



## Foreword

Dundalk Chamber of Commerce is delighted to launch the Louth Business Awards for 2012. The aim of these awards is to recognize the achievements of companies and individuals in promoting excellent services and products in a top class manner. Given the challenging times we are in we are encouraging companies to rally and recognize the organizations that are performing well.

On behalf of Dundalk Chamber I would like to encourage you to enter your business for these awards and give your company the opportunity to see its profile rise and be seen as a model of success, tough times or not. Success breeds success, so win or lose I'd believe your participation will have positive impact for the morale of all employees. Please look at the categories, you may well qualify for more than one, so be sure to select that in which you have best fit. The Awards evening provides a good social outing for all contestants.

• Paddy Malone, President - Dundalk Chamber

## When will the Awards take place?

The Louth Business Awards will take place on  
**Saturday the 20th October 2012 in the Fairways Hotel.**

## Why enter these Awards

- Each winner will receive a specially commissioned trophy for display in their premises.
- Recognition through photographs and articles in local media and on our website [www.dundalk.ie](http://www.dundalk.ie)
- There will be extensive coverage of the awards in the run up to the event and on the night itself.
- Opportunity to showcase your company to your peers.
- The winners have the opportunity to use this award on their own promotional material.

## Important Dates

- Wednesday 9th May - Launch of Awards
- Wednesday 15th August - Closing date for entries
- Monday 3rd September - Short listed companies announced - 4 in each category.
- Saturday 20th October - Winners announced at the Gala Dinner

Please indicate (by ticking box) the award category you wish to enter - (you may enter up to 4 categories)

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Best customer service award independent retailer - mystery shopped |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Best retail premises (interior and exterior) - mystery shopped     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Special community group award                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Age friendly award   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Business growth award  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Best exporter of the year award                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Best training initiative   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Best pub / bar - mystery shopped                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Best hair salon - mystery shopped                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Best business compliance   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Dundalk's best high growth sme                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Secretary / PA of the year - mystery shopped                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Environment excellence award                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Corporate responsibility award                                     |

## List of categories

1. **Best Customer Service Award Independent Retailer** sponsored by The Argus - This award is designed to celebrate customer excellence in the retail sector. In order for your business to succeed in this category you must highlight what your business offers to customers that separates you from the competition. It will be mystery-shopped.



2. **Best Retail Premises for Both Exterior and Interior Visual Impact** sponsored by Dedco. Open to all retailers this award will recognize excellence in both exterior and interior retail premises in terms of visual impact for the customer. It will be mystery-shopped.

3. **Special Community Group Award** sponsored by Dundalk Credit Union. This award is open to an organization in the voluntary sector who provides services, funds, resources, knowledge and skills to sustain and develop an important community service.



4. **Age Friendly Award** for a business who implements an age friendly service / policy and how this impacts on the older person. Please include in this statement why this service or policy merits this award in no more than 500 words in your application. This category is sponsored by myhomecare.ie.



5. **Business Growth Award** sponsored by Vhi Healthcare - For a company which has grown considerably in the past 5 years or has great success with a particular product.



6. **Best Exporter of the Year award** sponsored by Enterprise Ireland. For a company who has achieved an increase in their export sales over the past few years.



7. **Best Training Initiative** open to all companies who have a brilliant training initiative for all staff which has a marked business improvement for your company or organisation. Sponsored by FAS.



8. **Best Pub / Bar** sponsored by Diageo. This award recognizes excellence in the pub / bar licensed trade and will look for outlets that offer excellence in quality, service and value to customers. This will be mystery-shopped.



9. **Best Hair Salon Award** This award recognises excellent customer service in this sector. Does your salon offer an outstanding service to clients? This is sponsored by L'Oreal Professional Products Division and will be mystery-shopped.



10. **Best Business Compliance** sponsored by Peninsula Business Services. This award recognises an overall excellence in business compliance. The winner in this category recognises exceptional work done to further the compliance and ethics profession.



11. **Dundalk's Best High Growth SME** sponsored by Louth County Enterprise Board. This is open to all small businesses who employ 15 staff or less and who have demonstrated strategic growth, innovation and entrepreneurship in this sector.



12. **Secretary / PA of the Year** sponsored by the Fairways Hotel. This person will be nominated by their company. Have you a secretary or PA who goes that extra mile ensuring the smooth running of the office? It will be mystery-shopped.



13. **Environment Excellence Award** sponsored by Tesco. This is open to all businesses who have implemented an environment initiative, product or service which has contributed to minimizing the effect of the business or its customers on the environment.



14. **Corporate Responsibility Award** sponsored by Prometric. Open to all organisations or businesses who have in the past 3 years demonstrated innovative corporate social responsibility initiatives or strategies that make a real contribution to the local community.



• You can enter up to 4 categories.