

Justice Committee

Scottish Court Service recommendations for a future court structure in Scotland

Written submission from Sustainable Cupar

Cupar Court closure

We are writing to ask the committee to look again at the closure of the Court in Cupar.

Cupar is an old market town, and like many other market towns, it is struggling to survive. We have a number of legal firms in the town and to suggest that the court closure will only have a marginal effect on the town is clearly nonsense. In fact it could be the last straw which sends the town into terminal decline.

We do not understand the reasoning behind the closure which can only increase the cost of government. Any savings to the justice system will obviously be more than offset by the additional costs to other services (police, county council, and others).

We are appalled that the report makes no mention of the environmental cost of the closure. It is a sound principal of good and “green” government that local services should be delivered locally.

The expression “Justice should not only be done; it must also be seen to be done.” is relevant here. Removing the court from the local area will erode public confidence in the justice system.

The timing of the court closure looks bizarre to Cupar residents. The police are moving into the same building to join the county council staff, so all the major users of court services will soon be in the same building as the court. Also the town has just been awarded major CARS funding to upgrade the very building that the court is in.

Closing Cupar Court will damage the Scottish Government's assertion that they will be better at running Scotland than Westminster.

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Chair, Sustainable Cupar
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