

COUNCIL TAX 2020/21

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 the county of Berkshire. It must also explain how your money will be spent providing that service.

The Authority has approved a revenue budget for 2020/21 of £35.263 million, an increase of 3.47% over the comparable figure for 2019/20. The precept for a band D property has increased by 1.99% to £67.60.

Settlement funding to the Authority has increased by 1.6% compared to the previous financial year.

If you would like more information about the Fire Authority'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

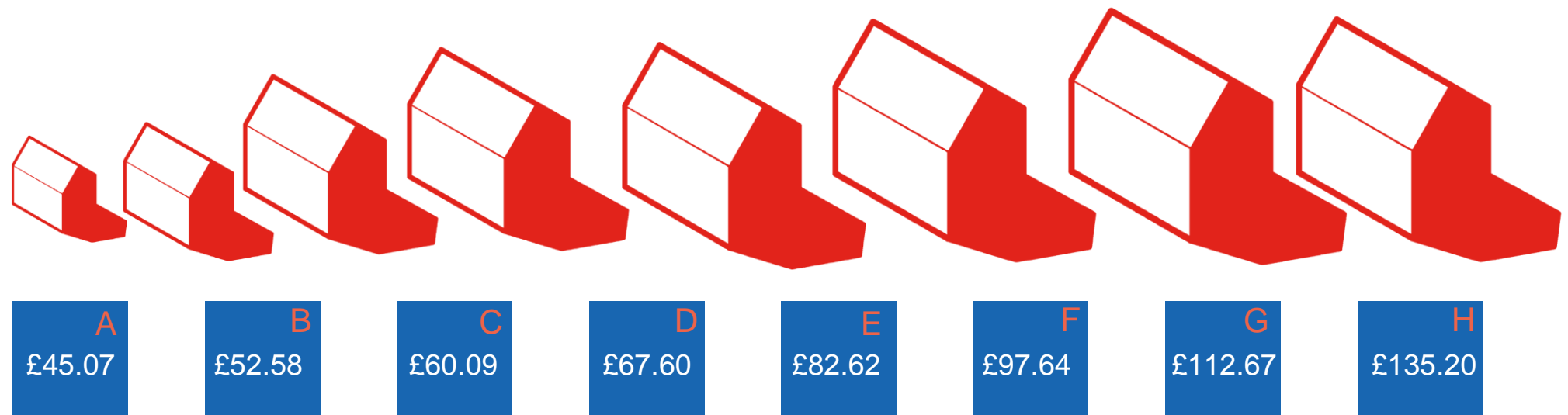
The following table shows how the Authority's net revenue budget of £35.263 million will be financed.

	£ million	£ per head
Gross Revenue Expenditure	41.914	45.99
Gross Revenue Income	-3.911	-4.29
Contributions from Reserves	-2.740	-3.01
NET BUDGET	35.263	38.69
Less:		
Business Rates	-5.673	-6.22
Government Grants	-5.719	-6.27
Collection Fund Surplus	-0.048	-0.05
COUNCIL TAX	23.823	26.15



» 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.





»» 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.

	2019/20 (Latest) £ million	2020/21 (Original) £ million
 Employees	27.804	28.467
 Premises	2.247	2.308
 Ill-health retirement costs and injury awards	0.422	0.426
 Transport	0.927	0.906
 Supplies and Services	5.234	5.089
 Capital Financing	1.126	1.096
Gross Revenue Expenditure	37.760	38.292
Revenue Income	-2.743	-2.745
Contributions from Reserves	-0.936	-0.284
Net Budget Requirements	34.081	35.263



» HOW SPENDING HAS CHANGED

The Authority's 2020/21 budget has seen an overall increase of £1.182 million compared to the budget for 2019/20. The main changes between the two years are set out below:

	£ million
Budget 2019/20	34.081
Pay awards, increments increase pension costs	0.663
Additional inflation and contract costs	0.148
Additional provision for counter terrorism and community fire safety resources	0.200
Efficiencies from restructuring and additional income generation	-0.240
Strategic asset investment and associated financing costs	0.115
Other	0.122
Movement in revenue reserves	0.174
BUDGET 2020/21	35.263

» INVESTING FOR THE FUTURE

The Authority uses some of your money to invest in buildings, equipment and vehicles. The capital programme for 2020/21 amounts to £8.407 million. This will fund long-term improvements in service delivery, including the following:



The enhancement of our fire stations.	Investing in our IT assets.	Investing in our service delivery fleet.
£5.664 million	£0.678 million	£2.065 million



»» BORROWING

At the end of February 2019, the Authority had total borrowings of £8.842 million from the Public Works Loans Board to help finance capital investment. At 31 March 2020 it is anticipated that due to prudent financial stewardship total borrowings will remain the same at £8.842 million.

»» VALUE FOR MONEY ASSESSMENT

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

