

Decision title

Procurement and Financial Delegations

Recommendation by
General Counsel

Decision Number
LFC-0026-D

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Summary

LFC-0026 recommends amendments to the London Fire Commissioner's Scheme of Governance. It proposes that approval of procurement initiation under the Procurement Standing Orders should be delegated by the Commissioner to the Director of Corporate Services and to the Assistant Director (Professional and Technical) and that the Assistant Director (Finance) should have delegated authority to exercise certain powers relating to financial management concurrently with the Director of Corporate Services.

Decision

The London Fire Commissioner delegates:

1. The approval of procurement initiation under Standing Order 3 of the Procurement Standing Orders to the Director of Corporate Services and the Assistant Director (Technical and Commercial) concurrently; and
2. The approval of treasury management action, the approval of borrowing, the amendment of service budgets to reflect income received, the exercise of the Commissioner's powers as shareholder of London Fire Brigade Enterprises Limited, and the writing off of losses up to £100,000

to the Assistant Director (Finance) to be exercised concurrently with the Director of Corporate Services.

Dany Cotton QFSM
London Fire Commissioner



Date 25/06/2018

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LONDON FIRE BRIGADE

Report title

Procurement and Financial Delegations

Report to

London Fire Commissioner

Date

6 June 2018

Report by

General Counsel

Report number

LFC-0026

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Summary

This report recommends amendments to the London Fire Commissioner's Scheme of Governance. It proposes that approval of procurement initiation under the Procurement Standing Orders should be delegated by the Commissioner to the Director of Corporate Services and to the Assistant Director (Professional and Technical) and that the Assistant Director (Finance) should have delegated authority to exercise certain powers relating to financial management concurrently with the Director of Corporate Services.

Recommendations

That the London Fire Commissioner delegates:-

1. The approval of procurement initiation under Standing Order 3 of the Procurement Standing Orders to the Director of Corporate Services and the Assistant Director (Technical and Commercial) concurrently; and
2. The approval of treasury management action, the approval of borrowing, the amendment of service budgets to reflect income received, the exercise of the Commissioner's powers as shareholder of London Fire Brigade Enterprises Limited, and the writing off of losses up to £100,000 to the Assistant Director (Finance) to be exercised concurrently with the Director of Corporate Services.

Background

1. On 1 April 2018 the London Fire Commissioner approved a Scheme of Governance for the Commissioner as the new statutory fire and rescue authority for Greater London. This complied with the Greater London Authority Group Corporate Governance Framework and was drafted to ensure that the high standard of governance and accountability achieved by the predecessor authority was maintained.
2. The Scheme included delegations to officers and was implemented from 1 April. Since then two detailed matters have been identified where amendments would give greater effectiveness, resilience and security to the Commissioner's management arrangements
3. The Procurement Standing Orders require procurement initiation approval to be given at the start of each procurement exercise. This is distinct from the later stage of tender acceptance which (depending on the value) will require formal approval by the Commissioner and the Deputy Mayor. Procurement initiation approval provides added assurance as to the focus and resourcing of the procurement programme. However these approvals do not need to be given by the Commissioner as Commissioner's decisions on behalf of the fire and rescue authority and could be dealt with more expeditiously if delegated. Accordingly it is recommended that procurement initiation approval be delegated concurrently to the Director of Corporate Services and the Assistant Director (Technical and Commercial).
4. The Director of Corporate Services is the Commissioner's statutory Chief Finance Officer and the Assistant Director (Finance) is their statutory deputy. Under the Scheme the Director has the following delegated functions:
 - the approval of treasury management action
 - the approval of borrowing
 - the amendment of service budgets to reflect income received
 - the exercise of the Commissioner's powers as shareholder of London Fire Brigade Enterprises Limited
 - the writing off of losses up to £100,000

It is recommended that to expedite management of these matters and improve governance resilience , they should also be delegated to the Assistant Director (Finance).

Finance comments

5. The Chief Finance Officer has reviewed this report and has no comments.

Workforce comments

6. There has been consultation with officers directly affected by this proposal. No adverse comments have been received

Legal comments

7. The General Counsel is the author of this report. He has no additional comments.

List of Appendices to this report:

None