

## **News Snippets from Somerset Council - OCTOBER 2025**

### **Secondary school applications for September 2026 are open**

If your child is due to start secondary school (Year 7) in September 2026, please note that applications are open. And Somerset parents and carers are being urged to apply online – and on time!



Secondary school applications must be submitted by the national deadline, which is 31 October 2025.

School place offers will be made on National Offer Day, 2 March 2026. [Find out more](#)

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### **Council adopts Mendip Local Plan Part II Limited Update**

We've formally adopted the Mendip Local Plan Part II Limited Update, marking a key commitment in the Local Development Scheme. The Limited Update addresses a High Court Order issued in December 2022, which required us to identify replacement housing allocations following the quashing of 5 sites in the original Plan.

After a comprehensive review of 162 potential sites, 9 new housing sites have been selected, capable of delivering 569 homes by 2029.

[More information](#)

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### **Yeovil Library and the Yeovil Literary Festival 2025: 17<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> October**



Tickets for the 2025 Yeovil Literary Festival are now on sale, with an outstanding programme of bestselling authors, celebrated speakers and creative talent.

[Yeovil Library](#), working in partnership with Yeovil Town Council's [Westlands Entertainment Venue](#) and [Octagon Theatre](#), [Waterstones Yeovil](#) and [Yeovil Community Arts Association](#) is set to be part of another fabulous festival.

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### **Sorry for any delays to recycling collections**

Over the last couple of weeks our crews have been busy trying to get to everyone. Unfortunately, due to some operational and vehicle issues, we've had some delayed collections. We're sorry for the delay and thank you for bearing with us. If collection crews do face unexpected delays, updates are posted via @SomersetWaste on [Facebook](#).

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### **Tick, tock... clocks go back Sunday 26 October**

On Sunday 26 October, the clocks go back 1 hour - a good excuse to check smoke detectors, batteries, bulbs, plugs and Christmas lights. All electrical items, low-energy bulbs and batteries can go to [recycling sites](#).

With kerbside recycling, put out small electrical items in carrier-size bags, and household batteries in small clear bags.

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### **Transform your business potential with free 1:1 mentoring**

Are you ready to take your business to the next level?

The Somerset Business Mentoring programme offers personalised guidance from industry experts to help you overcome challenges, seize opportunities, and achieve your goals. Whether you need support with marketing strategies, financial planning, scaling your operations, leadership skills or anything else, our mentors are here to provide the insights and tools you need.

**Enjoy 6 hours of free mentoring over 6 months, funded by the UK government, to kickstart your journey!**

With only 15 spaces available for this cohort, now is the time to invest in your future. Join Somerset's elite entrepreneurs and start your journey to success today! [Find Out More](#)

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## **Relaunch of the Rural England Prosperity Fund for Somerset**

We're relaunching our share of the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF), with £1 million of funding available to support businesses and community projects across the county.

This initiative aims to bolster the rural economy and foster growth for micro and small businesses in Somerset. [Read More](#)

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## **Made Smarter South West**



The Made Smarter Adoption Programme South West, delivered by the Heart of the South West Growth Hub, offers fully funded support to help small and medium-sized manufacturing businesses adopt Industry 4.0 digital technologies.

Running now until **March 2026**, the programme provides localised expert advice, 1:1 digital acceleration sessions, leadership and skills assessments, and match-funded grants ranging from £1,000 to £20,000. It aims to help manufacturers overcome operational challenges, improve efficiency, reduce waste, and boost competitiveness through digital transformation. [Find out more](#)

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## **SWEF Enterprise Fund**

The SWEF Enterprise Fund, provided by the Somerset Community Foundation, offers grants of up to £2,000 to support young entrepreneurs aged 18 to 30 in Somerset, North Somerset, and BANES.

Aimed at individuals whose businesses have been trading for less than 2 years, the fund helps with growth and development activities such as expanding product lines, upgrading equipment, or launching new services.

Applications are open year-round and assessed monthly, with successful applicants potentially invited to an online meeting to discuss their business further. [Visit website for more details](#)

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## UNLtd Awards

The UnLtd Awards is offering funding and tailored support to social entrepreneurs across the UK. Designed to help individuals start or grow their social ventures, the programme provides up to £8,000 for start-ups and up to £18,000 for more developed initiatives, along with access to a dedicated support manager, expert mentors, pro bono services, and learning workshops.



Applicants must be UK residents aged 16 or over and founders of ventures with a clear social purpose and growth potential. [Find out more](#)

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## Free tools to keep your food business safe and compliant

Running a food business can be complex, but staying compliant doesn't have to be. The Food Standards Agency is here to help with free training, checklists, and the latest guidance to keep your customers safe.

Don't miss out on these free resources.

Visit [food.gov.uk/here-to-help](https://www.food.gov.uk/here-to-help).



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## Supporting farmer-led ideas and on-farm trials

The ADOPT programme (Accelerating Development of Practices and Technologies), provided by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and delivered by Innovate UK, supports farmer-led on-farm trials to develop and demonstrate innovative solutions to agricultural, horticultural, and forestry challenges.



Through the ADOPT Support Hub—run by ADAS, the UK Agri-Tech Centre, and the Soil Association – farmers, growers, and foresters in England can access expert guidance, funding opportunities, and collaborative tools to test new methods, technologies, or practices. The programme aims to improve productivity, sustainability, and resilience on farms, while also sharing insights and lessons learned across the wider farming community.

[Visit the website for more information](#)

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## **NCSC recommendations following incidents impacting retailers**

A recent blog post by the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) highlights a series of cyber incidents that have significantly impacted UK retailers, disrupting operations and affecting customer trust.

In response, the NCSC urges businesses to strengthen their cyber resilience by adopting robust security practices, improving incident response planning, and fostering collaboration across the retail sector. [Read more](#)

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