

MEETING: 18 JULY 2011

**SUBJECT: ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF ACCIDENTS (RoSPA)
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY GOLD AWARD****REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) Occupational Health and Safety Achievement Awards is considered as an ultimate testimonial to an organisation's commitment to health and safety. The awards, sponsored by NEBOSH (The National Examination Board in Occupational Health), is recognised as one of the highest methods of proving total commitment and continual improvement to the management of health and safety to all staff and stakeholders.
- 1.2 The RoSPA awards are not just about reducing the number of accidents and cases of ill health at work; they help to ensure that organisations have good health and safety management systems in place. Entering the awards scheme reinforces the message that good health and safety is good practice and clearly demonstrates an organisations dedication to achieving high levels of performance in this crucial area.
- 1.3 The scheme is based on assessment of a broad portfolio of evidence about the level of development and performance. Entrants must provide evidence of a good health and safety management system (for example, a gold award entrant would be expected to have in place a safety management system which is of, at least RoSPA Quality Safety Audit Level 2. Furthermore, the entrants must be able to demonstrate a consistently good or continuously improving accident and injury performance over the entry period (3 years plus datum year for Gold Awards).
- 1.4 The Chief Fire Officer and management team together with staff and union representatives of TWFRFA recognise the importance of health, safety and welfare as an integral part of all aspects of Fire Authority activities. The Chief Fire Officer, as the individual responsible for ensuring that the legal, moral and economical obligations of the Fire Authority are fulfilled, is fully committed to maintaining a positive health and safety culture within Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority

2 RoSPA GOLD AWARD

- 2.1 Taking the above into account, the Chief Fire Officer, is pleased to announce that Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority has been awarded the prestigious RoSPA Gold Award for the seventh time. This achievement is an excellent reflection of the

commitment and team approach to the positive health and safety culture that exists within all levels throughout the Service.

- 2.2 To achieve the Gold Award organisations must demonstrate constructive between management, staff and representative bodies as well as robust health and safety communication and a continual decline in accident statistics. In addition, particular emphasis is placed upon the co-operation and arrangements for management and employees to work together in order to achieve the goal of a safe working environment.
- 2.3 Maintaining this Award will provide the Authority with a benchmark for health and safety performance and set an agenda for continuous improvement. The Authority will gain recognition through positive PR and employee awareness. Moral should be raised in the knowledge of the employer's commitment to their health, safety and welfare.
- 2.4 The Award also reflects on the work of representative bodies that continue to demonstrate their continuous commitment to health, safety and welfare within the Service and are actively engaged with Authority employee's to ensure a safe working environment is maintained for all staff.

3. RoSPA SUSTAINED ACHIEVEMENT

- 3.1 Last year as the winner of the RoSPA Gold Medal Award (5 consecutive Gold's) the RoSPA Awards Adjudication Panel has recommended that Tyne and Wear Fire & Rescue Authority be awarded their seventh RoSPA Gold Award for Occupational Health and Safety. This sustained achievement award places TWFR on course for the next category of the President's Award.
- 3.2 David Rawlings, RoSPA Awards Manager said, "Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority continue to show a commitment to protecting the health and wellbeing of its employees and others. Organisations which do this deserve to have such dedicated recognised and that's where RoSPA come in."

"As well as there being clear ethical reasons and legal requirements for good health and safety management, there is also a strong business case. RoSPA is delighted to publicly honour organisations which have demonstrated their work to improve performance in this sphere. We hope other businesses and organisations will follow its lead and strive for continuous improvement of health and safety management."
- 3.3 The RoSPA Gold Award will be presented at a ceremony on Thursday 22nd September 2011. The Authority will again receive a framed certificate and is entitled to use the Gold Award emblem on letter headings and fly the prestigious Gold Award flag.

- 3.4 The Chief Fire Officer emphasises that the RoSPA Gold Award is an excellent accolade for the Authority and its employees. He also wishes to record his appreciation to all members of staff for their direct responsibility for health, safety and welfare, and in seeking to maintain a safe working environment. To achieve the Gold Award for a seventh time is particularly pleasing and demonstrates the Authority's continuing commitment to improving health, safety and welfare.

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 The Authority is recommended to:-

- a) Recognise the accolade given to the Authority in maintaining 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 to a safe working environment.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

- RoSPA Gold Award notification correspondence.

