**Report of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel**

**Confirmation Hearing for the Role of Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire**

**10th April 2013**

**1. Executive Summary**

1.1 This document constitutes the report and recommendations of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel (hereafter referred to as ‘the Panel’) in respect of the proposed appointment of Ms Isabel Owen to the role of Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire.

1.2 This report is submitted to the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner in accordance with the requirements of Paragraph 10, Schedule 1 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

1.3 The report recommends that Ms Isabel Owen should be appointed to the role of Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire.

1.4 The Panel would like to thank Ms Owen for her attendance at the Confirmation Hearing on 10th April 2013.

**2. West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel**

2.1 The Membership of the Panel for the Confirmation Hearing was as follows:

* Cllr Peter Box Wakefield (Chair)
* Cllr Sarah Ferriby Bradford
* Cllr Imran Hussain Bradford
* Cllr Michael Walls Bradford
* Cllr Ken Smith Kirklees
* Cllr Alison Lowe Leeds
* Cllr Les Carter Leeds
* Cllr Jean Askew Wakefield
* Roger Grasby Independent Member

In attendance were also:

* Mark Burns-Williamson Police & Crime Commissioner
* Bernadette Livesey Service Director, Legal and Governance - WMDC
* Clare Elliott AWYA
* Samantha Wilkinson AWYA

**3. Powers of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel**

3.1 The Panel have the functions conferred by Schedule 1 Paragraph 10 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (*Scrutiny of senior appointments*). This requires the Panel to:

(i) Hold a confirmation hearing to review the proposed senior appointment

(ii) Make a report to the Commissioner on the proposed senior appointment;

(iii) Include a recommendation to the Commissioner as to whether or not the candidate should be appointed;

(iv) Publish the report to the Commissioner within the period of three weeks beginning with the day on which the panel receives the notification from the commissioner of the proposed senior appointment.

3.2 The Police and Crime Commissioner may accept or reject the panel’s recommendation as to whether or not the candidate should be appointed. There is no duty for the PCC to give reasons for their decision.

**4. Confirmation Hearing for the Role of Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner of West Yorkshire**

4.1 The Panel received notification from the Office of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner of the proposed appointment to the role of Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire on 22nd March 2013.

4.2 The Confirmation Hearing was held at 11.15am on 10th April 2013 in the Old Restaurant, Wakefield Town Hall. The Hearing was held in public.

4.3 The Panel asked questions of the candidate which focussed on her competency to undertake the role of Deputy Commissioner based on the criteria contained within the job specification provided by the Commissioner. This line of questioning was used to enable Panel Members to evaluate her suitability for the role.

4.4 The candidate was offered the opportunity to introduce herself to the panel and elaborate on her skills and experience which made her suitable for the post.

4.5 The candidate was asked a series of questions covering the following themes:

* What she envisaged the role of DPCC would entail
* Relationships within the OPCC and with the Chief Constable
* What powers of delegation would be assigned to the DPCC
* Previous experience working within a police and crime environment
* Experience of partnership working and how the candidate would engage with diverse community groups.
* Consideration of the main challenges and opportunities balanced against the financial position faced by the force and OPCC

4.6 The Panel welcomed Ms Owen’s responses to the line of questioning and in particular were assured by her:

* Commitment to partnership working and her desire to strengthen and build on existing partnerships
* Desire to look for new and innovative ways of engaging with the public
* Recognition of the need to strengthen engagement with diverse communities and groups
* Ambition to share and integrate services through smarter and innovative ways of thinking and joined up delivery.

4.7 The Panel welcomed the offer of sight of the Scheme of Delegation that is being produced in relation to the statutory duties of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

**5. Conclusions and Recommendation**

5.1 On the basis of the information provided by the Commissioner and the discussions held within the Confirmation Hearing, the Panel considered their recommendation to the Commissioner in relation to the appointment of the preferred candidate to the role of Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire.

5.2 A vote was taken on the motion to recommend the appointment of Ms Isabel Owen to the role of Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire.

5.3 There was a majority vote in favour of Ms Owen being appointed to the position. However, it was agreed to record the objections against the recommendation by Councillor Les Carter and Councillor Michael Walls. Councillor Ken Smith abstained from voting.

**RESOLVED:**

**That the proposed candidate, Ms Isabel Owen is recommended to be appointed to the position of Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire.**