



Yeovil Town Council

Town House
19 Union Street
Yeovil
Somerset
BA20 1PQ

Infrastructure (Property & Assets) Committee

Infrastructure (Property & Assets) Committee

Tuesday 6th January 2026

7:00pm

Hybrid Meeting:

**Face-to-face at Town House, 19 Union Street, Yeovil
BA20 1PQ; and virtual using Zoom meeting software**

For further information on the items to be discussed, please contact town.clerk@yeovil.gov.uk.

Amanda Card, Chief Executive / Town Clerk

22nd December 2025

This information is also available on our website: www.yeovil.gov.uk

Members of Yeovil Town Council are summoned to attend:

Tareth Casey

Karl Gill (Vice Chair)

Andy Kendall

Tony Lock (Ex-officio)

Jane Lowery

Evie Potts-Jones

Wes Read (Ex-officio)

Andy Soughton

Rob Stickland (Chair)

Helen Stonier

Dave Woan

Public Comments at meetings

Members of the public may attend the meeting either physically or via zoom.

If you would like to join the meeting via zoom, please e-mail ytic@yeovil.gov.uk by 9:00am on 6th January 2025. Instructions will be sent to you to view the meeting.

Equality Act 2010

The general public sector equality duty places an obligation on a wide range of public bodies (including town and parish councils) in the exercise of their functions to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not

The protected characteristics are:

Age	Race
Disability	Religion or Belief
Gender Reassignment	Sex
Marriage and Civil Partnership	Sexual Orientation
Pregnancy and Maternity	

Recording of Council Meetings

The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 allows both the public and press to take photographs, film and audio record the proceedings and report on all public meetings (including on social media).

Any member of the public wishing to record or film proceedings must let the Chair of the meeting know prior to, or at the start of, the meeting and the recording must be overt (i.e. clearly visible to anyone at the meeting), but non-disruptive. Please refer to our Policy on audio/visual recording and photography at Council meetings at www.yeovil.gov.uk. This permission does not extend to private meetings or parts of meetings which are not open to the public.

Members of the public exercising their right to speak during the time allocated for Public Comment who do not wish to be recorded or filmed, need to inform the Chair who will instruct those taking a recording or filming to cease doing so while they speak.

A G E N D A

PUBLIC COMMENT (15 Minutes)

11/256 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO CONSIDER THE REASONS GIVEN

Council to receive apologies for absence and consider the reasons given. *LGA 1972 s85(1)*

11/257 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members to declare any interests, including Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) they may have in agenda items that accord with the requirements of the Town Council's Code of Conduct and to consider any requests from members for Dispensations that accord with Localism Act 2011 s33. (NB this does not preclude any later declarations).

11/258 MINUTES

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meetings held on 11th November 2025.

11/259 DEFIBRILLATOR AND BLEEDKIT UPDATE

To note the report of the Admin Officer regarding defibrillators and bleed kits as attached at pages 6 to 11.

11/260 BUDGET MONITORING UPDATE

To consider the Budget Monitor Update Month 9 (April 2025 – December 2025). Report to follow.

11/261 BUDGET SETTING 2026/27

To consider and recommend to Finance and Policy Executive Committee the draft budget for 2026/27 as attached at pages 13 - 15.

11/262 COMMUNITY WARDENS

To consider a verbal update.

11/263 PROPERTY UPDATE

To consider the report of the Director of Infrastructure (Property & Assets) regarding a Property Update as attached at pages 16 to 17.

11/264 ARMED FORCES COVENANT

To consider the report of Director of Infrastructure (Property & Assets) regarding the Armed Forces Covenant as attached at pages 18 to 19.

11/265 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Committee is requested to pass a resolution excluding the press and public from the remainder of the meeting in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

**11/266 SOUTH SOMERSET HERITAGE COLLECTION - LUFTON UPDATE
(CONFIDENTIAL)**

To consider the report of Director of Infrastructure (Property & Assets) regarding the Lufton Depot where the South Somerset Heritage Collection is located as attached at pages 20 to 21.

