

## For immediate release

## Visit Somerset and Exmoor to boost the local economy year round

We're here all year – that's the message from Somerset tourism businesses as the summer holiday season comes to an end.

Somerset County Council is working in partnership with Visit Somerset and Visit Exmoor to promote the county's many attractions, shops, restaurants and landmarks which can be enjoyed all year round.

With the cooler weather rolling in, you may want to trade in beach days for autumn walks or cosy cottage breaks, or spend time exploring the many indoor attractions on offer around the county. Whatever you decide, there's fun to be had, with the added advantage of boosting the local economy.

There are many benefits to staying local, less time spent travelling reduces fuel costs and has other obvious benefits for the environment. By spending money locally, you also support the local economy which helps to support all our communities and is particularly important over the quieter, winter months.

Councillor Val Keitch, Somerset County Council's Lead Member for Local Government Reorganisation and Prosperity, said: "It's been a glorious long hot summer, but as we move towards the autumn and winter months, there's still plenty to enjoy in every corner of the county. By choosing to visit the wonderful restaurants, shops and attractions on our doorsteps you'll be supporting your local community, boosting the Somerset economy, reducing your carbon footprint, and saving money on travel too."

John Turner Visit Somerset, said: "It's been great working with Visit Exmoor and Somerset County Council to encourage more people to stay local over the summer months.



"Now that the summer is coming to an end, we want to remind people living in Somerset that there are plenty of things to see and do in the colder months of the year – we'd encourage them to visit our website to find out what's on offer near them."

Emma Thomasson, Chief Executive at Visit Exmoor said: "'We're here all year' is the message we want to get out to people living in Somerset and Exmoor. Whatever the season, you'll find something to do that can be enjoyed by all – and if you're looking for inspiration you can visit our website to find it."

For ideas on where to go and what to do in Somerset and Exmoor, you can visit the <u>Visit Somerset</u> and <u>Visit Exmoor</u> websites. Choose from a vast array of days out, experiences, accommodation, restaurants, shops, and activities that are all closer to you – many of which can be booked online.

## **Ends**

For further information, please contact the Press Office on 01823 355020 or email pressoffice@somerset.gov.uk

## **Notes to Editors**

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