

Notice of Non-key Executive Decision

Subject Heading:	Approval to directly award a 1-year (12 month) contract for the delivery of internet connectivity services to London Grid for Learning (LGfL) and pay a back-bill for a previous contractual period.
Decision Maker:	Mark Duff, Director of IT, Digital and Customer Services
Cabinet Member:	Cllr Paul Middleton, Cabinet Member for Corporate, Culture and Leisure Services
SLT Lead:	Kathy Freeman, Strategic Director of Resources
Report Author and contact details:	<i>Amaka Nwosu</i> IT Commercials Manager Amaka.Nwosu@havering.gov.uk
Policy context:	<i>The Havering Plan – Corporate Plan 22/23 – 26/27 key deliverables</i> Resources Theme – “a well run council that delivers for people and place” The Council is financially resilient and provides value for

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	money services to residents ensuring it is monitored fairly and transparently Ensuring best value from contracts through procurement and commissioning
Financial summary:	Total value of £72,999.66 met from OneSource shared IT budgets.
Relevant Overview & Scrutiny Sub Committee:	Overview and Scrutiny board
Is this decision exempt from being called-in?	The decision will be exempt from call in as it is a Non key Decision

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The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives

People - Things that matter for residents

Place - A great place to live, work and enjoy

Resources - A well run Council that delivers for People and Place **X**

Part A – Report seeking decision

DETAIL OF THE DECISION REQUESTED AND RECOMMENDED ACTION

This report seeks approval from the Director of IT, Digital and Customer Services to:

1. Direct award a contract for the continued delivery of internet connectivity services for a period of 12 months from 8/11/2025 to 7/11/2026 London Grid for Learning (LGfL) via the TRUSTnet Central Purchasing Agreement at a total cost of £45,344.50.
2. Pay a back bill for the period 01/04/2025 to 08/11/2025 under the previous contract at a total cost of £27,655.16.

AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH DECISION IS MADE

Part 3 of the Council's Constitution

Scheme 3.3.3

Powers common to all Strategic Directors

4. Contracts

4.2 To award all contracts with a total contract value of below £1,000,000 other than contracts covered by Contract Procedure Rule 16.3. This delegation shall include the ability to extend or vary a contract up to and including a value of £1,000,000 (provided that the extension is in line with the existing contractual provisions.)

STATEMENT OF THE REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The Council currently directs all corporate internet traffic through a single primary connection, which supports access to the Public Services Network (PSN) and the Health and Social Care Network (HSCN), both of which are essential and enable the Council to consume data and information services provided by other public bodies.

In addition, this connectivity supports the dedicated link between the Council's on-premise infrastructure and its chosen public cloud platform, Microsoft Azure. This connectivity has a growing prominence as the Council looks to migrate away from hosting IT services using its own physical hardware.

The Council has an existing arrangement in place with LGfL for this connectivity under a joint contract with the London Borough of Newham. A back payment is owed for the period 01/04/2025 to 08/11/2025 under the previous contract. The new contract will run from 08/11/2025 to 07/11/2026.

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It is proposed to award a new contract for the internet connectivity services for 1 year to LGfL using the TRUSTnet central purchasing agreement, which is compliant with the Procurement Act 2023 and would be the preferred route to bringing these arrangements into compliance.

This is the fastest route to market for the solution the Council requires, mitigating the current risks, and it represents good value for money.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Do Nothing – the continuance of using the supplier without a contract in place would be non-compliant with internal governance. The Council would also continue to be billed and would be liable for telephony charges but without contractual safeguards. Hence, doing nothing was not an option.

Full tender – tendering the contract outside of an existing framework would be time consuming at this time. Current suppliers are not being paid and the risk of crucial services being shut down is imminent.

Further Competition – at this time this is not a suitable option as it would be time-consuming and suppliers need to be paid as soon as possible for services consumed since the end of the last contract, as there is a critical risk to the continuity of the Council's services. Additionally, the Council is satisfied with the services provided by LGfL.

PRE-DECISION CONSULTATION

This decision does not require any formal consultation.

NAME AND JOB TITLE OF STAFF MEMBER ADVISING THE DECISION-MAKER

Name: Amaka Nwosu

Designation: IT Commercials Manager

Signature: A.Nwosu

Date: 15/12/2025

Part B - Assessment of implications and risks

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The Council requires appropriate IT systems for its employees to carry out its functions. The Council is making a decision to make a contract for internet connectivity for that purpose.

The Council has the power to make a contract for internet connectivity through section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972, which allows the Council to do anything which is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of any of its functions, or through its general power of competence under section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 to do anything that individuals generally may do. There are limitations on the general power of competence, but the limitations do not apply to this decision.

The value of the contract is below the applicable public procurement threshold for services contracts stipulated in the Procurement Act 2023 (PA) of £214 904. Therefore, the contract is not subject to the full PA regime.

For these reasons, the Council can award the contract.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

This report seeks approval from the Director of IT, Digital and Customer Services to direct award a contract for the delivery of internet connectivity services for a period of 12 months to London Grid for Learning (LGfL) via the TRUSTnet Central Purchasing Agreement at a total cost of £45,344.50, plus the payment of a back bill of £27,655.16.

The total cost is £72,999.66 for a period of 19 months which is in line with what has been paid in previous years.

This spend will be funded from the Havering shared ICT engineering revenue budgets in 2025/26.

The connectivity service supports access to Public Service Networks (PSN) and Health and Social Care Networks (HSCN) as well as being the dedicated link between the Council's on-premise infrastructure and its public cloud platform, Microsoft Azure; it is therefore important to maintain the integrity of this connection whilst the migration activity which will deliver a modern and sovereign ICT service, takes place.

The new contract will end in November 2026, by which time the migration to the cloud will have completed and new technical solution will be procured which more closely aligns with the needs of the fully sovereign, cloud-based environment.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS (AND ACCOMMODATION IMPLICATIONS WHERE RELEVANT)

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There are no Human Resource implications for this decision. The contract is delivering purely technical services.

EQUALITIES AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires the Council, when exercising its functions, to have due regard to:

- (i) The need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010;
- (ii) The need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share protected characteristics and those who do not, and;
- (iii) Foster good relations between those who have protected characteristics and those who do not.

Note: 'Protected characteristics' are age, sex, race, disability, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnerships, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity and gender reassignment.

The Council is committed to all of the above in the provision, procurement and commissioning of its services, and the employment of its workforce. In addition, the Council is also committed to improving the quality of life and wellbeing for all Havering residents in respect of socio-economics and health determinants.

This decision and contract have no equalities and social inclusion implications or risk.

The contract is purely technical service and, therefore, an equalities assessment has not been completed.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

IT is working to reduce its reliance on data centre technologies. Plans are in place to migrate these services into the cloud in order to reduce the Council's data centre reliance on

- Electricity costs
- Air conditioning costs

And therefore, the associated carbon emissions associated with these services.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

APPENDICES

None

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Part C – Record of decision

I have made this executive decision in accordance with authority delegated to me by the Leader of the Council and in compliance with the requirements of the Constitution.

Decision

Proposal agreed

Delete as applicable

Proposal NOT agreed because

Details of decision maker

Signed



Name: Mark Duff

Head of Service title: Director of IT, Digital and Customer Services

Date:

Lodging this notice

The signed decision notice must be delivered to Committee Services, in the Town Hall.

For use by Committee Administration

This notice was lodged with me on _____

Signed _____