



**COUNCILLOR PHIL DAVIES**

**COUNCIL**

**Friday, 20 May 2016**

**HONORARY FREEDOM OF THE  
BOROUGH (POSTHUMOUS AWARD) -  
PC DAVID PHILLIPS (6554)**

**Councillor Phil Davies, Leader of the Council, said:**

*'We were all shocked when we heard that 'one of our own,' Wirral PC David Phillips, had been killed while carrying out his duties in Wallasey last October.*

*'When we opened a Book of Condolence at Wallasey Town Hall, I was struck by the queues that formed to pay tribute to this brave and dedicated man, who had obviously made a huge impression on the people he worked with.*

*'He had served with Merseyside Police on Wirral for almost a decade, and as well as being a highly professional police officer, it was obvious from the comments that people left in our Books of Condolence, that he was kind, polite and very caring.*

*'He was very proud of being a police officer and carried out his job with bravery and professionalism.*

*'We know he was a devoted family man, and we hope that offering Freedom of the Borough will go some small way to comforting his family, and demonstrating how much we appreciate the dedication of PC Phillips and all serving police officers like him who are required to go 'above and beyond' on a daily basis during the course of their duties.*

*'We owe him a huge debt of gratitude for his bravery and courage in public service.'*

**REPORT SUMMARY**

Under the Local Government Act 1972, the Council has the power to grant a person the title of Honorary Freeman or Freewoman of the Borough to persons of distinction who have rendered eminent service to the Borough.

PC David Phillips (6554), a 34 year old married father of two and resident of Wirral was a serving Merseyside Police Officer. He was on duty in Wallasey in the early hours of the morning on 5 October 2015 and died from internal injuries, when a vehicle he was trying to stop, hit him.

PC Phillips had served with Merseyside Police for approximately ten years and was an outstanding and well-respected Policeman. It is proposed to bestow the award of Freeman of the Borough (posthumously) on him.

This is a very significant step for the Council to take. Very few people have been awarded this status and, quite rightly, it should only be awarded to someone who has made an exceptional contribution to the Borough. PC Phillips is considered to be within this category.

Past recipients of this award are:

1993	LT Commander Ian Fraser, VC
1996	Mr Joseph Lynch, GC, BEM (GAL)
2005	Mr Ray Holmes
2006	The Right Reverend David Urquhart
2006	Lord Chan of Oxton
2010	Mr Stephen Maddox OBE

In order to confer this honour on PC David Phillips the Council will need to pass a resolution by not less than two-thirds of the Members voting thereon at a meeting of the Council specially convened for the purpose, where notice of the object of the meeting has been given. A scroll will then be presented to Mrs Phillips by the Mayor.

The Phillips family and Merseyside Police have been consulted on a possible date for this meeting and it is proposed that the Council holds an Extra-Ordinary meeting for the purpose of bestowing this award (posthumously) on PC David Phillips at 6pm on Friday, 20 May 2016 in the Council Chamber at Wallasey Town Hall. It is also proposed that following this meeting, because of the very special circumstances, a small reception is held in the Round Room for the Phillips family and invited guests only.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

**That in pursuance of the provisions of Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 and in recognition of his dedicated service and bravery during his 10 years of employment with Merseyside Police, PC David Phillips be posthumously admitted as an Honorary Freeman of this Borough.**

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

### 1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 To honour PC David Phillips (posthumously) for his bravery and for his eminent service to the Police and the people of Wirral.
- 1.2 PC Phillips was born on 29 August 1981 in the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, Heavitree and moved to the Wirral from Devon in 1988. He lived in Greasby, Thingwall, Thornton Hough (1998 - 2007) and Bebington (2007 – 2015).
- 1.3 David Phillips was a Special Constable with Merseyside Police (based on the Wirral) from 10 January 2006 until 22 July 2006. He then joined the Police on a full time basis.
- 1.4 PC Phillips' posting history is as follows:

From	To	Grade	Location	Organisation
24 July 2006	31 August 2006	Generic Rank/Grade	Generic Location	Generic Organisation
1 September 2006	1 April 2007	Probationer Constable	Bromborough	Professional Development Unit
2 April 2007	23 July 2008	Probationer Constable	Wallasey	Patrol East Wallasey Neighbourhood
24 July 2008	8 March 2009	Constable	Wallasey	Patrol East Wallasey Neighbourhood
9 March 2009	21 November 2010	Constable	Bromborough	Professional Development Unit
22 November 2010	30 March 2011	Constable	Wallasey	Patrol East Wallasey Neighbourhood
31 March 2011	21 February 2012	Constable	Wallasey	Neighbourhood Patrol, Wallasey
22 February 2012	28 October 2012	Constable	Birkenhead	Neighbourhood Patrol, Birkenhead
29 October 2012	5 October 2015	Constable	Wallasey	Neighbourhood Patrol, Wallasey

- 1.5 PC Phillips has been described as follows:

"David was kind, polite and very caring. He was very proud of being a police officer and carried out his job with bravery and professionalism. David always did everything to the best of his ability. He never accepted second best. He was very sociable, with a great sense of humour. His priorities in life were his family. He was a devoted Family man - perfect husband to Jennifer, wonderful father to Abigail and Sophie and a fantastic son to Carol and Robin. The family could not be more proud of him. They will dearly miss him and he will always be in their hearts."

## **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

2.1 No other options are being considered.

## **3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

3.1 The origin of the Freedom of the Borough goes back to early medieval times, when with the growth of the great English towns, there emerged a class of citizen known as Freemen, who enjoyed important privileges in the government of their own and in the matter of corporate property, as against strangers and the rest of the inhabitants.

3.2 With the passing of the Honorary Freedom of the Boroughs Act 1885 the dignity attached to the Office of Freeman was revived and enhanced. This Act conferred upon all Municipal Corporations the power to admit as Honorary Freeman of the Borough "persons of distinction and any persons who have rendered eminent services to the Borough". This can only be achieved by the Council voting at a specially called meeting.

3.3 The Freedom of the Borough is the highest award the Council can bestow.

## **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The modest financial implications can be met from within existing budgets.

## **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The Council may by a resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of the Members voting thereon at a meeting of the Council specifically convened for the purpose with notice of the purpose, admit to be Honorary Freemen or Freewoman of the place or area for which it is the authority persons/organisations of distinction and persons/organisations who have in its opinion rendered eminent services to the Borough. (Section 249(5), of the Local Government Act 1972.)

## **6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS**

6.1 There are no implications associated with staffing, ICT or assets.

## **7.0 ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION**

7.1 Merseyside Police has been consulted and is in favour of the proposals.

## **8.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 There are no equality implications.

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**APPENDICES None**

**REFERENCE MATERIAL**

**SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Cabinet</b>	<b>25 April 2016</b>