11/259 DEFIBRILLATOR AND BLEEDKIT UPDATE

Defibrillator Update

Yeovil Town Council are currently the guardians of 18 defibrillators across Yeovil (see below), with plans to increase this number continuing.

Accessed Defibrillators

Since May 2022, the defibrillators have been accessed 118 times:

Location	Go-Live Date	Frequency of access as at 11th November 2025	Frequency of access since 11th November 2025	Frequency of access to date
1. Nationwide	20/09/21	24	0	24
2. The Acorn	16/10/21	24	1	25
3. Ninesprings Café	14/01/22	3	0	3
4. St Andrew's Scout Group	23/04/22	3	0	3
5. St Peter's	12/03/22	10	0	10
6. Dunelm	19/07/22	3	0	3
7. Birchfield	09/12/22	10	0	10
8. The Quicksilver Mail	06/01/23	7	0	7
9. Milford Hall	18/01/18	9	0	9
10. Town House	19/01/23	6	0	6
11. Holy Trinity	29/07/23	4	0	4
12. Southville Elim Church	05/10/23	7	0	7
13. Maltravers House	11/03/24	2	0	2
14. Progress Gym	16/05/24	0	0	0
15. Yeovil Recreation Centre *	01/08/24	1	0	1
16. The Bell Inn	15/10/24	4	0	4
17. Yeovil Amateur Boxing Club	03/12/25	0	0	0
18. Duke of York	17/12/25	0	0	0
		117	1	118

*Inherited as part of devolution (installed on the Jon O'Donnell Pavilion)

New Installations

Yeovil Amateur Boxing Club and St Michael and All Angels Church have installed a new defibrillator and emergency bleed kit on the exterior wall of St Michael's Hall. The

Duke of York has also fitted a defibrillator and emergency bleed kit on the outside of its building. Both sets of equipment are now fully operational and available for public use in the event of an emergency.



Yeovil Amateur Boxing Club at St Michaels Hall, St Michael's Road, Yeovil, BA21 5AG



Duke of York, 12 Kingston, Yeovil, BA20 2QL

St James' Church has confirmed its agreement to proceed with the installation and to contribute to the initiative. A formal agreement has been drafted and is currently awaiting their review and signature. Discussions are ongoing with Spirit Gymnastics Academy, St Marks Church, and Yeovil Amateur Operatic Society.

Further information will be brought to future meetings of this committee.

Bleed Kit Update



Existing locations for Yeovil –

HSBC 1 Middle Street, Yeovil, BA20 1LR
Outside Barolo Lounge on lamppost 17 & 18 High Street, Yeovil, BA20 1RQ
Lamppost on Central Road junction with Earle Street Earle Street, Yeovil, BA20 1JW
Dominos Pizza Wyndham Street, Yeovil, BA20 1JJ
Aplin House Newton Road Yeovil, Somerset, BA20 1FF
Lamppost outside JD Wetherspoons 97 Middle Street, Yeovil, BA20 1LN
Yeovil Leisure Park Security Office , Yeo Leisure Park, Yeovil, BA20 1NP
Peters Community Centre , Coronation Avenue, Yeovil, BA21 3DY
Peugeot Howards , 1b Bympton Way, Yeovil, BA20 2HP
Vauxhall Howards , Lufton Way, Yeovil, BA22 8PT
Hundredstone Bus Shelter , Mudford Road, Yeovil, BA21 4NL
One Stop Shop , 2 -4 Runnymede Road, Yeovil, BA21 5RF
Yeovil Sports Club , Coronation Ave, Yeovil, BA21 3DY
Yeovil Sports Club – Club House , Coronation Ave, Yeovil, BA21 3DY
Premier Stores , 87 Greenwood Road, Yeovil, BA21 3LF
The Great Lyde, Pub , 1 Cavalier Way, Yeovil, BA21 5UA
Wyndham Park Community Garden , 15 Shackleton Road, Yeovil, BA21 5EU
Wyndham Park Community Hub , 80 Great Mead, Yeovil, BA21 5EG

