



# NEWS from

South Somerset District Council

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01935 462462

*'Making a difference where it counts'*



Portfolio Holder	
Service	To SJ
Director	

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## **Council and College announce excitement at prospect of sports facility 'joint venture'**

South Somerset District Council and Yeovil College have announced their excitement at teaming up on a 'joint venture' to bring a multi-million pound regional Sports Zone to the town.

South Somerset District Council and Yeovil College this week confirmed their interest in working together on the project, which, if progressed, would provide the whole community with the very best sporting and sport development facilities and which would also introduce the district's first 50m swimming pool, a leisure pool with flumes, a large fitness suite, climbing wall and indoor sports facilities.

College Principal James Hampton said, "We are currently considering plans for a whole campus re-development which would include replacing our sports hall and fitness suite, however...we believe that by working together, we would be able to provide a higher standard and a greater breadth of much-needed additional sporting facilities than if the college or the council worked in isolation. ..." He went on to say that he felt that joint development represents a much more effective use of public funds than building two separate facilities within 500m of each other.

Steve Joel, Head of Sport, Art and Leisure at South Somerset District Council commented, "We are delighted at the confirmation of support from the college. There are many ways in which we can pool our resources to create a better facility for all to use."

Discussions so far have looked at the options for specific changing, education and sports science areas within the facility that would be used by college students during off-peak daytime hours, but would also be opened up to the wider public at peak times.

Mr Hampton added, "Our investment would be of benefit to both students and our local community, enabling the best use of space, whilst creating high quality facilities that will provide great opportunities to encourage more young people into sports and nurture the talents of sportsmen and women across South Somerset.

"At this stage we can confirm we are looking to develop a working protocol with the district council that will deliver mutually acceptable and beneficial outcomes for the college, the council and the public, and we look forward to successful discussions in the near future.



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“Naturally our involvement depends on the decisions over the project from the district council, the necessary planning permissions, and joint funding options with the Learning Skills Council.”

Councillors at South Somerset District Council will next week decide whether to take the newly improved proposals for a sports zone project to the next stage which would involve working up an outline planning application.

ENDS

### **Notes to Editor:**

Info in more detail about the ‘dedicated areas’ – when they would be used, (both by students and by the public) – what they might be, more info about the LSC funding and the fact these areas would be funded by the college and LSC, info about the ‘twin track approach’ the college would need to use to safeguard the college but that the college’s hope is to successfully conclude negotiations on a joint venture..

The new proposed facility mix for the Yeovil Sports Zone, to cater for local need, includes:

- 8 lane, 50m x 17m pool with moveable boom and moveable floor (850 m2)
- Combined leisure and learner pool (530 m2)
- 8 court multi-purpose sports hall
- 4 court indoor tennis centre
- 125 station health and fitness gym
- Multi-purpose aerobics / dance studio and meeting room
- Health consultation rooms
- Climbing wall
- Full sized synthetic turf pitch
- Crèche
- Café and supporting changing facilities.

**For comment please contact:**

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