**North Notts Business Awards 2024**

**Best Small Business Award**

This award recognises the importance of small businesses to the local and national economies, their creation of employment opportunities and considerable contribution to the UK’s GDP. This award also can also include applications from the self-employed and sole traders.

Entrants will have less than 20 employees and a turnover of less than £2 million.

Small but perfectly formed, the judges will be looking for small businesses and entrepreneurs who punch above their weight to produce outstanding results in terms of creativity, marketing, exploiting opportunities, overcoming obstacles, increasing profits and long-term sustainability.

**Section 1. Company Details**

|  |
| --- |
| Full trading name of company: |
|  |
| Registered name if different from above: |
|  |
| Date company established: |
|  |
| Trading Address:  |
|  |
| Telephone: |
|  |
| Website:  |
|  |
| Name of most senior person in organisation: |
|  |
| Name of person submitting application: |
|  |
| Email address for Correspondence: |
|  |

**Type of organisation (tick all that apply):**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | Manufacturing |  |  | Sole Trader |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | Service Sector |  |  | Partnership  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | Retail |  |  | Limited Company |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | Education / Training |  |  | Registered CIC Social Enterprise |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | Hospitality/Tourism |  |  | PLC |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Other (please state): |  |  | Registered Charity |
|  |  |  |

**No of employees:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 1 - 10 |  |  | 11 - 25 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 26 – 50 |  |  | 51 - 100 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 101 – 250 |  |  | over 250 |

What do you do? Tell us about your business including details of your customers, the products and/or services and the markets in which you operate. Max 250 words.

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**Section 2. Category Questions**

**Question 1**

Who are your competitors and how do you make your business stand out from the crowd? What is your competitive advantage and USP? Max 300 words

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**Question2**

How do you promote your business? Max 300 words.

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**Question 3**

What have you achieved in terms of sales turnover and profit over the last 12 months? Are there key events that have led to these changes and your success? Max 300 words.

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**Question 4**

What challenges have you encountered and overcome as a micro business? Max 300 words.

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**Question 5**

What are your business objectives for the next twelve months, including financial, and how will you measure performance to achieve your goals? Max 250 words.

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**Question 6**

Please provide a short summary of why you think your business deserves to win the North Notts Best Small Business Award. Max 500 words.

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**Judged Awards Authorisation Confirmation**

Please type “Yes” the boxes below to confirm: -

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **I confirm that I have read, understand, and accept in full the Terms and Conditions of the North Notts Business Awards below.**  |
|  | **I agree that if this entry is confirmed as a finalist for the Judged Awards that I shall purchase one or more tickets for, and attend, the North Notts Business Awards Ceremony on Friday, 4th October 2024 at the North Notts Arena.** **Ticket to be purchased by no later than Friday, 6h September 2024.** |
|  | **I confirm that I am legally authorised enter this awards programme and commit to the terms and conditions upon behalf of the firm.**  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Your Name**: |  |
|  |  |
| **Your Company and Position**: |  |
|  |  |
| **Date**: |  |

Please save your entry form electronically as YOURCOMPANY\_CATEGORY.doc, e.g.

Yyzcompany\_excellenceincustomerservicess.doc

Please submit your completed entry form to**awards@northnottsbc.uk**

**Key Dates For Your Diary:-**

The closing date for all judged entries is **Friday, 5th July 2024.**

The finalists will be announced on **Wednesday, 31st July 2024.**

The North Notts Business Awards 2024 Awards Ceremony will take place on **Friday, 4th October 2024 at the North Notts Arena.**

