

South Holland Business Awards 2024

Judging Criteria

Business of the Year

This award will go to the business that has not only increased its own profitability and potential but has also had a positive impact on the economy of the region as a whole. The size and age of such an enterprise will be considered against financial performance. The judges will also be interested in innovative new products, services or processes and expansion into new markets and areas of business activity.

Turnover must exceed £300,001 in the year under consideration.

Entries should demonstrate the following:

- Background to your business / organisation
- Details of your success (financial performance, markets, productivity, organisational)
- Strategy for growth
- Commitment to your local area
- Commitment to sustainable practices and Net Zero
- Commitment to wellbeing of people

Business Person of the Year

This award recognises the business personality who best represents achievement and longevity. The award acknowledges the winner's sustained achievements within the business community during a distinguished career within the South Holland District Area.

Eligible business owners are those who have been actively involved in the business community and have demonstrated the following criteria:

- Has shown outstanding leadership characteristics
- Show exemplary business achievement
- Has demonstrated a strong connection to the economy and communities of South Holland District Council
- Association with community groups/ charitable organisations
- Industry influence and entrepreneurial success

Business Innovation of the Year

This award will go to the company that has introduced a new product or process, invention, idea or design that has made a significant contribution to the business. The judges will be interested in innovation that has improved an existing product or process, but equally they would wish to hear about innovation that has led to the development of new products or services. They will also be interested in how innovation is handled within the culture of the company.

Entries should demonstrate the following:

- Background to your business / organisation
- Details your innovation
- The benefits
- Your achievements and successes

Excellence in Customer Care

This award will be made to the company that demonstrates a commitment to continuously improving its standards of customer care.

Judges will expect to see a clear, well-implemented customer care policy and examples of service exceeding customer expectations. They will also wish to hear how customer care initiatives contribute to the overall success of the business.

Entries should demonstrate the following:

- Background to your business / organisation
- Details of your customer care policy
- Your achievements and successes
- The benefits

Food & Drink Business of the Year

This award will be presented to a Food & Drink business that has demonstrated excellence and innovation within the industry. Judges will consider the use of local produce, creative products and services, and a strong commitment to the local community.

Entries should demonstrate the following:

- Background to your business/organisation
- Details of your success (financial performance, market reach, productivity, organisational growth)
- Commitment to your local area (use of locally sourced products/services)
- Innovation in products or services
- Examples of sustainability practices
- Role as an ambassador and advocate for the local food and drink industry

Agriculture & Horticulture Business of the Year

This award will go to a business in the Agriculture or Horticulture sector that has shown exceptional dedication to innovation, sustainability, and community involvement. Judges will look for businesses that not only thrive financially but also positively impact the environment and the local economy.

Entries should demonstrate the following:

- Background to your business/organisation
- Details of your success (financial performance, market reach, productivity, organisational growth)

- Commitment to sustainable practices (environmental stewardship, innovative farming techniques)
- Contribution to the local economy (support for local suppliers and producers)
- Examples of community engagement and support
- Innovative approaches to agriculture or horticulture

Small Business of the Year

This award will go to the business that has increased its profitability and potential over the last financial year. The size and age of such an enterprise will be considered against financial performance (can include start-up businesses). The judges will also be interested in innovative new products, services or processes and expansion into new markets and areas of business activity. In addition the judges will wish to hear about the 'personality' of the business.

Turnover must not exceed £300,000 in the year under consideration.

Entries should demonstrate the following:

- Background to your business / organisation
- Details of your success (financial performance, markets, productivity, organisational)
- Commitment to your local area
- Commitment to sustainable practices and Net Zero
- Commitment to wellbeing of people

Supporting the Community

This award is open to companies, organisations and social enterprises. It is intended to recognise organisations which are making a contribution to the community in which they operate.

In the case of commercial firms, the initiative could be in addition to their main business activity, or part of core activities, as long as there is a significant element of community benefit.

In terms of social enterprise, the organisation will demonstrate the achievement of social aims through its core trading activity and the judges will look for a genuine social enterprise with a strong enterprise ethic coupled with a clear commitment to the wider community.

The project or initiative should have been introduced or reached a meaningful stage within the last twelve months

Entries should demonstrate the following:

- Background to your business / organisation
- Details of your initiative
- Benefits to the community
- Helped get people involved and inspired others

Young Achiever of the Year (up to the age of 30)

The awards will showcase and celebrate the achievements of those learners who have exceeded expectations and shown a dynamic approach to training. They will also have demonstrated initiative and enterprise, innovation and creativity, and shown an understanding of, and commitment to, the improvement of skills development.

Entries should demonstrate one or more of the following:

- Proven commitment by an apprentice to continued personal development
- An apprentice who has contributed significantly to the business and provided added value
- An apprentice who has demonstrated a high level of skills and/or has contributed significantly to the sector within which they work
- Evidence of commitment and ambition to succeed in their chosen field

Apprentices should currently be on a programme or have completed a formal apprenticeship within the past 2 years. The judges may require sight of certificates which will be requested where appropriate.