

FINANCE COMMITTEE CALL FOR EVIDENCE

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT (SCOTLAND) BILL; FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

SUBMISSION FROM NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Consultation

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

1. Yes North Ayrshire Council did take part in the COSLA lead consultation on the financial elements of the bill in July 2014. As part of this response the Council did offer comments on the financial assumptions that were underlying the figures. In the main the Council was in agreement with the financial implications contained in the bill.

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

2. In the main yes, however for the section on allotments the North Ayrshire Council response indicated that the upper limit on the cost of a whole site would be £250,000. The financial memorandum upper limit is at £150,000. It was highlighted that the actual costs incurred will be different for every site depending on the particular issues and complexities of each one.

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

3. Yes, there were no issues regarding time to respond.

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, the bill reflects the views of North Ayrshire Council. However it must be stressed that there is a number of demand driven sections where it is not possible to quantify costs until demand presents itself.

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

5. Yes, although as mentioned above when demand is factored in there could be some periods where demand is high which generates cost against other times when demand and cost is low.

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?

6. Where North Ayrshire is required to incur additional costs as a result of the bill then these require to be allocated to the Council.

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?

7. Where costs have been included in the narrative the ranges are sufficiently wide to accommodate a huge amount of uncertainty. However in other sections there is no mention of costs but it does mention there will be additional costs incurred. The implication is that the additional costs will be minimal but there is uncertainty that is not addressed in the bill.

Wider Issues

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?

8. For LA's it does capture all the events where costs will be incurred but as above for Q7 it does not go into detail on what these costs are.

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?

9. At this stage there is no expectation of any future costs that have not been identified already.