



**HILLINGDON
BUSINESS
AWARDS 2025**

Judging Criteria

Submissions open

17th July - 25th October 2024

Hillingdon Business Awards 2025

Welcome

Welcome to the first Hillingdon Business Awards!

We're here to celebrate the hard work and accomplishments of amazing entrepreneurs and businesses based or operating in the London Borough of Hillingdon.

From business success to environmental stewardship, we have so much to be proud of.

Let's get started!

Award Categories

1. SME - Sector Leadership Awards
2. SME- Excellence in Sustainability and Innovation Awards
3. Corporate Leadership Excellence Awards
4. Next Generation Awards
5. Individual Leadership Award
6. Overall Winner: Hillingdon Company of the Year

The Judging Process

The judging panel is made up of experts across industry and sector.

Judged independently, winners are selected from a shortlist of the top entries.

The judges then evaluate category winners against the criteria below and may award a commendation to a close runner-up.

1. SME Sector Leadership Categories

These awards recognise excellence in various categories in the SME landscape across the Borough.

The winner of SME sector excellence awards could range from a sole trader through to a SME services firm, in their sector or category, based or operating in the London Borough of Hillingdon.

For these categories, judges are looking for an approach that highlights a successful strategy, financial performance, customer delight and innovative approaches.

1. SME Sector Leadership Categories

1.1 Business Service Company of the Year

1.2 Retail Business of the Year

1.3 Hospitality & Leisure Business of the Year

1.4 Creative / Media Business of the Year

1.5 Education & Training Provider of the Year

1.6 Charity / Social Enterprise of the Year

1.7 Technology Company of the Year

1.1 Business Service Company of the Year

This award recognises business services companies, providing services to other businesses, that demonstrates an exceptional approach and results in providing value to their clients and sets high standards for excellence in customer service and problem solving for their customers.

Open to:

- SME business services firm in any business services discipline.
- Both members and non-members of the Hillingdon Chamber of Commerce.
- Businesses based or operating in the London Borough of Hillingdon.

1.1 Business Service Company of the Year

Evidence to meet the criteria for Award Entry

Please share how your performance meets the criteria and sets you apart from your competitors in each of these areas.

1. Evidence of Criteria 1: Clear objective setting, strategy & plan formation, with matching rigour in implementation and measurement. Your response should include what the objective(s) was, how this was implemented, and what the results were. (Max 20,000 characters)
2. Evidence of Criteria 2: Problem solving- Creativity in solving problems or approaching new issues in the sector. Your response should set out the problem or issue, how the problem/issue was solved and what the outcome was. (Max 20,000 characters)
3. Evidence of Criteria 3: Evidence of customer delight – such as new business wins or exceptional customer retention, or significant customer success after acting on advice or using products/services. We would encourage submitting evidence e.g. customer testimonials/rating on Trustpilot, etc. (Max 20,000 characters)
4. Evidence of Criteria 4: Rate of Growth- Key performance measures, particularly turnover and profit for last three years. (Max 20,000 characters)
5. Evidence of Criteria 5: Value proposition- Evidence of how the business adds real value to its customers. (Max 20,000 characters)

1.2 Retail Business of the Year

This award recognises retail businesses, online, shop based or offline, that demonstrates exceptional approach and results using innovative approaches / products / services to serve its customers.

Open to

- Retail SME businesses, online, offline or shop based.
- Both members and non-members of the Hillingdon Chamber of Commerce.
- Businesses based or operating in the London Borough of Hillingdon.

1.2 Retail Business of the Year

Evidence to meet the criteria for Award Entry

Please share how your performance meets the criteria and sets you apart from your competitors in each of these areas.

