



The Buckinghamshire **Business Awards** 2026

Your Guide to Entering **The Buckinghamshire Business Awards 2026**



A Buckinghamshire Business First Event

bbf.uk.com/bba

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What are the Buckinghamshire Business Awards?

The Buckinghamshire Business Awards are an annual celebration recognising the innovation and success of businesses in Buckinghamshire. The awards are an opportunity to applaud the entrepreneurial spirit of both large and small businesses throughout the county and to honour those who have contributed to an outstanding year.

With huge potential to raise your company profile through a range of PR and marketing activities, your entry to the Buckinghamshire Business Awards 2026 is an opportunity not to be missed.

“The Buckinghamshire Business Awards are designed to be relevant to all businesses in the county, whatever their size. It is the perfect opportunity to recognise the hard work that goes into running a business and to celebrate local entrepreneurship.”

- Philippa Batting MBE, CEO, Buckinghamshire Business First

Why enter?

Whatever the size, sector or age of your business, you will benefit.

Development begins at entry. Use the entry process as an MOT for your business. Entering creates an opportunity to focus on your business in a structured way by identifying core strengths and competitive advantages.

Recognition of excellence. Award winners receive public recognition of business excellence, receiving acknowledgment as the best in Buckinghamshire by their peers, the business community and the media. There are also bottom-line benefits as winning companies often secure new contracts as a direct result of their success.

Appreciation. The award process provides a platform that acknowledges the contributions made by your employees to your organisation.

Publicity. Award participation provides another dimension for showcasing your services and products to a wider audience, supported by recognition within the local community as being an outstanding business.

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“Winning at the Buckinghamshire Business Awards last year was an incredibly proud moment for our whole team. Being recognised by our peers and the wider business community meant a great deal, and it’s a privilege for MA Group, through Magicman, to support the awards as Headline Sponsor in 2026. These awards are about shining a light on the businesses driving growth, innovation and opportunity across the county, and I’d strongly encourage businesses to put themselves forward.”

- Paul Hayman, CEO, MA Group. Company of the Year, Business Leader of the Year and Innovative Business of the Year 2025.

Tangible benefits for your business

- Showcase your products and services widely.
- Finalists and winners receive official Buckinghamshire Business Awards branding and logos to use for promotional purposes.
- Finalists and winners will be featured in our online awards supplement.
- All winners receive a bespoke trophy designed locally.

The 2026 categories

The Buckinghamshire Business Awards 2026 feature 9 categories that reflect the diverse and dynamic business community operating throughout the county.

How many categories can I enter?

Businesses can enter up to two categories.



Apprentice and Young Person Employer of the Year

This award is open to all employers who have employed or provided work experience for a young person under the age of 24 (at the time of recruitment) since January 2024 which has involved training.



Enterprising Business of the Year

The Enterprising Business of the Year category is open to any business with an annual turnover of less than £7.5 million.



Business Leader of the Year

This award identifies and celebrates business leaders who are really going places. This person will have already started and built a business(es); demonstrated that they have ambition, energy and skill; and developed a vision to allow them to scale the heights within their market sector.



Excellence in Customer Experience Award

This award seeks to recognise excellence in the customer experience and is looking for a business which can demonstrate that the customer experience is treated as a priority, show that the company has a positive customer service culture, and demonstrate how the customer journey and experience has improved over the last 12 months.



Growth Business of the Year

Open to any business that has experienced significant growth since January 2024. The business must have had a minimum of 5 employees since January 2024; achieved a minimum of £250k turnover in the last year; and the potential/aspiration to grow turnover and/or profit by at least 50% over a 3-year period.



Community Champions Award

This category is specifically for businesses whose main operations are not primarily focused on community work or charitable initiatives, but who actively contribute to the community and support charities as part of their broader business activities.



Family Business of the Year

Celebrating family-owned businesses trading at least five years that balance commercial success with legacy, culture and community impact, with active involvement from family members central to leadership, direction and future plans.



