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Improving Lives



Get all the latest advice about coronavirus from our Public Health team, page 6



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Love the countryside? Then we need you! Page 17

Reasons to be cheerful!



50 million

After a challenging year, we thought we'd try to raise the Somerset mood by telling you all about some of our ambitious and exciting plans – we have 50m reasons to be cheerful!

Pandemic heroes honoured with a Somerset Medal

Here are some of the winners of the Somerset Medal, awarded as part of the Somerset Day celebrations. These amazing people included vaccination volunteers, food deliverers, PPE producers and a whole host of other good Samaritans who all went above and beyond. Thank you!



We can announce details on how we plan to help boost jobs, invest in skills, build new schools and tackle some tough issues like climate change, mental health and continue to battle the pandemic:

- £6 million to boost jobs and support firms
- £10 million invested to combat the pandemic and supporting mental health
- £23 million for a state-of-the-art new school
- £8 million to support vulnerable adults and our brilliant care providers
- £3+ million on climate change programmes

It will all total £50m in spending plans – with more to come!

First, we can reveal details of how we will look to support businesses and create jobs with £6m to support Somerset's economy.

Continued on page 2 ►



Contact US
Visit www.somerset.gov.uk

If you can't find what you need on our website:

Phone 0300 123 2224

Phone lines are open **Monday to Friday, 8.30am until 5.30pm.**

Write to us at

Somerset County Council,
County Hall, Taunton,
Somerset, TA1 1DY

For all coronavirus related support, phone 0300 790 6275, seven days a week, 8am until 6pm.

Please phone the numbers below for the following services:

Fostering enquiries
0800 587 9900

Adopt South West
0345 155 1076

South West Heritage Trust
(01823) 278805

Somerset Road Safety
(01823) 423430

Somerset Waste Partnership
(01823) 625700

Other useful numbers

Citizens Advice Consumer Service Helpline
03454 04 05 06

Street Lighting Faults
0845 601 0939

(office hours) and
0845 795 9639
(for out of hours emergencies)

Student Finance Direct
(Higher Education Students only) 0845 607 7577

Wellington Community Office
(01823) 663379

District Councils
Mendip District Council
0300 303 8588

Sedgemoor District Council
0300 303 7800

South Somerset District Council
(01935) 462462

Somerset West and Taunton Council
0300 304 8000



David Fothergill
Council Leader

IN MY OPINION

Summer is here, the vaccination programme against coronavirus continues to be a huge success here in Somerset, and as our front page shows, your Council has really stepped up to invest in our county, our residents and our businesses.

I'm incredibly proud to see these huge investments made – and it's all down to our highly professional staff and supportive councillors. Over the years we have made some tough calls to live within our reduced government funding. We have saved hard to create the funds for investment. And now we are able to really show off the benefits of that hard work. Investing in our businesses, in people and across our county.

Our front page highlights £50m of spending – but that is just the start. We have millions of pounds more ready for major road improvements in Yeovil, Taunton and highways maintenance across the county.

And as a further example, we are also looking for a whole new approach to the way we care for vulnerable children by investing here in Somerset. That could involve a further £70m over ten years.

It's a hugely ambitious and exciting programme ahead.

There are times as the Leader of this great Council that I am truly humbled.

One of those came when I read the nominations for the very first Somerset Medal that I instigated this year to reflect the huge efforts groups and individuals have made through the pandemic and lockdowns.

The stories were of people not going the extra mile, but going the extra mile-after-mile-after mile.

Truly inspiring and I look forward to a presentation night and meeting the winners face-to-face...whenever that might be!

Finally, a word on local government reform. This is an important step to disband all councils – district and county - in Somerset to set up a new way of running all council services. I am absolutely convinced this will lead to better services, better results for our residents, more local involvement in big decisions and of course a cheaper way to do business, freeing up more money to invest in our county.

Our front page shows what we can do when we have funding: providing jobs, security, decent pay in our care services: building new schools: investing in public health across our county.

I want the new unitary system to free up more funding so we can do a whole lot more great work. I hope that is something we can all agree on.

▶ Continued from cover

The first element of that £6m will see £2m set aside to provide financial support for some of our key businesses – especially those that didn't qualify for the Government's coronavirus support schemes.

We want to help firms recover well from the pandemic and protect and create new jobs for our economy. We will focus on hardest hit areas like tourism, hospitality and the care sector. Together we can get Somerset back on its feet.



▶ **£10m boost backed by public health experts**

A huge investment in vital support for our communities to help those hardest hit, including mental health support, controlling coronavirus outbreaks, running testing operations and contact tracing.

▶ **£23m new school**

An amazing new school for students with complex needs in Bridgwater opens this month to primary and secondary age children.

▶ **£8.6m more for adults**

Using some of the very welcome government Covid funds, we have helped care providers invest in their staff, in pay and to deliver quality care.

▶ **£3m+ to go green**

We have won a big government grant to remove carbon from key buildings around the county, including some libraries, together with a range of other investments planned to support the Climate Emergency Strategy. This is just the start!

£50m reasons to be cheerful and invested to support Somerset – a great start to summer!

"A note from the editor..."

To get in contact with *Your Somerset* or to advertise in this publication, contact the **Communications Team** on **(01823) 355020**, or email yoursomerset@somerset.gov.uk

We gratefully acknowledge the support of organisations that advertise in *Your Somerset*, but Somerset County Council can accept no responsibility for the products or services advertised. We advise readers to make their own enquiries before purchasing products or services.

Pssst...Your Somerset costs 7p per copy to produce.

Please recycle



£6m boost for Somerset's economy

The cash boost will include financial support for businesses, financial support for individuals and a range of other measures to help stimulate the economy and boost the county as it recovers from coronavirus.

We're investing in public health, adults and children's services, but we also have to recognise the enormous importance of our economy, which has taken a huge hit over the past 18 months.

That's why we're promising £6m to help Somerset prosper.

We'll be providing funds for tourism, hospitality and high streets, we'll be helping new businesses grow and we'll be creating much-needed jobs for our residents.

The funding will include:

Financial support for businesses

Assistance for the recovery and growth of businesses in Somerset, focussing on those which have not been eligible for assistance from the Government's schemes.

Financial support for individuals

Help for self-employed people who have not been eligible for assistance from the Government's schemes, and support for less advantaged people with the costs associated with looking for and returning to work.

