

**To: Executive Sub Committee**

**On: 24 August 2018**

**Report  
by  
Director Scotland Excel**

**Request for Associate Membership of Scotland Excel by The Wise Group**

**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 Wise Group are a leading social enterprise and registered charity which delivers key services to employability, sustainability and community justice sectors across Scotland.

The Wise Group partner with public sector bodies to provide employment training to their constituents and deliver local economic benefits.

To assist fuel poverty in Scotland, The Wise Group operate the Home Energy Scotland advice centre for Strathclyde and Central which covers 11 local authorities. This provides impartial energy advice and referrals to Scottish Government schemes to applicable households. The aim is to reduce fuel poverty, lower fuel bills and increase householder comfort within their own home.

The Wise Group are also a Living Wage employer.

To ensure the efficient and cost effective delivery of these services The Wise Group have approached Scotland Excel and requested approval to become an associate member with access to our contracts.

### **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.

Scotland Excel monitors all requests from arms length and other organisations to become associate members to ensure that any legal requirements are met. In this case The Wise Group qualify for membership as they in accordance with the Local Authorities (Goods and Services) Act 1970, section 1(1B), namely that the organisation is not a public body, but it 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 The Wise Group application to join Scotland Excel as an associate member be approved, at a £1,000 annual fee, subject to completion and signing of the agreement document.