Justice Committee
Scottish Court Service recommendations for a future court structure in Scotland
Written submission from Joe Sture

(1) The Police Service of Scotland has closed their HQ in Cupar downsizing their footprint into a small space in the Court Buildings and with closure of the Court they will have only a community presence.

(2) Tesco have delayed their investment in new build due to the uncertainty of the town.

(3) The colleges are going through a major merger and there is significant duplication of courses provided in Cupar by facilities in Kirkcaldy, Glenrothes and Dunfermline. The colleges are having to pay significant costs to transport people too Cupar but on the completion of the mergers they will be able to offer the facilities in the centre of Kirkcaldy and Glenrothes = massive cost reduction. No brain required to work out that Cupar will lose out to enable colleges meet their budgets set by yourself.

(4) Cupar receives a lot of trade from the Royal Air Force colleagues who rarely deploy en masse so are in the community for the majority of the time. With the Army arrival they by default deploy en masse so not only do we have a reduction in total military headcount but they as a significant body of individuals will be away on training and duties.

All of these can only cripple the high street, housing market and as an accountant operating in the area I am already seeing clients making investments outside the area. I have for example this week worked with a major kitchen manufacturer who has been heavily funded by the Scottish Government in manufacturing move from Cupar to facilities in Edinburgh due to already experienced significant reduction in footfall into the high street display area. This alone deprived Cupar from a £100k investment in new facilities and 6 part time roles. A further client, providing PA services to legal and accountancy firms in Cupar area, has paid their staff off (3 full time and 3 part time) and is re-opening up her services in Falkirk.

If you were to take the opportunity to visit Cupar you would see how integrated the court services are to the centre of the town and witness the already significant increase in house properties up for sale and that are not selling unless a significant reduction is made in price.

I can honestly say that any savings proposed in closing the facilities in Cupar will be more than lost in the loss of indirect and direct tax revenues and also the government funding of redundancy programmes.

Please do not kill a community for a short term gain.