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| Officer responsible Director of Operations | Author Allan Watson |
| Corporate Plan Output: Unauthorised Expenditure | |

The purpose of this report is to describe an opportunity for the Council arising out of the work of the East Timor/Taiwan Appeal Subcommittee. It recommends that the Council agree to registration of suitable personnel with RedR NZ (Register of Engineers for Disaster Relief NZ), an organisation established to provide specialist assistance for disaster recovery.

BACKGROUND

During the work carried out by the East Timor/Taiwan Appeal Subcommittee attention was drawn to the existence of RedR NZ, a New Zealand-based organisation which maintains a register of specialist technical personnel available to travel to disaster areas and provide assistance. RedR was first established in the United Kingdom and has since been set up in Australia and New Zealand, with RedR International now set up in Geneva.

PROPOSAL

Contact with the New Zealand director has been made and he has expressed appreciation of the City Council’s preparedness to contribute in some way to disaster relief. His suggestion is that City Council technical staff be canvassed to determine who might be willing and available to serve on a disaster recovery assignment and that these people then apply to be registered with RedR NZ.

Acceptance on to the register depends on the outcome of the application and interview process, but assuming that City Council personnel were successful in becoming registered the willingness of the City Council to support an assignment by way of leave on pay and travel cost, for example, would have an important bearing in the selection process.

When RedR receives a request with job description, timing and special requirements, from a relief agency, the database is searched to find those individuals best able to meet the need. The individuals selected are then given details of the request and asked to contact the requesting agency direct to confirm their availability for the job. The agency then decides its final choice and negotiates a contract direct with the engineer concerned. The contract covers salary, travel, accommodation and insurance amongst other essential aspects for the job. On assignment the engineer works as a short-term employee of the agency.

EAST TIMOR

It is understood that relief agencies (principally OXFAM and CARITAS) are currently carrying out needs analyses in East Timor and that they may well be seeking help from RedR NZ. Whether or not the timing would allow involvement of Christchurch City Council personnel is yet to be seen, but proceeding with the canvassing and registration would position the Council to offer a significant and useful response in future events.

During discussion on this clause the Committee endorsed a suggestion by Councillor Harrow that details of the RedR organisation be forwarded to Local Government New Zealand for inclusion in a future newsletter.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Director of Operations be requested to arrange for the canvassing of technical personnel with the objective of establishing individual registration with RedR NZ.
 2. That if, as a result of registration, the City Council is asked to support the assignment of personnel to a disaster recovery event, the matter be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.
 3. That staff be requested to report back on the financial implications to the Council.
 4. That an approach be made to Local Government New Zealand to publicise the aims and purpose of the Register of Engineers for Disaster Relief in a future newsletter and that the issue be raised at the next Zone 5 meeting.