

Scotland Excel

To: Executive Sub Committee

On: 10 February 2017

**Report
by
Director Scotland Excel**

**Request for Associate Membership of Scotland Excel by South East of
Scotland Transport Partnership**

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

The South East of Scotland Transport Partnership (SEStran) is the statutory Regional Transport Partnership for the South East of Scotland and is one of seven statutory Regional Transport Partnerships covering the whole of Scotland, which were created under the Transport (Scotland) Act 2005.

SEStran encompasses eight local authorities: City of Edinburgh, Clackmannanshire, East Lothian, Falkirk, Fife, Midlothian, Scottish Borders and West Lothian.

Within the partnership area there is a huge diversity of transportation issues, from urban congestion to rural public transport and from ferry ports to airports. SEStran aims to address these issues and work towards a more sustainable and efficient transport network. SEStran contributes to a varied range of transport projects and events as well as partnership working with various organisations.

To ensure the efficient and cost effective delivery of these services the association has approached Scotland Excel and requested approval to become an associate member with access to our contracts.

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 arms length and other 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 SEStran qualify for membership as they in accordance with the Local Authorities (Goods and Services) Act 1970 namely that the organisation is a public body 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 SEStran'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.