

ROYAL BERKSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT POLICY STATEMENT



The Members of Royal Berkshire Fire Authority (RBFA) and the Chief Fire Officer (CFO) and Senior Leadership Team of Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service (RBFRS) recognise the climate emergency and the social and economic issues that we are facing, along with its impact, both globally and locally across communities in Royal Berkshire. We are committed to ensuring that we provide a financially sustainable service and to take action to help address the climate emergency.

Further, we will reduce the impact of the organisation's operations on the environment and minimising its carbon footprint. We will do so in a way that supports the United Kingdom's commitment to sustainable development and reducing the effects of climate change. This statement will be reviewed annually and revised as necessary.

RBFRS will strive to continually improve its environmental performance by:

- Meeting all relevant current and foreseen statutory regulations and official codes of practice, using passive low energy and low carbon systems wherever practicable.
- Achieving the sustainable development targets set by UK Government policy.
- Conserving energy, water, paper and other resources - particularly those which are scarce or non-renewable.
- Reducing waste through re-use and recycling and by using reconditioned and recycled products and materials where such appropriate alternatives are available.
- Phasing out ozone depleting substances and minimising the release of greenhouse gases, volatile organic compounds, vehicle emissions and other substances damaging to health and the environment.
- Monitoring discharges and emissions to air, land and water and assessing the actions necessary to reduce pollution or the risk of pollution.
- Guiding and motivating staff, through education and training, to work in an environmentally responsible manner and to play a full part in developing new ideas and initiatives.
- Expecting users and stakeholders to take responsible action in terms of environmentally sustainable best practice.
- Requiring partners, contractors and subcontractors to meet best practise as a condition of working with them.
- Effectively communicating to stakeholders and users the environmental policy framework that operates at RBFRS and demonstrating the efforts taken to minimise its impact on the environment.
- Communicating environmental policies and best practice to all staff, partners and contractors and co-operating with others in the public and private sectors to develop and promote environmentally sound practices.
- Operating in a responsible and co-operative manner with local communities.
- Actively seeking ways to reduce carbon emissions in all that we do – including the introduction of measurable targets for reduction.

To demonstrate our commitment to sustainable development RBFRS's Annual Report and website will include details of environmental performance.

As Chair RBFA and CFO RBFRS we will ensure that we take the appropriate actions to achieve these aims and thereby contribute to the wellbeing of the organisation and the environment.