



ENTRY GUIDELINES



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.



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.





BUSINESS OF THE YEAR < £1M

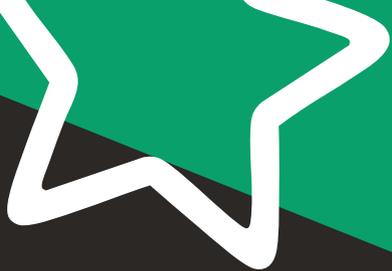
The winning business will have a turnover under £1million and must be able to demonstrate outstanding leadership and vision and a successful performance against its objectives.

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.

MICRO BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

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.



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.



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.





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.



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 31st 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





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.

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.

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.

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.





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