

Fire Service merger  
**THINK**  
again!



**UNISON**  
Local Government

A joint campaign of the Fire Brigades Union and UNISON.  
fbu.org.uk unison.org.uk

Together protecting local services that deliver the high quality standards that the public deserves.

## Press Release

28/03/2007

For immediate release

Kind words have been said about the work carried out by the Fire Brigades Union following the recent victory for retaining control of our fire service.

I will not deny a lot of work has been carried out by officials of the FBU and UNISON, but it does not stop at last week's decision. We will continue to be involved in the discussions regarding further implementation of the modernisation agenda that is going to continue to affect and improve the Islands Fire Service.

However, on behalf of all our members I would like to take this opportunity to thank the residents and businesses on the Island for their outstanding support throughout the campaign we ran.

If it was not for their efforts in the early stages of the public consultation phase, attending meetings, writing in to the Chief Executive, contacting Parish Councils, insisting that the option to retain control of our fire service be reintroduced into the debate, we may not be in the position we are today.

It has allowed the Islanders, the Isle of Wight Council, Island Brigade Management and Fire and Rescue staff through their representative bodies to have a say how the service is to continue to improve, providing a first class resilient service the residents deserve.

The vote by the full council reflected the overwhelming views of the electorate and enabled the right decision to be made.

Thank you once again.

Paul, Fletcher, Brigade Secretary, Isle of Wight Branch of the FBU

Ends

### Notes to Editors

The Fire Service Merger - THINK again! campaign was a joint campaign between the local branches of the Fire Brigades Union and UNISON. The proposed merger of the Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service was one of three options currently out to consultation to the public. Subsequently at a Full Council meeting of the Isle of Wight Council, a vote was taken on 21 March 2007, where the vote by councillors was unanimous (38-0) in favour of the status-quo option. More details can be found at [www.fireservicemerger.com](http://www.fireservicemerger.com).

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