

OxLEP Business Marketplace and Celebration 2024

Awards Categories – Eligibility and Definitions

Please note initial eligibility for entering the awards is that your business must have been in receipt of support from OxLEP Business/the Growth Hub since April 2022. Support does not need to have been continuous from this date but must have been received between April 2022 and the current date.

Your business must also be an Oxfordshire-based SME (fewer than 250 employees) or sole trader, either registered with Companies House or HMRC.

Category	Definition/Eligibility
Socially Responsible Business of the Year, sponsored by The Sky Wave Distilling Co.	<p>Any business with socially responsible commitments.</p> <p>This award recognises businesses demonstrating exceptional commitment to sustainable, ethical, and socially responsible practices.</p> <p>Organisations that are tackling an important local or global social issue as well as conducting the rest of the business in responsible ways, showing the potential to be an industry leader and an inspiration to customers and the business community.</p>
Employer of the Year, sponsored by The Motivation Agency.	<p>Any business that has employees, from 1 – 250.</p> <p>This award recognises businesses that demonstrate an exceptional commitment to their employees and workplace wellbeing.</p> <p>This could include ensuring safe workspaces, good physical and mental health practices, promoting work/life balance and providing opportunities for career development.</p>
Growth Business of the Year, sponsored by Howden.	<p>Any business that was registered before 1st April 2022 (i.e. that is not a Start-up).</p> <p>This award recognises and celebrates businesses that have achieved strength and stability.</p> <p>This business can show they are thriving, adapting, and succeeding in delivering against their business goals.</p>

<p>Environmentally Sustainable Business of the Year, sponsored by ALP Synergy.</p>	<p>Any business with environmental sustainability commitments.</p> <p>This award recognises businesses that have demonstrated commitment to and achievement of environmental sustainability.</p> <p>Organisations must show a commitment to sustainability throughout the operations of their business and real achievement in embedding a sustainable approach.</p>
<p>Innovator of the Year, sponsored by P3MO.</p>	<p>Any business that can demonstrate innovation.</p> <p>This award is an accolade designed to recognise businesses that have demonstrated innovation in their products, services, or business processes.</p> <p>The business can demonstrate true innovation in either their services, products or operations. This innovation may have had a significant impact on the business and/or on customers and other businesses.</p>
<p>Business Leader of the Year, sponsored by Institute of Directors.</p>	<p>Any business founder, director, manager or in any other leadership position.</p> <p>This award celebrates leadership and vision in the business community.</p> <p>The person that can demonstrate driving a dynamic and successful business and can evidence their individual contribution as a leader to the success of their business.</p>
<p>Start-up of the Year, sponsored by Cypher.</p>	<p>Any new, registered business that has started trading since 1st April 2022.</p> <p>This award is an esteemed recognition dedicated to celebrating emerging businesses that have recently launched and can already demonstrate success and stability.</p> <p>How was the business created and why, what challenges were overcome. Plans for future success should be detailed.</p>

<p>Exporter of the Year, sponsored by Stephen Spencer + Associates.</p>	<p>Any business that is exporting.</p> <p>This award is designed to recognise and celebrate businesses that have demonstrated growth and expansion in overseas markets.</p> <p>Exporting can be of goods or services and businesses can be new to exporting or have been doing so for some time. The benefit of the exporting for the business must be evidenced in applications.</p>
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With thanks to our 2024 award sponsors.