1. Evidence of Criteria 1: Clear objective setting, strategy & plan formation, with matching rigour in implementation and measurement. Your response should include what the objective(s) was, how this was implemented, and what the results were. (Max 20,000 characters)
2. Evidence of Criteria 2: Problem solving- Creativity in solving problems or approaching new issues in the sector. Your response should set out the problem or issue, how the problem/issue was solved and what the outcome was. (Max 20,000 characters)
3. Evidence of Criteria 3: Evidence of customer delight – such as new business wins or exceptional customer retention, or significant customer delight after busying products/services. We would encourage submitting evidence e.g. customer testimonials/rating on Trustpilot, etc. (Max 20,000 characters)
4. Evidence of Criteria 4: Rate of Growth- Key performance measures, particularly turnover and profit for last three years. (Max 20,000 characters)
5. Evidence of Criteria 5: Innovation and Approach- Evidence of how the business uses innovative approaches/products/services to reach and serve its customers. (Max 20,000 characters)

1.3 Hospitality & Leisure Business of the Year

This award recognises hospitality & leisure business that sets the standard in delivering exceptional customer experiences, innovative services and outstanding service within the Hospitality and Leisure industry.

Open to

- SME business in hospitality and leisure sector.
- Both members and non-members of the Hillingdon Chamber of Commerce.
- Businesses based or operating in the London Borough of Hillingdon.

1.3 Hospitality & Leisure Business of the Year

Evidence to meet the criteria for Award Entry

Please share how your performance meets the criteria and sets you apart from your competitors in each of these areas.

1. Evidence of Criteria 1: Clear objective setting, strategy & plan formation, with matching rigour in implementation and measurement. Your response should include what the objective(s) was, how this was implemented, and what the results were. (Max 20,000 characters)
2. Evidence of Criteria 2: Problem solving- Creativity in solving problems or approaching new issues in the sector. Your response should set out the problem or issue, how the problem/issue was solved and what the outcome was. (Max 20,000 characters)
3. Evidence of Criteria 3: Evidence of customer delight – such as new business wins or exceptional customer retention, or significant customer success after acting on advice or buying products/services. We would encourage submitting evidence e.g. customer testimonials/rating on Trustpilot, etc. (Max 20,000 characters)
4. Evidence of Criteria 4: Rate of Growth- Key performance measures, particularly turnover and profit for last three years. (Max 20,000 characters)
5. Evidence of Criteria 5: Innovation and Approach- Evidence of how the business uses innovative approaches/products/services to reach and serve its customers and adds value. (Max 20,000 characters)

1.4 Creative/Media Business of the Year

This award recognises a creative / media business that demonstrates exceptional creativity, innovation and excellence in its industry, setting high standard for originality and expression.

Open to

- Creative / Media businesses.
- Both members and non-members of the Hillingdon Chamber of Commerce.
- Businesses based or operating in the London Borough of Hillingdon.

1.4 Creative/Media Business of the Year

Evidence to meet the criteria for Award Entry

Please share how your performance meets the criteria and sets you apart from your competitors in each of these areas.

1. Evidence of Criteria 1: Clear objective setting, strategy & plan formation, with matching rigour in implementation and measurement. Your response should include what the objective(s) was, how this was implemented, and what the results were. (Max 20,000 characters)
2. Evidence of Criteria 2: Problem solving- Creativity in solving problems or approaching new issues in the sector. Your response should set out the problem or issue, how the problem/issue was solved and what the outcome was. (Max 20,000 characters)
3. Evidence of Criteria 3: Evidence of customer delight – such as new business wins or exceptional customer retention, or significant customer success after acting on advice or buying products/services. We would encourage submitting evidence e.g. customer testimonials/rating on Trustpilot, etc. (Max 20,000 characters)
4. Evidence of Criteria 4: Rate of Growth- Key performance measures, particularly turnover and profit for last three years. (Max 20,000 characters)
5. Evidence of Criteria 5: Innovation & Creativity- How has your business demonstrated innovation and creativity in the past year, and what were some of your key accomplishments setting you apart from competitors. (Max 20,000 characters)

1.5 Education & Training Provider of Year

This award recognises a company that has demonstrated excellence in delivering high quality education and training programmes, equipping learners with the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in their respective fields.

Open to

- Education and training providers.
- Both members and non-members of the Hillingdon Chamber of Commerce.
- Organisations based or operating in the London Borough of Hillingdon.

1.5 Education & Training Provider of Year

Evidence to meet the criteria for Award Entry

Please share how your performance meets the criteria and sets you apart from your competitors in each of these areas.

