

## **Scotland Excel**

**To: Scotland Excel Executive Sub Committee**

**On: 27 November 2015**

**Report  
by  
Director Scotland Excel**

### **Request for Associate Membership of Scotland Excel by Wheatley Group**

#### **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 organizations, 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**

Wheatley is Scotland's leading housing, care and property-management group. It comprises five Registered Social Landlords, a care organization and two commercial subsidiaries.

The group spans 15 local authority areas across central Scotland, providing homes and award winning services to over 200,000 people.

All parts of the group are firmly rooted in their local communities. However, by joining forces with partner organisations the combined size and scale is being used to contribute to improving housing, care and regeneration at a national level.

Wheatley Group has applied for the following group members to be accepted as Associate Members of Scotland Excel:

- Wheatley Housing Group Ltd
- Lorretto Care
- Lorretto Housing Association
- West Lothian Housing Association
- Cube Housing Association.

### **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 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 the Wheatley Group organisations named as; Wheatley Housing Group, Lorretto Care, Lorretto Housing Association, West Lothian Housing Association and Cube Housing Associations qualify for membership as they in accordance with the Local Authorities (Goods and Services) Act 1970, section 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.

### **4 Recommendation**

It is recommended to committee that Wheatley Group's named organisations application to join Scotland Excel as an associate member is approved, at an annual fee of £30,000, subject to completion and signing of the agreement document.