

FIVE YEAR INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

2007/08-2011/12



**ROYAL BERKSHIRE
FIRE AUTHORITY**

PREVENTING PROTECTING RESPONDING

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2007/08-2011/12

ROYAL BERKSHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY



Firefighters displaying their extrication skills to college students

PREVENTING PROTECTING RESPONDING

यदि आप यह जानकारी हिन्दी में चाहते हैं तो कृपया हमारा संपर्क करें

જો તમને આ માહિતી ગુજરાતી માં જાહેરી હોય તો મહેરબાની કરી અમારા સંપર્ક કરો

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سبب سے ہمیں یہ سہولتیں پیش کرتے ہیں کہ اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات اردو میں درکار ہوں، تو ہم سے رابطہ کیجئے

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات اردو میں درکار ہوں، تو ہم سے رابطہ کیجئے

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Over the past two years Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS) has continued to build on the objectives and successes of the initial Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) that was implemented during 2004/05.

Supported by risk analysis, work continues to concentrate on reducing risk in the local communities, the emphasis being on higher risk incidents where people are more likely to be injured or killed. The risk analysis shows this to be dwelling fires and Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs).

RBFRS proactively engages with local communities in various community safety initiatives to prevent incidents occurring. For example, RBFRS has carried out 1359 Home Fire Risk Assessments (HFRA's), prioritised for residents who may be more at risk from accidental dwelling fires. As part of this initiative, 2629 smoke alarms have been fitted. Also, as part of the RBFRS prevention strategy, a reduction in deliberate fires is reported, as well as showing an improvement in the number of RTCs.

New emergency response standards for dwelling fires have been developed and provide an integrated approach to risk reduction as they include both prevention and intervention standards. Response standards have also been set for attendance times to RTCs.

This IRMP provides a radical change in that it is a strategic plan proposing a number of innovative ideas to improve emergency cover over the next five years. The 'optimising resources against risk' project, in last year's IRMP, helped derive the response standards from a risk mapping analysis. This has now led to a complete review of the location of fire engines and proposals to maximise these resources at time of greatest need. RBFRS is committed to achieving the Right Resources, at the Right Time, in the Right Place.

The result of this work is this strategic five year plan that aims to improve the service delivery to the people of Berkshire as a whole. The plan recommends six proposals that are seen as a complete package of measures that involve the closure, amalgamation and new build of fire stations across the county. The primary aim is to make Berkshire a safer place.

It is intended that any revenue-based efficiency savings will be used to improve the crewing of the fire engine at Wokingham fire station. Progressively, over the five year period, the proposals are to close Sonning and Wargrave fire stations and to open a new community fire station at Twyford. Parts of Crowthorne's fire station area can be more quickly reached by Camberley fire engines and a trial will be conducted.

Another proposal is that the Cookham fire engine will be replaced by a smaller, off-road light-weight fire engine and a second off-road vehicle, enabling Berkshire-wide off-road support. A further proposal is that the Dee Road, Reading, fire engine will be re-located to a rebuilt community fire station at Caversham Road, Reading, keeping four fire engines in Reading. Finally, it is proposed to consult on crewing changes at Windsor fire station.

The Fire Authority sees these consultation proposals as being one of the most important consultation exercises it has ever undertaken. Consequently, the Fire Authority seeks and welcomes your views. You may do this by using the pull-out questionnaire at the centre of the document, or by contacting us, following the details within the consultation section at the end of this document.

CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

FOREWORD BY COUNCILLOR DR. PAUL BRYANT CHAIRMAN OF ROYAL BERKSHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY

On behalf of the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority, I am pleased to introduce the consultation draft of our Five Year Integrated Risk Management Plan. Over the past three years real progress has been made to reduce the number of fire and road traffic accident related deaths and injuries through an extensive programme of prevention, protection and response strategies.

This progress has been reported in previous Integrated Risk Management Plans (IRMP) that also contained proposals on ways to improve the service to everyone living, working and travelling in Berkshire. This document is a radical change to this process in that it contains a number of innovative ideas to improve emergency cover over the next five years. The Fire Authority sees this Five Year Plan as requiring one of the most important consultation exercises it has ever undertaken.



The proposals, which together make up the most ambitious change programme ever considered by this Fire Authority, are the result of eighteen months of detailed work undertaken by officers from the fire and rescue service. Each phase of the plan is supported by extensive and robust evidence, and has been scrutinised at length by elected Members.

The risk profile in Berkshire has changed over the years and the risks facing local communities are very different from those that were present when the current fire stations were built. Hence, there exists a need and, indeed, an opportunity, to change the location of some fire and rescue resources to place them nearer to where the majority of incidents and the greatest risks occur.

This Five Year Plan should be seen as a complete package of measures that involve the closure, amalgamation, and new build of fire stations across the county. The primary aim is to make Berkshire a safer place by placing our fire and rescue resources nearer to where incidents occur, by maximising the availability of these resources and by improving fire stations to enable better delivery of community safety initiatives.

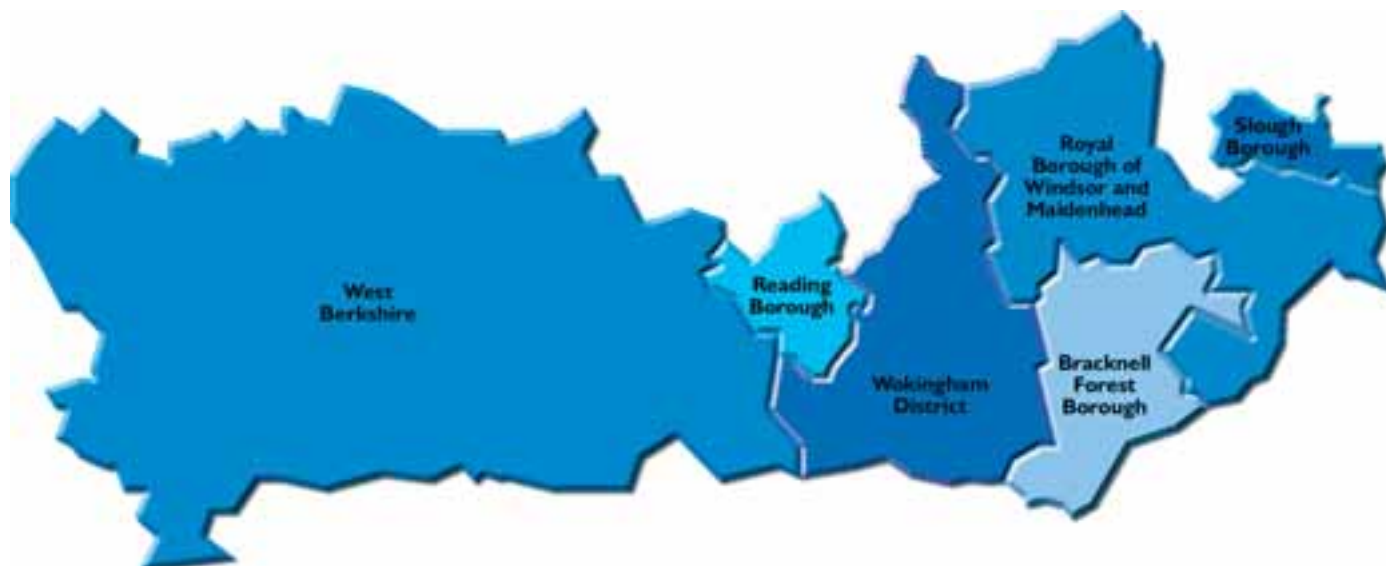
It is important that you are aware of these proposed changes to the way the fire and rescue service is delivered to the communities in Berkshire. Your views on our proposals are important to us and we are always keen to hear them. Should you wish to comment on our Five Year Plan further, details can be found at the back of this document. In addition, there is a questionnaire in the centre pages of this document that we would ask you to complete and return.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P Bryant'.

COUNCILLOR DR. PAUL BRYANT

HOW THE FIRE AUTHORITY WORKS WITH IRMP

The Fire Authority comprises 25 local councillors appointed by the six Unitary Authorities of Berkshire.



Ultimate responsibility for producing the Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) rests with the Fire Authority. The identification, analysis and mapping of risks in the community is undertaken by officers of Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS). Included in this team are members of the Fire Brigades Union (FBU).

IRMP project teams report directly to the Area Manager in Support Services, who in turn reports to the Assistant Chief Fire Officer (Support Services) who is the lead Principal Officer. Recommendations arising from work undertaken by officers are reported to the elected member IRMP working party for discussion and consideration before final approval by the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority (RBFA).

STRATEGIC AIMS

The primary focus of this plan is to improve the safety of those who live, work and travel in the County of Berkshire. The RBFA already has strategic aims in place to deliver its vision of 'A Safer Berkshire', namely:

- 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 be recognised as such.

ROYAL BERKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

FIRE STATIONS

Currently, there are 20 fire stations in Berkshire:

- Seven stations have 24 hour shift crews. These are Caversham Road, Wokingham Road, Dee Road and Whitley Wood Reading, Slough, Langley and Windsor.
- Three stations have 24 hour shift crews with support from part-time crews. These are at Newbury, Bracknell and Maidenhead.
- One station has a nucleus crew of firefighters during the day with support from part-time crews. Only Wokingham fire station operates with this form of crewing.
- Nine stations are part-time fire stations, crewed by retained duty system (RDS) staff. These are at Hungerford, Lambourn, Pangbourne, Mortimer, Sonning, Wargrave, Cookham, Ascot and Crowthorne.

All of these fire stations are mobilised to incidents through the Control Room based in Dee Road, Reading, which is crewed by specialist staff. Also on the Dee Road site is RBFRRS Headquarters.

Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service Fire Stations



YEAR I IRMP (2004/05) REPORT

WHAT HAS BEEN DELIVERED?

