

Associate sponsor **BERN**ICIA

Inspiring Females Awards guide



North East England
Chamber Business Awards

A woman with short dark hair, wearing a white long-sleeved dress with a lace collar and cuffs, is standing at a podium. She is smiling and clapping her hands. The podium is dark with a microphone in front of her. The background is dark and out of focus.

Celebrating the achievements of women in our region's business community

We're looking to recognise truly inspiring females across the North East England business community. Those who make a difference in their field, to their businesses and colleagues, to their community and to our great region.

For over 200 years the North East England Chamber of Commerce has championed businesses in the region. We are inspired by the strength, determination and positivity of our business community, despite many challenges. You are the leaders, innovators and the beating heart driving this region forward.

Now is the time to recognise your achievements.

Our associate sponsor

"Bernicia is a housing association fully focused on our region. Bernicia recognises the great work that the North East England Chamber of Commerce does to support the region's business community and to promote the scale and range of opportunities that the North East has to offer.

"There are lots of fantastic businesses across the region doing great things every day, helping the North East thrive. The Chamber awards shine a light on these achievements and put North East businesses on a national stage, showcasing innovation, collaboration and our shared determination to help the region grow and prosper. As associate sponsor, we're delighted to be part of championing our region as a great place to live, work and do business."

BERNICIA

Key dates

23.05.23	Submissions open
17.07.23	Submissions close at noon
September 23	Shortlists announced
24.11.23	Inspiring Females Awards final, Newcastle Civic Centre

Important information

All submissions require the following:

Contact information

- Contact name
- Company name
- Company address
- Email address
- Telephone number
- Twitter account

Attachments/evidence

Material may be supplied as follows:

- A maximum of 3 attachments (e.g. testimonials, tables, graphs or photos) may be included with the entry form.
- These attachments must be image files (jpg, gif, png or tif) and must not exceed 5MB in total. Please note that PDF files are not allowed.
- Any attachments that exceed the permitted allowance or exceed the permitted file size will be deleted.

Key information

- Your entry must be submitted by noon on 17 July 2023.
- Please ensure you check the spelling of your entry and your company name. If you are a winner, this is how your business name will be displayed on the award.
- When you make any amendments to any part of your entry on Awards Force (our awards platform), please ensure you click the 'save' button before leaving that page.
- You can review your entries in Awards Force by scrolling down under 'my entries'.

Terms and conditions

- Only fully paid members of North East England Chamber of Commerce can enter these awards.
- Members must apply under their current membership package.
- Entry to more than one category is permitted.
- Financial information will be treated in confidence but forms will be shared with a select group of individuals for judging purposes.
- Information from the entry may be used for the host's speeches.
- All entries must be electronic.
- Any website links used within your entry will not be activated by the judges.
- Applicants must be authorised to enter their organisation into the awards programme.
- Category or associate sponsors are not permitted to apply to these awards in the same year as their sponsorship.
- No employee of the North East England or British Chambers of Commerce or an accredited Chamber of Commerce shall be entitled to enter.
- In entering an award you are not guaranteed to be shortlisted. Three businesses will be chosen to be shortlisted with one winner announced at the final. Entries will be judged by a panel consisting of representatives from their category sponsor as well as representatives from individual businesses across the North East.
- Awards are judged via the Awards Force external platform.
- Please note you will be judged by the content on your form. There will not be a face-to-face interview.
- Incomplete entries will not be judged.
- The judges' decision is final and no further correspondence will be entered into.
- Award winners will be announced at Newcastle Civic Centre on the afternoon of 24 November 2023.
- Please keep 24 November free to attend the awards if you are shortlisted (please note, there is a cost to attend the awards).
- By registering and completing an entry for the awards, you agree to these terms and conditions.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the benefits of entering?

- Maximise the visibility of your business.
- Free marketing – being shortlisted improves brand awareness and promotes your business.
- You will receive an image/logo to say you are shortlisted or a winner – use this on marketing materials/emails/socials.
- Celebrating hard work and success are great PR opportunities.
- Boost morale – winning an award feels great. Employees will feel proud of being part of the business. It may also attract new recruits.
- Stand out from the competition.
- Increase credibility – a win is a sign of quality for potential customers.

Is it free to enter?

Yes.

Can I apply for an award if I'm not a Chamber member?

No – entering an Inspiring Females Award is one of the many benefits of being a Chamber member. If you are interested in finding out more about membership email your@neechamber.co.uk.

Can I enter more than one award?

Yes.

Which award category should I enter?

Check the criteria for each award category to see what fits you or your business best. Questions you will be asked are listed on the IF Award categories section of the website - www.neechamberawards.co.uk/inspiringfemales.

How do I enter?

After reading the important information/terms and conditions, click ENTER NOW on the awards website and register an account. Choose which category you would like to enter and don't forget to save in progress.

