

Committee: Finance Committee	Date: 2 May 2017
Subject: Decisions taken under Delegated Authority or Urgency since the last meeting of the Committee	Public
Report of: Town Clerk	For Information
Report author: 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).

This action was to make a donation of £55,000 to the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) East Africa famine Emergency Appeal.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the report.

Main report

Donation to the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) East Africa famine Emergency Appeal

Background

1. The DEC brings 13 leading UK aid charities together in times of crisis. They launch appeals to raise money to help those impacted by disaster; making sure that funds reach those that need them most. DEC member charities are already delivering life-saving assistance in all affected countries but they need more money to help reduce the scale and severity of the crisis. The DEC also operates an extremely cost effective model and spends an average of just 5.9% of the money raised on running their appeals, with the rest distributed to member charities to carry out their vital work.
2. The DEC has launched an urgent appeal in relation to the famine in East Africa and, without immediate relief, it will get much worse. Drought and conflict have left 16 million people on the brink of starvation and in urgent need of food, water and medical treatment. People are already dying in South Sudan and Somalia. In Kenya, the government has declared a national emergency and Ethiopia is battling a new wave of drought following the strongest *El Nino* on record. Women, children and older people are suffering the most; more than 800,000 children under five are severely malnourished.
3. The Finance Committee's City Cash Contingency Fund for National and International Disasters had a balance of £55,000 for the 2016/17 financial year.

Action Taken

4. The Town Clerk, following consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Finance Committee, approved a donation of the balance of the Finance Committee's City Cash Contingency Fund for National and International Disasters, amounting to a donation of £55,000, be made to the DEC's emergency appeal for famine relief in East Africa.

Contact:

Chris Braithwaite

Senior Committee and Member Services Officer, Town Clerk's Department

020 7332 1427

Christopher.braithwaite@cityoflondon.gov.uk