

## Oldham Business Awards 2026

### Business of the Year £5m+

The winning business will have a turnover of more than **£5million** and must be able to demonstrate outstanding leadership and vision and a successful performance against its objectives. The judges will consider businesses operating in any commercial or industrial sector but are looking for evidence of success in finding new import/export opportunities, new product/service development and/or new production techniques. The judges are also asking businesses to demonstrate the Local economic, social and environmental benefit that their business provides.

Category	Description
<b>Financial Performance</b>	<b>Assess if any/all of the following statements apply to the nomination:</b> The company is in good financial health The company has clear financial goals
<b>Leadership &amp; Vision</b>	<b>Assess if any/all of the following statements apply to the nomination:</b> The company has a clear direction and purpose They inspire loyalty and caring through the involvement of employees They display excellent values and beliefs They inspire enthusiasm, commitment and excitement in company employees They help employees believe that they are part of something bigger than themselves and their daily work.
<b>Growth opportunities</b>	<b>Assess of any/all of the following statements apply to the nomination:</b> The company has developed and implemented a clear growth strategy and is showing progression to that strategy. Is there a five year plan in place?
<b>Environmental Focus</b>	<b>Assess if any/all of the following statements apply to the nomination:</b> What has this company done to improve its operational efficiency and reduce the environmental impact and/or carbon footprint of the business operations? Has this company seized business opportunities associated with climate change by developing and or finding new markets for their products or services that help their customers reduce their carbon emissions?
<b>Employee Development</b>	<b>Assess if any/all of the following statements apply to the nomination:</b> Does this company focus on employee development by way of any of the following, or similar: Pursuit of appropriate Qualifications Coaching Secondments Mentoring Study Tours Competence Assurance Research Fellowships Networking Attendance At Conferences & Seminars Distance Learning
<b>Community Impact</b>	<b>Has the nominee contributed to the local community which has seen benefits in local economic or social benefits?</b>
<b>Quality of the nomination submission</b>	<b>What level of effort was taken in compiling the nomination submission? Did they take into account the criteria for the category specified on the nomination form when submitting the entry?</b>

## Oldham Business Awards 2026

### Business of the Year £1m - £5m

The winning business will have a turnover between **£1million and £5 million** and must be able to demonstrate outstanding leadership and vision and a successful performance against its objectives. The judges will consider businesses operating in any commercial or industrial sector but are looking for evidence of success in finding new import/export opportunities, new product/service development and/or new production techniques. The judges are also asking businesses to demonstrate the Local economic, social and environmental benefit that their business provides.

Category	Description
<b>Financial Performance</b>	<b>Assess if any/all of the following statements apply to the nomination:</b> The company is in good financial health The company has clear financial goals
<b>Leadership &amp; Vision</b>	<b>Assess if any/all of the following statements apply to the nomination:</b> The company has a clear direction and purpose They inspire loyalty and caring through the involvement of employees They display excellent values and beliefs They inspire enthusiasm, commitment and excitement in company employees They help employees believe that they are part of something bigger than themselves and their daily work.
<b>Growth opportunities</b>	<b>Assess of any/all of the following statements apply to the nomination:</b> The company has developed and implemented a clear growth strategy and is showing progression to that strategy. Where would you like to be in five years?
<b>Environmental Focus</b>	<b>Assess if any/all of the following statements apply to the nomination:</b> What has this company done to improve its operational efficiency and reduce the environmental impact and/or carbon footprint of the business operations? Has this company seized business opportunities associated with climate change by developing and or finding new markets for their products or services that help their customers reduce their carbon emissions?
<b>Employee Development</b>	<b>Assess if any/all of the following statements apply to the nomination:</b> Does this company focus on employee development by way of any of the following, or similar: Pursuit of appropriate Qualifications Coaching Secondments Mentoring Study Tours Competence Assurance Research Fellowships Networking Attendance At Conferences & Seminars Distance Learning
<b>Community Impact</b>	<b>Has the nominee contributed to the local community which has seen benefits in local economic or social benefits?</b>
<b>Quality of the nomination submission</b>	<b>What level of effort was taken in compiling the nomination submission? Did they take into account the criteria for the category specified on the nomination form when submitting the entry?</b>

## Oldham Business Awards 2026

### Business of the Year < £1m

The winning business will have a turnover **under £1million** and must be able to demonstrate outstanding leadership and vision and a successful performance against its objectives. The judges will consider businesses operating in any commercial or industrial sector but are looking for evidence of success in finding new import/export opportunities, new product/service development and/or new production techniques. The judges are also asking businesses to demonstrate the local economic, social and environmental benefit that their business provides.

