

Notice of Meeting and Agenda Scotland Excel Executive Sub-committee

Date	Time	Venue
Friday, 31 January 2020	10:45	Scotland Excel Meeting Room 1, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley

KENNETH GRAHAM
Clerk

Membership

Provost Bill Howatson (Aberdeenshire Council); Councillor Angus Macmillan Douglas (Angus Council); Councillor Graham Hutchison (City of Edinburgh Council); Provost Norman A Macdonald (Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar); Councillor Stephen Thompson (Dumfries and Galloway Council); Councillor Altany Craik (Fife Council); Bailie Norman MacLeod (Glasgow City Council); Councillor Alister Mackinnon (Highland Council); Vacant position (North Ayrshire Council); Councillor Paul Di Mascio (North Lanarkshire Council); Councillor John Shaw (Renfrewshire Council); Councillor Amanda Hawick (Shetland Islands Council) and Councillor Collette Stevenson (South Lanarkshire Council)

Councillor John Shaw (Convener): Councillor Paul Di Mascio (Vice Convener)

Further Information

This is a meeting which is open to members of the public.

A copy of the agenda and reports for this meeting will be available for inspection prior to the meeting at the Customer Service Centre, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley and online at <http://renfrewshire.cmis.uk.com/renfrewshire/CouncilandBoards.aspx>

For further information, please either email democratic-services@renfrewshire.gov.uk or telephone 0141 618 7112.

Members of the Press and Public

Members of the press and public wishing to attend the meeting should report to the customer service centre where they will be met and directed to the meeting.

Video Conferencing

Should any member wish to participate using video conferencing please contact Karen Forrest on 0141 618 7444.

Items of business

Apologies

Apologies from members.

Declarations of Interest

Members are asked to declare an interest in any item(s) on the agenda and to provide a brief explanation of the nature of the interest.

- | | | |
|-------------|--|----------------|
| 1 | Minute of the Executive Sub-committee | 5 - 8 |
| | Minute of the Executive Sub-committee meeting held on 6 December, 2019. | |
| 2 | Contract for Approval - Fresh Fruit and Vegetables | 9 - 22 |
| | Report by Director of Scotland Excel. | |
| 3 | Update on Social Work Care Case Management Framework Award Recommendation | |
| | Verbal update by the Director of Scotland Excel. | |
| 4 | Associate Membership Report | 23 - 28 |
| | Report by Director of Scotland Excel. | |
| 5(a) | Request for Associate Membership - West College Scotland | 29 - 30 |
| | Report by Director of Scotland Excel. | |
| 5(b) | Request for Associate Membership - National Museums Scotland | 31 - 32 |
| | Report by Director of Scotland Excel. | |
| 5(c) | Request for Associate Membership - Ardenglen Housing Association | 33 - 34 |
| | Report by Director of Scotland Excel. | |
| 5(d) | Request for Associate Membership - Dunbritton Housing Association | 35 - 36 |
| | Report by Director of Scotland Excel. | |
| 6 | Report on Single Use Plastics | 37 - 50 |
| | Report by Director of Scotland Excel. | |

7 Date of Next Meeting

Note that the next meeting of the Executive Sub-committee will be held at 10.45 on 28 February 2020 in Scotland Excel Meeting Room 1, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley.



Minute of Meeting Scotland Excel Executive Sub-committee

Date	Time	Venue
Friday, 06 December 2019	09:45	City Chambers, Glasgow City Council, 80 George Square, Glasgow, G2 1DU

Present

Provost Norman A Macdonald (Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar); Councillor Stephen Thompson (Dumfries and Galloway Council); Bailie Norman MacLeod (Glasgow City Council); Councillor Paul Di Mascio (North Lanarkshire Council); Councillor John Shaw (Renfrewshire Council); and Councillor Amanda Hawick (Shetland Islands Council).

Chair

Councillor Shaw, Convener, presided.

In Attendance

J Welsh, Director, H Carr, Head of Strategic Procurement, S Brannagan, Head of Customer and Business Services, L Campbell, Corporate Services Manager, and K Murphy, Procurement Coordinator (Policy) (all Scotland Excel); and M Conaghan, Legal and Democratic Services Manager, C McCourt, Finance Business Partner, E Currie, Senior Committee Services Officer and K O'Neill, Assistant Democratic Services Officer (all Renfrewshire Council).

Apologies

Councillor Graham Hutchison (City of Edinburgh Council); and Councillor Alister Mackinnon (Highland Council).

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest intimated prior to the commencement of the meeting.

Order of Business

In terms of Standing Order 12, the Convener intimated that he proposed to alter the order of business to facilitate the conduct of the meeting by considering item 2 of the agenda after item 3 of the agenda.

1 Minute

There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Executive Sub-committee held on 22 November 2019.

DECIDED: That the Minute be approved.

2 Living Wage Terminology

There was submitted a report by the Director of Scotland Excel relative to the various definitions used when referring to the Living Wage and outlining the terminology Scotland Excel would use in future reports.

The report provided information in relation to the Real Living Wage; the Scottish Living Wage; the Scottish Local Government Living Wage; the Glasgow Living Wage; the National Minimum Wage; and the National Living Wage.

DECIDED: That, in line with the Scottish Government, Scotland Excel would support the voluntary rate rather than the legal minimum rate of pay set by the UK Government and in recognising that the various definitions and terminology could be confusing, Scotland Excel would consistently and strongly promote the voluntary rate and the use of the term 'Real Living Wage' to make a distinction from the legal minimum rate set by the UK Government.

3 Revenue Budget Monitoring

There was submitted a revenue budget monitoring report by the Treasurer and the Director of Scotland Excel for the period 1 April to 8 November 2019.

The report intimated that Scotland Excel was projecting a break-even position by year-end in its core activities and that it was anticipated that projects would contribute £173,000 to core.

The table in the report provided an analysis of the actual spend to date along with projected net expenditure for 2019/20 and included a summary of movement in the revenue reserve.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

Sederunt

Provost Macdonald entered the meeting during consideration of the following item of business.

4 National Care Home Contract Cost Model

There was submitted a report by the Director of Scotland Excel providing an update on work being undertaken to complete the National Care Home Contract (NCHC) Cost Model.

The report intimated that the Cost Model had been developed to provide a transparent and evidence-based approach to underpin the national rate and provide longer-term sustainability for care homes for older people in Scotland. Agreement had been reached on the majority of the elements contained in the Cost Model which related to direct care, however, for the past three years, there had been no agreement on the business cost elements of the model. Last year's offer to the care home sector had been based on the Cost Model and it was agreed that further joint work would be required on the business costs and commercial return section in an attempt to finalise the model. This did not impact on the rate offered and it was made clear to the sector that it might be necessary to look at an alternative approach to reach agreement from April 2020 onwards, given the number of benchmarks rejected by them on the basis that they fell short of their member's expectations.

It was unlikely that agreement on the whole model would be reached for the 2020/21 national rate and it was proposed that the Cost Model be used to enter into negotiation with the sector on the annual uplift based on the direct care costs. Scotland Excel, supported by CoSLA, would lead the negotiation for local government.

Scottish Care called an Extraordinary General Meeting on 30 October 2019 followed by a member vote which concluded on 8 November 2019. Scottish Care advise that their members voted to accept the agreed Cost Care Model elements related to Direct Care Costs and for further negotiation on the outstanding elements of capital and provider return, occupancy and efficiency. Effectively members voted for a continuance of the national approach on agreeing the National Care Home Contract and Cost Model.

Scotland Excel had advised stakeholders of the current position and would lead negotiations with the sector supported by CoSLA following further consultation with stakeholders.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

5 Contract Delivery Plan Update

There was submitted an update report by the Director of Scotland Excel relative to the progress of the 2019/20 contract delivery plan.

The report intimated that the contract delivery plan comprised framework renewals, new developments, framework extensions and frameworks with ongoing contract management only and appendices 1 to 4 to the report provided further details.

The report highlighted that contract delivery remained active with 73 current frameworks in the Scotland Excel portfolio, 12 of which were planned for renewal throughout the year; a further 15 new frameworks were planned for the year, nine of which had been delivered to date; and a further 23 frameworks on the current portfolio had extension options, 21 of which had already been approved.

