

Scotland Excel

To: Executive Sub Committee

On: 13 May 2016

**Report
by
Director Scotland Excel**

**Request for Associate Membership of Scotland Excel by Lochalsh & Skye
Housing Association**

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

Following work carried out with them as part of a review of procurement capability within the organization Lochalsh & Skye Housing Association has applied to Scotland Excel for associate membership.

The Housing Association was set up in 1983 as an independent non-profit making housing organisation to develop, manage and maintain housing for rent.

Since then there has been a tremendous growth in the size and the geographical spread of the Association's own housing stock and the association now manages 625 properties.

As the association has evolved, it has adopted new and innovative approaches to meeting its objectives including working in partnership with individuals, groups and organisations for the benefit of all concerned. The association is also committed to regularly reviewing operations to ensure that they are delivering services which are responsive to the needs of customers and which provide value for money.

The association has an important role in contributing towards the regeneration of communities and strives to participate in activities which enable social inclusion and make a positive contribution to the social, economic and cultural well being of the whole community.

To ensure the efficient and cost effective delivery of these services the trust has 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. 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 arms 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 Lochalsh & Skye Housing Association 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 Lochalsh & Skye Housing Association application to join Scotland Excel as an associate member be approved, at a £500 fee, subject to completion and signing of the agreement document.