Consultation

Did you take part in the Scottish Government consultation exercise which preceded the Bill and, if so, did you comment on the financial assumptions made?

1. Orkney Islands Council did take part in the consultation exercise and commented on additional costs associated with a number of proposals that were being considered at that time.

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

2. A number of the proposals that were originally considered for inclusion in the Bill have now been removed and we welcome this.

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 these have been accurately reflected in the FM? If not, please provide details.

4. It is too early in our opinion to understand fully the financial implications of the Bill. Whilst many of the costs are already accounted for within our procurement processes, in our opinion small changes to process can have a disproportionate effect on organisations with smaller procurement teams. We believe that extreme care needs to be taken to ensure that any costs associated with embedding good practice should be proportionate to the scale and complexity of procurement operations in individual organisations. Whilst this appears to have been recognised in the FM, deployment of procurement practice has sometimes failed to fully recognise market characteristics in the islands.

Do you consider that the estimated costs and savings set out in the FM and over the timescales for which they are projected are reasonable and accurate?

5. Yes we consider these to be reasonable at this time.

If relevant, are you content that your organisation can meet any financial costs it is expected to incur as a result of the Bill? If not, how do you think these costs should be met?

6. On the basis of the information and assumptions contained within the FM we believe that additional financial costs can be met from within existing resources.
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?

7. We are unclear as to whether the margins of uncertainty in relation to costs have been fully reflected due to the FM being relatively certain that there will be little if any additional costs incurred by local authorities.

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

8. Whilst we currently offer debriefing to unsuccessful bidders, additional debriefing requirements will incur additional administration costs and require additional technical staff time and the costs associated with a regulated debriefing regime has not been fully accounted for.

9. The additional costs of training may not have been accounted for.

10. We believe that there may be additional costs incurred as the result of an increasing risk of challenge. Whilst we appreciate that the number of formal challenges is relatively low the Bill may encourage increasing numbers of challenges.

Do you believe that there might be future costs associated with the Bill, for example through subordinate legislation? If so, is it possible to quantify these costs?

11. We believe that there are likely to be future costs associated with the Bill. At this stage it is not possible to quantify what these costs might be.