The estimated forecast value of the Scotland Excel framework portfolio by 31 March 2020 would be approximately £1.9 billion.

It was noted that overall, efficiencies delivered to date were 2.7% which was above the 2.5% forecast savings.

In addition to the activity detailed in appendices 1 to 4, Scotland Excel had explored the benefits of further collaborative procurement across high spend, critical service areas of adult social care and construction; was currently evaluating the tender for care and support services, with the framework scheduled to go live in February 2020; would be working with members to undertake the strategy development phase of the Engineering and Construction Consultancy, with the framework scheduled to go live in Autumn 2020; and would continue to work in conjunction with the Digital Office to procure a replacement Social Work Care Case Management System.

As detailed in Appendix 5 to the report, contract participation levels remained high with spend levels in excess of 87% against forecast in the 12 months from July 2018 to June 2019. Expenditure across the portfolio was anticipated to continue to rise over the course of next year and beyond.

It was proposed that future reports contain reference to the targets set and that information be presented using the traffic light system of red, amber and green. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED:

(a) That the progress to date be noted; and

(b) That future reports contain information regarding targets set and that the information be presented using the traffic light system of red, amber and green.

6 Employee Absence Management Report

There was submitted a report by the Director of Scotland Excel relative to employee absence statistics for Scotland Excel. The report advised of the absence levels for the period ending 31 October 2019, the previous six and 12 months and provided information relating to the absence statistics and reasons.

It was proposed that information relating to the previous three years be detailed in future reports. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED:

(a) That the report be noted; and

(b) That information relating to the previous three years be detailed in future reports.

7 Date of Next Meeting

DECIDED: That it be noted that the next meeting of the Executive Sub-committee would be held at 10.45 am on 31 January 2020 in Scotland Excel Meeting Room 1, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley.



Scotland Excel

To: Executive Sub Committee

On: 31st January 2020

**Report
by
Director Scotland Excel**

Tender: Supply & Distribution of Fresh Fruit & Vegetables

Schedule: 1019

Period: 01 April 2020 until 31 March 2022, with the option to extend for up to an additional two 12-month periods until 30 March 2024.

1. Introduction and Background

This framework will provide councils and other participating bodies with a mechanism to procure a range of fresh/organic fruit and vegetables and will support councils with the introduction of the revised nutrition act that now requires a minimum of two portions of vegetables and a portion of fruit to be offered as part of a school lunch, in both primary and secondary schools.

2. Scope, Participation and Spend

As part of the strategy development and through consultation with the User Intelligence Groups (UIG), the inclusion of a 2 lot framework was endorsed as summarised in Figure 1.

Figure 1

Lot Number	Lot Name	Framework Spend
1	Lot 1 - Fresh Fruit and Vegetables	90%
2	Lot 2 - Fresh Organic Fruit and Vegetables	10%

As this is the first generation of this framework, current figures on council participation were initially based on the Scottish Procurement Information Hub, and then issued to councils for validation. A number of councils have their own contracts already in place and it is anticipated that when these arrangements end the councils will migrate over to the Scotland Excel framework.

The framework has an advertised value of £6 million over the four years, and this report summarises the outcome of the procurement process.

3. Procurement Process

A User Intelligence Group (UIG) consisting of representatives from participating member councils agreed the procurement strategy. In addition, a working group consisting of technical and procurement representatives was formed to review technical specifications and the core product list

A Prior Information Notice (PIN) was published on 13th May 2019 with 14 companies expressing an interest in the opportunity. Market engagement was conducted, resulting in 6 supplier meetings, which helped to provide an understanding of the marketplace as well as current service requirements.

The procurement exercise followed an open tender process to ensure maximum competition and the inclusion of all potential suppliers to service the framework. All bidders were evaluated against selection criteria using the European Single Procurement Document (ESPD), and award criteria concurrently. The award criteria included technical and commercial sections that were evaluated against the following weightings:

All Lots

Technical 35%
Commercial 65%

Within the technical section, bidders were required to evidence their knowledge and experience by responding to the following series of technical questions:

Figure 2

Question	Description	Lot 1 and 2 Weighting
1	Fair Work Practices	5
2	Supply Chain Traceability	5
3	CO2 Emissions, Food Miles & Route Planning	1
4	Recycling - Cradle to Cradle	4
5	Sustainability of Quality	5
6	Seasonality	5
7	Service, Delivery and Contract Management	6
8	Community Benefits Commitment	4

4. Report on Offers Received

Offers were received by 6 bidders, a summary of the offers received is provided in Appendix 1.

Based on the criteria and scoring methodology set out in the tender document, a full evaluation of the offers received was completed. Despite extensive stakeholder engagement, only one supplier, a Small/Medium Enterprise (SME) from East Lothian offered for Lot 2 (Organic Products). As a result, there are a number of councils which have received no offer for this lot, and this is due to factors such as lack of product availability and product pricing.

Appendix 2 confirms the scoring achieved by each bidder.

5. Recommendations

Based on the evaluation undertaken, and in line with the criteria and weightings set out above, it is recommended that a multi-supplier framework arrangement is awarded to 6 suppliers across 2 lots as outlined in Appendix 2.

All of the six recommended service providers are SME's. Appendix 1 outlines the location of the service providers, with all six being based in Scotland, supporting the Scottish economy.

As shown in Appendix 2, Scotland Excel did not receive any bids for the following 4 council areas: Argyll & Bute Council, Orkney Islands Council, Shetland Islands Council and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar. This is disappointing given that Scotland Excel conducted full engagement with organisations such as the Soil Association and Scotland Food and Drink to encourage participation from local suppliers.

6. Benefits

Savings

On the basis of limited spend information provided by councils, savings have been forecast at 5% based on wider market analysis, and a comparison with the savings reports of other first-generation frameworks. This will be monitored on an ongoing basis.

Price Stability

Price Stability was not scored for this tender due to uncertainty from Brexit, however a price stability clause was inserted to cover any implications of this. Also, as understood through market research, price is regulated due to seasonality issues. All suppliers have offered 6 month fixed pricing, with only one offering 12 months fixed pricing.

Sustainable Procurement Benefits

Within the technical section of the tender, Scotland Excel included a number of sustainability related method statements including the following:

- Carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions, food miles & route planning
- Recycling cradle to cradle
- Sustainable quality of produce

The carbon dioxide CO₂ emissions, food miles & route planning method statement focused on how the tenderer efficiently delivered produce to multiple locations whilst reducing the output of CO₂ and decrease food miles, to which all suppliers said they plan out the shortest and most efficient route for their drivers to take. The recycling cradle to cradle method statement focused on the reduction of plastic packaging and the development of alternative solutions for boxes and containers throughout the supply chain. All suppliers provided input on their drive to improve packaging, with some re-using plastic packaging and crates for multiple deliveries in order to reduce waste. The final method statement focused on how the supplier can guarantee the quality of the products being delivered out of season. Suppliers showed an understanding of the market place they currently operate in and all currently work with a network of European growers to ensure they meet demand in the UK when produce is out of season.

Community Benefits

Suppliers were asked to commit to the delivery of community benefit initiatives, per council, against pre-agreed spend threshold levels outlined within the community benefits method statement. The benefits aim to be reflective of the National Indicators outlined within the Scottish Government's National Performance framework, and their underlying vision and goals. Councils will accrue 'community benefit points' based on their level of spend with a supplier. These 'points' correlate to a negotiable benefit that the council can elect to receive at any given point throughout the lifetime of the framework. All suppliers have committed to delivering these benefits.

Within the published tender documents, suppliers were given a list of indicative community benefits that could be agreed with councils. Examples of the indicative benefits which were conveyed to providers were:

- Fundraising event for external charities / initiatives within the council
- Work placements to school students from councils
- Offer training sessions to wider community within the council, offering debt advice etc. (non-employees / school children)
- Sponsorship of sports team or community event within the council to the value of £500
- Recruit a modern (or other approved) apprentice from within the council
- Recruit one person from within the council area

Scotland Excel will monitor delivery of these commitments during the lifetime of the framework and this will also be reported through ongoing contract management returns. Results reported on community benefits will be disseminated to councils on a bi-annual basis.

