

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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COMMITTEE	Finance & Resources Committee
DATE	21 June 2012
DIRECTOR	Gordon McIntosh
TITLE OF REPORT	Request for Donation of Pick-up Trucks
REPORT NUMBER:	EPI/12/141

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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report details an approach from MedicAid Africa requesting that the City Council donates a number of surplus pick-up vehicles to assist with its work in Africa.

2. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee agrees to the donation of three suitable surplus LDV Pick-up Trucks to MedicAid Africa.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The sale of these vehicles at Public Auction would normally generate between £300 and £500 each. The potential loss of this income can be accommodated within the current budget.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

The City Council has been approached by MedicAid Africa requesting that the City Council donates a number of its surplus pick-up trucks to assist the charity undertake its work in Sierra Leone.

Every year the Council has a number of surplus trucks that have reached the end of their economic life. These vehicles are normally sold at auction, usually for scrap, achieving disposal prices of between £300 to £500. MedicAid Africa has indicated that such vehicles are of interest to them and would, even in this condition, greatly assist them.

MedicAid Africa is a small Aberdeen based charity with a strategic focus on improving women's health in Sierra Leone, a country with among the world's worst pregnancy related deaths.

Transport networks and logistics remain key aspects that affect the efficient functioning of health systems in Sierra Leone. Delays in medical supplies reaching hospitals seriously affect the quality of healthcare provided. Recently serious challenges have been identified in the supply chain and drug distribution networks that have impacted care provision for pregnant women and under-five year old children. MedicAid aim to remedy this by addressing the transportation aspect of the supply chain, using these vehicles to help ensure more reliable distribution channels.

MedicAid Africa's work has gained support from Ministers of Health in Sierra Leone, Local Aberdeen MSP's, the Press & Journal, NHS and several other local Aberdeen companies. MedicAid have already been donated an ambulance, X-rays machines, CT and ultrasound scanners, which have helped improved quality of care. As a small charity with limited resources they rely on partnerships and donations from organisations like the City Council. Attached, as Appendix 1, is an article from the Press & Journal which further highlights the work that the charity undertakes.

6. IMPACT

Corporate – There is no significant impact from this report.

Public – There may be considerable public interest both for the City Council and the charitable work that MedicAid Africa undertakes.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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