



LONDON FIRE BRIGADE

Report Title:	
Procurement of Cyber Defence System	
Report to:	Date:
Finance and Investment Board Commissioner's Board Deputy Mayor Fire and Resilience Board London Fire Commissioner	23 June 2022 6 July 2022 31 August 2022
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Report classification: For Decision	
The subject matter for this report deals with the following LFB strategic priorities: Delivering excellence	
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PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE TO THE DECISION-MAKER	

Executive Summary

The LFC has an existing contract, awarded in 2019, for the provision of a cyber-defence system that comes to an end in July 2023. The existing contract forms part of a set of multi-layered security defences. These defences have ensured that LFC systems are (as far as possible) protected from the impacts of cyber-attack, which can lead to wide-spread business disruption and impact upon LFC front-line operations.

This report seeks authority for the necessary expenditure to procure a cyber-defence system, to ensure that LFC systems continue to be protected from cyber-attack and for such a system to be implemented in a timescale to ensure that the LFC cyber-defences are continually available.

Recommended decision(s) <u>For the Deputy Mayor</u>

That the Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience authorises the London Fire Commissioner to expend revenue of up to the value contained in part 2 of this report plus annual inflation increases, for the purpose of procuring, installing and maintaining a cyber-defence system for a period of up to five years.

This LFC decision will only be taken after further consultation with the Greater London Authority's finance and legal advisers and Corporate Investment Board.

For the London Fire Commissioner

The London Fire Commissioner delegates authority to the Assistant Director Technical and Commercial to procure a cyber-defence system, up to the value contained in part 2 of this report plus annual inflation increases, for a period of up to five years.

1. Introduction and Background

- 1.1. In recent years the security threat posed to organisations around the globe from cyber-attacks, malware and associated threats, has increased significantly.
- 1.2. Coming to prominence in 2017 the “WannaCry” ransomware attacks infected over 200,000 computers in less than 48 hours. WannaCry rendered useless some of the computers that help run Britain’s National Health Service (NHS), causing ambulances to be diverted and shutting down non-emergency services. Since then, there have been numerous well publicised examples of cyber-attacks impacting both the public and private sector.
- 1.3. In response to the ever-increasing threat posed by cyber-attack, the LFC procured a cyber-defence” system in 2019 , to assist with protecting LFC systems. The system specification was carefully constructed so that as far as possible the system would operate autonomously (once installed and configured), utilising artificial-intelligence (AI) and machine learning capabilities, in order to respond to and naturalise threats.
- 1.4. Whilst the LFC had multi-layered defence systems already in place such as anti-virus scanning, web-filtering and a strategy to implement security patches regularly, a cyber-defence system was considered an essential part of a multi-layered security defence and this remains the case today.
- 1.5. Information received from central government and other trusted sources has highlighted an increased threat of cyber-attacks, relating to the invasion of Ukraine. Whilst there has been no specific threat to the Brigade, it is essential that we maximise our defences in this area, particularly as a UK Fire & Rescue service was recently infected with Ransomware.
- 1.6. In July 2023 the four-year contract for use of the current system comes to an end. This paper proposes procuring a cyber-defence system, to ensure that the LFC continues to benefit from appropriate cyber protection.

2. Objectives and Expected Outcomes

- 2.2. The objective of this paper is to secure approval for the procurement of a new cyber-defence System, for a period of up to five years (three years with an option to extend by two years).
- 2.3. The failure to procure a new cyber-defence system will expose LFC systems to the risk of potential attack (directly or in-directly) from hostile external agencies or individuals, which if successful could seriously disrupt the front-line activities of the Brigade.
- 2.4. The provision of a cyber-defence system is a current active control to a specific risk set out in the ICT risk register – **“A security incident compromises LFBs ICT infrastructure and/or confidentiality. Integrity and/or availability”**.

- 2.5. As the LFC has now deployed the Microsoft 365 system to all staff, the cyber-defence system specification will now include a requirement to extend autonomous cyber protection to this environment. The cost of this additional protection has been estimated and set out in part 2 of this report and the additional funding to facilitate this requirement will be the subject of a budget growth bid in the 2023/24 budget process.

3. Equality comments

- 3.1 The LFC and the Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience are required to have due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) when taking decisions. This in broad terms involves understanding the potential impact of policy and decisions on different people, taking this into account and then evidencing how decisions were reached.
- 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 An Equality Impact Assessment has not been carried out in respect to the procurement of a cyber-defence system. Any cyber-defence system will operate autonomously in the background and users will not have any interaction with the product.

4. Other Considerations

Workforce comments

- 4.1 The impact on LFB users of technology and information is referenced in the strategy. There is no plan to undertake workforce consultation on the Strategy itself.

Sustainability comments

- 4.2 There are no specific sustainable development implications arising from the procurement of the cyber defence system.

Procurement comments

- 4.3 Various routes to market have been considered and it has been decided that this procurement will be carried out using the Pan London ICT Framework. Legal advice has been sought on this course of action previously to ensure compliance with the relevant Procurement Regulations.
- 4.5 Collaboration with the GLA is being investigated however we have not received any response as yet. When this was explored prior to the previous procurement there were no collaborative opportunities available due to differing deployment models being used.

5. Financial comments

- 5.1 Finance comments has been incorporated in Part 2 report.

6. Legal comments

- 6.1 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.

- 6.2 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 for Fire and Resilience (the Deputy Mayor).
- 6.3 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 as identified in accordance with normal accounting practices...”. The Deputy Mayor's approval is accordingly required for the LFC to expend the sums set out in part 2 of this report.
- 6.5 The statutory basis for the actions proposed in this report is provided by sections 7 and 5A of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 (FRSA 2004). Under section 7 (2)(a) FRSA 2004, the LFC has the power to secure the provision of personnel, services and equipment necessary to efficiently meet all normal requirements for firefighting; and section 5A allows the LFC to procure personnel, services and equipment they consider appropriate for purposes incidental or indirectly incidental to their functional purposes.
- 6.6 This report confirms this procurement will be carried out utilising the Pan London ICT Framework. This procurement will be carried out in compliance with the Procurement Regulations and the Commissioners standing orders on procurement.

List of Appendices

Appendix	Title	Open or confidential

ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION:	Drafting officer to confirm the following
Drafting officer Julian Martin (Chief Information Officer) as drafted this report and confirms the following:	✓
Assistant Director/Head of Service Julian Martin (Chief Information Officer) has reviewed the documentation and is satisfied for it to be referred to Board for consideration.	✓

Advice

The Finance and Legal teams have commented on this proposal;

Tom Davies - Legal Advisor, on behalf of General Counsel (Head of Law and Monitoring Officer)

Princess Christian-Iwuagwu, Financial Advisor, on behalf of the Chief Finance Officer

✓