Installed YTC locations

Ninesprings Café , Country Park, 27 Brunswick St, Yeovil BA20 1QZ
Milford Community Hall , Milford Hall BA21 4QD
Yeovil Recreation Ground , Yeovil Recreation Centre, Chilton Grove, BA21 4AW
Birchfield Community Centre , Birchfield Rd, Yeovil BA21 5RL
Progress Gym , 3A & 3B Kingfisher Close, Lynx Trading Estate, BA20 2PJ
St Andrews Scout Hut , Preston Grove, Yeovil BA20 2BQ
Yeovil Town Council , Town House, 19 Union Street, BA20 1PQ
Holy Trinity Church and Community Centre , Lysander Rd, Yeovil BA20 2BU
Maltravers House , 27 Brunswick St, Yeovil BA20 1QZ
Elim Church , Southville, Yeovil BA21 4JA
Yeovil Amateur Boxing Club at St Michaels Hall, St Michael's Road, Yeovil, BA21 5AG
Preston School , Monks Dale, Yeovil, BA21 3JD
Duke of York , 12 Kingston, Yeovil, BA20 2QL



Recently installed Bleed Kit at Preston School, Monks Dale, Yeovil, BA21 3JD

Pending Installation

The following locations are currently awaiting installation. All have completed the agreement process and are in possession of the required kit.

1032 Yeovil Air Cadets, Yeovil, BA21 4QW (Railings outside)
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Bell Inn, 207 Preston Road, Yeovil BA20 2EW
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To date, we are not aware of any of the bleed kits being used.

Future Installations

Discussions will be held with the following businesses to decide on potential locations. Further information will be brought to future meetings of this committee.

St Marks Church , 64 Chelston Ave, Yeovil BA21 4PU
The Acorn , 8-10 Church Street, Yeovil, Somerset, BA20 1HE
Yeovil Amateur Operatic Society , Edwards House, 14 Buckland Road, Yeovil, BA21 5EA
Spirit Gymnastics Academy , Unit 1, Seaton Mews West Hendford, Yeovil, BA20 2AG
Evans Cycles , 76 Lyde Road, Yeovil, BA21 5DW

The Committee is **RECOMMENDED** to note the report.