The first IRMP was developed for 2004/ 2005 and continues to deliver efficiency savings, as previously reported in the Year III Integrated Risk Management Plan that can be found on the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service web page: www.rbfrs.co.uk/irmp/irmp_yr3_200506.pdf

RBFRS and IRMP plans and reports are available on our website at:
www.rbfrs.co.uk/irmp_options.asp

ROYAL BERKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Home	IRMP Consultation
About Us	
Contact Us	
Copyright and Disclaimer	IRMP FIVE YEAR PLAN
Employers Fire Safety Guide	2007/08 - 2011/12
Fire Authority	Send your comments by email
Fire Safety	Five Year Integrated Risk Management Plan (PDF)
Fire Stations	Online Questionnaire
Fleet List (xls)	Download the Questionnaire (PDF)
Freedom of Information	
In The Community	2007 Consultation Results - COMING SOON
IRMP Consultation	IRMP Year III (PDF - 397kb)
Media Information	IRMP Year II (PDF - 485kb)
Performance	IRMP ARCHIVE
Press Releases	Documentation
RBFRS Documents	Use the following links to download and view various IRMP documents, or if you wish to send in your comments use the "comments" link.
RMB (South East)	Working Party Presn. (Aug 2006) (MS PPT - 9Mb)
Site Map	5 Year Station Briefing (Part II Sep 06) (MS PPT - 294kb)
Training Courses	
Vacancies	
Working For Us	

For more detailed information on RBFRS performance, access the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority's 2005/06 Corporate Plan under: Performance, Corporate Plan at:
www.rbfrs.co.uk/pdfs/cplan-0506.pdf

WHAT HAS BEEN DELIVERED?

The second IRMP was developed for 2005/2006 and continued to build on the objectives and successes of the initial IRMP. The changes to statutory responsibility, the need to resource community safety effectively to reduce risk further and the identification of areas of highest risk through the risk register resulted in six key areas, with two supplementary projects, which formed the action plans for the Year II IRMP.

Each action plan was resourced with a project manager and a cross-functional team which also included a representative of the Fire Brigades Union (FBU). Where appropriate, the data charts below are drawn directly from the 'live' RBFRS performance management system. Therefore, the data is correct up to and including November 2006, the time of writing.

DWELLING FIRES

Key Objective

Fires in dwellings represent a greater threat of injury and loss of life than any other fire-related incident in Berkshire. The aim of this action plan was to continue to reduce the risk.

What has been achieved ?

- Risk mapping completed to identify areas of potential and actual high risk.
- Data recording in place to monitor the number, location and time that dwelling fires occur.
- RBFRS has carried out 1359 home fire risk assessments (HFRAs) prioritised for residents who may be more at risk from accidental dwelling fires, with 2629 smoke alarms fitted to date.
- Local Public Service Agreement (LPSA) targets have been set up with all six Unitary Authorities. These are monitored within the RBFRS Performance Management System.
- Figure 1 shows an improving trend, for 2005 compared to 2004, in the performance management data across RBFRS.
- Figure 2 shows a slightly worse trend for 2006 compared to 2005, so far. This will be reviewed at the year end in order to analyse how any necessary improvements can be made.
- Partnerships with public, private and voluntary sector organisations and with local communities have assisted with prioritising local dwelling fire reduction services.

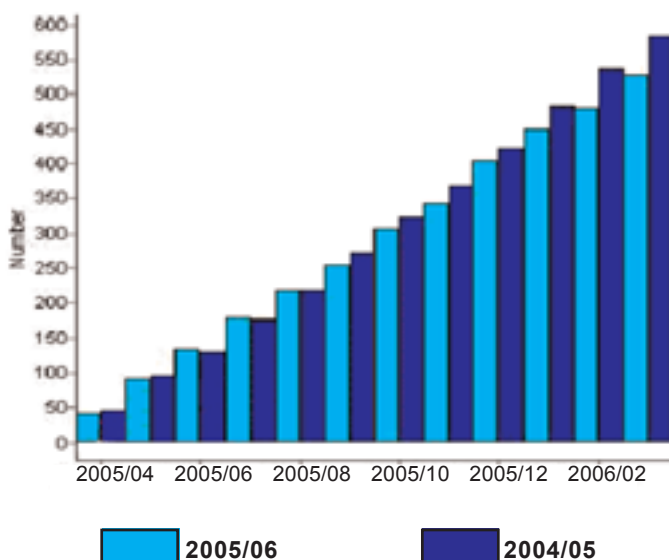


Figure 1 - number of dwelling fires in RBFRS 2005 showing improving trend over 2004.

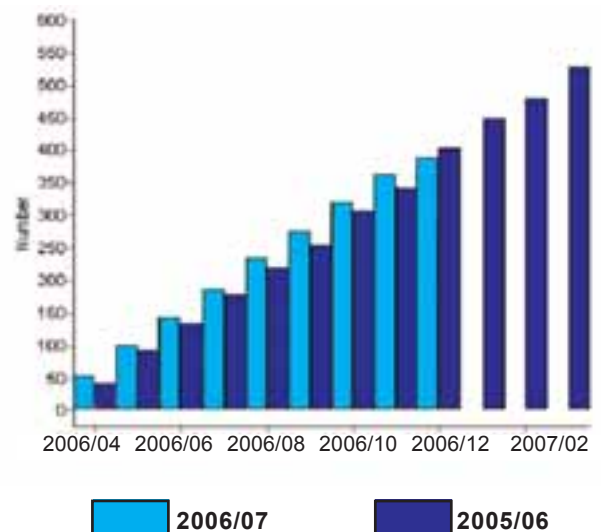


Figure 2 - number of dwelling fires in RBFRS 2006 showing slightly worse trend than 2005.

ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISIONS

Key Objective

To reduce the risk of Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs). The aim of this action plan was to target preventative work through partnership working with other agencies and to reduce the loss of life and injury caused by RTCs.

What has been achieved?

- Data sharing established with Thames Valley Police (TVP) to determine time, location and cause of RTCs that occur, and age range of casualties.
- Partnership working with all the Unitary Authorities is now established, linking with national targets to reduce RTC related deaths and injuries.
- Partnership working with TVP, South Central Ambulance Service NHS Trust and road safety agencies is established.
- A partnership project established, involving work with 'A' level students to target and reduce 'joy-riding', attracting £25,000 sponsorship from Vodafone.
- Local Public Service Agreements continue to be developed.
- Innovative initiatives have been introduced in an attempt to reduce the number of children and young people involved in RTCs. For example, the Vodafone Crash Impact scheme in West Berkshire.
- Figure 3 shows an improving trend for 2006 compared to 2005, in the performance management data for the example of the Windsor and Maidenhead Unitary Authority. All Authorities are in the green except Bracknell Forest, which is amber.
- Figure 4 shows a slight improvement for the number of RTCs RBFRS attends across Berkshire, for 2006 compared to 2005.

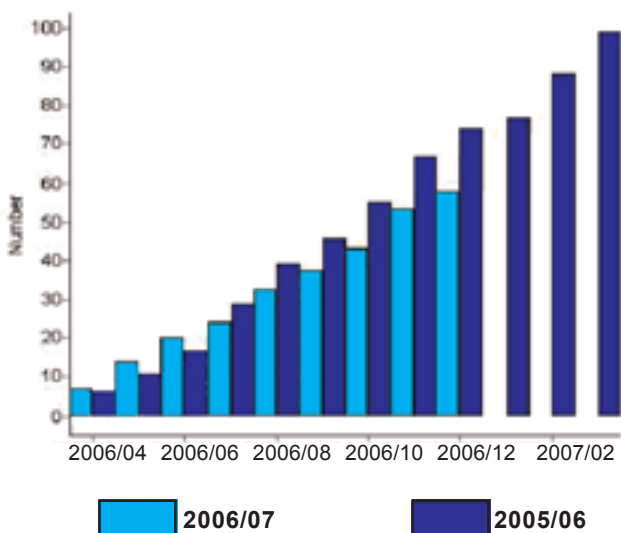


Figure 3 - example of performance management chart for Windsor and Maidenhead Unitary Authority 2006 showing RTC improving trend over 2005.

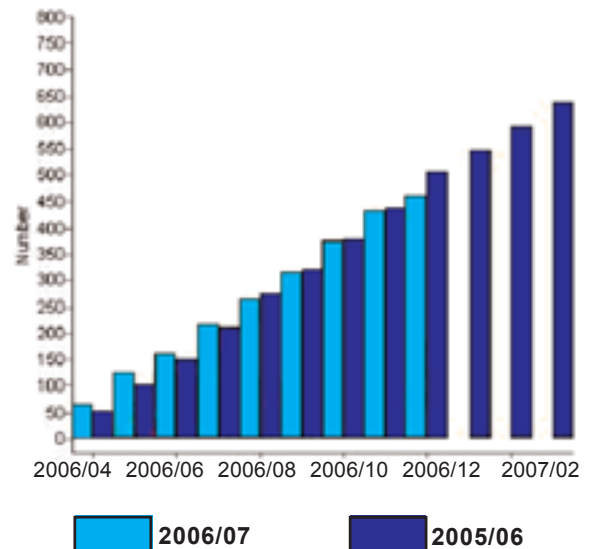


Figure 4 - number of RTCs in RBFRS 2006 showing improving trend over 2005 (after a slow start).

DELIBERATE AND SECONDARY FIRES

Key Objective

Deliberate and secondary fires represent a significant drain on RBFRS resources. The aim of this action plan was to reduce this risk by targeting community safety initiatives using partnership working.

What has been achieved?

- Local Public Service Agreement (LPSA) targets established with the Unitary Authorities across Berkshire.
- Sub-regional crime reduction officer now in place (employed by TVP) funded by the three fire and rescue services in the Thames Valley.
- Schemes aimed at diverting young people away from anti-social activities, including arson.
- Partnership working with all Unitary Authorities to remove potential arson targets such as abandoned vehicles and refuse.
- Figure 5 shows an example from Reading Unitary Authority of a good improvement in Fire Damage Report 1 (FDR1) deliberate fires for 2006 compared with 2005.
- Figure 6 shows an improving trend across all Unitary Authorities in Berkshire for FDR1 deliberate fires. This is an approximate improvement in performance of 9%.
- Figure 7 shows a good improvement in the number of deliberate secondary fires across Berkshire, equating to approximately 10% improvement.
- Figure 8 shows no overall trend in all secondary fires when comparing 2006 with 2005. Service Delivery will review and redirect effort in this area as necessary.

