



For immediate release.

LED awarded contract to manage Goldenstones Pools and Leisure Centre, Yeovil

East Devon based Leisure Trust LED has been awarded the contract to manage the Goldenstones Pools and Leisure Centre in Yeovil, from April 2011.

LED's bid won the tender process by South Somerset District Council and following their selection as the preferred bidder for the future management of the facility by the District Executive last week. The final contractual formalities will now be completed.

The Council decided upon using a non-profit making charitable leisure trust and LED were well placed to offer substantial financial, management and operating benefits for Goldenstones.

The management transfer will not affect any of the centre's services or opening hours, but will save South Somerset council tax payers around £2.1m over the ten year contract, as the trust benefits from the majority of their income being VAT exempt and and they are able to claim up to 85% relief from national non-domestic rates.

South Somerset District Cllr Sylvia Seal said "I am delighted that this step will enable the Council to maintain this important and highly valued community facility, whilst at the same time saving £210,000 a year, at a time of severe cuts in Government funding. This is an example of how the Council is thinking of alternative ways to continue as many services as possible by thinking of different ways of working".

The assets will be leased (not sold) to the trust. It is important to know that this transfer would only affect the management and operation of the facilities, not ownership.

Both parties agree that this move fits with ongoing work to make sure they are making the best out of their assets and to try to retain and protect services for residents in both South Somerset and East Devon.

Peter Gilpin, Chief Executive of LED said, "We are delighted that the Council has selected LED as its preferred contractor and look forward to working closely with the Council, staff and the customers to develop what is already an excellent facility even further."

He continued, "Successful delivery of this facility and service will be advantageous for everyone concerned as not only will South Somerset District Council and their ratepayers benefit but expanding our operations will also provide a financial benefit to LED and the thirteen leisure facilities we operate in East Devon, helping to reduce the subsidy required from East Devon District Council and their ratepayers as well."

ENDS

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Leisure East Devon Ltd is a charitable trust established on 1 January 2006 to manage and operate leisure facilities.

Current facilities are: Axminster Leisure Centre; Broadclyst Leisure Centre; Colyton Leisure Centre; Ottery St Mary Leisure Centre; Exmouth Tennis & Leisure Centre; Exmouth Swimming & Leisure Centre; Exmouth Pavilion; Exmouth's Phear Park; Honiton Swimming & Leisure Centre; Seaton's Seafield Gardens; Sidmouth's Coburg Road Gardens; Sidmouth Leisure Centre & Sidmouth Swimming Pool.

The partnership to operate Yeovil Goldenstones Pools and Leisure Centre commences on 1st April 2011.

Please see: www.ledleisure.co.uk for more details.

For more information, please contact:

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