FINANCE COMMITTEE CALL FOR EVIDENCE

HOUSING (SCOTLAND) BILL: FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

SUBMISSION FROM RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL

Consultation
Did you take part in either of the Scottish Government consultation exercises which preceded the Bill and, if so, did you comment on the financial assumptions made?
1. Renfrewshire Council submitted responses on the following consultations:
   - Consultation on a Strategy for the Private Rented Sector 2012
   - Affordable Rented Housing: Creating More Flexibility for Landlords and Better Outcomes for Communities 2013
   - The Future of Right to Buy in Scotland 2012
   - Better Dispute Resolution in Housing: Consultation on the Introduction of a New Housing Panel for Scotland 2013
2. Comments were made on financial assumptions for the Right to Buy consultation.

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

Did you have sufficient time to contribute to the consultation exercise?
4. 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?
5. In the main the costs for the local authority have been accurately reflected.
6. There will though be some costs in terms of staff training and updating public information including leaflets and website information. For example the FM identifies no costs to local authorities in the creation of a PRS tribunal. However as the provider of housing advice services, the local authority will need to train relevant staff and update existing information to reflect the new changes.

Do you consider that the estimated costs and savings set out in the FM and projected over 15 years for each service are reasonable and accurate?
7. Yes.
If relevant, are you content that your organisation can meet the financial costs associated with the Bill which your organisation will incur? If not, how do you think these costs should be met?

8. Yes.

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?

9. Yes—the Council recognises there is a degree of uncertainty and that the FM reflects this.

Wider Issues

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

10. Yes

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?

11. Yes, there may be future costs associated with the bill through subordinate legislation. For example the proposed Code of Conduct for Letting Agents may require some letting agents to do things that they do not already do (for example, provide tenants or landlords with particular information). Until more detail is known, such costs cannot be quantified.