

## DMPC Decision – PCD 996

**Title:**      **Equine Veterinary Services**

### Executive Summary:

This decision seeks approvals regarding the provision of veterinary services for the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) Mounted Branch function. It seeks approval for an unforeseen up to 12 month extension to the existing contract and to initiate procurement for a replacement contract. The 12 month extension is valued at £225,000 and the proposed new contract over an up to 5 year period is valued at £1,125,000.

### Recommendation:

The Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime is recommended to:

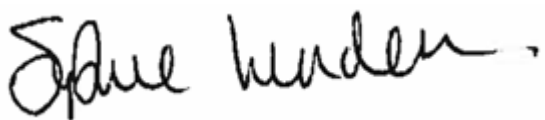
1. Approve the initiation of a procurement process to award a contract for Equine Veterinary Services. The term of the contract shall be 3 years with two extension options of 1 year (to commence 1st August 2022). The anticipated value of the full term of the contract (including extensions) is £1,125,000.
2. Approve a 12-month unforeseen extension to the current Equine Veterinary Services contract with Chiltern Veterinary Services Ltd (new expiry date 31st July 2022). The anticipated cost of the 12-month extension is £225,000.

### Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime

I confirm I have considered whether or not I have any personal or prejudicial interest in this matter and take the proposed decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct. Any such interests are recorded below.

The above request has my approval.

**Signature**



**Date**

**28/7/2021**

## **PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE TO THE DMPC**

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

- 1.1. Mounted Branch (MO7) provides specialist mounted support to all London Boroughs as well as to public order policing, football, sporting events and demonstrations. The horses provide a visible presence during tasking which includes emergency response to incidents, anti-crime patrols, gang disruption, community engagement and reassurance.
- 1.2. The equine veterinary services contract enables the MPS to meet its legal and moral obligations to provide high standards of care for their horses at all times. The current contract for the supply of veterinary services to the MPS Mounted Branch expires on 31 July 2021.

### **2. Issues for consideration**

- 2.1. The MPS has undertaken a review of the options for the provision of equine veterinary services which has concluded that the service should continue to be provided via an out-sourced capability.
- 2.2. In order to provide the time to complete a re-procurement exercise the MPS seek the approval for an unforeseen extension to the current contract for up to 12 months.
- 2.3. The longer term re-procurement will be by way of a compliant procurement process using the Open Procedure, advertised via the Find-A-Tender System (FTS). The contract duration will be 3+1+1 years: 1st August 2022 - 31st July 2025 with two extension options of one year, up to 31st July 2027.

### **3. Financial Comments**

- 3.1. The estimated cost of the unforeseen up to 12 month extension from 1 August 2021 to 31 July 2022 is £225,000 which the MPS will meet from within its existing resources.
- 3.2. The extension will benefit from a 10% reduction in prescribed drug prices. This equates to approximately £10,000 or 5% of the annual contract value.
- 3.3. The estimated cost of the proposed re-procurement from 1 August 2022 to 31 July 2027 is £1,125,000 which the MPS will meet from within its existing resources.

### **4. Legal Comments**

- 4.1. The re-procurement of the service by way of open tender is compliant with The Public Contracts Regulation 2015.
- 4.2. Regulation 72 of The Public Contracts Regulation 2015 provides a number of 'safe harbours' that permit the lawful extension of awarded contracts by contracting

authorities, such as MOPAC. The Directorate of Legal Services have been consulted in relation to the proposed contract extension and their advice is set out in Part 2 restricted section of the report.

- 4.3. Paragraph 4.13 of the MOPAC Scheme of Delegation and Consent provides that the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime (DMPC) has delegated authority to approve all requests to go out to tender for contracts of £500,000 or above.
- 4.4. Paragraph 4.13 of the MOPAC Scheme of Delegation and Consent provides that the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime (DMPC) has delegated authority to approve all unforeseen variations and extensions to contracts with an original value of £500,000 or above, when the variation or extension is greater than 10% of the original value and/or is for a period of more than 12 months.

## **5. Commercial Issues**

- 5.1. The procurements are designed to provide a comprehensive 24/7 365 day veterinary service to the MPS Mounted Branch.
- 5.2. The MPS carried out a review to consider the option of in-sourcing this service. Their conclusion is that this route is not viable. As a result of the time taken to consider this option an unforeseen extension to the existing contract is proposed in order to provide the time for a full re-procurement exercise.
- 5.3. The unforeseen extension for a period of up to 12 months will benefit from the recently negotiated reduction in drugs prices.
- 5.4. The longer term re-procurement is proposed to have an initial three year term with options to extend by two 12 months periods. The process will be by way of an open tender via the Find-A-Tender system.

## **6. GDPR and Data Privacy**

- 6.1. MOPAC will adhere to the Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018 and ensure that any organisations who are commissioned to do work with or on behalf of MOPAC are fully compliant with the policy and understand their GDPR responsibilities.
- 6.2. The MPS report that the project does not use personally identifiable data of members of the public, so there are no GDPR issues to be considered.

