happy to pay more for this reason.	1/14/2026 4:30 PM
74	Cut backs will cost lives	1/14/2026 3:41 PM
75	The Chief Fire Officer prefers to play woke politics rather than protect the public. He needs to read up on Smith v Northumbria Police, which sets precedent against ideological partisanship in public institutions—from armed forces to police, Fire & Rescue, councils, schools, and services.	1/14/2026 3:28 PM
76	No	1/14/2026 12:22 PM
77	We are failing the public with our diversity & inclusion activism. The duty of impartiality is far more important than PSED.	1/14/2026 8:22 AM
78	A sensible increase	1/13/2026 5:30 PM
79	I can no longer trust an emergency service that is allowed to take industrial action. I can no longer trust an emergency service that prioritises diversity over public safety.	1/13/2026 6:06 AM
80	You are putting firefighters and the public at much greater risk of injury or death, by your obsession with Diversity & Inclusion. Fitness & strength are vital in fire fighting and dangerous situations, yet you have lowered standards to accommodate diversity.	1/12/2026 9:33 PM
81	You place diversity & inclusion above public safety, you deserve nothing. Public Sector Equality Duty does not, and cannot, qualify or compromise the Fire Service duty of	1/12/2026 8:17 PM

impartiality. No emergency service should be allowed to take industrial action.		
82	Sorry but you need to be realistic. We cannot afford the increases year on year. Reduce your costs	1/12/2026 1:22 PM
83	You need to reduce the number of senior officers and corporate heads. Look at their salaries.	1/12/2026 1:17 PM
84	Should raise by more if it means more cuts otherwise	1/11/2026 7:47 PM
85	I fully support RBFRS but I want to see west Berkshire use the current budget.	1/10/2026 2:37 AM
86	If there's one thing I don't mind paying more on, it's the fire service. Hope to never need you, but prefer you there just in case.	1/9/2026 11:17 PM
87	It appears we are constantly asked to pay more and more without any increase or improvement in the service we receive	1/9/2026 5:20 PM
88	More money should be given to the fire and rescue services out of what we already pay..	1/9/2026 4:25 PM
89	Will local government boundary changes impact the budgeting for the Service? What happens if Berkshire's local authorities get parcelled off with those from surrounding counties?	1/9/2026 4:17 PM
90	No	1/9/2026 3:51 PM
91	I feel it's important that we maintain current service levels.	1/9/2026 12:46 PM

Question 4 asked respondents if they would support a £5 per annum increase in Council Tax for the next three years. 230 individuals responded to Question 2 below and 42 skipped the question.

Q4 This year, the Government has announced a three-year funding settlement. Unfortunately, this shows a decline in central government funding over the three-year period for Royal Berkshire Fire Authority. To partly compensate for this loss of funding, would you support an increase of £5 per annum in Council Tax for the next three years?

Answered: 230 Skipped: 42



Answer Choices ↓	Percentage ↓	Responses ↓
Yes	79.13%	182
No	20.87%	48
Total		230

Question 5 asked respondents if they had any additional comments to make in relation to Question 4. 72 individuals responded to Question 3 below and 200 skipped the question.

Q5 Do you have any additional comments to make?

Answered: 72 Skipped: 200

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Giving a three year commitment will help the Service to be able to plan ahead and spend their resources efficiently	1/30/2026 3:42 PM
2	This needs to be supplemented by robust political lobbying to reflect the decline in central government funding for frontline services.	1/29/2026 3:04 PM
3	No	1/29/2026 11:00 AM
4	id like our councilors to be lobbying our MPs for a fairer funding within the government grant in addition to this	1/29/2026 10:46 AM
5	The declining central funding is unacceptable, why would it be appropriate to bridge that gap from tax payers	1/29/2026 8:21 AM
6	Fully justified slack of support from Government	1/26/2026 10:53 PM
7	Increase your fitness & strength standards.	1/25/2026 6:21 AM
8	Thank you for your support	1/23/2026 4:12 PM
9	As above, I have little faith that 'important people' in our local services make wise decisions. My experience tells me that actually; horrific amounts of money are wasted through poor decisions- IT systems not fit for purpose, money spent on plans to redevelop which are not fit for purpose/ do not go ahead. I would only support increases if I were confident the wastage was as minimal as possible, it's unlikely I could be persuaded to believe that.	1/23/2026 2:24 PM
10	Until the RBFRS are reformed and impartiality is restored, they should not receive more taxpayer funding.	1/23/2026 12:49 PM
11	It would be highly preferable not to have to pay extra - if council could find economies elsewhere, seeing as council tax is already exorbitant- but this is an essential public service that should not be under funded.	1/22/2026 10:31 AM
12	Diversity is not a strength	1/22/2026 6:49 AM
13	The Chief Fire Officer is not fit for purpose, as are a number of firefighters.	1/21/2026 3:59 PM
14	£5 per year is very affordable. We need to keep the levels of service consistent. Councils have a habit of wasting tax payers money, this increase is justified.	1/21/2026 1:41 PM
15	Worth every penny	1/21/2026 1:22 PM
16	Fire services should be paid for out of general taxation, council tax is out of control, before long we will be paying a surcharge for everything	1/21/2026 9:49 AM
17	The Chief Fire Officer is not fit for purpose	1/21/2026 5:15 AM
18	Where do you expect the residents to keep finding more money to fund you? Run your service more efficiently and spend our money wisely.	1/20/2026 4:57 PM
19	Happy to pay if necessary.	1/20/2026 4:22 PM
20	This survey asks a ridiculous number of questions about the identify of those who respond.	1/20/2026 2:12 PM
21	No	1/20/2026 1:06 PM
22	As above plus, emergency services need longer term funding in order to plan and be resilient to support the communities served	1/20/2026 11:21 AM
23	We need Fire Service leadership that will put public safety and the needs of the many before the few.	1/20/2026 6:08 AM
24	Next year will undoubtedly see even more increases	1/19/2026 9:28 PM
25	If that is the WHOLE Council Tax per annum, not only applying to Fire Brigade section of it.	1/19/2026 1:52 PM