Fair work Practise including Real Living Wage

Scotland Excel recognise that part of the delivery of high-quality public services depends on a workforce that is well-rewarded, well-motivated, well-led, has access to appropriate opportunities for training and skills development, are diverse and is engaged in decision making. Within the technical section of the tender, this method statement assessed bidders on areas such as how they will commit to fair work practices including payment of the living wage, a fair pay policy for seasonal workers, improving wider diversity of staff and avoiding exploitative employment practices such as no inappropriate use of zero hours contracts.

Of the 6 tenderers, 4 suppliers currently pay the Real Living Wage to their staff, with one supplier currently going through the process of becoming an accredited Living Wage Employer, and one supplier agreed to make the same commitment within the first two years of the framework.

A summary of responses can be found in figure 3 below with more information available in Appendix 3.

Figure 3

Organisation's position in terms of payment of the Real Living Wage	Number of Suppliers
Accredited	3
Progress towards accreditation	1
Not Accredited but pay the Real Living Wage	1
Committed to gaining accreditation over the first 2 years of the Framework	1
Not paying Real Living Wage but committed to doing so within 2 years	0
Neither accredited nor paying the Real Living Wage	0
Total number of Suppliers	6

7. Contract Mobilisation and Management

As part of the mobilisation process, all suppliers will be invited to a contract mobilisation meeting to outline the operation of the framework, including roles and responsibilities, management information and community benefits. Suppliers and

participating members will be issued with a mobilisation pack containing all required details to utilise the framework.

In accordance with Scotland Excel's established contract and supplier management programme, this framework has been classified as a category C arrangement in terms of both risk and spend. As such, Scotland Excel will conduct six monthly review meetings with suppliers and annual user group reviews, as appropriate, whilst monitoring management information and community benefits associated with this framework.

8. Summary

This is a first-generation framework for the Supply and Distribution of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables and aims to maximise collaboration, consolidate demand and deliver best value.

The Executive Sub Committee is requested to approve the recommendation to award this framework to the suppliers detailed within Appendix 1.

Appendix 1 – Summary of Offers Received

Name of Tenderers	SME Status	Location	Lots Tendered
George Anderson and Sons	Small	Glasgow	1 & 2
George Carruthers and Sons	Medium	Edinburgh & Lothians	1
McLays Limited	Medium	Glasgow	1
Swansons Fruit Company Limited	Small	Inverness	1
T.P.S. Fruit & Vegetables Limited	Medium	Edinburgh & Lothians	1
Total Produce Limited	Small	Aberdeen & North East	1

Appendix 2 – Scoring and Recommendations

Council	Supplier	Lot 1	Award to Lot 1: Yes/No
Aberdeen City Council	Total Produce Limited	91.13	Yes
	T.P.S. Fruit & Vegetables Limited	69.08	Yes

Council	Supplier	Lot 1	Award to Lot 1: Yes/No
Angus Council	George Carruthers and Sons	95.14	Yes
	George Anderson and Sons	89.58	Yes
	Total Produce Limited	89.58	Yes

Council	Supplier	Lot 1	Award to Lot 1: Yes/No
City of Edinburgh Council	George Carruthers and Sons	95.14	Yes
	George Anderson and Sons	89.58	Yes
	Total Produce Limited	87.17	Yes

Council	Supplier	Lot 1	Award to Lot 1: Yes/No
Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar - Area A Harris	NO OFFER	N/A	N/A

Council	Supplier	Lot 1	Award to Lot 1: Yes/No
Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar – Area C Uists	NO OFFER	N/A	N/A

Council	Supplier	Lot 1	Award to Lot 1: Yes/No
Dumfries & Galloway Council	George Carruthers and Sons	95.14	Yes
	George Anderson and Sons	89.58	Yes
	Total Produce Limited	89.74	Yes

Council	Supplier	Lot 1	Award to Lot 1: Yes/No
East Ayrshire Council	George Carruthers and Sons	95.14	Yes
	Total Produce Limited	89.81	Yes

Council	Supplier	Lot 1	Award to Lot 1: Yes/No
Aberdeenshire Council	Total Produce Limited	91.13	Yes
	T.P.S. Fruit & Vegetables Limited	71.67	Yes

Council	Supplier	Lot 1	Award to Lot 1: Yes/No
Argyll & Bute Council	NO OFFER	N/A	N/A

Council	Supplier	Lot 1	Award to Lot 1: Yes/No
Clackmannanshire Council	George Carruthers and Sons	95.14	Yes
	George Anderson and Sons	89.58	Yes
	Total Produce Limited	86.56	Yes
	McLays Limited	83.55	Yes

Council	Supplier	Lot 1	Award to Lot 1: Yes/No
Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar – Area B Barra	NO OFFER	N/A	N/A

Council	Supplier	Lot 1	Award to Lot 1: Yes/No
Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar – Area D Lewis	NO OFFER	N/A	N/A

Council	Supplier	Lot 1	Award to Lot 1: Yes/No
Dundee City Council	George Carruthers and Sons	95.14	Yes
	George Anderson and Sons	89.58	Yes
	Total Produce Limited	86.56	Yes

Council	Supplier	Lot 1	Award to Lot 1: Yes/No
East Dunbartonshire Council	George Carruthers and Sons	95.14	Yes
	Total Produce Limited	86.56	Yes
	McLays Limited	86.47	Yes

Council	Supplier	Lot 1	Award to Lot 1: Yes/No
East Lothian Council	George Anderson and Sons	93.63	Yes
	George Carruthers and Sons	91.36	Yes
	Total Produce Limited	89.09	Yes

Council	Supplier	Lot 1	Award to Lot 1: Yes/No
Falkirk Council	George Carruthers and Sons	95.14	Yes
	McLays Limited	92.25	Yes
	Total Produce Limited	85.39	Yes
	George Anderson and Sons	82.75	Yes

Council	Supplier	Lot 1	Award to Lot 1: Yes/No
Glasgow City Council	George Carruthers and Sons	95.14	Yes
	McLays Limited	87.67	Yes
	Total Produce Limited	86.56	Yes

Council	Supplier	Lot 1	Award to Lot 1: Yes/No
Inverclyde Council	George Carruthers and Sons	95.14	Yes
	Total Produce Limited	86.56	Yes
	McLays Limited	86.47	Yes

Council	Supplier	Lot 1	Award to Lot 1: Yes/No
Moray Council	Total Produce Limited	91.13	Yes
	T.P.S. Fruit & Vegetables Limited	64.32	Yes
	Swansons Fruit Company Limited	54.60	Yes

Council	Supplier	Lot 1	Award to Lot 1: Yes/No
North Lanarkshire Council	George Carruthers and Sons	95.14	Yes
	McLays Limited	91.37	Yes
	George Anderson and Sons	86.10	Yes
	Total Produce Limited	85.76	Yes

Council	Supplier	Lot 1	Award to Lot 1: Yes/No
East Renfrewshire Council	George Carruthers and Sons	95.14	Yes
	McLays Limited	90.69	Yes
	Total Produce Limited	76.95	Yes

Council	Supplier	Lot 1	Award to Lot 1: Yes/No
Fife Council	George Carruthers and Sons	95.14	Yes
	George Anderson and Sons	89.58	Yes
	Total Produce Limited	86.56	Yes

Council	Supplier	Lot 1	Award to Lot 1: Yes/No
Highland Council	Swansons Fruit Company Limited	89.39	Yes

Council	Supplier	Lot 1	Award to Lot 1: Yes/No
Midlothian Council	George Carruthers and Sons	95.14	Yes
	George Anderson and Sons	89.58	Yes
	Total Produce Limited	86.56	Yes

Council	Supplier	Lot 1	Award to Lot 1: Yes/No
North Ayrshire Council	George Carruthers and Sons	95.14	Yes
	George Anderson and Sons	89.58	Yes
	Total Produce Limited	86.56	Yes

