Finance Committee

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

Submission from Glasgow City Council

Response

Consultation

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

We did respond to the consultation preceding the Bill but at that stage did not comment on the financial assumptions although we participated in the survey to establish an estimate of the number of premises/businesses that sold ecigarettes and the age restriction if any they applied voluntarily. The survey was coordinated through The Society of Chief Officers of Trading Standards in Scotland (SCOTSS).

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

N/A, although it is believed the assumptions about the additional number of premises involved are reasonably accurate.

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.

As reported in the memorandum it is anticipated that the volume of work in supervising and monitoring the age as well as the other restrictions in relation to e-cigarette will increase by 75%. The implementation of the Bill will therefore have a significant implication on the Council however these seem to have been recognised in the Memorandum.

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

The Memorandum did not breakdown the implementation costs by Authority but the overall figure seems reasonable. It would seem appropriate for the funding to be allocated on the basis of the estimated proportion of e-cigarette businesses in each Authority.
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 could not be met by the Authority; the expectation is that these would be met by the Scottish Government.

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?

I believe that the top end of the range given in the memorandum would be a better figure.

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?

Yes

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?

As the regulation of e-cigarettes is new it is very difficult to estimate any associated future costs. At this stage it is not possible to gauge the level of compliance with the legislation and therefore the enforcement resources required. The assumption at present is that the level of compliance, after the implementation period, is likely to be similar to tobacco products and hence the predicted costs/resources as per the memorandum and the response to question 5.