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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Policy &amp; Resources Committee</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>18 November 2014</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Head of Legal &amp; Property Services</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>LP/072/14</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Sharon Lang</b>	<b>Contact No:</b>	<b>01475 712112</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Disasters Emergency Appeal in Scotland: Ebola Appeal – Request by Councillor McCabe</b>		

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## **1.0 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise of a request received from Councillor McCabe that the Committee consider supporting the Disasters Emergency Appeal (DEC) in Scotland Ebola Appeal by means of financial donation and/or promotional activity.

## **2.0 SUMMARY**

- 2.1 Oxfam has contacted Councillor McCabe on behalf of the DEC in Scotland in relation to the current Ebola crisis. An Appeal was launched on 30 October 2014 in Scotland. The Appeal is in response to the most complex Ebola outbreak that has ever occurred, resulting in a humanitarian crisis involving 4,500 deaths so far with nearly 10,000 people infected since the start of this year. Infection rates continue to grow in West Africa, especially in Sierra Leone and Liberia.
- 2.2 The Appeal asks for urgent action to respond quickly to the crisis and to undertake vital work to provide clean water and sanitation, to support health teams and to raise awareness within communities.
- 2.3 The Appeal requests that individual Councils within Scotland support the DEC by means of any financial donation as is thought appropriate and through any promotional activities.

## **3.0 RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Committee consider the request by Councillor McCabe and any action it would wish to take in response to the Appeal.

## 4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 A request has been received from Councillor McCabe that the Committee consider supporting the DEC in Scotland in relation to the Ebola Crisis Appeal which was launched on 30 October 2014. The Appeal is in response to the most complex Ebola outbreak since the virus was discovered in 1976. According to the World Health Organisation more than 4,500 people have died this year and there are nearly 10,000 cases of infection since the start of the year. Infection rates continue to grow in West Africa, especially in Sierra Leone and Liberia.
- 4.2 The DEC has asked individual Councils to support the Appeal by means of financial donation and by appropriate promotional activities.
- 4.3 Money raised in the Appeal will enable member agencies within the DEC to improve their emergency response to prevent the spread of Ebola and to provide practical support within communities. The Appeal request is attached as Appendix 1.
- 4.4 The Provost has already donated £1000 towards the appeal from the Provost's Benevolent Fund in order to provide the Civic lead.

## 5.0 IMPLICATIONS

### Finance

5.1

#### Financial Implications:

##### One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
Earmarked Reserves	General Fund Contingency	2014/15	To be determined by Committee		

##### Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

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

### Legal

5.2 None.

### Human Resources

5.3 None.

### Equalities

5.4 None.

## **Repopulation**

5.5 None.

## **6.0 CONSULTATIONS**

6.1 Not applicable.

## **7.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

7.1 Not applicable.



We are contacting you on behalf of the Disasters Emergency Appeal (DEC) in Scotland in relation to the Ebola Crisis Appeal launching today (Thursday). This appeal comes amid the largest and most complex Ebola outbreak since the virus was discovered in 1976, with more cases and deaths in this outbreak than all others combined.

Individual councils have offered welcome support to previous DEC Appeals – including financial donations and promotional activities. We would urge you to consider what support you can offer this Appeal. Our web address is [www.dec.org.uk](http://www.dec.org.uk).

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), more than 4,500 people have died and nearly 10,000 have been infected with Ebola since the start of the year. Infection rates continue to grow in Sierra Leone and Liberia with the number of cases doubling about every 20 days. The situation in Guinea seems to be stabilizing.

The Centre for Disease Control in Atlanta warn there could be as many as 1.4 million cases by January if urgent action is not taken, with WHO estimating there could be 10,000 new cases a week by early November.

DEC members responded quickly to the crisis through vital work to: provide clean water and sanitation; support health teams; and by raising awareness within communities. However, as infection rates exploded, this response has been significantly increased: this requires further financial support to maintain and develop.

Money raised in this Appeal will enable member agencies to scale up their emergency response, with a focus on preventing the spread of Ebola and the provision of practical support to those affected by the disease.

Specific examples of work members are undertaking include:

- Raising awareness in communities at risk of infection to help people protect themselves.
- Providing water and sanitation services to treatment centres.
- Safely disposing of the bodies of the dead to prevent the spread of infection.
- Tracing people who have been in contact with the infected so they can be treated if they have Ebola or go into quarantine until they are no longer at risk.
- Providing protective equipment, cleaning materials and hand washing facilities to local health clinics which are helping to identify people with Ebola (but which do not provide treatment).

Thank you for taking the time to read this and please do not hesitate to contact us to discuss this further.

Kind regards,

Kathy Galloway  
Chair, DEC Scotland  
Head of Christian Aid Scotland

Jamie Livingstone  
Deputy Convener, DEC Scotland  
Head of Oxfam Scotland.

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