

CORPORATE RESOURCES
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR **ROBERT McILWAIN**
Legal Services

Mrs Elizabeth Bergen
Scottish Court Services
Field Services Directorial Court Unification Team
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Our Ref: TS/ek
Your Ref:
If calling ask for: Teresa Stone
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Date: 5 February 2009

Dear Mrs Bergen

Delivering a Unified Courts Administration in South Strathclyde Dumfries and Galloway

I refer to the recent consultation document published by the Scottish Court Service entitled "Summary Justice Reform – Delivering a Unified Courts Administration in the Sheriffdom of South Strathclyde Dumfries and Galloway". I am writing to advise you that South Lanarkshire Council has initially considered this consultative document and would wish to respond as follows.

I would advise that the Council noted that the Summary Justice Reform programme included the unification of the administration of the Sheriff and Justice of the Peace Courts under the control of the Scottish Court Service. Further as a result, the East Kilbride District Court, which was within the Sheriffdom of South Strathclyde Dumfries and Galloway, would transfer to the Scottish Court Service in June 2009.

The Council noted that, after carrying out various scoping exercises, the Scottish Court Service consultative document contained a proposal to cease the operation of the District Court in East Kilbride from June 2009 and transfer all of its business to the new Justice of the Peace Court in Hamilton.

The Council carefully considered all the information contained in the document however the Council considers that East Kilbride Court service should be retained in East Kilbride as this court provides a local justice service with Justices who have a better understanding of the local area. To ensure this element of local knowledge be continued the lay Court should be retained at East Kilbride.

Please note that the next Corporate Resources Committee does not take place until 4 March, 2 days after the consultation closes so it may be that we will have further comments to add. This initial response has been prepared under powers delegated to the Executive

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Director (Corporate Resources) in consultation with the Chair and depute chair of the Corporate Resources Committee.

I trust that you will take into account the Council's response to the consultation although as explained earlier I may lodge a further submission after the Corporate Resources Committee. I have returned 'Respondent Information Form' as requested.

Yours faithfully

Teresa Stone

District Court, Licensing and Registration Manager