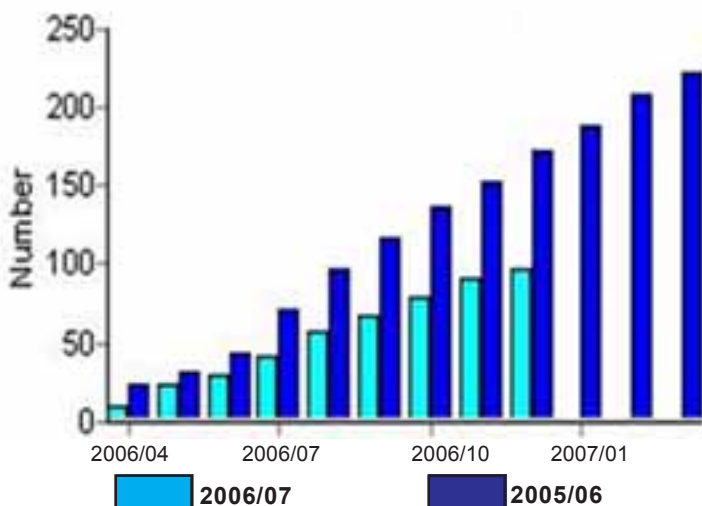


Figure 5 - number of FDR1 deliberate fires in Reading Unitary Authority 2006 showing good improvement over 2005.

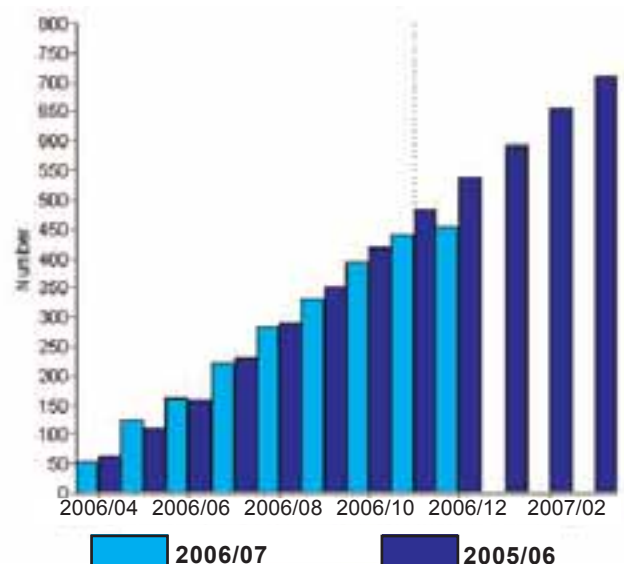


Figure 6 - number of FDR1 deliberate fires in RBFRS 2006 showing improving trend over 2005.

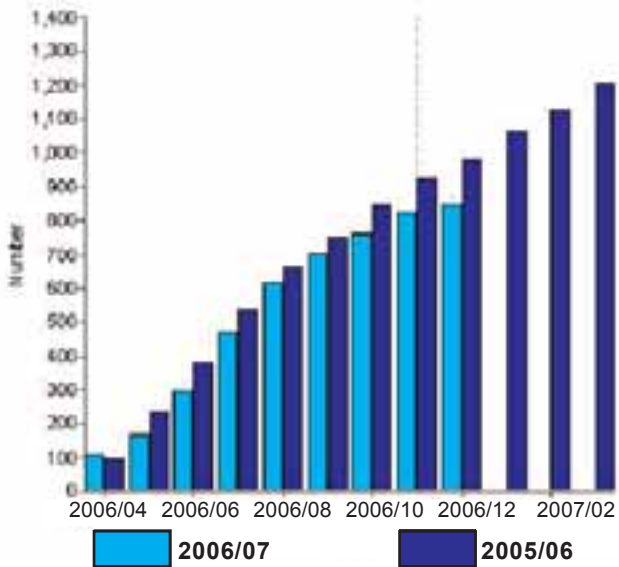


Figure 7 - number of deliberate secondary fires in every Unitary Authority in RBFRS 2006 showing improving trend over 2005.

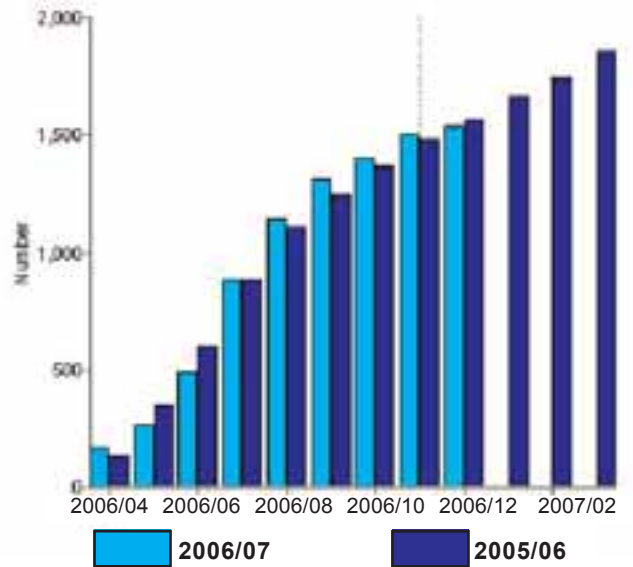


Figure 8 - number of all secondary fires in every Unitary Authority in RBFRS 2006 showing no trend over 2005.



Car fires can be very intense with dangerous fumes

SLEEPING RISK

Key Objective

The Fire Safety Department has developed an inspection programme prioritising premises with high life risk. The Year II IRMP risk assessment process has further identified sleeping risk premises as an area of high life risk. The aim of this action plan is to develop and implement a risk-based inspection programme giving priority to life and sleeping risk.

What has been achieved?

- Risk-based inspection programme now in place.
- Policy and procedure has been changed in the light of new fire legislation from 1 October 2006.
- Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) and other sleeping risk premises have been targeted, on a risk-assessed basis, for inspection.
- Post-fire inspections have been extended, in light of the new legislation, to include HMOs and other sleeping risks.
- Figure 9 shows an improvement in the number of sleeping risk fires (other than dwellings) for Berkshire when comparing 2006 with 2005.
- Figure 10 gives the example of the Reading Unitary Authority showing a good improving trend for sleeping risk fires (other than dwellings).

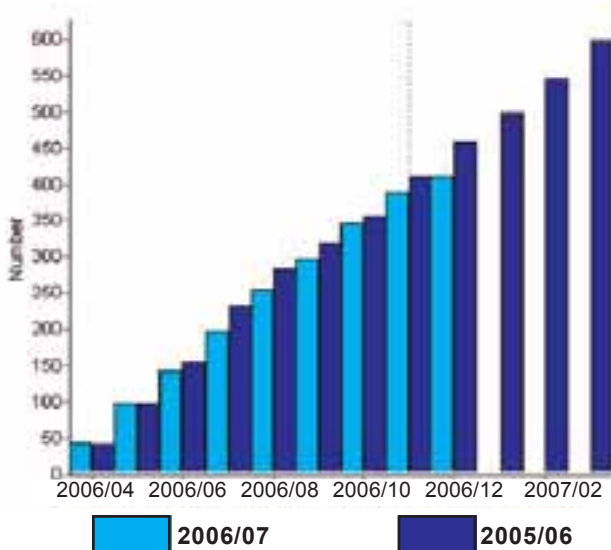


Figure 9 - sleeping risk fires (other than dwellings) for RBFRS 2006 showing improving trend over 2005.

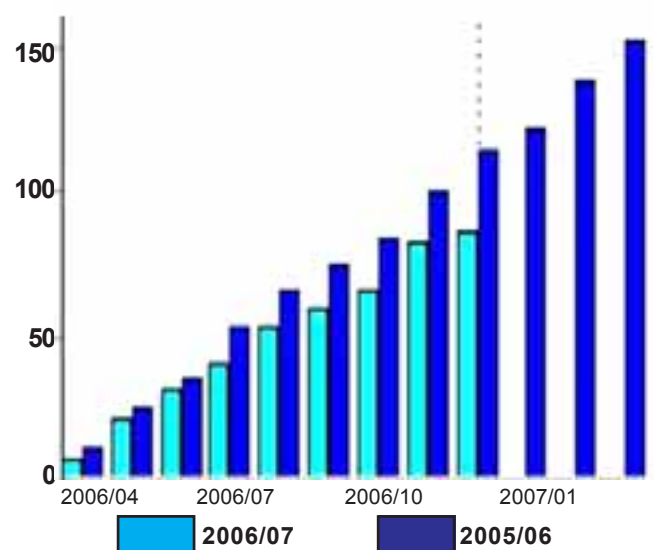


Figure 10 - sleeping risk fires (other than dwellings) for Reading Unitary Authority 2006 showing good improving trend over 2005.

OTHER BUILDINGS

Key Objective

An information gap has been identified with regard to the data held on some buildings in Berkshire. The aim of this action plan is to develop a strategy to fill this gap.

What has been achieved?

- Gap analysis completed.
- Integrated Building Information System (IBIS) now developed and undergoing trials.
- IBIS will enable collection and collation of all fire related data for all relevant buildings.

MAJOR INCIDENTS

Key Objective

Major incidents such as widespread flooding, air and rail accidents, adverse weather and acts of terrorism occur infrequently. However, the Government's resilience agenda requires fire and rescue services to develop plans to ensure their continued ability to function in the event of major incidents. The aim of this action plan was to review how we crew (and the location of) specialist appliances, to ensure the Authority has the ability to sustain resources at a major incident in command and specialist areas.

What has been achieved?

