



Yeovil Town Council

Annual Report 2025/26

Covering the municipal year May 2025 to April 2026

Amanda Card
Chief Executive / Town Clerk

5th May 2026

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1. Members of Yeovil Town Council – 2025/26

Tony Lock –Mayor of Yeovil Town

Wes Read – Deputy Mayor of Yeovil Town

Barry Boyton

Jade Cabell

Tareth Casey

Kayleigh Fieldsend (until 15th August 2025)

Karl Gill

Emma-Jayne Hopkins

Kaysar Hussain

Justice Jimba

Jamie Lock

Jane Lowery

Graham Oakes

Karina Parsons (from 20th November 2025)

Evie Potts-Jones

Andy Kendall

Ashley Richards

Jeny Snell

Andy Soughton

Roy Spinner

Rob Stickland

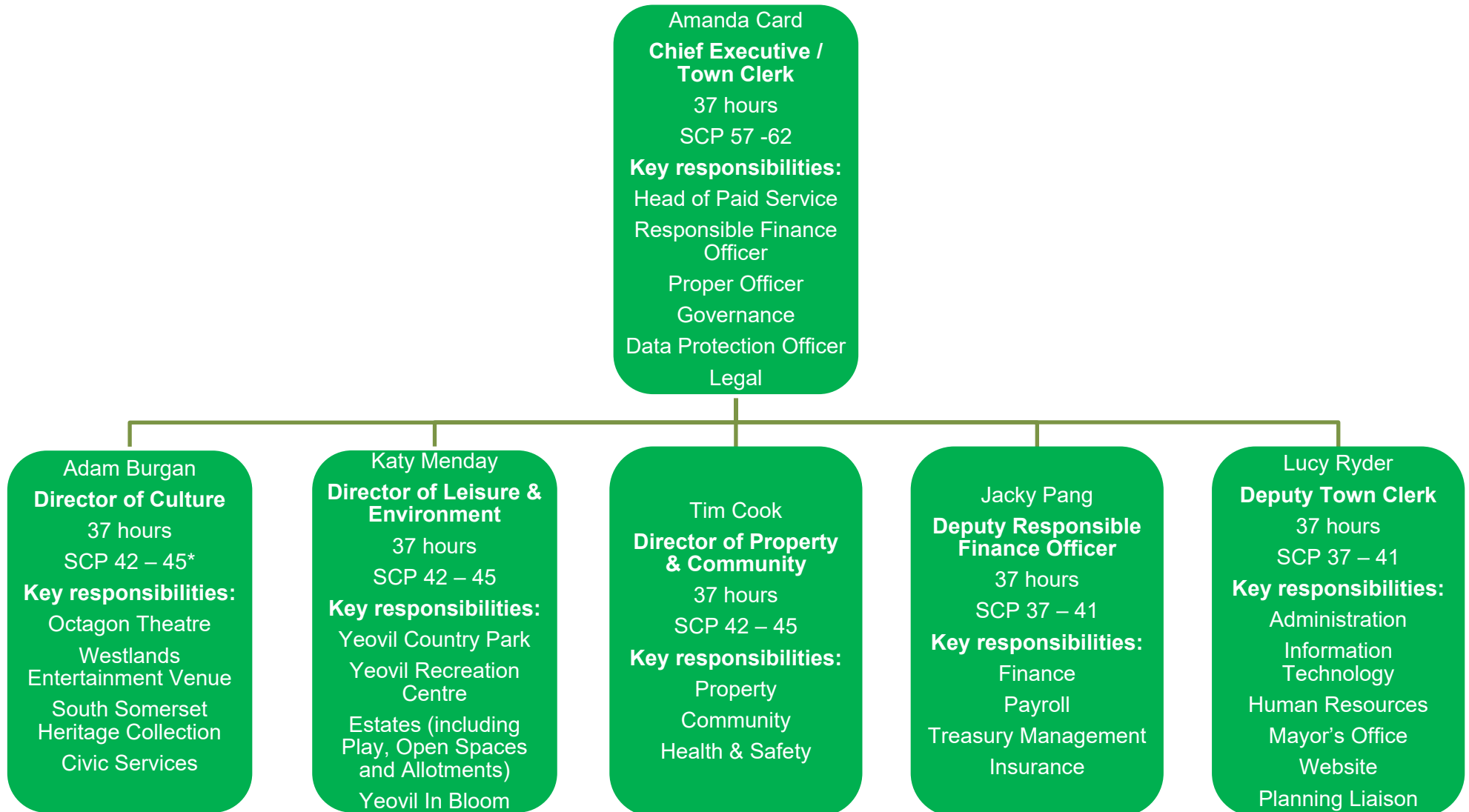
Helen Stonier

Ruth White

Adrian Wilkes

Dave Woan

2. Leadership Team



3. Yeovil Town Council

Chair: Cllr Tony Lock

Key Officer: Amanda Card, Chief Executive / Town Clerk

3.1. Introduction

Over the 2025–2026 municipal year, Yeovil Town Council met on ten occasions to oversee statutory business, strategic planning, budget setting, audit responsibilities and major decisions including the Octagon Theatre redevelopment, the Yeovil Masterplan consultation and issues relating to NHS service reconfiguration.

3.2. Annual Meeting of the Town Council (May 2025)

Cllr Tony Lock was elected Mayor and Cllr Wes Read Deputy Mayor for 2025/26. The Mayor confirmed his Chaplain, Mayor's Cadets and his chosen charities. Committees, Working Parties and Outside Body appointments were approved in line with political balance requirements.

3.3. Governance, Audit & Statutory Responsibilities

Council approved the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2024/25, including Governance and Accounting Statements, noted the Internal and External Auditor reports and thanked the Finance Team. The Risk Strategy, Risk Assessment, Scheme of Delegation and Financial Regulation amendments were adopted.

3.4. Strategic Projects & Major Decisions

3.4.1. Octagon Theatre Redevelopment

Following extensive public consultation and an Extraordinary Meeting attended by over 200 residents, Council resolved to proceed with the Octagon redevelopment and approved applications for PWLB borrowing (initially £3.325m, later £2.7m). The project will be supported by DCMS funding, ticket levies, reserves and parish contributions.

