

TYNE AND WEAR FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

Item No 4

MEETING: 10 SEPTEMBER 2018

**SUBJECT: MERITORIOUS CONDUCT – FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY
AWARD AND CHIEF FIRE OFFICERS COMMENDATION**

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER/CHIEF EXECUTIVE (THE CLERK TO THE
AUTHORITY)**

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 At the commencement of today's meeting, the Chairman of the Authority, Councillor Barry Curran, will present a Meritorious Conduct Award for brave and meritorious actions to Firefighter Robert Brown in recognition of his actions in rescuing a casualty from the River Tyne on 25th June 2018 and Chief Fire Officer, Chris Lowther, will present a Chief Fire Officers Commendation to members of Green Watch from Byker Community Fire Station, led by Watch Manager Iain McKinnes, for their actions at the same incident.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Bravery and Meritorious Conduct Awards Scheme provides for Members of the Authority to recognise individuals who perform commendable acts of bravery, gallantry or community actions.
- 2.2 Chief Fire Officer Commendations are presented by the Chief Fire Officer to members of the Service who have gone above and beyond in the line of duty.

3 BRAVE AND MERITORIOUS ACTIONS

- 3.1 On 25th June 2018 a 999 call was received informing of an adult male on the wrong side of the barrier on the Tyne Bridge. Crews were mobilised to the incident, supported by the Swift Water Rescue Team from Byker Community Fire Station. As the crews arrived the adult male had jumped and began to float downstream, face down in the water.
- 3.2 At this point the crew were near to the Quayside Bar on the Newcastle side of the river when Firefighter Robert Brown, with assistance from the crew entered the water, swam upstream against the current. After an arduous swim Firefighter Brown reached the casualty, turned him over, secured his airway and kept him afloat.
- 3.3 Whilst this was ongoing other members of Green Watch mobilised in the Fire Boat and made their way to Firefighter Brown and the casualty.

They were both recovered on to the Fire Boat and then transported to the NE1 pontoon for recovery and first aid.

- 3.4 The professional actions of Firefighter Brown and the swift actions of the members of Green Watch undoubtedly brought the incident to a successful outcome and they are a credit to the Authority. To remain calm and focussed during a difficult incident was imperative to rescuing the casualty in this dynamically evolving situation.
- 3.5 On behalf of Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority all involved in the incident are thanked for their actions which brought the incident to a swift and successful end.

4 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 There are no risk management implications in respect of this report.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no financial implications in respect of this report.

6 EQUALITY AND FAIRNESS IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no equality and fairness implications in respect of this report.

7 HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no health and safety implications in respect of this report.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 The Authority is recommended to:
- a) Endorse the Meritorious Conduct Award and Chief Fire Officers Commendation; and
 - b) Congratulate and thank Firefighter Robert Brown and members of Green Watch at Byker Community Fire Station for their actions.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

- Brave and Meritorious Conduct Policy