- Incident Command Unit (ICU) to be transferred to Maidenhead fire station and to be crewed by RDS personnel from Maidenhead and Cookham to improve resilience plus upgrade of command systems, due in April 2007.
- Water rescue capability reviewed and to stay at Caversham Road fire station.
- High Volume Pump Vehicle to stay at Bracknell fire station and crewed on a recall basis.
- Incident Response Unit (IRU), Operational Support Unit (OSU) and Aerial Appliance to stay at Whitley Wood fire station.
- A review of chemical and environmental incident response to be conducted in 2007/08.

BUSINESS CONTINUITY PLANNING

Supplementary Objective

A further requirement of the Government's resilience agenda is to have a business continuity plan in place to reduce the risk to the organisation. The aim of this action plan is to develop and implement a business continuity plan.

What has been achieved?

- Business Continuity Officer in place.
- Crisis Commander software system researched, evaluated and implemented.
- Involvement in Regional and National groups to drive concepts forward.
- Business continuity policies in place.

PUBLIC HOLIDAY AND NIGHT SHIFT ROUTINES

Supplementary Objective

To involve operational crews in additional community safety initiatives, it was proposed to make changes to the night shift and public holiday activities.

What has been achieved?

- A policy to implement changes to public holiday shift routines has been implemented following agreement being reached with the FBU.
- Night routines have been included in the Year III IRMP review of duty systems.

STATUS REPORT

The Year III IRMP projects are progressing well. At the time of writing this publication the status of the projects is as described below.

OPTIMISING RESOURCES AGAINST RISK

This project has resulted in a review of the location of fire appliances and the maximisation of these resources at times of greatest need. The objective being, to improve emergency response times to the highest life risk incidents, which are, fires in dwellings and road traffic collisions (RTCs). Tragically, these two types of incident result in the majority of deaths and injuries from all emergency calls attended. The risk assessment work was reported in the IRMP Year III document that can be found on the internet at www.rbfrs.co.uk/irmp_yr3_200506.pdf

Before the optimum locations for Berkshire's fire appliances could be determined an emergency response standard had to be set. To this end, local response standards were developed for both dwelling fires and RTCs that would provide a more effective response taking into account the risk to life.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE STANDARDS

These response standards replaced the old standards set by the Fire Authority in 1998, derived from the published national standards (now withdrawn by the Government). The old standards were for the first fire appliance to attend:

- Within 5 minutes for major town centres and industrial complexes
- Within 10 minutes for suburbs and built-up areas of smaller towns
- Within 20 minutes for all other areas

The need for new response standards was due to the major shortcomings of the old system, namely:

- The old standards were to a degree inflexible. The standards only related to fires and were not proportionate to the likelihood of the report of fire endangering human life. For example the response standard to a town centre street bin on fire where there is usually little risk to life was identical to the attendance time to a report of a town centre shopping centre fire.
- They set different standards depending where the incident was located. For example, a house fire in a West Berkshire village had a twenty-minute response standard whilst a house fire in Reading town centre had a five-minute standard. However, it is known to the fire and rescue service that the rate of fire spread in both houses, and therefore the likelihood of the occupants escaping unaided was the same.

In any event, national guidance regarding how quickly fire and rescue appliances attend calls to emergencies was recently withdrawn by central government in favour of fire and rescue services setting locally derived standards. Given this direction by central government, the RBFRS IRMP Team then set its own standards for the two highest risk incidents, namely dwelling fires and RTCs. Following lengthy research and consultation with operational fire officers and the Fire Brigades Union, the following standards have been set:

NEW DWELLING FIRE RESPONSE STANDARDS

- **The Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service is committed to achieving an optimum response standard of 8 minutes for the first appliance and 10 minutes for the second appliance for dwelling fires.**
- **Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service is committed to a standard response of 10 minutes for the first appliance and 12 minutes for the second appliance for dwelling fires.**
- **The higher risk localities where it is predicted that appliances will not reach dwelling fires within the standard response will be prioritised for community safety initiatives to drive down the risk.**

The reasoning behind these standards is that the 8 and 10 minute response is the best that can be achieved under the most favourable conditions, and is used for the basis of planning the most advantageous locations for RBFRS fire engines.

The 10 and 12 minute response standard is one that, if RBFRS is not meeting it, will trigger an alternative community safety activity, such as a home fire risk assessment, in order to reduce the risk of a fire happening in the first place.

NEW ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISION RESPONSE STANDARDS

- **Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service is committed to making an initial attendance to road traffic collisions, with the necessary resources to commence extrication of casualties, within 11 minutes.**

With these new response standards set it was possible to analyse the locations of RBFRS fire engines, to optimise resource location and availability against risk. This directly influenced the proposed five year plan, the evolution of which is considered in the next section.

SHIFT PATTERNS

The project team, with the constructive input of FBU representatives, has derived a set of options that are going to consultation with all operational staff in November/ December 2006. Once the results of this consultation are received, they will be analysed and decisions made on the favoured option.

Subsequently, a Challenge Day will be arranged to answer queries and to explain the reasoning for any decision and implementation plan. Key objectives in any change to the shift system are to:

- (i) Increase productive hours
- (ii) Maximise opportunities for community safety initiatives
- (iii) Achieve efficiencies through reducing overtime incurred for late calls

TURNOUT TIMES

Local response standards have been derived via a risk analysis and are published. To achieve these it is important that appliances turn out from fire stations in the minimum time, whilst maintaining safety. A project team has been established and is due to report in January 2007. Some technical aspects, regarding the need to install automatic trigger devices on all appliances, have been identified and will require funds to ensure complete robustness. However, a sample of incident turnouts has been analysed and the team is confident that a suitable maximum turnout time can be established.

OFFICERS OPERATIONAL RESPONSE

The objective of this project was to review and confirm the number of officers required to manage operational resources. All operational incidents are managed using an Incident Command System (ICS) to ensure the safety of firefighting crews. Larger incidents are managed by more senior officers supported by other officers with specialist skills in areas such as fire investigation and hazardous materials.

Over the past few years ICS has been developed at a national level to review the levels of responsibility of officers commanding incidents. More recently, changes at a regional level have resulted in greater responsibility being given to more junior officers. Locally, this IRMP work stream was, by necessity, commenced early due to the impact of the Rank to Role project and it reported in early 2006. The Rank to Role project is nearing completion and is being considered alongside the Officer Operational Response report and an overview being taken of the resultant strategic fit of the officers available. It is intended that this work will be completed by April 2007, with implementation over time.

DEVELOPING KEY LOCAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

This project evolved, away from specific Local Performance Indicators, towards a broader consideration of the manner in which key performance indicators are established, the data required to enable the performance indicators and how these are monitored and used by the right managers at the right time. The project is due to report in March 2007.

CHANGE TO FIRE LEGISLATION (Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order) - RR(FS)O

A fundamental change to fire legislation came into force on 1 October 2006. This effectively brought together many fragmented pieces of fire legislation and changed the legal duties of fire authorities and owners or occupiers of buildings. It does not apply to domestic dwellings. Fire certification has ceased. The responsibility for fire safety within a building will be with the owner or occupier, with the Fire Authority responsible for monitoring compliance.

In other words, RBFRS will inspect buildings to ensure owners or occupiers are complying with the new legislation and that the buildings are safe. This project is due to report in January 2007. The project is reviewing resource requirements for fire safety and training requirements. It is intended to implement and adjust plans as the RR(FS)O beds in. Further, it is expected a review date will be set for March 2008, to analyse progress, identify weaknesses and strengths and to re-direct work as appropriate.

EVOLUTION OF THE FIVE YEAR IRMP

A major part of the Government's modernisation programme for the fire and rescue service is a requirement for every Fire Authority to produce an Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) and Annual Action Plan. In addition, the Government has set national targets for the fire and rescue services against which performance will be assessed.

GOVERNMENT TARGETS

To reduce the number of accidental fire-related deaths in the home by 20%, averaged over the eleven-year period to March 2010, (equivalent to 280 fire-related deaths per annum) compared to the average recorded in the five-year period to March 1999 of 350 fire-related deaths.

Sub Target 1: Relating to Dwelling Fires

No Fire and Rescue Authority having a fatality rate, from accidental fires in the home, more than 1.25 times the national average by 2010.

Sub Target 2: Deliberate Fires

To achieve a 10% reduction in deliberate fires by 31 March 2010 to 94,000 from the 2001/02 baseline of 104,500.

Progress has been made by RBFRS to meet these challenging targets. In terms of the number of deaths in accidental dwelling fires in RBFRS this number is relatively small. Therefore, any statistics need to be treated with care. However, figure 11 shows an improving trend to 2005/06 and, even when the two unfortunate fire deaths in 2006/07 (at this time of writing) are included, the trend line remains downwards over the seven-year period.

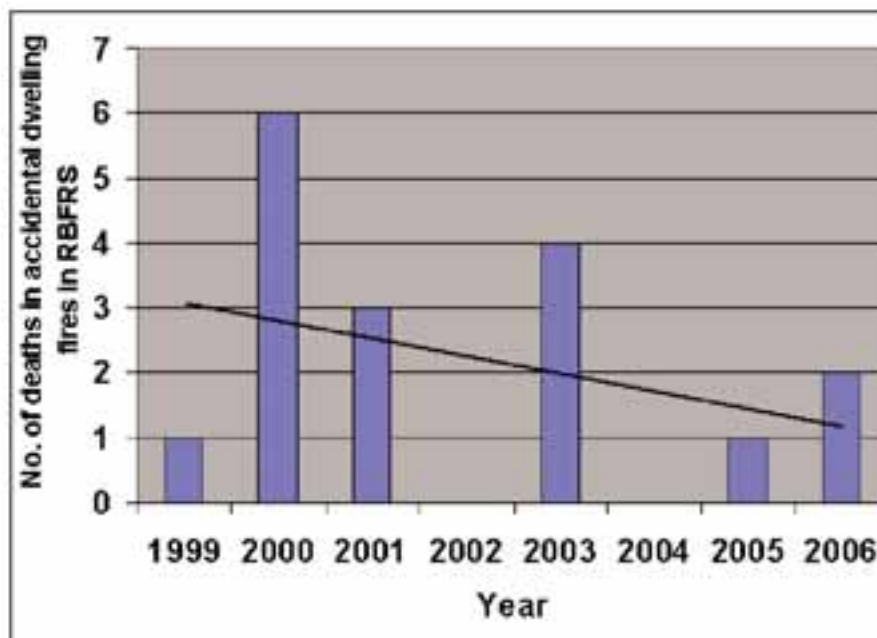


Figure 11 - accidental fire related deaths 1999 to present.

