

To: POLICY & RESOURCES (FINANCE & CUSTOMER SERVICES) SUB-COMMITTEE		Subject: Social Enterprise Awards Scotland
From: HEAD OF REVENUE SERVICES		
Date: 13 November 2013	Ref: BC	

**1 Introduction**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise committee of the outcome of the Council's submission to the Social Enterprise Awards Scotland.

**2 Background**

- 2.1 The Council entered the Social Enterprise Awards Scotland within the "Social Economy Market Builder" category through a joint submission between Procurement & Regeneration Services. This highlighted the significant efforts that these two teams have undertaken to improve the position, awareness and capacity of social economy companies to establish and flourish within NLC.

- 2.2 Companies involved in this sector are principally involved in the provision of Social Care. Overall the Council purchases approximately £55m annually (12.5%) of spend from companies / organisations operating in this sector.

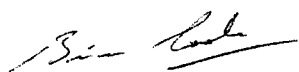
- 2.3 The submission reflected a number of developments / initiatives and processes which the procurement team has promoted and developed:

- o ensure a 'level playing field' for the third sector when commissioning services and allocating contracts
- o build a shared understanding of the opportunities for third sector suppliers
- o ensure responsive council procurement processes
- o building into our procurement process, consideration of community benefit opportunities and inclusion of community benefit clauses in supply chain opportunities for the sector.
- o build the capacity of local suppliers
- o briefing sessions with contractors
- o development of the council's management information system to support the agenda

- 2.4 The council was successful in winning the award within the "Social Economy Market Builder category" and the award was presented to the Council at a reception at the Scottish Parliament on the 6<sup>th</sup> November 2013. This is the first time a public sector organisation has been recognised in this way in the four years the awards have been in operation. Our submission has also been shortlisted in the UK awards which will be announced on 27<sup>th</sup> November.

**3 Recommendation**

- 3.1 The Committee notes the report



Head of Revenue Services

Members wishing further information please contact Mr Brian Cook, Head of Revenue Services, Tel:- 01698 - 403929.