Council	Supplier	Lot 1	Award to Lot 1: Yes/No
Orkney Islands Council	NO OFFER	N/A	N/A

Council	Supplier	Lot 1	Award to Lot 1: Yes/No
Perth & Kinross Council	George Carruthers and Sons	95.14	Yes
	George Anderson and Sons	89.58	Yes
	Total Produce Limited	86.56	Yes

Council	Supplier	Lot 1	Award to Lot 1: Yes/No
Scottish Borders Council	George Anderson and Sons	93.63	Yes
	George Carruthers and Sons	91.69	Yes
	Total Produce Limited	86.34	Yes

Council	Supplier	Lot 1	Award to Lot 1: Yes/No
South Ayrshire Council	George Carruthers and Sons	94.91	Yes
	Total Produce Limited	91.13	Yes

Council	Supplier	Lot 1	Award to Lot 1: Yes/No
Stirling Council	George Carruthers and Sons	94.50	Yes
	George Anderson and Sons	93.63	Yes
	Total Produce Limited	89.94	Yes

Council	Supplier	Lot 1	Award to Lot 1: Yes/No
West Dunbartonshire Council	George Carruthers and Sons	95.14	Yes
	McLays Limited	87.66	Yes
	Total Produce Limited	86.56	Yes

Council	Supplier	Lot 1	Award to Lot 1: Yes/No
Renfrewshire Council	George Carruthers and Sons	95.14	Yes
	McLays Limited	87.66	Yes
	Total Produce Limited	86.56	Yes

Council	Supplier	Lot 1	Award to Lot 1: Yes/No
Shetland Islands Council	NO OFFER	N/A	N/A

Council	Supplier	Lot 1	Award to Lot 1: Yes/No
South Lanarkshire Council	George Carruthers and Sons	95.14	Yes
	George Anderson and Sons	89.58	Yes
	Total Produce Limited	86.56	Yes

Council	Supplier	Lot 1	Award to Lot 1: Yes/No
Tayside Contracts	George Carruthers and Sons	95.14	Yes
	George Anderson and Sons	89.58	Yes
	Total Produce Limited	86.56	Yes

Council	Supplier	Lot 1	Award to Lot 1: Yes/No
West Lothian Council	George Anderson and Sons	93.63	Yes
	Total Produce Limited	90.64	Yes
	George Carruthers and Sons	87.99	Yes

Council	Supplier	Lot 2	Award to Lot 2: Yes/No
Aberdeen City Council	NO OFFER	N/A	N/A

Council	Supplier	Lot 2	Award to Lot 2: Yes/No
Angus Council	George Anderson and Sons	93.63	Yes

Council	Supplier	Lot 2	Award to Lot 2: Yes/No
City of Edinburgh Council	George Anderson and Sons	93.63	Yes

Council	Supplier	Lot 2	Award to Lot 2: Yes/No
Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar - Area A Harris	NO OFFER	N/A	N/A

Council	Supplier	Lot 2	Award to Lot 2: Yes/No
Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar – Area C Uists	NO OFFER	N/A	N/A

Council	Supplier	Lot 2	Award to Lot 2: Yes/No
Dumfries & Galloway Council	George Anderson and Sons	93.63	Yes

Council	Supplier	Lot 2	Award to Lot 2: Yes/No
East Ayrshire Council	NO OFFER	N/A	N/A

Council	Supplier	Lot 2	Award to Lot 2: Yes/No
East Lothian Council	George Anderson and Sons	93.63	Yes

Council	Supplier	Lot 2	Award to Lot 2: Yes/No
Falkirk Council	George Anderson and Sons	93.63	Yes

Council	Supplier	Lot 2	Award to Lot 2: Yes/No
Glasgow City Council	NO OFFER	N/A	N/A

Council	Supplier	Lot 2	Award to Lot 2: Yes/No
Aberdeenshire Council	NO OFFER	N/A	N/A

Council	Supplier	Lot 2	Award to Lot 2: Yes/No
Argyll & Bute Council	NO OFFER	N/A	N/A

Council	Supplier	Lot 2	Award to Lot 2: Yes/No
Clackmannanshire Council	George Anderson and Sons	93.63	Yes

Council	Supplier	Lot 2	Award to Lot 2: Yes/No
Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar – Area B Barra	NO OFFER	N/A	N/A

Council	Supplier	Lot 2	Award to Lot 2: Yes/No
Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar – Area D Lewis	NO OFFER	N/A	N/A

Council	Supplier	Lot 2	Award to Lot 2: Yes/No
Dundee City Council	George Anderson and Sons	93.63	Yes

Council	Supplier	Lot 2	Award to Lot 2: Yes/No
East Dunbartonshire Council	NO OFFER	N/A	N/A

Council	Supplier	Lot 2	Award to Lot 2: Yes/No
East Renfrewshire Council	NO OFFER	N/A	N/A

Council	Supplier	Lot 2	Award to Lot 2: Yes/No
Fife Council	George Anderson and Sons	93.63	Yes

Council	Supplier	Lot 2	Award to Lot 2: Yes/No
Highland Council	NO OFFER	N/A	N/A

Council	Supplier	Lot 2	Award to Lot 2: Yes/No
Inverclyde Council	NO OFFER	N/A	N/A

Council	Supplier	Lot 2	Award to Lot 2: Yes/No
Moray Council	NO OFFER	N/A	N/A

Council	Supplier	Lot 2	Award to Lot 2: Yes/No
North Lanarkshire Council	George Anderson and Sons	93.63	Yes

Council	Supplier	Lot 2	Award to Lot 2: Yes/No
Perth & Kinross Council	George Anderson and Sons	93.63	Yes

Council	Supplier	Lot 2	Award to Lot 2: Yes/No
Scottish Borders Council	George Anderson and Sons	93.63	Yes

Council	Supplier	Lot 2	Award to Lot 2: Yes/No
South Ayrshire Council	NO OFFER	N/A	N/A

Council	Supplier	Lot 2	Award to Lot 2: Yes/No
Stirling Council	George Anderson and Sons	93.63	Yes

Council	Supplier	Lot 2	Award to Lot 2: Yes/No
West Dunbartonshire Council	NO OFFER	N/A	N/A

Council	Supplier	Lot 2	Award to Lot 2: Yes/No
Midlothian Council	George Anderson and Sons	93.63	Yes

Council	Supplier	Lot 2	Award to Lot 2: Yes/No
North Ayrshire Council	George Anderson and Sons	93.63	Yes

Council	Supplier	Lot 2	Award to Lot 2: Yes/No
Orkney Islands Council	NO OFFER	N/A	N/A

Council	Supplier	Lot 2	Award to Lot 2: Yes/No
Renfrewshire Council	NO OFFER	N/A	N/A

Council	Supplier	Lot 2	Award to Lot 2: Yes/No
Shetland Islands Council	NO OFFER	N/A	N/A

Council	Supplier	Lot 2	Award to Lot 2: Yes/No
South Lanarkshire Council	George Anderson and Sons	93.63	Yes

Council	Supplier	Lot 2	Award to Lot 2: Yes/No
Tayside Contracts	George Anderson and Sons	93.63	Yes

Council	Supplier	Lot 2	Award to Lot 2: Yes/No
West Lothian Council	George Anderson and Sons	93.63	Yes

Appendix 3 – Recommended Service Providers with Real Living Wage Status

Supplier	Accredited	Currently progressing through Real Living Wage accreditation process	Pay Real Living Wage to all employees, and committed to gaining accreditation over the initial 2 years of framework	Pay Real Living Wage to all employees, but not accredited	Neither accredited nor paying Real Living Wage, but do commit to pay the Scottish Living Wage to all employees over the initial 2 years of the framework	Neither accredited nor paying Real Living Wage
George Anderson and Sons	Yes					
George Carruthers & Sons Limited	Yes					
McLays Limited	Yes					
Swansons Fruit Company Limited					Yes	
Total Produce Limited				Yes		
T.P.S. Fruit & Vegetables Limited		Yes				

Scotland Excel

To: Executive Sub Committee

On: 31st January 2020

**Report
 by
 Director Scotland Excel**

Associate Member Update Report

1. Summary

1.1 This report provides an update on Scotland Excel associate membership.

2. Background

2.1 Associate members have always been part of Scotland Excel's membership base and come from a number of sectors. An associate member generally joined Scotland Excel to take advantage of a particular contract (for example, vehicles) but there was little or no engagement between the associate and Scotland Excel after the initial joining period. This resulted in a relatively static membership level with an equivalent number of members joining and leaving over the years.