**Terms and Conditions**

1. The North Notts Business Awards, organised by North Notts Business Connections (NNBC / North Notts BC), is free for all firms to enter. No administration fees or entry charges are payable in any category, including the Public Voting categories.
2. **Eligibility:** Any local firm based within the district of Bassetlaw may enter the Judged and Public Voting Awards in the relevant category. For clarity, this is defined as those business is situated within the geographical district (defined by the business rates district council tax district) not areas which share a Bassetlaw postal address. If you are unsure, please ask us for postcode verification of the firm's geographical eligibility. NNBC’s confirmation is final.
3. There is no minimum or maximum number of award categories that any one organisation can enter, and we actively encourage you to enter more than one category. For each award that you wish to enter, please complete the appropriate awards category entry form.
4. Time Out : if a business has previously won an award category twice in succession they will not be permitted to enter that category for a period of the next two years. However, they are welcome to enter any other of the judged and public voting award categories where applicable / eligible during this time out period.
5. All entries must be electronic and completed on the North Notts Business Awards entry forms and in a **Microsoft Word** or **PDF** document only. Only entries submitted in these formats will be considered by our judges. All entries must be checked by you for spelling and grammar.
6. Supporting information is not permitted unless it forms part of, and is contained within, the entry document which must be submitted as a Microsoft Word or PDF document, e.g. testimonials. A maximum of 3 tables, graphs or photos may be included within the entry form. Please be aware that any website links used within your entry may not be activated by the judges.
7. We are unable to accept nominations for the Public Voting Award or entries for the Judged Awards for any firms or individuals who are currently subject to any form of Corporate Voluntary Arrangement, Individual Voluntary Arrangement, administration, liquidation, or bankruptcy process. North Notts BC and the Judges reserve the right to carry out due diligence in their assessment of the eligibility of any entry.
8. An awards category may be withdrawn if an inadequate number of eligible entries are received.
9. All eligible applications are independently assessed by the Independent Judging Panel and a short list of between three and five finalists, including the winner, will be selected. Where exceptional entries are received, whom the judges feel deserve recognition, the judges may elect more than 3 finalists or include the entry in an additional award category.
10. In the event that a judge’s own organisation has entered a particular award, they will withdraw from the judging panel for the judging of that particular award category.
11. Incomplete or ineligible entries will not be judged.
12. All applicants must be fully legally authorised to submit an entry for their organisation into the awards programme or accept a nomination and be legally responsible for the entry.
13. Award category sponsors may enter the awards with the exception of the category which they are sponsoring.
14. All entries will be acknowledged upon receipt. Entry forms will become the property of North Notts Business Connections (NNBC / North Notts BC) and the North Notts Business Awards and entries will not be returned.
15. Proof of sending entry (by email) is not proof of receipt by NNBC, its agents or representatives.
16. The closing date for entries and votes for all categories is **Friday, 5th July 2024.** Entries received after this time may not be judged.. Under exceptional circumstances the judges may choose to extend the entry deadline for the judged awards categories.
17. The shortlisted companies for all awards categories will be announced on **Wednesday, 31st July 2024.** The finalist results will be published on the North Notts Business Awards website and announced to the press a number of days later.
18. Award winners will be announced at North Notts Business Awards Ceremony on **Friday 4th October 2024 at the North Notts Arena.**
19. **All awards shortlisted finalists from both the Public Voting and Judged categories will be required to attend the awards ceremony having purchased the appropriate awards ceremony ticket by no later than Friday, 6th September 2024. This forms part of the Terms and Conditions of entering or accepting a nomination for the awards. Any finalists who do not comply with the agreed Terms & Conditions will be duly eliminated from the awards process.**
20. Winners will receive a commemorative award presented at the awards ceremony. The list of winners and photographs will also be published on the North Notts Business Awards website and the same will be publicised by NNBC through a variety of media.
21. Photographs and video may be taken throughout the awards ceremony and will be published via social media and other media platforms. Please refer to our separate GDPR policy. All photographs and video remain the property and copyright of NNBC and of the Official Awards Photographer.
22. Applicants are responsible for making appropriate arrangements to protect any intellectual property associated with their application. Finalists and Winners may be requested to participate in post event publicity.
23. Judges and NNBC reserve the right to audit any entry and verify information supplied to them. The organisers reserve the right to reject an entry or withdraw an award from any applicant supplying false, inaccurate, or misleading information within an entry. Any decisions made will be final.
24. The judges’ decision is final, and no communication or correspondence will be entered into before, during or after the judging and may lead to an entry being rejected or award being withdrawn.
25. An Independent Judging Panel feedback facility is not available as standard. However, upon receipt of a written request to NNBC, we will be very happy to provide this facility for you and we will reconvene the judges. Your written request will also need to include your confirmation and agreement that you are prepared to cover in full all costs and expenses which may be incurred by NNBC and the judges, including their time on an hourly basis at the NNBC’s and the judge’s normal commercial working rates.
26. By completing and submitting an entry for the North Notts Business Awards you agree to all Terms and Conditions in full and without exception.

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