Business start, restart and recovery

Providing business start-ups with support, offering targeted support to hard hit sectors and support for local buying.

Stimulating the economy

Investment to drive longer term recovery, clean and inclusive growth and levelling up in Somerset.

More details about the funding and how businesses and individuals can apply will be released soon.

This investment is in addition to the work already being done to support businesses so they can thrive and grow.

Projects include:

iAero, the cutting-edge aerospace innovation centre in Yeovil, which will provide high-quality workspace and specialist support services to facilitate collaboration and innovation amongst local aerospace supply chain businesses.



Enterprise Centres delivered in Wells and Wiveliscombe with another nearing completion in Bruton. The new centres will join the existing enterprise centre portfolio of sites in Dulverton (Barle); Frome (Keyford); Wheddon Cross (Market); Highbridge; Minehead and Williton.

Partnering with local employers to offer 50 six-month work placements through the Kickstart Programme



that offers young people aged between 16 and 24, who are claiming Universal Credit, the chance to land a six-month work placement, paid at national minimum wage for 25 hours per week (see page 6 for more information).



Taking the lead role in bidding for Community Renewal Fund money – We can bid for funding to provide further support to businesses, individuals and invest in our communities.

Helping you to help yourself



Looking for information and support in Somerset?

Whether it's getting help for an older relative, accessing services for children or searching for some health advice, there's lots of information out there, but knowing where to start can be a bit overwhelming.

We want to make it easier for you to get clear and easy to access information and the support you need when and how you want it. But to do this we need to know how our residents, communities and professionals currently find out what's available in the community to help people, and what we could do to make this easier.

How you can help?

Please share your views and experiences in our short questionnaire. And, if you want to get more involved as our research progresses, please fill out the expression of interest at the end of the form – it would be great to get as many as possible involved.

For more information, visit

www.somerset.gov.uk/our-information/access-to-information-and-advice

Find out more about some of these initiatives, and the support that's available now, on page 6.

How to manage post-lockdown anxiety

While there are so many things to really look forward to as lockdown restrictions ease, there may be others that leave you feeling overwhelmed or anxious. This past year has been hard, so it's completely understandable and normal to experience a mixture of highs and lows right now.



Just as it took time to adjust to lockdown, it might take you time to find your way back out again. Please don't force yourself to take things too quickly – it's okay to need to take time to readjust.

Here's a quick guide that may help you find your way out of lockdown.

Eight ways to help ease yourself out of lockdown

- 1 **Take it your own pace** – you might feel nervous about getting back to life out of lockdown and navigating situations you haven't been in for a long time. The key is to recognise it and take things one step at a time.
- 2 **Build up your tolerance** – try doing something which challenges you a little bit every day, or every few days. Don't beat yourself up if it doesn't go well but keep at it.
- 3 **Speak to someone you trust** – try to accept any worries, fears or concerns you have are valid and to be expected. Share how you're feeling with someone you feel comfortable talking to – the chances are they're experiencing similar feelings.
- 4 **Plan ahead** – consider which situations you're feeling particularly anxious about and decide what you could do in this situation to help ease your concern.
- 5 **Look after your wellbeing** – taking care of your physical health can help you cope with feelings of anxiety and stressful situations.
- 6 **Get a Mind Plan at www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/coronavirus** Answer five quick questions to get your free plan, with tips to help you deal with stress and anxiety, improve your sleep, boost your mood and feel more in control.
- 7 **Focus on the positives** – try to focus on the present moment. Take pleasure from the little things you can enjoy again with each stage of restrictions easing.
- 8 **Arm yourself with trustworthy information** – having the correct facts will help you feel confident you know what to do and can help ease your worries. Keep up-to-date with the latest guidance and local information at www.somerset.gov.uk/coronavirus

If you are feeling anxious and need someone to talk to Mindline is a confidential listening service, available 24 hours a day. Phone **01823 276892**.



Top tips to help cut back on alcohol

Did you know that drinking is the UK's favourite coping mechanism?

After the year we've just had it's no wonder that many people have found themselves slipping into habits. Alcohol is an unhealthy coping strategy so as lockdown eases, why not take the opportunity to start afresh and adopt a new healthy lifestyle?

Here are some tips on how you can cut your alcohol consumption.

1. **Use a smaller glass** – Evidence shows that by using a smaller glass people tend to drink less.
2. **Drink water alongside alcohol to stay hydrated** – For every alcoholic drink you have, drink a glass of water. It slows down your alcohol intake, reduces dehydration and is kinder on your liver.
3. **Take the low or no alcohol option** – There are many tasty, good quality alcohol free alternatives on the market these days – why not give them a go?
4. **Take a couple of days off** – A few alcohol-free days a week to reduces the risk of damaging your liver.
5. **Avoid rounds** – When you're out with friends avoid getting involved in the round (or have a soft drink when it's your round). Going it alone gives you more control over how much you're drinking.
6. **Don't get competitive** – If you have to compete make it a competition on who can be the most responsible drinker.
7. **Don't start at home** – If you're off out for the night don't be tempted to start drinking before you leave the house.
8. **Make a plan, set a limit** – Learn how much alcohol you can drink and still feel stable, set that as your limit and stick to it.
9. **Don't keep alcohol in the house** – Then you're less likely to drink at times that you wouldn't normally.
10. **Get help** – If you drink very heavily regularly, or think you have a problem with drinking, speak to your GP or local alcohol service.



For more information or support, visit www.turning-point.co.uk/services/sdas

Thank you Somerset!

“I'd like to personally thank every single one of you for everything you have done so far to help stop the spread of coronavirus. It's been tough but by getting your vaccinations, sticking to the lockdown rules and wearing masks while out and about, we enter the summer in a much better position than it could have been.



Prof. Trudi Grant, Director of Public Health

“But as lockdown restrictions ease and the holiday season begins, please remember that coronavirus won't be taking a break – it's still out there and it's still circulating. So, please try and enjoy the summer safely.

“This fight isn't over yet, whether that is in terms of your immediate household, community, county, country or worldwide... there is still much work to do. We all have our part to play, so here are a few things you can do to help stamp out this devastating virus...” Prof. Trudi Grant, Director of Public Health.