Scotland Excel associate membership can be classified into five main groups. Housing Associations, Council Arm's Length Organisations (ALEO), Transport Bodies, organisations utilising the reciprocal arrangements (Scottish Government and Education) and Other bodies.

The breakdown of associate members by group is illustrated in table 1 below.

Table 1.

Group	Number of Associate Members (at Jan20)
Housing associations	27
Council arm's length organisations (ALEO)	20
Others	20
Transport	9
Reciprocal (Sc Govt, Education)	7
Total	83

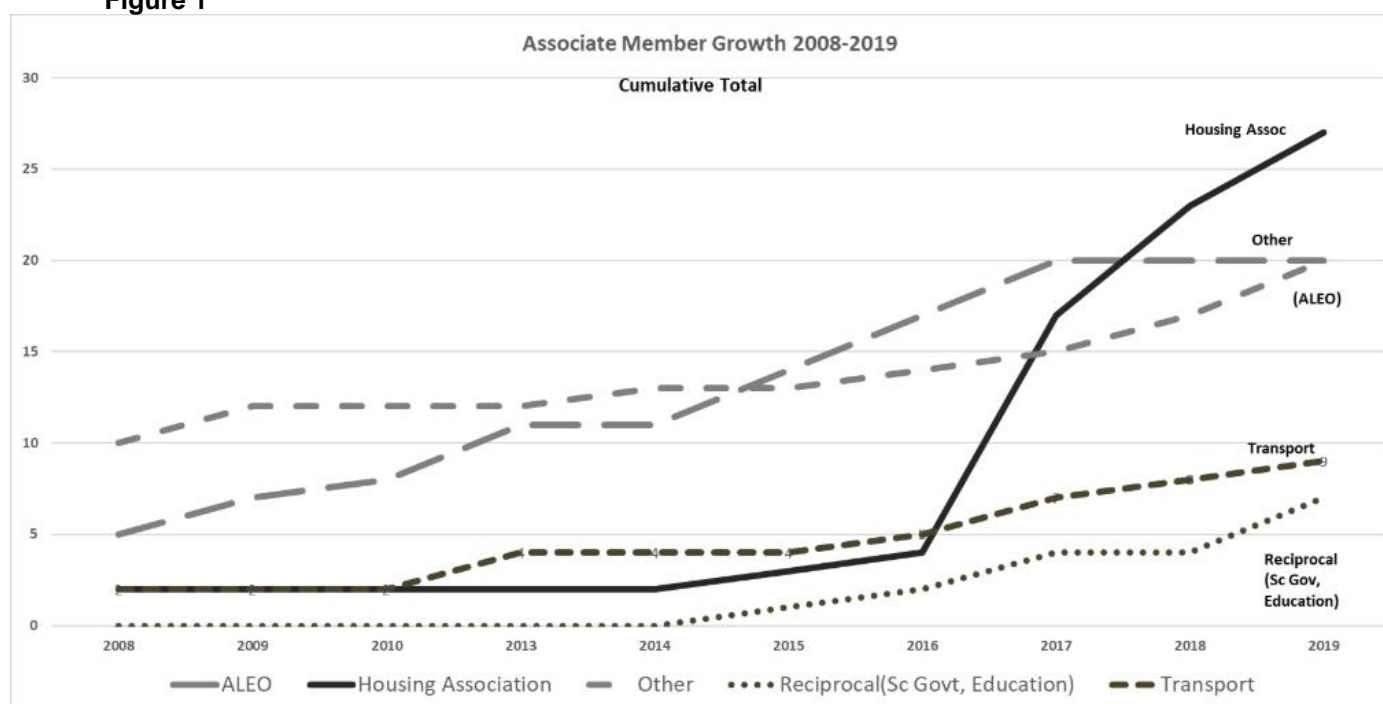
In June 2018 Joint Committee approved a surplus target of £50k for Associate Member expansion and at the December 2018 Joint Committee, members

approved Scotland Excel's recommendation of a continued focus and a dedicated team for associate membership.

Between April 2017 and April 2019, associate member growth mainly came from housing associations participating in the Scottish Government Affordable Housing project known as the Procurement Commercial Improvement Programme (PCIP).

Figure 1 demonstrates the growth of associate membership and, in particular housing associations, since an increased focus has been placed in this area.

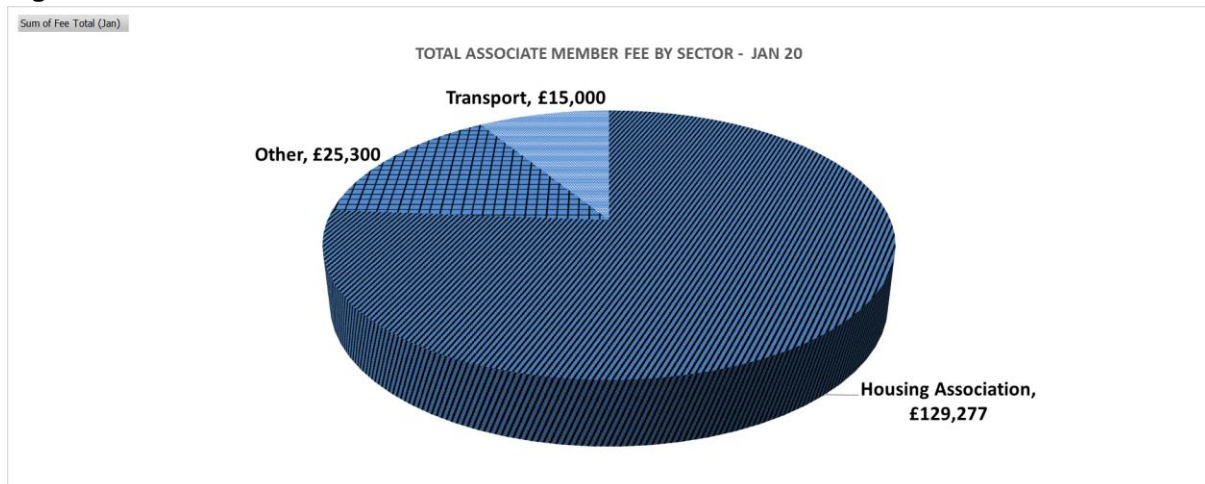
Figure 1



3. Update

3.1 The current income breakdown of Scotland Excel associate members at January 2020 is shown in the following chart (Figure 2).

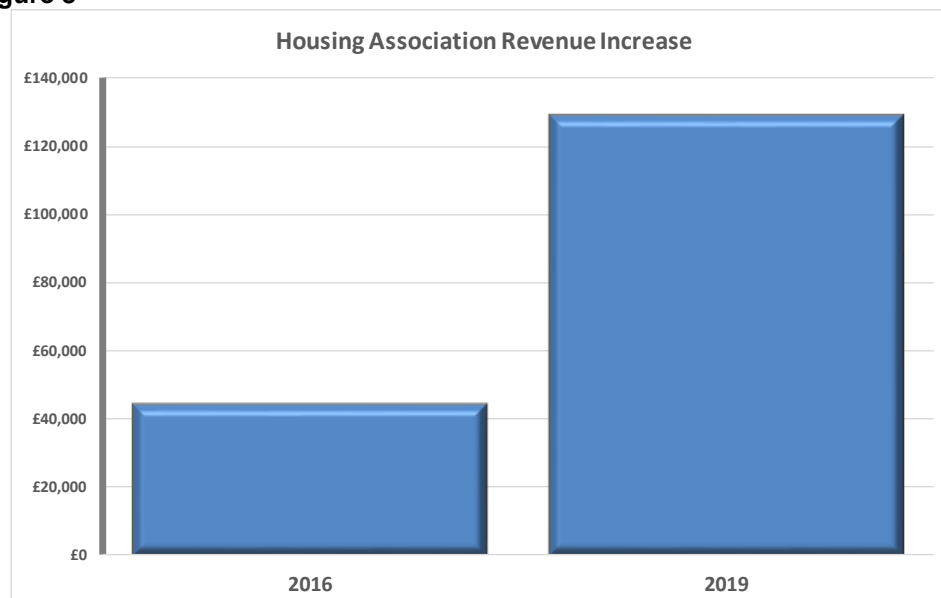
Figure 2



It should be noted that both ALEOs and organisations covered by the reciprocal agreement pay no fee.

