

Appendix 3 - 3.10 Memo's (Exemption Urgency)

Function	Cluster	Description of Contract	Estimated Start date of Contract	Estimated End date of Contract	Total Estimated Contract Value £	Summary of explanation of why the contract was urgently required and justification for suspension of procurement regulations, in whole or in part:
City Regeneration & Environment	City Development & Regeneration	<p>Cabaret Mechanical Theatre Contract - Special Exhibition that spans the May to October period, which is family friendly, of public interest and generates income to offset or exceed the contract value.</p> <p>Exhibition proposals are gathered together through direct proposals to the gallery, discussions with potential UK-wide partners and the Touring Exhibition Group marketplace.</p> <p>Science, art and educational legacy were discussed amongst our review panel, and we recommended Cabaret Mechanical Theatre to Service Manager for final decision based on all Service/Cluster priorities and commissioning intentions, that align with Event 365 strategy, Council Delivery Plan and Partnership Priorities.</p> <p>Cabaret Mechanical Theatre is the only UK provider to offer this touring exhibition option that addresses STEM activities available on the market today.</p>	30/06/2025	30/11/2026	£60,000.00	<p>Discussions with Cabaret Mechanical Theatre Limited (CMTL) regarding the development of the exhibition, Make it Move (working title), its content and curatorial approach, took longer than planned. This was due to a lack of resources within Aberdeen Archives, Gallery & Museums (AAGM). The Exhibitions Manager and his team were fully focused on the delivery of this summer's exhibitions and associated programme to support the Tall Ships Races and Festival of the Sea being held in July 2025.</p> <p>The exhibition contract requires to be signed to allow the first payment to be made to CMTL in July 2025, and work on the project to commence.</p> <p>Project development timescales are now tight to allow for opening the exhibition in May 2026. Further delays risk the service and city not having a family-focused, large-scale exhibition in its summer programme for both its local and visiting audiences.</p> <p>If AAGM does not go ahead with the exhibition this will result in all current activity ceasing, in order to focus staff resources on delivering an in-house generated exhibition, at significant cost and in short timescales.</p>
Corporate Services	Digital & Technology	<p>Paolo Alto firewall appliances Contract - Increase the capacity of the Paolo Alto firewalls to cope with increased traffic. The current licensing and support is in place until May 2026, this agreement will augment the capacity of each firewall.</p>	01/07/2025	01/05/2026	£225,000.00	<p>In April 2025 slow access was experienced across the Aberdeen City Council network. Technical changes were made to network infrastructure, and the immediate problems were resolved. In May the problems re-occurred, and further configuration changes have failed to properly resolve key issues. The IT helpdesk has over 200 open incidents relating to slow performance and non-availability of printing. In June the council engaged the services on a network and firewall expert and identified additional changes that could be made. The advice was that if the changes were not successful it might be necessary to upgrade capacity on the firewalls.</p> <p>In July Aberdeen Schools broke up for the summer and the network issues improved significantly. This led the technical teams to conclude that the existing firewalls are struggling with capacity.</p> <p>Aberdeen Schools will resume and at that point there is a credible risk that performance issues will recur. It should be stressed that the firewalls were scheduled to be uprated in 2026 as part of the ongoing network improvements. It is also clear that the improvements made across the IT estate have meant that the capacity predictions completed as part of 2025 planning have been exceeded. These issues are not caused by school traffic.</p> <p>It is important that the capacity is increased before 20 August due to the considerations outlined above.</p>