## **7. Equality Comments**

- 7.1. MOPAC is required to comply with the public sector equality duty set out in section 149(1) of the Equality Act 2010. This requires MOPAC to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations by reference to people with protected characteristics. The protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

- 7.2. The MPS report that there are considered to be no negative equality or diversity implications arising from this process negating the requirement to present any mitigation.

**8. Background/supporting papers**

- Appendix 1 EQUINE VETERINARY SERVICES

**Public access to information**

Information in this form (Part 1) is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and will be made available on the MOPAC website following approval.

If immediate publication risks compromising the implementation of the decision it can be deferred until a specific date. Deferral periods should be kept to the shortest length strictly necessary.

**Part 1 Deferral:**

Is the publication of Part 1 of this approval to be deferred? NO

If yes, for what reason:

Until what date: N/A

**Part 2 Confidentiality:** Only the facts or advice considered as likely to be exempt from disclosure under the FOIA 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**

*Tick to confirm statement (✓)*

**Financial Advice:**

The Strategic Finance and Resource Management Team has been consulted on this proposal.

✓

**Legal Advice:**

The MPS legal team has been consulted on the proposal.

✓

**Equalities Advice:**

Equality and diversity issues are covered in the body of the report.

✓

**Commercial Issues**

Commercial issues are covered in the body of the report.

✓

**GDPR/Data Privacy**

GDPR compliance issues are covered in the body of the report

✓

**Director/Head of Service:**

The MOPAC Chief Finance Officer and Director of Corporate Services has reviewed the request and is satisfied it is correct and consistent with the MOPAC's plans and priorities.

✓

**Chief Executive Officer**

I have been consulted about the proposal and confirm that financial, legal and equalities advice has been taken into account in the preparation of this report. I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime.

**Signature**



**Date 27/07/2021**



MAYOR OF LONDON  
OFFICE FOR POLICING AND CRIME

## EQUINE VETERINARY SERVICES

**MOPAC Investment Advisory & Monitoring meeting 11<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

**Report by AC Rolfe on behalf of the Chief of Corporate Services**

**Part 1 – This section of the report will be published by MOPAC. It is classified as OFFICIAL – PUBLIC**

### *EXECUTIVE SUMMARY*

Mounted Branch (MO7) provides specialist mounted support to all London Boroughs as well as to public order policing, football, sporting events and demonstrations. The horses provide a visible presence during tasking which includes emergency response to incidents, anti-crime patrols, gang disruption, community engagement and reassurance. In addition, the horses provide protective security within the Government Security Zone (GSZ) and at all ceremonial events including the changing of the guard at Buckingham Palace. The equine veterinary services contract enables the MPS to meet its legal and moral obligations to provide high standards of care for their horses at all times.

This paper concerns a request to approve the initiation of a procurement process for a new Equine Veterinary Services contract (value £1,125m over 5 years) and the award of a 12-month extension to the current contract (value £225k over 12-months).

### **Recommendations**

The Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, via the Investment Advisory and Monitoring meeting (IAM), is asked to:

- 1. Approve the initiation of a procurement process to award a contract for Equine Veterinary Services. The term of the contract shall be 3 years with two extension options of 1 year (to commence 1<sup>st</sup> August 2022). The anticipated value of the full term of the contract (including extensions) is £1.125 Million.**
- 2. Approve a 12-month unforeseen extension to the current Equine Veterinary Services contract with Chiltern Veterinary Services Ltd (new expiry date 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022). The anticipated cost of the 12-month extension is £225,000.**

### **Time sensitivity**

A decision is required from the Deputy Mayor by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021. This is to enable enough time to complete the 12-month contract extension prior to the current contract

end date (31<sup>st</sup> July 2021).

## **Non-confidential facts and advice to the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime**

### **Introduction and background**

1. Mounted Branch has been an integral part of overall MPS operational capability since the late 19th Century; they are a highly effective, invaluable and iconic part of the service. Current strength is approximately 100 horses against a target working strength of 110 and these are housed in seven stables in key London locations.
2. The Mounted Branch provides specialist mounted support to all London Boroughs as well as to public order policing, football, sporting events and demonstrations. The horses provide a visible presence during tasking which includes emergency response to incidents, anti-crime patrols, gang disruption, community engagement and reassurance. In addition, the horses provide protective security within the GSZ and at all ceremonial events including the changing of the guard at Buckingham Palace.
3. The MPS supports the continuation of providing Mounted Branch asset and thus has a duty of care to ensure the welfare of the animals and longevity of their working lives.
4. It is essential to the success of the Mounted Branch that the 'fleet' of animals are properly cared for whilst at work and at rest. The working lives of horses is dependent on them being physically and mentally fit and the provision of sound veterinary care is essential, particularly given the operational demand placed upon the animals. This necessitates the provision of comprehensive Veterinary Services 24/7 365 days a year.
5. The equine veterinary services contract enables the MPS to meet its legal and moral obligations to provide high standards of care for their horses at all times. The contracted veterinary service provider needs to be geographically located to be able to respond to emergency call outs across the Metropolitan Police service within the required response time, 24/7 365 days a year as well as for routine care.

