

# East Sussex Fire Authority

## Fire and rescue performance assessment 2006/07

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 published in February and April now 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 well having demonstrated Fair overall performance in 2005.



In addition to Fire CPA 2005, fire and rescue authorities were assessed under the 2006 performance framework on three elements:

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

The use of resources and service assessments 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 East Sussex Fire Authority made in the last year

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

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

It has delivered positive outcomes against its key priorities. For example, 50, 24 and 15 per cent reductions respectively in arson incidents, dwelling fires where no smoke alarms were fitted and attending false automatic fire detection alarms. Deaths by accidental dwelling fires fell by 50 per cent and injuries by 58 per cent. Operationally, the service is performing well. Performance management is good with 73 per cent of indicators improving. Previous poor performance areas such as shifts lost to sickness are being addressed to meet defined improvement targets. Corporate capacity has been strengthened. Some partnerships are working well, particularly in community fire safety, but it needs to ensure that all partnerships remain effective. Its work is focused on seeking to ensure its workforce is representative of the diverse community it serves. Value for money is being achieved but an evidenced based approach is required to achieve further effectiveness improvements. Other challenges include the further development of its workforce, the introduction of an enhanced system of delegated financial management, and continuing to implement the national modernisation agenda.

## Use of resources

### How East Sussex Fire Authority manages its finances and provides value for money

Use of resources	2006
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

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

Auditor judgements	2006
Financial reporting	3
Financial management	3
Financial standing	3
Internal control	2
Value for money	3

## Service assessment

### How East Sussex Fire Authority delivers its fire and rescue service

Service assessment	2006
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.	3

## CPA 2005

### How East Sussex Fire 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.	fair

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