



**Carlisle West**  
Community Panel

**Date:** Tuesday, 16 January 2024

**Time:** 11.30 am

**Location:** Eden Room, Civic Centre, Carlisle

**Present:** Cllr J Whalen (Chair), Cllr A Glendinning (Vice-Chair), Cllr A Harid and Cllr C Southward

**In Attendance** Democratic Services Officer, Community Development Officer, Chief Executive and Senior Manager - Community Services

**28 Apologies for Absence**

An apology for absence was received from Cllr A Quilter.

**29 Disclosures of Interest**

There were no disclosures of interests made at the meeting.

**30 Exclusion of Press and Public**

**RESOLVED**, that the press and public be not excluded from the meeting during consideration of any item on the agenda.

**31 Community Panel Co-opted Members**

The Senior Manager – Community Services presented a report following a deferment of a decision at the December meeting of the Panel to recruit up to three co-opted members to the Panel. Members at the December meeting deferred the decision until all Panel members could be present. In order to meet the deadlines for the recruitment process, the Panel was now being asked to consider appointing up to three members or defer the decision to the next recruitment round in 2025. It was noted that initially the recruitment process would operate as a pilot from which lessons could be learned. It was further noted that five Panels had agreed to co-opt and two had decided against it.

A report had been presented to the Executive on 3 October which recommended that the Executive agree a framework to be used by Panels when making the appointments. The

agreed framework was appended to the report. The Executive encouraged membership to be extended to co-opted members as they could bring a different perspective, knowledge, best practice and potentially resources to the Panels.

Members, in discussion, preferred to defer the decision to co-opt as they felt that the Panel was in its infancy, needed further development and more public engagement to assess their communities' needs. Members felt that having time to strengthen the Panel would make it easier to identify suitable people to co-opt in future. Some members felt that the recruitment process was too extensive. The Senior Manager outlined the reasons why the recruitment process had been put in place and the Chief Executive reminded members of the Council Plan and the Council's aims and objectives for transparency and public engagement. Engaging with members of their communities before Panel meetings was discussed.

**RESOLVED**, that the decision to appoint up to three co-opted members be deferred to the next recruitment in 2025.

The meeting finished at 12.00 pm