

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY			
MEETING OF THE:	BUDGET AUTHORITY		
DATE:	26 FEBRUARY 2026	REPORT NO:	CFO/41/2526
PRESENTING OFFICER	CHIEF FIRE OFFICER, NICK SEARLE		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	DIRECTOR OF STRATEGY AND PERFORMANCE, DEB APPLETON	REPORT AUTHOR:	HEAD OF D&T, PAUL TERRY, D&T SERVICE DELIVERY MANAGER, LYNDSEY KILLEEN
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	HEAD OF PROCUREMENT, HYWYN PRITCHARD STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP TEAM (SLT)		
TITLE OF REPORT:	MICROSOFT ENTERPRISE AGREEMENT RENEWAL 2026		
APPENDICES:	NONE		

Purpose of Report

1. To request that Members approve the renewal of the Authority's Microsoft Enterprise Agreement (EA) and in doing so award the contract to Phoenix Software Limited to act as the Authority's Microsoft Licensing Solution Provider (LSP).

Recommendation

2. It is recommended that Members;
 - a) note the contents of the report; and
 - b) approve the award of a contract to Phoenix Software Limited to act as the Authority's Microsoft LSP for three years from April 2026 for £1.044m

Introduction and Background

Microsoft Enterprise Agreement (EA)

3. For many years, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service has used Microsoft products across the organisation.
4. A Microsoft Enterprise Agreement (EA) allows organisations with over 500 users or devices to purchase a range of Microsoft software and cloud services under a single agreement.

5. Microsoft EA agreements assist with effective budget management by deploying a common IT platform across the Authority's estate and allowing fixed pricing over the duration of the EA Agreement.
6. Microsoft EA Agreements span a three-year period with the Authority's current agreement due to expire on 31st March 2026.

Licensing Solution Provider (LSP)

7. A Microsoft EA agreement can only be purchased via a Microsoft accredited LSP, with the most efficient and effective route being to use a procurement framework.
8. Officers further reviewed the market for the best value for money option. Options to procure collectively under the CCS framework and a direct award were explored.
9. The option to procure via direct award to Phoenix Software Limited through framework agreement Y230065 – Software Products and Associated Services provided by Procurement Services (acting on behalf of Kent County Council), offered a reduction in cost over the three-year contract, in comparison to procuring via CCS frameworks preferred bidder.

Procurement Services

10. Procurement Services is a wholly owned business unit of Kent County Council and is one of the largest local authority owned trading organisations of its kind in the UK.
11. Since inception as the supplies division of Kent County Council, Procurement Services has grown to become one of the leading suppliers of products and services to the education and public sectors who focus on providing compliant routes to market for the provision of products and services.
12. For these reasons and following consultation with the Head of Procurement, it was agreed that Y230065 – Software Products and Associated Services provided by Procurement Services would be the more efficient and cost-effective route to market for the Authority on this occasion.

Equality and Diversity Implications

13. Microsoft is committed to creating inclusive environments and through a range of methods with its culture of inclusion driving future innovation.
14. More information on Microsoft Global Diversity and Inclusion can be found at: [Microsoft Global Diversity and Inclusion | Microsoft](#)

Staff Implications

15. Staff will continue to benefit from a common IT platform across the Authority's estate which aids organisational effectiveness and efficiency and will have access to new software versions upon release.

Legal Implications

16. A compliant procurement process has been undertaken through the use of Procurement Services Framework Number Y23065 – Software Products and Associated Services.
17. Subject to Authority approval, a contract awarded pursuant to this process would comply with its Contract Standing Orders and be compliant with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

18. The total cost of this contract is £1.044m for three years, £0.344m in year one, £0.350m in year two and £0.350m in year three of the agreement.
19. This includes the cost of Microsoft licenses and Microsoft Azure cloud services.
20. The above costs will be contained within existing budgets.

Risk Management and Health & Safety Implications

21. Adoption of this proposal helps to maintain our robust business continuity arrangements and supports the development of bespoke solutions to meet the Authority's business needs.

Environmental Implications

22. The Microsoft EA Agreement offers significant water conservation and waste reduction benefits with Microsoft remaining committed to its 2030 goals to become carbon negative, water positive and zero waste whilst protecting ecosystems.

Further details can be found at:

[2025 Environmental Sustainability Report | Microsoft](#)

Contribution to Our Vision: *To be the best Fire & Rescue Service in the UK.*

Our Purpose: *Here to serve, Here to protect, Here to keep you safe.*

23. This solution ensures staff have access to a common IT platform, together with increased security and benefit from new software versions upon release.
24. The suppliers experience and expertise in the supply of EA Agreements and provision of existing products to the Authority will further enhance the service provided to the organisation's employees.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NONE

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

MFRA Merseyside **F**ire and **R**escue **A**uthority

MFRS Merseyside **F**ire and **R**escue **S**ervice

EA Enterprise **A**greement

LSP Licensing **S**olution **P**rovider

CCS Crown **C**ommercial **S**ervices