**Item 12**

**Police & Crime Panel Officer**

**07920 833358**

**Friday, 11th September 2020**

**Police and Crime Panel Meeting**

**Via Video-Conference**

**Term of Independent Panel Members**

**1. Purpose**

* 1. The purpose of this report is to update Panel members on the position regarding the appointment of Independent Panel Members.

**2. Background**

2.1 Independent Co-opted Panel Members are recruited by the panel through a process of open recruitment. The current Independent Panel members were recruited in October 2016 for a period of 4 years, in line with the election of the Police and Crime Commissioner, meaning that a recruitment process would be due to commence in early Autumn with a view to appointees being in place in October 2020.

2.2 Panel members are aware of the West Yorkshire “minded-to” Devolution Deal was announced as part of the Budget on 11 March 2020 and that there are proposals as part of this deal that the role of the PCC will come under the responsibility of the new Mayor from May 2021.

2.3 A public consultation exercise has been undertaken on the scheme and is to be submitted to the Secretary of State during September.

**3. Current Position**

3.1 At the annual meeting in June, it was brought to Panel’s attention that conversations were commencing in view of the change of circumstances and potential changes as a result of devolution to extend the current Independent Panel member roles in line with extensions given to elected members and the PCC role and that the outcome be reported back to Panel.

3.2 In light of the circumstances, both Independent Panel members have agreed in principle to an extension to their term of office to provide Panel with continuity of membership during the period of transition and until any new Panel arrangements can be put in place. This means that the extension will run until May 2021 at the earliest.

**4. Recommendations**

4.1 Panel members are asked to approve the postponement of a recruitment campaign for the Independent Panel member roles and to endorse the extension of the existing appointments until at least May 2021.