



10 August 2005

## **New regional fire control centre to be in Castle Donington**

It has been announced by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister today that the new regional control centre, where all 999 calls for fire and rescue services in the East Midlands will be handled, will be at Willow Farm Business Park, Castle Donington, DE74.

The announcement brings an end to months of speculation about where the ODPM would choose to build the new regional control centre for the East Midlands.

Coun Peter Roffey, Chair of the East Midlands Regional Management Board, the joint committee who have responsibility for overseeing the setting up and management of the regional control centre, said:

"I welcome today's announcement by the ODPM. Waiting for the announcement has been difficult for many of our control staff from around the region who have been unable to make decisions about their future until they knew where the regional control centre would be. We will encourage our current control staff to apply for positions at the new centre and continue to provide an excellent service to people in the East Midlands.

"We understand and appreciate that replacing the five existing control rooms with a single control room for the

region has been unpopular with some staff and representative trade unions - but the Government were very clear that they were going to make this happen. We believe it is in our staff's and the public's best interest to work with the Government on this project to ensure the best deal for the staff from our fire and rescue services and the people of the East Midlands."

Nottinghamshire's Chief Fire Officer, Paul Woods said: "Fires, explosions, road accidents and floods do not limit themselves neatly within invisible county borders. Regional control will bring benefits in terms of responding to major and cross border incidents. The new centres will offer improved and uniform technology and more joined up working between the fire and rescue services in the East Midlands, infact all over the country. We will have more back up, as all of the regional controls will be connected and will have the ability to quickly call on resources where ever they are needed across the country."

The new regional control centre is scheduled to open in 2008/9.

**Ends**

For further information please contact Marie Ensor at Notts County Council press office on 0115 977 4918.

For comments from the ODPM please contact Stuart Baird at GNN on 0115 9712794.

Further information and images available at [www.firecontrol.odpm.gov.uk](http://www.firecontrol.odpm.gov.uk)