

FIRE BRIGADES UNION

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FIRE CREWS BACK NORWICH COUNCIL'S REJECTION OF CLOSURE OF NORFOLK FIRE CONTROL AND URGE NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL TO DO THE SAME

Fire crews have welcomed Norwich City Council's opposition to the closure of the county's only emergency fire control centre. Under Government plans the current centre will close and be replaced by a single regional control to cover all six fire brigades serving the East of England.

Sharon Thorndyke, Norfolk Fire Brigade Union, said: "Fire crews welcome the decision taken by Norwich City Council. Norfolk fire brigade's emergency fire control centre already has one of the most modern command and control systems in the UK.

"Our existing tried and tested system has the confidence of the firefighters who rely on it for their health and safety. It helps deliver a first class fire service across the whole of Norfolk which keeps people, homes and businesses safe.

"The Government want to replace it with a more expensive system which delivers a worse service than we have at present in Norfolk. It does not make sense for taxpayers or for those providing a fire service which currently has a high degree of public confidence.

"The Government's proposed new system is hundreds of millions of pounds over budget and years late. Central Government is trying to force these plans down the throats of county fire authorities and local communities.

"We would urge County Councillors to stand up for the people and fire crews of this county and reject these plans."

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