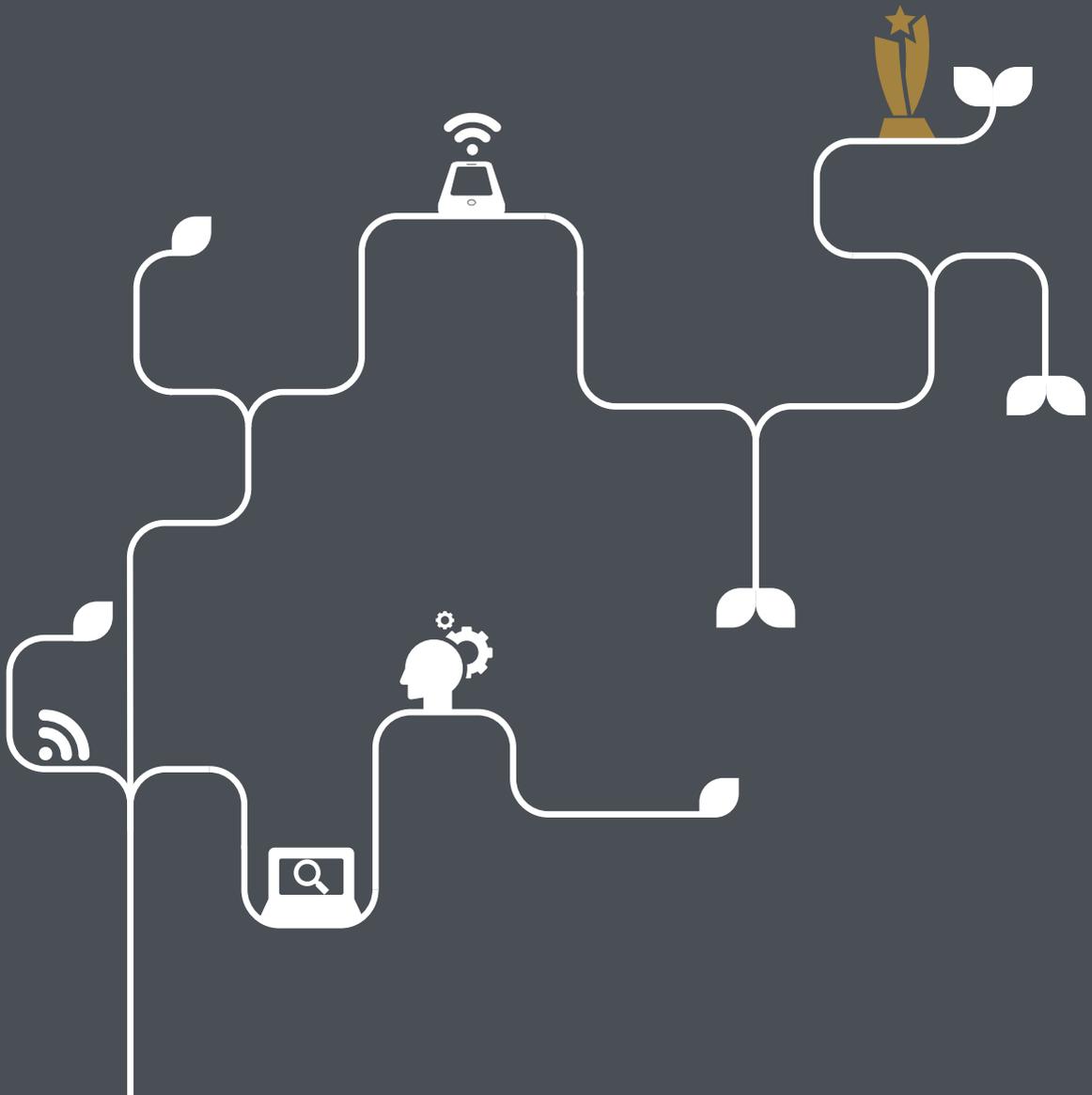




Staffordshire Chambers Business

AWARDS 18



Staffordshire
Chambers of
Commerce



Staffordshire Chambers Business AWARDS 18



Our annual awards showcase the achievements and outstanding performance of Staffordshire's best businesses. We are incredibly proud of our county's business heritage, current successes and the opportunities being created for the future. Our business awards are the perfect way to celebrate that success, bringing together businesses from across Staffordshire who are achieving amazing things.

The sponsors of this year's awards represent some of Staffordshire's leading businesses and organisations. We are extremely grateful for their support.

AWARD CATEGORIES



The world's local bank

Business of the Year sponsored by HSBC

This ultimate award is selected by the judges from all the finalists across the other categories (excluding the individual award categories). The Business of the Year is considered by the judges to possess key, winning qualities with outstanding all-round performance across a range of attributes important for sustainable business success.



Employer of the Year sponsored by Newcastle and Stafford Colleges Group

Awarded to the business or company that has an outstanding human resource and staff engagement strategy. The judges are looking at all aspects of the strategy including recruitment, training, development, communication, employee working practices (including work-life balance), environmental impact, community outreach and corporate social responsibility. Success should be evident in staff feedback, retention, community recognition and overall business performance.



Employee of the Year sponsored by PSR Solutions

Awarded to an outstanding employee who has delivered exceptional and sustained business performance over a prolonged period (minimum 12 months). The judges will be looking for somebody who has shown exceptional dedication, advancement and contribution within their role and the business as a whole. This includes personal development and contributions to the development of other colleagues or staff.



