

Scotland Excel

To: Executive Sub-Committee

On: 29th May 2020

**Report by:
Chief Executive of Scotland Excel**

Request for Associate Membership of Scotland Excel by South of Scotland Enterprise Agency

1. Summary

- 1.1 In addition to the 32 local authorities which are full members of Scotland Excel, applications can be made for Associate Membership by organisations such as council arm's 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. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended to committee that South of Scotland Enterprise Agency application to join Scotland Excel as an associate member be approved, with no annual fee, subject to the agreement document.
- 2.2 Scotland Excel monitors all requests from arm's length and other organisations to become associate members to ensure that any legal requirements are met. In this case, South of Scotland Enterprise Agency qualifies for membership in accordance with the Local Authorities (Goods and Services) Act 1970 section 1 (1B)(b) namely as a public authority or body.

3. **Background**

- 3.1 South of Scotland Enterprise Agency is a Non-departmental public body operating in the local authority areas of the Scottish Borders and Dumfries and Galloway.
- 3.2 South of Scotland Enterprise Agency pays the Real Living Wage but are not accredited at present. However this will be reviewed in due course.
- 3.3 South of Scotland Enterprise Agency will:
- develop and deliver a clear and prioritised work plan, aligning existing activity, driving progress and piloting new approaches to benefit the South of Scotland.
 - influence the design of the new Agency - offering views on options for its structure and functions, assessing what has worked and engaging with stakeholders to ensure its responsive to and informed by the needs of the area
 - deliver a strong programme of engagement with stakeholders across the South of Scotland, including the private sector to ensure that they influence the work programme and can inform the proposals for the new agency.
- 3.4 To ensure the efficient and cost-effective delivery of these services it has approached Scotland Excel and requested approval to become an associate member with access to our contracts.
- 3.5 Before any application is submitted for approval, a number of validation checks on the organisation are carried out. These include a review of the Memorandum & Articles of Association, the financial position and the type of contracts that the organisation is likely to access.