

Scotland Excel

To: Executive Sub-Committee

On: 27 November 2020

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

Request for Associate Membership of Scotland Excel by University of Aberdeen

1. Summary

- 1.1 In addition to the 32 local authorities which are full members of Scotland Excel, applications can be made for Associate Membership by organisations such as council arm's length organisations, community groups, charities, housing associations and voluntary organisations which are a public body or a body that engages in activities of a public nature.

Organisations apply to Scotland Excel for Associate Membership to allow them to access the frameworks for goods and services which we have in place for our full members. Associates do not have the opportunity to influence the future contract delivery schedule which is reserved for the full local authority members.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended to committee that University of Aberdeen application to join Scotland Excel as an associate member be approved, with no annual fee, subject to the agreement document. No fee will be charged based on the reciprocal agreement in place with the centre of procurement expertise for Colleges and Universities.
- 2.2 Scotland Excel monitors all requests from arm's length and other organisations to become associate members to ensure that any legal requirements are met. In this case, University of Aberdeen qualifies for membership in accordance with the Local Authorities (Goods and Services) Act 1970 section 1 (1B)(b) namely as a public authority or body. Namely, that it has functions that are public in nature or engages in activities of that nature so long as the purpose or effect of access to Scotland Excel's services is to facilitate its discharge of those functions or activities.

3. Background

- 3.1 University of Aberdeen are a higher education institution
- 3.2 University of Aberdeen is an accredited Real Living Wage employer.
- 3.3 To ensure the efficient and cost-effective delivery of these services University of Aberdeen has approached Scotland Excel and requested approval to become an associate member with access to Scotland Excel contracts.
- 3.4 Before any application is submitted for approval, a number of validation checks on the organisation are carried out. These include a review of the Memorandum & Articles of Association, the financial position and the type of contracts that the organisation is likely to access. It is confirmed that satisfactory validation checks have been completed in relation to this application.