3.4.2. Yeovil Masterplan

Council formally opposed redevelopment of Court Ash, Nash Lane and Stars Lane car parks, supported redevelopment of Glovers Walk and the former Wilko site, and established a working group to coordinate consultation responses.

3.4.3. Hyper Acute Stroke Unit (HASU)

Council submitted multiple representations regarding the closure of Yeovil Hospital's HASU. After legal deadlines passed, Members agreed to pursue scrutiny options including FOI activity and complaints to NHS bodies to continue monitoring the issue.

3.5. Budget & Finance

Council approved the 2026/27 budget and precept totalling £3,597,700. The Outturn for 2024/25 was noted at £2,782,551 with new earmarked reserves established. Regular financial monitoring, reserves reviews and policy approvals were received throughout the year.

3.6. Community Engagement & Public Participation

Council meetings attracted significant public attendance, especially for the Octagon Theatre decisions, Masterplan consultation and health service concerns. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor undertook a wide range of civic engagements.

3.7. Committees and Outside Body Reports

Throughout the year Council received regular updates from its Committees including Planning, Leisure & Environment, Culture, Events & Promotions, Infrastructure (Property & Assets) and Finance & Policy Executive. Representatives also reported back from local outside bodies.

3.8. Other Key Matters

Council supported listing the 94 Club and a related Blue Plaque, considered correspondence on the New Medium Helicopter contract for Leonardo, approved meeting programmes and noted progress on recording of meetings. Various motions on local issues were debated and resolved.

3.9. Conclusion

The Council delivered strong governance, high levels of public engagement and major strategic decisions during 2025–2026. Despite significant challenges, the Council maintained financial stability, progressed transformational projects and continued to represent the interests of Yeovil residents.