Category	Description
<b>Financial Performance</b>	<b>Assess if any/all of the following statements apply to the nomination:</b> The company is in good financial health The company has clear financial goals
<b>Leadership &amp; Vision</b>	<b>Assess if any/all of the following statements apply to the nomination:</b> The company has a clear direction and purpose They inspire loyalty and caring through the involvement of employees They display excellent values and beliefs They inspire enthusiasm, commitment and excitement in company employees They help employees believe that they are part of something bigger than themselves and their daily work.
<b>Growth opportunities</b>	<b>Assess if any/all of the following statements apply to the nomination:</b> The company has developed and implemented a clear growth strategy and is showing progression to that strategy. Where would you like to be in five years?
<b>Environmental Focus</b>	<b>Assess if any/all of the following statements apply to the nomination:</b> What has this company done to improve its operational efficiency and reduce the environmental impact and/or carbon footprint of the business operations? Has this company seized business opportunities associated with climate change by developing and or finding new markets for their products or services that help their customers reduce their carbon emissions?
<b>Employee Development</b>	<b>Assess if any/all of the following statements apply to the nomination:</b> Does this company focus on employee development by way of any of the following, or similar: Pursuit of appropriate Qualifications Coaching Secondments Mentoring Study Tours Competence Assurance Research Fellowships Networking Attendance At Conferences & Seminars Distance Learning
<b>Community Impact</b>	<b>Has the nominee contributed to the local community which has seen benefits in local economic or social benefits?</b>
<b>Quality of the nomination submission</b>	<b>What level of effort was taken in compiling the nomination submission? Did they take into account the criteria for the category specified on the nomination form when submitting the entry?</b>

### Micro Business of the Year – The Dawn Torrington Award

The winning business will have between 2 and 9 staff, have been trading 3+ years and must be able to demonstrate successful performance against its objectives. The judges will consider businesses operating in any commercial or industrial sector but are looking for evidence of sales growth, profit achievement and a satisfied customer base. The judges will take into consideration outstanding leadership & vision and commitment to employees through development & training. The judges are also asking businesses to demonstrate the local economic, social and environmental benefit that their business provides. Tell us what makes your business a contender for this award, what sets your company apart from your rivals and why your business should win this award.

Category	Description
<b>Financial Performance</b>	<b>Assess if any/all of the following statements apply to the nomination:</b> The company is in good financial health The company has clear financial goals
<b>Leadership &amp; Vision</b>	<b>Assess if any/all of the following statements apply to the nomination:</b> The company has a clear direction and purpose They inspire loyalty and caring through the involvement of employees They display excellent values and beliefs They inspire enthusiasm, commitment and excitement in company employees They help employees believe that they are part of something bigger than themselves and their daily work.
<b>Growth opportunities</b>	<b>Assess of any/all of the following statements apply to the nomination:</b> The company has developed and implemented a clear growth strategy and is showing progression to that strategy. Where would you like to be in five years?
<b>Environmental Focus</b>	<b>Assess if any/all of the following statements apply to the nomination:</b> What has this company done to improve its operational efficiency and reduce the environmental impact and/or carbon footprint of the business operations? Has this company seized business opportunities associated with climate change by developing and or finding new markets for their products or services that help their customers reduce their carbon emissions?
<b>Employee Development</b>	<b>Assess if any/all of the following statements apply to the nomination:</b> Does this company focus on employee development by way of any of the following, or similar: Pursuit of appropriate Qualifications Coaching Secondments Mentoring Study Tours Competence Assurance Research Fellowships Networking Attendance At Conferences & Seminars Distance Learning
<b>Community Impact</b>	<b>Has the nominee contributed to the local community which has seen benefits in local economic or social benefits?</b>
<b>Quality of the nomination submission</b>	<b>What level of effort was taken in compiling the nomination submission? Did they take into account the criteria for the category specified on the nomination form when submitting the entry?</b>

## Oldham Business Awards 2026

### Business Person of the Year

The winner of this category will be an **Oldham-based individual** who has made a significant business contribution to the Borough. This award is aimed at individuals at all levels, from chairman of a large entity to sole trader. The contribution could be by way of improving financial performance, developing new products, developing people or it could just be something special he or she has brought to the business life of Oldham. It could be someone who has fired the imagination by an innovative approach.