Get both your vaccines

The vaccine is our best defence against the virus and returning to a more normal way of life. The first dose will give you a good level of protection against coronavirus, but it is vital that everyone goes on to receive a second dose – regardless of which vaccine you receive.

“Getting the second dose will send a powerful reminder for your immune system to attack when necessary.”



A single jab will not give the maximum protection against the virus – the best protection comes after the second. All three vaccines, Pfizer, Oxford AstraZeneca and Moderna are up to 90 per cent effective at reducing death and hospitalisation after two doses.*

*Information taken from Public Health's COVID-19 Vaccine Surveillance Report Week 22.

Five reasons to test regularly

- 1 It finds and isolates people early who have coronavirus but don't have any symptoms (asymptomatic), helping to stop the spread of the virus
- 2 Alongside the vaccine rollout and social distancing, it is key to reducing infection and transmission, helping the country to keep moving
- 3 It helps to identify and suppress new variants of concern, playing a vital role in limiting the spread of coronavirus
- 4 It protects you and your loved ones
- 5 When done correctly, the risk of getting a false positive is extremely low

If you get a positive result from a Lateral Flow Test (LFT) you must follow up with a PCR test to confirm the result.

In short, it's a simple and effective way for everybody to do their bit in stopping the spread of the virus.

To find out how you can get testing kits posted to you, visit www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests or you can pick them up from your local pharmacy. To find your local participating pharmacy, visit somerset.maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk

And remember... fresh air is your friend

Now that summer is here the safest place to socialise is outside. But it's really tempting when it starts to get a bit chilly to go inside. The virus can quickly build up in badly ventilated inside spaces. So please, open your windows and doors and create a flow of fresh air if you are seeing people indoors.





STEP UP SOMERSET

Skills | Training | Employment | Progression



Support for people and businesses

Whether you're searching for your next job opportunity, starting a new career, working on your employment skills or just beginning your journey in the world of work, check out the Step Up Somerset website at www.stepupsomerset.org.uk

It's a one-stop-shop for people, employers and businesses looking for support and information about employment, skills, careers and apprenticeships in Somerset.

The Step Up Somerset website has a broad range of employment advice and support, from the latest job opportunities to creating a great CV and honing those interview skills.

If you're facing redundancy and feel unsure about what to do next, then there's help for you too. It also has a new wellbeing section, with access to mental health resources to help anyone who is struggling to find employment or their next step in education and training.

Step Up Somerset also provides plenty of advice and support for businesses, offering tips on how to develop a talent pipeline through apprenticeships and industry placements, redundancy support and promoting events.

For more information, visit www.stepupsomerset.org.uk

Give your career a Kickstart

We're offering 50 young people, aged 16 to 24 on Universal Credit, the opportunity to take part in a six-month work placement through our Kickstart Programme.

50
16 to 24
year olds

There are a variety of exciting placements available that could lead to permanent jobs, including laboratory stewards, engineering assistants, teaching assistants, business administration roles, grounds assistants, Young People's Champions and more.

6
months

The Kickstart Programme offers you the chance to land a six-month work placement, paid at national minimum wage for 25 hours per week. During the six-months you will get the opportunity to develop new skills in a professional environment and gain experience to help you find work after completing the scheme.

To find out more about Kickstart work placements, speak to your work coach at your local Job Centre.

SOMERSETworks
Developing skills • Improving futures

A summer of opportunity for Somerset's Year 11s



This Summer SomersetWorks are offering a wide range of free and exciting holiday opportunities for young people moving from Year 11 into Year 12.

Year 11's can register to take part in a number of fun and engaging activities, access lots of free information and resources and get a head-start moving into their Year 12 options. There is a huge mix of virtual and face-to-face events to choose from taking place across the county from now until the end of August and everything is FREE!

To find out more or to register for events in the Somerset Works Summer Programme, visit <https://somersetworks.vfairs.com>



EB SOMERSET
EDUCATION
BUSINESS
PARTNERSHIP
SUCCESS THROUGH COLLABORATION

**Do you have
young people in
your household
who are thinking
about their next
steps after school
or college?**

There are many exciting opportunities here in Somerset - but it can be hard to know which is the right one.

Somerset Education Business Partnership can help you and your young people explore the

options by providing the latest information on careers and work experience activities. Get the information to shape a future by subscribing to our regular parent alerts at www.somerset-ebp.co.uk/subscribe.htm



For Caroline, every minute with her kids is precious

Show Caroline how much you care

Search online for St Margaret's Hospice to find out more and donate



Registered charity number: 279473

time to care



Community Connect - NEW LOOK, same great content

Somerset's Community Connect website has had a makeover – it still has all the same great useful information, but we hope it's now much easier to find your way around.

Visit: www.somersetcommunityconnect.org.uk

If you've not come across Community Connect, then take a look. It's our one-stop-shop for a wide range of community support options and home to a wealth of information and advice about:

- Health and wellbeing
- Support for carers, including respite
- Staying independent at home
- What support is available in your local area
- Community transport

And much much more!

Let us know what you think of the new website. Email your comments to communityconnect@somerset.gov.uk

Talking Cafés

reopen in Somerset

After a successful year of running through Facebook Live, Village Agents are slowly reopening the Talking Cafés across the county so that you can finally see us all again in 3D!



Talking Cafés provide free information, advice, and support, and connect communities with the services they need.

They usually take place in local venues, such as cafés, but last year social distancing measures meant they had to get creative, so they've been taking place online through Facebook Live.



But don't worry, if you've enjoyed our Facebook Live events, they will still be running every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 1pm (just search **@talkingcafe somerset** on Facebook).



To find out more or to see which Talking Cafés are reopening in your area, visit somersetagents.org/talking-cafes/ or phone **01823 331222**.

Fun and food in school holidays

The summer holidays are looking even brighter for children and young people on Free School Meals in Somerset thanks to Happy Healthy Holidays Somerset.

We teamed up with Somerset Activity and Sports Partnership (SASP) to deliver fun activities and healthy food to nearly 1,800 children over the Easter holidays, and plans are in place to more than double this offer for the upcoming summer holidays.

Nearly
1,800 children
on Free
School Meals
supported at
Easter



It was an Easter extravaganza

In the Easter holidays young people from across Somerset, aged between five and 16, got stuck into a wide range of face-to-face and virtual activities, from adventure activities, like climbing and kayaking, to live cook-alongs and workshops with Aardman Animations no less.

