

# Royal Berkshire Fire Authority

---

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

---

## What are Royal Berkshire Fire Authority's main strengths?

- There is good delivery against strategic aims, with improving performance over three years that has resulted in fewer call outs and more effective fire safety initiatives.
- There is a well-defined vision, with appropriate resources to support the delivery of clearly set out priorities.
- Sophisticated information systems exist and are supported by an impressive performance management approach.
- A sense of purpose pervades the Authority and is recognisable at all levels. The Authority knows where it is going and how to get there.

## What are Royal Berkshire Fire Authority's areas for improvement?

- It must do more work to reduce the number of calls to automatic fire alarms systems and to malicious calls.
- It is using its people capacity fully and needs to match its aspirations to its ability to deliver.

## 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.*
  - *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?**

*Royal Berkshire 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.rbfrs.co.uk](http://www.rbfrs.co.uk) or by telephoning 0118 945 2888.*

Date: 28 July 2005

---

Audit Commission, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Millbank Tower, Millbank, London SW1P 4HQ 020 7828 1212  
[www.audit-commission.gov.uk](http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk)

---