Creative Business of the Year

This award is about finding the most successful and innovative creative business in Buckinghamshire, with the award presented to a business that demonstrates year-on-year financial progress, and business growth in the previous two years.



Innovative Business of the Year

This award is open to businesses that can demonstrate an innovative or inventive approach to new services, products or processes since January 2024.

Company of the Year 2026



The MA Group celebrates winning Company of the Year 2025.

The 2026 Company of the Year Award will be awarded to the business that, in the opinion of the judges, best represents Buckinghamshire in terms of its success, commitment and contribution to the local community and economy. Previous winners include MA Group, Horwood House Hotel, Lunaz, Origin, Total Carbide, UFIT Drinks, Ashridge Group, Silverson Machines, Monodraught, CoCredo, and Global Infusion Group.

The Company of the Year will become an Ambassador member of Buckinghamshire Business First for one year.

Who can enter?

Any registered private sector organisation or company of any size located within Buckinghamshire which has been trading for at least 12 months is eligible to enter the awards.

If your organisation is part of a larger business or a franchise, your organisation must function as a separate business unit in the county of Buckinghamshire. A business can enter a maximum of two categories.

Key dates for your diary

Closing date for entries	30/06/26
Finalists announced	17/09/26
Awards ceremony	04/11/26

Recommend a business

Do you know a great local business that deserves recognition? If so, please let us know who they are and we will contact them and encourage them to enter the awards.

Please use the recommendation form on our website: bbf.uk.com/bba

How to enter in 3 easy steps:

Our online entry process makes the compilation and submission of your entry even easier.

Step 1) Check the 'Category Guide' and select up to two categories to enter.

Step 2) Enter online at bbf.uk.com/bba

Step 3) Submit your entry online by 5.30pm on Tuesday 30th June 2026.

You will need an account on the Buckinghamshire Business First website in order to submit an entry. Existing members can simply log in to their account. Those without an account can create one quickly and easily at: bbf.uk.com/register

Once started, you can return to your entry to update it at any point in the 'My account' area of the website, before submitting your final application.

Receipt of entries will be acknowledged - if you haven't received an acknowledgment within 24 hours of entering, please call **01494 927130** or email: awards@bbf.uk.com

Terms and conditions

General

- Any registered private sector organisation or company located in Buckinghamshire which has been trading for at least 12 months is eligible to enter the awards.
- If your organisation is part of a larger business or a franchise, your organisation must function as a separate business unit in the county of Buckinghamshire.
- Category sponsors are not eligible to enter the Buckinghamshire Business Awards.
- Entries cannot be accepted from any business which is part or wholly funded by Buckinghamshire Council.
- All entrants are expected to declare if they consider themselves to have any interest in the sponsoring organisation of the category(ies) that they are entering. This is designed to preserve the impartiality of the judging process by ensuring that all parties recognise and disclose any potential conflicts. If a potential conflict of interest is identified – this will not prevent a business from entering but may affect who is assigned to judge the entry. We will take all steps to avoid and/or manage these situations as they arise.
- All entries must be made through our online entry system and entries will not be accepted through any other means.
- We will only accept the first two completed category entries from a business that are submitted through the online entry system. If further entries are subsequently submitted, these will not be accepted.
- All entrants must agree to be interviewed by awards judges.
- Additional supporting information, such as photographs and testimonials, is acceptable, and should be relevant to the last 12 months.

Judging

- Once your entry is submitted, the hard work begins for the judges tasked with assessing all entries. Sponsors usually take on the role of judging their award or nominate a member of the Buckinghamshire Business First team to shortlist on their behalf.
- Shortlisted entries will receive in person or virtual site visits in order to determine finalists and category winners. If your entry is shortlisted, you will need to be available between mid-September and mid-October 2026 when confirmed to receive a visit.
- Being shortlisted and visited by a sponsor/judge doesn't necessarily secure your place as a finalist and we ask that you treat this visit as confidential at this stage.
- All selections of finalists and winners will be reviewed by an independent judging panel made up of experienced business professionals and representatives from Buckinghamshire Business First.
- Category finalists will be considered for the overall Buckinghamshire Company of the Year 2026 Award. No 'entry' is required for this award as this is judged on the overall application of category finalists as well as subsequent finalist site visits. Finalists in the Business Leader of the Year and Community Champions categories will not be considered for the Company of the Year Award.
- Charities will not be considered for the overall Company of the Year Award.
- All entries are treated in confidence. Judges, including the independent judging panel, are required to sign a non-disclosure agreement that prevents them from sharing any information in relation to entrants outside of the judging process.
- When judging has concluded, entry submissions will be destroyed by the judges.
- The judges' decision is final and no communications will be entered into.

