



## North East Chamber of Commerce lands Membership Award

A desire to become the champion of business in its region and the development of more tailored support has helped the North East Chamber of Commerce (NECC) secure a major honour at the British Chamber of Commerce Chamber Awards.

NECC, which will be 200 years old in 2015, beat off competition from across the UK to win the Excellence in Membership Services title after seeing its new approach bring in more than 60 new members in the last twelve months.

The organisation impressed judges with the way it developed six tailored membership packages designed to meet the differing requirements of companies in the area. This ranged from Essentials (1-10 employees) and Small (11-50) to Corporate (1001+) and Partners.

Each business receives on-going support from a membership adviser, supported by a telephone based customer service team to provide immediate support, access to products and advice. There are also three senior account managers in position to manager the NECC partners and international members.

Martyn Pellew, President of the British Chambers of Commerce, commented: “The Chambers have not been immune to the pressures of the recession and we have had to change the way we operate in order to become more dynamic and ensure the services and support we offer match what our member businesses need.

“North East Chamber of Commerce has done just that by introducing new membership packages that encourage more companies to get involved, making them a fitting winner of the Excellence in Membership Services Award.”

“It shows what can be achieved with a strong management team with a clear vision and a desire to be innovative in the way it delivers its services”

Over 500 guests were on hand at the Guildhall in London to witness the culmination of the British Chambers of Commerce Chamber Awards, which is the flagship event in the ‘Business is Good for Britain’ campaign.

Joining North East Chamber of Commerce on the podium were three other Chambers, who were all recognised for their achievements during 2012. These included:

- Business West (Excellence in International Trade)
- Doncaster Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise (Most Effective Campaigning)
- Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce (Chamber of the Year)

Now in its 9th year, the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) Chamber Awards 2012 are supported by the RBS Group, BT Business, Dell, DHL Express, Westfield Health, Club Wembley, Acua Limited, Qdos Consulting and Composite Legal Expenses.

**ENDS**

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**Notes to editors:**

The British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) is the national voice of local business.

The BCC sits at the heart of a powerful nationwide network of Accredited Chambers of Commerce, serving over **100,000 businesses** across the UK, which **employ over five million people**.

For more information visit: **[www.britishchambers.org.uk](http://www.britishchambers.org.uk)**

There are four categories in the annual Chamber Awards. Most Effective Campaigning, sponsored by BT Business, Excellence in Membership Services, sponsored by Composite Legal Expenses, Excellence in International Trade Services, sponsored by RBS and NatWest and Chamber of the Year, sponsored by Qdos Consulting Ltd.