

Report – Digital Services Committee

Report of Urgent Action Taken: Future Network Programme – Gateway 4b

To be presented on 25th July 2024

*To the Right Honourable The Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Commons
of the City of London in Common Council assembled.*

SUMMARY AND REPORT

We hereby report action taken under urgency procedures, pursuant to Standing Order 19, in respect of the progression of the procurement of a supplier as part of the replacement of the City of London Corporation and City of London Police IT network. The report and proposals therein seeking the necessary approvals had, in fact, been submitted to and considered by the Court of Common Council at its meeting in April 2024, where it was approved without debate. Unfortunately, however, an administrative oversight meant that the Court's approval was not recorded in the minutes of the meeting prior to their approval in May 2024 and so, in the interests of ensuring clarity and an audit trail of decision-making, it was therefore felt that ratification of the approval under urgency procedures would be prudent to ensure there was a clear record of approval.

The current City of London Corporation and City of London Police network, implemented in 2017, is ageing, and the requirements of the organisation have evolved to a point where there is no longer a cohesive approach to networking across the organisation. Accordingly, the Future Network Strategy was approved by your Digital Services Committee in 2024. The Programme aims to deliver the Strategy through replacing the existing network with a Secure Access Service Edge solution. Further information is included in the attached background reports.

The report recommended the progression of the procurement of a New Network Support Provider to replace the existing network with a Secure Access Service Edge solution. This is likely to lead to improved performance, and the Wi-Fi-first approach will reduce hardware needs, decrease energy usage, and allow much greater flexibility in building use across the organisation. The cost of progressing the procurement is £535k and this will be met from an existing budget of £4.25m, captured within the approved 2024/25 budget as part of the Capital Bids. As the project budget exceeds £5m, approval from the Court at Gateway 4b is required.

It was unfortunate that this oversight was not realised before the minutes were approved in May, at which point it could have been corrected. It is a regrettable error which, upon review by the Assistant Town Clerk, was determined to be caused by human error, exacerbated by a lack of officer capacity. In light of this, changes have been made (and will continue to be made) within the Governance and Member

Services Team to ensure that the resources supporting the Court of Common Council and its associated administration are sufficient.

Therefore, the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Lord Mayor, Policy Chairman, Chief Commoner, and Chairman of the Planning & Transportation Committee approved the progression of the procurement of a New Network Support Provider to replace the existing network with a Secure Access Service Edge solution at Gateway 4b, noting the total estimated cost of the project at £9.24m, with an estimated Costed Risk Provision of £2.93m.

RECOMMENDATION

We **recommend** that the action taken be noted.

DATED this 4th day of July 2024.

SIGNED on behalf of the Committee.

Deputy Dawn Wright
Chair, Digital Services Committee