

## **Scotland Excel**

**To: Executive Sub Committee**

**On: 08 December 2017**

**Report  
by  
Director Scotland Excel**

### **Request for Associate Membership of Scotland Excel by Design Dundee**

#### **1 Introduction**

In addition to the 32 local authorities who are full members of Scotland Excel applications can be made for Associate Membership by organisations such as council arms 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 Application**

Design Dundee is a charity founded by Dundee City Council, Scottish Enterprise, The University of Abertay, The University of Dundee and The Victoria and Albert Museum to manage the Victoria and Albert Museum of Design in Dundee.

The museum, which is due to open in 2018, will bring a new perspective. An international centre of design and it will present the brilliance of Scottish creativity and the best of design from around the world. It's a place where people from every walk of life can find enjoyment and inspiration.

The museum's aim is to be a catalyst, a point of connection that brings together people and diverse organisations in a new creative way, demonstrated by the partnership of the five founding organisations

#### **3 Legislative Position**

Before any application is submitted to committee for consideration checks are made into the organisation including scrutiny of the Memorandum & Articles of Association, finances and the type of contracts that the organisation wishes to access. Membership commences once committee has approved the application and a Membership Agreement between Scotland Excel and the organisation is signed. The Membership Agreement protects Scotland Excel

and Renfrewshire Council in the event of default by the Associate Member in any contract.

Scotland Excel monitors all requests from arm length organisations to become associate members to ensure that any legal requirements are met as not all such organisations are fully funded from their local authority, in this case Design Dundee qualify for membership as they in accordance with the Local Authorities (Goods and Services) Act 1970 namely that the organisation is not a public body but has functions of a public nature or engages in activities of that nature and the purpose of accessing Scotland Excel's services is to facilitate the discharge of those functions and activities.

#### **4 Recommendation**

It is recommended to committee that the Design Dundee's application to join Scotland Excel as an associate member be approved, at an annual fee of £500, subject to completion and signing of the agreement document.