FINANCE AND CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE CONSULTATION: PLANNING SCOTLAND BILL
JANUARY 2018

PAS (www.pas.org.uk) is an independent organisation that helps people in Scotland engage with the places around them. Engagement is a key aspect of enhancing local democracy and empowering communities to ensure that Scotland is a fairer and more equal place. PAS provides impartial advice, training, education programmes, facilitation, mediation and support with community-led local place plans. We welcome the opportunity to respond to this consultation.

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, PAS attended a series of Scottish Government workshops around the planning reform process and responded to all written consultation opportunities. PAS commented previously on the need for planning – as a key public service – to be adequately resourced, and to be resourced appropriately to allow far-reaching reform measures such as Local Place Plans to succeed.

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

See response to Q8 below.

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

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?

- The Financial Memorandum assumes a "discretionary spend" for both the Scottish Administration and planning authorities, therefore no funding has been committed for communities for upskilling or to fund the preparation of Local Place Plans (LPPs). PAS believes that communities must be resourced to deliver LPPs, not only in terms of financing the plans themselves, but also in terms of building the necessary skills to be able to prepare LPPs which complement development planning.

- It is essential that costs are not underestimated in terms of capacity building, funding, and skill building for communities in delivering such plans, and it may be that for some areas the average of £13K will be too low to deliver a LPP. To ensure that LPPs are brought forward in all areas, including more deprived areas, communities must be resourced to be able to deliver meaningful plans. In more deprived areas, communities may be less able to find the means to fund the preparation of LPPs themselves, and therefore must be supported to do so, to ensure that the production of a LPPs leads to powerful and positive engagement.
CONTACTS
PAS would be pleased to respond to any queries with regard to this response.

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