Cllr Tony Lock, Chair of Yeovil Town Council

4. Planning Committee

Chair: Cllr Jeny Snell

Key Officer: Lucy Ryder, Deputy Town Clerk

4.1. Introduction

Throughout 2025–2026, the Planning Committee met on 9 occasions to consider planning applications, prior approvals, tree preservation matters and consultations. The Committee fulfilled its statutory consultee role, ensuring development proposals were reviewed for suitability, design quality, amenity impact and compliance with local planning considerations.

4.2. Governance and Committee Administration

Apologies, declarations and minutes were managed in accordance with statutory requirements. The Town Council is a consultee in the planning application process. Somerset Council is the Local Planning Authority, and as such, is responsible for the processing of applications and takes the final decision on each application. Several members also sit on Somerset Council or Somerset Council's Planning Committee – South and declared interests appropriately. Public attendance varied, with significant engagement for applications affecting neighbourhood amenity.

4.3. Planning Applications

4.3.1. Residential Developments

The Committee reviewed numerous householder applications and supported proposals where design, layout and appearance were acceptable. Objections were raised where proposals caused overbearing impact, inadequate parking, loss of privacy, or harm to visual amenity.

4.3.2. Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs)

Some HMO applications were supported, while others—particularly on Lyde Road—were objected to due to overdevelopment, noise, parking pressures, and resident concerns. These included major schemes converting commercial or mezzanine floors into co-living units.

4.3.3. Commercial and Community Applications

The Committee supported applications relating to commercial refurbishments, shopfront changes and signage where design and siting were acceptable. Applications for BT Street Hubs were objected to due to concerns about crime, anti-social behaviour and visual impact.

4.3.4. Strategic Applications

The Committee supported the Keyford Sustainable Urban Extension with conditions regarding school provision, dental facilities, improved pedestrian crossings and junction design.

4.4. Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs)

The Committee reviewed numerous TPO applications and generally noted or approved maintenance works. The Committee objected to unjustified removal of protected trees, including concerns raised regarding the Magnolia tree at Glenthorne House.

4.5. Prior Approval Notifications

Several prior approval applications for commercial-to-residential conversions were received and noted as procedural matters.

4.6. Consultations and Correspondence

A planning appeal from Somerset Council was received for 91 Hendford Hill and it was noted. The Committee also received neighbourhood plan consultations and encouraged members to respond individually where appropriate.

4.7. Budget Setting 2026/27

The Committee recommended transferring its £1,000 budget to the Culture, Events & Promotions Committee as a contribution to the Octagon Theatre Project.

4.8. Public Participation

Public interest increased significantly when proposals involved HMOs, overdevelopment or neighbourhood amenity concerns. The Committee ensured residents could present their views during meetings.

4.9. Conclusion

During 2025–2026, the Planning Committee consistently provided robust oversight of planning matters, protected residential amenity, supported appropriate development, and contributed to the long-term planning and regeneration of Yeovil.

Cllr Jeny Snell, Chair of Planning

5. Leisure & Environment Committee

Chair: Cllr Roy Spinner

Key Officers: Katy Menday, Director of Leisure & Environment

Lucy Ryder, Deputy Town Clerk

5.1. Introduction

Throughout 2025–2026, the Leisure & Environment Committee met on 6 occasions. They oversaw a major period of organisational change as responsibility for significant open spaces, parks and Yeovil in Bloom transferred from Somerset Council. The Committee ensured continuity of service delivery, strengthened operational capacity and supported community involvement across the town.

5.2. Governance and Committee Administration

Apologies, declarations and minutes were processed in line with statutory requirements. Dave Potten was co-opted as the Committee's non-voting allotment representative, providing valuable feedback from allotment tenants.

