



Yeovil Town Council

Town House
19 Union Street
Yeovil
Somerset
BA20 1PQ

Website : www.yeovil.gov.uk

Amanda Card Chief Executive / Town Clerk

Resident of the parish of Yeovil Town
Address

Date: August 2025
Your Ref:
Our Ref:
Ask for:
E-mail: octagontheatre@yeovil.gov.uk

Dear resident of the parish of Yeovil Town

The Octagon Theatre Development and Reopening

We are writing to you to update you and consult on the proposal for Yeovil Town Council to financially contribute to the development and reopening of the Octagon Theatre

In October 2023, Somerset Council declared their plans to develop the Octagon Theatre unviable due to their “financial emergency” and increases in interest and inflation that impacted the cost of borrowing and construction. In response to this announcement, on 10th October 2023, Yeovil Town Council held an emergency meeting at Westlands Entertainment Venue which was attended by around 400 members of the public. At this meeting, Yeovil Town Council voted to work in partnership with Somerset Council and offer support to see The Octagon Theatre developed and reopened.

Having reached a milestone in the project completing the concept design stage, we are now in a position to share the plans to develop the theatre. We hope that you will find the information enclosed of interest, helping you to understand the project and reach your decision on whether you support the proposals put forward.

This is your opportunity to ensure that the new and improved Octagon Theatre re-opens.

We believe that the Octagon Theatre is vital part of the cultural and leisure offering of our town, benefiting our residents, attracting visitors and supporting the economic prosperity of Yeovil. Once completed, the Octagon Theatre will be transferred to Yeovil Town Council who will manage the theatre.

Yeovil is made up of various different parishes and you are being written to as a resident of the parish of Yeovil Town. Some of your friends, family and neighbours may live in a different parish of Yeovil and will therefore not receive this information or be part of this consultation.

The total project budget is £15 million, which includes £10 million of government funding. We are proposing to invest £3.75 million to secure the £10 million from government and would be required to pay stamp duty of £214,500 to transfer The Octagon Theatre to Yeovil Town Council. This means a total financial commitment of £3,964,500. This will be funded with £639,500 reserves and borrowing of £3.325 million from the Public Works Loan Board.

To borrow £3.325 million over a period of 20 years at a rate in the region of 5.8%, there will be an annual repayment of about £283,063, which will repay both principal and interest. The annual repayment will be funded by £173,000 of ticket levy (paid by users of the service) and remaining £110,063 by increasing the precept by 3.3%.

This equates to an increase of £11.60 per year for a Band D property (or 22 pence per week) for a 20-year period. It is important to note that 85.3% of dwellings in the parish of Yeovil are below a Band D.

The impact on the various Council tax bands is indicated in the table below:

	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
Increase per year	7.73	9.02	10.31	11.60	14.18	16.76	19.33	23.20
Increase per week	0.15	0.17	0.20	0.22	0.27	0.32	0.37	0.44

You can keep up to date with the project and find further information at <https://www.yeovil.gov.uk/octagon-theatre>. Please complete the form overleaf to take part in the consultation or complete the online form found on the website by scanning the QR code at the bottom of this letter. We are also organising some Open Events, more details will also be available on our website, or you can also contact your local councilor to discuss the project details of which can be found at <https://www.yeovil.gov.uk/meet-your-councillors>.

There will be a separate period of public consultation as part of the planning process that will focus on the design proposals later in the year.

Yours faithfully



Cllr Andy Soughton
Leader of Yeovil Town Council



Cllr Graham Oakes
Chair of Culture, Events & Promotions

Chair of Finance & Policy Executive



Amanda Card
Chief Executive / Town Clerk



Adam Burgan
Director of Culture, Events & Promotions





YEOVIL TOWN COUNCIL

CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE OCTAGON THEATRE PROJECT

- Are you in **FAVOUR** of Yeovil Town Council going ahead with the contribution of £3,964,500 (including Stamp Duty) towards the Octagon Theatre Project resulting in borrowing of £3,325,000?

YES ☐ NO ☐ (please tick appropriate box)

- Are you in **FAVOUR** of Yeovil Town Council going ahead with the contribution of £3,964,500 (including Stamp Duty) towards the Octagon Theatre Project resulting in borrowing of £3,325,000, if it includes a Council tax precept increase of 3.3% (equivalent to £110,062.69) for the purpose of the loan repayments?

YES ☐ NO ☐ (please tick appropriate box)

Name	
Address	
Signed	
Date	

Please send this survey questionnaire to Yeovil Town Council at the address below by:
21st September 2025

Yeovil Town Council
Town House
19 Union Street
Yeovil
Somerset
BA20 1PQ
e-mail : octagontheatre@yeovil.gov.uk

You may return the questionnaire to any of the following locations:

- Westlands Entertainment Venue (Box Office)
- Yeovil Country Park (Ninesprings Café)
- Yeovil Recreation Centre (The Rec Café)

Alternatively, why not complete the online form by scanning the QR code?