Charity Employee of the Year sponsored by PSR Solutions

This award recognises an outstanding employee working in the charity sector, who has delivered excellent and sustained performance over a prolonged period (minimum 12 months). The judges will be looking for somebody who has shown exceptional dedication, advancement and contribution within their role and the organisation as a whole. This includes personal development and contributions to the development of other colleagues or staff.



Young Employee/Apprentice of the Year sponsored by Stoke-on-Trent & Staffordshire Enterprise Partnership

Awarded to an outstanding individual who is under the age of 25 (on 5 July 2018) and has been working within a company for more than six months. The judges will be looking for somebody who has shown exceptional dedication, advancement and contribution within their role and the business as a whole. This includes personal development through study, educational courses, additional training and qualifications. We will also look to recognise any contributions to the local and wider community.



Most Promising Start-up Business sponsored by Grindeys Solicitors

Celebrating a new business or company that has started within the past three years (incorporated after April 2015). The judges will be looking at all aspects associated with a successful new business, including: innovation (identification of an opportunity and development of a product, strategy and business plan), launch (delivery of the product to market and successful business performance), and growth (strategy for expansion and further development).



Small Business of the Year (1-50 FTEs) sponsored by Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Growth Hub

Recognising excellence within a business or company of fewer than 50 employees (including FTE contractors). The judges will be looking at all aspects of the business including financial performance, leadership and management, staff development and training, environmental performance and energy efficiency, innovation, social responsibility, long term business sustainability, and future growth plans.



Medium Business of the Year (more than 50 FTEs) sponsored by Dains

Recognising excellence within a business or company of more than 50 employees (including FTE contractors). The judges will be looking at all aspects of the business including financial performance, leadership and management, staff development and training, environmental performance and energy efficiency, innovation, social responsibility, long-term business sustainability, and future growth plans.



Retail, Leisure, Culture and Tourism Award sponsored by Stoke-on-Trent City Council

Recognising excellence in a consumer facing cultural, tourism and leisure business within Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire. The business can be independent or part of a chain, but the entry must relate to business activity in the City and Staffordshire including business performance, staff development, community involvement, sales and marketing, and future growth plans.



Science, Technology and Innovation Award sponsored by University of Wolverhampton

Awarded to a company that has utilised science, technology or innovation over the past three years (since April 2015) to enhance an aspect of business performance. The judges will be looking for an idea, product, method or process that is new to the business and preferably new to the business sector. The benefits should be clearly evident within aspects of the business, for example commercial performance, operational efficiency, product enhancement, or customer experience.



Professional Services of the Year sponsored by finest

This award will recognise excellence within a professional services company, business or organisation. The entry can relate to a specific product or service, or to overall business performance. The judges will be looking at all aspects including leadership, management, staff development/training, social responsibility, future growth plans and business sustainability. Focus will also be given to performance above and beyond that expected for the service and sector.



Manufacturer of the Year sponsored by Michelin

Staffordshire has long been recognised for its manufacturing history, and this award will go to a business or company that has excelled in this sector over the past three years (since April 2015). The judges will be looking at all aspects of the manufacturing process including product design, testing, development, production, marketing, sales and overall business performance. This may relate to a new product or product range, or an existing product that continues to lead the way within its field.



International Trade Award sponsored by Department for International Trade

This award recognises companies who excel in exporting, whether that is one product or service to a single overseas customer, or a range of products or services to the global market. The judges will pay particular attention to the whole export process including identification of the overseas opportunity, product or service development to meet market requirements, strategic international partnerships, overseas sales and marketing, and the overall benefit the international activity brings to Staffordshire.



Environment/Low Carbon Award sponsored by Keele University

This award recognises organisations that can demonstrate a proactive approach to protecting the environment and reducing their carbon footprint. Judges will be looking for innovative solutions that have had a dramatic impact in terms of energy efficiency, resource management and environmental impact.



Digital Award sponsored by Syntectics Solutions

This award recognises companies at the cutting edge of digital design and technologies who are boosting Staffordshire's growing reputation as a digital hub. Judges are keen to hear compelling examples of how digital technology has been used to transform businesses processes, customer experience or to create exciting, effective campaigns.



ENTRIES AND JUDGING

Entry is free and must be made online via

<https://staffordshirechambers.awardsplatform.com>

All businesses entering the awards should be based, or have a significant presence, in Staffordshire.

There is no limit to the number of categories a business can enter.

Entries must be submitted electronically via the entry platform by 5pm on Friday 11 May 2018.

The steering committee will review all entries and select the shortlisted finalists for each category. The judging panels will then visit each finalist at an agreed date between 21 May – 15 June to discuss their entry and see relevant aspects of the business.

AWARDS EVENING



Winners will be announced at an awards dinner on **Thursday 5 July 2018** at Staffordshire County Showground, sponsored by Staffordshire University. Finalists will have first refusal on tickets for the event, which is usually a sell-out.

The awards ceremony is a celebration of the achievements of all finalists, as well as being an excellent opportunity to network with other shortlisted organisations and sponsors. More details about the event and how to purchase tickets will be announced after the entry deadline.



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KEY DATES

Monday 26 March	Awards open for entries
Thursday 19 April	How to write award-winning entries workshop
Friday 11 May	Entry deadline
Monday 21 May	Finalists announced
Wednesday 20 June	Pre-awards finalist celebration event
Thursday 5 July	Awards evening celebration dinner and announcement of 2018 winners

FURTHER INFORMATION

For enquiries about the entry process, judging and the awards dinner please email awards@staffordshirechambers.co.uk or phone **01782 202222**

All entries must be completed online by 5pm on Friday 11 May via
<https://staffordshirechambers.awardsplatform.com>