

To: Council

On: 3 March 2022

Report by: Chief Executive

Heading: Disasters Emergency Committee – Afghanistan Crisis Appeal

1. Summary

- 1.1 On 15 December 2021, the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) launched an emergency appeal to support people impacted by the worsening humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan.
 - 1.2 The DEC is an umbrella organisation of 15 aid organisations that come together to respond as required to collectively respond to humanitarian crises and disasters. DEC has launched the appeal in response to the recent conflict and economic crisis in Afghanistan, coupled with drought and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - 1.3 Funding has been committed by the UK and Scottish Governments, and DEC has also engaged with local authorities through COSLA on the actions that they can take to support and promote the appeal.
 - 1.4 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 crisis in Afghanistan has placed on the resources of these charities.
 - 1.5 The Council's Communications team will also continue to work with partners to promote the appeal and raise awareness of this across Renfrewshire.
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2. Recommendations

2.1 It is recommended:

- That 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 considerable strain which the crisis in Afghanistan has placed on the resources of a number of UK based charities; and that
 - A supplementary estimate of £10,000 for this donation be approved.
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3. Background

3.1 The Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) is an umbrella organisation of 15 charities that come together to support countries to respond to humanitarian disasters and crises. This allows support to be co-ordinated and targeted to support people where it is most needed.

3.2 On 15 December 2021, the DEC launched its Afghanistan Crisis Appeal in response to the worsening humanitarian situation in the country. In addition to the recent conflict and civil unrest which has led to the wider economic collapse of the country, civilians are also struggling to manage the impacts of COVID and the worst drought to hit the country in almost 30 years.

3.3 In its recent publications the DEC estimate that:

- More than 23 million people in Afghanistan are short of food in freezing Winter conditions.
- 8 million people are on the brink of famine with 1 million children under 5 at risk of dying before the end of Winter

3.4 The Crisis Appeal is seeking to raise funding to allow charities to help DEC charities and their local partners to provide emergency food and nutrition support for children, support healthcare facilities and provide winter kits to help displaced families stay warm. Other priorities include supplying clean drinking water and protecting women and girls.

3.5 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 humanitarian crisis have placed on the resources of these charities.

- 3.6 The DEC have engaged with COSLA, and have sought support from member local authorities to promote wider awareness of the Crisis Appeal.
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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/Council 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 and 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 because it is for noting only. 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 and Safety** - none
 9. **Procurement** – none
 10. **Risk** – none
 11. **Privacy Impact** – none
 12. **COSLA Policy Position** – none
 13. **Climate Risk** – none
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List of Background Papers:

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