Can I nominate myself and/or a colleague or someone from another business?

Yes, you can nominate yourself, your business, a colleague or someone else from another business, as long as the recipient is a Chamber member. There is no limit to how many categories you enter, and it's completely free.

Can I come back to my entry and submit it later?

Yes (but we do encourage you to start your application sooner rather than later).

I've previously created an awards account and can't remember my password, what do I do?

Click the forgotten password link. You will receive an email from our awards platform, Awards Force. Please check your spam.

If you have any problems Natasha Jessop, events co-ordinator, can help - natasha.jessop@neechamber.co.uk.

Who am I competing with?

The Chamber has many members across the region of all sizes and sectors. The awards are open to all members, both individuals and businesses.

When will I hear if I'm shortlisted?

Shortlisted members will be informed in September 2023.

If I get shortlisted what happens next?

You will be informed, then the full list of shortlisted members will be listed on the Chamber social channels.

The booking site will then open. You have the opportunity to book a table or individual places at the Inspiring Females Awards final for guests and colleagues. The event takes place on Friday 24 November at Newcastle Civic Centre.

What do I wear to the Inspiring Females Awards final?

We do not often stipulate a dress code as we represent many business sectors, however as this is an awards event we would recommend a smart dress code.

If I win a category at the final, what happens?

The winning individual or business will be announced. Depending on the category, the individual or representatives from the business will go on stage to accept the award. You will then have your photograph taken and return to your seat.


If I win, do I make a speech?

No.

If I win, will I receive a physical award?

At the final, winners will receive an award. Following the event, you will also receive a certificate as well as a logo to add to your marketing collateral.

If you need any additional support please contact natasha.jessop@neechamber.co.uk or ashley.carney@neechamber.co.uk



"It's great to be nominated, let alone win. The awards really reinforce the recognition of the hard work that I know many women do on a daily basis, juggling families or caring alongside a full on job, whilst trying to carve out time for themselves to develop and grow.

"If you're considering entering or you're a colleague thinking of nominating someone I'd say "go for it!". I was so pleasantly surprised when I won. It was a lovely gesture, I was very touched and grateful!

"There are lots of different categories, from inspiring female and most inspiring employer to apprentice of the year and business leader – I would definitely recommend entering."

Rebecca Chapman
North East Business Resilience Centre
Inspiring female business leader of the year 2022

CATEGORIES

Inspiring female (multiple awards)

Focusing on individuals within our member organisations who deserve recognition, be it on their contribution to their organisation, the region or to other colleagues. A role model who possesses passion and drive and whose achievements and energy inspire others. A woman who has overcome adversity and challenges (not essential).

Within this category there are three awards for each membership package, meaning members are competing against similar sized organisations from an employee perspective. These are small business, medium business and large business members.

Inspiring Female (small business award) [sponsored by Intuit](#)

Inspiring Female (medium business award) [sponsored by Hargreaves](#)

Inspiring Female (large business award for our large and partner members) [sponsored by Handelsbanken](#)

Inspiring Female (international business award)

You can nominate yourself, a colleague or a fellow Chamber member.

Financial details

You will need to confirm the organisation this nominee is part of is not only reputable, but also financially stable.

Entry criteria/information required

- A role model who possesses passion and drive and whose achievements and energy inspire others. A woman who has overcome adversity and challenges (not essential).
- Please provide a brief description of the business, the products or services it supplies, its customers and the markets it operates in (please also include countries the business operates in if applying for international business award).
- Please provide a personal profile and background of the nominee.
- Explain how the nominee inspires others and how their achievements have led them to become a role model.
- Demonstrate what internal or external initiatives they have undertaken to support and inspire others and the impact this has had.
- Testimonials are required.

Most inspiring employer (multiple awards)

Awarded to the member organisations which have made a significant contribution to the development and retention of their female workforce, whilst inspiring the next female generation.

Within this category there are three awards for each membership package, meaning members are competing against similar sized organisations from an employee perspective. These are small business, medium business and large business members.

Most inspiring employer (small business award) [sponsored by Natwest](#)

Most inspiring employer (medium business award) [sponsored by Hargreaves](#)

Most inspiring employer (large business award for our large and partner members) [sponsored by Handelsbanken](#)

Financial details

Please provide an overview of your turnover, net profit over the last three years and current net reserves. This information is collected to ensure the business applying is financially stable.

Please note: We require an overview, and a projection where exact figures may not be available is acceptable.

Judges will be mindful of significant changes to 2020/2021 figures due to the effects of the pandemic.

