How does the judging work?

***Producer Awards***

Food and drink entries are judged in June, when a group of individuals from chefs, farmers, food writers and influencers from Devon’s food and drink industry, to those who are experts in their chosen fields make up a diverse and unbiased panel.

To ensure fairness and impartiality all products are blind tasted. The product will arrive to the judges on a plate or in a glass without any packaging or labelling so the judges will have absolutely no idea who has produced it. Judges will score the products in four areas - appearance, aroma, texture and taste and are looking for outstanding, creative and delicious food and drink. They will also comment on the Product description to see if it matches the product judged. Scribes will ensure constructive and consistent detailed notes are taken and a totally independent adjudicator will verify the results and winners. Silver awards will be given to products scoring 80-89%, Gold awards to 90-99% and Platinum awards to those scoring a faultless 100%.

***Retail, Hospitality & Training School Awards***

Judging will take place during May, June and July by an independent and unbiased panel of judges made up from the group of experts mentioned in the Producer Awards section.

All businesses will be ‘mystery shopped’ and won’t know who the judge is until the end of the visit. All judges will have the same detailed report to complete with a totally independent adjudicator verifying the results and winners. Our judges are looking for establishments that provide cuisine, products or a learning experience of a truly excellent standard as well as demonstrating innovation, ambience and customer service at a high level, to create a top quality food and drink experience. Silver awards will be given to establishments scoring 80-89%, Gold awards to 90-99% and Platinum awards to those scoring a faultless 100%.

***Sustainability Pioneer Award***

Judging will take place during May, June and July by an independent and unbiased panel of judges made up from the group of experts including individuals from the Met Office and Council.

All judges will have the same detailed report to complete with a totally independent adjudicator verifying the results and winners. They will be looking for cutting-edge ideas which are breaking new ground and inspiring others to follow whilst acting as a force for good by supporting the three dimensions of sustainability – Environmental, Economic and Social (planet, people and profit).