

REQUEST FOR DEPUTY MAYOR FOR FIRE DECISION – DMFD273

Procurement of a replacement backup system

Executive summary:

The London Fire Commissioner (LFC) seeks approval to commit revenue expenditure up to the amount set out in the accompanying part two report. This is to procure a replacement backup system to be used daily to backup and restore data in the event of a systems failure or data corruption. The current system is considered obsolete, and a replacement will improve backup and recovery capabilities and provide greater protection against modern threats, such as ransomware.

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 the amount set out in the accompanying part two report. This is to procure a replacement backup and recovery system and to provide London Fire Brigade with greater protection against modern threats such as ransomware.

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:

30 July 2025

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

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1. Report LFC- 25-53 to the London Fire Commissioner (LFC) provides a detailed overview of the proposal. This is a summary of that report.
- 1.2. The current backup system used by London Fire Brigade (LFB) is implemented through a dedicated software package, Veritas Backup Exec. This involves duplicating data sets for retention via online and offsite storage. This system stores core service delivery data, with less critical-service data backed up directly to tape for offsite storage. Other data sets, such as MS Office 365 and the Vision Mobilising System, have alternative backup and restore systems.
- 1.3. LFB requires a modern backup system that is equipped to deal with modern workloads and threats. The new system is anticipated to include many or all of the following features readily available in modern backup systems:
 - improved data protection
 - faster backup and recovery
 - scalability
 - data integrity
 - protection against ransomware and cyber threats
 - disaster recovery
 - efficient data de-duplication and storage optimisation.

2. Objectives and expected outcomes

- 2.1. The objective is to ensure that LFB has a backup system that is fit for purpose to cope with modern workloads.
- 2.2. The proposed contract length is three years, with options to extend for a further two years in one-year increments. A break clause will be included in the contract.
- 2.3. The successful procurement of a new system will ensure that LFB maintains continuity of service with the ability to backup and recover critical data in the event of a systems incident.

3. Equality comments

- 3.1. Under the public sector equality duty, it is required to identify the likely potential impacts, both positive and negative, of the decision on those with protected characteristics. (The relevant protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.) It is also required to set out how these duties are being addressed.
- 3.2. An equalities impact assessment has not been undertaken in respect of this report. The replacement of the existing backup system by a newer and more efficient one, will be transparent to all but selected ICT staff. Use of this system 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 proposed procurement will be undertaken following a compliant competitive procurement procedure. This could be via an existing public-sector framework agreement, under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, that allows for a direct award, a mini-competition, or a flexible competition under the Procurement Act 2023 guidelines. The exact approach will depend on which route provides the best value for money, and most appropriately meets the LFC's technical and operational requirements.
- 4.2. LFB's Procurement and Commercial team will support the development of the tender and evaluation methodology to ensure the selected solution aligns with technical and security standards; and delivers against the LFC's business continuity and cyber resilience objectives. The procurement will also include appropriate contract terms, including provisions for service levels, data protection, system scalability, exit management, and a break clause. A full procurement strategy will be developed and approved before commencing the procurement exercise.

Conflicts of interest

- 4.3. There are no conflicts of interest to declare from those involved in the drafting or clearance of this decision.

5. Financial comments

- 5.1. The report seeks approval to procure a new data backup system. This is to replace the current system, which has been in use for many years and is now considered obsolete. The agreement will last up to five years and is planned to commence in late 2025-26. All costs related to the renewed agreement will be solely funded by the LFC revenue budget. The amounts are set out in the accompanying Part 2 report.
- 5.2. The current system has been operational for several years since it is an ongoing requirement. There is sufficient budget to meet the costs of a new agreement.

6. Legal comments

- 6.1. The LFC's General Counsel's Department have confirmed the following.
- 6.2. Under section 327D of the Greater London Authority 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.
- 6.3. 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). Paragraph (b) of Part 2 of the said 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 practices". The value of proposed contract tender, as set out in the accompanying Part 2 paper, exceeds this threshold. Therefore, the prior approval of the Deputy Mayor is required in accordance with the aforementioned direction.
- 6.4. An open and transparent tender process shall be undertaken in accordance with all applicable procurement law. The contract award decision will also be delegated to the Assistant Director of Procurement and Commercial Services.

Appendices and supporting papers:

Appendix 1 – LFC-25-53 Procurement of a backup system

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

Chandru Dissanayeke 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.

✓

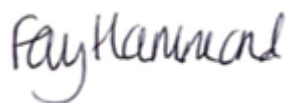
Mayoral Delivery Board:

A summary of this decision was reviewed by the Mayoral Delivery Board on 28 July 2025.

CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER:

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

Signature:



Date:

30 July 2025