

COUNCIL TAX 2019/20

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 2019/20 of £34.081 million, an increase of 1.80% over the comparable figure for 2018/19. The precept for a band D property has increased by 2.99% to £66.28.

Settlement funding to the Authority has fallen by 0.99% 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

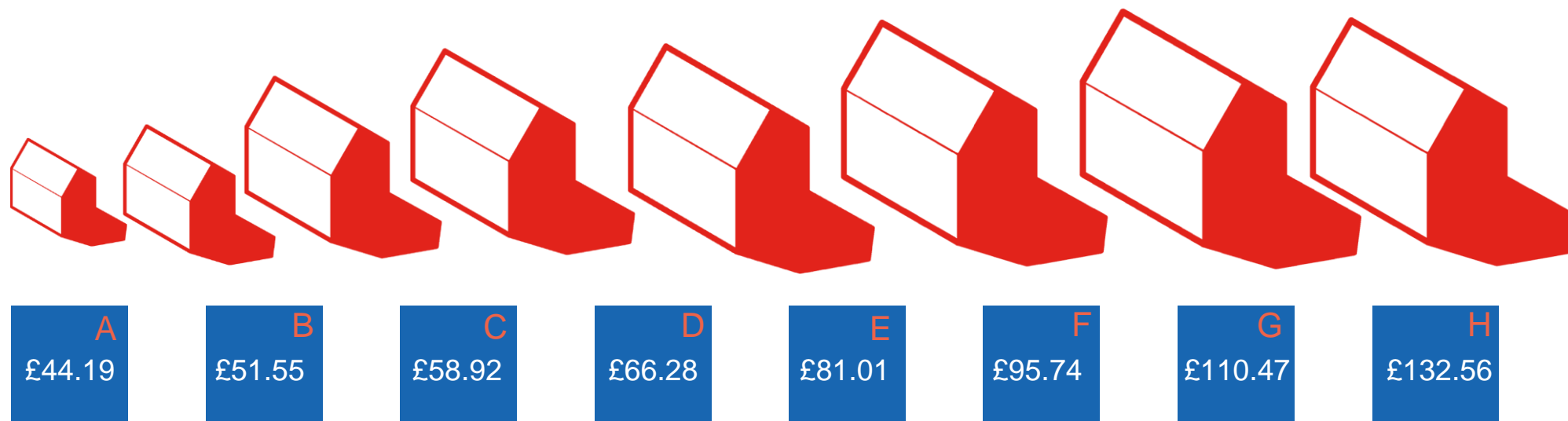
The following table shows how the Authority's net revenue budget of £34.081 million will be financed.

	£ million	£ per head
Gross Revenue Expenditure	40.919	45.17
Gross Revenue Income	-2.164	-2.39
Contributions from Reserves	-4.674	-5.16
NET BUDGET	34.081	37.62
Less:		
Business Rates	-5.672	-6.26
Government Grants	-5.570	-6.15
Collection Fund Deficit	0.213	0.24
COUNCIL TAX	23.052	25.45



» 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.

	2018/19 (Latest) £ million	2019/20 (Original) £ million
 Employees	27.687	28.307
 Premises	2.164	2.196
 Ill-health retirement costs and injury awards	0.419	0.419
 Transport	0.995	0.987
 Supplies and Services	4.003	4.334
 Capital Financing	1.208	4.676
Gross Revenue Expenditure	36.476	40.919
Revenue Income	-2.243	-2.164
Contributions from Reserves	-0.754	-4.674
Net Budget Requirements	33.479	34.081



»» HOW SPENDING HAS CHANGED

The Authority's 2019/20 budget has seen an overall increase of £0.602 million compared to the budget for 2018/19. The main changes between the two years are set out below:

	£ million
Budget 2018/19	33.479
Pay awards, increments increase pension costs	0.997
Additional inflation and contract costs	0.245
Additional provision for counter terrorism and community fire safety resources	0.200
Efficiencies from restructuring	-0.476
Income / savings from collaborative agreements	-0.160
Other	-0.099
Contributions from reserves	-0.105
BUDGET 2019/20	34.081

»» INVESTING FOR THE FUTURE

The Authority uses some of your money to invest in buildings, equipment and vehicles. The capital programme for 2019/20 amounts to £6.958 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.
£3.130 million	£0.658 million	£3.170 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 2019 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 for the year ending 31 March 2018.

