

# FIRE BRIGADES UNION

Immediate release

## **Norfolk firefighters to lobby County Hall over cuts to fire service**

A Fire Brigades Union lobby to protest against cuts in the Norfolk fire service will be held at **County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2DH, at 8.45 a.m. on Tuesday 9 March 2010.**

It is timed to coincide with a meeting of the Council's Fire and Protection Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

The Council plans drastic cuts to Norfolk Fire Service. The proposals, if agreed, will have a dramatic effect on Norfolk Fire Service's ability to operate effectively and safely.

They include:

- The loss of eight vital fire appliances.
- Reduction of fire cover to Yarmouth and Norwich areas.
- Cuts to vital frontline fire service resources.
- Fewer frontline firefighters, while numbers of office staff have grown every year for the past decade.

These proposals have been put to the councillors before an Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) has been completed. The IRMP is designed to gather evidence on risk. It would identify what demands are likely to be made on the fire service and what resources the service needs to meet them.

Jamie Wyatt, FBU Secretary, Norfolk says: "If councillors make cuts without seeing the IRMP, it indicates that their motives can only be financial and they do not care about risk. If these proposals go ahead, they compromise the safety both of our communities and of firefighters.

“The proposals not only cut the number of fire engines and firefighters but also remove the attendance times for fire engines reaching certain types of incidents. That means that for some incidents there will be no time limit on how long it will take for sufficient resources to arrive and deal with the incident quickly and effectively, and therefore puts the public at increased risk.

“A modern fire service plans to meet the risks it faces and it cannot do this by crude wholesale cuts to emergency front line services.”

Ends

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FBU Norfolk Brigade Secretary: Jamie Wyatt 07825327331.

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