### **Issues for consideration**

1. The current contract with Chiltern Equine Veterinary Services Ltd (CVS) is due to expire 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021 and there are no further extension options within the contract. The MPS will need to award an unforeseen extension to the current contract for another year to allow for the tender process to progress.

2. Over the last 6-months, the MPS has undertaken work to identify if an insourcing solution was a viable option. Research has confirmed this is not viable at this time due to the risks associated with having two vets employed, and possible abstractions impacting on service delivery. Exploring this option, whilst important to ensure the MPS follows the optimum strategy, has taken longer than anticipated, hence the request to approve an extension to the current contract is being requested to allow time for a competitive procurement process to be completed. Details of the work undertaken as part of this review have been retained to ensure lessons are learned for any future reviews of how veterinary care is delivered.

### **Contributes to the MOPAC Police & Crime Plan 2017-2021<sup>1</sup>**

1. To ensure London is a safer city for everyone the Mounted Branch provide specialist mounted support to all London Boroughs as well as to public order policing, football, sporting events and demonstrations. The horses provide a visible presence during tasking which includes emergency response to incidents, anti-crime patrols, gang disruption, community engagement and reassurance. In addition, the horses provide protective security within the GSZ and at all ceremonial events including the changing of the guard at Buckingham Palace.

### **Financial, Commercial and Procurement Comments**

1. Contract Extension of 12-months: 1<sup>st</sup> August 2021 - 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022. The extension will include recently negotiated price reductions for prescribed drugs. On average the MPS will receive a 10% reduction in prescribed drug prices. This equates to approximately £10,000 or 5% of the annual contract value.
2. The MPS will complete a compliant procurement process (in accordance with the Public Procurement Regulations) using the Open Procedure, advertised via the Find-A-Tender System (FTS). The contract duration will be 3+1+1 years: 1<sup>st</sup> August 2022 - 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025 with two extension options of one year, up to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2027.
3. There is currently 200K allocated each year for veterinary care in the mounted branch. The additional budget of £25k p.a. required will be funded from the existing MO7 budget. For the contract extension, this will also come from the current MO7 budget.

### **Legal Comments**

1. Regulation 72 of The Public Contracts Regulation 2015 provides a number of 'safe harbours' that permit the lawful extension of awarded contracts by contracting authorities, such as MOPAC. The Directorate of Legal Services have been consulted in relation to the proposed contract extension and their advice is set out in Part 2 of the Report.

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<sup>1</sup> [Police and crime plan: a safer city for all Londoners | London City Hall](#)



## **Equality Comments**

1. There are considered to be no negative equality or diversity implications arising from this process negating the requirement to present any mitigation. Any approved suppliers will be evaluated for acceptable equality and diversity statements, as well as their ability to meet the MPS requirements under the Equality Act 2010 as suppliers to MOPAC. The evaluation exercise will consider their ability to act as a responsible employer and meet employment obligations deemed commensurate with wider GLA objectives.
2. In addition, it should be noted that the MPS support the Mayor's Responsible Procurement Policy including: Enhancing Social Value, Encouraging Equality and diversity, Embedding fair employment practices, Enabling skills, training and employment opportunities, promoting ethical sourcing practices and improving environmental sustainability.

## **Privacy Comments**

1. The MPS is subject to the requirements and conditions placed on it as a 'State' body to comply with the European Convention of Human Rights and the Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018. Both legislative requirements place an obligation on the MPS to process personal data fairly and lawfully in order to safeguard the rights and freedoms of individuals.
2. Under Article 35 of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Section 57 of the DPA 2018, Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA) become mandatory for organisations with technologies and processes that are likely to result in a high risk to the rights of the data subjects.
3. The Information Assurance and Information Rights units within MPS will be consulted at all stages to ensure the project meets its compliance requirements.
4. The project does not use personally identifiable data of members of the public, so there are no GDPR issues to be considered.

## **Real Estate Implications**

1. There are no Real Estate implications associated with this project.

## **Environmental Implications**

1. All bidders responding as part of the new tender process will be evaluated on environmental and sustainability criteria as part of the MPS's Social Value evaluation.
2. The MPS's Environment and Sustainability team will participate in the setting of environmental evaluation criteria and the evaluation process.

## **Background/supporting papers**

None

Report author: David Rhodes, Chief Inspector, MO7 Taskforce.

**Part 2 – This section refers to the details of the Part 2 business case which is NOT SUITABLE for MOPAC Publication.**

The Government Security Classification marking for Part 2 is:  
OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE [COMMERCIAL]  
OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE [ORGANISATIONAL]

Part 2 of Equine Veterinary Services is exempt from publication for the following reasons:

- Exempt under Article 2(2)(a) of the Elected Local Policing Bodies (Specified Information) Order 2011 (Data Protection Section 43 – Commercial Interests).
- The relevant sections under the FOIA that would exempt this information from disclosure:
  - Commercial Interest Section 43
  - Legal Professional Privilege Section 42

The paper will cease to be exempt for a minimum of 6 years according to the MPS Records Management Policy.