

**Scotland Excel**

**To: Executive Sub Committee**

**On: 9 December 2016**

**Report  
by  
Director Scotland Excel**

**Request for Associate Membership of Scotland Excel by Historic Environment  
Scotland**

**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**

Historic Environment Scotland was established in November 2014 under the Historic Environment Scotland Act. The organisation is a non-departmental public body with charitable status. It is the lead public body established to investigate, care for and promote Scotland's historic environment and is responsible for more than 300 properties of national importance. Buildings and monuments in the organisations care care include Edinburgh Castle, Skara Brae, Fort George and numerous smaller sites, which together draw more than 3 million visitors per year.

Historic Environment Scotland also responsible for internationally significant collections including more than 5 million drawings, photographs, negatives and manuscripts, along with 20 million aerial images of locations across the world.

The organisation invests about £14 million a year in national and local organisations, supporting building repairs, ancient monuments, archaeological work, the Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme and the voluntary sector.

### **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 organisations to become associate members to ensure that all legal requirements are met. In this case Historic Environment Scotland qualify for membership as they, in accordance with the Local Authorities (Goods and Services) Act 1970, are a public body.

### **4 Recommendation**

It is recommended to committee that the Historic Environment Scotland application to join Scotland Excel as an associate member be approved, at an annual fee of £500, subject to completion and signing of the agreement document.