OCTAVIA Abri



Community Investment Plan 2026-2027

Westfield

Building a healthier, safer and more connected neighbourhood together

Introduction

Westfield is one of our identified Community Investment Zones within Yeovil

This plan sets out our long-term commitment to working alongside residents, partners and community organisations to support a healthier, safer and more connected neighbourhood. We believe homes and communities are places to belong, grow and thrive. Through the Octavia Foundation, we are committed to a place-based approach to community investment that builds on the strengths, relationships and potential that already exist within local communities. This plan has been shaped through a combination of local data, housing insight, community research and ongoing conversations with residents and partners. It reflects both the opportunities and challenges within Westfield, while recognising the important role residents play in shaping the future of their neighbourhood.

This is a living plan that will continue to evolve alongside residents as local priorities, feedback and opportunities develop over time.

Our aim is not simply to deliver projects, but to support long-term community resilience, stronger local connections and improved life chances for residents.

ABOUT WESTFIELD

Westfield is a residential neighbourhood located to the west of Yeovil town centre, within the Yeovil West ward. It is a well-established community that reflects the wider character of Yeovil, with a mix of long-standing residents alongside newer households.

Residents in Westfield benefit from close proximity to some local services being close to the town centre, contributing to a practical and connected location. The area has a varied demographic profile, including single households, families and older residents, which contributes to a balanced and evolving community.

The Westfield Community Centre, part of St Peter's church is a buzzing and vibrant hub of activity aimed at help tackle some localised issues and support needed within the community.

Westfield's community identity is shaped by its accessibility, local networks with opportunities for connection through nearby community facilities and services across Yeovil.

Our research also highlights wider socioeconomic challenges within the area, with the Yeovil West Ward ranking highly within

the national Indices of Multiple Deprivation. Alongside this data, housing management insight, tenant satisfaction measures and community engagement activity have helped us build a fuller understanding of local priorities and experiences.

Importantly, this plan takes an asset-based approach. While we recognise the challenges facing the community, we also recognise the strengths already present within Westfield, including resident knowledge, community relationships, local organisations and shared spaces that can support positive long-term change.

WHAT YOU TOLD US

Listening to residents has been central to shaping this plan.

Through surveys, conversations, community events and regular engagement within the Westfield community, residents shared what matters most to them and where they would like to see investment and support focused over the coming years.

You told us that the biggest priorities for the area are:

- Improving access to health and well-being support and awareness of longer-term health conditions
- Collaboration and support for community organisations to tackle isolation and loneliness
- Creating safer street and communities to increase belonging and connections

This feedback, alongside wider local insight and partnership engagement, has informed the priorities set out within this plan



Our approach

Our approach to community investment in Westfield is long-term, place-based and community rooted.

This means:

- Working alongside residents to shape priorities and activity improving access to health and wellbeing support
- Building on existing strengths and community assets improving community safety
- Focusing on prevention and early support
- Developing strong local partnerships
- Creating opportunities for residents to lead and participate
- Investing in sustainable change rather than short-term interventions

We want to feel like a large organisation with a genuinely local presence — visible, accessible, and connected to the communities we serve. This plan will continue to evolve over time as local needs and priorities change. We are committed to ongoing engagement with residents to ensure our investment remains shaped by the people who live here.

OUR VISION FOR WESTFIELD

Our vision is to create a safe and supportive community where residents are informed, supported to meet their needs, and empowered with opportunities to develop a strong sense of belonging, identity, and pride in where they live.

Our priorities for Westfield

Priority 1.
Improve access to physical exercise within the community, including education around suitable exercise for those with long term health conditions

OUR SHARED AMBITION

Success would mean:

- More people accessing support locally
- Improvement to wellbeing and being more active
- Reduction in barriers to being more active (cost, confidence, knowledge or access for example)
- Residents feel more informed and connected to support available in the area

WHAT WE WILL FOCUS ON

Together, we will work to:

- Bring more or sustain current health and wellbeing support into the community
- Create opportunities for affordable and accessible physical activity
- Improve awareness of local services and support
- Build residents confidence through peer supported physical exercise sessions

WHY THIS MATTERS

67% of local people told us that access to local health and wellbeing support is important, particularly around physical health, healthy lifestyles, and opportunities to stay active and connected. Data shows that you're more likely to encounter health related issues as you get older and a quarter of all our customers and occupants within Westfield area, are aged between 55 – 85+ and 82% of our properties that house older people in Westfield, fall within the 30% most deprived areas.

Priority 2.
Promote existing wellbeing and support and develop community-based opportunities to reduce social isolation and improve wellbeing

OUR SHARED AMBITION

Success would mean:

- More residents feel connected to others and less socially isolated
- Wellbeing support is visible and accessible
- Stronger sense of community and belonging
- Improved mental wellbeing and resilience across the community

WHY THIS MATTERS

Following a review of the priorities within the area, 77% of customers told us they either agree or strongly agree this priority aligns with the needs of the local area and although we've made some progress on this priority previously, more needs to be done to create more opportunities for the local people. In addition to this, 55% of customers told us you'd like more support and activity to help support this issue within the community along with suggestions for more support for older people.

WHAT WE WILL FOCUS ON

Together, we will work to:

- Create and sustain regular and inclusive community activities
- Improve promotion and visibility of existing wellbeing services
- Work with local partners and organisations to expand opportunities for connections
- Gather feedback and insight to ensure activities are relevant, accessible and inclusive



Priority 3.
Work collaboratively with our communities and local organisations to improve community safety and safer streets.

OUR SHARED AMBITION

Success would mean:

- More residents feel safe where they live
- Stronger relationships between residents and local partners
- Increased pride in the neighbourhood

WHAT WE WILL FOCUS ON

Together, we will work to:

- Strengthening relationships between residents and community safety partners
- Improve communication around local safety issues
- Support community activities that build trust and neighbourhood pride

WHY THIS MATTERS

88% of our properties within Westfield fall within the 30% most deprived areas for crime deprivation. When asked in the 2026 consultation with local people, over 50% told us some progress has been made against this priority, but 66% either agreed or strongly agreed it remains a key concern in line with the needs for the area. In addition, when asked what areas community members would like to see more support or improvements in, it was one of the top three areas highlighted.

WORKING TOGETHER

This plan represents the beginning of a long-term commitment to Westfield and the people who live here.

We know that lasting change happens when residents, community organisations, public services and local partners work together around shared priorities and ambitions.

By continuing to listen, invest and build on the strengths already within the community, we believe Westfield can continue to grow as a healthier, safer and more connected place where people feel proud to live.

We will continue to review progress with residents and adapt our approach as local priorities and needs evolve over time

HOW WE WILL STAY ACCOUNTABLE

We are committed to keeping residents updated on the progress of this plan and listening to feedback as the work develops. We will regularly review whether the actions in this plan are making a meaningful difference for the community and use resident feedback and local insight to shape future priorities and activity.

We will continue working with residents to shape how this plan develops and how progress is shared with the community over time.

A shorter resident-friendly summary version of this plan will also be developed alongside residents following the launch of the full Community Investment Plan.

If you would like to find out more, get involved in local activities or help shape future community investment at Westfield, please contact Robert Tait on robert.tait@abri.co.uk or 07825144590.

For regular updates on the progress of each priority at Westfield, check out our website.