

Committee(s)	Dated:
Finance Committee	21 September 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

Subject: International Disasters Fund (IDF) Haiti Earthquake Appeal (Delegated Authority – 19th August)

Background

The City of London holds a contingency fund in its City's Cash budget, allocated to the International Disasters Fund (IDF) administered by the Finance Committee. The IDF has an annual budget of £125,000. Prior to this request, one donation totalling £25,000 had been made in 2021/22, with £100,000 remaining.

Haiti Earthquake Appeal

On Saturday 14th August, a powerful earthquake struck Haiti, 12km northeast of the town of Saint-Louis du Sud. Registering a magnitude of 7.2, tremors were felt hundreds of kilometres away in Jamaica and Cuba. It was the strongest earthquake to hit the country since 2010, when a 7.0 magnitude earthquake devastated the capital city of Port-au-Prince. With significant aftershocks, so far over 2,000 people have been reported killed and thousands more injured. Buildings collapsed with damage reported to homes, hotels and major infrastructure like roads and bridges,

especially in the cities of Jérémie and Les Cayes on the southern peninsula of the country.

Reports also came in of churches collapsing while the morning mass was being celebrated. At least two hospitals have been almost completely destroyed with many others sustaining severe damage. Already stretched by the Covid-19 pandemic, remaining hospitals are now struggling to cope with the influx of injured patients.

Early assessments indicate that at least 700,000 people could be directly affected by damage from the earthquake. The situation has been severely impacted by the arrival of Tropical Storm Grace on Monday. With homes and hotels destroyed, many will be in need of urgent shelter. Strong winds and rainfall are disrupting the aid effort on the ground, with further support needed urgently to support communities cut off by the storm.

The Red Cross Response

Within hours of the earthquake, local Red Cross teams in Haiti had already begun to support the critical response in affected areas. Haitian Red Cross staff and volunteers are supporting search and rescue efforts, helping local authorities and communities to pull survivors from the rubble. Red Cross teams have also begun to conduct rapid assessments to understand the full impact of the earthquake and the needs of communities affected. To provide support as quickly as possible, the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) is also mobilising pre-positioned supplies in the region, including hygiene kits, jerry cans and mosquito nets, to be distributed to those in need.

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 British Red Cross to support the International Federation of the Red Cross in its aid effort in response to the earthquake in Haiti.

Contact:

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