IHE Mercia Branch Awards 2027

ENTRIES ARE NOW OPEN

Criteria

- Submission of entries is FREE
- Entries must be emailed to events@theihe.org
- Closing date is **8th Feb 2027 (17:00)**
- A full copy of the rules and criteria can be obtained from the IHE website - www.theihe.org/ihe-mercia-branch-awards
- A confirmation of your entry will be sent via email
- Shortlisted entries will be announced on the IHE website on **19th March 2027** and must be represented at the awards evening
- Winners will be announced at the awards evening on **10th June 2027.**

MACDONALD BURLINGTON HOTEL, 126 NEW STREET, BIRMINGHAM, B2 4JQ

For enquiries regarding table bookings, sponsorship or the award submissions, please contact events@theihe.org

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Award Categories

Large Project of the Year

Awarded to the team responsible for the delivery of a large project (over £2m) within the United Kingdom relating to any highway, traffic or transport related project i.e. highway maintenance scheme or new transport infrastructure/improvements scheme. The project will need to show how it has made a significant contribution to one or more of the following areas; cost/value for money, time, environment/sustainability, innovation, economic impact (i.e created growth, jobs), impact on local area (i.e. significant/innovation consultation procedures or improvements within a local area/community) and delivered on the initial aims/targets. The project should have been implemented or substantially completed within the 24 months prior to Jan 2027.

Small Project of the Year

Awarded to the team responsible for the delivery of a smaller scale project (less then £2m) within the United Kingdom relating to any highway, traffic or transport related project i.e. local safety schemes, capacity improvements, sustainable transport improvements etc. The project will need to show how it made a significant contribution to one or more of the following areas; cost/value for money, time, environment/sustainability, innovation, impact on local area (i.e. significant/innovation consultation procedures or improvements within a local area/community) and delivered on initial aims/targets. The project should have been implemented or substantially completed with the 24 months prior to Jan 2027.

Technology and Innovation

Awarded to the organisation, team, partnership or project that has demonstrated excellence in the development or application of innovative technology within the highways and transportation sector in the United Kingdom. Eligible entries may include Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS), AI and digital solutions, roadside infrastructure, road safety innovations, EV adoption, survey technology, traffic monitoring and other emerging technologies. Entries should demonstrate how the innovation has delivered measurable benefits in areas such as safety, efficiency, sustainability, customer experience, network performance or value for money. The innovation, project or initiative should have been implemented, launched or achieved a significant milestone within the 24 months prior to January 2027.

Sustainability and Climate Resilience

Awarded to the organisation, team, partnership or project that has demonstrated excellence in improving environmental sustainability and climate resilience within the highways and transportation sector in the United Kingdom. Eligible entries may include biodiversity enhancement, carbon reduction initiatives, sustainable materials and construction methods, environmental improvement projects, or measures designed to improve the resilience of infrastructure to climate change. Entries should demonstrate measurable benefits in areas such as carbon reduction, environmental enhancement, resource efficiency, climate adaptation, biodiversity, innovation or long-term asset performance. The project or initiative should have been implemented, launched or achieved a significant milestone within the 24 months prior to January 2027.

Road Safety Project or Initiative

Awarded to the organisation, team, partnership or project that has demonstrated excellence in improving safety across the highways and transportation network in the United Kingdom. Eligible entries may include infrastructure improvements, behavioural change programmes, active travel schemes, technology-led safety solutions, road user education initiatives, or other projects designed to reduce risk and improve outcomes for all network users. Entries should demonstrate measurable benefits in areas such as collision reduction, casualty prevention, improved road user safety, innovation, stakeholder engagement or community impact. The project or initiative should have been implemented, launched or achieved a significant milestone within the 24 months prior to January 2027.

Active Travel Project or Initiative

Awarded to the organisation, team, partnership or project that has demonstrated excellence in promoting and enabling active travel within the United Kingdom. Eligible entries may include projects to improve facilities for walking, cycling or the use of mobility aids, as well as initiatives that have successfully encouraged greater uptake of active travel. Entries should demonstrate measurable benefits in areas such as increased active travel, improved accessibility, safety, health and wellbeing, sustainability, community engagement or network connectivity. The project or initiative should have been implemented, launched or achieved a significant milestone within the 24 months prior to January 2027.