Figure 12 indicates the total number of deliberate fires across Berkshire, per year. The trend line shows good improvement overall. It appears to be the case that the community safety initiatives are beginning to offer results from around 2004.

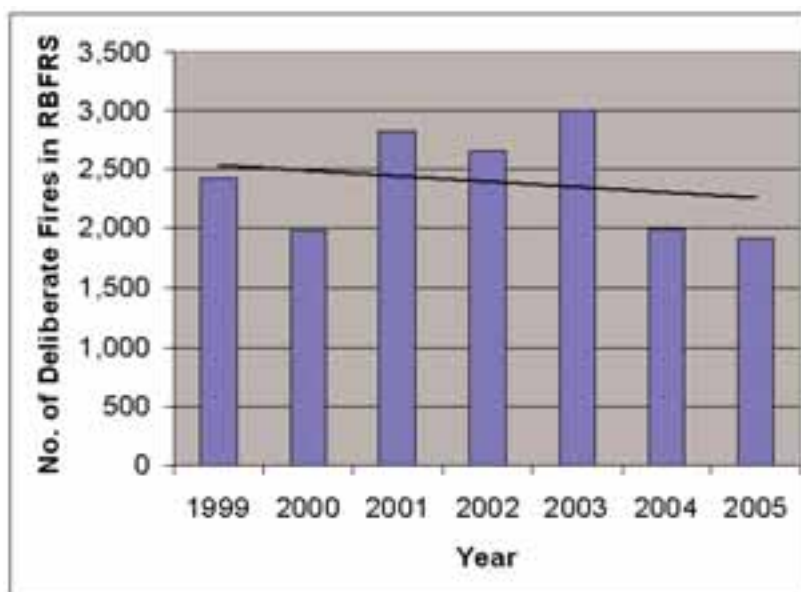


Figure 12 - deliberate fires 1999 to 2005.

The main aim of Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service's IRMP has been, and continues to be, to make changes in order that resources are used more effectively, in a proactive way to help reduce the number of fires, accidents, injuries and deaths. However, in those circumstances where a fire or other emergency does occur, RBFRS will continue to respond with the most appropriate resources. This is perhaps best summed up by the national motto being adopted by fire and rescue services:

PREVENTING PROTECTING RESPONDING

The IRMP process must also be seen within the wider context of the Government's modernisation agenda for the fire and rescue service. A major part of these reforms is the need for fire and rescue services to prove that they are continually improving the service to their local communities but without adding additional burdens to council taxpayers. In short, any improvements must be funded by efficiency savings identified from elsewhere within the service. In essence, 'doing more with the same'.

RBFRS is now in the process of producing its fourth IRMP. The Five Year IRMP will see a radical change in the way that RBFRS intends to improve its service to the communities of Berkshire. The initial IRMPs concentrated on improvements in community safety through:

- Assessing ways of reducing the unnecessary use of resources.
- Assessing ways of using existing resources more effectively.
- Amending current working practices.

The main reason for targeting these key areas was to reduce the number of unnecessary calls that RBFRS attend to make better use of the time available for additional community safety campaigns and training. Figure 13 compares the operational activity levels of pumping appliances between fire and rescue services of a similar size.

The figure below shows that RBFRS appliances are busier compared with fire and rescue services of a similar size. Other than the large Metropolitan fire and rescue services, RBFRS has some of the busiest fire appliances in the country.

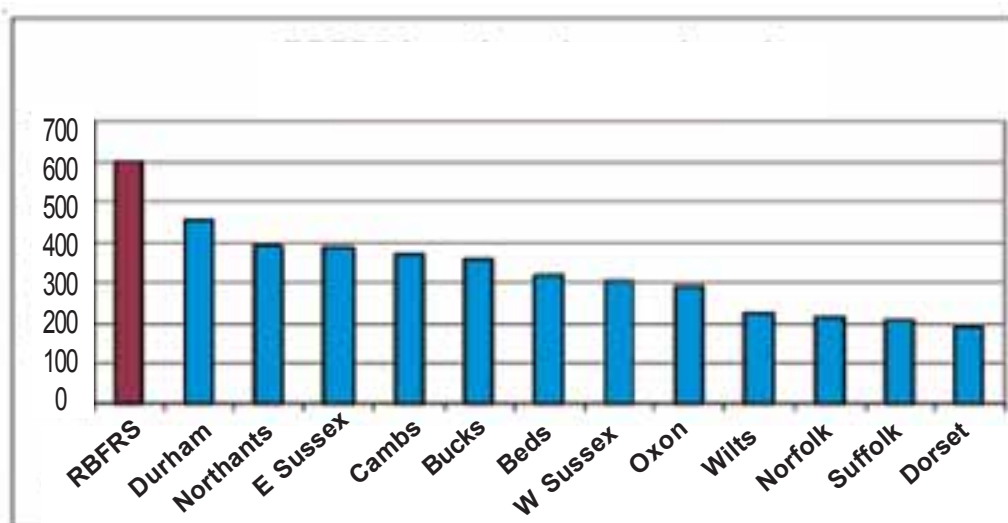


Figure 13 - number of incidents attended per pump in RBFRS and FRs of similar size.

Therefore, the focus in the initial IRMPs was to reduce unnecessary calls such as false alarms and hoax calls to free up time in order to redeploy operational resources into community safety, training and preventive activities.

Any IRMP project or initiative undertaken utilises the Government's Best Value framework. Best Value enforces a duty on all local authorities to assess their performance and review working practices to secure continuous improvement in the way they deliver their services. Figure 14 shows how cost-effective RBFRS is in comparison with many other Fire Authorities.

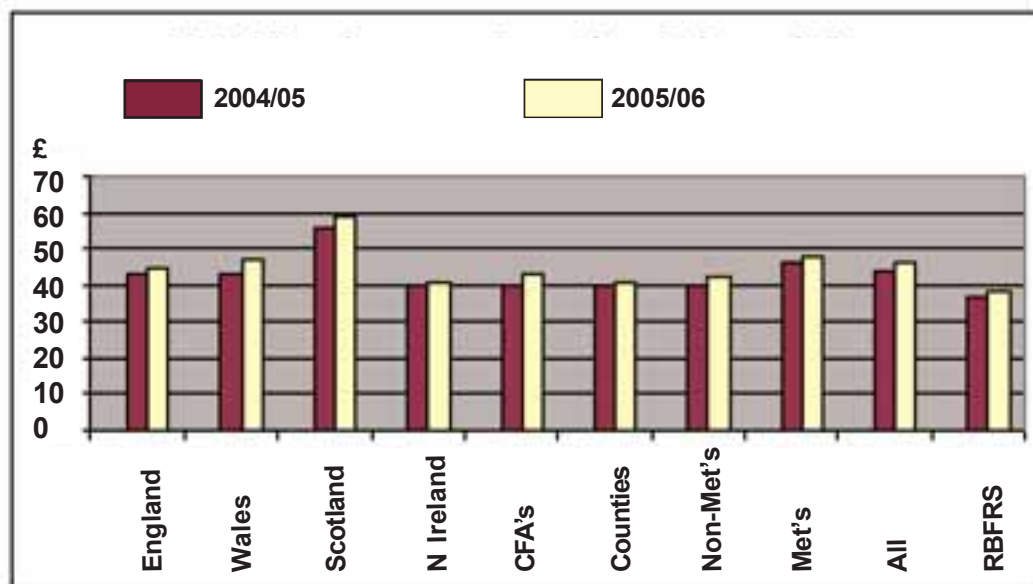


Figure 14 - comparison costs per head of population 2004/05 and 2005/06.

During the production of the early IRMPs, RBFRS was not in a position to evaluate operational risks existing across the county of Berkshire. This was because a large amount of the required evidence needed to inform change was not available effectively. Therefore, the decision was taken to concentrate on improvements where sufficient knowledge and data existed. However, over the past eighteen months resources have been redeployed to identify and assess risks in the community through the development of sophisticated risk mapping tools. This work has been achieved not only through the redeployment of resources within RBFRS but by improving existing partnerships with the focus on data sharing with other agencies, in particular, the Police, the Ambulance Service and each of the Berkshire Unitary Authorities.

RISK REGISTER

The work above led to the development of a Risk Register that has helped to identify and quantify risks to the community and to determine where resources should be prioritised. A risk assessment procedure was adopted that considered the likelihood and potential severity of different scenarios of the fire and rescue service's work. These were then considered against existing responses and arrangements.



The top six risks facing the communities of Berkshire were prioritised. The result was that the following were highlighted as areas needing further attention in order to reduce the risks:

- Dwelling fires
- RTCs
- Deliberate and secondary fires
- Sleeping risks
- Other buildings
- Major incidents

RBFRS is committed to achieving the :

RIGHT RESOURCES, AT THE RIGHT TIME, IN THE RIGHT PLACE.

With all the data from risk mapping, actual incident attendances, incident times and with the risks in Berkshire quantified, it was possible for the RBFRS Year II IRMP to concentrate on achieving the RIGHT RESOURCE for incident response. The IRMP Year III dealt with getting the resource at the RIGHT TIME. The Five Year IRMP considers where RBFRS needs its resources located to ensure they are in the RIGHT PLACE.

During the latter part of 2005 sufficient evidence had been gathered that enabled RBFRSs IRMP team to produce a five-year strategy to ensure that fire and rescue resources would be in the best locations to address the risks in the community. These initiatives were initially fed into the IRMP Year III Action Plan and are reported elsewhere in the document. With the response standard set it was now possible to review the location of fire appliances throughout Berkshire. Although a complex process, the outcome was to identify where best to locate the fire appliances in order to reach the highest number of high risk incidents in the set response times.