1. Evidence of Criteria 1: Clear objective setting, strategy & plan formation, with matching rigour in implementation and measurement. Your response should include what the objective(s) was, how this was implemented, and what the results were. (Max 20,000 characters)
2. Evidence of Criteria 2: Problem solving- Creativity in solving problems or approaching new issues in the sector. Your response should set out the problem or issue, how the problem/issue was solved and what the outcome was. (Max 20,000 characters)
3. Evidence of Criteria 3: Evidence of customer delight – such as significant customer/student success after delivering the support/training. We would encourage submitting evidence e.g. customer testimonials/rating on Trustpilot, etc. (Max 20,000 characters)
4. Evidence of Criteria 4: Rate of Growth- Key performance measures, particularly turnover and profit for last three years. (Max 20,000 characters)
5. Evidence of Criteria 5: Social Value and impact- Evidence of how the business add value and makes a positive impact Hillingdon's economy through their high-quality provision. (Max 20,000 characters)

1.6 Charity/Social Enterprise of the Year

This award recognises Charities / Social Enterprises that demonstrate outstanding commitment, impact and innovation in addressing social issues or environmental challenges, making a significant difference in the lives of others and contributing to society's well-being.

Open to

- Charities / Social Enterprises.
- Both members and non-members of the Hillingdon Chamber of Commerce.
- Charities / Social enterprises based or operating in the London Borough of Hillingdon.

1.6 Charity/Social Enterprise of the Year

Evidence to meet the criteria for Award Entry

Please share how your performance meets the criteria and sets you apart from your competitors in each of these areas.

1. Evidence of Criteria 1: Clear objective setting, strategy & plan formation, with matching rigour in implementation and measurement. Your response should include what the objective(s) was, how this was implemented, and what the results were. (Max 20,000 characters)
2. Evidence of Criteria 2: Problem solving- Creativity in solving problems or approaching new issues in the sector. Your response should set out the problem or issue, how the problem/issue was solved and what the outcome was. (Max 20,000 characters)
3. Evidence of Criteria 3: Strategic Partnerships – building partnerships with other organisations and stakeholder engagement to build awareness and engagement for Charities mission. (Max 20,000 characters)
4. Evidence of Criteria 4: Rate of Growth- Key performance measures, social value, impact, fundraising and financials for last three years. (Max 20,000 characters)
5. Evidence of Criteria 5: Contribution to community- Evidence of how the charity creates social impact and contributes to the wider community's well-being. (Max 20,000 characters)

1.7 Technology Company of the Year

This award recognises Technology companies that demonstrates exceptional innovation, technological prowess, and market impact within the tech industry.

Open to:

- Any technology-based business.
- Both members and non-members of the Hillingdon Chamber of Commerce.
- Businesses based or operating in the London Borough of Hillingdon.

1.7 Technology Company of the Year

Evidence to meet the criteria for Award Entry

Please share how your performance meets the criteria and sets you apart from your competitors in each of these areas.

1. Evidence of Criteria 1: Clear objective setting, strategy & plan formation, with matching rigour in implementation and measurement. Your response should include what the objective(s) was, how this was implemented, and what the results were. (Max 20,000 characters)
2. Evidence of Criteria 2: Innovation and Problem solving- Exceptional innovation and creativity in solving problems or approaching new issues in the sector using technology and creating an impact within the tech industry. Your response should set out the problem or issue, how the problem/issue was solved and what the outcome was. (Max 20,000 characters)
3. Evidence of Criteria 3: Evidence of customer delight – such as new business wins or exceptional customer retention, or significant customer success after acting on advice or using products/services. We would encourage submitting evidence e.g. customer testimonials/rating on Trustpilot, etc. (Max 20,000 characters)
4. Evidence of Criteria 4: Rate of Growth- Key performance measures, particularly turnover and profit for last three years. (Max 20,000 characters)
5. Evidence of Criteria 5: Value proposition- Evidence of how the business adds real value, beyond its products/services, to its customers. (Max 20,000 characters)

2. SME- Excellence in Sustainability & Innovation

2.1 Green SME of the Year

2.2 Equality, Diversity & Inclusion SME of the Year

2.3 Innovative SME of the Year

2.1 Green SME of the Year

This award recognises businesses that excels in sustainability practices, environmental stewardship, and eco-friendly initiatives, setting an example for responsible business practices and contributing positively to the planet.

