

Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority

The way Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority is run and the delivery of its services is **good** (on the scale: excellent/good/fair/weak/poor).

What are Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority's main strengths?

- Officers and members demonstrate clear and effective organisational and political leadership of both the Authority and Fire Service.
- There is a clear and consistent vision of what the Fire Authority aims to achieve for the local community and how it will tackle the modernisation of the service.
- It is achieving its objectives, performance is at a high level across a range of incident-related data and the Authority continues to improve.
- Views and suggestions from both staff and the public are regularly sought. This demonstrates the learning culture of the Authority.

What are Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority's areas for improvement?

- The evaluation of partnership work is not yet consistent or robust and success criteria are not always defined.
- Capacity to deliver community safety work could be increased by developing the use of more retained staff to carry out this work.

What is the Audit Commission's role in CPA?

- *The Audit Commission is an independent body working to check that public money is being spent well on local government, housing, health, community safety and fire and rescue services.*
- *Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) is about helping fire authorities to deliver better services to local people.*
- *Fire CPA is an assessment, at the corporate level, of how well the authority is being run. It does not give an opinion on how well the fire service responds to emergency incidents.*
- *All fire authorities in England were inspected from January to May 2005 and results published in July 2005.*

What do fire authorities do?

- *All fire authorities have the responsibility to control and administer the business of the fire brigade in their area. They ensure that the duties such as putting out fires, community fire safety, dealing with road accidents and flooding, and responding to major emergencies are correctly discharged.*
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- *The day-to-day management of brigades is delegated to the Chief Fire Officer. Fire authorities oversee and direct the work of the fire brigade.*
 - *The money for these services comes mainly from precepts on council tax, government grants, fees, and charges.*

What happens next?

Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority will use our report to help it improve the services that it provides to local people. It will be supported in this work by the [Office of the Deputy Prime Minister](#). You can get more information from the Authority's website on www.shropshirefire.gov.uk or by telephoning 01743 260200.

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