

TYNE AND WEAR FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

Item No 4

MEETING: 24 MARCH 2014

SUBJECT: MERITORIOUS CONDUCT AWARD

REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Meritorious Conduct Award Scheme provides the opportunity for Members of the Authority to recognise individuals who perform commendable acts of bravery, gallantry or community actions.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is for the Authority to recognise the meritorious and brave actions taken by Ms Christine Stafford during a fire in a neighbours flat on 6 December 2013.

2 AWARD NOTIFICATION

- 2.1 At the commencement of today's meeting, the Chairman of the Fire Authority, Councillor Tom Wright, will present a Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority Award for Brave and Meritorious Conduct to Ms Christine Stafford in recognition of her actions in alerting and aiding the Fire Service on 6 December 2013.

3 INCIDENT DETAILS

- 3.1 On hearing her neighbours smoke alarm activate Ms Stafford ran to another neighbours house, explained the situation to him and asked him to ring 999.
- 3.2 An appliance from Byker Community Fire Station were mobilised to the incident. On arrival the crew could see flames issuing from the upstairs window. Ms Stafford waved down the appliance and led the Officer in Charge, Watch Manager Linsley, to the incident.
- 3.3 Ms Stafford opened the door to the block and directed WM Linsley to the flat involved. At this point the stairwell was full of smoke. WM Linsley opened the door to the flat and was met with a disorientated occupant. Ms Stafford helped WM Linsley lead her neighbour down the stairs as the BA teams entered the flat.

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 The Authority is recommended to:

- a) Endorse the Meritorious Conduct Award for Ms Christine Stafford
- b) Congratulate and thank Ms Stafford for her actions.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The under mentioned Background Papers refer to the subject matter of the above report:

- Meritorious Conduct Policy