

Committee: Finance Committee	Date: 19 May 2020
Subject: Report of Action Taken – Public Decisions taken under Delegated Authority/Urgency procedures since the last formal meeting of the Committee	Public
Report of: Town Clerk	For Information
Report author: John Cater, Town Clerk’s Department	

Summary

This report advises Members of urgent and/or delegated public action taken by the Town Clerk since the last meeting of the Committee, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, in accordance with Standing Orders No. 41(a) and 41(b).

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the report.

Main report

1. Subject: Emergency Relief – National and London specific Response to COVID-19 (Delegated Authority) - 22nd April 2020

Background

The coronavirus outbreak is an unfolding global health emergency that is affecting the way every one of us goes about our daily lives. Charitable organisations in the UK are navigating in uncertain times and having to adapt services to deal with the complex situation of the lockdown. A short analysis has been provided of several causes that are working tirelessly to support the vulnerable and coordinate with the NHS to mitigate against the impact of the virus. The CGU has received several requests for support and has shortlisted two campaigns where this fund may make a real difference. Outlined below are both a National and London campaign that should be considered for support:

British Red Cross (BRC)

The BRC is a longstanding partner and member of the DEC. At a National level they are well placed to respond to the emerging needs of the Coronavirus Pandemic. The BRC is imbedded in every community across the UK and has adapted its services to deal with the impact of the virus on the most vulnerable in society. The BRC is supporting the NHS, coordinating in communities to ensure the most vulnerable receive food packages and providing tailored to support vulnerable groups who are considered ‘Off-Grid’. The BRC has a long-standing relationship with this IDF and is a trusted partner of the DEC. A donation to the BRC should be made to the National campaign.

Team Rubicon (TR)

TR UK is a registered charity in England & Wales (1163214), registered in August 2015 following discussions between UK volunteers and TR Global. Initial funding of £2.5m came from a grant from the UK Treasury Department, spread over a 5-year period. Its UK mission is to “unite the skills and experiences of military veterans with first responders to rapidly deploy emergency response teams to disasters in the UK and overseas in order to immediately improve the quality of life of the people who are affected. It is affiliated to TR Global.

TR UK is assisting with the coordinated response to the Coronavirus Pandemic in London. They are supporting Guys and St Thomas’s NHS Trust to support with logistics, assisting with the opening and delivery of the NHS Nightingale Hospital at the Excel Centre and doing mortuary tasks in Westminster. Utilising their experience working in disaster zones they are applying logistical support in a time of regional and national need.

TR UK are not a delivery partner of the DEC but have been supported by the IDF in response to the Bahamas Hurricane in September 2019. The Charity is carrying out essential work in London now in response to the Coronavirus Pandemic and require immediate funding to ensure this work can continue to be delivered. This work is essential currently but difficult to fundraise for. TR are working in collaboration with the London Strategic Coordination Group in its multi-agency delivery efforts across London. As the Charity have been assessed and supported through this fund in the last 12 months Members can be confident that they are a trusted partner.

RESOLVED – That approval was given to:

Agree a donation of £20,000 to The British Red Cross to support its work nationally and £20,000 to Team Rubicon to assist in its aid efforts tackling the Coronavirus outbreak in London.

Contact:

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