

The Northern Echo
BUSINESSiQ
Awards 2026

In association with 

LIVE
AWARDS
EVENT

Wednesday, 22nd April 2026

LOCALiQ
localiq.co.uk



BUSINESSiQ Awards 2026: A Celebration of Bravery, Brilliance and the Best of the North East

In 2025, we broke the mould. Swapping the traditional three-course meal for bold, inventive hospitality, we redefined what a successful awards night could look like – and the response was overwhelming. Our decision to challenge the norm and push the boundaries of the typical business awards format wasn't just noted; it was celebrated.

That bravery has set the tone for everything the BUSINESSiQ Awards stand for – and in 2026, we're doing it again.

This isn't just another black-tie dinner. This is a bold, brilliant, and proudly different celebration of the North East's incredible business community. From the game-changing start-ups to the region's most influential leaders, we'll be shining a light on those who make this place thrive – and we'll do it with the style, substance and spark our guests now expect.

Whether you want your business to be centre stage as a headline partner, or aligned with a category that fits your sector perfectly, we've created a night – and a platform – unlike any other.

The region moves fast. BUSINESSiQ keeps pace. And in 2026, we'll raise the bar once more.

Pull up a chair. This is going to be special.

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The Event

- Hilton Newcastle Gateshead
- Champagne reception.
- Black tie.
- Special Guest Speaker.
- Entertainment.
- Celebrating the flavours of the North East with a handpicked selection of gourmet street food - served in a relaxed, informal style perfect for mingling.
- Networking with senior business leaders.
- A night of celebration.



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Award Categories

12 categories, with the aim of recognising small, medium and large enterprises who are leading the way in the North East:

- Training and Skills Award
- Innovation Award
- New Business of the Year
- Creative Business of the Year
- Export Champion Award
- Diversity and Inclusion Award
- Employee Health and Wellbeing Award
- Community Impact Award
- Net Zero Award
- SME of the Year
- Business of the Year
- Inspirational Leader of the Year*

*Not open for nominations. Presented by BUSINESSIQ

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Partnership 2026

- Article published in The Northern Echo and appearing online announcing you as the category sponsor of choice.
- 2-page editorial feature in BUSINESSiQ magazine (June 2026)
- Full brand exposure across LOCALiQ news, press and social media channels promoting the event.
- Branding on all entry forms in paper and online.
- Credit as category sponsor on all pre-event editorial coverage.
- Full brand exposure throughout the awards night.
- Involvement in a judging day with fellow category sponsors.
- Presentation of the category award to the winner.
- Half page advert in The Northern Echo pre (18th April) and post (25th April) event supplements.
- Digital display awareness campaign.
- Accreditation on winners' certificates and trophy
- Category award winners highlights promoted post event via social media.
- 10 tickets for the event

Investment: £4,000+VAT

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Additional sponsorship opportunities

Networking reception sponsor
£500+VAT

Awards highlight film sponsor
£500+VAT

Cocktail bar sponsor
£500+VAT

Entertainment sponsor
£500+VAT

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