

Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce Awards 2026

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1. Category Breakdown

Not sure which award to apply for? Please see below for a breakdown of each category:

Non-Profit Champion 2026 (*Excellence in third sector*)

This award celebrates excellence in the third-sector. It is open to and includes charities, voluntary and community groups, social and creative enterprises and cooperative organisations who have made a significant contribution and impact across Greater Birmingham through social, environmental and community initiatives.

Community Builder 2026 (*Excellence in contribution to community*)

This award celebrates contribution to the community, and is aimed at businesses going above and beyond to make a committed and proactive contribution to the enhancement and benefit of their community. It recognises businesses prioritising their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) practices.

Workplace Champion 2026 (*internally focused inc. people development, health & wellbeing, D&I in the workplace*)

This award celebrates businesses or individuals who have made a difference in their workplace. From providing training and mentoring, to supporting wellbeing and EDI, this award recognises those who have gone above and beyond to build a positive culture in their organisation.

Pioneer 2026 (*Excellence in innovation*)

This award is applicable to those in any sector who have created innovative solutions through their work, to positively impact delivery, performance or customer experience.

Sustainability Trailblazer 2026 (*Excellence in sustainability*)

This award is for any business which are successfully addressing environmental challenges through innovative and sustainable practices and/or projects, and demonstrating a commitment to change.

Digital Revolutionary 2026 (*Excellence in Technology & Digital*)

This award celebrates businesses in any sector who demonstrate excellence in technical innovation, application development and design.

Breakthrough Business 2026 (*Start-up / SME of the year*)

This award celebrates start-ups and SMEs who demonstrate exceptional achievements, have overcome obstacles and/or risen to business challenges. Applicable to those that have started a business within the last 2 years, or with no more than 40 employees.

Business without Borders Award 2026 (*Excellence in International Business*)

This award is open to businesses who have demonstrated excellence in international business, navigating the complexities of international markets to achieve success and support their business' growth.

Customer Commitment Award 2026 (*Excellence in customer service, hospitality, retail, events and professional services*)

This award is open to businesses that have provided exemplary service to customers, have made exceptional contributions in this area, exceeding normal expectations, and delivered outstanding quality service to their customers, in a way that sets them apart from their competitors. It includes service industries, professional services, hospitality and retail establishments, events companies, and suppliers, and is open to both bricks-and-mortar and online businesses.

Influencer 2026 (*Excellence in PR, Media, Marketing*)

This award recognises the achievements in supporting the growth and visibility of the business, and covers sales, marketing, digital media, events, PR and other communication roles either in-house or within a specialist agency.

Business Ambassador 2026

This award celebrates individuals or organisations who make a difference every single day, supporting others to develop, thrive and grow. It recognises achievers who are self-motivated and dedicated to their role or mission, and have made an outstanding and significant contribution to their organisation or another business whilst demonstrating leadership skills and qualities. The shortlisted entries for this category are put to a public vote; the scores from the public vote and the judges' scores are combined in a 50:50 split to determine the winner.

2. Eligibility Criteria

- The GBCC Awards are open to all businesses based within the Greater Birmingham region including Birmingham, Burton, Cannock Chase, Lichfield, Tamworth, Solihull and Sutton Coldfield postcode areas.
- If you are a Greater Birmingham Chambers member but are based outside of the region, then you are eligible to enter any of the categories but will not be eligible to win the overall 'Greater Birmingham Business of the year' award.
- If you are not a member of the Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce, you are eligible to enter any of the categories but will not be eligible to win the overall 'Greater Birmingham Business of the year' award.
- Each organisation may apply for a maximum of two categories.
- Business Ambassador Category only: If an organisation is nominated by another organisation, this will not impact any other applications made by the nominated organisation. I.e. If organisation A nominates organisation B for the Business Ambassador Category, organisation B is still eligible to enter itself into two other category awards.
- There are no restrictions on previous applicants or winners entering the 2026 awards, due to a refresh of categories.

- The Awards are free to enter.

3. Application Form & Questions

Applications may only be made using the online portal.

Part A.

The following questions will be asked on the portal as an overview of your organisation:

Contact name (<i>first name, surname</i>)	
Company name (<i>please ensure this is typed as you would like it publicised</i>)	
Company address	
Email address	
Website address	
Contact number	
Social media handles/URL	
Business sector	
Nature of business	
Main product/service	
Number of employees	
Who are typically your customers?	

Legal Status of company	
What year did the business start trading?	
Is your business a Chamber member in the Greater Birmingham area (any division)?	
Company logo (jpeg or png format)	

Part B.

The following questions will be asked for all categories except the Business Ambassador Award:

QUESTION 1

Tell us about your organisation over the last 12 months. (Max 200 words; 30 marks.)

Judges will be looking for;

- Business objectives and priorities
- Your engagement with, or commitment to, the Greater Birmingham area (or local areas within it: Birmingham, Burton-on-Trent, Cannock Chase, Lichfield, Solihull, Sutton Coldfield, Tamworth)
- General examples of business success over the past 12 months such as growth in turnover

QUESTION 2

Tell us why your organisation deserves to win your chosen award. (Max 500 words; 70 marks.)

Judges will be looking for;

- Examples directly relevant to your chosen category
- A track record of achievement or impact connected to your chosen category

There is an additional question for Workplace Champion 2026, asking for the name and email address of the nominated individual, where an individual is to be nominated rather than an organisation.

Business Ambassador Award Application

The questions for the Business Ambassador Award are slightly different to the above.

QUESTION 1

Tell us about your nominated organisation or individual over the last 12 months. (Max 200 words; 30 marks)

Judges will be looking for:

- An introduction to the nominated organisation or individual
- Your relationship to the nominated organisation or individual
- General examples of business or individual success over the past 12 months such as growth in turnover
- Engagement with, or commitment to, the Greater Birmingham area (or local areas within it: Birmingham, Burton-on-Trent, Cannock Chase, Lichfield, Solihull, Sutton Coldfield, Tamworth)

QUESTION 2

Tell us why this organisation or individual deserves to win this award (Max 500 words; 70 marks.)

Judges will be looking for:

- Examples directly relevant to chosen category
- A track record of achievement or impact connected to chosen category
- How they stand out in the Greater Birmingham region.