

Subject: The Charitable Response to the Grenfell Tower Fire, Terror Attacks and other events in London

Report to: GLA Oversight Committee

Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat

Date: 31 January 2018

This report will be considered in public

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report provides background for the Committee to put questions to guests responsible for handling and managing the charitable response to recent emergencies in London, including the Grenfell Tower fire and terror attacks.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **That the Committee notes the report, puts questions to invited guests, and notes the discussion.**

3. Background

- 3.1 This is the third session that the GLA Oversight Committee will hold looking at the response to the Grenfell Tower fire. The Committee met on 14 September 2017 and 23 November 2017 to examine the pan-London response to the fire and the Mayor's role in the resilience arrangements.
- 3.2 This meeting looks at how the charitable response to the Grenfell Tower fire, terror attacks and other events in London were managed, with a view to identifying the lessons for any future emergencies. It will focus on money (and gifts in kind) raised from the public and distributed to survivors and victims' families. It will not examine the monies raised by trusts/foundations, nor will it look at the contributions of time (by volunteers/members of the public). A paper prepared by the London Emergencies Trust setting out the background to its involvement in disaster relief in the city and the role of the Mayor is attached at **Appendix A**.

4. Issues for Consideration

- 4.1 The meeting will explore:
- How public donations (in relation to the giving of money and gifts) to the Grenfell Fire and other events were managed.

- The criticisms put forward by some members of the community and the media in relation to the management and distribution of funds.
- The role of the Mayor.
- What lessons might be identified for the way responses could be better coordinated in future.

4.2 The following guests have been invited to participate in the discussion:

- David Farnsworth, Director, City Bridge Trust;
- Sarah Atkinson, Director of Policy, Planning and Communications, Charity Commission;
- Mark Simms, Chief Executive, Rugby Portobello Trust;
- Susan Dolton, Director, Kensington and Chelsea Foundation;
- Gerald Oppenheim, Chair, London Emergencies Trust;
- Rob Bell, Director, London Emergencies Trust;
- Zoe Abrams, Executive Director for Communications and Engagement, British Red Cross;
- Manny Hothi, Director of Programmes and Strategic Partnerships, London Community Foundation; and
- Emma Strain, Assistant Director of External Affairs, GLA.

5. Legal Implications

5.1 The Assembly has the power to do what is recommended in this report.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 There are no financial implications to the GLA arising from this report.

List of appendices to this report: Appendix A: London Emergencies Trust briefing

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985	
List of Background Papers: None	
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