<b>Category</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Business achievements to date</b>	<b>What are this individual's main business achievements and successes and what role did they play?</b> Started a successful business(es) Developed a successful product/business idea Contributed to successful business growth Supported others to start/develop a successful business
<b>Personal Qualities</b>	<b>Assess if any/all of the following statements apply to the nomination:</b> The nominee has displayed some or all of the following qualities: Integrity, leadership Commitment, vision Entrepreneurial abilities and business planning Personal contribution to their organisation over and above their normal work duties
<b>Drive &amp; Ambition</b>	<b>Assess if any/all of the following statements apply to the nomination:</b> Is there evidence of a concerted drive and ambition from the nominee in overcoming setbacks and setting out goals for the business? Where do you want to be in five years?
<b>Community Impact</b>	<b>Has the nominee contributed to the local community which has seen benefits in local economic or social benefits?</b>
<b>Quality of the nomination submission</b>	<b>What level of effort was taken in compiling the nomination submission? Did they take into account the criteria for the category specified on the nomination form when submitting the entry?</b>

**Workforce Health & Wellbeing Award**

This award seeks to recognise and champion the incredible steps taken by those businesses that are creating an environment for their employees to succeed. These businesses will be able to demonstrate their commitment to the health and wellbeing of their workforce.

Judges will be looking for those businesses that have developed and implemented an effective, holistic strategy which has had a proven and significant positive impact on the wellbeing of its workforce.

Category	Description
<p><b>Workplace culture and practices support Health and Wellbeing</b></p>	<p><b>Assess if any/all of the following statements apply to the nomination:</b>                      Is there evidence that the Employer encourages activities that improve health and wellbeing?                      Do the leaders of the organisation set an example to their teams that health and wellbeing are important?                      Does the workplace environment prioritise health and wellbeing of the workforce?                      Can the employer demonstrate an innovative approach to promoting health and wellbeing?                      Is there evidence that the positive approach to health and wellbeing permeates all levels in the workforce?</p>
<p><b>Staff Terms and Conditions are conducive to health and wellbeing</b></p>	<p><b>Assess if any/all of the following statements apply to the nomination:</b>                      Does the Employer provide or subsidise activities that improve health &amp; wellbeing?                      Does the Employer offer flexibility in working and terms that enhance work/life balance?                      Are there non-remunerative benefits provided that encourage health and wellbeing?</p>
<p><b>Employee satisfaction and retention</b></p>	<p><b>Assess if any/all of the following statements apply to the nomination:</b>                      Can the Employer demonstrate the positive impact of their interventions and practices that promote health and wellbeing of their workforce?                      Do staff recognise and appreciate that their Employer goes 'above and beyond' in promoting health and wellbeing in the workplace?</p>
<p><b>A commercially successful business</b></p>	<p><b>Assess if any/all of the following statements apply to the nomination:</b>                      Is the business commercially successful?                      Is there evidence of a positive impact on productivity as well as on recruitment and retention of staff and can this be linked to an improvement in staff health and wellbeing?</p>
<p><b>Quality of the nomination submission</b></p>	<p><b>What level of effort was taken in compiling the nomination submission? Did they take into account the criteria for the category specified on the nomination form when submitting the entry?</b></p>

### Start - Up Business

For businesses that have been active for 3 years or less at the time of application. Please provide your date of registration or trading start date within the application. Launching your own business requires a wide range of skills and qualities (and a fair degree of courage). The winner will be able to demonstrate that from the initial seed of an idea they identified an opportunity in the marketplace; developed, manufactured or sourced a product or service; took this to customers and successfully made sales. The judges will take into consideration sales growth, profit achievement, number of people employed and evidence of a satisfied customer base. Tell us what makes your business a contender for this award, what sets your company apart from your rivals and why your business should win this award.

Category	Description
<b>Commercial / Competitive position</b>	<p><b>What are the main benefits attributed to this nomination. Assess if any/all of the following statements apply to the nomination:</b></p> <p>The business identified a viable opportunity to take to the market place.                      The business has established a footprint in the market place.                      Has raised its own profile to the general public                      The company has a strategy that takes into account the competition in the same market sector</p>
<b>Growth Potential</b>	<p><b>Assess if any/all of the following statements apply to the nomination:</b></p> <p>The nomination has the potential to increase its market share</p>
<b>Business Planning</b>	<p><b>Assess if any/all of the following statements apply to the nomination:</b></p> <p>There is evidence to show that a structured integrated business plan has been developed that identifies short and long term goals and aspirations, where do you want to be in five years?</p>
<b>Financial Management</b>	<p><b>Assess if any/all of the following statements apply to the nomination:</b></p> <p>Evidence of proactive use of systems/processes to ensure professional and structured financial control.</p>
<b>Employment Potential</b>	<p><b>Has this company got the potential to increase its staff? Assess if any/all of the following statements apply to the nomination:</b></p> <p>Does any growth potential create an opportunity for employment?</p>
<b>Will winning this award help the business to grow?</b>	<p><b>Assess whether any/all of the following statements apply to the nomination:</b></p> <p>Do you believe that this award will create an opportunity to grow the business?                      Do you believe this company will take advantage of using this award to further promote its business?</p>
<b>Community Impact</b>	<p>Has the nominee contributed to the local community which has seen benefits in local economic or social benefits?</p>
<b>Quality of the nomination submission</b>	<p>What level of effort was taken in compiling the nomination submission? Did they <b>take into account the criteria for the category specified on the nomination form when submitting the entry.</b></p>