Everything they needed for the virtual workshops was sent to their homes, along with food boxes, which included ingredients for breakfast and lunch for one week, supplied by Morrisons.

Here's a few examples of some of the schemes:

Making a difference

One parent, whose daughter attended activities provided by **The Yeast Scrapstore** in Glastonbury, said: "It's been so hard for us these last few months - this is just what we all needed. It's so nice to see my daughter dancing and meeting up with her friends."

Coming this summer

From July we will once again join forces with SASP to deliver healthy food alongside some exciting sport and physical activity as part of our Holiday Activity and Food programme. The Summer programme will run for four weeks, so if you have children who are accessing benefits related free school meals, please pre-register here:

www.sasp.co.uk/forms/view/haf-summer-provision

sasp
Somerset Activity & Sports Partnership



Staying active

Minehead Eye youth centre provided eight mornings of activities through the programme over Easter, and more are being planned to follow in the Summer. "It went down really well, we were full every day," said Minehead Eye Community Development Manager, Paul Matcham. "We were able to offer a variety of activities, including climbing on our new climbing wall, graffiti art workshops, archery and curling, and provide hot food from our on-site café."

Eating well

Another parent, whose son attended activities provided by **Inspired Somerset** as part of the programme, said: "From our perspective it has been absolutely fantastic. My son has loved every second of it, coming home and telling me all the new things he has learnt about bananas and the red and green labels on food. He's even given me personal advice on cutting down my sugar intake! A great effort from all involved and a fantastic way to spend the Easter holiday."



Reduce, reuse and recycle for Somerset West & Taunton - **SUMMER 2021**

Never too late for garden waste collection



Somerset Waste Partnership is happy to say you can now join our garden waste collection service at any time of the year.

New rolling subscriptions mean that whenever you start you will get a full 25 fortnightly collections (all but Christmas) over the following 12 months.

At the same time, garden waste has gone sticker-free, with in-cab technology pinpointing paid-up subscribers.

A year of garden waste collections costs £57.20.

You can subscribe to a collection quickly and easily, 24/7 at somersetwaste.gov.uk

To help with smaller gardens, occasional use or big projects, you can buy garden waste sacks for £28.30 for a pack of 10 and later book their collection online to suit your timetable.

For all these garden waste tasks, and to get an unwanted bin removed, go to "Garden Waste Bin and Sacks" tab on the My Waste Services menu (tip: leave a gap in your postcode AB1 2CD).

You can also subscribe by calling your district council.

Unsure of your collection days?

Check them all at any time via My Collection Day at somersetwaste.gov.uk

If you have any garden waste issues or questions? Visit somersetwaste.gov.uk/garden-waste-collections

For your home composting needs, check our bargain bin offer, and garden tips here: somersetwaste.gov.uk/home-composting

Recycle More roll-out continues

Crews are hard at work delivering the latest stage in the roll-out of Recycle More.

The expanded recycling collections have just been introduced in South Somerset and are scheduled to arrive in Taunton Deane this autumn and West Somerset early next year.

The two areas are being done separately because two depots need to be closed at different times to allow upgrades.

The new service will add the following to weekly kerbside collections:

- Plastic pots, tubs and trays
- Food and drink cartons (such as Tetra Pak)
- Small household electricals
- Small household batteries

Everyone will receive a new recycling container, a Bright Blue Bag.

Because of the extra recycling, rubbish collections will happen every three weeks.

We will write to every home twice before anything changes and provide you with a personal collection day calendar and guide to what needs to go into which recycling box and bag.

Recycle More was launched in Mendip in October and has been collecting around 100 extra tonnes of recycling every week.



BANK HOLIDAY COLLECTIONS



All collections in the week of the Summer bank holiday on Monday 30 August are one day later but recycling sites will be open as usual.

With no collections on August Bank Holiday

Monday, Monday's pick-ups

will happen on a Tuesday, Tuesday's collections on Wednesday and so on through to Friday's on Saturday 4 September.

These changes affect all kerbside services.

Recycling site opening hours are unchanged, with 10 sites open on Friday 9am-6pm; all 16 open 9am-4pm Saturday and Sunday; and 12 sites open 9am-6pm on the Monday.

Residents are urged to help crews work more efficiently to complete rounds by parking carefully during holiday times when many are at home so waste trucks - and fire engines and ambulances - can get through.

Somerset's big success: where does all your recycling go?

Impressive progress and more to come is the message from a new Somerset Waste Partnership report.

The Somerset Recycling Tracker shows what happens to the thousands of tonnes of recycling that residents add to kerbside collections or drop-off at recycle sites.

It tracks every tonne to the location and company of first use, whether in Somerset, elsewhere in the UK or anywhere overseas.

The excellent figures in the latest report are down to the enthusiasm for recycling shown by Somerset residents, and the impressive efforts of our new collections contractor SUEZ and our recycling site operator Viridor.

Tracking all recycling shows that the companies are legitimate and that no recycling is dumped, burned or ends up in the sea. It also highlights the kinds of products and packaging that Somerset's recycling becomes, from new plastic bottles to newsprint and compost.

Somerset Waste Partnership and SUEZ have a commitment that all materials collected for recycling will stay in the UK, if there is reprocessing capacity and demand here.

The latest report covers the financial year 2020-21. A stand-out figure is the **97.8%** of Somerset's recycling reprocessed first in the UK, up from the already-impressive **90%** of the previous year.

More than 50% of Somerset's recycling stays in the county itself. Most of the 2.2% exported was card and paper going back to firms in Europe and Asia to make yet more cardboard boxes for imports of white goods and electronics.

Somerset Recycling Tracker 2020-21

somersetwaste.gov.uk/recycling-tracker

Total recycled and reused

137,146 tonnes

Recycling rate

52.4%

Carbon saved

123,036 tonnes

Recycling Centre



Food waste
22,541 tonnes

Paper/card
24,731 tonnes

Glass
19,721 tonnes

Metals
7,868 tonnes

Electricals/batteries
3,787 tonnes

Garden waste
39,432 tonnes

Plastics
4,359 tonnes recycled

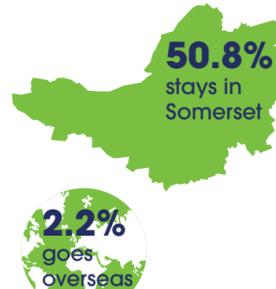
Energy from waste

90,342 tonnes

29,027 tonnes

Landfill

Where does your recycling go?



