



# Report of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel

## Confirmation Hearing for the Role of Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime for West Yorkshire

18<sup>th</sup> June 2021

### 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 Alison Lowe to the role of Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime for West Yorkshire.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to the Mayor for West Yorkshire in accordance with the requirements of Paragraph 10, Schedule 1 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.
- 1.3 The report endorses the appointment of Alison Lowe to the role of Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime for West Yorkshire.
- 1.4 The Panel would like to thank Alison for her attendance at the Confirmation Hearing on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

### 2. West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel

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

- Cllr Mohammed Iqbal                      Leeds (Chair)
- Cllr Richard Dunbar                      Bradford
- Cllr Tariq Hussain                        Bradford
- Cllr Paul Sullivan                         Bradford
- Cllr Sarah Courtney                     Calderdale
- Cllr Sophie Whittaker                    Calderdale
- Cllr Masood Ahmed                      Kirklees
- Cllr Cahal Burke                         Kirklees
- Cllr Mark Thompson                     Kirklees
- Cllr Amanda Carter                      Leeds
- Cllr Nicole Sharpe                        Leeds
- Cllr Maureen Tennant-King            Wakefield
- Cllr Jacqueline Williams                Wakefield
- Mr Roger Grasby                         Independent Member
- Jo Sykes                                      Independent Member

In attendance were also:

- Tracy Brabin Mayor for West Yorkshire
- Alan Reiss Combined Authority
- Sharon Fraser Legal Officer – WMDC
- John Ward HR Adviser - WMDC
- Samantha Wilkinson Police & Crime Panel Officer
- Fiona Bernardo Police & Crime Panel Support Officer

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

3.1 The Panel has 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 appointment
- (ii) Make a report to the Mayor on the proposed appointment;
- (iii) Include a recommendation to the Mayor as to whether or not the candidate should be appointed;
- (iv) Publish the report to the Mayor within the period of three weeks beginning with the day on which the panel receives the notification from the commissioner of the proposed appointment.

3.2 The Mayor may accept or reject the Panel's recommendation as to whether or not the candidate should be appointed.

### **4. Confirmation Hearing for the Role of Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime for West Yorkshire**

4.1 The Panel received notification from the Mayor of the proposed appointment to the role of Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime for West Yorkshire on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2021.

4.2 The Confirmation Hearing was held in public at 11.30 am on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021 in County Hall, Wakefield.

4.3 The Panel asked questions of the candidate which focussed on her capabilities, expertise and competency to undertake the role of Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime. 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:

- Her understanding of the key challenges and opportunities for the role and how she would address these
- Examples of her relevant experience which evidence her ability to carry out the role of Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime
- Her understanding and experience of working and engaging with diverse communities
- Her understanding of the separation of political and operational responsibilities
- What she saw as measures of success
- How she would work with the Police and Crime Panel

4.6 The Panel welcomed the candidate's responses to the lines of questioning and in particular were assured by her:

- Understanding and experience of engaging and working with diverse communities and groups and desire to strengthen and build trust
- Desire to develop a more a victim centred approach
- Clear understanding of the political and operational roles and responsibilities
- Passion and personal commitment to the role.

## 5. **Conclusions and Recommendation**

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

### **RESOLVED:**

**5.1.1 Panel endorsed the appointment of Alison Lowe to the role of Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime for West Yorkshire.**

**5.1.2 The Panel also recommend that there is a commitment by the Mayor to address the current challenge of openness and timely access to information for the Panel and that she endorses the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime to build on the relationship with the Panel and ensure that high quality information is provided which is accurate, timely, relevant and understandable so as to enable the Panel to fulfil its responsibilities effectively and efficiently.**