

Scotland Excel

To: Executive Sub Committee

On: 08 December 2017

**Report
by
Director Scotland Excel**

Request for Associate Membership of Scotland Excel by Routes to Work

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 structure of North Lanarkshire's economy has undergone a major transformation in the last twenty years. North Lanarkshire's economy has been most affected by the loss of its heavy industry, particularly during the 1980s and early 90s, and more recently significant reduction in its manufacturing sector which has suffered a decline of approximately 40% between 1995 and 2008, representing a loss of some 10,000 jobs.

Routes to Work are an Arm's Length charity of North Lanarkshire Council who exist to support North Lanarkshire's unemployed into further education, training and/or sustained employment. Their vision for North Lanarkshire is of a strong vibrant community where everyone is committed to improving the quality of life, work, and attainment for themselves and others.

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 Routes to Work qualify for membership as they in accordance with the Local Authorities (Goods and Services) Act 1970 namely that the organisation is not a public body but has functions of a public nature or engages in activities of that nature 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 Routes to Work's application to join Scotland Excel as an associate member be approved, with no annual fee, subject to completion and signing of the agreement document.