*(Tabetha Short, Admin Officer – 01935 382424
or Tabetha.short@yeovil.gov.uk)*

Property and Community Committee

2024/25						2025/26							Notes
Budget (£)	Month 1 - 12 spend 31/03/2025 (£)	(Over) / Under spend (£)	Earmarked Reserve Contribution (£)	(Over) / Under after Earmarked Reserve Contribution (£)		Budget (£)	Budget Virement (£)	Revised budget (£)	Month 1 - 7 spent 31/10/2025 (£)	Full year estimated spend to 31/03/2026 (£)	Estimated (over) / under spend (£)	Proposed 2026/27 Budget £	
EXPENDITURE													
Director of IPA:													
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	38,095	57,142	(57,142)	65,320	Payaward 2025/26 +3%
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7,484	11,226	(11,226)	11,500	
Property Management													
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7,082	17,217	(17,217)	41,170	Payaward 2025/26 +3%
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,398	3,977	(3,977)	7,300	
Community Wardens:													
63,000	40,554	22,446	0	22,446	0	66,530	0	66,530	12,461	72,074	(5,544)	98,770	Payaward 2025/26 +3%
12,000	5,494	6,506	0	6,506	0	13,190	0	13,190	1,383	8,793	4,397	17,580	
900	734	166	308	(142)	0	0	0	0	51	51	(51)	0	
Facility Officer:													
27,000	27,288	(288)	0	(288)	0	0	29,400	29,400	19,844	29,603	(203)	27,180	Payaward 2025/26 +3%
6,000	5,446	554	0	554	0	0	5,850	5,850	4,064	5,886	(36)	5,440	
0	94	(94)	0	(94)	0	0	0	0	612	612	(612)	0	
YTC Van													
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	267	533	(533)	0	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8,000	8,000	0	12,000	(4,000)	12,000	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,000	2,000	(84)	1,000	1,000	1,000	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,530	2,530	(2,530)	3,000	
0	80	(80)	0	(80)	0	0	0	0	460	460	(460)	0	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,871	1,871	(1,871)	1,000	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	137	0	0	1,000	
0	155	(155)	0	(155)	0	0	2,190	2,190	599	1,198	992	3,110	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11,000	YTC's own channel via YCRT
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	730	730	1,778	3,557	(2,827)	4,910	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	839	2,000	(2,000)	0	
Subscriptions													
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	16	(16)	0	
9,100	(20,050)	29,150	28,962	188	0	1,000	0	1,000	110	2,000	(1,000)	1,000	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,523	3,523			
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11,800	11,800	0	11,800	0	11,800	
Youth & Community													
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,000	Move From FPE
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40,600	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25,000	SLA increase to £25k pa (£6,250 pq) from 01/01/26
570	0	570	0	570	0	570	0	570	0	570	0	570	
60,000	(118,638)	178,638	178,638	0	0	60,000	0	60,000	142	60,000	0	60,000	
1,000	2,029	(1,029)	0	(1,029)	0	500	0	500	0	50	450	500	