5.3. Allotments

5.3.1. Tenant Engagement and Feedback

The Committee received regular updates from the Yeovil Allotment Association and the Co-opted Member. Topics included overgrown plots, grass-cutting schedules, tenant deposits, the Best Kept Allotment Competition and the "Growing Together" initiative.

5.3.2. Lettings and Site Management

Lettings remained high with waiting lists at some sites. Vacancies were concentrated at locations needing improvement. The Estates Team began preparing vacant plots and improving site standards.

5.3.3. Rent Review

Following detailed review, allotment rents were increased to 55p per m² from 1st October 2026 to 30th September 2027. Financial implications were referred to the Finance & Policy Executive.

5.3.4. Site Improvements

Padlock replacements, fencing upgrades, tree works and winter clearance programmes were supported. The Estates' Teams winter works received positive tenant feedback.

5.4. Parks and Open Spaces

5.4.1. Tree Management

The Committee oversaw a proactive tree management programme, including safety works, hedge cutting and assessments of trees on unregistered land. Tree records were transferred to the GIS Parish Online system for all open spaces.

5.4.2. Estates Team

A new Estates team was recruited comprising a Service Manager, three Estates Officers, a Parks Engagement Officer, and an Assistant Estates Officer. The Service Manager, Estates Officers and Parks Engagement Officer commenced in May and June 2025, with the Assistant Estates Officer joining in March 2026.

Two Officers TUPE'd from Somerset Council. The team purchased the equipment, tools and materials required to run the service and established an operational base at Yeovil Recreation Centre. A fleet management approach and health and safety framework have been established.

5.4.3. Devolution of Open Spaces

The Estates Team delivered significant remedial work after open spaces transferred to the Town Council on 9th June 2025. Open Space Management Plans are being drafted for all sites. A planning application was submitted to create a Growing Hub at the former ski centre.

5.5. Yeovil in Bloom

Yeovil achieved a Gold Award at RHS South West in Bloom after judging in July 2025. Community engagement increased with 13 entries to the It's Your Neighbourhood category. The Steering Group has been reshaped to increase community representation and sustainability through the South Somerset Environment Forum.

5.6. Play Areas

The Committee monitored major safety interventions including repairs at Summerhouse View and Howard Road, and the closure of the condemned castle at Milford Park. Improvements to MUGAs and sports line markings on pitches were progressed. Annual play inspections completed in August formed the basis of work programmes for winter 2025/26.

5.7. Yeovil Recreation Centre

The Committee recommended a new reserve fund for future needs, supported partnership work with athletics groups, and considered capital works including the floodlight replacement scheme. The Joanna France Clubhouse refurbishment was completed led by Yeovil Olympiads. A Festival of Sport was organised with Yeovil College in June 2025.

5.7.1. Floodlight Replacement Project

The Committee approved appointing a Bidder for the floodlight replacement scheme at Yeovil Recreation Centre. Funding included £22,000 from the Climate Change Reserve (replenished over 4 years). Savings are estimated at £13,500 per year. Works will complete in July 2026 subject to Planning permission.

5.8. Yeovil Country Park

The Country Park hosted a successful Halloween Trail with 850+ attendees. Its Green Flag Award was retained and the Park received a five star RHS Pride in Parks award in March 2026. The Friends of the Country Park secured grant funding to construct a forest school area and new tree nursery on site, projects completed in Feb 2026. Twice a week volunteering sessions remain popular. A new website was launched for the Country Park www.yeovilcountrypark.co.uk

5.9. Grants and External Funding

The Committee noted successful grant applications including the £9,465 Allotments for All grant and Tree Council funding for hedge planting at Birchfield.

5.10. Budget Monitoring and Financial Oversight

Actual spend and projected outturn position was reported throughout the year.

5.11. Staffing and Resourcing

The Committee noted the need for an Assistant Estates Officer to support succession planning. This role was recruited and started in March 2026. Issues with workshop and storage space were escalated to the Infrastructure Committee.

5.12. Confidential and Legal Items

Confidential matters included mower procurement, Country Park development, Pen Hill Wall and sports partnership proposals.

