

Award of Contract for Smoke Alarm and Associated Products Provision

Report to:

Investment & Finance Board
Commissioner's Board
Deputy Mayor's Fire Board
London Fire Commissioner

Date:

25 June 2026
12 August 2026
1 September 2026

Report by:

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Authorising Head of Service:

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Report classification:

For decision

For publication/Not for publication:

For publication

Values met:

Service
Integrity
Teamwork
Equity
Courage
Learning

I agree the recommended decision below.



Jonathan Smith
London Fire Commissioner

**This decision was remotely
signed on 23 September 2026**
Date

PART ONE

Non-confidential facts and advice to the decision-maker

Executive Summary

The London Fire Commissioner (LFC) provides home fire safety visits (HFSVs) to people across London, during which smoke alarms and associated products are fitted in the homes visited, if required. The multi-year contractual arrangement for purchasing smoke alarms through a procurement framework has come to an end. This report details the measures proposed to ensure continued access to such products to fulfil the LFC's statutory duties, while maintaining high standards of quality and achieving optimal value for public money.

Recommended Decision

For the London Fire Commissioner

The LFC authorises total expenditure up to the maximum amount specified in part two of this report for the financial years 2026/27, 2027/28 and 2028/29.

The LFC delegates authority to the Assistant Director, Procurement and Commercial, to award and enter into a call-off contract under the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Service (WMFRS) Framework for the provision of smoke alarms and associated products for up to three financial years spanning 2026/27, 2027/28 and 2028/29 up to the value set out in Part 2 of this report.

1 Introduction and background

- 1.1 The London Fire Commissioner (LFC) has a statutory duty under the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 to "make provision for the purpose of promoting fire safety within its area". This includes the provision of information, publicity and encouragement in respect to the steps to be taken to prevent fires, death or injury by fire. This duty is primarily fulfilled through the publication of information by digital and non-digital means, as well as through engagement with partner organisations.
- 1.2 Despite the availability of self-service digital resources such as the Home Fire Safety Checker, which officially went live in April 2021, there are some instances where the risk profile of individuals is sufficiently high to warrant in-person Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSVs) which aim to reduce the risk of fire death and injury to residents. During HFSVs, existing smoke alarms are tested and replacement/additional smoke alarms are fitted if required.
- 1.3 This report recommends direct awards for lot one (Standard Smoke Alarms) and lot two (Wirelessly Interlinked Smoke Alarms and Hard of Hearing Accessory Devices) of the Framework for Smoke Alarms and Associated Products (2025–2029) to the 1st ranked supplier.

- 1.4** The recommendation is based on a comprehensive evaluation of price, product quality, customer service, and social value carried out by WMFRS in the first instance, then verified by Brigade staff, including four representatives from the four Area Admin Teams (who are the key individuals who order smoke alarms for the purpose of HFSV delivery). Particular attention has been paid to the ensuring that the Brigade procures a product that complies with the relevant British Standards, and other quality requirements, at the most competitive price.

2 Objectives and expected outcomes

- 2.1** It is proposed that the LFC use the WMFRS Framework which runs for four years with three years remaining to purchase smoke alarms and associated products, in order to fit smoke alarms during HFSVs. The previous framework, which LFC had accessed, expired on 31 March 2025. The new framework commenced on 16 May 2025.
- 2.2** Whilst conducting an internal procurement exercise utilising the WMFRS framework to ascertain the best product and value for money, a single source justification was sort to maintain the current provision of smoke alarms until such time as a new contract can be agreed and signed, ensuring that the HFSV service can continue.
- 2.3** Financial projections for 2026–2029 under the WMFRS Framework considered optimistic, most likely, and pessimistic scenarios to anticipate variations arising from changes to demand. Using three-point estimation ensures a balanced forecast that safeguards best value for taxpayers while maintaining compliance with British Standards and accessibility requirements. This approach supports accurate budgeting and risk-informed decision-making for awarding lots one and two.
- 2.4** Expected outcomes include supplying standard and hard-of-hearing alarms, achieving savings over four years (compared to the approach proposed in option 2), and ensuring compliance with statutory standards. Assurance will be provided through regular performance reviews and value monitoring. This aligns with the CRMP pillar Adding Value by delivering evidence-based decisions that maximise value without compromising quality. Commitment 7 is met through data-led evaluation and user consultation, while Commitment 8 is achieved via continued collaboration with WMFRS and Area Admin Teams. Overall, the award supports Prevention work through HFSVs and advances LFC's vision to be trusted to serve and protect London.
- 2.5** This procurement supports public safety, equality and inclusion, and responsible procurement, ensuring alarms for vulnerable residents and compliance with GLA Social Value Policy.

3 Values Comments

- 3.1** The LFC notes the Fire Standards Board requirements around adopting and embedding the Core Code of Ethics at an individual and corporate level. Following extensive engagement, the LFC has introduced Brigade values which build on and do not detract from the Code of Ethics.
- 3.2** The Brigade values are:
- **Service:** we put the public first
 - **Integrity:** we act with honesty
 - **Teamwork:** we work together and include everyone
 - **Equity:** we treat everyone fairly according to their needs
 - **Courage:** we step up to the challenge