To achieve the best resource management, a programme of data collection has been undertaken and is ongoing. There is now eight years of incident data to identify 'actual risk'. In addition, the national census data identifies certain social groups who are more at risk from fire related injuries, termed 'potential risk'. It is well known by fire and rescue services that the correlation of fire related injuries and deaths is highest amongst certain socio-economic groups.

Therefore, this Five Year IRMP recommends six major station changes that will improve the service provision to the people of Berkshire. These changes are to be seen as a complete package of measures that involve the closure, amalgamation, and new build of fire stations across the county, with the primary aim of making Berkshire a safer place.

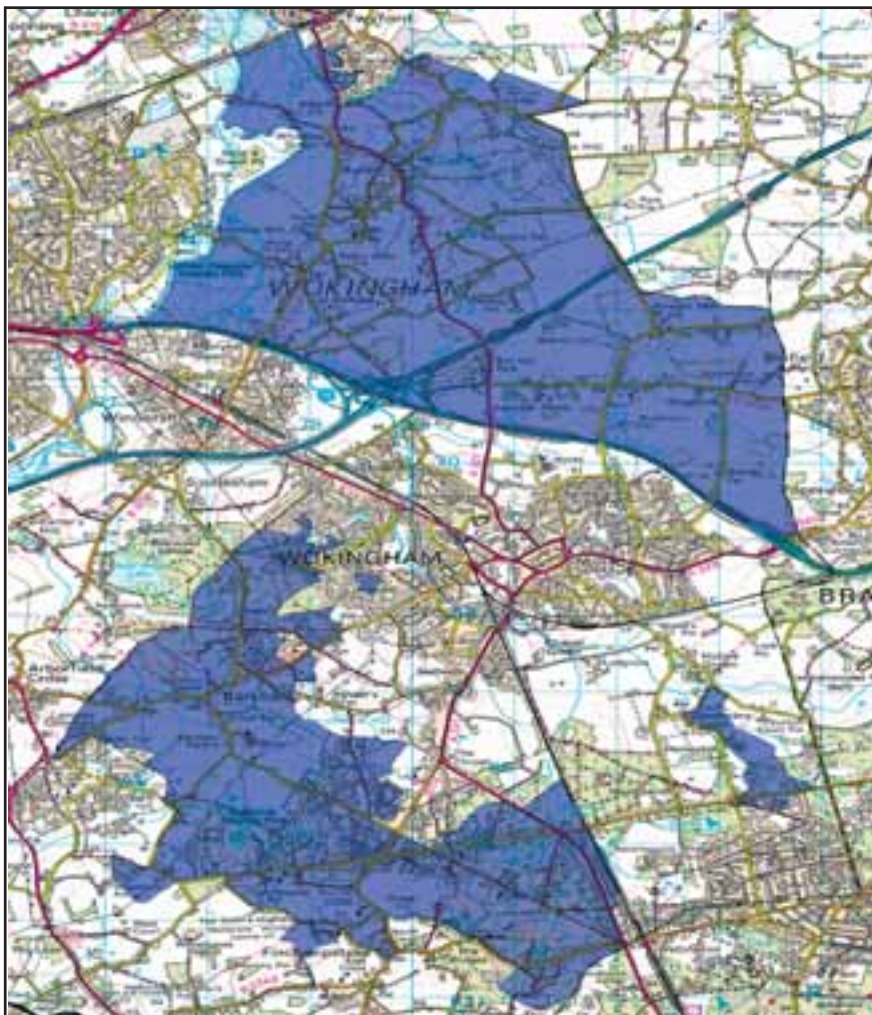
Having explained the evolution of the Five Year IRMP, the strategic plan for the proposed station changes is considered in the following section.



The aim of RBFRS is to have the right resources at the right time in the right place. Previous IRMPs have considered the resources and timing. Through the work of risk mapping, optimisation of resources and response standards, gaps in service provision have been identified. Analysis of all the risk mapping data led to the following proposed station changes:

WOKINGHAM

The risk models used by RBFRS show that there is a need to improve the crewing of the Wokingham fire engine. The long-term aim is to provide a fire engine at Wokingham that is crewed 24 hours per day. Should this be achieved, 13,800 people in Wokingham who do not currently receive a planned emergency response within 10 minutes will do so. However, the actual improvement could be far greater than this when considering the number of new build houses planned for this area. Also, whilst continuing efforts are made, RDS crewing is a concern and wholtime crewing is more resilient. As an example, during 2005/06 Wokingham's fire appliance was not available 70% of the time.



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Figure 15 - showing the areas in which 13,800 people would receive an enhanced level of cover should Wokingham be 24 hour crewed.

Any improvements to the service must be funded by efficiency savings from elsewhere in the organisation, as far as is possible. The next stage of the project sought to identify resources that could be used more effectively and efficiently to alleviate the lack of capacity at Wokingham. Again, risk mapping techniques have shown the following stations could have resource capacity to assist.

SONNING

Sonning fire station is crewed by Retained Duty System (RDS) firefighters and relies on the crew responding to the fire station when a call is received. The crews are notified of the emergency call by personal alerters and respond either from their place of work or home address. Efforts have been made to improve the recruitment and retention of RDS firefighters at all RDS stations. Although improvements have been noted these can be sporadic. Also, as the main criteria for response to incidents is time, the RDS system has an inherent weakness, as five minutes is allowed for the crews to get to the station. It is therefore slower than the instant response achieved by 24hr crewed stations.

Whilst in more remote rural areas RDS crews are efficient, effective and essential, it must be the case that in some areas nearer the larger towns RDS stations may naturally fall within, or nearly within an area that can be reached quicker by a 24hr crewed fire appliance. The village of Sonning can be reached within the dwelling fire and RTC response standards by the fire appliance from Wokingham Road fire station in Reading. There will be no capital receipt opportunities with the closure of this fire station as the site is owned by the Sonning Fire Brigade Trust. However, there would be revenue savings that can be better utilised to improve the crewing at Wokingham fire station, where there is an identified risk requiring improved crewing.

WARGRAVE/TWYFORD

Wargrave fire station is also crewed by RDS firefighters. The proposal is to build a new fire station in Twyford, and once complete, to transfer the appliance from Wargrave to Twyford. This will then enable RBFRS to balance some of the cost of the new build fire station through the sale of Wargrave fire station. The optimisation models show specific locations in Twyford as being better positions for a fire appliance. The catchment area for the recruitment of RDS firefighters should also be improved by moving to Twyford.

WINDSOR

The original proposals for Windsor fire station recommended that the fire appliance and crew based in St Marks Road be relocated to Wokingham. The main reason for this recommendation was that fire appliances from Slough fire station can reach the main risk areas in Windsor within the response standards set for dwelling fires and RTCs. Figure 16 below shows those areas not reached by the first pump in the standard response time of 10 minutes, should Windsor Fire Station be closed. This is a population of 2400 people.

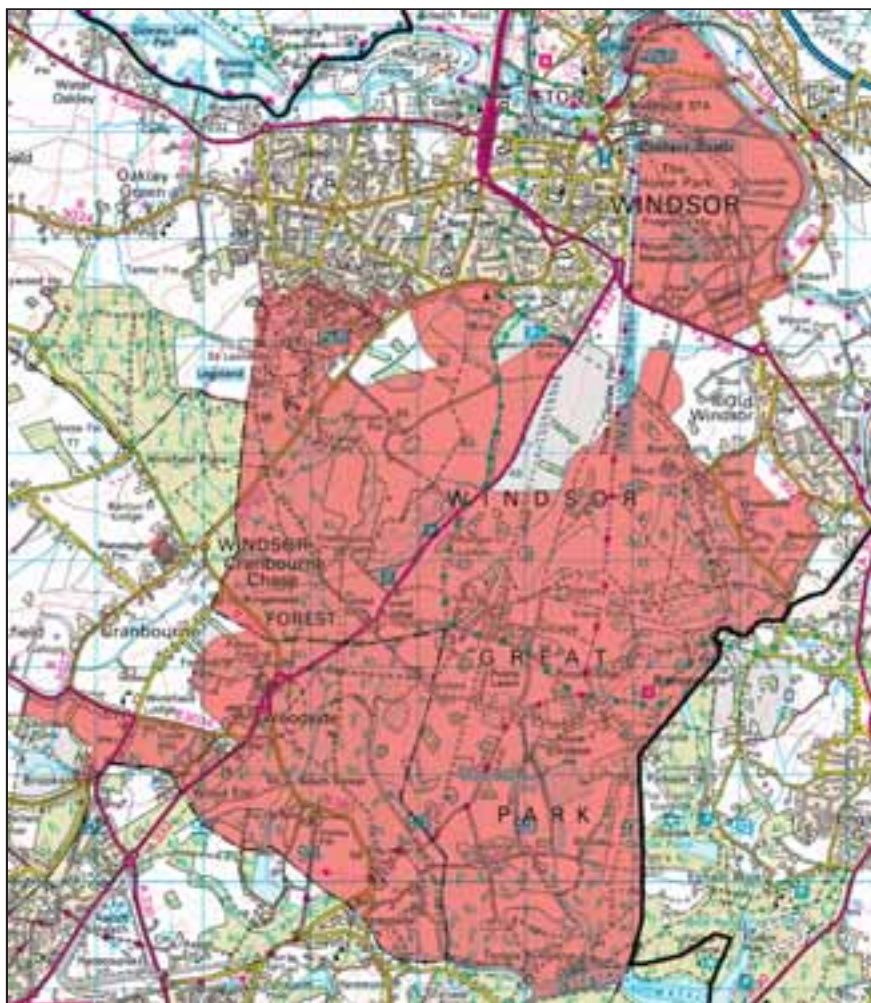


Figure 16 - showing the areas in which 2,400 people south of Windsor town centre would have to wait longer should the engine be relocated to Wokingham.

In June 2006, the Fire Authority endorsed that future arrangements for operational response in the Windsor area should be explored so that the Authority maintains a permanent presence in Windsor, and that officers be tasked to provide revised proposals that did not include the removal of fire station facilities from Windsor.

