

Committee(s)	Dated:
Finance Committee	15 June 2021
Subject: Report of (public) Action taken under DA or Urgency procedures since the last meeting of the Committee	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	N/A
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	Y/N
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Town Clerk	For Information
Report author: John Cater, Committee Clerk, Finance Committee	

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: DEC Coronavirus India Appeal (Delegated Authority)

Background

The City of London Corporation holds a contingency fund in its City's Cash budget, allocated to the International Disasters Fund (IDF), which is administered by the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee have delegated authority to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Finance Committee, in order to respond quickly to requests for assistance from the IDF.

A report on the use of this fund was presented to the Finance Committee on 19 January 2021, where the following was noted:

- a) The strong criteria applied by the Disaster Emergency Committee (DEC) for the selection and monitoring of UK aid charities;
- b) The ability of the Central Grants Unit (CGU) to provide recommendations of appropriate charities to support, including due diligence reviews;
- c) That donations given as restricted to a specific appeal or purpose are required under charity law to be spent directly on that purpose.

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 the Finance Committee can be confident in giving directly 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.

Charities that do not fall under the DEC can be considered, in exceptional circumstances, if no DEC partner organisation is working on the ground in an area of need. These will be looked at on a case by case basis with full due diligence provided by the CGU.

Financial Implications

The IDF has an annual budget of £125,000. No donations have been made from the IDF so far in 2021/22. If approved a budget of £100,000 would remain in the pot for the rest of the year.

In India, a second wave of coronavirus is having a devastating impact. India has a population of 1.3 billion, and an official tally of 17.31 million infections and 195,123 deaths. As of Monday, 26 April India recorded a new global high for the fifth day running, with more than 350,000 new cases in just 24 hours, according to Reuters. With hospitals overrun and oxygen supplies falling short of demand, thousands are not able to receive potentially life-saving treatment. Several cities have also imposed lockdowns and curfews, which have a knock-on effect for people's livelihoods, with the poorest communities being hit hardest.

DEC member charities are already present in India and are preparing to scale their response once additional funding becomes available.

RESOLVED – That the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Finance Committee, approved a donation of £25,000 to the DEC Coronavirus India Appeal.

Contact:

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