



PRESS RELEASE – 09.04.20

**NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL OFFICIALLY HANDS OVER THE FOOD WORKS<sup>SW</sup>  
WHICH IS NOW OPEN FOR BUSINESS**

**North Somerset Council has handed over control of the new innovation centre, The Food Works<sup>SW</sup> to The Food and Drink Forum as part of a 15 year contract.**

The multi-million pound project opening at the Junction 21 Enterprise Zone in Weston-super-Mare has long been in the making after North Somerset Council won funding from the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and is now celebrating opening the doors to food and drink manufacturers in the South West.

With concerns over the effects of the Coronavirus Crisis hitting the economy hard, the food and drink industry, listed as essential key workers, has seen some businesses facing increasing demand. The 12 business units and development kitchens are now available for anyone finding themselves needing more space during this time or those businesses who have had to diversify and are in need of an area to develop their products ready for delivery.

The business units at The Food Works<sup>SW</sup> will provide food and drink businesses with modern, affordable food-grade premises that conform to the highest standards and meet the latest environmental health legislation.

The various sized spaces will enable start-ups or established businesses to fulfil their production requirements safe in the knowledge that maintenance costs will be minimised and that they can achieve BRC Grade AA with confidence.

As well as the units now being available to rent, also on site is a team of staff to support you with a variety of operational or technical business queries. In this difficult time, some businesses have had to cease working or struggled to meet increased demand and the Senior Management team are now based at The Food Works<sup>SW</sup> on Whirlwind Road, Weston-super-Mare to help you.

We appreciate that businesses still need to maintain high food management standards, train new staff in food safety, increase production capacity or examine the need to diversify into new markets and the team have useful resources that can help.

Businesses can access a range of services from The Food Works<sup>SW</sup> that aim to alleviate the current pressures they are facing. The latest tips, resources and live support can be found by searching @foodworks\_sw on social media or [www.foodworks-sw.co.uk](http://www.foodworks-sw.co.uk)

If you would like to find out how to apply for the business units at The Food Works<sup>SW</sup> you can email [enquiries@foodworks-sw.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@foodworks-sw.co.uk) or call one of the team on 01934 411272.

**ENDS**

**Notes to editors:**

**Image**

The brand-new The Food Works<sup>SW</sup> has officially been handed over to The Food and Drink Forum who have won the 15-year contract from North Somerset Council to manage the Food and Drink Centre of Excellence. Credit to Nick Whimster Photography.

**The Food Works<sup>SW</sup>** 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<sup>SW</sup>, due to open in April 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<sup>SW</sup> 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](http://www.foodworks-sw.co.uk)

**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](http://www.foodanddrinkforum.co.uk)

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