



## **Carlisle West Community Panel**

**Date:** Monday, 18 December 2023

**Time:** 6.00 pm

**Location:** Denton Holme Community Centre, Morley Street, Carlisle

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

**In Attendance** Democratic Services Officer  
Community Development Officer  
Chief Executive  
Cumberland Network Manager  
Senior Manager - Community Services

### **19 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Southward and Councillor Quilter.

### **20 Disclosures of Interest**

Councillor J Whalen declared a personal interest in Agenda Item No 6 – Investing in our Neighbourhood Report (Grant Application CCGA./1946-23 – Carlisle Radio FM (CRFM)) as the applicants were friends of the family.

### **21 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.

### **22 Minutes**

**RESOLVED**, that the minutes of the meeting held on 21 September 2023 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

### **23 Sandsfield Road Tree Planting Scheme**

The Panel received a presentation from a representative of Electricity North West Ltd (ENWL) on Sandsfield Road Tree Planting Scheme. Members were informed that Ofgem required Electricity North West to have an environmental plan 2023 – 2028. This plan consisted of a framework of 21 environmental related goals to be delivered over the next five year. Two of the goals related to biodiversity. The goal behind this scheme was enhancing biodiversity and natural capital across 100 sites and plant 10,000 trees.

The representative outlined the plans and benefits of the proposed scheme establishing a flagship tree planting scheme on ENWL landholdings at Sandsfield Road, Carlisle, in partnership with the Cumbria Coastal Community Forest. The scheme would encompass 11 hectares, used as grazing land only, which was unsuitable for commercial development due to the presence of electrical infrastructure. 14,000 trees would be planted as well as retaining some grassland to increase overall habitat value.

To conclude the representative advised members of the current status of the scheme, with final stakeholder engagement underway and planting planned for February / March 2024

The discussion centred around public access to the site, prevention of anti-social behaviour and the impact on the infrastructure whilst the scheme was being progressed. The representative agreed to discuss the maintenance regime with the Cumberland Network Manager outside the meeting. The representative welcomed members' advice to inform the local police and to involve the local schools to encourage ownership and reduce possible anti-social behaviour.

The representative was thanked for his informative presentation.

**RESOLVED**, that the presentation be noted.

## **24 Investing in our Neighbourhood Report**

Members received a report from the Community Development Officer which set out the current position of the Neighbourhood Investment Fund allocation to this Community Panel as agreed by the Cumberland Council Executive and presented investment applications for consideration and approval from the budget allocation.

The Panel debated the investment applications and how they linked in to the Panel's priorities for 2023-2024/2024-25. In relation to the Carlisle Radio FM (CRFM) Launching a local radio station investment application, the Chair declared an interest, took no part in the discussion and the Vice-Chair took the Chair. It was suggested by the Community Development Officer and agreed by members that the award of investment money to Friends of Chances Park be earmarked until the Friends could show further external funding had been secured. The Panel reduced the suggested investment amount for the ICan Wellbeing Group application.

Members welcomed the suggestion that update reports on the investments awarded be received at future meetings of the Panel and the Senior Manager – Community Services agreed to look at this across all panels.

**RESOLVED**, that

- (1) £5000 be allocated from the Neighbourhood Investment Fund to Age UK Carlisle and Eden: Older Persons Shopping Service;
- (2) £3750 be allocated from the Neighbourhood Investment Fund to Carlisle Radio FM (CFRM) to launch a local radio station;
- (3) £3000 be earmarked from the Neighbourhood Investment Fund budget to Friends of Chances Park towards the cost of a labyrinth in Chances Park but not paid until the Friends could show they have secured further external funding;
- (4) £2500 be allocated from the Neighbourhood Investment Fund to Morton Community Centre towards youth boxing sessions;
- (5) £3518 be allocated from the Neighbourhood Investment Fund to Eden Rivers Trust to improve access and bio-diversity in Engine Lonning;
- (6) £4500 be allocated from the Neighbourhood Investment Fund to iCan Wellbeing Group CIO for iCan holistic wellbeing sessions;

(7) £5000 be allocated from the Neighbourhood Investment Fund to Prism Arts for a community exhibition at Carlisle Cathedral.

## **25 Community Panel Update**

The Panel considered a report which updated members on the recent activity in the Community Panel area. Members were asked to agree the five main priorities, listed below, that had been identified following engagement with residents:-

- Environmental Issues
- Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour
- Housing
- Public Service Framework
- City and Town Centre

The Senior Manager, Community Services advised members on the process and timeframe for co-opting members to the Panel. It was agreed that a decision on this be deferred until all Panel members were present and a special meeting be arranged for this purpose.

Members welcomed the events that had taken place such as the Carlisle Fire Show and Christmas light switch on.

**RESOLVED**, that

- (1) the draft priorities for the Carlisle West Community Panel be agreed;
- (2) the decision to appoint co-opted members to the Panel be deferred. A special meeting be arranged to consider this.

## **26 Highways and Transport Strategic Board**

The Panel received the minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Highways Board held on 10 November 2023.

A member, in discussion of Minute 10.23, welcomed the additional funding allocated for bus services.

**RESOLVED**, that the minutes be noted.

## **27 Date of Next Meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting of Panel was scheduled for 25 March 2024 at 6.00 pm in Cumbria House, Botchergate, Carlisle.

The meeting finished at 7.35 pm