- **Learning:** we listen so that we can improve

- 3.3 Service has been achieved by selecting preferred supplier(s), whose reliable and easy-to-install alarms enable efficient delivery of Home Fire Safety Visits, prioritising public safety and best value for taxpayer money.
- 3.4 Integrity is demonstrated through a transparent procurement process and consistent product performance, ensuring confidence in the fairness of the decision.
- 3.5 Teamwork is reflected in the early engagement of end user representatives (Area Admin Teams) during the procurement evaluation process, which ensures that a fit-for-purpose product is selected.
- 3.6 Equity is upheld by awarding a contract that includes alarms suitable for vulnerable residents, including those who are deaf or hard of hearing. The alternative alarm method of vibration and flashing lighting empowers people with the protected characteristic of disability to manage their home fire safety, albeit in a different but effective (British Standard conforming) way.
- 3.7 Courage is shown adopting a new risk-based eligibility criteria for the provision of HFSVs (and smoke alarms) which prioritises those most at risk of experiencing a fire that results in injury or death, challenging legacy approaches which were more experience than evidence-led.
- 3.8 Learning will be embedded through evaluating the performance of the contractual arrangements, as well as continuing to engage with and learn from other UK Fire and rescue Services, who also deliver Home Fire Safety Visits through National Fire Chief Prevention forums.

4 Equality comments

- 4.1 The LFC and the Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and the Fire Service 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.
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 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.
- 4.4 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.

- 4.5** 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.
- 4.6** 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.
- 4.7** 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
- 4.8** Smoke alarms provide inherent life-saving benefits, with strong positive impacts identified for people with auditory disabilities. Lot two includes hard-of-hearing systems featuring vibrating pads and strobe lights, compliant with BS 5446-3:2015. Braille translations further enhance accessibility for Home Fire Safety Visit recipients.
- 4.9** Additional benefits include early fire detection for older and physically disabled individuals, supported by alarms meeting BS 14604:2005. People with learning disabilities gain from easy-read fire safety guides, enabling understanding and engagement. These measures demonstrate LFC's commitment to equity and inclusive service delivery.
- 4.10** One minor negative impact was identified for visually impaired users due to the proposed new supplier not supplying the orange high-visibility stickers that the previously preferred supplier did within lot one. The number of these generic stickers used over a four-year period has proven to be minimal (fewer than 50). LFC will eliminate this negative impact by sourcing rolls of this generic stationery product at minimal retail cost outside of this contract, thereby maintaining accessibility of HFSVs and demonstrating the LFB value of Equity.

5 Other considerations

Workforce comments

- 5.1** The recommendations set out in this report will have no negative impact upon the wider workforce – it will enable them to carry out the existing home fire safety visit process in the normal way.

Sustainability comments

- 5.2** No sustainability issues are anticipated. Procurement complies with the GLA Responsible Procurement Policy, supports collaboration via the WMFRS framework, and ensures alarms meet

environmental standards. End-of-life disposal remains homeowner responsibility under WEEE Regulations.

Procurement comments

- 5.3** West Midlands Fire and Rescue Service (WMFRS) established the Framework for Smoke Alarms and Associated Products through an Open Procedure conducted in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. The framework was advertised on Find a Tender on 11 January 2025 and is available for use by all UK Fire and Rescue Services.
- 5.4** The framework has been designed to provide Fire and Rescue Services with a compliant and efficient route to market for the procurement of smoke alarms and associated products. The framework permits direct award for Lots 1 and 2 without the need for a further competition.
- 5.5** In accordance with the framework call-off guidance, the London Fire Commissioner prepared a Statement of Requirements and reviewed the framework evaluation results for Lot 1 and Lot 2. The framework evaluation assessed suppliers against price, customer service and returns processes, resilience, product quality and social value.
- 5.6** The recommended supplier achieved the highest overall ranking within the relevant lots of the framework. As permitted by the framework rules, LFB is therefore proposing to make a direct award to the highest-ranked supplier based on the overall evaluation outcome, thereby securing the most economically advantageous framework supplier without undertaking a further competition.
- 5.7** The proposed award provides assurance that the supplier has been subject to a compliant competitive procurement process and has demonstrated the strongest overall performance across the framework evaluation criteria. This approach enables the LFC to achieve value for money, maintain continuity of supply and minimise procurement timescales whilst remaining compliant with procurement legislation.

Communications comments

- 5.8** No additional communications considerations are expected as smoke alarms are a generic product requiring no new training or policy changes. Existing guides and troubleshooting materials pertaining to the previously preferred smoke alarm supplier hosted on the LFB intranet will be updated by the Policy and Strategy Group.

6 Financial comments

- 6.1** This paper is seeking authorisation to award a supplier contract to commit revenue expenditure up to the maximum amount as set out in part two of this report financial years 2026/27, 2027/28 and 2028/29.
- 6.2** This expenditure is in line with current expenditure and is included in the London Fire Brigade baseline budget within Fire Stations. Part two of this paper shows current and forecasted expenditure and sets out a cashable saving.
- 6.3** A full cost appraisal will be done upon agreement of the paper. This expenditure will be closely monitored, and any savings identified will be considered as part of the budget process.

7 Legal Comments

- 7.1** 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.
- 7.2** 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).
- 7.3** 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 decision to purchase smoke alarms and associated products at a cost set out in this decision over four years will therefore require approval from the Deputy Mayor.
- 7.4** 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). 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.
- 7.5** The report confirms the provision of smoke alarms and associated products will be secured via the West Midlands FRS framework for the supply of smoke alarms and associated products, which was tendered compliantly in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and is available to the LFC to use.

List of appendices

Appendix	Title	Open or confidential*
1	None	

Part two confidentiality

Only the facts or advice considered to be exempt from disclosure under the FOI Act should be in the separate Part Two form, together with the legal rationale for non-publication.

Is there a Part Two form: YES