



## MEDIA RELEASE

### Fire Authority “Performing Well”

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Authority is “performing well” and achieving its main priority – to keep people safe from fire. These findings are published today in the Authority’s organisational assessment which forms part of ‘Oneplace’, the Audit Commission’s new process for examining public services, including how well councils are working together with other public bodies to meet the needs of the people they serve.

The report confirmed that fires, fire deaths and injuries have been reducing at a rapid rate and last year the Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA) recorded the lowest number of fires ever.

Brigadier Peter Jones, Chairman of Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Authority said: “We are delighted to see that the CAA report has confirmed we are performing well in all of the areas they assessed. The Audit Commission spent a great deal of time with us recently and looked in detail at how we work – focusing on operational and support functions

The report acknowledges how well the Service responds to incidents and the difference it is making to the lives of vulnerable people who are at risk. This is testament to the excellent prevention work being carried out by our staff across the two counties, who are all working to make Herefordshire and Worcestershire a safer place to live and work.”

The report concluded that:

- People in Herefordshire and Worcestershire are at low risk from the dangers of fire and last year the FRA attended the lowest number of fires ever recorded in the two counties.
- Accidental house fires, fire deaths and injuries have been reducing rapidly for a few years – at one of the fastest rates nationally.
- The Authority is providing an effective and improving fire and rescue service to communities and provides value for money.
- Arson is not a widespread problem in most parts of the county and the work of the FRA has lessened the occurrence by half in the last three years.
- The FRA is among the best services in the country for promoting equality and diversity.
- The FRA is aware of where it can get better. For example, by further reducing attendances to unwanted fire alarms and malicious fire calls.

Chief Fire Officer Paul Hayden said: “The report touches on some real successes which have been achieved by our Service recently and I’m delighted to see that this been recognised.

“We are committed to being a learning organisation and we are always keen to improve. So we will continue to work with the same amount of commitment and enthusiasm to ensure we give the best possible service we can to the communities of Herefordshire and Worcestershire.”

Issued by Samantha Jones, Media and Communications Manager on 01905 368409.

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