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

**Confirmation Hearing for the Role of Treasurer to the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire**

**12th December 2014**

**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 Katherine Johnson to the role of Treasurer to the Officer of the 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 Katherine Johnson should be appointed to the role of Treasurer to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire.

1.4 The Panel would like to thank Ms Johnson for her attendance at the Confirmation Hearing on 12th December 2014.

**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 Michael Walls Bradford
* Cllr Shakeela Lal Bradford
* Cllr Marcus Thompson Calderdale
* Cllr Masood Ahmed Kirklees
* Cllr Les Carter Leeds
* Cllr Alan Wassell Wakefield
* Cllr Celia Loughran Wakefield
* Roger Grasby Independent Member
* Jo Sykes Independent Member

In attendance were also:

* Mark Burns-Williamson Police & Crime Commissioner
* Bernadette Livesey Service Director, Legal and Governance - WMDC
* Emma Duckett Police & Crime Panel Officer
* Samantha Wilkinson Police & Crime Panel Officer
* Jonathan Skinner Wakefield Council

**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 position of Treasurer to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner undertakes the duties of the Commissioner’s Chief Finance Officer as set out in Schedule 1 Paragraph (1) (b).

3.3 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 Treasurer for the Office of the Police & 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 4th December 2014.

4.2 The Confirmation Hearing was held at 11.00 am on 12th December 2014 in the Wakefield Suite, Wakefield One. 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 Treasurer 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:

* Providing independent unfettered advice and challenge to the Commissioner
* How to ensure decisions made offer value for money
* Non-financial aspects of the candidate’s experience

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

* Strong independent view to provide evidence-based opinions based on structured methodologies to provide impartial advice and to use this approach in ensuring that resources are allocated to provide the best value for money for the people of West Yorkshire.

**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 Treasurer for the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire.

**RESOLVED:**

**That the proposed candidate, Ms Katherine Johnson is recommended to be appointed to the position of Treasurer to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire.**