

REQUEST FOR DEPUTY MAYOR FOR FIRE AND RESILIENCE DECISION – DMFD188

Title: Procurement of Replacement Server Hardware

Executive summary:

This report requests the approval of the Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience to authorise the London Fire Commissioner (LFC) to commit capital expenditure of up to the amount set out in part 2 of this report for the procurement of replacement server hardware.

The LFC wishes to replace computer hardware that is used to provide physical file server infrastructure, onto which large numbers of virtual file servers are provisioned to run many LFC business systems. This physical server estate is now due for renewal.

The London Fire Commissioner Governance Direction 2018 sets out a requirement for 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...”.

Decision:

That the Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience authorises the London Fire Commissioner to commit capital expenditure of up to the amount stated in part 2 of this report for the procurement of replacement server hardware.

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:

16/01/2023

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

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1. Report LFC-0779 to the London Fire Commissioner (LFC) explains that the LFC physical server infrastructure is located over two data centres at Merton (primary site) and Stratford (fall-back site). A software-based operating system installed on 16 physical servers allows the creation of approximately 350 virtual servers. Eight of these physical servers are located at Merton, and eight at Stratford. This infrastructure provides the platform to run all LFC production and test server workloads, providing access to a large number of business applications for users.
- 1.2. Splitting the server infrastructure between Merton and Stratford data centres provides the LFC with disaster recovery capabilities between sites. Data can be replicated between sites in real time and provides the basis for continuity of operations, should there be interruption to ICT services at one site.
- 1.3. The server estate has proven itself to be an extremely reliable platform in terms of day-to-day availability of servers. It also offers excellent disaster recovery capabilities, which is vital for both planned and unplanned continuity events. However, the server estate has been in service for over five years and is now in need of replacement.
- 1.4. The costs set out in part 2 of the report are for the equipment purchase only. The replacement servers will have a warranty period from the manufacturer, which will be managed by the LFC's existing hardware break/fix contractor. When the warranty period comes to an end, the maintenance and support costs will be included in the overall hardware break/fix budget, as with all other hardware.

2. Objectives and expected outcomes

- 2.1. The objective is to secure authorisation for capital expenditure to replace the existing server infrastructure. The equipment needs to be replaced to ensure that LFC ICT services are delivered on a modern hardware platform.
- 2.2. Whilst this is critical in its own right, remaining on supported platforms also allows the LFC to take advantage of technology developments. This ensures that the LFC can continue to receive essential security updates, which are published regularly in response to ever-changing security threats.
- 2.3. A successful outcome of the procurement will result in new hardware for both Merton and Stratford data centres. New equipment will have an updated specification, offering higher performance levels in support of LFC applications, and is expected to be in operation for up to five years.

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 equalities impact assessment has not been produced. The procurement of replacement hardware will have no direct impact on users, and the hardware will reside in LFC data centres.

4. Other considerations

Workforce comments

- 4.1. There are no workforce consultations planned as a result of this report.

Sustainability comments

- 4.2. Any new procurement activity will need to be undertaken in line with the GLA Group Responsible Procurement policy. As part of delivery of this policy, the GLA Group has affiliated with Electronics Watch, which requires the inclusion of additional terms and conditions for contracts with significant hardware purchases. The terms aim to improve the transparency of the supply chain and management of any non-compliance with labour standards identified with the support of Electronics Watch. Where hardware replacement of considerable value forms part of the requirement for any of the options proposed, additional terms covering ethical sourcing will need to be included in the tender or renegotiation.

Procurement comments

- 4.3. A number of frameworks have been considered for use to tender this requirement, and a decision has been made to utilise the London Procurement Partnership (LPP) Information, Management and Technology (IM&T) Framework. This consists of suitably experienced, capable, qualified and resourced suppliers available for use by local authorities and third-sector organisations, as well as NHS trusts, clinical commissioning groups, GP services, and other health and social care providers within the UK. This framework offers suitable terms and conditions, competitive rates, and a sufficient number of value-added resellers to encourage competition. It is also accessible to the LFC.
- 4.4. Collaboration with the GLA has been investigated, and the LFC has been advised that there are no suitable contracts in place that LFC can use for this procurement. The LFC has also been advised that it cannot use the GLA Reseller Framework, as the financial threshold has already been reached.

Conflicts of interest

- 4.5. There are no conflicts of interest to declare from those involved in the drafting or clearance of this decision.

5. Financial comments

- 5.1. The cost of the replacement server hardware is included in the LFC-approved capital programme. Further financial comments are set out in part 2 of the report.
- 5.2. 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 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 that 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.
- 6.4. 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. The server hardware referenced in this report is incidental to the functional purposes of the LFC as it is required to run many of the LFC’s business systems.
- 6.5. This report confirms this procurement will be carried out by utilising the LPP IM&T Framework. This procurement will be carried out in compliance with the relevant statutory Procurement Regulations and the LFC’s standing orders on procurement.
- 6.6. These comments have been adopted from those provided by the LFC’s General Counsel Department in report LFC-0779 to the LFC.

Appendices and supporting papers:

LFC-0779 – Procurement of Replacement Server Hardware – Part one report

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

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

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

✓

Assistant Director/Head of Service

Niran Mothada 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

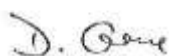
A summary of this decision was reviewed by the Corporate Investment Board on 16 January 2023.

✓

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RESOURCES:

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

Signature:



Date:

17/01/2023