The proposal currently being researched could result in some of the firefighters at Windsor being transferred to Wokingham, alongside a review of the crewing and duty system arrangements at both of these fire stations. It is felt that by using the night duty crews from Windsor and redeploying them to Wokingham an improved service will be offered to Berkshire as a whole. However, Windsor attracts a great deal of visitor activity and there are still risks particular to the Windsor area that need consideration.

To make your views known phone 0118 932 2122 or fax 0118 932 2296

It should be noted that, during the two years 2004-2006, Slough fire appliances travelled into Windsor on emergency calls on 509 occasions. On 493 of these occasions (96.8%) these appliances reached the incident within 10 minutes. Taking only those calls attended by Slough into Windsor at peak traffic time, (0700 - 0900 and 1700 - 1800 weekdays) there were 38 journeys, of which 36 (94.7%) were attended within 10 minutes.

Windsor is the quietest 24 hour crewed station. On average over the last three years there have been three calls per week in the hours 2000 to 0800 (night hours) in the Windsor area. The average utilisation for a wholetime fire engine, in their own area, during these hours is seven calls per week. The average night hours calls for the Windsor crew to anywhere in Berkshire is five per week, compared to eleven per week (average) for other wholetime stations.

Finally, it should be mentioned that Buckinghamshire FRS is reviewing its strategy and it is likely that Slough will no longer respond as often into Buckinghamshire. It is estimated this will reduce Slough pump calls by 250 per annum.

DEE ROAD FIRE STATION AND HEADQUARTERS SITE - READING

The Dee Road site in Reading contains the administrative headquarters, RBFRS Control (where 999 calls are received and the fire appliances mobilised) as well as a fire station. All three of the elements contained on this site require relocating and the strategic Five Year IRMP moves towards this long term goal. Most immediately, the 'optimisation of resources against risk' profiling highlighted that the fire station at Dee Road is in the wrong place.

Although the risk maps identify the continued need for four fire appliances in Reading, it is recommended that, to achieve the optimum level of emergency cover, the fire appliance at Dee Road is relocated to Caversham Road, Reading, making this a dual appliance station. In this way RBFRS will be able to reach more incidents within the set response standards. Unfortunately, the fire station at Caversham Road, although in a prime location from an emergency cover perspective, is over sixty years old and badly in need of repair. In fact, because of the condition of the building, the proposals would probably involve clearing the site at Caversham Road (figure 19) and providing a new build community fire station. In addition, RBFRS is committed to the purchase of an 'out-reach' community safety vehicle that it is intended would be positioned in areas of high risk at the times of highest risk. To support this initiative it is also proposed that the second fire appliance at Caversham Road would be used to target community safety activities in the Calcot/Theale areas as it is the area most directly affected by the move of the fire appliance from Dee Road. It should also be noted that parts of the Theale/Calcot area are given sufficient emergency cover by the fire appliance at Whitley Wood fire station, due to the motorway access.

In the longer term, RBFRS administrative headquarters at Dee Road is also causing concern due to the condition of the building and because the organisation has now outgrown the site. Despite numerous projects over the last few years to maximise the available space within the various buildings, RBFRS is now in a position where future development needs could be hampered by the lack of space available. The present buildings are not suitable to support a fire and rescue service in the 21st century. The fabric of the buildings, in particular the pre-cast concrete blocks making up the external face of the main building, is deteriorating rapidly and has already received remedial action to reduce the risk of falling debris striking people or vehicles below.

To make your views known email irmp@rbfrs.co.uk

The RBFRS central Control room is located to the rear of the fire station and headquarters buildings within the same site. A major part of the Government's modernisation agenda for the fire and rescue service is a national project aimed at providing a network of nine regional fire Controls to replace the local facilities that exist at present. The Regional Control Centre (RCC) project, a nationally driven initiative from the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG), is being managed in RBFRS under the IRMP project management framework. This will result in the Dee Road Control facility handing over responsibility for receipt of 999 calls and mobilising of resources to the new Control room in Fareham, Hampshire, it is planned, in 2009/10.

It is proposed that the relocation of the headquarters building and the fire station would not take place until the control room function for RBFRS has been and robustly moved to the RCC. In this way the complete site could be vacated, making redevelopment of the site a less complex issue as would be the case should the relocation take place with a phased approach over a number of years. It is also thought that small parcels of land being released over a period of time may be a less attractive option to prospective developers.

COOKHAM

The risk mapping work and analysis of incidents shows that Cookham is the quietest station in RBFRS for both dwelling fires and Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs). However, the particular risk of Cockmarsh (remote common close to the River Thames with difficult access) leads to the belief that Cookham should have specialist off-road emergency vehicles. To this end it is proposed to relocate off-road vehicles to Cookham and equip these (on a risk assessed basis) to respond to fire and flood incidents in the local area. In addition, this station will provide off-road specialist support to incidents across the whole of Berkshire, for example, large heath and grassland fires. The personnel at Cookham will also be trained to crew the Incident Command Unit (ICU), when required, as relief and back up to the normal crews.

CROWTHORNE

With the response standards as set, it can be seen via the risk mapping process that certain parts of the Crowthorne fire station ground may be better served by a response from Camberley fire station (Surrey Fire and Rescue Service). It is intended to trial this response from Camberley. It is worthy of note here that, when RCCs come on line, with agreement from the relevant Fire Authorities the nearest fire appliance will be mobilised regardless of the Authority boundaries, to ensure as far as practicable, the quickest response. It is also possible, in the longer term, that the whole of Crowthorne may be covered in this way, for example, when and if Wokingham achieves full 24 hour crewing status.

REINVESTMENT OF CAPITAL RECEIPTS TO IMPROVE BUILDING STOCK

Any money secured from the sale of existing sites will be diverted to support the need for new build or to fund improvements to those fire stations where an upgrade of crewing will demand additional facilities.

Should the complete package of proposals contained within the Five Year Plan be implemented, the following fire stations will need further investment:

- Twyford Fire Station : New build
- Caversham Road Fire Station : New build
- Wokingham Fire Station : Major improvements

To make your views known use our Freepost address from the Consultation section and return by 11 May 2007

It is intended that new build or major improvement building work will incorporate the principles of community fire stations.

COMMUNITY FIRE STATIONS

It should also be noted that it is the intention of RBFRS to replace existing fire stations with upgraded facilities that would enable them to be utilised by the wider community. Such facilities are termed 'Community Fire Stations' and are a fundamental part of the fire and rescue service's duty to deliver effective community safety strategies to proactively reduce the number of fires and fire-related deaths and injuries in the local community.

Figures 17 and 18 represent various elements of the community fire station in Handsworth, Birmingham. Many fire and rescue services are now replacing old building stock with new premises that have incorporated a number of ideas from the Handsworth model. The facilities in these new style fire stations often include a community hall that can be used for meetings, evening classes or private functions, IT training facilities where local people can improve their skills under the supervision of a trainer, gym facilities (also used by the firefighters as part of the requirement to keep physically fit for their role) and viewing galleries where people can observe the work of their local firefighters.

During the time that visitors are on the fire station every opportunity is taken to reinforce fire safety messages either through the distribution of leaflets, IT-related packages or face to face with firefighters from the station. Such initiatives have proved to be very successful especially when targeting young people. RBFRS already has in place a number of successful youth diversion schemes that include Young Firefighters units, a referral scheme called 'Phoenix' for young people that require a more structured programme in basic social skills, and the Firesetters counselling scheme. Currently RBFRS is delivering these ground-breaking initiatives from existing premises that do not contain the facilities necessary to support these projects longer term. It is of paramount importance that RBFRS maximises the opportunities available to improve its facilities to ensure the sustainability of these and other community safety initiatives to help make Berkshire a safer place.



© West Midlands Fire Service Photographic 2006

Figure 17 - West Midlands Fire Service Handsworth Community Fire Safety Centre: showing the viewing gallery.



© West Midlands Fire Service Photographic 2006

Figure 18 - West Midlands Fire Service Handsworth Community Fire Safety Centre: showing the IT training room that is used by firefighters and members of the local Handsworth community.



Figure 19 - Caversham Road fire station which could be replaced with a modern Community Fire Station similar to Handsworth.

To make your views known phone 0118 932 2122 or fax 0118 932 2296

TIMELINE

As mentioned before, the delivery of the five year plan is a 'package' in that efficiency savings are required in order to reinvest to drive down risk and move to the next step forward. A strategic template has been produced to display the approximate timings intended for the works.

2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Cookham (regraded) Sonning (closed) Crowthorne (Camberley trial)	Windsor (crewing changes) Wokingham (crewing changes)	Wargrave (closed) Twyford (new build)	Dee Road (closed) Caversham Road (upgraded)	Wokingham (24hr crewing)	

However, every year progress will be reviewed to ensure RBFRS continues to drive down risk. If evidence suggests to the contrary then changes to the Five Year IRMP will be proposed by officers and consulted on.

LONG TERM OPTIONS

The strategic template timeline allows for some longer term options in that consideration must be given to possible eventualities beyond 2012.

Included in these considerations will be:

- The status and decommissioning of the RBFRS Control room in the event that the RCC is established on time during, it is planned, 2009/10.
- The possibility that Crowthorne fire station would be closed in the event that full 24 hour crewing is achieved at Wokingham and the Camberley trials are successful and extended further into Crowthorne.
- The possibility, if the Control room and Dee Road fire station close, that the BHQ site is moved elsewhere and/or redeveloped.

Previous pages outline a five-year strategy that, it is felt, is essential for the long term delivery of service in Berkshire. However, there will be an annual review of progress against the five-year strategy and adjustments will be made as necessary. Any changes will be consulted upon and reported in the annual IRMP action plan.

In this first year of the Five Year IRMP, it is intended to follow the strategic template as written. Therefore, the work for Cookham, Sonning and Crowthorne will be completed within the 2007/08 financial year.