5.13. Conclusion

The Committee successfully managed a challenging year involving large-scale service transfers, significant operational expansion, community engagement growth and numerous capital improvements. Strong foundations have been established for 2026–2027.

Cllr Roy Spinner, Chair of Leisure & Environment

6. Culture, Events & Promotions Committee

Chair: Cllr Graham Oakes

Key Officers: Adam Burgan, Director of Culture, Events & Promotions
Amanda Card, Chief Executive / Town Clerk

6.1. Introduction

The Culture, Events & Promotions Committee met on four occasions throughout the 2025–2026 municipal year to oversee the delivery of cultural services, events, and strategic cultural development across Yeovil. The Committee received officer reports, monitored budgets, and directed major cultural initiatives.

6.2. Governance and Committee Administration

Apologies, declarations, and minutes were handled in accordance with statutory requirements. No significant conflicts of interest were recorded beyond personal declarations.

6.3. Heritage and Cultural Development

6.3.1. A–Z of Yeovil’s History Website

The Committee agreed to accept custodianship of the website to preserve it for future generations.

6.3.2. South West Heritage Trust Update

The Engagement Officer presented updates on public programmes, partnerships, marketing, volunteering, data, and grant funding. The Committee welcomed the strengthening of heritage services under the SLA. Members were updated that a new fire risk assessment for Lufton Depot where the collection is housed resulting in restrictions on public access. A working party has been established to explore options for housing the collection and a Museum / Heritage Centre for Yeovil.

6.4. Events and Public Engagement

6.4.1. Major Town Events

Updates were received on VE Day 80, Super Saturday, Remembrance Sunday, and the Christmas Lights Switch-On. Events were praised for their quality and delivery.

6.4.2. Yeovil Literary Festival

The 2025 Festival was the busiest to date with over 8,600 tickets sold and significant regional press coverage.

6.4.3. HMS Heron Volunteer Band

The annual SLA report was noted, with the band continuing to support civic events.

6.4.4. Pantomime

The annual pantomime was praised for its quality and well-received performances.

6.5. Westlands Entertainment Venue & Octagon Theatre Redevelopment

6.5.1. Westlands

Work experience and apprenticeship pathways into creative industries were highlighted. An operational review of Westlands was discussed, with further consideration scheduled at a future meeting.

Octagon Theatre Redevelopment

The Committee received ongoing updates on project progress. Planning permission was secured and RIBA IV Design Stage has commenced. It supported contributing the 2026/27 budget line as capital funding, reducing the borrowing requirement, and agreed to increase the ticket levy to £2 from April 2027.

6.6. Budget Monitoring & Financial Oversight

Actual spend and projected outturn position was reported throughout the year. Several reserves were redesignated to support the Octagon Theatre Project. Significant officer time was spent on detailed budget review for 2026/27.

6.7. Strategic Direction & Working Parties

A working party was established to explore options for retaining the South Somerset Heritage Collection in Yeovil. Members supported ongoing cross-committee collaboration on cultural strategy.

6.8. Confidential Matters

Confidential items included Operation Menai Bridge, Octagon Theatre updates, Christmas Light Competition results, operational matters for Westlands, and heritage storage updates at Lufton.

6.9. Conclusion

The Committee delivered significant progress in enhancing Yeovil's cultural offer, expanding events, supporting major strategic projects, and demonstrating strong financial oversight. The Committee ends the year with a strong forward programme for cultural growth and community engagement.

Cllr Graham Oakes, Chair of Culture, Events & Promotions

7. Infrastructure (Property & Assets) Committee

Chair: Cllr Rob Stickland

Key Officers: Tim Cook, Director of Infrastructure (Property & Assets)
Amanda Card, Chief Executive / Town Clerk

7.1. Introduction

Throughout 2025–2026, the Infrastructure (Property & Assets) Committee met on six occasions. It oversaw Yeovil Town Council’s expanding property portfolio, community safety functions, and operational infrastructure during a period of significant organisational change. The Committee scrutinised compliance, asset management, policing matters, CCTV performance, safety initiatives, and future capital planning.

