

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR DEPUTY MAYOR FOR FIRE & RESILIENCE DECISION – DMFD3

Title: Fire Engineering Qualifications

Executive Summary:

Following changes to the provision of Fire Safety training courses from the London Fire Commissioner's training provider, the London Fire Commissioner must procure a Fire Engineering degree course for five years from 2018 to replace previous arrangements.

The course contributes to the Commissioner's response to requirements arising from Dame Judith Hackitt's independent review of building regulations, London Safety Plan 2017 commitments and the draft London Plan December 2017 requirements.

The Deputy Mayor, Fire and Resilience's consent is required under provision 2.1 (b) of the London Fire Commissioner Governance Direction because the proposed decision of the LFC would result in a commitment to expenditure of more than £150,000.

Decision:

The Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience approves the London Fire Commissioner's decision to:

expend the amounts set out in part 2 of this decision form under a contract with Glasgow Caledonian University for the provision of Fire Engineering degree courses.

Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience

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

The above request has my approval.

Signature:



Date:

14 June 2018

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

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1. It has been agreed that the London Fire Brigade (LFB) will be removing Fire Safety and Health and Safety qualifications from the existing training contract with its provider, Babcock. To enable the Fire Safety department to continue providing the Fire Engineering degree to the staff who have started the degree course and provide succession planning, new contractual arrangements are required.
- 1.2. As a number of Fire Safety staff are already part-way through their training, and the units are not transferable, Glasgow Caledonian University are the only viable supplier. They are also the only provider who offers the following core subjects:
 - Fire Engineering Analysis and Available Safe Egress time (ASET)
 - Required Safe Egress Time (RESET)
 - Introduction to Fire Mathematics and Structures
 - Fire Engineering Design and Risk Management (FEDRM)
 - Introduction to CAD and CFD
 - Fire Dynamics
 - Structural Fire Protection
 - Project and Programme Management principles
 - Fire Safety Design & Regulation (FSDR)
 - Dynamic Systems Design 2
 - Fire Engineering Design (FED) & Risk Management 2 (RM2)
 - Fire Investigation
 - Evacuation Systems Design
 - Dissertation

2. Objectives and expected outcomes

- 2.1. This Decision enables the Commissioner to procure this course, which is required to enable the London Fire Brigade to have appropriately qualified staff to consider complex building control consultations and represent the service and sector on national bodies.

3. Equality comments

- 3.1. The Public Sector Equality Duty – and the potential impacts of this decision on those with protected characteristics (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, gender, religion or belief, sexual orientation) – has been considered by the London Fire Commissioner and the Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience. The significant commitment in terms of personal study hours (25 – 30 hours per week) may necessitate support arrangements for candidates with disabilities, carers or lone parenting responsibilities. The appropriate assessments will be made.

4. Other considerations

- 4.1. The course contributes to the Commissioner's response to requirements arising from Dame Judith Hackitt's independent review of building regulations, London Safety Plan 2017 commitments and the draft London Plan December 2017 requirements (sections D10 and D11). As the Glasgow Caledonian University is the only viable course provider, which the London Fire Commissioner has been receiving services from within the auspices of the Babcock training contract, no risks are foreseen by enabling a direct relationship between the Commissioner and the university.

5. Financial comments

- 5.1. The expenditure is to be funded through sums available to the Commissioner. There are no direct financial implications for the GLA.

6. Legal comments

- 6.1. Under section 9 of the Policing and Crime Act 2017, the London Fire Commissioner (the "Commissioner") 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 Commissioner 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 Commissioner would require the prior approval of either the mayor or the deputy mayor for fire and resilience (the "Deputy Mayor").
- 6.3. Paragraph b of Part 2 of the said direction requires the Commissioner to seek the prior approval of the Deputy Mayor for commitments of capital or revenue expenditure of £150,000 or above.
- 6.4. This decision seeks the Deputy Mayor's approval for the Commissioner's revenue expenditure with Glasgow Caledonian University (the "University"). As noted in the attached report to the Commissioner dated 21 May 2018, the London Fire Brigade has decided to remove the following areas of training from its existing contract with Babcock: fire safety and health and safety qualifications. That report provides further that Babcock currently sub-contracts certain educational provision to the University.
- 6.5. As noted at paragraph 1.2 of this decision form, part of the London Fire Brigade's staff is part of the way through their degrees at the University and the units, which they are studying, are not transferrable to another tertiary education institution. Finally, the authors of this decision form have explained that the University is the only provider of the core subjects set out at paragraph 1.2 above. To this end, the Deputy Mayor may approve the requested expenditure if she be so minded.

Appendices and supporting papers:

- Report to the London Fire Commissioner LFC-0023

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 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 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

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

✓

Assistant Director/Head of Service

Tom Middleton 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.

✓

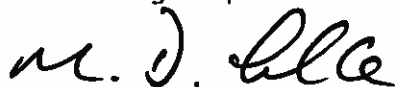
Corporate Investment Board

This decision was agreed by the Corporate Investment Board on 11 June 2018.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RESOURCES:

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

Signature



Date

11.6.18