

<b>Committee(s):</b> Finance Committee	<b>Dated:</b> 19/01/2021
<b>Subject:</b> International Disaster Fund – Donations Policy	<b>Public</b>
<b>Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?</b>	1,2,3,4,9
<b>Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?</b>	Y
<b>If so, how much?</b>	<b>£25,000</b>
<b>What is the source of Funding?</b>	<b>City’s Cash Grants Budget</b>
<b>Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?</b>	Y
<b>Report of:</b> Chief Grants Officer and Director of City Bridge Trust	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Jack Joslin, Head of the Central Grants Unit	

### Summary

This report addresses a request from Finance Committee to review the policy for the International Disaster Fund (IDF) when making donations in emergency appeal situations.

### Recommendations

1. Members are asked to Approve the criteria for dealing with donations from the IDF at **Appendix 1**.
2. Members are asked to Approve an uplift in the budget for the IDF of £25,000 from savings within the City’s Cash Grants budget.

### Main Report

#### Background

3. In 2016 the Finance Committee requested information regarding the financial activities of charities involved in emergency appeals, to guide future decisions concerning donations to be made by the City of London.
4. At its meeting in January 2017 the Finance Committee noted that it would apply the strong criteria of the Disaster Emergency Committee (DEC) for the selection and monitoring of UK aid charities when responding to an international disaster.
5. When a DEC appeal is not launched, a donation could be made to an individual charity carrying out humanitarian relief in the area. It is acknowledged that the transparent governance controls applied by the DEC means that Finance Committee can be confident in giving direct to the individual charities that are members of the DEC, should they believe this to be the most appropriate use of the Corporations’ emergency donations budget.

6. The CGU is in place to provide advice and recommendations on how donations would be best placed in the instance that a DEC appeal is not launched.

### **Current Position**

7. Since adopting this new framework for the IDF in January 2017 the Finance Committee has made £465,000 in donations to DEC or DEC partner Appeals, with funding coming from the City's Cash Grants budget.
8. The CGU maintains relationships with the DEC and its partners to ensure it has advance notice of any appeals. The DEC will inform the CGU in advance of the launch of an appeal to ensure the City of London can be seen to be an early responder to any appeal launched and use its influence to get our partners to do the same. The CGU also maintains good relationships with DEC Partner agencies.
9. The annual City's Cash budget allocated to the IDF is £100,000, with the budget for 2020/21 having been uplifted to £125,000 via a carry-forward of unspent funds from the previous year. The proposed continuation of this budget at £125,000 can be met from the 12% savings applied to the City's Cash Grants Budget.
10. It should be noted that a significant amount of CGU officer time, including that from the Charities Finance Team, is put into the assessment of International Appeals and recommendations made to the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Finance Committee.

### **Future Position**

11. The IDF should continue to use the strong criteria applied by DEC for the selection and monitoring of UK aid charities. The IDF, should remain where possible a fund to support International Disasters. An incident in the UK can be considered in exceptional circumstances. The CGU will continue to provide support to the Finance Committee in responding to International Disasters. A more detailed policy for the IDF can be found at **Appendix 1** for Approval.
12. The policy presented at **Appendix 1** builds on the existing policy for the IDF and improves clarity on when donations can be made in the event that a DEC Appeal is not launched and the enhanced function of the CGU in holding relationships and providing expert advice in the event of a humanitarian incident. A more robust and impactful Communications response has been considered and implemented.
13. If members wish to increase the annual budget for the IDF to £125,000 this would be met from the savings from the overall City's Cash Grants Budget.

### **Communications Response**

14. Once a donation has been approved, the CGU will move to enact communications protocols. The purpose of communicating the donation is twofold: to publicise the grant and the wider issue, and to encourage more donations to the appeal from various audiences.
15. The CGU has worked closely with the Communications and press team to create a framework for sharing the news of the donation widely but strategically, in order to encourage the widest possible take up and to inspire others to act. The table

below provides a framework for dissemination. The CGU will work with the press team to create tools to support this work further.

Action	Audience	Outcome
Issue Media Release	Businesses, residents and the general public	Coverage for the donation and the issue. Link for those wanting to donate.
Update to Members	Members, member's residents and tenants	Members to share on social media, with local networks and residents where possible to publicise and encourage donations
Intranet article	Corporation Staff	Share news and encourage staff donations
TC Bulletin	Corporation Staff	Share news and encourage staff donations
Post on social media	General public, audiences, stakeholders	Publicise donation and encourage more donations
Share with Heart of the City	Their SME business contacts	Publicise donation and encourage more donations
Share with I&G colleagues	Their business contacts	Publicise donation and encourage more donations

## Conclusion

16. The IDF has made significant donations to support International Humanitarian Disasters since its inception. By utilising the expertise of International Aid organisations, the donations have always been directed at the areas that need it most.
17. The Coronavirus Pandemic has demonstrated that there is always a need to be able to respond to disasters at home as well as abroad.
18. The policy for the IDF will improve the way CoLC responds to International Disasters ensuring a close alliance with International Aid organisations like the DEC and its partners.
19. Due to the transparent governance controls applied by the DEC, members can confidently give direct to the individual charities that are members of this umbrella organisation, should they believe this to be the most appropriate use of the Corporations' emergency donations budget.

## Appendices

- Appendix 1 – IDF Policy – For Approval

## Background Papers

Finance Committee - Donations in emergency appeal situations – 31 January 2017

Finance Committee – Donations – International Disaster Fund – 10 November 2020

Jack Joslin  
Head of the Central Grants Unit  
E: [Jack.Joslin@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:Jack.Joslin@cityoflondon.gov.uk)