

## **Scotland Excel**

**To: Executive Sub Committee**

**On: 25 October 2019**

**Report  
by  
Director Scotland Excel**

### **Request for Associate Membership of Scotland Excel by Scottish Legal Aid Board**

#### **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 arm's 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 Legal Aid Board are a non-departmental public set up as a result of the Legal Aid Scotland Act 1986.

Its function is to manage and improve continuously publicly funded legal assistance and to advise Scottish Ministers on its strategic development for the benefit of society. The board aims by fulfilling its strategic objectives to contribute to an efficient justice system and improved outcomes for those who need services supported by legal aid.

Scottish Legal Aid Board pay the Scottish living wage to all employees, and is also an accredited Scottish Living Wage employer.

To ensure the efficient and cost-effective delivery of these services it 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 for approval, a number of validation checks on the organisation are carried out. These include a review of the Memorandum & Articles of Association, the financial position and the type of contracts that the organisation is likely to access.

Scotland Excel monitors all requests from arm's length and other organisations to become associate members to ensure that any legal requirements are met. In this case, Scottish Legal Aid Board qualifies for membership in accordance with the Local Authorities (Goods and Services) Act 1970 section 1 (1B)(b) namely as a public authority or body.

### **4 Recommendation**

It is recommended to committee that Scottish Legal Aid Board application to join Scotland Excel as an associate member be approved, with no annual fee, subject to the agreement document.