



## PRESS RELEASE

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### Halton's Business and Tourism Awards Launched

The annual search for Halton's stars of business and tourism was launched this week.

Nominations are now open for the Halton Business and Tourism Awards 2012, organised jointly by Halton Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise and Runcorn & Widnes Tourism Business Network, supported by Halton Borough Council.

Several new categories have been added this year, increasing the opportunity for prizes in both the tourism and business sectors. New awards include recognition for innovation, social enterprise and positive environmental impact, which fit alongside existing categories such as Outstanding Customer Service and Business of the Year.



#### **Finding the winning chemistry**

Halton's Business and Tourism Awards 2012 are launched at Catalyst Science Discovery Centre by last year's winners (seated) Stuart Atherton, from Printel Design, Sue Halliday, education manager at Catalyst, together with (standing) Tim Leather, acting chairman of the Tourism Network and Paula Cain, chief executive of Halton Chamber of Commerce.

Business nominations can be made through the Halton Chamber website, [www.haltonchamber.com](http://www.haltonchamber.com) and tourism entries via [www.halton.gov.uk/tourism](http://www.halton.gov.uk/tourism).

The closing date for applications is 31<sup>st</sup> January 2012 and shortlisted candidates will be invited to a glittering awards dinner at The Heath Business Park's newly refurbished Orchard Suite on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March.

Paula Cain, Halton Chamber chief executive, said: "The awards are now in their fourth year and we are delighted we've attracted the support of some of the area's key businesses, like Reel Cinemas, Ineos ChlorVinyls and Mexichem. The awards recognise excellence. We have some fantastic companies in Halton, large and small, and I would encourage them all to enter."

Tim Leather, acting chair of the Tourism Network, added: "We have a hugely diverse, vibrant mix of tourism businesses and committed individuals within Halton's thriving visitor economy. The awards are an excellent opportunity to recognise the dedicated efforts of the staff who work hard to enhance the visitor's experience."

Last year's Business of the Year, Printel Design, has had a bumper year of success following the award. Managing director Stuart Atherton said: "The award has provided a fantastic platform for raising the profile of Printel. For prospective clients, it serves as a reliable guarantee of our professionalism and high quality service."

**The 2012 awards feature the following 11 categories:**

- Halton Business of the Year
- Exporter of the Year
- Positive Environmental Impact Award
- Outstanding Customer Service (business and tourism categories)
- Innovation Award (business and tourism categories)
- Entrepreneur of the Year
- Visitor Economy Team of the Year
- Young Tourism Professional of the Year
- Recognition of Tourism Support
- Best Social Enterprise
- New Business of the Year

**Sponsors** of the event include: Reel Cinemas, Ineos Chlor Vinyls, Mexichem, Virgin Trains, ABB, Halton Borough Council, Medicash, Prologis, Selwyns Coaches.

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