

PROPOSED CLOSURE OF WHITEHAVEN MAGISTRATES AND COUNTY COURTS

LEAD MEMBER: Councillor G Garrity, Chairman of the External Overview and Scrutiny Committee

LEAD OFFICER: Martin Jepson, Head of Legal and Democratic Services

REPORT AUTHOR: Jessica Hall, Overview and Scrutiny Support Officer

Summary: The report asks full Council to enable the External Overview and Scrutiny Committee to respond to the Ministry of Justice Consultation on the Council's behalf

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Council is asked to:

- a) Give approval to the External Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) to respond to the Ministry of Justice Consultation Paper HMCS CP05/10 on the Council's behalf, in consultation with the Group Leaders.

1. BACKGROUND

The Ministry of Justice published a Consultation Paper on 23 June 2010 entitled Proposal on the provision of court services in HMCS Cumbria and Lancashire (HMCS CP05/10).

The paper proposes to close the Whitehaven Magistrates Court and Whitehaven County Court and relocate court services to Workington Magistrates Court.

The External OSC will be considering the Consultation Paper and the impact any proposals would have on the Borough at its meeting on Thursday 19 August 2010. Consultation is already underway.

2. REPRESENTATIVES

The deadline for responses to the consultation is 15 September 2010. Under such circumstances, OSC would report its findings and recommendations to Council. However there will not be another meeting of Council between 19 August 2010 and 15 September 2010.

The OSC is therefore requesting that it responds to the consultation on the Council's behalf, in consultation with the Group Leaders.

3. CONCLUSION

This course of action is the most appropriate and will enable the Council to respond to the consultation within the time limits specified.

Background Papers: Ministry of Justice – Proposal on the provision of court services in HMCS Cumbria and Lancashire, Consultation Paper HMCS CP05/10