

Request for Deputy Mayor for Fire decision – DMFD296

Procurement of cyber security services

Executive summary:

London Fire Brigade (LFB) is seeking approval from the Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and the Fire Service (the Deputy Mayor), to procure a call-off contract for Information and Communications Technology (ICT) security penetration testing and cyber security consultancy services.

LFB has identified increasing cyber threats; growing demand on internal ICT security resources; and the need to maintain resilient, secure systems across a complex digital estate. It expects that an ICT security contract will provide additional expertise and capacity; reduce backlogs; and support secure delivery of its operational and corporate services.

LFB proposes to procure a contract for an initial term of three years, with options to extend for up to two more years. This would be funded up to the amount set out in part 2, from LFB's existing ICT revenue budget.

The London Fire Commissioner Governance Direction 2018 sets out a requirement for the London Fire Commissioner 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 spend up to the amount set out in part 2 to procure and enter into a call-off contract for security penetration testing and cyber security consultancy services for an initial period of three years, with options to extend for up to a further two 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: 6 August 2026

Part 1 – Non-confidential facts and advice

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1. As a Category 1 responder, London Fire Brigade (LFB) must maintain secure and resilient Information and Communications Technology (ICT) systems. LFB operates a large and complex ICT environment that underpins its corporate and front-line functions. This includes physical infrastructure and devices, operating systems and cloud services.
- 1.2. LFC-26-051 sets out how cyber threats to LFB are becoming increasingly challenging. Risks include ransomware, data loss and service disruption. LFB identifies cyber consultancy and penetration testing as essential tools to:
 - identify vulnerabilities in its systems
 - support remediation
 - provide independent assurance of security controls
 - meet governance and audit requirements.
- 1.3. LFB currently commissions these services on an ad hoc basis; but finds that this creates inefficiencies and delays. LFB reports that demand on its ICT security team (particularly from procurement activity), has led to backlogs. As such, it needs a formal contract for timely and cost-effective access to specialist support.

2. Objectives and expected outcomes

- 2.1. LFB's primary objective is to establish a compliant, flexible contract that enables the London Fire Commissioner (LFC) to access cyber security penetration testing and consultancy services, as required, to supplement its internal capability; and support specialist work.
- 2.2. LFB expects that the proposed contract will reduce procurement and security timescales for LFB projects, as internal resources are limited and under pressure to meet increasing demands.

3. Equality comments

- 3.1. The LFC, and the Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and the Fire Service (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, particularly include 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 reports that it has not carried out an Equalities Impact Assessment. Due to the nature of the procurement, there will be no impact in respect of 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

Procurement comments

- 4.1. LFB will use the government Commercial Agency Cyber Security Services 3 Framework to establish a structured multi-supplier model via further competition. LFB expects that this framework will provide access to services including penetration testing, risk assessment and security consultancy.

Sustainability comments

- 4.2. LFC-26-051 reports that this proposal does not introduce any significant sustainability impacts; and that LFB's sustainable development team is involved in considering social value and responsible procurement within its procurement process.

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. LFC-26-051 seeks authority to commit revenue expenditure to procure a new contract for security penetration testing and cyber security consultancy services. This will initially be for three years, with options to extend for up to a further two years. The funding source is the LFB ICT department's revenue budget.
- 5.2. If a budgetary risk materialises (dependent on the new contract price), LFB proposes to mitigate it through regular monitoring and reporting on LFB's revenue budget; and by making prudent assumptions in future budget cycles.

6. Legal comments

- 6.1. LFB's General Counsel's department has confirmed the following.
- 6.2. LFC-26-051 seeks approval to commit expenditure up to the amount set out in the part 2 report. This will be used to procure and award a contract for cyber security consultancy services.
- 6.3. 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.
- 6.4. Pursuant to section 327D of the Greater London Authority Act 1999, as amended, 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.
- 6.5. 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. In particular, 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 is identified in accordance with normal accounting practices". The proposed expenditure which is set out in Part 2 of the report exceeds this financial threshold; accordingly, prior approval from the Deputy Mayor is sought.
- 6.6. The report confirms the cyber security consultancy services required will be procured compliantly under an accessible Framework, and that such services are necessary to ensure LFB can continue to operate both efficiently and effectively.

Appendices and supporting papers

LFC-26-051 Procurement of cyber security services part 1

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 Dissanayeke has reviewed the documentation and is satisfied for it to be referred to the Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience for approval.

✓

Advice

The Finance and Legal teams have commented on this proposal.

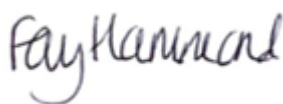
✓

Mayoral Delivery Board

A summary of this decision was reviewed by the Mayoral Delivery Board on 27 July 2026.

Chief Finance Officer

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



Signature

Date 27 July 2026