## Oldham Business Awards 2026

### Young Entrepreneur

The judges are looking for an individual who has shown the desire to succeed and who has the flair, drive and the ambition to make it happen. Open to those **aged 35 and under on 31<sup>st</sup> Aug 2026**, this category seeks out the best young entrepreneur in Oldham. The winner will be able to demonstrate to the judges a high degree of entrepreneurship, great potential to succeed and a well-defined vision for the future

Category	Description
<b>Business achievements to date</b>	<b>What are this individual's main business achievements and successes and what role did they play?</b> Started a successful business(es) Developed a successful product/business idea Contributed to successful business growth Supported others to start/develop a successful business
<b>Drive &amp; Ambition</b>	<b>Assess if any/all of the following statements apply to the nomination:</b> Is there evidence of a concerted drive and ambition from the nominee in overcoming setbacks and setting out goals for the business? Where do you want to be in five years?
<b>Personal Qualities</b>	<b>Assess if any/all of the following statements apply to the nomination:</b> The nominee has displayed some or all of the following qualities: Integrity, leadership Commitment, vision Entrepreneurial abilities and business planning Personal contribution to their organisation over and above their normal work duties
<b>Community Impact</b>	<b>Have there been any local economic or social benefits as a result of this nomination?</b>
<b>Quality of the nomination submission</b>	<b>What level of effort was taken in compiling the nomination submission? Did they take into account the criteria for the category specified on the nomination form when submitting the entry?</b>

### Supporting Young People

The winning business will be able to demonstrate an on-going programme of providing young people (**up to the age of 30**) with career support. This can be through apprenticeships, or by providing work experience, to ultimately increase the skills and qualifications of the young people and providing excellent career pathways.

Organisations must be able to evidence how their support for young people has helped their business to develop. Judges will take into consideration examples of this support and case studies.

Category	Description
<b>Apprenticeships</b>	<b>Assess if any/all of the following statements apply to the nomination:</b> Has the company provided any apprenticeships this year? If so, what type of apprenticeship, and how have the apprentice/s progressed. How is the company supporting them through the whole experience?
<b>Work Experience</b>	<b>Assess if any/all of the following statements apply to the nomination:</b> Has the company provided any form of work experience? This could be for school pupils, or for those in further education such a college or university. Also any opportunities that the company have provided for young people currently out of work
<b>Business Benefits</b>	<b>Assess of any/all of the following statements apply to the nomination:</b> How have these opportunities and apprenticeships benefitted the business? Have there been some really innovative ideas from the apprentices or has a volunteer brought some much needed creativity to the organisation?
<b>Case Study</b>	<b>Assess if any/all of the following statements apply to the nomination:</b> Does the business have an example of how a young person has excelled within the company, and truly benefitted from the opportunity that the organisation has provided them with?
<b>Community Impact</b>	<b>As a result of the company supporting young people, have there been any local social or economic benefits?</b>
<b>Quality of the nomination submission</b>	<b>What level of effort was taken in compiling the nomination submission? Did they take into account the criteria for the category specified on the nomination form when submitting the entry.</b>

## Community Impact Award

How does your organisation make a meaningful difference to the communities it serves? Social Value can be delivered in many ways; through volunteering, charitable activity, local employment, skills support, environmental initiatives, partnerships, or wider contributions to community wellbeing. These efforts often go unrecognised, no matter the size or type of organisation. If your organisation, or one you work with, has gone above and beyond its expected role in supporting people, places, or the planet, this award is for them. We welcome nominations from charities, not-for-profits, social enterprises, public sector partners, and corporate organisations of all sizes.

Judges will be looking for strong examples of impact, backed by evidence, stories, and case studies that demonstrate meaningful and sustained contribution to the community.

