Finance Committee

Health (Tobacco, Nicotine etc. and Care) (Scotland) Bill Financial Memorandum

Submission from Falkirk Council

Consultation

1. Did you take part in any consultation exercise preceding the Bill and, if so, did you comment on the financial assumptions made?
Yes. Falkirk Council considered that there would be no significant financial issues for Environmental Health, but that there will be for Trading Standards.

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

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

Costs

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.
The figure of a possible increase in the number of NVP outlets by 76%, based on the survey carried out by local authorities is just an estimate and may, in practice, be higher.

5. Do you consider that the estimated costs and savings set out in the FM are reasonable and accurate?
There are unknown variables with the number of outlets which may cast doubt on the accuracy of the estimates.

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?
Falkirk Council operates a risk-based, intelligence-led enforcement protocol and would react commensurate with resources available at the time, with regard to national and local priorities. Costs incurred through having to meet specific targets, performance measures or service-level agreements may 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?
Yes
Wider Issues

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? See Q6 above.

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? In the absence of any proposed subordinate legislation, it is difficult to respond at this stage.