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

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

**10th June 2016**

**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 June 2016.

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

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

* Cllr Alison Lowe Leeds (Chair)
* Cllr Tariq Hussain Bradford
* Cllr Andrew Mallinson Bradford
* Cllr Steve Pullen Bradford
* Cllr Chris Pearson Calderdale
* Cllr Steve Sweeney Calderdale
* Cllr Mumtaz Hussain Kirklees
* Cllr Linda Wilkinson Kirklees
* Cllr Amanda Carter Leeds
* Cllr Josephine Jarosz Leeds
* Cllr Steve Tulley Wakefield
* Cllr Alan Wassell Wakefield
* Roger Grasby Independent Member
* Jo Sykes Independent Member

In attendance were also:

* Mark Burns-Williamson Police & Crime Commissioner
* Lauren Wray Research Manager (Temporary), OPCC
* Neil Flenley Research Officer (Temporary), OPCC
* Liz Ogden Service Manager - Legal Services, WMDC
* Emma Duckett Police & Crime Panel, WMDC
* Samantha Wilkinson Police & Crime Panel, WMDC

**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 2nd June 2016.

4.2 The Confirmation Hearing was held at 10.20 am on 10th June 2016 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:

* Successes in her previous term as DPCC
* Relationships within the OPCC
* Experience of partnership working and how the candidate could better engage with diverse community groups.
* Consideration of the main challenges and opportunities for the role 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

**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.

**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.**