Budget (£)	Month 1 - 12 spend 31/03/2025 (£)	(Over) / Under spend (£)	Earmarked Reserve Contribution (£)	(Over) / Under after Earmarked Reserve Contribution (£)		Budget (£)	Budget Virement (£)	Revised budget (£)	Month 1 - 7 spent 31/10/2025 (£)	Full year estimated spend to 31/03/2026 (£)	Estimated (over) / under spend (£)	Proposed 2026/27 Budget £	Notes
0	1,785	(1,785)	0	(1,785)	Bus Shelter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
12,420	22,292	(9,872)	(6,779)	(3,093)	Defibrillator & Bleedkits	9,000	0	9,000	351	9,000	0	4,500	
700	0	700	0	700	Litter/Grit bins	500	0	500	0	500	0	500	
32,490	49,669	(17,179)	0	(17,179)	CCTV	51,000	0	51,000	53,167	53,167	(2,167)	53,170	Somerset Council has Confirmed no increase for 2026/27
1,250	0	1,250	0	1,250	Speed Indicator Device installations	1,300	0	1,300	0	1,300	0	1,300	
100	100	0	0	0	St Georges Day Parade	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
750	(1,452)	2,202	2,201	1	War memorials	750	0	750	0	750	0	750	
					Goar Knap - Building								
0	0	0	0	0	Building	0	200	200	0	800	(600)	0	Move from L & E Installing electric charge for Van
0	0	0	0	0	Other Costs	0	0	0	1,803	1,803	(1,803)	0	
0	0	0	0	0	Electricity	0	750	750	125	250	500	770	Electric for new vehicle
0	0	0	0	0	Business Rates	0	1,460	1,460	0	1,765	(305)	1,820	Inflationary increase
					Milford Hall:								
1,000	2,223	(1,223)	0	(1,223)	Repairs and Maintenance Buildings	1,000	0	1,000	6,055	6,055	(5,055)	1,030	Inflationary increase
5,700	6,196	(496)	0	(496)	Milford Hall - Business Rates	6,200	0	6,200	7,745	7,745	(1,545)	6,390	Inflationary increase
30,000	20,846	9,154	0	9,154	Electricity	20,000	0	20,000	11,596	25,000	(5,000)	20,600	Inflationary increase
12,770	19,182	(6,412)	0	(6,412)	Milford Hall - Running Costs	13,660	0	13,660	13,424	16,000	(2,340)	14,070	Inflationary increase
1,000	696	305	0	305	CCTV	500	0	500	0	500	0	500	
460	1,305	(845)	0	(845)	Milford Hall - Security	1,000	0	1,000	362	1,500	(500)	1,030	Inflationary increase
13,070	11,138	1,932	0	1,932	Salaries - Basic & NI	11,170	0	11,170	8,116	12,174	(1,004)	12,540	Payaward 2025/26 +3%
	2,429	(2,429)	0	(2,429)	Salaries - Pension	0	0	0	1,671	2,506	(2,506)	2,320	
					Peter Street Public Toilets:								
0	3,725	(3,725)	0	(3,725)	Repairs & Maintenance	1,000	0	1,000	379	1,000	0	1,030	Inflationary increase
8,300	8,686	(386)	0	(386)	Cleaning (inc toilet rolls)	8,590	0	8,590	5,470	8,204	386	8,850	Inflationary increase
7,680	7,680	0	0	0	Security	7,950	0	7,950	3,200	7,680	270	1,000	To be carried out by Community Warden
9,990	3,381	6,609	0	6,609	Other Running costs (electric/water)	7,000	0	7,000	1,500	3,500	3,500	7,210	Inflationary increase
10,000	0	10,000	10,000	0	Refurbishment	10,000	0	10,000	0	10,000	0	0	
					Petters Way Public Toilets:								
0	884	(884)	0	(884)	Repairs & Maintenance	1,000	0	1,000	5,214	6,000	(5,000)	1,030	Inflationary increase
6,810	1,295	5,515	0	5,515	Other Running costs (electric/water)	7,000	0	7,000	53	5,000	2,000	7,210	Inflationary increase
7,680	7,680	0	0	0	Security	7,950	0	7,950	3,200	7,680	270	1,000	To be carried out by Community Warden
8,300	308	7,992	0	7,992	Cleaning (inc toilet rolls)	8,590	0	8,590	6,481	9,722	(1,132)	8,850	Inflationary increase
					Town House								
3,750	3,958	(208)	0	(208)	Salaries - Basic & NI (Cleaning)	4,050	0	4,050	2,723	4,084	(34)	4,210	3.2% payaward for 2025/26
10,000	3,997	6,003	0	6,003	Repairs and Maintenance	10,000	0	10,000	2,409	5,000	5,000	5,000	
500	(1,000)	1,500	1,500	0	CCTV Reserve	500	0	500	0	500	0	500	
12,000	11,602	398	0	398	Business rates	12,420	0	12,420	11,602	11,602	818	12,420	
800	2,151	(1,351)	0	(1,351)	Security - Fire & Intruder	1,000	0	1,000	1,076	1,350	(350)	1,030	Inflationary increase
3,500	3,722	(222)	0	(222)	Electricity	3,000	0	3,000	1,467	2,934	66	3,000	
2,200	1,509	691	0	691	Gas	2,000	0	2,000	775	3,098	(1,098)	2,000	

