Finance Committee
Health (Tobacco, Nicotine etc. and Care) (Scotland) Bill
Submission from Dundee Council

Response

1. Did you take part in any consultation exercise preceding the Bill and, if so, did you comment on the financial assumptions made?

Yes.

Responses to the exercise preceding the bill were as follows:
46. What is your assessment of the likely financial implications, or other impacts (if any), of the introduction of each of these proposals on you or your organization?
A - Local authorities will have a key role in implementing these proposals and any support from Scottish Government would be welcome. These proposals are the essence of preventative spends. Investment now can lead to substantial health gains in the future and a consequent reduction in the cost of ill health caused by smoking. It is assumed that SG will be responsible for the major promotional campaigns and standardize literature for local use. This would be consistent with a number of previous and existing major government policies. Increased staff costs for monitoring and enforcing the policy are likely.

47. What (if any) other significant financial implications are likely to arise?
A - Additional signs and amendments to existing public notices will be required

2. If applicable, do you believe your comments on the financial assumptions have been accurately reflected in the FM?

Yes – if the costs detailed within the FM are additional to current funding.

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

Yes

4. 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.

Additional officer time will be required to monitor/enforce the prohibition within hospital grounds. It is not clear from s37 of the FM how this will be achieved.

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

The estimated costs are reasonable, however accuracy on estimates is difficult to achieve.
6. If applicable, are you content that your organisation can meet any financial costs that it might incur as a result of the Bill? If not, how do you think these costs should be met?

The costs associated with 4 above would not be met within existing budgets and would require additional funding.

7. Does the FM accurately reflect the margins of uncertainty associated with the Bill’s estimated costs and with the timescales over which they would be expected to arise?

As with 5 above, estimates are reasonable but unlikely to be accurate.

8. Do you believe that the FM reasonably captures any costs associated with the Bill? If not, which other costs might be incurred and by whom?

Whilst NHS boards can do much to make the smoking ban work through its own monitoring this needs to be backed up by local authorities having sufficient resources to make the new law work.

9. 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?

Very difficult to estimate unknown future requirements, however 1 additional member of staff costing around £30k per annum would reasonable cover issues arising.