



Report of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel

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

14th June 2024

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 14th June 2024.

2. West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel

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

- Cllr Eileen Taylor Leeds (Chair)
- Cllr Nussrat Mohammed Bradford
- Cllr Celia Hickson Bradford
- Cllr Mohammed Shazad Fazal Calderdale
- Cllr Brenda Monteith Calderdale
- Cllr Anthony Smith Kirklees
- Cllr Andrew Carter Leeds
- Cllr Nicole Sharpe Leeds
- Cllr Lynn Masterman Wakefield
- Cllr Jackie Ferguson Wakefield
- Trevor Lake Independent Member
- Jo Sykes Independent Member

In attendance were also:

- Tracy Brabin Mayor for West Yorkshire
- Sharon Fraser Legal Officer – WMDC
- Joanne Freeman HR Adviser - WMDC
- Samantha Wilkinson Police & Crime Panel Officer
- Fiona Bernardo Partnerships 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 30th May 2024.

4.2 The Confirmation Hearing was held in public at 11.15 am on 14th June 2024 in the Town 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 Mayor was offered the opportunity to introduce her nominee to the Panel and the reasons why she wished to appoint her into the role.

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

- Her view of the key challenges and opportunities for a second term

- How she would engage new, hard-to reach people and communities and increase representation in local and diverse communities
- Examples of successfully working across political party boundaries to achieve outcomes for local communities
- Examples of where she has made a difference in her first term in the role of Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime
- What learning there has been from a first term and how this would impact on a second term
- How Alison's knowledge and experience could help in supporting the Mayor in addressing the financial challenges faced within the sector and the force over the next four years

Alison was also given the opportunity to provide any further information to support her appointment to the role.

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

- Relevant knowledge, experience and competence in aspects of community safety, governance and working with communities
- Extensive experience of engaging and working with diverse communities and groups and a desire to strengthen and build further trust
- Good understanding of the challenges ahead as well as the opportunities presented through devolution to join up improved quality of life solutions for the people living and working in West Yorkshire
- 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.