# Wigan Business Award Categories & Criteria 2019

**1. Business of the Year – Sponsored by Handelsbanken**

This is the premier award in Wigan borough's business year for companies of any size, working in any commercial or industrial sector. The company must demonstrate:

* turnover of at least £5 million a year;
* a successful track record of excellence and achievement;
* measureable growth, increased trading profit, new product/service development or new production techniques.

**2. Family Business of the Year – Sponsored by HullJady**

This award will recognise and celebrate the unique contribution family businesses have made to Wigan borough's economy, history and culture. The judging panel will look at areas including:

* length of trading and family dynamics;
* contribution to the local economy;
* special achievements;
* contribution to the community and the promotion of the area outside of the region.

**3. Small or Medium Enterprise of the Year – Sponsored by Fairhurst Accountants**

The award seeks to recognise an SME or enterprise from any industry that has been operating for at least two years and turnover up-to £5 million. Judging criteria will be based on:

* innovation;
* expertise;
* a solid vision for the future growth of the company.

**4. We're Backing Wigan Award – Sponsored by Wigan Observer**

This award will recognise any social or community enterprise, charitable organisations with a social purpose and/or a not-for-profit basis. Entrants must demonstrate:

* that it understands the needs of its local community/individuals and show evidence of the positive impact it has had;
* an innovative approach to the way it operates;
* key objectives and how it meets these;
* how it will grow and sustain future development.

**5. Apprentice of the Year Award – Sponsored by Wigan & Leigh College**

This award will recognise an outstanding, dedicated and committed apprentice in Wigan. The nominee must be a current apprentice or someone who has completed an Apprenticeship in the last two years. Applicants must be able to:

* Demonstrate the real value that the apprentice has brought to the business and any impact on the business
* Demonstrate the dedication, commitment and capability of the apprentice and the personal benefits they have realised
* Identify examples of the success of the apprentice – not only skills-based learning but how they may have also thrived personally.

Applicants: we will accept direct applications from businesses / individuals, or 3rd party applications from learning providers for the Apprentice Award.

**6. Something to Shout About Award – Sponsored Wigan Metropolitan Development Company (Investment) Limited**

This award is for firms who feel they are world class examples of quality in business. Companies need to demonstrate what makes them special - a spectacular client base, superb staff, or an amazing innovation - to showcase our very best local business acumen! Judges will be looking at:

* innovation
* staff development
* customer service

**7. Start-up Enterprise of the Year – Sponsored by Wigan Council**

This award recognises a Wigan-based enterprise in any sector which has been trading for less than two years as at the end of August 2019. They will need to demonstrate:

* passion, vision and capacity for realising this vision;
* sound research and planning, with a focus on future growth;
* creative thinking and problem solving;

**8. Young Entrepreneur of the Year – Sponsorship Available**

Launched in 2017, this award will celebrate entrepreneurs aged 30 and under (as at end of July 2019). Entrants must be able to demonstrate real ambition, drive, skills and vision to ensure their business or businesses succeed and have started to show an impact in the local, regional or global community. Judges will be looking at:

* passion, vision and evidence of running a successful business;
* a sound business plan for the future development of the company, current performance and projected growth;
* challenges faced and obstacles overcome in becoming an entrepreneur ie work/life balance/social pressure

**9. Digital Business of the Year – Sponsored by Cloud Perspective**

This new category aims to recognise a business that has contributed to Wigan’s digital transformation. The judging panel will look at areas including:

• A business that can demonstrate how the Internet and or ‘Cloud’ based tools have contributed to their success;

• Innovative usage of Internet platforms e.g. e-learning, translation services, health services;

• Growth and plans for the future;

• Employment generation.

 **Rules of entry:**

1. All entries must be from businesses working within the Metropolitan boundaries of Wigan and Leigh.
2. Nominations will only be accepted on the official entry form.
3. The information provided on the entry form must be accurate. The panel of judges may request further supporting information, if required.
4. Information supplied on or with the entry form may be used in the Wigan Today and associated Greater Manchester Chamber materials such as programme, website and press releases. However, any information clearly marked as confidential will be treated in the strictest possible confidence and will not be used in any publicity.
5. Original entry forms will be kept by the organisers. Photocopies will be circulated to members of the judging panel.
6. The decision of the organisers, sponsors, or any of the judges, is final in respect of all matters concerning these awards, including the interpretation of these rules. The organisers have the right to reallocate an entry if they feel it has more opportunity to win in another category.
7. All entrants will be expected to co-operate with the publicity surrounding the awards scheme should their entry prove successful.

All entries must be received by the organisers by the closing date on Friday 26th July.

1. Participation in the Wigan Business Awards means acceptance of these rules and regulations.
2. Should you be shortlisted for an Award, once notified all companies must be available **on both Monday 7th October and Tuesday 8th October 2019** for a 20-minute face-to-face interview with the Judging Panel. No formal presentation is required. Judging panel interviews will be held at the DW Stadium.
3. All shortlisted companies are required to attend the Wigan Business Awards Dinner, which will take place on **Friday 15th November 2019** at the DW Stadium. Tickets can be purchased by emailing: victoria.kerr@gmchamber.co.uk

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