7.2. Partnership Working & Policing Updates

The Committee received regular updates from Avon & Somerset Police regarding neighbourhood policing, expanded staffing, the dedicated Town Centre Team, the East Somerset Task Force, and initiatives such as Walk & Talk, Youth Walk & Talk, and Operation Flagstaff. Police visibility increased and enforcement actions, including CPNs and CBOs, were reported.

7.3. Defibrillators and Bleed Kits

The Committee monitored an expanding network of publicly accessible defibrillators and bleed kits. Installations completed at Yeovil Amateur Boxing Club, St Michael’s Hall, and The Duke of York. Future placement focused on 24/7 accessibility, community safety, and monitored statistics.

7.4. Health & Safety Governance

The Director of Infrastructure reported increased risk and compliance demands. A new Health & Safety Policy is being drafted, supported by staff representatives and a Councillor Working Party consisting of Cllrs Casey, Gill, Potts-Jones and Soughton. The Committee received quarterly accident and near-miss reports.

7.5. Property Management & Compliance

All buildings remained legislatively compliant. The Committee noted the complexity of inherited contracts and increased seasonal workloads. Reports highlighted the need for additional staffing to support compliance and project coordination. Significant issues included vandalism at Peter Street Toilets, where an options appraisal is underway.

7.5.1. Solar Panels at Milford Hall

Planning permission expires July 2026. Delegated authority was granted to progress procurement, provided costs do not exceed previous quotations by more than 20%. Progress is well underway, and work will commence prior to the planning permissions expiry date.

7.5.2. Strategic Workspace Review

A Council wide review identified insufficient office, storage and workshop space, creating health and safety risks. The Committee agreed that additional accommodation must be secured.

7.6. Community Wardens Programme

The Community Wardens delivered visible uniformed patrols, community engagement, and support to partner agencies. Recruitment challenges were noted, but the team reached full capacity by early 2026. Regular reporting from the wardens will continue.

7.7. CCTV & Community Safety

CCTV provision improved significantly. All cameras were operational except Glovers Walk prior to maintenance. Reporting processes were enhanced, with future plans to align CCTV data with police crime statistics. The need for pollarding of trees around some cameras was identified as critical to maintain the effectiveness of cameras.

7.8. Highways & Public Realm Requests

The Committee assessed requests for signage, crossings, and parking restrictions. Support was given to Wyndham Park signage, while a pedestrian crossing at Homeville House was not supported. A new policy and procedure for highways requests will be introduced.

7.9. Budget Monitoring & Financial Oversight

Actual spend and projected outturn position was reported throughout the year.

Budget Setting 2026/27 included renaming the Monmouth Hall Capital fund, reducing defibrillator budgets, and redesignating £227,725 to the Octagon Theatre Project.

7.10. Policy Development & Motions

The Committee unanimously supported the “Keep Yeovil Tidy” motion and committed to education, enforcement, and volunteer support. A decision was taken for Yeovil Town Council to sign the Armed Forces Covenant at Super Saturday 2026.

7.11. Capital Projects, Leasing & Heritage Storage

The Committee reviewed confidential reports on premises, leases, replacement safety infrastructure, and the South Somerset Heritage Collection. Necessary legal and operational steps were authorised.

7.12. Conclusion

Over the year, the Committee strengthened operational resilience, expanded community safety initiatives, improved compliance structures, and enhanced asset oversight. It concludes the year with a clear forward plan and strong operational foundations for 2026–2027.

Cllr Rob Stickland, Chair of Infrastructure (Property & Assets)

8. Finance & Policy Executive

Chair: Cllr Andy Soughton

Key Officers: Amanda Card, Chief Executive / Town Clerk

Jacky Pang, Deputy Responsible Finance Officer

8.1. Introduction

This Annual Report summarises the work of the Finance & Policy Executive for the municipal year 2025–2026. The Committee met on seven occasions throughout the year to oversee the Council's financial management, governance arrangements, strategic projects, and grant aid programme.