- 3.2 Housing associations make up the single largest group with twenty-seven members and currently provide the largest income from fees (figure 2). The revenue increased after 2016 when Scotland Excel delivered the Scottish Government PCIP programme and raised awareness to the sector of Scotland Excel's work. The housing association number increase is illustrated in the table below (Figure 3)

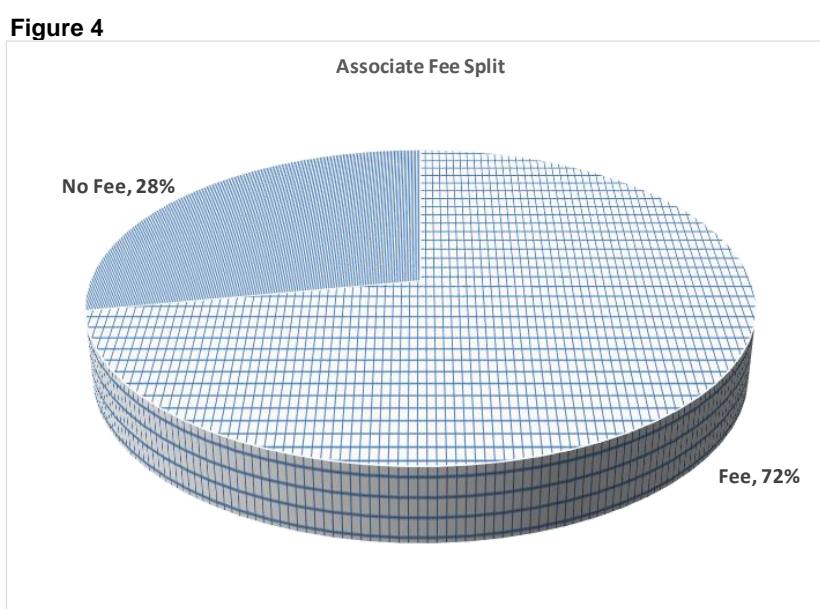
Figure 3



Scotland Excel will work to encourage more housing associations to become members throughout the next phase of the procurement capability programme

(PCIP) and the promotion of the Scotland Excel contract portfolio, especially the new build framework developed to meet the needs of the sector.

- 3.3 There are currently twenty council arm's length organisations (ALEO) who are members of Scotland Excel and therefore benefit from frameworks and services. There is a total of one hundred and thirty ALEOS aligned to local authorities. In 2019 Scotland Excel wrote to all council finance directors to raise awareness and encourage take up of free membership to their ALEOS. There has been limited response to date and this will be followed up in 2020.
- 3.4 Other associate members come from a range of non-departmental government bodies (NDPB's), transport organisations, and a mixture of members from social care, education and other public bodies. There are over twenty-five thousand charity organisations in Scotland within scope, but most are small, and take up may be limited when purchasing from our contracts or taking advantage of other offerings such as learning and development and consultancy.
- 3.5 All potential associate members follow the same joining process irrespective of whether there is a fee to Scotland Excel or not. The current fee split is represented below (figure 4).



4. Next Steps

- 4.1 Scotland Excel are currently updating its Associate Strategy which will be presented to committee in February 2020.
- 4.2 Scotland Excel are introducing a lite touch account management process for associates to encourage take up of contracts and promote additional services. During 2019 some additional help was introduced for new associate members that on completion of approval process, a welcome pack and a guide to getting started on the Scotland Excel website is provided. A follow up site visit is offered to all associates to help during the early stages of membership.
- 4.3 Scotland Excel will continue to review spend levels of associates to ensure that the fee reflects the usage from the associate. Accurate reporting from our suppliers continues to be a key measurement. This allows informed discussion with the associate and has resulted in a recent increase in fee for one associate. This process involved the associate and Scotland Excel working together, agreeing the annual spend level and a discussion on the fee increase. It is important to establish that the level of increased spend will be sustained by the associate over a period of time and not for a one-off project.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 Members are asked to note the progress made with regard to the ongoing work with Associate members and to encourage suitable organisations to apply for membership.

Scotland Excel

To: Executive Sub Committee

On: 31st January 2020

**Report
 by
 Director Scotland Excel**

Request for Associate Membership of Scotland Excel by West College Scotland

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. Background

- 2.1 West College Scotland is a Regional College under the Post-16 Education (Scotland) Act 2013, and a registered Scottish charity.
- 2.2 West College Scotland is a Higher Education Institution with campuses in Clydebank, Greenock and Paisley.
- 2.3 West College Scotland is an accredited Scottish Living Wage employer.
- 2.4 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.

- 2.5 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.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended to committee that West College Scotland's application to join Scotland Excel as an associate member be approved, with no annual fee, subject to the agreement document. All education establishments are covered under the reciprocal no fee agreement.
- 3.2 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, West College Scotland 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.

Scotland Excel

To: Executive Sub Committee

On: 31st January 2020

**Report
 by
 Director Scotland Excel**

Request for Associate Membership of Scotland Excel by National Museums Scotland

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. Background

- 2.1 National Museums Scotland is a Scottish Charity and a Non-Departmental Public Body (NDPB) sponsored and supported through Grant-in-Aid by the Scottish Government, governed by an independent Board of Trustees and set up as a result of the National Heritage (Scotland Act) 1985.

- 2.2 National Museums Scotland core function is to:

- (a) Care for, preserve and add to the objects in their collections
- (b) Secure that the objects are exhibited to and interpreted for the public

(c) Secure that the objects are available to persons seeking to inspect them in connection with study or research

(d) Generally, promote the public's awareness, appreciation and understanding of matters agricultural, archaeological, architectural, artistic, cultural, environmental, historical, industrial, military, scientific and social both by means of the Board's collections and by such other means, including collaboration with other institutions, as they consider appropriate

(e) Provide education, instruction and advice and carry out research

- 2.3 National Museums Scotland pays the Real Living Wage but are not accredited.
- 2.4 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.
- 2.5 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.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended to committee that National Museums Scotland application to join Scotland Excel as an associate member be approved, with no annual fee, subject to the agreement document. NDPBs are covered by the reciprocal no fee agreement.
- 3.2 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, National Museums Scotland 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.

Scotland Excel

To: Executive Sub Committee

On: 31st January 2020

**Report
 by
 Director Scotland Excel**

Request for Associate Membership of Scotland Excel by Ardenglen Housing Association Limited

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. Background

- 2.1 Ardenglen Housing Association Ltd has 958 properties based in Glasgow and is a Co-operative and Community Benefit Society and a charity. It is also a Registered Social Landlord.
- 2.2 Ardenglen Housing Association Ltd pays the Real Living Wage but are not accredited.
- 2.3 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
- 2.4 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.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended to committee that the Ardenglen Housing Association Ltd application to join Scotland Excel as an associate member be approved, with an annual fee of £1,437, subject to the agreement document.
- 3.2 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, Ardenglen Housing Association Ltd qualifies for membership in accordance with the Local Authorities (Goods and Services) Act 1970 section 1 (1B)(c). Namely, that it has functions that are public in nature or engages in activities of that nature so long as the purpose or effect of access to Scotland Excel's services is to facilitate its discharge of those functions or activities.

