

REPORT

To: CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE		Subject: SUMMARY JUSTICE REFORM - UNIFICATION OF COURTS WITHIN SOUTH STRATHCLYDE, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY
From: HEAD OF LEGAL SERVICES		
Date: 5 OCTOBER 2009	Ref: JM/MK	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1. The purpose of this report is to inform members of the new timetable for unification of District Courts into Scottish Court Service.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1. At meetings of the Committee held on 8 January and 27 August 2009 members noted reports detailing proposals for creation of JP Courts to replace District Courts and for the unification of Courts within the Sheriffdom of South Strathclyde, Dumfries and Galloway under the administration of Scottish Court Service.

2.2. The latter report noted that there had been further debate within the Scottish Parliament in relation to proposals for Court locations within other areas of the Sheriffdom as a result of which further secondary legislation would be required necessitating a delay in the unification timetable within the Sheriffdom.

3. REPORT

3.1. The Scottish Court Service have now advised that final proposals have been presented to the Cabinet Secretary for Justice and this should allow the secondary legislation process to be completed.

3.2. As previously advised the proposals in relation to North Lanarkshire Courts remain unaffected and Courts will continue to sit in Coatbridge, Cumbernauld and Motherwell.

3.3. The implementation date for unification in South Strathclyde, Dumfries and Galloway will now be 22 February 2010.

4. CORPORATE CONSIDERATIONS

4.1. Council services with an interest in or affected by the proposals for District Court unification have been advised of the new implementation date.

5. RECOMMENDATION

5.1. The Committee is asked to note the contents of this report.


Executive Director of Corporate Services