8.2. Governance and Policy Development

The Committee strengthened the Council's policy framework and ensured compliance with legislative and good-practice requirements. Key achievements included adoption of major policies, financial governance improvements, and significant internal audit progress.

8.2.1. Adoption of New and Updated Policies

The following policies were approved and adopted:

Policy	New	Reviewed
Income Collection & Debt Management Policy	✓	
Treasury Management & Investment Strategy	✓	
Bullying & Harassment Policy and Complaints Procedure	✓	
Menopause Policy	✓	
Scheme of Delegation		✓
updated Complaints Handling Procedure		✓
Risk Strategy and Risk Assessment		✓

8.2.2. Financial Governance

Updated authorisation thresholds were approved; bank signatories reviewed; and a business debit card approved to streamline petty cash handling.

8.2.3. Internal Audit

Internal audit reports reflected increased scope after service transfers. A new Finance Improvement Plan with RAG ratings was adopted to track recommendations.

8.3. Financial Management and Budget Monitoring

The Committee provided strong financial oversight, noting consistent underspends and prudent reserve levels.

8.3.1. Budget Monitoring

Actual spend and projected outturn position was reported throughout the year.

8.3.2. Review of Reserves

Reserves were extensively reviewed. £10,384 (Youth Council) and £5,903 (CIL Reserve) were reallocated to the Octagon Theatre Project Reserve, alongside £294,976 from other redesignations.

8.3.3. Budget Setting 2026/27

The Committee recommended a budget of £3,597,700 for 2026/27, resulting in a Band D precept of £369.73 (an increase of £22.40).

8.3.4. Financial Reporting and Controls

Payments, bank reconciliations, and balance sheets were approved regularly, including the first statements from the upgraded Sage Intacct system.

8.4. Major Projects and Strategic Initiatives

The Committee oversaw several major projects, including the Octagon Theatre, youth service provision, and climate/energy efficiency initiatives.

8.4.1. Octagon Theatre Redevelopment

Secured £603,196 in alternative funding; approved a £2 ticket levy; ensured that borrowing would have no impact on Council Tax; adjusted consultation timelines.

8.4.2. Youth Services

Approved a 3-year SLA extension for Westfield Youth Services at £25,000 per year.

8.4.3. Environmental Projects

Approved £22,000 from the Climate Change Reserve for new floodlights—funded through future electricity savings.

8.4.4. Planning Governance Changes

From May 2026, planning applications will be considered at Full Council, subject to review after six months.

8.4.5. Transparency and Public Engagement

Approved recording and broadcasting of meetings, subject to a pilot and further technical/legal reports.

8.5. Grants

The Committee awarded financial support to multiple community groups meeting grant criteria.

Organisation Name	Purpose of the grant	Amount (£)
Westfield Community Association	The purchase and installation of a pavement barrier at the Westfield Community Garden.	£500
Somerset Geology Group	The cost of production of fifty copies of an urban geology walking tour guide, which would be sold at Super Saturday	£335
Oddments Theatre Company	Contribution towards the cost of renovation of their HQ building. Oddments Theatre Company is a Yeovil based charity producing theatre with a message to churches, schools and prisons.	£2,000
Say Aphasia Yeovil	Contribution towards the cost of a community group for Aphasia	£1,000
Yeovil Street Pastors	Contribution towards the cost refresher training, training and uniform for new Street Pastors and contributions towards organisational fees.	£1,000
Project Dance Charity Foundation	Contribution to help deliver their Yeovil-wide Schools Programme, offering free in-school dance workshops and free theatre tickets so students can attend BUSK, a vibrant youth talent showcase at Westlands Entertainment Venue.	£2,000
Yeovil Flower Arrangers Society	To fund flowers and materials for their inspiring floral demonstrations, bringing residents together through creativity, connection, and improved wellbeing.	£600
Yeovil St Michael and All Angels Parish	To support the launch of the new Birchfield Intergenerational Community Lunch, starting this April and delivered in partnership with Birchfield Community Primary School, Able2Achieve, and Spark Somerset.	£1,000

8.6. Working Parties and Cross-Committee Activity

Working groups included the Octagon Theatre Funding Working Party, Resident Discount Card Working Party, Reserves Review Group, and Heritage Working Party.

