

Committee:	Date:
Finance Committee	18 February 2020
Subject: Report of Action Taken – Public Decisions taken under Delegated Authority/Urgency procedures since the last 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: Australian Red Cross Disaster Relief and Recovery Fund

Background

Record-breaking temperatures and months of severe drought have fuelled a series of massive bushfires across Australia. Although recent cooler conditions and rain have brought some respite, more than 100 fires are still burning in the states of New South Wales and Victoria. Some 28 people have so far been killed - including four firefighters - and an estimated 10 million hectares (100,000 sq. km or 15.6 million acres) of bush, forest and parks across Australia has burned.

The Australian Red Cross have set up relief centres across all the affected areas and are coordinating aid efforts across the region. The Charity are coordinating food, water, hygiene kits and pet supplies as well as psychological support through its team of trained volunteers. A donation to the Australian Red Cross will enable them to give people the support they need in disasters: whether that's help to prepare, a safe place to take shelter, psychological first aid, information, and practical support through the months and even years it can take to recover. Funds will also be used to support emergency grants for people who've lost their homes and to support long term recovery work in communities impacted by the bushfires over recent months.

The Australian Red Cross is an independent Charity registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission. The British Red Cross is a member of the DEC. After discussions with the British Red Cross they are happy to take a donation on behalf of the Australian Red Cross with all the funds transferred to support the relief work in Australia.

RESOLVED – That approval was given to:

Provide a donation of £15,000 from the International Disasters Fund via the British Red Cross to support the Australian Red Cross in providing relief to those effected by the Bushfires in the short and long term.

Contact:

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