* **The total word count of your entry should be no more than 2700 words. If your entry form exceeds this limit your entry will not be accepted and you will not be notified.**
* **Section 1 does not count towards the word count. Section 2 MUST NOT exceed 2000 words. Each question in section 2 carries its own individual word limit and section 3 must not exceed 700 words.**
* **A maximum of 5 attachments (e.g. 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.**
* **Any attachments that exceed the permitted allowance or exceed the permitted file size will be deleted.**
* **Please enter the contact name and company name as you would like to see it appear on a certificate should you become a winner.**
* **Please email your completed entry form to** **awards@hwchamber.co.uk**
* **Please save your entry form electronically as YOURCOMPANY\_CATEGORY.doc**
* **This form contains 9 questions. Please ensure that you answer all questions. Any entries not adhering to the rules at the end of the entry form will be eliminated at the next round.**
* **Please note the rules at the end of this entry form.**
* **Please attach a high resolution copy of your company logo which, if needed will be used for promotional purposes.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| TOTAL WORD COUNT |  |  |

**SECTION 1**

**Please type your answers after each question**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Contact name |  |
| Company name |  |
| Company address |  |
| Email address |  |
| Website address |  |
| Telephone number |  |
| Twitter account |  |
| Business sector |  |
| Nature of business |  |
| Main product/service |  |
| Number of employees |  |
| Legal Status of company |  |
| Year that the business started trading |  |
| Are you a member of an accredited Chamber of Commerce? If yes, which one? |  |

For a list of Accredited Chambers please visit <http://www.britishchambers.org.uk>

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **\*These must be completed** | **FY 2017** | **FY 2018** | **Projection 2019** or the last public statement of your future outlook\* |
| **Turnover\*** |  |  |  |
| **Net Profit\*** |  |  |  |
| **Reserves\*** |  |  |  |

\*we reserve the right to request updated figures should your entry progress to the national finals.

**SECTION 2**

1. **Please provide a brief description of your business, the products or services it supplies, its customers and the markets that it operates in.** (Maximum 200 words)

You should cover:

* The nature of your business
* Your products and services
* Your customers
* Markets that you operate in

**This question has a maximum of 3 marks**

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1. **Please 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.** (Maximum 200 words)

You should cover:
* How your sales turnover has developed
* How your profit has developed
* Any events that have led to any changes. Please provide an explanation

**This question has a maximum of 5 marks**

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1. **What are the objectives for your business over the next three years and how will these be achieved?** (Maximum 200 words)

You should cover:

* Main objectives for the next three years
* How these will be achieved
* Effects that these will have on the overall business

**This question has a maximum of 5 marks**

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1. **Please describe why people are important to your business and what role people play in helping the business achieve its objectives?** (Maximum 350 words)

You should cover:

* The importance of your people and the role they play
* How their roles are linked to the overall objectives of the business

**This question has a maximum of 5 marks**

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1. **Please provide a description of your company’s approach to learning and development. How does this link with your business objectives/mission statement? Who in your organisation is involved in employee development?** (Maximum 350 words)

You should cover:

* Details of your company’s approach to learning and development.
* Explanation of how this links with your business objectives/mission statement.
* Details of who in your organisation is involved with workforce development, e.g. senior management, line managers.
* How employees learning and development needs are assessed
* Any other activities designed to support your people e.g. health and wellbeing initiatives, work life balance agenda?

**This question has a maximum of 5 marks**

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1. **Please outline any specific employee development activities or strategies that have proved particularly effective for your business.** (Maximum 350 words)

You should cover:

* Details of specific workforce development activities or strategies that have been effective in your organisation.
* An outline of how and why these strategies were developed.
* Feedback from staff on workforce development activities or strategies.
* Details of Accreditation Standards such as Investors in People, EFQM etc.

**This question has a maximum of 5 marks**

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1. **Please detail the impact that your employee development strategies have had on your business e.g. reduced staff turnover, improved retention, reduced recruitment costs, and improvement to business growth and profits.** (Maximum 350 words)

You should include:

* Evidence of the impact that your employee development strategies have had on your business

**This question has a maximum of 5 marks**

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**SECTION 3**

1. **Please detail what Corporate Social Responsibilities activities you have been engaged in over the last 12 months and how these have benefited your workforce?  What are the additional benefits to your organisation of this CSR activity?  Why is CSR important to your organisation and how does it support your company values?** (Maximum 350 words)
* You should include in your answers actual examples or evidence of implementation and/or participation in the initiatives you have highlighted

**This question has a maximum of 5 marks**

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1. **What programs do you have in place which actively promotes and encourages healthy lifestyles amongst your workforce?  What was the motivation behind implementing these initiatives and who is responsible in your organisation for implementation, ongoing management and evaluation of the programs.  What have been the benefits to your organisation of implementing health and wellbeing initiatives?**

(Maximum 350 words)

* You should include in your answers actual examples or evidence of implementation and/or participation in the initiatives you have highlighted

**This question has a maximum of 5 marks**

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**Judging**

Should your application for this award category be successful, a judging date will be allocated between Monday 29th April – Friday 10th May 2019.

You will be notified no later than Tuesday 9th April 2019 if you have been successful in becoming a finalist.

**What encouraged you to enter?**

* Chamber Staff, please specify..................................
* Twitter/Linkedin
* Herefordshire & Worcestershire Chamber of Commerce website
* Email signature
* Networking newsletter
* 3rd party
* Local newspapers
* Other (please specify)

**The Rules**

1. The Herefordshire & Worcestershire Chamber Awards are free to enter for members and non-members of Accredited Chambers of Commerce only.
2. Entries are treated in confidence but will be shared with a select group of individuals for judging purposes.
3. All entries must be electronic.
4. A maximum of 5 attachments (e.g. 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. Any attachments that exceed the permitted allowance or exceed the permitted file size will be deleted.
5. Any website links used within your entry will not be activated by the judges. Supplementary information may be requested at a national judging level.
6. Please note the maximum word count for any entry is 2000 words. This word count limit does NOT include the question. If your entry exceeds this word count or file size it will not be accepted and you will not be notified.
7. Entrants may be asked for staff or customer testimonials.
8. Entries will be judged at two stages by an independent and impartial panel of judges. After the local Awards in July 2019, the next stage will be a regional judging panel from which the winners will be put forward to national judging with the British Chambers of Commerce.
9. Award winners will be announced at the Annual Awards Ceremony on Thursday 4 July 2019.
10. Entry to more than one category is permitted.
11. Applicants must be authorised to enter their organisation into the awards programme.
12. Entries should be in English and should be produced using a word processor. All entries are entered into the BCC Awards process. All entries must be checked for spelling and grammar.
13. Incomplete entries will not be judged.
14. All entries that meet all of the rules will be acknowledged on receipt. Entry forms will become the property of the British Chambers of Commerce and entries will not be returned.
15. Proof of sending entry (by email) is not proof of receipt by BCC or its agents.
16. Herefordshire and Worcestershire Chamber of Commerce reserve the right to withdraw an award from any applicant supplying false information within their entry. Judges reserve the right to audit any information supplied.
17. The closing date for entries is Friday 29 March 2019.
18. The judges’ decision is final and no further correspondence will be entered into.
19. No employee of The British Chambers of Commerce or an Accredited Chamber of Commerce shall be entitled to enter.
20. By registering and completing an entry for the Awards you agree to these terms and conditions.