8.7. Asset Transfer and Legal Matters

Reviewed delays to asset transfers requiring Secretary of State approval. Approved extensions to longstop dates, licences, and creation of a reserve to hold payments pending subsidy assessments.

8.8. Conclusion

The Committee ensured strong governance, financial stability, and progress on major strategic projects. The Council is well positioned for the year ahead.

Cllr Andy Soughton, Chair of Finance & Policy Executive

9. Chief Executive / Town Clerk's Overview

The past year has continued to be both challenging and progressive for Yeovil Town Council and has presented significant opportunity for organisational growth and service development. The Council has experienced an unprecedented level of change impacting existing staff, newly appointed employees, transferred staff, and Councillors. Through effective leadership, member engagement, and a strong officer–member relationship, the Council has responded positively to this period of transformation. Where outcomes have not progressed as initially intended, the organisation has applied reflective learning to strengthen future approaches, demonstrating its commitment to continuous improvement.

A substantial programme of work has been undertaken to ensure that Yeovil Town Council operates within a robust governance framework and is suitably equipped to assume additional responsibilities for the transfer of services from Somerset Council. This work has focused on establishing appropriate policies, processes, internal controls, and financial management arrangements to ensure compliance, transparency, and accountability. The success of this transition is a testament to the professionalism, resilience, and dedication of all staff—existing, newly recruited, and transferred alike.

The Council benefits from a skilled and experienced workforce with the capacity, knowledge, and qualifications required to deliver high-quality services and positive outcomes for the people of Yeovil. Recognising that people are a critical component of organisational assurance, Yeovil Town Council remains committed to being a learning organisation. Ongoing investment in staff development supports retention, succession planning, and workforce resilience, ensuring that the Council is well placed to meet both current and future challenges. The Chief Executive / Town Clerk actively supports professional development and the creation of opportunities that enable staff to work effectively, efficiently, and in accordance with best practice.

As the organisation evolves, work continues to refine governance arrangements, operational processes, and procedures to ensure they remain proportionate, fit for purpose, and aligned with the Council's strategic objectives. This includes ensuring that services are adequately resourced, risks are identified and managed, and internal controls are kept under regular review. These principles support the Council's ability to deliver services sustainably while maintaining financial discipline and compliance with statutory and sector-specific requirements.

The Council remains committed to demonstrating sector leadership by aspiring to best practice in all areas of its work. The Chief Executive / Town Clerk will continue to work closely with the Leadership Team to support strong governance, effective decision-making, and organisational assurance in line with NALC guidance and recognised standards of local government practice.

The additional projects approved by Members during the year have, understandably, placed increased demand on organisational capacity and resources. The Council will continue to monitor these pressures carefully to ensure that it remains compliant, effective, and able to deliver value for money and excellent outcomes for the community. Ensuring that the Council is appropriately resourced will remain a priority, supported by clear member oversight and informed decision-making.

To provide a clear strategic framework for the future, the Leadership Team will develop a five-year Council Plan for consideration and endorsement by Councillors. This plan will set out the Council's strategic priorities, support effective financial and workforce planning, and provide a coherent framework against which performance, risk, and delivery can be measured. It will play a key role in strengthening the Council's assurance arrangements and maintaining organisational resilience over the medium term.

Amanda Card FCPFA, PSLCC, BA (Hons), BSc (Open)
Chief Executive / Town Clerk