Category	Description
<b>Local Engagement</b>	<b>Assess if any/all of the following statements apply to the nomination:</b> Does the organisation volunteer in their local community? Are there examples of work with local schools or local community groups? Has the organisation forged strong links with other local businesses to enhance their supply chain? Do they support other businesses in the community or upskill local people?
<b>Charitable and Social Value Activity</b>	<b>Assess if any/all of the following statements apply to the nomination:</b> What charitable activity has the organisation led? What partnerships, fundraising opportunities or donations have they made to improve the local community?
<b>Organisational Development</b>	<b>Assess if any/all of the following statements apply to the nomination:</b> Demonstrate how implementing a socially responsible culture within the organisation has benefited the business
<b>Case Study</b>	<b>Please provide us with examples/written case study detailing your community impact projects.</b>
<b>Quality of the nomination submission</b>	<b>What level of effort was taken in compiling the nomination submission? Did they take into account the criteria for the category specified on the nomination form when submitting the entry.</b>

## Oldham Business Awards 2026

### Heart of the High Street

This award celebrates the businesses that are at the heart of our high streets and communities. Those who consistently serve their customers with dedication, resilience and genuine care. Whether you're a hospitality venue, retail outlet, independent trader, or long-established local service provider, your impact matters.

In today's challenging climate, profitability can be tough for customer-facing businesses. That's why this category recognises more than financial growth. We're looking for organisations that create welcoming spaces, deliver exceptional service, support local people, and act as community cornerstones. This includes everything from restaurants, cafés and shops to hairdressers, beauticians, florists and other long-standing local businesses with loyal customer bases.

If your organisation, or one you admire, has demonstrated outstanding service, community commitment, customer loyalty or creative resilience, nominate them for this award. Judges will welcome customer testimonials, stories of impact, and examples that show how the business consistently goes above and beyond for the neighbourhood it serves.

Category	Description
<b>Local Impact</b>	<b>Assess if any/all of the following statements apply to the nomination:</b> What impact does this business have on the local community Does it employ or upskill residents? How much of a community have they built in the time they have been around? How are they ensuring that they establish themselves as a pillar in the community and what are their plans for the future?
<b>Customer service</b>	Does this organisation provide excellent customer service? What do they do that sets them apart from other businesses? How do they maintain such high levels of customer service?
<b>Quality of customer testimonials</b>	Do they provide testimonials that clearly reference the organisation's <i>community role, local benefit, or customer experience</i> . These testimonials can include trust pilot and google reviews How detailed are the stories that directly support the claims made in the nomination.
<b>Quality of the nomination submission</b>	<b>What level of effort was taken in compiling the nomination submission? Did they take into account the criteria for the category specified on the nomination form when submitting the entry.</b>

### Sustainable innovation

We're looking for a project that is delivering real, practical change through sustainability-led innovation. Whether it's a new product, a redesigned internal process, or a collaborative partnership, we want to celebrate initiatives that are making a measurable difference. Open to all sectors and organisation types, this category rewards initiatives created with clear purpose and strong, evidence-based impact. This might include reducing waste or energy use, introducing sustainable materials, improving environmental performance, or delivering benefits for both people and the planet.

If your organisation, or one of your suppliers, has developed a sustainability project with meaningful outcomes, clear reasoning, and proven results, nominate them for this award. Judges will be looking for the story behind the innovation and evidence of the difference it has made. Projects must have been initiated within the last 5 years and already be delivering results to be considered.

Category	Description
<b>Purpose &amp; the problem addressed</b>	<b>Assess if any/all of the following statements apply to the nomination:</b> What is the scale of the problem this innovation addresses? Have they clearly considered the impact their innovation will make and why its needed. Did they embark on this journey for the right reasons?
<b>Innovation &amp; Creativity</b>	<b>Assess if any/all of the following statements apply to the nomination:</b> How does this solution differ from those already on the market Have they explained their thought process on design and the time taken to get to where they are now What hurdles did they face
<b>Execution and Impact</b>	<b>Assess if any/all of the following statements apply to the nomination:</b> What impact has this already had on their business? Are there any measured outcomes to prove the concept? What behaviour change has been seen as a result
<b>Wider Community Impact and scalability.</b>	Is the model replicable and can others benefit from it? What's the long-term impact of its creation?
<b>Quality of the nomination submission</b>	<b>What level of effort was taken in compiling the nomination submission? Did they take into account the criteria for the category specified on the nomination form when submitting the entry?</b>