

REPORT TO:		Council	
DATE:		15 th January, 2026	
REPORT OF:		Cllr Noordad Aziz, Chair of the Communities and Wellbeing Overview & Scrutiny Committee	
REPORT AUTHOR:		Susan Gardner, Scrutiny and Policy Officer	
TITLE OF REPORT:		Appointment of Co-optee	
EXEMPT REPORT (Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A)	No	Not applicable	
KEY DECISION:	No	If yes, date of publication:	

1. **Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 For Council to consider the recommendation made by the Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee for the appointment of a co-optee.

2. **Recommendations**

- 2.1 That Council approves the appointment of Wesley Davitt as a co-optee on the Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee until the end of the 2025-26 municipal year in line with the vacant co-optee position having been reserved for a young person between 18-25 years of age.

3. **Reasons for Recommendations and Background**

- 3.1 The Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee may appoint up to four co-optees to the Committee. Three co-optees have been appointed, Christine Heys, Tim O’Kane and Richard Downie and one vacancy remains.
- 3.2 The Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee had felt that a young person would provide greater balance to discussion and be more representative of the community and therefore, a recommendation to reserve the remaining co-optee position for an 18–25 year old was approved by Full Council on 16th January 2025.
- 3.3 An application for the vacant co-optee position was received from a member of the public and this was considered by the Communities and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 11th November 2025. The Committee felt that the applicant would bring new experiences, skills and an extra dynamic to the Committee. They,

therefore, determined that the applicant would be a valued asset to the Committee. The application was from Mr. Wesley Davitt. Details supporting his application have been circulated to Members separately.

4. Alternative Options considered and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 Council may choose to not appoint the recommended individual to the vacant Overview and Scrutiny co-optee position. This is not recommended as the Committee has not received any further applications for the position, and would therefore, be unlikely to appoint anyone for the remainder of this municipal year. The Committee also considers that Mr. Davitt could make a valuable contribution to its work.

5. Consultations

- 5.1 None

6. Implications

Financial implications (including any future financial commitments for the Council)	None
Legal and human rights implications	None
Assessment of risk	None
Equality and diversity implications <i>A Customer First Analysis should be completed in relation to policy decisions and should be attached as an appendix to the report.</i>	Not Applicable

7. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985: List of Background Papers

- 7.1 *Agenda, reports and minutes of Full Council on 16th January 2025 - [Hyndburn Borough Council](#)*

- [Hyndburn Borough Council](#) – Agenda, reports and minutes of Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 11th November 2025