
Report To:	Policy & Resources Executive Sub-Committee	Date:	23 December 2021
Report By:	Interim Director, Finance & Corporate Governance	Report No:	FIN/85/21/AP/LA
Contact Officer:	Alan Puckrin	Contact No:	01475 712223
Subject:	DEC Appeal – Crisis in Afghanistan		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is seek approval to make a donation of £20,000 to the DEC Crisis in Afghanistan Appeal.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Committee will be aware of the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan following the breakdown of western humanitarian support post the Taliban taking over the running of the country. A combination of drought, displacement, Covid and conflict has put an estimated 22.8 million people at risk of acute hunger with 8 million facing famine.
- 2.2 Latest information is that 3.2 million children under 5 are facing acute malnutrition with around 1 million at risk of starvation and death for want of food and medical support.
- 2.3 The Disaster Emergency Committee (DEC) issued an appeal week commencing 13 December and, as the Council has responded generously to similar DEC Appeals in the past then Committee is asked to consider whether it wishes to make a donation in this instance. Any donation will be funded from the remaining £23,000 balance in the Council's Revenue Contingency Earmarked Reserve
- 2.4 The Members Budget Working Group unanimously support making the donation.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that approval is given to make a payment of £20,000 towards the DEC/Oxfam Crisis in Afghanistan Appeal.

Alan Puckrin
Interim Director, Finance & Corporate Governance

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 The Council has previously donated sums to a number of DEC Appeals eg: The Ebola Appeal, Nepal Earthquake Appeal, Malawi Food Crisis Appeal, Yemen Crisis Appeal, Cyclone Idai Appeal and Covid Emergency Appeal. All have been funded from the Council's Contingency Fund with donations of either £10,000 or £20,000.

5.0 CURRENT POSITION

5.1 A humanitarian crisis has arisen in Afghanistan following the breakdown of western humanitarian support post the Taliban taking over the running of the country. A combination of drought, displacement, Covid and conflict has put an estimated 22.8 million people at risk of acute hunger with 8 million facing famine.

5.2 The Disaster Emergency Committee (DEC) issued an appeal week commencing 13 December and, as the Council has responded generously to similar DEC Appeals in the past then Committee is asked to consider whether it wishes to make a donation in this instance.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Finance

Financial Implications:

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report £000	Virement From	Other Comments
EMR	Contingency	2021/22	20		This effectively closes the Contingency Reserve

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact £000	Virement From (if Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

6.2 Legal

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

6.3 Human Resources

There are no HR implications arising from this report.

Equalities

6.4 Equalities

(a) Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

<input type="checkbox"/>	YES
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X	NO – This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required
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(b) Fairer Scotland Duty

If this report affects or proposes any major strategic decision:-

Has there been active consideration of how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome?

	YES – A written statement showing how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed.
X	NO

(c) Data Protection

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.
X	NO

6.5 Repopulation

There are no repopulation implications arising from this report.

7.0 CONSULTATION

The MBWG have considered the request and unanimously support making the £20,000 donation.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None