

# FIRE BRIGADES UNION

14 September

## **Plans to axe a third of all fire appliances in Warwickshire, closing seven fire stations, will be opposed by fire crews**

Warwickshire fire service plans to cut a third of all fire appliances, closing seven fire stations, with be strongly opposed by local fire crews. Warwickshire Fire Brigades Union said it is the biggest cuts and closures plan ever proposed by a fire service.

The stations proposed for closure are Studley, Bidford, Brinklow, Fenny Compton, Kenilworth, Warwick and Bedworth. Appliances crewed by fire fighters working retained duty will also be removed from Coleshill and Atherstone.

Around 100 firefighters working retained duty would be axed under the plans. The cuts are being proposed in what is called a Service Improvement Plan.

Mark Rattray, Warwickshire FBU brigade secretary said: “The removal of fire engines from these stations will greatly increase the risk to the public and to firefighters. If they go ahead we could see towns and villages being left without any effective emergency rescue cover.

“The modern risks we prepare, plan and respond to go well beyond dealing with fires. This will impact on all the work we do in every part of Warwickshire, not only in the areas close to these stations.

“The result of these cuts will be far fewer firefighters spread much more thinly across the County. To call this a Service Improvement Plan is an insult to the public and to professional fire crews.

“The FBU will vehemently oppose any downgrading or reduction of frontline services. We believe that the people of Warwickshire should not suffer cuts to frontline services.

“The fire service should be given the correct funding to maintain and enhance the level of service that the communities of Warwickshire deserve. The FBU strongly urge all members of the community to oppose these proposed cuts by taking part in the consultation process.”

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