

**Request for Greater London Returning Officer (GLRO) Decision – GLRO 20-11**

**Title: Additional internet capacity at City Hall for 2020 London Assembly Elections operations**

**Executive Summary:**

The monitoring and results consolidation of the 2020 London Assembly Elections will take place in City Hall. To permit this, dedicated Internet connections are required at City Hall to allow the technical infrastructure of the e-count system to securely and reliably connect with the three count centres.

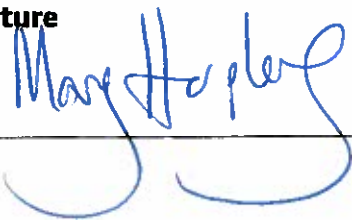
**Decision:**

That the GLRO approves the expenditure of up to £17,000 for the procurement and establishment of two additional internet lines to City Hall.

**Greater London Returning Officer**

The above request has my approval.

**Signature**



**Date** 12 Nov 2019

## **PART I – NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE**

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

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

- 1.1 The e-count of ballots for the GLA Elections is conducted at three count centres across London. A further central site is established in City Hall to perform several critical e-count related functions, including top-level oversight of the count progress, monitoring of the technical functionality of the e-count system and consolidation of results for London-wide contests. The count centres must connect securely to the central site.
- 1.2 The primary and secondary City Hall internet connections cannot be used for this purpose. The solution provided by the e-count provider requires that the equipment accepts incoming connections, however, the two main internet links to City Hall are provided through third parties and accordingly are not able to meet this criterion.
- 1.3 Accordingly, alternative arrangements are required. The intended approach is to install two additional internet lines into City Hall which can provide the necessary service.

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

- 2.1 To provide increased resilience, the establishment of two dedicated lines is planned. Approaches will be explored with the internet service provider and GLA Technology Group (GLA TG) to minimise single points of failure.
- 2.2 To allow for the testing of the connection and for the configuration details of the connection to be known before the setup of the hardware, the connection should be provided prior to the end of January 2020.
- 2.3 The procurement and setup of the internet connections would be overseen by the GLA TG, and the above advice has been provided in consultation with GLA TG.
- 2.4 After the conclusion of the elections, the lines may be re-tasked for other GLA purposes, as deemed appropriate, thus providing several further months of extra capacity if needed.

#### **3. Other considerations**

##### *Key risks and issues*

- 3.1 Due to the arrangements available with Internet Service Providers, the connections would be leased for a year, rather than the six months that it is expected to be operational.
- 3.2 Two lease lines do currently exist in City Hall; however, one is currently being utilised, and another is in the process of being assigned.
- 3.3 The technical complexity of installing the internet is low given that key infrastructure has already been installed for the existing lease lines.

- 3.4 The timeframe for installing the lines is unpredictable, dependent on the availability of the service provider. However, given previous GLA experiences and the existing hardware, it is expected that a timely deliverable will be achieved.

#### *Impact assessments and consultations*

- 3.5 The technical approach has been discussed and agreed with GLA TC, along with the technical lead of the contractor responsible for providing the e-counting system.

#### **4. Equality comments**

- 4.1 There are no specific impacts on those with protected characteristics arising out of this decision, as per the public sector equality duty.

#### **5. Financial comments**

- 5.1 The cost is estimated at up to £17,000 and can be met from the elections budget.

#### **6. Legal comments**

- 6.1 The decisions requested of the GLRO fall within the statutory powers.

#### **7. Planned delivery approach and next steps**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Procurement of contract	1 November 2019
Delivery Start Date	10 January 2020
Delivery End Date	17 January 2020
Project Closure	10 May 2020

#### **Appendices and supporting papers:**

None

**Public access to information**

Although the GLRO is not subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI Act), the information in this form will be published 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 will be deferred until a specific date. Deferral periods will be kept to the shortest length strictly necessary.

**Note:** This form (Part 1) will either be published 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**

If YES, for what reason:

Until what date: (a date is required if deferring)

**Part 2 Confidentiality:** Only the facts or advice whose publication may be prejudicial or commercially sensitive should be in the separate Part 2 form, together with the legal rationale for non-publication.

**Is there a part 2 form – NO**

**ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION:**

Drafting officer  
to confirm the  
following (✓)

Drafting officer:

Ajay Patel has drafted this report in accordance with GLA procedures and confirms that the Finance and Legal teams have commented on this proposal as required, and this decision reflects their comments.

✓

The **Deputy GLRO** has reviewed the request and is satisfied that it is correct and can be referred to the GLRO for approval

✓

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RESOURCES:**

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

Signature



Date

05-11-19

TOM MIDDLETON ON BEHALF OF MARTIN CLARKE