Somerset recycles

Most people in Somerset are recycling. Are you?



Another big positive is Somerset's performance on plastics. The **4,359 tonnes** collected - compared to **3,266 tonnes** in 2019/20 - reflects the early success of the new expanded Recycle More kerbside collections which are rolling out in phases across Somerset. They add plastic pots, tubs and trays, cartons, household batteries and small electrical items to weekly recycling. The far emptier rubbish bins are collected every three weeks.

A remarkable **99.4%** of plastics were reprocessed first in the UK, going to Northamptonshire, Cleveland, Manchester, County Durham and Kent. Just 0.6% were exported to Lithuania, Poland and Spain and Italy where they become new bottles and other packaging.

In 2008, Somerset was the first UK authority to publish its pioneering annual recycling tracker, offering transparency and trust in its management of waste.

52.4%

Somerset's **52.4%** recycling rate puts it in the top fifth of authorities for recycling, with **60%** or more within reach. And it also makes Somerset one of the very best areas for carbon saving, at **123,036 tonnes** of CO2 equivalent.

Somerset's success demonstrates the value of double sorting - by you and your collection crew or recycling site staff. This ensures that we have the kind of high-quality, low-contamination materials that the market demands.

Of the **137,146 tonnes** recycled or reused - bottles to cans, cardboard to cartons, wood to metals, and electrical items to clothes - the largest single material is the **39,432 tonnes** of garden waste composted in Somerset and turned into the Revive soil improver.

22,541 tonnes

Another hefty load is the **22,542 tonnes** of food waste. This is transformed by the Somerset anaerobic digestion plant at Walpole near Bridgwater into electricity for homes and businesses and farm compost to help grow more food.

Heaviest of the "dry" materials is paper and card at **24,731 tonnes**, which goes to make newsprint and cardboard in Dorset, Kent, Norfolk and Wales, while some also goes to France, Germany, Poland, Spain, Thailand and Vietnam.

The **19,721 tonnes** of glass bottles and jars go to Sheffield and Wales, while **7,868 tonnes** of metals - mainly steel and aluminium cans - are recycled into anything from new cans to car parts via companies from Devon to Doncaster.

3,787 tonnes

And **3,787 tonnes** of electrical items - your old fridge or TV - and household batteries head for Merseyside, Wales and the West Midlands to recycle metals and chemicals.

Recycling progress is matched for rubbish. Somerset has switched from landfilling all rubbish in the county to sending all kerbside rubbish and all suitable recycle site rubbish (more than half) to an energy-from-waste plant in Avonmouth.

90,342 tonnes

The 2020-21 Recycling Tracker shows **90,342 tonnes** went to energy-from-waste and just **29,027 tonnes** to landfill, figures likely to fall as Recycle More boosts recycling.

Most people in Somerset are recycling. Are you?



Somerset Waste Partnership



Squash, flatten, crush

Every year our crews make well over **20 million** recycling collections from the kerbside.

It is a big job and there are simple steps you can take that will make your pick-ups more efficient, faster and cleaner while helping you get more into your recycling containers.

- ✓ Rinse and, if safe, crush cans
- ✓ Rinse and put the tops back on glass bottles and jars

- ✓ Rinse, squash, tops back on plastic bottles
- ✓ Tear up and flatten card

In Mendip and South Somerset only, with their expanded Recycle More collections, rinse and put the tops back on cartons/Tetra Paks, plus rinse and nest or stack plastic pots, tubs and trays.

Check for what is collected and what goes in which containers, depending on where you live, here: www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/recycling-collections/

Cut the risks in your recycling ✓

Picking up the waste you create is a tough job, requiring dedication and hard work.

Carelessness can make it downright dangerous for collection crews and could put children, pets and passers-by at risk. Crews face a range of "nasties" left in recycling boxes almost every day, from knives to nappies and worse.

Please stick to the list of what can be taken - see collections at somersetwaste.gov.uk - rinse out all containers, and check with Somerset Waste Partnership if you have any doubts.

Items to never put in your recycling include:

- ✗ Knives, razors, syringes, broken glass or other sharp items.
- ✗ Nappies and adult hygiene products.
- ✗ Masks, gloves, cleaning cloths, wipes or tissues.
- ✗ Any bottle, jar or can from the garage or garden shed.
- ✗ Aerosols that have not been emptied, or any inhalers.

Carelessness can make it downright dangerous for collection crews

And these should not be in your rubbish bin or black sacks:

- ✗ Hot embers, ash, coals or portable barbecues.
- ✗ Hazardous materials, from solvents to garden chemicals.
- ✗ Broken glass or sharp materials unless carefully wrapped.
- ✗ Aerosols, gas bottles.
- ✗ Household or vehicle batteries.
- ✗ Paint, oil, or other liquids.
- ✗ Asbestos, plasterboard.
- ✗ Part-spent or misfired fireworks.
- ✗ Medicines.
- ✗ Anything that can be recycled, including food.

In testing times... COVID-19

If you are using COVID-19 testing kits at home please make sure you dispose of them correctly.

The card box and paper instructions should be recycled as usual with other card and paper. Once used, the plastic kit contents should go straight into standard rubbish bins.

Whether a positive or negative result, used test items - including the testing strip, swab and extraction tube - should go into the small plastic bag that comes with the pack. The bag should then go straight into your rubbish bin.

The kits are not considered clinical waste requiring a special collection, nor should they be recycled. For more on kit disposal, see somersetwaste.gov.uk/covidkits

More guidance on safe waste disposal can be found at: somersetwaste.gov.uk/coronavirus/



Looking for a new career?

Earn an average of **£778 per week** with our new *Step Forward* scheme.

Are you looking for a rewarding new career where you can really make a difference?

If so, our new **Step Forward** scheme could offer you the perfect career opportunity.

Step Forward is the next phase in an exciting new initiative from Somerset County Council. We're looking to recruit long-term foster carers for specific children and young people who are ready to leave residential care to live with foster families. This specialist type of fostering offers an **average** income of £778 per week.

