

PRESS RELEASE
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UPGRADING WORKS TO WESTERN DORCHESTER ST TO COMMENCE

Multi Development UK Ltd, the Developers behind the £360 million SouthGate development in Bath, have announced that upgrading works to the western end of Dorchester Street will commence shortly. Over the coming months the western end of Dorchester St will be re-aligned with new bus stops introduced to either side of the road. New traffic signals and natural stone crossing points will be installed and the carriageway will be resurfaced.

To allow work to be carried out safely there will be restrictions on traffic, with through traffic encouraged to make use of the A36 to relieve pressure. Bath and North East Somerset Council is asking road users to plan their journeys taking into account the restrictions.

These works are part of the ongoing delivery of the scheme but relate particularly to the approaching completion of the new Transport Interchange. Works to the main Interchange building have been ongoing since early 2007 and are due for completion in April 2009 whereupon the Operator will take possession of the building and prepare for its opening. Once the surrounding works to Dorchester Street are complete in early June 2009, the £13 million SouthGate Transport Interchange will open for business.

The temporary Bus Station facility currently located within the Avon Street car-park will then be dismantled and the car park returned to its original configuration.

Multi Development's Development Manager, Jon Munce said: "We are now in the home-straight with regard to the completion of the new Transport Interchange and we are looking forward to the addition of a fantastic new public building to the City of Bath. The final few months of works are complex and we will be working hard with our Contractors, Sir Robert McAlpine and BAM, and the Council to ensure that disruption is kept to a minimum whilst the works are carried out."

Councillor Terry Gazzard (Conservative, Abbey), Cabinet Member for Development and Major Projects, commented: "Bath and North East Somerset Council sees these works as an essential part of delivering a component of SouthGate that is part of our £60 million joined-up plan to tackle traffic congestion in the area. The Council encourages road users to think about their usual journey and plan accordingly. Excellent progress is being made at SouthGate and the Council, alongside partners Multi Development and Aviva, is receiving widespread recognition for the quality of this excellent project."

Residents can see for themselves what the finished transport interchange will look like by visiting the Council's webpage dedicated to its joined-up £60 million of improvements: www.bathnes.gov.uk/stopgridlock

SouthGate

Six new buildings at the heart of the scheme will provide:

- 37,567 m² (404,221 sq ft) retail space, including a new Debenhams department store.
- 3,522 m² (37,897 sq ft) leisure space.
- 2,278 m² (24,511 sq ft) restaurant space.
- 99 new homes, 25 of which will be assigned as affordable housing
- A new basement car park beneath the development with 860 new car parking spaces
- A modern integrated transport hub, linking rail and bus services on adjacent sites fronting Dorchester Street, including brand new bus station facilities, an open piazza and enhanced taxis and disabled parking facilities

Public open spaces and new streets, including a large central square. All of the newly created spaces will have tree planting, seats, opportunities for public art and access to public conveniences