

To: Council

On: 20th April 2017

Report by: Chief Executive

Heading: Humanitarian Crisis in East Africa

1. Summary

- 1.1 Elected members will be aware from recent press coverage that East Africa is currently facing its worst humanitarian crisis since 1945. It is estimated that drought and conflict have left 16 million people on the brink of starvation and in urgent need of food, water and medical treatment.
- 1.2 Famine has been declared in parts of South Sudan, where 100,000 people face starvation and nearly 5 million people urgently need food. The situation is also concerning in Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia where media reports suggest that 14 million people are going hungry every day.
- 1.3 It is proposed that the Council should respond to the ongoing humanitarian crisis. As the Council is not authorised to provide direct relief to communities abroad, it is proposed that a donation of £10,000 is made to the Disasters Emergencies Committee (DEC) to fund its member charities UK-based activities in recognition of the considerable strain the effects of the East Africa crisis is placing on the resources of these charities.
- 1.4 The DEC brings together 13 leading UK aid charities in times of crisis, which includes: Action Aid, Age International, British Red Cross, CAFOD, Care, Christian Aid, Concern Worldwide, Islamic Relief,

Oxfam, Plan International, Save the Children, Tearfund and World Vision. The DEC allocates money to each member agency based on its ability to deliver aid where it is needed.

2. Recommendations

2.1 It is recommended that the Council agrees:

- To make a donation of £10,000 to the Disasters Emergency Committee to fund its members' UK-based activities in recognition of the East Africa Crisis appeal.
- That a supplementary estimate of £10,000 for this donation be approved.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** - A supplementary estimate of £10,000 in respect of this donation is required.
2. **HR & Organisational Development** - none
3. **Community Planning** – none
4. **Legal** – the council is not authorised to provide direct relief to communities abroad.
5. **Property/Assets** - none
6. **Information Technology** - none
7. **Equality & Human Rights** - The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.
8. **Health & Safety** - none
9. **Procurement** – none
10. **Risk** - none

11. **Privacy Impact** - none

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