

<b>Committee:</b> Finance Committee	<b>Date:</b> 31 January 2017
<b>Subject:</b> Decisions taken under Delegated Authority or Urgency since the last meeting of the Committee	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Town Clerk	<b>For Information</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Chris Braithwaite, Town Clerk's Department	

### **Summary**

This report advises Members of 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 Order Nos. 41(a) and 41(b). These actions were:

- Donation of £20,000 to Save The Children's Nigeria Food Crisis Emergency Appeal
- Donation of £25,000 to the Disaster Emergency Committee's Yemen Crisis Emergency Appeal
- Christmas donations of £2,500 each to The Parent House, Crisis, The Stuart Low Trust and Solace Women's Aid.

### **Recommendation**

Members are asked to note the report.

### **Main report**

#### **Donation to Save The Children's Nigeria Food Crisis Emergency Appeal**

##### Background

1. Save The Children launched an urgent appeal in relation to the food crisis in the North-east of Nigeria. This area has been heavily afflicted by insurgency by Boko Haram for the last seven years and fighting has intensified in the past few months. It was predicted that, unless there is an urgent response to the crisis, 400,000 children were at imminent risk of starvation.
2. Save The Children's appeal would provide severely malnourished children with expert treatment at specialist health centres; help children get clean water and improved sanitation by building latrines and conduct hygiene awareness sessions, especially for families which have been forced from their homes by the conflict; provide emotional support to 20,000 children at kids' clubs to help them come to terms with their traumatic experiences from the conflict.

##### Action Taken

3. The Town Clerk, following consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, agreed to make a donation of £20,000 to Save The Children's Nigeria Food Crisis Emergency Appeal.

## **Donation to the Disaster Emergency Committee's Yemen Crisis Emergency Appeal**

### Background

4. The Disaster Emergency Committee launched an urgent appeal in relation to the humanitarian crisis in Yemen. There had been increased access to previously inaccessible areas and more information had become available, including reports of children starving, millions of people too poor to buy essential food or medicine, hospitals and schools across the country being unable to operate, and a high risk of disease due to unclean water and poor sanitation.
5. The UN estimated that the total number of people in need of humanitarian assistance in Yemen at 18.8m (69% of the population). The most critical needs were food and nutrition, health and protection of civilians. An estimated 3.3 million children and pregnant or lactating women were acutely malnourished. Of these children, 462,000 under five were suffering from severe acute malnutrition. Due to the conflict, 2.2m had been internally displaced across Yemen, nearly double what was estimated in February 2016.

### Action Taken

6. The Town Clerk, following consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, agreed to make a donation of £25,000 to the Disaster Emergency Committee's Yemen Crisis Emergency Appeal.

## **Christmas Donations to Charitable Organisations**

### Background

7. At the Finance Committee's meeting on 13 December 2016, the Committee allocated £10k from the Committee's City's Cash Contingency Fund for charitable donations to be made at Christmas 2016. The Committee agreed that approval for these donations would be delegated to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman.
8. This funding was agreed on the condition that a report will be submitted to the appropriate Committee to establish a formal process for such donations to be made in future. This report will be submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee during 2017.
9. The Central Grants Team was in contact with four suitable organisations and proposed that grants were made to these organisations as set out below.

### Action Taken

10. The Town Clerk, following consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, approved the following donations:
  - The Parent House – A one-off donation of £2,500 to support families suffering acute financial hardship over the Christmas period.

- Crisis – A one-off donation of £2,500 to support five day centres and five residential Rough Sleepers centres to cater for specific groups of homeless people (vulnerable women, entrenched rough sleepers and those with dependency needs) over Christmas 2015.
- The Stuart Low Trust - A one-off donation of £2,500 to support vulnerable and socially isolated people living with mental illness.
- Solace Women's Aid - One off donation of £2,500 to enable Women's Aid to provide a special dinner and treat for each woman and child in their refuges this Christmas.

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