

Hereford And Worcester Fire And Rescue Authority

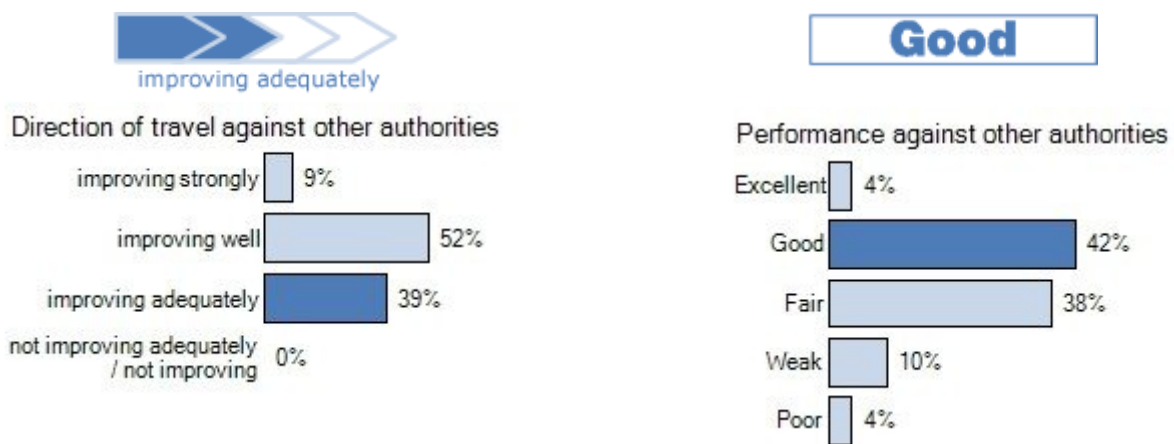
Fire and rescue performance assessment 2007

Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) for Fire and Rescue Authorities was introduced in 2005 when each authority was given a corporate assessment rating of either excellent, good, fair, weak or poor. Inspectors looked at issues like staff training, budget management and the way the service works within the community to make it safer and prevent fires from happening in the first place.

Additional elements give an overall assessment of services including how the authority performs operationally

Overall performance for this fire and rescue authority

This is an authority that is improving adequately having demonstrated Good overall performance in 2005.



In addition to Fire CPA 2005, fire and rescue authorities were assessed under the 2007 performance framework on three elements:

- What progress Hereford And Worcester Fire And Rescue Authority has made in the last year – direction of travel
- How Hereford And Worcester Fire And Rescue Authority manages its finances and provides value for money – use of resources
- How Hereford And Worcester Fire And Rescue Authority delivers its fire and rescue service – service assessment

The use of resources and service assessment are scored on the following scale:

- 1 = Inadequate performance – below minimum requirements
- 2 = Adequate performance – only at minimum requirements
- 3 = Performing well – consistently above minimum requirements
- 4 = Performing strongly – well above minimum requirements

Direction of travel

What progress has Hereford And Worcester Fire And Rescue Authority made in the last year

Direction of travel	2006	2007
This assessment indicates the progress being made, or otherwise, to achieve improvement.	improving well	improving adequately

The following summary has been provided to support the 2007 direction of travel assessment:

Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Authority (HWFRA) is improving adequately. HWFRA has mixed performance across its priority areas this year. While it remains among the best performers in terms of minimising deliberate and accidental fires, the level of incidences has risen this year. Deaths and injuries from fire have increased but it made a strong contribution to the safety of local residents and businesses in its response to the flooding this summer. Community safety work in schools is good and the Authority works well with partners in Herefordshire to improve the safety of vulnerable people. However, current evidence does not demonstrate how comprehensive or coordinated it is. The Authority is proactive in seeking to ensure the safety of migrant workers. Equality and diversity remains strong and is improving. Performance in relation to value for money is good. The Service is planning well for the future, and capacity has improved in some areas following the restructure. The focus on improving operational performance needs re-enforcing now the structure is embedding. Even so, it is well placed to sustain, and build on improvement in earlier years.

Use of resources

How Hereford And Worcester Fire And Rescue Authority manages its finances and provides value for money

Use of resources	2006	2007
This assessment looks at financial accounting and reporting arrangements, how well the Authority plans and manages its finances and whether the Authority achieves value for money.	3	3

This use of resources judgement is drawn from five individual judgements provided by the Authority's appointed auditor:

Auditor judgements	2007
Financial reporting	4
Financial management	3
Financial standing	3
Internal control	3
Value for money	3

Service assessment

How Hereford And Worcester Fire And Rescue Authority delivers its fire and rescue service

Service assessment	2006	2007
The overall service assessment is the Authority's performance in delivering the fire and rescue service and is constructed from two elements: performance indicators (PIs) and the OASD.	4	4

The following summarises the operational assessment of service delivery:

Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service has strong operational leadership and enjoys good industrial relations. It is performing well in all areas of service delivery, and particularly strongly in its risk analysis work. The Service has used risk analysis data to improve operational availability, and provide enhanced intervention services when required. It has a strong preventative culture, and is working well with partner organisations to reduce risk in the community. The Service is well prepared operationally with effective collaborative arrangements with partners, and good systems in place for the provision of risk information to staff attending incidents. The Service has an energetic pace of change and is making a significant contribution to the wider community safety agenda through strong leadership and clearly defined objectives. It has forged strong links with partner organisations, and in many cases takes a lead in actions to achieve overall objectives.

CPA 2005

How Hereford And Worcester Fire And Rescue Authority performed in 2005

CPA 2005	2005
We assessed the Authority on the way it was run and the delivery of its services. Our corporate assessment did not give an opinion on how well the fire and rescue service responded to emergency incidents. The assessment provided a baseline measurement that helps fire and rescue authorities focus on improvement. Fire and Rescue CPA 2005 was scored on the scale Poor/Weak/Fair/Good/Excellent.	Good

Please visit the Audit Commission website (www.audit-commission.gov.uk) for the full version of this scorecard.