

Committee(s)	Dated:
Finance Committee	19 th July 2022
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: Bangladesh Flood Appeal (Delegated Authority – 30th June 2022)

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.

A report on use of this fund was presented to Finance Committee on 19 January 2021 where it 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 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.

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.

Bangladesh Flood Appeal

Heavy monsoon rains and water from upstream in India's northeast have inundated large parts of the Sylhet division, leaving millions of people marooned and triggering a humanitarian crisis. Over 100 people have been killed, including children as floods, landslides and lightning strikes have battered Eastern India and Bangladesh in recent days. Water levels are still rising due to heavy rainfall and wider areas may still be affected.

Save the Children are aiming to reach 80,000 through our response providing:

- Hygiene kits
- Water purification tablets
- Unconditional cash/minimum food basket
- School cleaning
- Shelter kits
- Education kits
- Repairing water sources
- Child protection

The Emergency Fund is the best and most efficient way to help children in crisis. Save the Children have already allocated \$100k to North-East Bangladesh earlier this year to respond to flooding and are now allocating an additional \$150k to the latest response. Save the Children is supporting people affected in Sylhet with cash, food baskets, hygiene kits, water purification tablets and mental health support. A second phase of the response is being planned to support with cleaning up schools and reconstructing homes. A donation at this time would support with this critical work.

RESOLVED – That the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman, approved a donation of £25,000, to be sourced from the International Disaster Fund to Save the Children, a member of the DEC, to support its aid effort in response to Floods in North-East Bangladesh.

Contact:

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