These children need high levels of empathy, compassion and understanding, alongside consistent routines and boundaries. We're looking for dedicated, caring individuals and families to join our valued community of specialist carers. And, above all, we need carers who are willing to help a child recover from the trauma they have experienced in their earlier lives by parenting them in a therapeutic way.

Although it's not essential, we're particularly keen to hear from people with experience of working alongside children in a professional capacity.

“

Through a robust assessment process, carers will need to demonstrate key qualities, such as resilience and determination, high levels of curiosity and empathy, and a good level of self-awareness.

”



Carers must be over 21, have a spare room in their home, and be able to:

- Drive and have access to a car
- Be available full-time to foster once they are approved, and be available to attend all relevant meetings in relation to the child
- Be committed to ongoing training and development
- Demonstrate dedication, willingness and a commitment to care for children in line with the principles of therapeutic parenting
- Work effectively and closely with all the important people in a young person's life, including their link carer.

What we can offer:

- A generous weekly fee and allowance
- Support from your very own Supervising Social Worker
- Wraparound support package provided by the ARC (Attachments, Relationships & Connections) Fostering Team
- A dedicated link carer who will continue to support the young person, as well as the carer, providing regular contact and some sleepovers.

How do I apply or just find out more?

You're not committing to anything by getting in touch, but we would love to hear from anyone interested in *Step Forward* fostering.

For more information and details on how to apply (including more information on the role and payments), visit www.fosteringinsomerset.org.uk or phone **0800 587 9900** and chat to our friendly team. Please be sure to mention **Step Forward** fostering when you contact us.



To find out more, or to register your interest, contact Fostering In Somerset on **0800 587 9900** or visit www.fosteringinsomerset.org.uk

IF YOU ARE BEING ABUSED - SO ARE YOUR CHILDREN

Witnessing domestic abuse can have a devastating impact on your children

Children who witness domestic abuse are more at risk of suffering from emotional and behavioural problems as well as physical and mental health problems and the effect can vary depending on their age:

Preschool

- Regression
- Temper tantrums or lose control of their emotions
- Show signs of fear
- Severe separation anxiety

School age

- Low self-esteem and self-worth
- Trouble at school
- Increased aggression
- Physical symptoms, like stomach aches and headaches
- Become withdrawn, have nightmares, flashbacks or trouble sleeping

Teenagers

- Fighting with family members or bullying at school
- Truancy
- Alcohol or drug misuse
- Self-harm, including suicidal tendencies
- Eating disorders
- Engaging in unprotected sex

helping to
keep you safe



The long-term effects

Children learn about relationships from their parents - being in a home where abuse is happening can lead to them growing up repeating the abuse.

Although 'repeating the cycle' is not always the case - children brought up experiencing or witnessing abuse, may in adulthood feel anxious and depressed, which can lead to eating disorders, obesity, self-harming or in some cases suicide.

If you are living with domestic abuse you can take steps now to help yourself and your children be safe and escape domestic abuse. Or if you need advice on how to manage an abusive relationship and make it safer, phone **0800 69 49 999** or visit [www.sometsurvivors.org.uk](http://www.somerset survivors.org.uk)

In an emergency, please phone **999** - even if you can't speak you can dial **55** and the operator will send assistance.

Keep your water babies safe this summer

With the summer here, if you're thinking about getting the paddling pool out or heading to one of our county's beautiful beaches and beauty spots - here's a few reminders about some simple things you can do to keep your children safe around water.

- ✓ Never leave babies and children in the water unattended - even for a minute
- ✓ Consider the dangers of inflatables as they can very quickly be swept further out to sea
- ✓ Find a safe place to enjoy the water - look out for lifeguards
- ✓ Teach older children to choose safe places to swim, like public pools and beaches with lifeguards
- ✓ Empty the paddling pool out after you've used it
- ✓ Explain the dangers of swimming in open water, including strong currents, deep, cold water and things that might be lurking under the surface that they can't see
- ✓ Turn a pond into a sandpit, or fence it in or cover it while your children are little
- ✓ Make sure your child can't get to the neighbour's pond
- ✓ Be alert to ponds or pools when visiting other people's homes



Big changes to modernise marriage registration

We've made some changes to the way marriages are now registered thanks to the biggest new legislation introduced since 1837.

We've done away with the current paper register (the traditional book which is signed by the couple and their witnesses) to move to a more secure system for keeping marriage records.

Interestingly, the new electronic register now also allows for the names of multiple parents to be included, where previously you only had fathers' names, bringing it more in line with Civil Partnerships.

The happy couple will notice two main differences when it comes to their ceremonies. Firstly, they don't have to sign an old-fashioned register book - instead they and their witnesses will sign a single sheet of paper called a 'Schedule' that is unique to the couple.

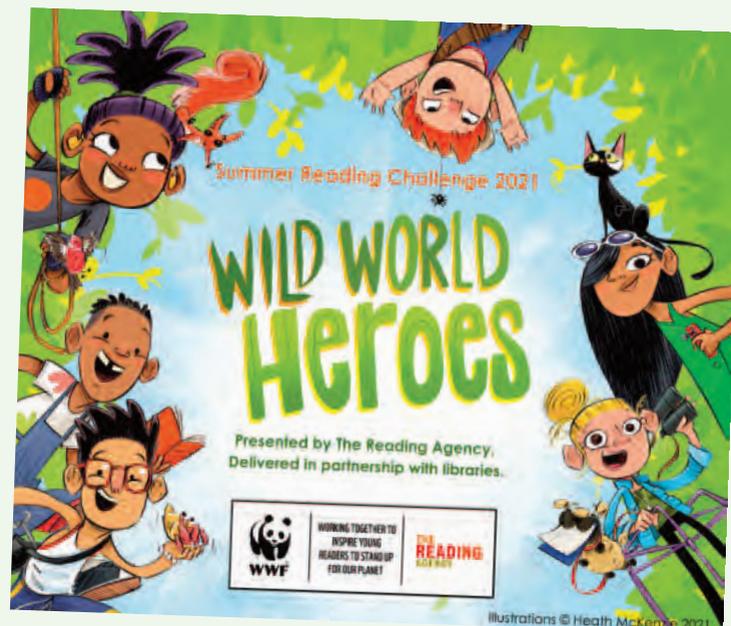
Secondly, although couples will be legally married from the moment they say their vows, they will not receive their certificate on the day. But don't worry it will be posted out to you within five working days - so you don't need to worry about losing it in all the excitement.

