

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR DEPUTY MAYOR FOR FIRE DECISION – DMFD289

Equipment asset replacement programme 2026 to 2031

Executive summary:

The London Fire Commissioner (LFC) is seeking approval to commit capital funding, to renew and upgrade operational equipment and vehicles as they reach the end of their recommended useful life. London Fire Brigade (LFB) plans to create an asset replacement programme for the next five financial years, from 2026-27 until 2030-31; this will be funded from its existing fleet capital budget.

LFB has an existing vehicles and equipment contract with Babcock Critical Services Limited, which will handle both the procurement of new equipment and the resale of end-of-life assets on LFB's behalf. Proceeds from asset disposal are returned to LFB and may be used to offset LFB's capital borrowing costs.

In 2026-27, LFB plans to replace 21 diesel-powered support vans with new electric vehicles, in line with its fleet strategy. It also plans to replace operational equipment already identified as nearing the end of its useful life.

The London Fire Commissioner Governance Direction 2018 sets out a requirement for the LFC to seek the prior approval of the Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and the Fire Service 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 capital expenditure of up to the amount set out in the part 2 report to replace assets as they reach the end of their useful life.

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 May 2026

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

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1. Report LFC-26-031 to the London Fire Commissioner (LFC) provides a detailed overview of the proposal. This is a summary of that report.
- 1.2. LFC is seeking approval from the Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and the Fire Service (the Deputy Mayor) to spend from its fleet capital budget, on an asset replacement programme for the next five financial years (2026-27 to 2030-31 inclusive).
- 1.3. LFB maintains a long-term forecast of when operational equipment will reach the end of its useful life. It considers whether each asset should be replaced; or whether its useful life could be extended safely. LFB has an existing vehicles and equipment contract. Through this contract, Babcock Critical Services Limited (Babcock):
 - procures replacement vehicles and operational equipment for LFB as required
 - facilitates the resale of LFB's existing assets at the end of their useful life.
- 1.4. In 2026-27, LFB plans to replace 21 diesel-powered support vans with electric vehicles (EVs), in line with its fleet strategy, its Community Risk Management Plan, and the Mayor's Accelerated Green Pathway commitments. LFB reports that:
 - potential additional infrastructure costs from LFB's wider adoption of electric fleet vehicles are outside the scope of LFC-26-031
 - an estimate of modifications costs for these vehicles is included in LFC-26-031 part 2
 - potential revenue costs related to training contractors to service these vehicles (outside the scope of this decision) have been factored into LFB's financial planning for 2026-27.

2. Objectives and expected outcomes

- 2.1. LFB is seeking approval to fund a capital programme, to renew and upgrade operational equipment and vehicles as they reach the end of their recommended useful life. This will run for five financial years, from 2026-27 until 2030-31. The programme will be funded from LFB's existing fleet capital budget. LFB has included light vehicle replacements in 2026-27 only.
- 2.2. LFB has reviewed each asset covered by the replacement programme, to consider whether replacement is required; or the useful life could be extended safely (LFC-26-031 part 1 includes more details).
- 2.3. LFB's forecast estimated spend on operational equipment and vehicles, for 2026-31, is set out in part 2. Subject to approval, LFB will use its existing vehicles and equipment contract with Babcock to procure the replacements. LFB reports that it will refine its understanding of the actual costs, and what it will buy each year, as the programme progresses.
- 2.4. Babcock will also, on LFB's behalf, sell vehicles and equipment at the end of their useful life. LFB reports that:
 - the proceeds from this asset disposal will be returned to a central revenue account and may be used to offset capital borrowing costs.
 - the disposal process also ensures LFB complies with its obligations under the Environmental Duty of Care Regulations.

3. Equality comments

- 3.1. The LFC, and the Deputy Mayor, are required to have due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) when taking decisions. The Public Sector Equality Duty requires the identification and evaluation of the likely potential impacts, both positive and negative, of the decision on those with protected characteristics (see paragraph 3.3).
- 3.2. It is important to note that consideration of the Public Sector Equality Duty is not a one-off task. The duty must be fulfilled before taking a decision; at the time of taking a decision; and after the decision has been taken.
- 3.3. The protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership (but only in respect of the requirements to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination), race (ethnic or national origins, colour or nationality), religion or belief (including lack of belief), sex, and sexual orientation.
- 3.4. The Public Sector Equality Duty requires decision-takers in the exercise of all their functions, to have due regard to the need to:
 - eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other prohibited conduct
 - advance equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it
 - foster good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- 3.5. Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:
 - remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic where those disadvantages are connected to that characteristic
 - take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it
 - encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
- 3.6. The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.
- 3.7. Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:
 - tackle prejudice
 - promote understanding.
- 3.8. LFB will carry out an Equality Impact Assessment for each of the projects included in LFC-026-031, when the relevant workstream becomes live. LFB considers that this will allow for proper review of equalities impacts, once the specific asset under assessment is clearly identified through the procurement process.

4. Other considerations

Workforce and communications considerations

- 4.1. LFB reports that no workforce consultation, or general internal communications, about the equipment asset replacement programme are required. The programme will include targeted consultation with LFB staff who use the assets that are scheduled for replacement over the next five years.

Procurement considerations

- 4.2. LFB will use its existing vehicle and equipment contract with Babcock as its route to market, to procure vehicles and operational equipment (and outsourced maintenance outside the scope of this decision). Babcock will run the procurements, with LFB's fleet and procurement teams involved in developing procurement strategies, tender lists and evaluation criteria.

Sustainability considerations

- 4.3. LFB is switching from diesel-fuelled vehicles to zero-emission alternatives, such as EVs. This is in line with:
- its fleet strategy 2024-35
 - the Mayor of London's focus on tackling air pollution and using net-zero energy.

This work is supported by [DMFD277: Electric vehicle charging infrastructure](#).

- 4.4. LFB considers that LFC-26-031 supports the aims of the LFC's sustainable development strategy 2026-30; but does not introduce any significant sustainability impacts overall. LFB will complete Sustainability Impact Assessments for individual workstreams once projects are live. This means that sustainability impacts can be appropriately identified and reviewed, once the specific asset under assessment is clearly defined through the procurement process.

Conflicts of interest

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

5. Financial comments

- 5.1. Financial comments are included in part 2.

6. Legal comments

- 6.1. The LFC's General Counsel's Department have confirmed the following.
- 6.2. 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.
- 6.3. 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. Paragraph (b) of Part 2 of 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".

- 6.4. In accordance with Section 5A of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004, the LFC, being a 'relevant authority,' may do 'anything it considers appropriate for the purposes of the carrying out of any of its functions.'
- 6.5. General Counsel observes that this procurement process will be carried out in compliance with the LFC Scheme of Governance.

Appendices and supporting papers:

Appendix 1: LFC-26-031 Equipment Asset Replacement Programme 2026-31 part 1

Appendix 2: LFB fleet strategy 2024-35

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

Daisy McLachlan 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 Dissanayake 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.

✓

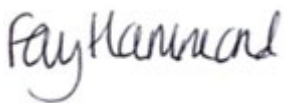
Mayoral Delivery Board:

A summary of this decision was reviewed by the Mayoral Delivery Board on 26 May 2026.

✓

CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER:

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



Signature:

Date: 26 May 2026