

Scotland Excel

To: Executive Sub Committee

On: 13 May 2016

Report by Director Scotland Excel

Request for Associate Membership of Scotland Excel by Ferguslie Park Housing Association

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

Following work carried out with them as part of a review of procurement capability within the organisation Ferguslie Park Housing Association has applied to Scotland Excel for associate membership.

Ferguslie Park Housing Association is a Registered Social Landlord with its entire assets based in Ferguslie Park, Paisley. It is the largest social landlord on the estate with some 800 existing properties and more in development.

The Association acts as more than a landlord within the community of Ferguslie Park and the Association oversees local regeneration projects, training and employment projects and community participation initiatives.

With its partners in the local community and local and national government, the Association invests in the physical, social and economic regeneration of Ferguslie Park.

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 Ferguslie Park Housing Association qualify for membership as they in accordance with the Local Authorities (Goods and Services) Act 1970, section 1(1B), namely that the organisation is not a public body, but it 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 Ferguslie Park Housing Association's application to join Scotland Excel as an associate member be approved, at a £1,204 fee, subject to completion and signing of the agreement document.