

Scotland Excel

To: Executive Sub Committee

On: 15 September 2017

Report by Director Scotland Excel

Request for Associate Membership of Scotland Excel by Bield Housing & Care

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, Bield Housing & Care has applied to Scotland Excel for associate membership.

Bield are a not for profit organisation and Scottish Charity. They are also a Registered Social Landlord. The organisation is one of the largest providers of Housing and Care in Scotland with just under 4700 properties and a number of Care Services.

Bield Housing & Care are registered:

- As a social landlord with The Scottish Housing Regulator
- As a charity with the Office of the Scottish Charities Regulator
- With the Care Inspectorate for the provision of housing support services, support services and care home services

Bield Housing & Care has 4366 self-contained units, 164 non self-contained units and 151 care home flats.

To ensure the efficient and cost effective delivery of these services they have 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 Bield Housing & Care 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 Bield Housing & Care application to join Scotland Excel as an associate member be approved, at a £7,020 annual fee, subject to completion and signing of the agreement document.