

# Annual Report 2013/14

# Action Plan 2014/15



ROYAL BERKSHIRE  
FIRE AUTHORITY

making berkshire safer

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# Foreword

## Welcome to the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority Annual Report and Annual Action Plan which supports the delivery of our Corporate Plan.

We are very pleased to be jointly introducing this important document that looks back at what was achieved over the last 12 months, and also looks forward by setting out details of our plans for the year ahead. At a time when downward pressure on public sector finances continues to increase, it is really important that we are clear about how best to use the resources we do have available in keeping people across Royal Berkshire safe. The processes that support the preparation of this document are intended to achieve just that.

Last year (2013) was a busy one for Royal Berkshire's Fire and Rescue Service. As well as dealing with 'business as usual' and taking forward a number of major projects, the winter months saw firefighters working hard to protect communities from the effects of serious flooding. The year also marked the retirement of Chief Fire Officer Iain Cox – after over 30 years of dedicated service to the people of Royal Berkshire and the appointment of his successor (one of the authors of this Foreword!).

The year ahead promises to be one of the most significant in the history of Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service. It is a year that will see several of the major projects we have been working on brought to fruition.

A new Headquarters will open in the Calcot area, close to Junction 12 of the M4. As well as providing a modern building from which Headquarters staff will be able to provide better support to those that deliver services to our communities, the building will become home to a new, state-of-the-art fire control service for the Thames Valley.

Fire control operators in the new facility will have very sophisticated technology at their disposal – technology that will assist them to do an even better job of supporting firefighters when dealing with emergencies across Royal Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. We will also be opening a new fire station in Windsor; enabling us to sell the previous fire station site and, in doing so, make finance available for investment in other building projects, one of which will involve replacing the existing fire station on our Dee Road, Headquarters site in Reading.

Finally, 2014 will be a year in which the Service prepares for the future. Alongside all other public sector organisations, the fire and rescue service in Royal Berkshire will face very significant challenges. In recognition of that fact, councillors on the Fire Authority have reviewed and revised their policy direction, to reflect the circumstances in which we find ourselves, and to set an agenda intended to ensure that our fire and rescue service contributes as broadly as possible to ensuring that people in Royal Berkshire are able to lead safe and fulfilling lives.

That policy agenda will be translated into a programme of work that will make a real difference in the years ahead – a programme of work that will be shaped by our staff, colleagues from partner organisations and people from the communities we serve.



*Councillor Colin Dudley*

*Chairman  
Royal Berkshire Fire  
Authority*

We hope that you find the content of the document interesting and informative and are keen to hear your views about it.

Please let us know what you think, or ask us any questions by contacting us through our website: [www.rbfrs.co.uk](http://www.rbfrs.co.uk)



*Andy Fry*

*Chief Fire Officer and Chief  
Executive  
Royal Berkshire Fire and  
Rescue Service*

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Jeśli wymagasz tej informacji po POLSKU, proszę się z nami skontaktować

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# Your Fire and Rescue Service

## Royal Berkshire Fire Authority

Royal Berkshire Fire Authority is responsible for the running of Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service. It has a legal duty to ensure that an effective fire and rescue service is provided across Berkshire.

The Authority is known as a Combined Fire Authority, which means it is made up of twenty five elected councillors from the six Unitary Authorities in Berkshire (Bracknell Forest, Slough Borough, Reading Borough, Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, West Berkshire and Wokingham). The current Chairman is Councillor Colin Dudley, of Bracknell Forest Council.

The main duties of the Fire Authority are set out in the Fire and Rescue Services Act (2004) which requires it to provide, train and equip the Service for:

- Firefighting
- Protection of people and property
- Fire safety promotion
- Road traffic collision rescues
- Other emergency responses to civil emergencies.

The Authority also has roles and responsibilities under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 to work in partnership to plan and respond to civil emergencies and, since 2010, there has been local agreement to promote the wider use of sprinklers.

The Authority has a number of committees which oversee the running of Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service, ensuring it meets both statutory requirements and the needs of Berkshire's communities. Authority meetings take place every three months and are open to the public.

Find out more about the Fire Authority via this website link:

[www.rbfrs.co.uk/fire\\_authority.asp](http://www.rbfrs.co.uk/fire_authority.asp)

## Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service

The Service is responsible for providing 24-hour cover for the whole of Berkshire (125,914 hectares in size); from Langley and Slough in the east of the county to Lambourn and Hungerford in the west.

We have 18 fire stations and employ more than 626 staff. We currently have 385 wholetime uniform staff, 75 retained firefighters, 27 members of staff in our Control Room and 139 non-uniform staff who, together, serve a population of more than 860,000 people (note some of these are dual contract posts).

Berkshire includes one of Europe's busiest motorways, the M4, and heavily populated urban centres such as Reading and Slough. There are busy commercial and industrial centres, contrasted with less-densely-populated rural areas and a large number of lakes, rivers and canals. Last year, we answered around 14,169 emergency calls and attend around 5,925 emergencies, including 362 traffic collisions.

Our role is much broader than putting out fires and dealing with emergencies. We also work to prevent the need for emergency assistance, using a combination of public information and education linked to risk identification and analysis.