

Scotland Excel

To: Executive Sub-Committee

On: 19 April 2024

**Report by:
Chief Executive of Scotland Excel**

Buy Social Scotland Business Pledge

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report outlines an opportunity for Scotland Excel to both demonstrate its social value commitment and also increase its visibility within the wider third sector landscape.

2. Background

- 2.1 Scotland Excel was approached by Social Enterprise Scotland and invited to be an early adopter of their new "Buy Social Scotland" programme. The programme seeks to:

- Promote the benefit of social and environmental led sustainable procurement.
- Support businesses develop partnerships and value-led supply chains with Scotland's social enterprise sector.
- Embed innovation, best practice, diversity and social value into supply chains.
- Deliver enhanced value to Scotland's communities and wider stakeholders.

There is no charge associated with the programme.

3. The Pledge

- 3.1 The Buy Social Pledge has 5 key commitments for organisations:

1. Recognise Fair Work principles.
2. Make a commitment towards a Net Zero Policy.
3. Promote Social Enterprises within our own organisation's procurement and supply chain.
4. Agree to prompt payment to its suppliers.
5. Commit to reporting annual spend with Social Enterprises.

- 3.2 Scotland Excel already adheres to the first four elements of the pledge through its ongoing operations and also in its wider attitude and support across its portfolio. Item 5 on the pledge would be a new commitment and is similar to the type of information contained within the existing annual procurement report.

4. Benefits

- 4.1 Scotland Excel has been tasked to ensure the third sector, which is recognised as a vital part of the public sector supply chain, is supported. Continued efforts over the years have delivered limited traction with associate membership etc. This pledge could provide added visibility within the wider social enterprise sector.
- 4.2 Scotland Excel is keen to promote the benefits of social enterprise beyond its own operations and would also seek to promote this concept to its members. Other early adopters include Glasgow City Council, City Building and a number of large private construction organisations.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 Members are invited to approve the adoption of the Buy Social Scotland Business Pledge.