If you've already given notice you don't need to do anything extra - our Registration Service will take care of all the changes and will give couples the option of adding extra parents to the schedule on their big day. But if you're jetting off on honeymoon straight away and need proof of marriage, or you're travelling to a country where couples must be legally wed to share a room, then please bear this in mind.

New Brexit regulations for non-British citizens

For couples where one or both partners are not British citizens you will need to give notice together at a Designated Register Office in your home district. Depending on your immigration status, the process may take up to 70 days rather than the usual 28. This previously applied to non-EU/EEA citizens, but has been expanded due to Brexit regulations.

For more information, visit www.somersetweddingservice/marriages-partnerships/giving-notice



Sign the kids up now for this year's exciting Summer Reading Challenge, Wild World Heroes, inspired by nature and developed in partnership this year with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

This year's challenge takes place in Wilderville, where our young heroes live. As part of the challenge children aged four to 11 are asked to read up to six library books, so they can collect transformation stickers - some with mysterious smells. They then add these stickers to their fold out map of Wilderville, to fix the environmental problem in each area and make Wilderville a better home for everyone.

The challenge runs for nine weeks in libraries throughout the summer holidays, starting from Saturday 10 July. To take part all you need to do is sign up at your nearest library, where you will be given a bookmark to start your Summer Reading Challenge adventure.

On completion of the challenge, the children will receive a medal and certificate for reading all six books.

Don't forget that there's a whole programme of events and activities planned at Somerset libraries for families over the summer to celebrate the Summer Reading Challenge both in person and online.

To find out more, visit www.somersetlibraries.co.uk or register online at bit.ly/WildWorldHeroes

Caring for a child who is not your own?

- **Have you, or has anyone you know,** been looking after someone else's child for more than 28 days? If so, get in touch now for help and support.
- **Many people look after** other people's children for a night or a weekend, but if a child is living with you for more than 28 days, and you are not a close relative, it may mean that you're privately fostering them.

- **We offer support and advice** to people who are privately fostering, and to parents whose children are living with someone else.

We can provide practical and emotional support, and work to help rebuild relationships between children and their parents.



Please get in touch by phoning our team on **0300 123 2224** or email children@somerset.gov.uk
For more information, visit www.fosteringinsomerset.org.uk

Every step tells a story on Somerset's coastal paths

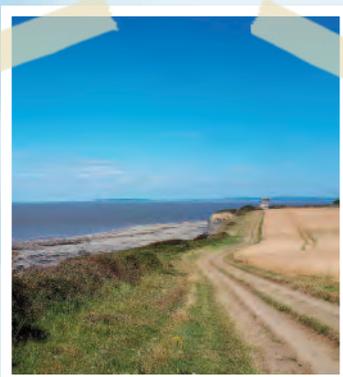


This summer check out Storywalks and explore the county's spectacular coastal walks while learning about the heritage, nature and tall tales surrounding Somerset's rugged landscape.

Created by local poet, Chris Jelley, and brought to you by our England Coast Path Team, the Storywalks use the internet and the location finder on your phone to unlock chapters in a story about the area you are walking in.

There's no need to download anything, simply go to the England Coast Path Storywalks page englandcoastpath.storywalks.info (or scan the QR code) to find a walk near you, then just get going. The walks are between one and five kilometres long and are set in both urban and rural areas, between Brean Down in the north, and Minehead in the west.

For more information or to get your community involved in future Storywalks events, email rightsofway@somerset.gov.uk



Post a picture of you on your Storywalk on social media, just remember to use the hashtag #ecpstorywalks.



It's green for mow



Each year more than 9,400km of roadside verge is cut to keep you safe and give you good visibility on our roads – that's almost the distance from Taunton to Tokyo.



The operation itself presents many challenges for our Council's Highways team – we must balance the need to protect our wildlife and give them the right habitat to flourish with the overall safety of all our road users.

The cutting programme started in May and is due to be completed by September, depending on the seasonal growing conditions, with routes experiencing higher volumes of traffic cut first.

During May, the annual clearance also began on our Rights of Way Network. It is not only contractors that clear the 485km of footpaths, bridleways and byways... We work in partnership with parish and town councils and over 50 trained and equipped volunteers, who have been getting their equipment back out and keeping the Rights of Way network clear for everyone to enjoy! Find out more about how to get involved on the next page.

Depending on the weather things can grow fast, so if you spot an immediate problem caused by an overgrown verge, please let us know. You can report it online straightaway at www.somerset.gov.uk (just type 'verge cutting' into the search bar and follow the link). And if you're interested, you can also find maps showing which roads are included and the order they're done here www.travelsomerset.co.uk/grass-cutting. To report any issues on our Rights of Way network, visit www.roam.somerset.gov.uk

For more information on roadworks, traffic information and major projects, visit www.travelsomerset.co.uk and follow @TravelSomerset on Twitter or visit our Facebook page www.facebook.com/travelsomerset

Tick watorn

While you're out and about, please remember a few basic safety tips to protect yourself, so you don't bring home more than just fond memories.



Ticks are unfortunately becoming more of a problem and a bite from an infected tick could lead to Lyme disease. Although this is a relatively rare treatable infection, and not every tick carries Lyme disease, it is very important to keep vigilant.

Here are some simple precautions you can take to reduce your chances of getting bitten:

- ☞ Keep to paths and tracks
- ☞ Tuck your trousers into your socks if passing through rough vegetation
- ☞ Check your clothing and exposed skin for ticks at regular intervals and again at the end of the day.

For more information about Lyme disease, visit www.nhs.uk/conditions/lyme-disease

Sign up now for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award



Are you aged between 14 and 24 and looking for a bit of adventure this summer? Then get in touch now and take part in The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) scheme.

You can start now and spend your summer learning lots of new skills, improving your fitness and volunteering in your local community. You can gain your Certificate of Achievement in just six months by completing three sections of the Award, then we can look at expedition options if you want to go on to get your full certificate. It also looks great on your CV and can be useful when applying for educational courses and jobs.