Budget (£)	Month 1 - 12 spend 31/03/2025 (£)	(Over) / Under spend (£)	Earmarked Reserve Contribution (£)	(Over) / Under after Earmarked Reserve Contribution (£)		Budget (£)	Budget Virement (£)	Revised budget (£)	Month 1 - 7 spent 31/10/2025 (£)	Full year estimated spend to 31/03/2026 (£)	Estimated (over) / under spend (£)	Proposed 2026/27 Budget £	Notes
400	239	161	0	161	Water charges	400	0	400	312	400	0	400	
2,450	2,900	(450)	0	(450)	Other costs	2,500	0	2,500	954	2,500	0	2,580	Inflationary increase
385,640	142,309	243,331	214,830	28,501	Total Expenditure	352,820	62,380	415,200	255,891	540,760	(122,037)	641,360	
					INCOME								
0	(1,600)	1,600	0	1,600	Defibrillator & Bleed Kits	0	0	0	(1,500)	(1,500)	1,500	0	
					Milford Hall								
(18,070)	(17,873)	(197)	0	(197)	Anchor Tenant	(18,070)	0	(18,070)	(10,574)	(18,070)	0	(18,070)	
(14,890)	(18,349)	3,459	0	3,459	Hall Bookings	(17,260)	0	(17,260)	(11,301)	(18,000)	740	(17,260)	
0	(368)	368	0	368	Town House	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
(32,960)	(38,189)	3,629	0	3,629	Total Income	(35,330)	0	(35,330)	(23,375)	(36,070)	740	(35,330)	
352,680	104,119	246,961	214,830	32,131	Net Expenditure	317,490	62,380	379,870	232,516	504,690	(121,297)	606,030	

11/262 COMMUNITY WARDENS

Introduction

To receive a verbal update on the Community Wardens.

Report

A verbal update will be given at the meeting.

The committee is **RECOMMENDED** to note the report.

(Tim Cook, Director of Infrastructure (Property & Assets) - tim.cook@yeovil.gov.uk)

11/263 PROPERTY UPDATE

Introduction

This report provides headline updates on the property portfolio.

Report

The property work splits into three distinct areas of compliance, reactive issues and improvement projects.

Compliance

We have increased the focus on Health and Safety in relation to our buildings. A survey has been completed of all operational arrangements with regards to water quality checks, fire safety checks, access and egress etc and has identified some areas of improvement.

All arrangements will be tested over the next few months through a programme of spot checks and inspections, fire drills etc.

Work is being done to produce an Asbestos Management Plan related to a new asbestos policy, procedures and training.

The annual servicing of the Millenium Clock has been completed; the heating and air handling servicing is currently in progress.

The regular inspection of the War Memorial is due to be carried out in February.

Weekly inspections of the scaffolding fire escape at Westlands are now carried out by a trained member of YTC staff. The cost of external inspections was significant, so this approach has resulted in savings to the council. The intention is to train a number of staff to be able to undertake PAT testing in house.

Reactive work

Reactive work has noticeably reduced over the last few months. This could relate to the timing of servicing alongside increasing maintenance of equipment.

Damage has occurred to plaster in the committee chamber. This is likely to be due to the wet weather conditions and will be repaired in the spring.

Public Toilets

Issues with Peter Street Toilets have continued. The damaged baby changing unit reported at the last meeting has been removed and the cubicle reopened. However, cleaners reported that ASB reduced which the cubicle was locked. The situation is being monitored to identify whether the larger, communal space is a contributing factor to ASB. Early closing and regular patrols continue.

The review of public toilet provision in the town centre is underway.

The condition survey of Peter's Street toilets has been completed. The report (which will be circulated separately to Members) concludes that the cost of bringing the facility as it is, would be in the region between £60k and £80k. A simple survey is being carried out and Community Wardens are asking people some questions while on patrol in the town centre. The results, along with the condition survey and usage figures will inform decisions regarding future provision and refurbishment options.

Milford Hall

Work is underway to complete a tender document for the Solar Panel scheme. This will take account of feedback from members at the last meeting and any changes in the technology.

Yeovil Rec

Additional storage facility for new grass cutting equipment - The new secure storage space for seasonal machinery has been completed.

Strategic review of office accommodation and storage facilities.

Many of the locations that are now used for desk-based work have been established out of a need to accommodate new roles. Some specific issues were raised at the last meeting of the Health and Safety Working group.

Staff reported general difficulties finding a desk to work at.

Some desk spaces that have been created in areas where general meetings and informal gatherings take place and this can be disruptive. There are also no rooms/space to hold staff 1:1's, appraisals or confidential meetings.

