

TYNE AND WEAR FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

MEETING: 20 July 2009

**SUBJECT: ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF ACCIDENTS (RoSPA)
GOLD AWARD**

REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report informs Members of the award, for the fifth time, of the prestigious RoSPA Gold Award for the Authority's successful work in health, safety and welfare.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) Occupational Health and Safety Achievement Awards are regarded as a key means of demonstrating an organisation's commitment to health and safety.

2.2 More specifically, the RoSPA award process is not simply based on a reduction in the number of accidents and cases of ill health at work. The Awards criteria also require consideration of the extent to which organisations have managed to establish robust health and safety management systems and the means by which these are maintained and developed over time.

2.3 To this end, entrants into the Awards process are required to provide extensive evidence in respect of their health and safety management system and the impact that it has made, including the ability to demonstrate a consistently good, or continuously improving, accident and injury performance over the entry period (three years plus datum year).

3 RoSPA GOLD AWARD

3.1 Taking into account the information above, the Chief Fire Officer, is pleased to announce that the Authority has been awarded the prestigious RoSPA Gold Award for the fifth time. This achievement is an excellent reflection of the commitment and the comprehensive approach to ensuring a positive health and safety culture throughout the Service.

3.2 When considering whether to grant such an award, the responsible committee places particular emphasis upon the relationship between management, staff and representative bodies, health and safety communication and the continual reduction in accident statistics and, in this regard, Tyne and Wear was highly credited.

- 3.3 Consequently, the Award also reflects the work of representative bodies in actively engaging with management and Authority employees in order to ensure that a safe working environment is maintained for all staff.
- 3.4 David Rawlings, RoSPA Awards Manager said, "Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority have shown a commitment to protecting the health and wellbeing of its employees and others. We hope other businesses and organisations will follow its lead and strive for continuous improvement of health and safety management."
- 3.5 The RoSPA Gold Award will be presented at a formal ceremony on Thursday 24th September 2009. The Authority will receive a framed certificate and is entitled to use the Gold Award emblem on letter headings and fly the prestigious Gold Award flag.
- 3.6 In the opinion of the Chief Fire Officer the Gold Award is an achievement that all can be proud of and he wishes to record his appreciation to all members of staff for their role in maintaining a safe working environment. The Award will continue to provide the Authority with a benchmark for health and safety performance and help maintain an agenda for continuous improvement.

4 RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 The Authority is recommended to:-
- a) note the achievement of the RoSPA Gold Award, and
 - b) Agree that the Chief Fire Officer conveys congratulations and thanks to all staff and their representative bodies for their contribution in securing a safe working environment.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

- RoSPA Gold Award notification correspondence.