Open to:

- SME business in any discipline.
- Both members and non-members of the Hillingdon Chamber of Commerce.
- Businesses based or operating in the London Borough of Hillingdon.

2.1 Green SME of the Year

Evidence to meet the criteria for Award Entry

Please share how your performance meets the criteria and sets you apart from your competitors in each of these areas.

1. Evidence of Criteria 1: Clear objective setting, strategy & plan formation, with matching rigour in implementation and measurement. Your response should include what the objective(s) was, how this was implemented, and what the results were. (Max 20,000 characters)
2. Evidence of Criteria 2: Innovation and Problem solving- Innovative systems, process, solutions, project or service that adopt sustainability practices and eco-friendly initiatives by minimising negative effects on the environment. Your response should set out the problem or issue, how the problem/issue was solved and what the outcome was. (Max 20,000 characters)
3. Evidence of Criteria 3: Evidence of Impact – Impact created because of sustainability / innovation related initiatives, such as new business wins or exceptional partnership development, or significant new customer value proposition. We would encourage submitting evidence e.g. feedback, letter of support, testimonials/rating on Trustpilot, etc. (Max 20,000 characters)
4. Evidence of Criteria 4: Rate of Growth- Key performance measures, particularly turnover and profit for last three years. (Max 20,000 characters)
5. Evidence of Criteria 5: Value Add- Evidence of contributions relative to being in a Green Company that were above and beyond the business's responsibilities. (Max 20,000 characters)

2.2 Equality, Diversity & Inclusion SME of the Year

This award recognises businesses that champion diversity, equity, and inclusion in their workplace, fostering an environment where all individuals feel valued, respected, and empowered to contribute their unique perspectives and talents.

Open to

- SME business in any discipline.
- Both members and non-members of the Hillingdon Chamber of Commerce.
- Businesses based or operating in the London Borough of Hillingdon.

2.2 EDI SME of the Year

Evidence to meet the criteria for Award Entry

Please share how your performance meets the criteria and sets you apart from your competitors in each of these areas.

1. Evidence of Criteria 1: Clear objective setting, strategy & plan formation, with matching rigour in implementation and measurement. Your response should include what the objective(s) was, how this was implemented, and what the results were. (Max 20,000 characters)
2. Evidence of Criteria 2: Innovation and Problem solving- Exceptional innovation and creativity in solving problems or approaching new issues related to human capital and creating an impact within the industry. Your response should set out the problem or issue, how the problem/issue was solved and what the outcome was. (Max 20,000 characters)
3. Evidence of Criteria 3: Diversity, equality and inclusion- Evidence showcasing diversity, equity, and inclusion in their workplace, fostering an environment where all individuals feel valued, respected, and empowered to contribute their unique perspectives and talents. (Max 20,000 characters)
4. Evidence of Criteria 4: Evidence of Impact – Impact created because of EDI related initiatives, such as cost saving, improved culture, new business wins, exceptional partnership development, or significant new customer value proposition. We would encourage submitting evidence e.g. feedback, letter of support, testimonials/rating on Trustpilot, etc. (Max 20,000 characters)
5. Evidence of Criteria 5: Rate of Growth- Key performance measures, particularly turnover and profit for last three years. (Max 20,000 characters)

2.3 Innovative SME of the Year

This award recognises businesses that excels in innovation, problem solving and out of the box thinking culture, setting an example for innovative business practices whether it improves customer experience, reduces costs or builds better solutions.

Open to

- SME business in any discipline.
- Both members and non-members of the Hillingdon Chamber of Commerce.
- Businesses based or operating in the London Borough of Hillingdon.

2.3 Innovative SME of the Year

Evidence to meet the criteria for Award Entry

Please share how your performance meets the criteria and sets you apart from your competitors in each of these areas.