The informal nature of the spaces makes it very difficult to do Display Screen Equipment (DSE) assessments. The Health and Safety (Display Screen Equipment) Regulations apply to workers who use DSE daily, for continuous periods of an hour or more. Staff are at increased risk of muscular skeletal issues related to bad posture etc.

Desk space and storage space has been created on an ad hoc basis to accommodate new roles and operational requirements.

A review of the use of all Yeovil Town buildings will be undertaken to identify the requirements and the current provision to establish gaps and produce a plan to ensure adequate space is available. This will also need to take account of the requirements of the Heritage collection and associated staff.

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications related to this report.

The committee is **RECOMMENDED** to note the report.

(Tim Cook, Director of Infrastructure (Property & Assets) - tim.cook@yeovil.gov.uk)

Introduction

This report provides details of the proposal for Yeovil Town Council to become a signatory to the United Kingdom Armed Forces Covenant, demonstrating its commitment to supporting members of the Armed Forces community. It is proposed that the signing of the Covenant takes place on or around Armed Forces Day in June 2026, date to be confirmed.

Report

The Armed Forces Covenant is a national initiative that recognises the moral obligation between the nation, the government, and the Armed Forces community. It aims to ensure that those who serve or have served, as well as their families, are treated fairly and are not disadvantaged by their service. Over 10,000 organisations across the United Kingdom, including councils, charities, businesses, and community groups, have already signed the Covenant. Locally, other authorities in Somerset, such as Somerset Council and Taunton Town Council, are signatories. Bridgwater TC is also working towards signing the Covenant in June 2026.

At the meeting of the IPA Committee in November, confirmed its agreement to the principle of signing the Covenant.

Implications for Yeovil Town Council.

The Covenant does not impose legal or financial obligations but represents a voluntary pledge of support. However, the Council may choose to develop simple, practical commitments such as:

- Offering venue discounts for veterans' associations or remembrance events.
- Promoting local employment opportunities for service leavers and spouses.
- Supporting cadet units and youth engagement initiatives.

There are no legal obligations arising from signing the Covenant. It represents a moral, not statutory, commitment. The Town Council may publish its pledge on the national Armed Forces Covenant website and maintain voluntary compliance through regular review.

The CEO / Town Clerk with support from the Director of Infrastructure (Property and Assets) will coordinate implementation and reporting to ensure that commitments are meaningful and proportionate to Council resources.

Impact on the Community

By signing the Covenant, Yeovil Town Council will:

- Reinforce community identity and civic pride.

- Encourage local employers and organisations to adopt veteran-friendly practices.
- Enhance participation in annual events such as Remembrance Sunday and Armed Forces Day.
- Demonstrate inclusivity and respect for those who serve, supporting families who may face unique challenges due to deployment or relocation.

Financial Considerations

There are minimal direct financial implications to signing the Covenant. Associated costs would relate only to:

- The ceremonial signing event (banner, publicity).
- Optional participation in community initiatives or small-scale grants.

These can be accommodated within existing civic, grants or events budgets.

The committee is **RECOMMENDED** to:

1. Agree that Yeovil Town Council formally agrees to sign the Armed Forces Covenant at Super Saturday with an Armed Forces theme (Armed Forces Day 27th June 2026) in June 2026/July 2026. Date to be confirmed.
2. Commit to supporting serving personnel, veterans, and their families through practical measures and community engagement initiatives.
3. Agree that the Director of Infrastructure (Property & Assets) liaises with relevant parties to coordinate the signing ceremony and ensure appropriate publicity and partnership engagement.
4. Agree that the Director of Infrastructure (Property & Assets) will bring a further report back to the committee with a proposed Armed Forces Covenant Pledge for approval by the committee before signing.
5. Identify an elected member to act as the lead member in relation to the Armed Forces Covenant and to work with the Director of Infrastructure (Property & Assets) to develop a Pledge for Yeovil Town Council.

(Tim Cook, Director of Infrastructure (Property & Assets) - tim.cook@yeovil.gov.uk)