



LONDON FIRE BRIGADE

LFC-26-051

Procurement of Cyber Security Services

Report to:**Date:**

Investment & Finance Board.....	21 May 2026
Commissioner's Board	10 June 2026
Deputy Mayor's Fire Board.....	30 June 2026
London Fire Commissioner	

Report by:

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Authorising Head of Service:

Julian Martin – Chief Information Officer

Report classification:

For decision

For publication

Values met

Service
Integrity
Teamwork
Learning

PART ONE

Non-confidential facts and advice to the decision-maker

Executive Summary

This report seeks authority to procure a call off contract for the provision of security penetration testing and cyber security consultancy services to support the London Fire Commissioner's cyber security assurance and risk management activities.

The proposed contract will support a five-year period, comprising an initial term of three years, with options to extend for up to a further two years (1 + 1), subject to performance and ongoing need.

For the London Fire Commissioner

That the London Fire Commissioner agrees to commit expenditure set out in Part 2 for the purposes of entering into a call-off contract for the provision of security penetration testing and cyber security consultancy services.

The London Fire Commissioner agrees that authority be delegated to the Assistant Director of Procurement and Commercial to award the call-off contract following completion of the procurement process.

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1. The London Fire Commissioner (LFC) operates an extensive and diverse ICT estate, including on-premise infrastructure, cloud-hosted services, end user devices, business applications and operational systems that support both corporate and operational functions
- 1.2. The evolving cyber threat landscape means that public sector organisations face an increasing risk of cyber-attack, including ransomware, data compromise and service disruption. As a Category 1 responder, the LFC must ensure that systems remain resilient and appropriately protected.
- 1.3. Penetration testing and specialist cyber security consultancy services are typically used for a variety of purposes including the following :-
 - Evaluation of the security elements of tender returns as part of the procurement process under the direction of the Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) and security team.

- Identifying technical vulnerabilities.
 - Providing independent assurance over the effectiveness of security controls.
 - Supporting remediation planning and risk reduction.
 - Ensuring internal governance, audit and external assurance requirement are adhered to
- 1.4. The LFC currently commissions these services on a periodic basis. Putting a contract for cyber consultancy services in place will ensure ongoing access to suitably qualified specialists, improve responsiveness, and provide a compliant, efficient and value for money route to market.
- 1.5. The ICT security team is currently experiencing unprecedented demand for its services, in particular in relation to procurement led activities which is causing a backlog. The introduction of a dedicated security contract for services will lead to a reduction in security backlogs.

2. Objectives and expected outcomes

- 2.1. The objective is to establish a compliant contractual arrangement for penetration testing and cyber consultancy services that the LFC can call upon to augment the capability of the internal security team and/or for use on specialist assignments.
- 2.2. The contract would be used "as required" to assist with security related procurement activities or for specialised pieces of work that require particular security expertise.
- 2.3. A key outcome will be that procurements and security elements of LFC projects will not be delayed whilst awaiting security resource.;

3. Values Comments

3.1. The 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 The LFC notes the Fire Standards Board requirement to adopt and embed the Core Code of Ethics at both individual and organisational levels.

3.4 This report supports the Brigade value of Service – we put the public first. Ensuring that the Brigade's digital services are secure and resilient enables staff to deliver vital public services safely and effectively and protects sensitive operational and personal data.

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. An Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) has not been carried out as due to the nature of the procurement, there will be no impact in respect of persons with the protected characteristics of age, disability, gender re-assignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

5. Other considerations

Workforce comments

- 5.1. This proposal relates to specialist external services and does not result in changes to workforce structures, roles or terms and conditions. No additional workforce consultation is required beyond normal governance arrangements

Sustainability comments

- 5.2. This report does not introduce any significant sustainability impacts. Where new policies and/or corporate projects arise, they are subject to the Brigade's sustainable development impact assessment process. The Sustainable Development Team are involved in the input of social value and responsible procurement considerations within the Procurement process.

Procurement comments

- 5.3. There is an urgent requirement for external specialist security consultancy and penetration testing services. The ICT department requires the ability to work flexibly and efficiently with suppliers to build in and scope security requirements at appropriate times without the need for long lead times to procure services due to staffing constraints.
- 5.4. The purpose of this procurement is to establish a structured multi-supplier model is required to ensure resilience and continuity of service. The proposed route is to award by further competition under the existing Government Commercial Agency (formerly Crown Commercial Service) Cyber Security Services 3 Framework under PCR 2015 accessible to the LFC.
- 5.5. This will be for the provision of cyber security services, including but not limited to:
- Lot 1 - IT Health Checks/Penetration Testing
 - Lot 2 - Risk Assessments
 - Lot 3 - Security Architecture Design Consultancy
 - Lot 4 - Security Consultancy
- 5.6. This arrangement will support ongoing and ad-hoc cyber security requirements across the organisation. The organisation requires access to flexible, high-quality cyber security services to
- Accommodate fluctuating and increasing demand
 - Enables greater competition at call-off stage, improving value for money
 - Reduces reliance on a single supplier and improves resilience and capacity

- Provides a more structured approach to managing future growth in cyber security requirements

Communications comments

5.7. None

6. Financial comments

- 6.1. This report seeks authority to commit revenue expenditure to procure a new contract for security penetration testing and cyber security consultancy services for an initial period of three years, with options to extend for up to a further two years. The funding source is the LFB ICT Department's revenue budget.
- 6.2. The main financial risk is budgetary (dependent on the new contract price). If this risk materialises, it will be mitigated through regular monitoring and reporting on LFB's revenue budget and prudent assumptions being made in future budget cycles.

7. Legal Comments

- 7.1. This report seeks approval to commit expenditure set out in Part 2 of the report. This will be utilised to procure and award a contract for cyber security consultancy services.
- 7.2. 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.
- 7.3. Pursuant to section 327D of the Greater London Authority Act 1999, as amended, 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.
- 7.4. 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. In particular, 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 is identified in accordance with normal accounting practices". The proposed expenditure which is set out in Part 2 of the report exceeds this financial threshold; accordingly, prior approval from the Deputy Mayor is sought.
- 7.5. The report confirms the cyber security consultancy services required will be procured compliantly under an accessible Framework, and that such services are necessary to ensure the Brigade can continue to operate both efficiently and effectively.

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