1. Evidence of Criteria 1: Clear objective setting, strategy & plan formation, with matching rigour in implementation and measurement. Your response should include what the objective(s) was, how this was implemented, and what the results were. (Max 20,000 characters)
2. Evidence of Criteria 2: Innovation and Problem solving- Innovative systems, process, solutions, project or service that increases performance, productivity, efficiency or any other objectives. Your response should set out the problem or issue, how the problem/issue was solved and what the outcome was. (Max 20,000 characters)
3. Evidence of Criteria 3: Evidence of Impact – Impact created because of innovation related initiatives, such as cost saving, improved culture, new business wins, exceptional partnership development, or significant new customer value proposition. We would encourage submitting evidence e.g. feedback, letter of support, testimonials/rating on Trustpilot, etc. (Max 20,000 characters)
4. Evidence of Criteria 4: Rate of Growth- Key performance measures, particularly turnover and profit for last three years. (Max 20,000 characters)
5. Evidence of Criteria 5: Value Add- Evidence of added value to customers, stakeholders or wider community through innovative initiatives. (Max 20,000 characters)

3. Corporate Leadership Excellence Categories

The Corporate Leadership excellence awards are open to corporates employing more than 100 people. They would have demonstrated leadership in their in their sector or category, based or operating in the London Borough of Hillingdon.

3.1 Environmental Excellence Corporate of the Year

3.2 Socially Responsible Corporate of the Year

3.1 Environmental Excellence Corporate of the Year

This award recognises Hillingdon based corporates leading the way nationally and internationally in environmental performance and is likely to be developing or using pioneering Cleantech, rapidly decarbonising and/or incorporating the principles of the Circular Economy into their business model.

Open to

- Corporates based in Hillingdon from any industry/sector.
- Both members and non-members of the Hillingdon Chamber of Commerce.
- Businesses based or operating in the London Borough of Hillingdon.

3.1 Environmental Excellence Corporate of the Year

Evidence to meet the criteria for Award Entry

Please share how your performance meets the criteria and sets you apart from your competitors in each of these areas.

1. Evidence of Criteria 1: Clear objective setting, strategy & plan formation, with matching rigour in implementation and measurement. Your response should include what the objective(s) was, how this was implemented, and what the results were. (Max 20,000 characters)
2. Evidence of Criteria 2: Innovation in environmental performance- Innovation, development or use of pioneering Cleantech, rapidly decarbonising and/or incorporating the principles of the Circular Economy into your business model. Your response should set out the problem or issue, how the problem/issue was solved and what the outcome was. (Max 20,000 characters)
3. Evidence of Criteria 3: Environmental KPIs and Impact- Headlines of your environmental sustainability KPIs evidencing impact over the past three years. (Max 20,000 characters)
4. Evidence of Criteria 4: Growth Journey- Your growth journey during the three years that the data in criteria above spans with clear KPIs and their achievement. (Max 20,000 characters)
5. Evidence of Criteria 5: Social Value and impact- Evidence of how the corporate adds value and makes a positive impact Hillingdon's economy through their environmental initiatives. (Max 20,000 characters)

3.2 Socially Responsible Corporate of the Year

This award recognises Hillingdon based corporates leading in socially responsible businesses practices, locally and/or globally.

Open to

- Corporates based in Hillingdon from any industry/sector.
- Both members and non-members of the Hillingdon Chamber of Commerce.
- Businesses based or operating in the London Borough of Hillingdon.

3.2 Socially Responsible Corporate of the Year

Evidence to meet the criteria for Award Entry

Please share how your performance meets the criteria and sets you apart from your competitors in each of these areas.

1. Evidence of Criteria 1: Clear objective setting, strategy & plan formation, with matching rigour in implementation and measurement. Your response should include what the objective(s) was, how this was implemented, and what the results were. (Max 20,000 characters)
2. Evidence of Criteria 2: Problem solving- Creativity and innovation in solving social challenges making a significant difference in the lives of others. Your response should set out the problem or issue, how the problem/issue was solved and what the outcome was. (Max 20,000 characters)
3. Evidence of Criteria 3: Social responsibility KPIs and Impact- Headlines of your social responsibility KPIs evidencing impact over the past three years. (Max 20,000 characters)
4. Evidence of Criteria 4: Growth Journey- Provide two or three brief examples of how your social responsibility programme has been implemented locally in the London Borough of Hillingdon. (Max 20,000 characters)
5. Evidence of Criteria 5: Social Value and impact- Evidence of how the corporate adds value and makes a positive impact on the stakeholders and community through their Socially responsible initiatives. (Max 20,000 characters)

4. Next Generation Award

The Next Generation awards celebrate the success of young entrepreneurs based in the LB of Hillingdon. The category is open to young people who live or go to school in the LB of Hillingdon.

