
Report To:	Policy & Resources Committee	Date:	19 May 2015
Report By:	Head of Legal & Property Services	Report No:	LP/080/15
Contact Officer:	Rona McGhee	Contact No:	01475 712113
Subject:	Disasters Emergency Appeal in Scotland: Nepal Earthquake Appeal – Request by Councillor McCabe		

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 Nepal Earthquake 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 Nepal Earthquake Appeal. An Appeal was launched on 28 April in Scotland. The Appeal is in response to the largest earthquake to strike Nepal in 80 years, resulting in the Government of Nepal declaring a national emergency with some 5.3 million people living in areas hit by severe tremors.
- 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, to provide shelter and food and to address trauma.
- 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 Nepal Earthquake Appeal which was launched on 28 April 2015. The Appeal is in response to the largest earthquake to strike Nepal in 80 years, measuring 7.8 on the Richter scale, which has resulted in the Government of Nepal declaring a national emergency with some 5.3 million people living in areas hit by severe tremors. More than 3,500 people have died, with the true extent of the impact still to be determined by the Government of Nepal, and over 6,500 people have been injured.
- 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 and help prevent secondary disasters including outbreak of disease. The Appeal request is attached as Appendix 1.

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	2015/16	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.

APPENDIX 1

From: Ryan McQuigg
Date: 28/04/2015 8:37 AM (GMT+00:00)
To: Ryan McQuigg
Subject: DEC Nepal Earthquake Appeal

We are contacting you on behalf of the Disasters Emergency Appeal (DEC) in Scotland in relation to the Nepal Earthquake Appeal. The appeal (to launch today, Tuesday 28th April) comes amid the largest earthquake to strike Nepal in 80 years; the earthquake was measured at a magnitude of 7.8 in Richter scale. This has resulted in the government of Nepal declaring a state of national emergency with some 5.3 million people living in areas hit by severe tremors.

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 to this Appeal.

Our website address is <http://www.dec.org.uk>. Donations can be made at any high street bank and at post office counters. To donate £5 by text send the word SUPPORT to 70000. The full £5 will go to the DEC Nepal Earthquake Appeal. Donors must be 16 years or over and have the bill payer's permission. Texts are free and donations will be added to the bill. Donations can be made at www.dec.org.uk or 0370 60 60 900

More than 3,500 people have died, however the true extent of the impact is still to be fully determined by the Government of Nepal and this number looks likely to rise further, with over 6,500 people injured. More than 30,000 people are currently living in makeshift shelters in 16 government camp locations across the country.

Homes and historic buildings have been destroyed, with many women, men and children feared to be trapped inside their houses while electricity has been cut off and communication system is congested throughout the country. Many hospitals are overcrowded with emergency supplies and stocks depleting fast or used up.

DEC members are responding quickly to the crisis to: provide clean water and sanitation; support health teams; and assist with search and rescue/ recovery operations. However, aftershocks continue to cause damage to roads and vital infrastructure networks making it extremely difficult to reach out to communities outside of the Nepalese capital, this requires further financial support to maintain and develop our humanitarian response.

We wish to acknowledge, and strongly welcome, the Scottish Government's significant £250,000 contribution to this appeal. Whilst recognising the financial constraints you operate in, we hope you appreciate the current assistance the people of Nepal need and we urge you to consider a financial contribution to support the work of the DEC's 13 members. Eleven DEC members have experience of running effective development and disaster preparedness programmes in Nepal, with disaster response plans ready to be activated. DEC member agencies and their partners are working urgently to provide emergency shelter, food, clean water and blankets.

Money raised in this Appeal will enable member agencies to scale up their emergency response, and help prevent secondary disasters, including outbreak of disease with a focus on:

- Providing water and sanitation services to treatment centres.
- Providing medical supplies and staff to assist over-run hospitals
- Providing shelter (tents), as many people are scared to re-enter buildings for fear of other quakes
- Providing food supplies and warm clothing, blankets and bedding
- Addressing trauma, through psychosocial care

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

further.

Kind regards,

Jamie Livingstone
Convenor, DEC Scotland
Head of Oxfam Scotland

Neil Mathers
Chair, DEC Nepal Earthquake Appeal
Head of Country – Scotland, Save the Children

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