Finalists

- Judges will choose three finalists for each category, and finalists will be officially announced on 17th September 2026.
- Each finalist must agree to take part in publicity and by entering the awards you agree to this.
- The winner of each category will be announced at the Awards Ceremony in November.
- A list of winners will be available on the Buckinghamshire Business Awards website at: bbf.uk.com/bba

Use of data and how we communicate with you

- Your data will be held/stored by Buckinghamshire Business First and we will retain a copy of your award entry and any supplementary information. We are committed to looking after your data and complying with all relevant legislation. For more details, please see our [Privacy Policy](#).
- By providing your email address you agree to receiving emails from the Buckinghamshire Business First Group. You can unsubscribe at any time.
- We will collect, process, store and use the data you provide to enable us to run the awards, judge your submission and manage our relationship with you effectively, lawfully and appropriately. This applies when you register for the awards, whilst you're at the awards and after the awards in line with our wider Privacy Policy. This includes using information to enable us to comply with the awards terms and conditions, to comply with legal requirements, to pursue the legitimate interests of Buckinghamshire Business First and protect our legal position in the event of legal proceedings.
- When applying for the awards, you give your consent for Buckinghamshire Business First to share your data with the awards judges and sponsors and for us to use this data to keep you informed about those specific awards and any further awards that we believe would be relevant to your interests. Judges and sponsors change from year to year. For the most up to date list, go to: bbf.uk.com/bba or email: info@bbf.uk.com
- You also agree to your data being shared with our production partners. Please email us at info@bbf.uk.com if you wish to know the details of our current production partners.
- All entries are treated in confidence and awards judges and sponsors are required to sign a confidentiality agreement that prevents them from sharing any information in relation to entrants outside of the judging process without the applicant's prior written consent.
- Judges and sponsors are required to undertake to use the same degree of care to protect the confidential information of applicants and to destroy confidential information within one month of the date of the Buckinghamshire Business Awards Ceremony.
- Information provided in support of entries will not be returned and paper copies will be destroyed securely post-awards.
- You may, at any time, update and amend your preferred method(s) of communication or opt out of receiving communications from Buckinghamshire Business First by emailing: info@bbf.uk.com
- When registering for the awards, we will also ask if you are a member of Buckinghamshire Business First. If not, and if you give your consent, we will contact you to provide information about the benefits of joining.
- By submitting the entry, you consent to us taking pictures or recording video of you at the awards to use on social media, the website, event and/or awards marketing or in a press release to promote our activities. If you wish to withdraw your consent for us to use images/video of you, please email info@bbf.uk.com with your name and the awards at which the image was taken.

Don't miss the deadline for entries - 5.30pm on Tuesday 30th June 2026.



Get a head start on your entry

Attend one of our online Entry Power Hours for the best chance of success at the glittering gala awards dinner!

- o 14th May from 10am - 11am - [Book here >](#)
- o 10th June from 10am - 11am - [Book here >](#)

Get hints and tips on how to make the most of your entry from previous winners, judges and PR experts.

Where to submit your entry

All entries must be made online at: bbf.uk.com/bba

Receipt of all entries will be acknowledged – if you have not received acknowledgement within 24 hours, please contact us on **01494 927130** or email: awards@bbf.uk.com

Any questions?

Give us a call on **01494 927130** or email: awards@bbf.uk.com

Good luck - we look forward to receiving your entry!

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