

PRESS RELEASE

December 2019

Unique Business Opportunity for a Café Operator at Purpose-Built Food Park

An operator is being sought to run the café at the new food and drink innovation centre due to open in Weston-super-Mare next spring. The Food Works^{SW}, a vibrant centre of excellence for local food and drink businesses will also act as a conferencing centre for the region's broader business base. The site will offer 12 food-grade business units for food and drink manufacturers, 4 product development kitchens, meeting rooms and conferencing suites supported by onsite business and technical support.

The informal business lounge and café area will offer a comfortable space for centre users, tenants and visitors in addition to its off-site catering offer.

Site operators, The Food & Drink Forum, have released a tender for the operation of the café and catering service. This exciting opportunity would be ideal for local entrepreneurial caterers and food service operators looking for kitchen and café facilities. The 28 square metre kitchen will be equipped and ready to operate from 1 May 2020 (or earlier subject to completion of the building of The Food Works^{SW} site).

Running as an independent business, the successful operator will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the café and on-site catering. The lounge seating area will have approximately 55 covers with a further 20 covers in the outdoor patio area, spanning a total of around 170 square metres. In addition to meeting the needs of tenants and centre users, the centre will also attract local people and passing trade due to; the varied and flexible opening times, its ability to host workshops, conferences, B2B events, awards, celebratory events, cookery demonstrations and external catering services presents a unique offer for the town.

Responses must be submitted no later than Wednesday 15 January 2020. The Food & Drink Forum will be holding a supplier engagement information morning on Tuesday 17 December for any interested parties to find out more about the site and opportunity, gaining clarity around any concerns and to discuss any matters ahead of submitting an application.

Commissioned by North Somerset Council, The Food Works^{SW} site is part of a multi-million pound development, developing a food enterprise zone for food manufacturers and agri-food businesses in the South West. Located just minutes from the M5, the site is easily accessible and, as part of the Junction 21 Enterprise Area, will encourage a cluster effect of food and drink businesses in the surrounding area once operational.

The Food Works^{SW} site will create a focal point and regional centre of excellence for food and drink businesses across the South West. The successful cafe operator will have the opportunity to grow with the site with further building phases already in planning.

Full details of the café operator tender can be found at: bit.ly/TenderOpportunities

For further information on The Food Works^{SW} site please visit: www.foodworks-sw.co.uk

The Food Works^{SW} site is funded by the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership through the Local Growth Fund, administered by the West of England Combined Authority.

Ends

Notes to editors:

For more information please call Bryony Whiley on 0115 975 8810.

The Food and Drink Forum, based at Southglade Food Park, Nottingham, and Leicester Food Park has members across the UK, including manufacturers, food service operators, consultants and businesses providing services to the food and drink sector.

Its aims include championing the food and drink sector in the UK, developing strategic influencing partnerships, and acting as a centre for information and knowledge on all subjects relating to the food and drink sector.

See website: www.foodanddrinkforum.co.uk

The Food Works^{SW} will be a vibrant new centre of excellence for nurturing local food and drink businesses, with state-of-the-art facilities, specialist food technical and business support, and expert advice. Connecting local producers to collaborate, innovate, identify new markets and create jobs within the sector.

Commissioned by North Somerset Council, The Food Works^{SW}, due to open in March 2020 will be a dynamic food and drink innovation centre offering food grade businesses, product development kitchens and a business engagement centre which will offer meeting and conference facilities.

The Food Works^{SW} site is funded by the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership through the Local Growth Fund, administered by the West of England Combined Authority.

See website: www.foodworks-sw.co.uk

Press release issued by Bryony Whiley, The Food and Drink Forum Ltd

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