Scotland Excel

To: Executive Sub Committee

On: 31st January 2020

**Report
 by
 Director Scotland Excel**

Request for Associate Membership of Scotland Excel by Dunbritton Housing Association Limited

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. Background

- 2.1 Dunbritton Housing Association Ltd has 886 properties based in West Dunbartonshire and is a Co-operative and Community Benefit Society and a Scottish charity. It is also a Registered Social Landlord.
- 2.2 Dunbritton Housing Association Ltd pays the Real Living Wage but are not accredited.
- 2.3 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
- 2.4 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.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended to committee that the Dunbritton Housing Association Ltd application to join Scotland Excel as an associate member be approved, with an annual fee of £1,329, subject to the agreement document.
- 3.2 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, Dunbritton Housing Association Ltd qualifies for membership in accordance with the Local Authorities (Goods and Services) Act 1970 section 1 (1B)(c). Namely, that it has functions that are public in nature or engages in activities of that nature so long as the purpose or effect of access to Scotland Excel's services is to facilitate its discharge of those functions or activities.

Scotland Excel

To: Executive Sub-Committee

On: 31st January 2020

**Report
by
The Director**

Single Use Plastics Update Report

1. Summary

- 1.1 Following previous discussions regarding single use of plastic items within Scotland Excel frameworks, efforts continue to reduce the inclusion of this product set and actively seek alternatives, where appropriate.
- 1.2 The attached report provides an update on progress made to date and outlines development activity being undertaken to continue to drive the sourcing of viable alternative products.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Executive Sub-Committee is invited to note the report and the progress made to date.

Single Use Plastics

Update Report

January 2020

Contents

Introduction	2
Background	2
Say No to Plastics.....	3
Why Plastics are Required.....	5
Conclusion.....	7
Appendix 1 – Cost Comparison	8

Introduction

Scotland Excel is the Centre of Procurement Expertise for Scotland's local government sector and our vision is to provide innovative, transformative solutions for local and national public services across Scotland. Scotland Excel's services are designed to help councils challenge reducing budgets at a time of growing demand. Working together through Scotland Excel, councils can realise a host of social, economic and environmental benefits from their spend.

Background

The environmental impact from plastics and disposal of this has been clearly stated from national and international media outlets. Recent documentaries such as the BBC's *"The War on Plastics"* prompted interest from both politicians and the general public to seek environmentally friendly alternatives and solutions.

The impetus for change in Scotland grew momentum in January 2018 when councils were contacted by MSP Kate Forbes to look at removing plastic straws from council establishments. Consequently, Scotland Excel contacted the milk framework suppliers to determine what could be done to eliminate plastic straws from their supply chains and subsequent products. The feedback from suppliers was positive; one supplier highlighted developments in packaging style to allow plastic straws to be compressed and recycled along with the drink's carton; other suppliers were looking at advances and innovation in their programmes by developing paper or other biodegradable drinking-straw materials. Scotland Excel is currently witnessing a greater interest from the councils on these solutions.

In late 2019, another of the framework suppliers committed to removing all plastic straws by the end of 2020. The company advised a proposal of a fully compostable straw, which, if successful, will begin the permanent roll out of the paper straws by the end of March 2020. The supplier stated "It is important that we launch a sustainable paper straw that is fully functional, recyclable and does not compromise on food safety. We also recognise our responsibility to provide sustainable solutions to our customers that will enable us, as a collective, to move towards a low carbon circular economy".¹

School children are similarly aware of the harmful effects of plastic pollution and, inspired by the Swedish activist Greta Thunberg, are now becoming actively involved in the environmental campaign. One local example of this saw Sunnyside Primary School in Glasgow being instrumental in lobbying politicians and suppliers for their "Nae straw at aw" campaign. This is an encouraging strategy by these children and Scotland Excel will outline the advantages of this campaign during development of relevant Scotland Excel frameworks.

In addition to the milk framework, within Scotland Excel's Corporate & Education portfolio of frameworks, many items include a plastic composition. This includes janitorial products, education materials, PPE and washroom solutions. However, it is the catering sundries framework that is most

¹ https://resources.mynewsdesk.com/image/upload/t_next_gen_article_large_480/kewdmjemnc3kp2ccpicv.jpg

affected by single-use-plastics (SUPs). Scotland Excel is now actively working with suppliers to seek more organic materials or to provide acceptable disposal methods in order to offer an eco-friendlier choice to councils.

As part of the UK Plastics Pact, eight problematic, or unnecessary single-use plastics are set to be eliminated by the end of 2020. These are:

- Disposable plastic cutlery;
- All polystyrene packaging;
- Cotton buds with plastic stems;
- Plastic stirrers;
- Plastic straws;
- Oxo-degradables that break down to create microplastics;
- PVC packaging; and
- Disposable plastic plates and bowls.

In addition to these items, a further 19 plastic items and materials are now being investigated for removal such as, single-use drinks bottles, non-detectable black plastics etc.

While there is a need to find more sustainable alternatives, or better disposable solutions to plastics, not all plastics are necessarily bad and not all alternatives are necessarily more environmentally friendly. Scotland Excel has therefore provided a summary below of the arguments for and against plastic use based on information gathered via market research, from the supply base and by attending a Holyrood conference in January 2019 on this matter.

Say No to Plastics

There are well documented problems of large-scale plastic use in our towns and cities – beach and ocean pollution; urban and countryside pollution. This is visible on visits to any of these natural places of beauty within Scotland. As a result of this, there is a requirement for volunteers from schools and workplaces to help clean up plastics from beaches, parks, urban streets etc.

A campaign to “#STOPthePlasticTide” identified that over 260 species of marine life including whales, dolphins and birds are affected by plastic pollution. These animals ingest the plastic litter that ends up in our seas and oceans. The litter includes nurdles - small plastic pellets - cotton buds, balloons, etc. and many species die from starvation, unable to eat because their stomachs are full of such plastics.

An alarming statistic is that Scotland’s plastic pollution around coastlines increased by 14% between 2017 and 2018. Clean-up in Scotland in 2018 showed there to be 559 plastic items within a 100-metre area on beaches and coastlines. Marine Conservation Society (MCS) report that for every 100 metres of Scottish coastline cleaned, there were on average almost 147 plastic/polystyrene pieces: 16 plastic caps /lids; 36 plastic cotton bud sticks; 27 wet wipes; 16 drinks cans and bottles; six plastic bags; and three 3 plastic / polystyrene cups.

In 2018, more items flushed down the toilet such as nappies, cotton buds and wet wipes – were found on Scottish beaches than anywhere else in the UK. The message therefore is “Go Plastic Free” ²

More recently in 2019, MCS stated, “As long as we carry on using plastic as much as we do, the estimation is that, by 2050, there will be more plastic in our seas than fish”. However, in order to promote Scotland’s natural environment and encourage responsible engagement for plastic prevention, MSC advise that 2020 will be the year of coasts and waters. Inspiring families with children to help out at their local beach clean is a practical and fun way to learn about the consequences of marine litter. ³

Keep Scotland Beautiful (KSB) confirmed that more than half the litter on our streets comes from food and drink waste. This includes; food (27%), sweet wrappers (24%), cups (19%), cans (11%), plastic bottles (9%), crisp packets (9%), glass bottles (1%).

These findings have been discussed with Scotland Excel’s suppliers during contract management meetings. Current suppliers endeavouring to reduce plastic packaging and focus instead on reusable replacements, advised the following examples: a sandwich wedge which uses a water-based, compostable material; a plant-based straw, which is strong and heat resistant, is fully compostable and emits less carbon during production than plastic alternatives. However, these products tend to come at a higher cost than their plastic alternatives.

A comparison between the top 5 single use plastic items has been conducted to identify what the cost may be to move to more sustainable alternatives, the results of which can be found in appendix 1 of the report. On average, to move to wooden or biodegradable cutlery, would cost approximately 265% or 411% more. Moving to paper straws over plastic straws would also be approximately 455% more expensive. It should be noted that these prices are an indication and are without any further negotiation between Scotland Excel and suppliers.

