FINANCE COMMITTEE CALL FOR EVIDENCE

DISABLED PERSON’S PARKING BADGES (SCOTLAND) BILL: FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

SUBMISSION FROM ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL

Consultation

Did you take part in the consultation exercise which preceded the Bill and, if so, did you comment on the financial assumptions made?
1. Yes Aberdeenshire Council took part in the consultation exercise and we commented on the financial assumptions made.

Do you believe your comments on the financial assumptions have been accurately reflected in the FM?
2. Yes

Did you have sufficient time to contribute to the consultation exercise?
3. Yes

Costs

If the Bill has any financial implications for your organisation, do you believe that they have been accurately reflected in the FM? If not, please provide details.
4. Yes – refer below

Do you consider that the estimated costs and savings set out in the FM are reasonable and accurate?
5. Yes

If relevant, are you content that your organisation can meet the financial costs associated with the Bill which it will incur? If not, how do you think these costs should be met?
6. Enforcement Officers - It is questionable whether recruiting enforcement officers to cover the 3,500 square miles of the Aberdeenshire area would be viable, or cost effective. The charge for the Blue Badge is a minimal cost of £20 which only covers the basic administrative costs of the scheme by the Council.

7. In the Aberdeenshire area, existing parking enforcement officers and Police Scotland Traffic Wardens currently undertake this activity.

8. It is likely that the costs to the Council associated with the bill will be increased if we employ additional enforcement officers, as there is no budget for this. However, if Police Scotland decides to withdraw from the enforcement of parking offences in this area, these additional Enforcement Officer costs could possibly be met by the transfer of the relevant funding from the Police Scotland budget to the Council’s affected. Alternatively Scottish Government funding would be required.

9. Reviews - The current system for reviews in Aberdeenshire is in line with the Transport Scotland Code of Practice. A Senior Occupational Therapist reviews the
BB application and IMA assessment, the applicant is informed throughout the process and given reasons for refusal. We believe this system is transparent and provides a standardised response. We have in place an agreed process for ensuring any updates in the Code of Practice are passed to all staff involved with the scheme which means that the council is able to maintain a high level of consistency within the entire scheme.

**Does the FM accurately reflect the margins of uncertainty associated with the estimates and the timescales over which such costs would be expected to arise?**
10. Yes

**Wider Issues**
*Do you believe that the FM reasonably captures costs associated with the Bill? If not, which other costs might be incurred and by whom?*
11. Yes

*Do you believe that there may be future costs associated with the Bill, for example through subordinate legislation? If so, is it possible to quantify these costs?*
12. No