

AGENDA ITEM:

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>MERSEYSIDE FIRE &amp; RESCUE AUTHORITY MEETING</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2010</b>
<b>REPORT NO.</b>	<b>CFO/033/10</b>
<b>REPORTING OFFICER:</b>	<b>ASSISTANT CHIEF FIRE OFFICER</b>
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	<b>SIMON RYAN, NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, EXTN. 4498</b>
<b>OFFICERS CONSULTED:</b>	<b>CHIEF FIRE OFFICER, DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE OFFICER</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>MFRS BRAVERY AWARD MEDAL</b>

**THERE ARE NO APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT**

Purpose of Report

1. To request that Members approve the recommendations of this report relating to the commissioning of a Bravery Award Medal.

Recommendation

2. That Members approve the commissioning of a Bravery Medal, to be awarded for acts of bravery by personnel which would not warrant a State or other award. Any award to be made at the discretion of the Chief Fire Officer based upon recommendations approved by the Services Awards Committee.

Introduction & Background

3. In common with several other UK Fire & Rescue Services, Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service have for 11 years issued their own Bravery Medal to fill a perceived gap between the award of a Chief Fire Officer Commendation or similar and the very rare State bravery awards.
4. The Lancashire Bravery Medal is struck in silver and bears the famous Edwardian image 'Saved' on its face, depicting a Firefighter carrying a child to safety from a burning building; on the reverse is the inscription 'For Bravery'. These medals are struck as and when required and are engraved on the rim with the recipient's name.
5. Currently the Chief Fire Officer may award his Commendation to individuals or a Watch for brave actions at incidents over and above what is expected from operational firefighters in the normal course of their duties.

6. In respect of more significant acts of bravery 4-levels of State Gallantry awards are available. None of these have however been awarded to a member of a brigade on Merseyside since 1946.
7. On Merseyside awards are also made by the Liverpool Shipwreck & Humane Society, they issue Letters/Parchments or medals. Since 1974 only 10 medals have been awarded to MF&RS personnel (6 Fire/3 Marine/1 General), the last fire medal being awarded in 1990.

#### Equality & Diversity Implications

8. Any measures proposed by the Authority will apply equally to all eligible staff.

#### Financial Implications & Value for Money

9. The costs can be funded from within existing budgets.

#### Health & Safety and Environmental Implications

10. None arising from this report.

#### Contribution to Achieving the Vision:

“To Make Merseyside a Safer, Stronger, Healthier Community”

11. The institution of a bravery medal will contribute to enhancing public recognition of the brave acts by Firefighters on Merseyside.