

**MEETING: 23 APRIL 2012**

---

**SUBJECT: THE DIAMOND JUBILEE MEDAL****REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER**

---

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 As the Authority will be aware, a commemorative Medal in recognition of Her Majesty The Queen's Diamond Jubilee year is to be distributed to members of the Armed Services, the Prison Service and the emergency services who meet specific criteria.
- 1.2 The decision to strike a medal for the Diamond Jubilee is part of a long tradition of marking special occasions in the life of the nation, including Royal Jubilees. A commemorative medal was distributed for the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2002 and there were also medals to mark Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887 and Diamond Jubilee in 1897 and King George V's Silver Jubilee in 1935.

**2. THE EMERGENCY SERVICES**

- 2.1 In June 2011, the Culture Secretary Jeremy Hunt confirmed that the official medal, which has been designed by professional calligrapher and illuminator Timothy Noad, will be awarded to personnel in the Armed Forces, emergency services and prison service, among others.
- 2.2 In making the announcement he said, *"It is right that we reward those people who, like The Queen, also dedicate their lives to public good and who represent the very best of the British spirit,"* Mr Hunt said. *"I hope the official medal will serve as a mark of thanks to all those who give so much in the name of society and public service and I extend my congratulations to all the recipients".*
- 2.3 This includes emergency services personnel in paid service, retained or in a voluntary capacity who face the prospect of dealing with emergencies as part of their conditions of service.

**3 ELIGIBILITY**

- 3.1 In order to be eligible to receive the commemorative Jubilee Medal, members of the emergency services who are in paid service, must have completed a minimum of five full calendar years service on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2012, the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Queen's Accession.

## **PREVENTING PROTECTING RESPONDING**

- 3.2 All emergency service personnel, who are retained or act in a voluntary capacity and satisfy the criteria detailed in 3.1 above, are also eligible to receive the medal. Aggregated service is to be taken into account. The eligibility criteria also includes those personnel who have not served the full five years with the Brigade, but who will be eligible when their aggregated service is reckoned, i.e. staff who have previously served in the Armed Forces, as a Special Constable, or as a member of another eligible emergency service.
- 3.3 Personnel on secondment to the Fire Service College or elsewhere, will qualify for the medal provided they fulfil all other eligibility criteria. Former members of the Fire Service who are now in the Fire Service College or elsewhere, will not qualify for the medal.
- 3.4 Personnel subject to disciplinary proceedings on or since 6<sup>th</sup> February 2012, whether suspended from duty or not, will have their eligibility determined once the outcome of the proceedings is known. If the proceedings result in dismissal or requirement to resign, and if no appeal against that outcome is upheld, the officer will not receive the medal. In all other outcomes, the officer's eligibility will be determined in accordance with the normal criteria.
- 3.5 Serving personnel on unpaid service on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2012 that is not due to disciplinary action will be eligible for the medal, but the period of unpaid service will not count to the qualifying time criteria.
- 3.6 Medals will be issued, when available, to recipients including those who have left the service since 6<sup>th</sup> February 2012 and to next of kin of those eligible personnel who have since deceased. Each recipient, or next of kin, must sign for the medal, and each emergency service will provide DCLG with a full list of recipients.
- 3.7 There will be no appeal against decisions that personnel are not eligible to receive the medal.
- 3.8 Control room staff, corporate staff and those operational staff who are not and never have been dealing with emergencies are not eligible to receive the medal. In terms of Tyne and Wear, approximately 720 staff will be eligible to receive the medal. (Dealing with emergencies is defined by the Cabinet Office as being called to the scene of 999 response calls and personnel who are potentially placing themselves in danger).
- 3.9 A graphic of the Medal is attached for the information of Members.
- 3.10 A provisional timetable for distribution of the medal suggests that medals for the Fire Service will be issued in April/May 2012. The Authority is advised however, that there may well be some slippage in these timescales.
- 3.11 Regardless of the timescales, the medal or the medal ribbon may not be worn until entitlement has been confirmed and, in any case, not before Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2012, i.e. the date agreed with the Cabinet Office and the date of the official Thanksgiving Service.
- 3.12 The Chief Fire Officer is presently considering the most appropriate manner in which to ensure that the medals are presented to eligible personnel with the dignity and ceremony they deserve.

- 3.13 The Chief Fire Officer has expressed his concerns regarding the eligibility criteria as it is apparent that the provision of an effective and efficient fire service not only depends on people who have completed five years service, but all personnel who provide essential roles in areas such as Mobilising and Control and those staff who have not yet served the qualifying five years in a firefighting role. There are also a number of expert, qualified staff in other areas, for example technical service centre, occupational health unit, community fire safety, information technology, finance, personnel, training, catering services, clerical and admin support and cleaning services who are not eligible to receive the medal. The Chief Fire Officer is aware that, due to the widespread financial implications for all services, the Government are committed to the present criteria.

#### **4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 In terms of the Diamond Jubilee Medal, all costs are to be met by Central Government and therefore there are no financial implications for the Authority.

#### **5 RECOMMENDATION**

- 5.1 The Authority is recommended to:-
- a) note the content of this report;
  - b) receive further reports as appropriate.

---

#### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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

- Diamond Jubilee Medals.

