



## **Forest Economic Partnership Innovation Awards: Eligibility Criteria**

To be eligible for the Forest Economic Partnership Innovation Awards, applicants must meet the following criteria:

### **1. Business Location and Workforce:**

- The applicant business must be based and actively operating within the Forest of Dean (FOD) geographical area.
- The innovation submitted must have been generated and developed by employees based within the Forest of Dean.
- For the purpose of this award, "based" is defined as having a physical business address and a significant portion of operational activity within the FOD.
- Employee numbers will be verified and must reflect employees who are contracted and primarily working within the Forest of Dean.

### **2. Innovation Definition:**

- Innovation is defined broadly to include:
  - The development of a new product, service, or process.
  - A significant improvement to an existing product, service, or process.
  - A novel approach to business operations, marketing, or customer engagement.
  - For smaller businesses, innovation may also include a significant expansion or diversification of their existing business activities.
- The innovation must demonstrate a clear benefit to the business and/or the local economy of the Forest of Dean.

### **3. Application Requirements:**

- Applicants should provide information about the innovation, including its development process, implementation, and impact.
- Applicants should demonstrate how the innovation has contributed to the growth and sustainability of their business.
- Applicants should supply evidence to support their application.
- All information provided must be accurate and verifiable.

#### **4. General Conditions:**

- Applications must be submitted by the business owner or an authorised representative.
- The Forest Economic Partnership reserves the right to verify all information provided by applicants.
- The Forest Economic Partnership's decision on eligibility and award winners is final.