Collaboration Award

Awarded to the organisation, team, partnership or project that has demonstrated excellence in collaboration to deliver improved outcomes within the highways and transportation sector in the United Kingdom. Eligible entries may include partnerships with local communities, third-sector organisations, educational institutions, public sector bodies or private sector partners that have enhanced service delivery, improved working practices or created wider social value. Entries should demonstrate measurable benefits such as improved project delivery, cost savings, community engagement, employment and skills opportunities, support for disadvantaged groups, ESG initiatives, or positive social and environmental outcomes. The project or initiative should have been implemented, launched or achieved a significant milestone within the 24 months prior to January 2027.

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Entry Rules and Guidelines

Entry Rules

Please read the following information carefully. If you require any further information or clarification, please contact events@theihe.org.

- All entries must be submitted in full to events@theihe.org by 17:00 on Monday 8th February 2027.

- Entries are open to projects, initiatives, schemes, companies or products that have been established, designed or used anywhere in the United Kingdom.

- Receipt of your entry will be confirmed by email and you will be advised of your entry reference number, which must be quoted on all correspondence.

- Any product, scheme or initiative can be entered into more than one category. The judges reserve the right to change the category entered should they deem it necessary. The entrant will be advised if a change in category is made.

- Each entry should consist of:
  - Completed entry form with all criteria filled in; and
  - Supporting documents (maximum of five), which are no larger than 1MB in size each.
  - Images and Drone footage where appropriate welcome on entry.

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- All files must be attached and sent in one submission, so please check that all your files have been attached successfully. Incomplete entries will not be considered.

- Shortlisted entrants will be announced by 19th March 2027 and will be published on the IHE website and IHE Mercia Branch Awards webpage.

- The Judging Panels decision will remain final and correspondence will not be entered into relating to the judging process, unless instigated by the Judging Panel.

- All shortlisted entries need to be represented at the awards ceremony and dinner, which will be held at the Macdonald Burlington Hotel in Birmingham on Thursday 10th June 2027.

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Entry Rules and Guidelines

Entry Guidance

To ensure that you submit the correct information, please carefully read each of the bullet points in the criteria for the category entered.

- Incomplete entries will not be accepted.
- The submission can be from any region of the United Kingdom.
- Entrants are welcome to submit a short video (maximum four minutes) of their entry and upload onto YouTube. The link to this video must be shared on the entry form. A winning entry with a video may be shown at the awards evening.
- Remember to be succinct and make sure your entry has impact.
- Please do not submit brochures or marketing material as this will not be considered for judging.
- Submissions can be entered into more than one category.

Key items to include are:

- Details of any testing carried out (supplemented by relevant results) that indicate the effectiveness of the entry.
- Proof of measurement and success.
- Details of professional accreditations.

Entry Rules and Guidelines

- Consultation processes are also important. Please give full details and examples of how these were addressed.

- The benefits of the submission and explain the difference that you have made.

- Before and after photographs, technical diagrams are also a powerful demonstration and can be submitted as part of the supporting information.

- Any statistics that demonstrate the performance after installation/ introduction.

- Demonstrate the value of the benefits gained by using the authority/ company scheme, product, system, service or initiative.

- Industry references that support your entry.

- Each category invites entries for projects and partnerships that have been implemented between 1st January 2025 and 31st December 2026.

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Judging Process

All completed applications will be judged on:

- The impact and/ or quality that the submission had on communities, traffic, transport and highways related industry.

- Clear demonstration that the entry meets the required elements of the criteria for the category entered.

The scoring/criteria used for judging has been made as simple and clear for each judge to follow as possible. Judges will review the entry form and completed criteria and individually score each entry using the scoring system in the table below.

Score	Term	Typical Characteristics
0	Unacceptable	No response or extremely limited response. Show limited understanding or inappropriate understanding of required response.
1	Poor	Limited response. Is lacking in a significant proportion of required response.
2	Satisfactory	Reasonable response. Demonstrates reasonable understanding or approach to criteria.
3	Good	Demonstrates a high standard and exceeds in one or two aspects of the criteria.
4	Very Good	Demonstrates a very good standard of response and exceeds in a number of aspects of the criteria.
5	Excellent	Exemplary response, exceeds expectation in all aspects of the criteria.

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The entries with the highest scores in each category will progress to the next judging stage. Usually, the four or five highest scoring entries in each category progress and are all discussed at a judges meeting. The judges will discuss the scores and decide the shortlist and the ultimate winner of each category.