

Questionnaire

We would welcome responses to the following questions set out in this consultation paper.

Question 1a. What comments would you like to make on the proposals for the future provision of magistrates' courts services in Merseyside (including Local Justice Area/ Bench mergers)?

None

Question 1b. Please describe any particular impacts that should be taken into account when considering the proposals for magistrates' courts in Merseyside and why.

None

Question 1c. Will the proposals for magistrates' courts in Merseyside have a direct impact on you? If yes please provide further details. (Your information will assist in reviewing the equality impact assessment.)

None

Question 2a. What comments would you like to make on the proposals for the future provision of magistrates' courts services in Cheshire (including Local Justice Area/ Bench mergers)?

None

Question 2b. Please describe any particular impacts that should be taken into account when considering the proposals for magistrates' courts in Cheshire and why.

None

Question 2c. Will the proposals for magistrates' courts in Cheshire have a direct impact on you? If yes please provide further details. (Your information will assist in reviewing the equality impact assessment.)

None

Question 3a. What comments would you like to make on the proposals for the future provision of county court services in Cheshire and Merseyside?

The Council does not believe that Runcorn County Court should be closed. It believes that this is an issue of social inclusion, in that residents who are potentially disadvantaged and already have problems with transport are effectively being asked to go to Warrington or further afield in order to access the judicial system which was hitherto far more easily reached. There will clearly be greater inconvenience and cost to many court users, who may well find it intimidating and difficult to travel further afield to access the courts system.

It is felt the consultation document does not provide sufficient information on the financial effects of the proposal, given that the court building also houses Runcorn Magistrates Court which will continue in operation. The Council would also wish to receive further information on the proposed re-use of the areas of the building to be vacated by the closure of Runcorn County Court.

Question 3b. Please describe any particular impacts that should be taken into account when considering the proposals for county courts in Cheshire and Merseyside and why.

The closure would have particular impact on members of the community who may be disadvantaged and less able to access transport. They will be required to travel substantially further to access the judicial system and this consideration needs to be weighed up very carefully in the review of the equality impact assessment.

Question 3c. Will the proposals for county courts in Cheshire and Merseyside have a direct impact on you? If yes please provide further details. (Your information will assist in reviewing the equality impact assessment.)

The closure would have a direct impact on a substantial number of residents of the Borough. The reply to Question 3b above also applies.

Thank you for participating in this consultation exercise.

About you

Please use this section to tell us about yourself

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Job title	Operational Director, Legal and Democratic Services
Date	10 September 2010
Company name/ organisation	Halton Borough Council

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Would you like us to acknowledge receipt of your response: **YES**

Address to which the
acknowledgement should be
sent, if different from above

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