

**27 November 2012 – PRESS RELEASE**

**The West Midlands Police and Crime Panel holds one the country's first hearings for the post of Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner**

**The West Midlands Police and Crime Panel recommends the appointment of Cllr Yvonne Mosquito to the office of Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner**

The West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), Bob Jones took office on 22 November. Four days later, in one of the country's first confirmation hearings for the office of Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel questioned Cllr Yvonne Mosquito (Birmingham Nechells Ward) about her proposed appointment and the skills and experience she would bring to the role.

Bob Jones PCC proposed to appoint Cllr Mosquito as his Deputy. The Panel must hold confirmation hearings for certain senior appointments before making a recommendation. The PCC may choose to accept or reject the Panel's recommendation, but the appointment cannot be made until the end of the confirmation process.

In recommending the PCC appoint Cllr Mosquito, the Panel made a number of recommendations that it felt would clarify key relationships and strengthen the role. This included drawing up a job description for the Deputy post, and for the PCC to report back to the Panel on the proposed relationship between the Deputy PCC and the Chief Constable.

The Panel also recommended, whilst not wishing to prevent Cllr Mosquito serving as an elected member on Birmingham City Council, the nature of the post should be full time at £65,000 with no additional office with competing time commitments.

A copy of the Panel's letter to the Commissioner is on [www.birmingham.gov.uk/wmpcp](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/wmpcp)

The Panel also had the opportunity to question the PCC for the first time. He set out his vision for developing 7 local policing boards responsible for local engagement and feeding priorities into the Police and Crime Plan he must produce by March 2013. Panel Members sought assurances that the proposed Local Police Boards did not create another layer of costly bureaucracy.

The Commissioner also promised to bring certain key policy issues to the Panel for discussion prior to making a decision.

The Panel reiterated their intention to act as a critical friend.

The Panel was established to scrutinise the work of the Commissioner. It is made up of 12 councillors from each of the seven local authorities in the force area - Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Sandwell, Solihull, Walsall and Wolverhampton, and two independent members who were selected following a regional advertising campaign and rigorous interview process.

Visit [www.birmingham.gov.uk/wmpcp](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/wmpcp) for more information about the Panel, meeting dates and to download papers.

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