26	The drop in central govt funding for RBFA is shameful. However, faced with this, I would sooner see an increase of £20 per annum, the cost of four pints of bitter as opposed to one!	1/19/2026 12:59 PM
27	Fire Authority need to be lobbying central govt to invest in FRS's nationally and increase funding.	1/18/2026 1:42 PM
28	Total reform of the FRS is required. An urgent review of the very poor fitness and strength standardst is required.	1/18/2026 6:09 AM
29	As above	1/17/2026 9:36 PM
30	Can we get this government out! Obviously I'm happy to pay extra but we worked out yesterday from everything we earn in our little business we only bring home 38% of it. The rest is taxes. That is bunkers! So they are saying that with all the taxes we can't afford to pay our vital services? They need to go.	1/17/2026 8:38 PM
31	We accept that RBFS requires funding for an essential service. However, without a budget to review, the consultation is a sham.	1/17/2026 3:07 PM
32	Cut the budget until the Fire Service are forced to be impartial again.	1/17/2026 12:52 PM
33	Again as long as its resulting in no cuts to frontline fire cover, or used providing cover to another FRS because they have cut their cover, expecting to rely on a neighbouring FRS to cover them.	1/16/2026 4:10 PM
34	No	1/16/2026 12:45 PM
35	No , I have never needed there assistance	1/16/2026 11:13 AM
36	Please don't ask us ask big corporations: companies	1/16/2026 10:37 AM
37	No	1/16/2026 9:18 AM
38	Will just have to 'cough up'!	1/16/2026 8:34 AM
39	No additional funding until fitness and strength standards are dramatically increased (back to where they used to be).	1/16/2026 5:24 AM
40	Retained Fire Fighters should be paid to maintain their fitness. They are required to keep to the same fitness standards as wholetime FFs but have to do it in their own time	1/15/2026 5:50 PM
41	Can the FA and Chief lobby for more government funding?	1/15/2026 3:34 PM
42	Being so close to London and the cost of living in Berkshire being high, do your employees receive and kind of allowances to compensate for the high cost of living in or around the county and is there any intention to do so?	1/15/2026 2:19 PM
43	The cost of living is having a negative effect on all & is not sustainable. Thus I disagree with further tax increases.	1/15/2026 2:07 PM
44	As above.	1/15/2026 1:50 PM
45	As long as the money is invested in front line firefighters and fire stations and not used to employ more non operational staff.	1/15/2026 12:39 PM
46	The Government should be fully funding the Fire and Rescue Service	1/15/2026 11:36 AM
47	The reduced financial support from central government is disappointing and is concerning when it affects prevention of fire / death or injury from fire which have personal and financial impacts	1/15/2026 11:29 AM
48	This is a minimum of what is required, for t6he same reasons as I gave in (3).	1/15/2026 8:25 AM
49	Responsible cost for what RBFRS does	1/14/2026 9:03 PM
50	Should raise it by more to increase your number of Firefighters.	1/14/2026 7:35 PM
51	See my comment above	1/14/2026 6:46 PM
52	See above	1/14/2026 6:27 PM
53	Continued additional funding is required to meet the contaminate risk highlighted above including ensuring RBFRS can demonstrate as an organisation is has done and continues to discharge the duty of care it has for its employees ethically and legally.	1/14/2026 5:56 PM
54	Bit of a Hobsons choice central government should be funding this not local taxpayers but we also need a service that can do what it needs to	1/14/2026 5:00 PM

55	What proportion of the RBFBA grant goes on current fire fighting needs and what proportion is spent on pensions?	1/14/2026 4:59 PM
56	Keep fire services well funded	1/14/2026 4:30 PM
57	Stop cutbacks	1/14/2026 3:41 PM
58	Until impartiality is restored to the RBFRS, all funding should cease. Impartiality supersedes Public Sector Equality Duty.	1/14/2026 3:28 PM
59	No	1/14/2026 12:22 PM
60	We can't keep taking more money from the public, whilst putting them at greater risk by our diversity & inclusion obsession	1/14/2026 8:22 AM
61	You are not fit for purpose (literally and metaphorically).	1/13/2026 6:06 AM
62	The Fire service have placed diversity and inclusion above ability and merit. When someone dies, because a diverse firefighter has failed, the Chief Fire Officer should face Gross Negligence Manslaughter charges.	1/12/2026 9:33 PM
63	You deserve nothing	1/12/2026 8:17 PM
64	How much do your senior teams costs. Reduce that cost	1/12/2026 1:22 PM
65	You need to reduce the top salaries and join up fully with other Thames Valley FRS	1/12/2026 1:17 PM
66	Again, should be as much as is needed to maintain current service and organisational capability whilst providing staff fair conditions and pay	1/11/2026 7:47 PM
67	Isn't this the same question written in a different way?	1/10/2026 2:37 AM
68	Have you written to the PM to ask for more money? It seems odd you're asking us for more	1/9/2026 6:15 PM
69	The service appears to be completely top heavy with an overpaid C suite of executives who contribute very little to the actual service of protecting the residents of Berkshire.	1/9/2026 5:20 PM
70	Yes but would local authorities merging together impact the ability to deliver this?	1/9/2026 4:17 PM
71	No	1/9/2026 3:51 PM
72	it is disgusting that central government is continuing to cut funding to the fire and rescue service	1/9/2026 3:22 PM