But mostly, it's all about just having a go. You can take part in a variety of activities - but they're not exams and you can't fail. It's also a great way of making friends and experiencing exciting and challenging things and gaining a great sense of achievement.

The Somerset DofE team is experienced in working with young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) to create an individual and flexible plan to support any young person to achieve their award and there are grants available for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds.

It feels only right to acknowledge HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh's amazing legacy and inspiring impact on generations of young people by making sure that every young person in Somerset has the opportunity to take part – so get in touch now.

If you would like to find out more, email DofE@somerset.gov.uk or visit www.dofe.org to understand more about the Award.

Love the countryside?

Help others explore it!

If you love getting out and about and being active in the Somerset countryside, then this could be the role for you! Somerset's Rights of Way team is looking for volunteers to help us care for our network of paths, so that people can continue to enjoy the Somerset countryside and access rights of way.

We want to tap into local people's knowledge, but even if you don't know your area well, our schemes are designed to channel your interest and enthusiasm – you might even get to know your patch better than you ever imagined!

In most cases, all you need is a pair of suitable shoes and a

trustworthy pair of secateurs. All you need to do is walk sections of the network and report any issues you come across, and maybe cut back the odd bramble or two so others can pass through safely.

All our roles are designed to be flexible to fit around your other commitments and vary by area - so please get in touch with our dedicated Volunteer and Trails Officer and we'll find a role that's right for you.

To find out more, visit www.volunteering.somerset.gov.uk or email our Volunteer and Trails Officer at ROWVolunteers@Somerset.gov.uk



Did you know?

We've got over **9,000** Rights of Way covering **3,843** miles of beautiful scenery. Thanks to our **amazing volunteers**, working alongside our Public Rights of Way Team, up to **90 per cent** of our Rights of Way are graded 'easy to use'.



volunteer

If you spot an issue on our Rights of Way Network - overgrown vegetation or a broken sign or stile that needs repairing, report it online at roam.somerset.gov.uk/roam/map

Worried about being alone, or feeling at risk?



At the touch of a button we are here for you. 24 hour help is on hand from only £4.10 per week.

Careline South Somerset gives that little extra support to people who want to remain living at home independently for as long as possible, while bringing peace of mind to their family and friends.

We're here for you 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Covid-19 We are currently offering an easy self-installation option only, however, we are looking to install units as soon as we can safely do so. Call us now for further information on how we can assist you.

 **Friendly, fully trained local call centre staff**

 **98.87% calls answered within 60 seconds**

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Get in touch with our friendly team to find out more

 www.carelinesouthsomerset.co.uk  01935 479815



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School Term Dates

2021/2022

Term 1:	6 September to 22 October 2021
Term 2:	1 November to 17 December 2021
Term 3:	4 January to 18 February 2022
Term 4:	28 February to 8 April 2022
Term 5:	25 April to 27 May 2022
Term 6:	6 June to 26 July 2022

For all the latest school term dates and holidays, visit www.somerset.gov.uk/schooltermdates

Please note: These are the term dates and holidays for community and voluntary controlled schools. Academies, free schools, foundation schools and voluntary-aided schools have the freedom to set their own term dates.





Dial a Ride

Taunton and Wellington Dial a Ride Service

Operating Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm.

For more information, please phone

01823 331266

Improving Lives www.travelsomerset.co.uk

SOMERSET County Council



Concessionary bus passes – apply online

Good news! You can now apply or renew your age or disability bus pass online. All you need to do is visit www.somerset.gov.uk/concessionary-bus-passes to sign up for an account and follow the instructions. If you need to renew your existing pass, just select the renewal code look up option on the website, where you will also find your renewal code.

Due coronavirus restrictions, all supporting evidence can be easily uploaded electronically to our online system, which means quicker turnaround times and no need to post us your documents.

If you need any more information, please visit www.somerset.gov.uk/concessionary-bus-passes or phone 0300 123 2224.



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Upcoming Exhibitions

THE BATH AND WEST: A CELEBRATION
Celebrate the spirit of the Bath & West Show with events and activities for all the family - Rural craft demonstrations, create & make, meet the animals
Dates: 10 JULY - 4 SEPTEMBER
Venue: SOMERSET RURAL LIFE MUSEUM, GLASTONBURY

THE WORLD OF MARTIN BROWN: HORRIBLE HISTORIES AND OTHER DAZZLING DRAWINGS
A dazzling display of cartoons and art by Horrible Histories illustrator Martin Brown. An exhibition for all the family
Dates: 24 JULY - 31 OCTOBER
Venue: THE MUSEUM OF SOMERSET, TAUNTON

THREAD BEARING WITNESS
Themes of cultural heritage and displacement are explored through the contributions of migrants brought together by contemporary textile artist Alice Kettle. A Somerset Art Works collaboration
Dates: 11 SEPTEMBER - 31 OCTOBER
Venue: SOMERSET RURAL LIFE MUSEUM, GLASTONBURY

THE ART OF BRIAN RICE: 60 YEARS OF PAINTINGS AND PRINTS
Large-scale, colourful artworks take centre stage in this exhibition by one of Britain's most distinguished abstract artists
Dates: 13 NOVEMBER - 26 FEBRUARY
Venue: THE MUSEUM OF SOMERSET, TAUNTON

To find out more, including the latest information about opening hours and admission, visit swheritage.org.uk

IMAGES: Bath & West Show, 2019 by Peter Hall, Jousting by Martin Brown, Sea (detail), (one of three works: Ground, Sea and Sky) by Alice Kettle, Red Assembly, 1964 by Brian Rice

SW SOUTH WEST HERITAGE TRUST
County number 10899

We're hiring...

LGV drivers and crew members
for our Somerset recycling
and waste collections team:

**Bridgwater, Evercreech,
Yeovil and Williton**

Monday to Friday,
with occasional weekend working

Drivers

£12.22 per hour
6.15am to 2.45pm

The roles involve driving and
operating vehicles collecting
household waste and recycling.

Applicants will need a current
LGV Class 2 license and valid CPC card.

Crew members

£10.20 per hour
6.30am to 3pm

The roles involve collecting waste and
recycling from Somerset households.



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We thank our people for all they do
with development opportunities,
wide-ranging benefits and rewards that
reflect their hard work. In a friendly,
supportive environment, you'll be inspired
to grow and play your part in creating a
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