

Scotland Excel

To: Executive Sub Committee

On: 08 December 2017

**Report
by
Director Scotland Excel**

Request for Associate Membership of Scotland Excel by Scottish Children's Reporter Administration

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

The Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) is a national body focused on children and young people most at risk. SCRA was formed under the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1994 and became fully operational on 1st April 1996.

The Children's Hearings System provides the operational setting in which SCRA and our partner agencies work. The aim is to provide a safety net for vulnerable children and young people, and deliver tailored solutions which meet the needs of the individuals involved, while helping to build stronger families and safer communities.

SCRA has nine localities, supported by a Head Office. The nine localities are: Highlands & Islands, North Strathclyde, Glasgow, Grampian, South East, Tayside & Fife, Ayrshire, Central, and Lanarkshire/Dumfries & Galloway.

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 arm 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 Scottish Children's Reporter Administration qualify for membership as they in accordance with the Local Authorities (Goods and Services) Act 1970 namely that the organisation is a public body 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 Scottish Children's Reporter Administration's 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.