“The Circular Economy” – is an economic system aimed at minimising waste and making the most of our resources. It extracts the maximum value from the resources whilst in use, then recovers and regenerates the products and materials at the end of each service life. This helps to reduce the environmental impacts of our production and consumption. Cleaning up the environment requires a behaviour change. KSB note that stages to transform a behaviour go from; 1. being totally unaware, 2. becoming aware, 3. preparing to take action, 4. taking the action, and 5. to maintain and sustain the changed behaviour. ⁴

Zero Waste Scotland (ZWS) advised a blueprint for an advanced plastics recycling plant, which would assist in sending as little as possible to landfill or incineration plants. They also recommend measures that can be taken to reduce the negative impact on the environment, such as:

- Say no to straws;

² Marine Conservation Society

³ <https://www.theyworkforyou.com/sp/?id=2019-10-03.24.0&s=poverty>

⁴ Keep Scotland Beautiful

- Keeping and reusing your cup;
- Use a bag for life;
- Change to metal cutlery instead of plastic;
- Where possible, reuse plastic instead of discarding them.⁵

Scotland will be the first country in the UK to implement a deposit return scheme (DRS). This will provide opportunities in relation to environmental improvements by changing people's attitudes to recycling and littering and thereby helping to build the circular economy.

The Scottish Government introduced the DRS later in 2019 with full roll-out planned throughout Scotland 12 months after this. The scheme will require drinks retailers to add a 20p deposit to the take-away price of all aluminium cans, glass and some plastics containers above 50ml and up to three litres in size. The consumer will have two options to get their 20p deposit back: they can return the empty bottle or can to the retailer; or retrieve their deposit via a reverse vending machine. The scheme will be run by an independent, privately-run, not-for-profit company, with the system being paid for through three sources of funding - unredeemed deposits, revenue from the sale of materials and a producer fee.

The consultation paper for the DRS was presented to the Scottish Parliament in September 2019 and the accompanying statement and proposed regulations advised that the Scottish Government is committed to creating a more circular economy where products and materials are kept in a high-value state of use for as long as possible – thereby maximising resources to benefit the economy and the environment.⁶

As well as retail outlets, schools and other community centres will be able to act as return locations. Therefore, Scotland Excel will discuss the DRS with suppliers in the upcoming frameworks for groceries and provisions as well as catering sundries, to see how this could potentially be embedded into these frameworks.

Why Plastics are Required

There is abundant support currently against the damaging environmental consequences of using plastics, particularly single use plastics. However, 'The Grocer' noted that although alternatives to plastic materials, like metals and glass, have been put forward as options, these are not always practical for health reasons and for both the cost and environmental impact. E.g. replacing plastic straws for glass or metal straws is highly likely to cause injuries when in the mouth of patients with nervous or neurological conditions. In addition, paper straws disintegrate over time therefore are not always practical or cost effective.

⁵ Zero Waste Scotland

⁶ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/deposit-return-scheme-scotland-regulations-accompanying-statement-proposed-regulations/>

Highlighted below is a list of these alternatives and the risks associated with them for impaired or disabled users:

	Choking Hazard	Injury Risk	Not Positionable	Costly for Consumer	Not High Temperature Safe
Metal		✓	✓	✓	
Bamboo		✓	✓	✓	
Glass		✓	✓	✓	✓
Silicone			✓	✓	
Acrylic		✓	✓	✓	✓
Paper	✓		✓		✓
Single-use					

The table above highlights that for impaired and disabled people, the safest option for all five risks listed, is SUP.

The outcome from this assessment was that there should be pressure on all concerned to create biodegradable straws that are safe for the environment and disabled people, and that disabled or impaired consumers should not be marginalised. Their end message in relation to SUPs was for effectiveness, inclusivity and accessibility.⁷

Some councils have also highlighted this as a concern to Scotland Excel, due to the varying numbers of users accessing the frameworks. If the elimination of SUPs is detrimental to disabled or impaired consumers, Scotland Excel will ensure accessibility to these products, where required.

As well as this, transporting lower weight materials like plastics, as opposed to metals and glass, is less harmful to the environment because fewer vehicles are required, which burn less fuel and ultimately produce less greenhouse gas emissions.

Research has also found that the manufacture of paper bags, as opposed to plastic bags, adds significant additional volume and weight to the waste stream, in turn increasing harmful greenhouse gas emissions during transportation of this. It would take approximately seven lorries to transport two million paper bags, versus one lorry to transport two million plastic bags.⁸

It also takes more than four times as much energy to manufacture a paper bag as it does to manufacture a plastic bag. The majority of paper bags are made by processes at high temperatures using chemical solutions. These chemicals can then pollute waterways, with the toxicity of the chemicals being long-term and settling into the sediments, working its way through the food chain.

⁷ Heriot Watt University

⁸ <http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/globalassets/documents/raise/publications/2011/environment/3611.pdf>⁶

Ian Quinn, The Grocer, Nov 2018

Reusing paper bags is also difficult because of the material's tendency to tear and research demonstrates that paper in landfills does not degrade or break down at a substantially faster rate than plastic does. ^[ibid]

Therefore, to enable a solution that would be fit for purpose for all users; industry, scientists and plastic products' consumers should be aiming to work with each other to create long-lasting design products.

A White Paper by **The Grocer** from June 2019 emphasised that a better understanding of the impact of all packaging - not just plastics – is urgently required. They advised “There is no quick fix, especially if the sector is to effectively decouple plastic production from finite resources”. There should be urgent cooperation between scientific experts and the supply chains to seek optimal solutions.⁶

Developing materials that that can be maintained, repaired, reused, remanufactured and recycled, rather than the throw away practice we currently have, challenges the environmental impact of plastic use today and may, in fact, bring about a more sustainable use of plastic materials.

Conclusion

The argument against the use of plastics highlight alarming statistics which show increases year on year of single use plastics washing up on Scottish shorelines. This attests to a plastic pollution that is widespread, long-lasting and a rapidly growing problem. Microplastics are even more dangerous because they absorb and concentrate the toxins around them and carry them into food chains.

The main argument for the use of plastics comes from a health perspective. Alternatives to plastic straws have still not been successfully developed to provide a safe and sustainable option, for example for disabled and impaired people. In addition, current substitute materials to plastics are costly to transport, although, information forthcoming to Scotland Excel via contract management meetings suggest that suitable, alternative materials are being developed.

During development of future Scotland Excel frameworks and throughout contract management meetings, Scotland Excel will continue to challenge suppliers in order to seek sustainable innovation with the products and solutions they provide. This will include, offering organic/ecological alternatives to plastics; how they can minimise plastic on packaging; any improvement methods or ideas they can offer to store waste packaging prior to destroying or recycling; and ultimately to find ways to reuse products again and again.

In addition to this, Scotland Excel asked suppliers during recent contract management meetings to define any environmental impact they have made via community benefits. This included: providing a pallet of compost free of charge to an Edinburgh primary school; donation of wood & purchase of recycled furniture via a Dundee charity and donation of a bench from recycled paint cans to a community centre in North Ayrshire.

Therefore, the main message taken from both the “for” and “against” arguments is that a solution is urgently required to recover and regenerate the products and materials at the end of each service life, thereby minimising waste and making the most of our resources. Scotland Excel will seek these kinds of solutions by discussing that concept widely during current contract management meetings and in future tender developments with potential suppliers.

Appendix 1 – Cost Comparison

Product Description	Approximate Cost	Alternative Product Description	Product Make Up	Approximate Cost	Alternative Product Description	Product Make Up	Approximate Cost
Plastic Dessertspoon	Pack of 1000 - £5.50	Biodegradable Spoon	CPLA	Pack of 1000 - £28.50	Wooden Spoon	Wood	Pack of 1000 - £20.00
Plastic Fork	Pack of 1000 - £5.50	Biodegradable Fork	CPLA	Pack of 1000 - £28.50	Wooden Fork	Wood	Pack of 1000 - £19.00
Plastic Knife	Pack of 1000 - £5.50	Biodegradable Knife	CPLA	Pack of 1000 - £28.50	Wooden Knife	Wood	Pack of 1000 - £18.50
Plastic Teaspoon	Pack of 2000 - £7.21	Biodegradable Teaspoon	CPLA	Pack of 2000 - £35.50	Wooden Teaspoon	Wood	Pack of 1000 - £15.00
Plastic Straw	Pack of 250 - £0.63	Biodegradable Straw	PLA	Pack of 400 - £4.40	Paper Straw	Paper	Pack of 250 - £3.50