4.1 Young Entrepreneur of the Year (Age 16-24)

4.1 Young Entrepreneur of the Year (Age 16-24)

This award celebrates the success of young entrepreneurs based in the LB of Hillingdon.

Open to

- Young people (Age 16-24) who live or go/went to school in the LB of Hillingdon.
- Both members and non-members of the Hillingdon Chamber of Commerce.

4.1 Young Entrepreneur of the Year (Age 16-24)

Evidence to meet the criteria for Award Entry

Please share how your performance meets the criteria and sets you apart from your competitors in each of these areas.

1. Max 20,000 characters: What is your business or project? How is it new and exciting? (Think about answers to the following: What does your business, project or product do? What makes it better than something that already exists? What difficulties have you had to overcome to get started?)
2. Max 20,000 characters: Tell us about your customers and suppliers. (Who are you talking or selling to and how do you make them the centre of attention? Where are they based? Who are your suppliers and what makes them important to your product or service? What do you do to tackle any issues or problems with what you are providing? For example, health issues with food and drink products such as allergies or intolerances.)
3. Max 20,000 characters: How do you make looking after the environment a part of your plan? (How does your idea help the environment or how might it be environmentally friendly in the future? This can include raising awareness or encouraging positive action)
4. Max 20,000 characters: Tell us about your future plans. (Where do you go from here? It could be about money - how much your business has made (profit and/or turnover) so far, how much you think it will make in the future? Or it could be about influence - how many social media followers do you have or downloads, subscribers, likes etc. Please provide evidence.)

5. Individual Leadership Award

This award recognises a leader that has gone the extra mile in the past year in their contribution to the local community. Leaders (or their representatives) can nominate themselves for consideration but would usually include references for their Senior Leadership team, peers and team members.

5.1 Hillingdon Business Leader of the Year

5.1 Hillingdon Business Leader of the Year

This award recognises a leader that has gone the extra mile in the past year in their contribution to the local community. Leaders (or their representatives) can nominate themselves for consideration but would usually include references for their Senior Leadership team, peers and team members.

Open to

- Both members and non-members of the Hillingdon Chamber of Commerce.
- Business leaders based or operating in the London Borough of Hillingdon.

5.1 Hillingdon Business Leader of the Year

Evidence to meet the criteria for Award Entry

Please share how your performance meets the criteria and sets you apart from your competitors in each of these areas.

1. Evidence of the leader's engagement beyond their own company's boundaries to advance action on community issues during their career. (Max 20,000 characters)
2. Evidence that the individual has also established a strong track record over past few years as an exemplary leader in their own business(es)/roles. (Max 20,000 characters)
3. Evidence of Impact- Please share how business leader has made an impression and created an impact on the organisation, team members, stakeholders, and wider community. (Max 20,000 characters)

6. Overall Winner

The shortlist for this award is drawn from the winners of all categories (bar Individual Leadership and Next Generation) and will be presented on the night to the most outstanding entry in the eyes of the judges. It cannot be entered into separately.

6.1 Hillingdon Company of the Year

Judging Criteria

Judges will first draw up a shortlist of the top entries. They will then select category winners and occasionally award a commendation to a close runner-up.