Please provide:

- 2020 turnover
- 2021 turnover
- 2022 turnover
- 2020 net profit
- 2021 net profit
- 2022 net profit
- Current net reserves

Entry criteria/information required

- A strong representation of the overall workforce are women in senior leadership roles.
- Your organisation demonstrates internal or external initiatives to support your female talent or inspire the next female generation.
- Please detail the impact of these internal or external initiatives (including the development and retention of your female workforce/and the impact on inspiring the next generation).
- Please provide a brief description of your business, the products or services you supply, your customers and the markets your business operates in.
- Outline the overall trend in your sales turnover and profit development, together with a brief description of any key events that have led to any changes where appropriate.
- What are the objectives for your business over the next three years and how will these be achieved?
- What external factors have affected your business and how have you dealt with those effects?
- Testimonials from staff members will be required.

Inspiring female business leader of the year

This category is open to inspiring females who have a strong regional profile and have achieved accomplishments of significance over their career. Nominees will possess qualities of vision, innovation, entrepreneurial drive and leadership. A truly inspiring female.

[Sponsored by Broad Chare Partnership LLP](#)

Financial details

Please provide an overview of your turnover, net profit over the last three years and current net reserves. This information is collected to ensure the business applying is financially stable.

Please note: We require an overview, and a projection where exact figures may not be available is acceptable.

Judges will be mindful of significant changes to 2020/2021 figures due to the effects of the pandemic.

Please provide:

- 2020 turnover
- 2021 turnover
- 2022 turnover
- 2020 net profit
- 2021 net profit
- 2022 net profit
- Current net reserves

Entry criteria/information required

- A woman that goes above and beyond with evidence of giving back to business and the community/or individuals. A role model to others, men and women.
- Please provide a personal profile and background of the nominee.
- Demonstrate the nominee's competence in their chosen field and how this has benefited the business or the wider community in the North East.
- Nominees will demonstrate outstanding leadership, and a strong track record of building sales and profitability while inspiring others.
- Please provide a brief description of your business, the products or services you supply, your customers and the markets and countries your business operates in.
- Outline the overall trend in your sales turnover and profit development, together with a brief description of any key events that have led to any changes where appropriate.
- Please tell us if and how external factors have affected the business either positively or negatively. How has the nominee shown entrepreneurship in dealing with it?

Community & CSR inspiring female of the year

This will be awarded to the individual who has actively been involved in supporting charity or the local community. The nominee could also be someone who has implemented initiatives and champions corporate social responsibility. The winner will be passionate about making a difference.

Sponsored by [Robson Laidler](#)

Financial details

You will need to confirm the organisation this nominee is part of is not only reputable, but also financially stable.

Entry criteria/information required

- Please detail specific initiatives that the nominee has implemented that have made a difference to the business, local community and/or the environment (from July 2021 to present).
- Outline the impact the above initiatives have had on the company and the people within the company.
- Please provide evidence (e.g. cost savings, donations to charity, time dedicated to initiatives) and photographic evidence. Please put evidence into document/s to upload.
- Please provide a brief description of the business, the products or services it supplies, its customers and the markets it operates in.
- Please also provide a brief description of the nominee's role within the business.
- Testimonials will be required e.g. schools, charity, trustees, local community.
- Extra credit will be given if the nominee's achievements are outside her employment.

Apprentice of the year

Would you like to recognise an outstanding female apprentice you have within your organisation or know of personally or professionally?

Sponsored by [Hartlepool College](#)

Financial details

You will need to confirm the organisation this nominee is part of is not only reputable, but also financially stable.

Entry criteria/information required

- Please provide apprenticeship subject, start date and completion date (the individual should be a current apprentice or have completed an apprenticeship between now and January 2022).
- Explain how the nominee has demonstrated exceptional skills as a female apprentice, as well as exemplary drive, determination and/or an innovative mind and initiative.
- Detail how the apprentice has impacted on the culture in the business.
- Please demonstrate what influence the apprentice has had from a commercial perspective.
- Explain how the nominee inspires others and how their achievements have led them to become a role model.
- Nominees are welcome from a STEM background or male dominated sector.
- Please provide a brief description of your business, the products or services you supply, your customers and the markets your business operates in.

Inspiring female one to watch

This new category is open to individuals who are doing amazing work. One to watch might be a future leader, a rising star with an exciting future ahead.

The nominee could also be an individual (from any size business) who is experienced in their field - a future star to look out for and 'one to watch'.

Sponsored by [North of Tyne Combined Authority](#)

Financial details

You will need to confirm the organisation this nominee is part of is not only reputable, but also financially stable.

Entry criteria/information required

- Please explain how the nominee might be a future leader, a rising star with an exciting future ahead.
- Please provide a brief description of the business, and the products or services it supplies.
- Provide a personal profile and background of the nominee.
- Explain how the nominee inspires others and how their achievements have led them to become a role model.
- Demonstrate why the nominee is 'one to watch'.



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