SUPPLEMENTARY IRMP PROJECTS

It will also be the case that other influences will impact upon the annual IRMP process. To give examples, two required projects (in addition to the changes required under the Five Year IRMP) have been identified for the annual IRMP action plan 2007/08:

1. The Regional Control Centre Project is being managed within RBFRS under the IRMP methodology and current timings suggest a reasonable fit with the Five Year IRMP timetable.
2. Arising from a previous IRMP project into major incidents, it is intended to review the provision of Chemical and Environmental incident response options in RBFRS.



Firefighters also deal with hazardous materials incidents in order to protect the environment

IRMP ACTION PLAN 2007/08

Project	Objective(s)	Team
Cookham (regraded)	<p>To review the off-road vehicle requirements for RBFRS generally and Cookham specifically.</p> <p>To risk assess the incident attendances of the smaller fire appliance.</p> <p>To develop and publish the necessary policies and procedures, to enable safe incident response, for operational crews and Control staff.</p> <p>To implement the change and set up the monitoring arrangements to enable later review.</p>	Group Manager (Executive) and cross functional team.
Sonning (closed)	<p>To make arrangements for the redeployment or redundancy of staff as fairly and appropriately as possible.</p> <p>To absorb the resources of Sonning fire station into RBFRS, ensuring that the increased capacity so redeployed is identified.</p> <p>To finalise the arrangements for closing Sonning fire station with all relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>To close Sonning fire station (September 2007 milestone for Sonning station lease).</p>	Group Manager (Operations) and cross functional team.
Crowthorne (Camberley trial)	<p>To review the areas of Berkshire that might be served more quickly by Camberley fire station.</p> <p>To reach agreement and to achieve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Surrey FRS on incident response to identified areas of the Crowthorne fire station ground.</p> <p>To implement the change and set up the monitoring arrangements to enable later review.</p>	Area Manager (Service Delivery) and cross functional team.

Project	Objective(s)	Team
Review RBFRS Chemical and Environmental Operational Response	<p>To review all relevant, existing special appliances for current environmental and chemical incident response, including New Dimension (ND) vehicles, equipment and arrangements.</p> <p>To propose arrangements to ensure RBFRS incident response to environmental and chemical incidents.</p> <p>To recommend appropriate vehicle, equipment and procedural changes to meet environmental and chemical incident risk.</p> <p>To recommend appropriate vehicle locations to meet environmental and chemical incident risk.</p>	<p>Group Manager (Support Services) and cross functional team.</p>
Regional Control Centre (National Initiative)	<p>To maintain progress towards safe and robust transfer of control functions to the Regional Control Centre (RCC).</p> <p>To ensure the FireLink radio communication fleet mapping and phases are safely and robustly completed in 2007/08, or as directed by the Regional and National strategy.</p> <p>To ensure all relevant members of staff are fully informed and consulted with.</p>	<p>The Authority Treasurer (AT) is identified as the senior user.</p> <p>Area Manager (Support Services) and the Information Systems Manager (ISM) are the joint project co-ordinators.</p> <p>A cross functional project team has been established to oversee this project.</p>

Aerial Appliance	<p>Any vehicle with a high-rise capability above the reach of standard ladders. In RBFRS, the term relates to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ALP or Aerial Ladder Platform (stationed in Slough).• HP or Hydraulic Platform (stationed in Reading). Both have a reach of 30 metres.
AFA	<p>Automatic Fire Alarms</p> <p>An automatically operated fire alarm signal usually generated from electrically operated heat or smoke detectors provided within premises. Alarms are usually connected to an alarm receiving company who contact the fire and rescue service on the receipt of the operation of the alarm.</p>
Appliance	<p>An appliance is any fire and rescue service vehicle that carries personnel and equipment to operational incidents. The term appliance can be subdivided into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fire Appliance (see separate glossary reference).• Special Appliance (see separate glossary reference).
Community Safety	<p>A fire and rescue service activity aimed at preventing the incidence and limiting the effects of fires and other emergencies through informing and assisting the public, commerce and local communities.</p>
Co-Responder	<p>An initiative, in partnership with South Central Ambulance Service NHS Trust, to use trained Retained Duty System firefighters to respond to suspected heart attack victims.</p>
CPA	<p>Comprehensive Performance Assessment</p> <p>This is a national audit of fire and rescue services led by the Audit Commission. It looks at a range of evidence about how the organisation is run and then rates the overall performance of the fire and rescue service as either excellent, good, fair, weak or poor.</p>
FBU	<p>Fire Brigades Union</p> <p>The trade union that represents the majority of firefighters in Berkshire.</p>
Fire Appliance	<p>Commonly referred to as 'fire engine' carrying between four and six firefighters to emergency incidents. It carries a range of equipment including pumps, breathing apparatus, hoses, foam, hydraulic cutting equipment, ladders, gas tight suits, thermal imaging equipment and resuscitators.</p>
Fire Safety	<p>Officers of the fire and rescue service comment on plans and inspect premises to give advice and to ensure that adequate safety standards are being provided.</p>
GIS	<p>Geographical Information Systems</p>

Group Manager	A role in the fire and rescue service equivalent to a senior manager.
HFRA	Home Fire Risk Assessments The involvement of operational fire crews in visiting homes to carry out a fire risk assessment and to give advice on how to reduce that risk.
Hoax Calls	Emergency calls received which prove to be deliberately false.
ICS	Incident Command System A national system in the fire and rescue service that helps organise and maintain safe systems of work at operational incidents.
IPDS	Integrated Personal Development System A national system in the fire and rescue service that provides the framework to manage, record and track the development and maintenance of competent firefighters, managers and incident commanders against set standards.
IRMP	Integrated Risk Management Plan A formal plan designed to ensure an integrated approach to implementing measures to address identified risks.
IRMP Steering Group	The team of officers in RBFRS that meet regularly to plan and review the progress of IRMP.
IRMP Working Party	The group of Fire Authority members that meets regularly to oversee and determine the direction of the IRMP projects.
LAA	Local Area Agreement Agreement between Government, the local authority and its major partners in an area, (working through the Local Strategic Partnerships), and structured around children and young people, safer and stronger communities, and healthier communities and older people.
LPIs	Local Performance Indicators Local targets that are set to achieve a standard, the performance in achieving this standard is then measured.
LSP	Local Strategic Partnership This brings together public, private, voluntary and community interests to provide a strategic framework within which partners can work together to improve the quality of local communities for those living and working there.
Optimum Response Standard	An ideal response standard to an incident.
New Dimensions	UK Government programme to increase resilience. Has a number of workstreams, some of which focus on fire and rescue services.

Organisational Risk Register	See Risk Register
Part Time	See RDS
PSA	Public Service Agreement Community Safety Partnership agreements between the fire and rescue service and specific stakeholders.
Pump	See Fire Appliance
RBFA	Royal Berkshire Fire Authority This is the elected decision-making body responsible for the provision of a fire and rescue service in Berkshire. It is composed of councillors nominated from the district and borough councils that make up the county.
RBFRS	Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service This is the organisation that delivers the fire and rescue service in Berkshire as delegated by the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority.
Response Standards	This is the standard (in minutes and seconds) set by the Fire Authority, against which RBFRS will plan the distribution of its intervention resources. It is a measurement from when a call is first received and the time when the first resource with ability to intervene arrives at the actual scene of the incident.
RCC	Regional Control Centre
RDS	Retained Duty System Duty system where firefighters do not work contracted hours but respond when required for emergency incidents.
Risk Mapping	The recording of risks, census information and incident information on the fire and rescue service's electronic maps. It provides visual representation to help the fire and rescue service plan the deployment of its resources.
Risk Register	A risk assessment process that prioritises and registers organisational and operational risk.
RR (FS)O	Regulatory Reform Order (Fire Safety) In 2005 a change to the legal basis of fire safety brought together the fragmented sections of fire related legislation under one legislative 'umbrella'.
RTC	Road Traffic Collision Any road incident involving vehicles that is attended by the fire and rescue service, police service or ambulance service.

Secondary Fires	Fires that do not require the completion of a fire report such as rubbish fires and abandoned vehicles.
Special Appliance (or specialist vehicle)	<p>An emergency response vehicle that is designed for a specific purpose. The special appliances in service in RBFRS are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 x Rescue Support Vehicles (RSV) • 1 x Aerial Ladder Platform (ALP) • 1 x Hydraulic Platform (HP) • 1 x Incident Control Unit (ICU) • 1 x Chemical Incident Unit (CIU) • 1 x Water Response Unit (including Boat) (WRU) • 1 x Operational Support Unit (OSU) • 1 x Incident Response Unit (IRU) • 1 x High Volume Pumping Unit (HVP) • 1 x Six-wheel off road firefighting (L6P) • 1 x Four-wheel limited off road firefighting (L4P)
Stakeholders	Any person or organisation likely to be affected by, use, be involved with or having an interest in the work of the fire and rescue service.
Standard Response Standard	A response time for fire appliances to reach an incident that, if the standard is not met, will trigger alternative community safety activity.
Turnout Times	Measured from the time of being notified of an incident, this is the time it takes for operational vehicles to become mobile to the incident.
Unitary Authority	The six district or borough councils that make up Berkshire (West Berkshire, Reading, Wokingham, Windsor and Maidenhead, Slough, and Bracknell Forest) are also known as unitary authorities.

CONSULTATION

Consultation on this draft Integrated Risk Management Plan will be undertaken during the period 12 February to 11 May 2007. Views from the community of Berkshire, political representatives, partner organisations and other interested stakeholders will be sought during this time.

Please take this opportunity to make your views known, as it will help to develop strategies and policies to meet local needs.

How To Reply

You are invited to comment using the questionnaire in the centre pages or one of the following:

- In writing, using the following **FREEPOST** address :
IRMP Consultation
Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service
FREEPOST (RG2 669)
103 Dee Road
Reading
RG30 1BR
(Remember, no stamp is required)
- Email to IRMP@rbfrs.co.uk
- Visit our Website at www.rbfrs.co.uk
- Telephone our help line on: 0118 932 2122
- Fax us on: 0118 932 2296
- Extra questionnaires can be obtained by using any of the above contacts

The results of the consultation will be published on our website as soon as possible.

ROYAL BERKSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

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103 Dee Road
Tilehurst
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