



Sept 09

### **Hop on the Jobs & Training Bus**

A new jobs and training bus aimed at helping local people into work comes to Bath & North East Somerset, on Saturday 26 September.

The bus, which is being funded through the West at Work partnership, will feature a range of job and training opportunities in areas such as retail, catering, care and customer service.

Details of job opportunities at the new SouthGate development will also be available on the bus that will be located in Stall Street on Thursdays and Fridays throughout October. The bus, which is supported by SouthGate developers Multi, will also tour other areas of the city over the coming weeks.

Phase one of the SouthGate scheme will open on November 4<sup>th</sup> and it is now over 80 per cent let to retailers such as Boots, Calvin Klein, H&M and Kurt Geiger.

As well as jobs, visitors to the bus will be able to access information on local courses . many of which are free to unemployed people. Available training includes help with job search, CV writing and interview skills as well as NVQ qualifications in areas like retail and customer service skills.

Cllr Terry Gazzard (Conservative, Abbey), Cabinet Member for Development and Major Projects, commented: The Council has been very involved with this project, as we've seen that local people have the opportunity to apply for new job opportunities at Southgate Bath and across the City. There has been a lot of coverage about unemployment in recent times, so the opening of Southgate Bath and its boost to the local economy is a good news story at a difficult time.+

A range of West at Work agencies (including Jobcentre Plus, Connexions and the Council) will staff the bus offering a coordinated service for local people aimed at providing training and employment advice and support.

West at Work, Director, David Draycott, said: %The jobs and training bus is a great way for local people to find out about all the opportunities on offer. They can find out about improving their skills and finding work. Having up-to-date skills and access to the latest information is vital in this economic climate and the bus is good place for jobseekers to start.+

On Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September, New Look will have dedicated use of the bus at Stall Street as part of their recruitment drive for their new store at Southgate Bath.

The bus timetable is currently being finalised and will be available on the West at Work, Council and SouthGate Bath websites from the beginning of October.

#### NOTE FOR EDITORS

West at Work offers employment and training support specifically developed to meet local needs. Partners involved in this project in Bath include Bath and North East Somerset Council, Jobcentre Plus, Connexions, the Local Learning Partnership, the Learning and Skills Council and the South West Regional Development Agency. Visit [www.westatwork.co.uk](http://www.westatwork.co.uk)

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