COUNCIL TAX 2026/27

What You Pay and What We Provide

INTRODUCTION

The Fire Authority has a legal duty to tell you how much of your council tax money is required to provide fire service cover in Royal Berkshire. It must also explain how your money will be spent providing that service.

The Authority has approved a revenue budget for 2026/27 of £50.61 million, an increase of 4.8% over the comparable figure for 2025/26. The precept for a band D property will rise by £5.00 to £91.31, an increase of 5.79%.

If you would like more information about the FireAuthority's finances, please write to:

Head of Finance
Royal Berkshire Fire Authority
Newsham Court
Pincents Kiln
Calcot, Reading, RG31 7SD.
or email: precepting@rbfrs.co.uk

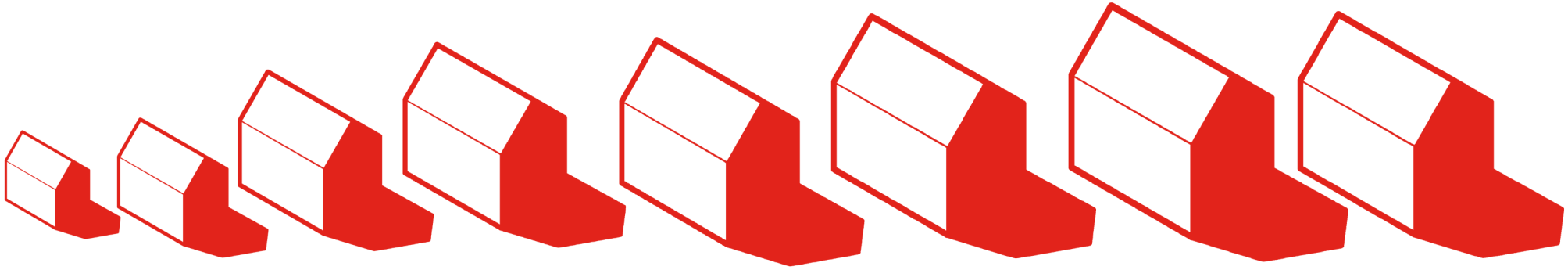
FINANCING ROYAL BERKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

The following table shows how the Authority's net revenue budget of £50.61 million will be funded.

	£ million	£ per head
Gross Revenue Expenditure	54.991	55.42
Gross Revenue Income	-4.381	-4.41
Contributions to / from Reserves	0.000	0.00
NET BUDGET	50.610	51.01
Less:		
Business Rates	-7.261	-7.32
Government Grants	-9.034	-9.10
Collection Fund Surplus	-0.047	-0.05
COUNCIL TAX	34.268	34.54

HOW MUCH COUNCIL TAX DO WE NEED FROM YOU?

Each house or flat is valued in a band, or group of similar homes, and given a label A to H. Each band or group pays a different amount of tax. The annual cost to each household is detailed below.



A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£60.87	£71.02	£81.16	£91.31	£111.60	£131.89	£152.18	£182.62

HOW DO WE SPEND THE MONEY?

It is important not only to achieve the efficient and effective delivery of your fire service, but also that this is demonstrated to you. The following table shows how we spend the money.

	2025/26 £ million	2026/27 £ million
Employees	40.394	41.892
Premises	2.769	2.894
Ill-health retirement costs and injury awards	0.506	0.528
Transport	1.039	1.020
Supplies and Services	5.474	5.430
Capital Financing Costs	2.677	3.227
Gross Revenue Expenditure	52.859	54.991
Revenue Income (on comparative basis) Contributions to Reserves	-4.589 0.000	-4.381 0.000
Net Budget Requirement (on comparative basis)	48.270	50.610

HOW SPENDING HAS CHANGED

The Authority's 2026/27 budget has seen an overall increase of £2.34 million compared to the budget for 2025/26 The main changes between the two years are set out below:

	£ million
Budget 2025/26 (on a comparative basis)	48.270
Pay awards and increments	2.000
Inflation and additional contract costs	0.364
Increase in Revenue financing of capital programme	0.550
Reduction in interest on capital investments	0.232
Efficiency plan savings	-1.041
Other	0.235
BUDGET 2026/27	50.610

INVESTING FOR THE FUTURE

The Authority uses some of your money to invest in buildings, equipment and vehicles.

The capital programme for 2026/27 amounts to £3.642 million. This will fund long-term improvements in service delivery, including the following:

Investing in our buildings	Investing in our ICT assets	Investing in our fleet and equipment
£1.526 million	£1.063 million	£1.053 million

BORROWING

At the start of March 2026, the Authority had total borrowings of £8.528 million from the Public Works Loans Board to help finance capital investment. This figure is expected to rise to £10.528 million by the end of March 2027.

VALUE FOR MONEY ASSESSMENT

The auditor's Annual Audit Report has stated that the Authority has proper arrangements in place to secure financial resilience and economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

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Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service www.rbfrs.co.uk