

## REQUEST FOR DEPUTY MAYOR FOR PLANNING, REGENERATION AND THE FIRE SERVICE DECISION – DMFD264

### Procurement of SAFEcommand™ software

#### Executive summary:

The London Fire Commissioner (LFC) seeks authority to reprocore the Airbus SAFEcommand™ system, which includes modules for mobilising, guiding, messaging, crash recovery, risk information and chemical hazards.

The SAFEcommand™ system is used to deliver and display mobilising information to crews on appliances, via mobile data terminals. London Fire Brigade has been using the SAFEcommand™ (formerly VMDS) system for several years, and it was last reprocored in 2020. The system is comprised of the primary software, middleware and support of the system. The existing contract expires in August 2025.

The London Fire Commissioner Governance Direction 2018 sets out a requirement for the LFC to seek the prior approval of the Deputy Mayor before “[a] commitment to expenditure (capital or revenue) of £150,000 or above as identified in accordance with normal accounting practices”.

#### Decision:

That the Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration, and the Fire Service authorises the London Fire Commissioner to commit revenue expenditure of up to the amount set out in the Part Two report for the purposes of reprocuring the Airbus SAFEcommand™ for a period of up to three years.

#### Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and the Fire Service

I confirm that I do not have any disclosable pecuniary interests in the proposed decision.

The above request has my approval.

**Signature:**



**Date:**

26/03/2025

## **PART I – NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE TO THE DEPUTY MAYOR**

### **Decision required – supporting report**

#### **1. Introduction and background**

- 1.1. Report LFC-25-019 to the London Fire Commissioner (LFC) provides a detailed overview of the proposal to reprocure software to support the London Fire Brigade's (LFB) operational response to incidents.
- 1.2. As part of the national Firelink project, LFB introduced new digital technology to its appliances, including the installation of mobile data terminals (MDTs) in 2009. There are currently 176 MDTs in use, supported on a 24/7 basis. A project is under way to replace all of these devices with upgraded hardware running the Windows 11 operating system and the latest Airbus SAFEcommand™ software.
- 1.3. The MDTs allow crews to access operationally relevant data on the way to, and at, incidents.

#### **2. Objectives and expected outcomes**

- 2.1. The objective of this decision is to secure authorisation to reprocure the Airbus SAFEcommand™ system, which includes modules for mobilising, guiding, messaging, crash recovery, risk information and chemical hazards.
- 2.2. The proposed contract length is three years, with break clauses included.
- 2.3. A successful procurement will ensure that continuity of service is maintained. This will allow the MDTs installed in appliances and other Brigade vehicles to continue receiving information from the Vision mobilising system.

#### **3. Equality comments**

- 3.1. An equality impact assessment has not been undertaken in respect of this decision. If the decision is approved and the SAFEcommand™ software is reprocured, the LFC will continue to use the SAFEcommand™ software that has been in use for several years.
- 3.2. Continued use of this software will have no impact on any persons with the protected characteristics of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

#### **4. Other considerations**

- 4.1. The requirements have been assessed by LFB's procurement team. The initial assessment on the route to market has identified the Crown Commercial Services, Vertical Application Solutions framework (RM 6259). This framework expires on 6 March 2027, so allows plenty of time to conduct a procurement using the direct award process.
- 4.2. The direct award process is considered appropriate, as only Airbus can realistically meet the requirements due to the inherent dependencies with the current Vision mobilising system. Possible competitive routes will be looked at in the next couple of years to inform the next procurement.

## **5. Financial comments**

- 5.1. The decision paper seeks approval to renew the existing Airbus SAFEcommand™ system agreement by a further three years, upon expiry of the current agreement in August 2025. All costs related to the renewed agreement will be solely funded by the LFC.
- 5.2. As an ongoing requirement, the system has been operational for several years. There is sufficient budget cover for the agreement renewal across all years.

## **6. Legal comments**

- 6.1. Under section 9 of the Policing and Crime Act 2017, the LFC is established as a corporation sole with the Mayor appointing the occupant of that office. Under section 327D of the GLA Act 1999, as amended by the Policing and Crime Act 2017, the Mayor may issue to the LFC specific or general directions as to the manner in which the holder of that office is to exercise his or her functions.
- 6.2. By direction dated 1 April 2018, the Mayor set out those matters, for which the LFC would require the prior approval of either the Mayor or the Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and the Fire Service (the Deputy Mayor).
- 6.3. Paragraph (b) of Part 2 of that direction requires the LFC to seek the prior approval of the Deputy Mayor before “[a] commitment to expenditure (capital or revenue) of £150,000 or above as identified in accordance with normal accounting practice”. The Deputy Mayor's approval is accordingly required for the LFC to expend the sums set out in part 2 of this report.
- 6.4. The statutory basis for the actions proposed in this report is provided by sections 7 and 5A of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 (FRSA 2004). Under section 7 (2)(a) FRSA 2004, the LFC has the power to secure the provision of personnel, services and equipment necessary to efficiently meet all normal requirements for firefighting; and section 5A allows the LFC to procure personnel, services and equipment they consider appropriate for purposes incidental or indirectly incidental to their functional purposes.
- 6.5. This procurement will be carried out in compliance with the Procurement Regulations and the LFC's standing orders on procurement.

## **Appendices and supporting papers:**

Appendix 1 – Report LFC-25-019 – Procurement of Safecommand™

**Public access to information**

Information in this form (Part 1) is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI Act) and will be made available on the GLA website within one working day of approval.

If immediate publication risks compromising the implementation of the decision (for example, to complete a procurement process), it can be deferred until a specific date. Deferral periods should be kept to the shortest length strictly necessary. **Note:** This form (Part 1) will be published either within one working day after approval or on the defer date.

**Part 1 Deferral:**

**Is the publication of Part 1 of this approval to be deferred? NO**

**Part 2 Confidentiality:** Only the facts or advice considered to be exempt from disclosure under the FOI Act should be in the separate Part 2 form, together with the legal rationale for non-publication.

**Is there a part 2 form? YES**

**ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION:**

Drafting officer to confirm the following (✓)

**Drafting officer**

Soeli Dayus has drafted this report with input from the LFC and in accordance with GLA procedures and confirms the following:

✓

**Assistant Director/Head of Service**

Rachael Hickman has reviewed the documentation and is satisfied for it to be referred to the Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and the Fire Service for approval.

✓

**Advice**

The Finance and Legal teams have commented on this proposal.

✓

**Mayoral Delivery Board:**

A summary of this decision was reviewed by the Mayoral Delivery Board on 24 March 2025.

✓

**CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER:**

I confirm that financial and legal implications have been appropriately considered in the preparation of this report.

**Signature:**



**Date:**

25/03/2025