HCC Business Awards 2025- Terms and Conditions

- **Instructions for entry** – Entries for the Hillingdon Chamber of Commerce (HCC) Business Awards must be submitted, no later than the deadline stated in the schedule. Entries submitted by any other means, or that do not comply with other guidance for entry may, at the judges’ discretion, be rejected. Entrants will not be informed if their entry is rejected.
- **Entry fee** – Entries to the HCC Business Awards cost £20 + VAT, redeemable against the purchase of a table or ticket at the Awards ceremony. Entrants are responsible for any and all extra costs incurred in preparing their entry and submitting it for consideration. Shortlisted companies are required to book at least one ticket to the Awards ceremony. This is to make sure that all shortlisted companies are represented and can accept their trophies / certificates on the night. Shortlisted companies will be notified on Monday 18th November 2024 and will be given 72 working hours to book a minimum of 1 tickets to confirm their attendance at the awards or relinquish their status as a shortlisted company.
- **Eligibility Criteria** – The main criteria that companies must meet in order to be eligible to enter the awards is that the company is ‘doing business’ within the London Borough of Hillingdon.
- **Judging Criteria** – Entrants should carefully note the judging criteria. They are the basis that will be used to determine the winners.
- **SME Sector Leadership categories** – You must pick the one SME sector leadership category that is the best fit for your business. You cannot enter in to more than one SME sector leadership category. Your business can submit additional entries in the ‘SME-Excellence in Sustainability and Innovation Awards’ categories.
- **Commercially sensitive data** – Err on the side of caution with any commercially confidential or sensitive data you are considering including in your entry. If you do include sensitive data as part of your submission, please make clear that this is not to be shared as part of any winners’ case study and/or that the awards coordinator should ensure that any competitors that may be involved in the judging panel do not have visibility of the data.

HCC Business Awards 2025- Terms and Conditions

- **Time period covered by awards entries** – Work entered should have been completed between January 2023 till September 2024, apart from Category 3 (Corporate Leadership Excellence Awards) which should be between January 2021 to September 2024.
- **Correct category** – Judges may decide to reassign an entry from one category to another if they feel it better meets the entry criteria.
- **Authority to enter** – Anyone completing an entry will be deemed to have the authority to do so on behalf of any agency or client company involved in or mentioned in the entry. Neither HCC nor any of their subcontractors can be held liable for any claim or loss arising from this or any other breach of these terms & conditions.
- **Judges' decisions** – The judges' decision shall be absolutely final and binding on all entries. There is no appeal process and no correspondence will be entered into.
- **Copyright** – Any material submitted for entry may be reproduced freely and at no cost by HCC or their agents in connection with the HCC Business Awards. All material shall be deemed free of copyright or other encumbrance, neither HCC nor any of their subcontractors shall be held liable for any claim or liability arising from such use. Please provide brand guidelines to advise us of how to use your corporate identity in any case studies arising from the awards process.
- **Results news embargo** – All information regarding the results will be embargoed for publication until after the Awards ceremony in January 2025.
- **Award Winners** – If you win an award in any category and are not already a member of HCC, it is generally expected that you will join and actively support our work in the year after receiving this prestigious title. This enables HCC to support you in maximising the PR potential of your achievements.
- **Communications** – You will only be notified if you have progressed to the final round of the HCC Business Awards. This will occur on or around Monday 18th November 2024.

HCC Business Awards 2025- FAQs

- How much does it cost to enter the HCC Business Awards?
 - Entries cost £20 + VAT redeemable against the purchase of a table or ticket at the Gala Awards ceremony.
- Can I enter more than one category?
 - Yes – with the exception of the SME Sector Leadership categories. You may only enter one SME Sector Leadership category.
- Do I have to be a Hillingdon Chamber of Commerce member to enter?
 - No, you do not! We accept entries from any business with an interest in the LB of Hillingdon. If you do business in LB of Hillingdon and want to showcase the difference you've made to the area, please enter now!
- How do I submit my entry to the HCC Business awards? What is the deadline?
 - Submit your entry directly from the categories page. It is easy to enter, but if you have any difficulties, please contact kim@hillingdonchamber.co.uk. **The deadline for entry is Friday 25th October 2024 | 5.00pm**
- How does the judging work?
 - The judges will be accessing the entries directly from our Awards platform after the closing date (Friday 25th October 2024) and will mark them against the criteria listed. Judges will convene in November to discuss the entries, their markings and other comments to finalise the shortlist.
- Once I have entered, what happens next?
 - Shortlisted companies will be notified on Monday 18th November 2024 and will be given 72 working hours to confirm their attendance at the awards or relinquish their status as a shortlisted company. Public announcement will be made on Monday 25th November 2024.
- How do I become an Awards partner?
 - Please E-mail Kim McGearty: kim@hillingdonchamber.co.uk for more information.