

# Report

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Report to:	<b>Corporate Resources Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>2 July 2008</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Corporate Resources)</b>

Subject:	<b>Summary Justice Reform: Courts Unification</b>
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## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ consider the consultation document issued by the Scottish Court Service in respect of the Sheriffdom of Glasgow and Strathkelvin. Response to the document is due by 13 August 2008

## 2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the proposal to transfer the Rutherglen Court business to the new Justice of the Peace Court in Glasgow be rejected and that a Justice of the Peace Court be retained in Rutherglen.

## 3. Background

3.1. The Summary Justice Reform programme includes the unification of the administration of the Sheriff and Justice of the Peace Courts under the control of the Scottish Court Service. As a result, the Rutherglen District Court, which lies within the Sheriffdom of Glasgow and Strathkelvin, will transfer to the Scottish Court Service in December 2008. Justices, as members are aware, transferred to the Scottish Court Service in December 2007 although the local authority is still responsible for some training.

3.2. The District Court currently sits 2 days per month. A total of 362 cases were called in Court in 2007/2008.

## 4. Scottish Court Service - Consultation

4.1. After carrying out various scoping exercises the Scottish Court Service has prepared a consultative document which proposes to cease operation of the current District Court in Rutherglen from December 2008 and transfer all of its business to the new Justice of the Peace Court in Glasgow.

## 5. Proposed Response

5.1. The Rutherglen Court provides a local justice service with Justices who have an understanding of the local area and the issues which it faces. The transfer to Glasgow Court will result in the loss of that local knowledge. In light of this, it is proposed that the Council respond to the Scottish Courts Service by proposing that the Rutherglen Court service be retained in Rutherglen.

## **6. Employee Implications**

- 6.1. No administrative staff will transfer. Legal advisers, who are currently based in Hamilton, will transfer in June 2009 as a result of the unification of the courts in the Sheriffdom of South Strathclyde, Dumfries and Galloway.

## **7. Financial Implications**

- 7.1. All income currently brought in from the Rutherglen District Court will transfer to the Scottish Court Service. The grant aided budget will also require to be adjusted. If the business of the Court transfers the District Courthouse in Rutherglen may be freed for use for other Council business or declared surplus to requirements.

## **8. Other Implications**

- 8.1. None.

## **9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

- 9.1. There is no requirement to carry out an impact assessment in terms of the proposals contained within this report.
- 9.2. There was no requirement to undertake any consultation in terms of the information contained in this report.

**Robert McIlwain**  
**Executive Director (Corporate Resources)**

20 June 2008

## **Link(s) to Council Objectives**

- ◆ Fair and Open
- ◆ Improve Community Safety

## **Previous References**

None

## **List of Background Papers**

Summary Justice Reform – Delivering a Unified Courts Administration, Sheriffdom of Glasgow and Strathkelvin – a consultative document dated May 2008.

## **Contact for Further Information**

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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