

MEETING: 12th SEPTEMBER 2016

SUBJECT: BRAVERY AND MERITORIOUS CONDUCT AWARD

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

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 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 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is for the Authority to recognise the meritorious and brave actions taken by Mr Joe Deverdics, at an incident which occurred beside the Swing Bridge Newcastle Upon Tyne, having witnessed a person falling into the river below.

3 AWARD NOTIFICATION

- 3.1 At the commencement of today's meeting, the Chairman of the Authority, Councillor Tom Wright, will present a Fire Authority Award for brave and meritorious conduct to Joe Deverdics in recognition of his actions in rescuing a casualty from the river Tyne.

4 INCIDENT DETIALS

- 4.1 On 18th July 2016 Mr Deverdics, having witnessed a person falling from the Swing Bridge into the river Tyne below, entered the water with no regard for his own safety to bring the casualty to safety.
- 4.2 Mr Deverdics without doubt placed himself at extreme risk throughout this rescue, having carried out his actions prior to the emergency services attendance, and undoubtedly saved the persons life.

5 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Authority is recommended to:

- a) Endorse the Fire Authority Award of Meritorious Action; and
- b) Congratulate and thank Mr Joe Deverdics for his actions.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

- Bravery and Meritorious Conduct Policy