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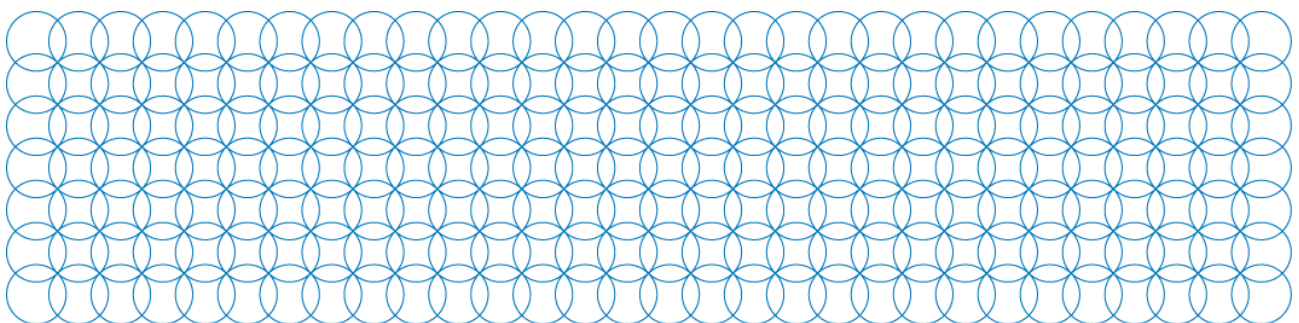
Cambridgeshire and Essex
Judicial Business Group

Consultation on returning Magistrates' Courts cases from Wisbech to Cambridgeshire

Consultation Paper

This consultation begins on 2nd December 2015

This consultation ends on 8th January 2016





HM Courts &
Tribunals Service



Cambridgeshire Judicial
Business Group

Consultation on returning Magistrates' Courts cases from Wisbech to Cambridgeshire

A consultation produced by HM Courts & Tribunals Service,
part of the Ministry of Justice. It is also available on the Ministry of Justice website at
[https://consult.justice.gov.uk/consultation_finder/Consultation on returning magistrates'
courts cases from Wisbech to Cambridgeshire.pdf](https://consult.justice.gov.uk/consultation_finder/Consultation_on_returning_magistrates_courts_cases_from_Wisbech_to_Cambridgeshire.pdf)

About this consultation

- To:** Those listed below at page 12
- Duration:** From 2nd December 2015 to 8th January 2016
- Enquiries (including requests for the paper in an alternative format) to:** Siân Jones,
Justices' Clerk for Cambridgeshire and Essex

HM Courts & Tribunals Service
Peterborough Magistrates' Court
Bridge Street
Peterborough
Cambridgeshire
PE1 1ED

DX 742250 Peterborough 23

Email: legal_support_team@hmcts.gsi.gov.uk
- How to respond:** Please send your response by 8th January 2016 to the above address.
- Response paper:** A response to this consultation exercise is due to be published by 1st February 2016.

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Executive summary

In 2011, following a consultation, HM Courts' Service merged the Local Justice Areas of Peterborough and Fenland and closed the courthouse in Wisbech. As a result of responses to the consultation, it was directed that criminal cases from Wisbech and six surrounding parishes¹ should be heard at Kings' Lynn magistrate's court. (These cases will be called "Wisbech cases" in this consultation, and the town and parishes, the "Wisbech area".)

In the ensuing years this arrangement has led to a number of problems for agencies, and in some cases has significantly increased the travelling time for defendants and witnesses. In particular both Cambridgeshire police and the Cambridgeshire Youth Offending Teams have asked for the decision to be reviewed.

This paper, issued on behalf of the Cambridgeshire and Essex Judicial Business Group (JBG) with the support of the Norfolk and Suffolk JBG, sets out for consultation a proposal to return cases from the Wisbech area to Cambridgeshire.

This proposal will improve access to justice for defendants whose cases are presently heard in Norwich and Cambridge, eliminate the excessive expense and inefficiency for agencies based in Cambridgeshire who have to travel to Norfolk to deal with small numbers of cases, and improve access to Cambridgeshire based services for defendants and victims. In addition, the proposal will eliminate a source of error in dealing with defendants for breach of community orders and suspended sentences.

This consultation seeks the wider views of those people or groups who may be affected by the change including magistrates, court users, stakeholders and public authorities, charities and businesses within the immediate areas concerned.

Details on how to respond are to be found on page 15 of this paper.

¹ Wisbech, Elm, Gorefield, Leverington, Newton, Tydd St Giles, and Wisbech St Mary

Introduction

This paper is issued on behalf of the Cambridgeshire and Essex Judicial Business Group (JBG) which is the body, made up of members of the judiciary and HMCTS managers, with responsibility for managing the judicial business of magistrates' courts in Cambridgeshire and Essex.

The allocation of business between magistrates' courts

Since 1st April 2005 the allocation of cases in magistrates' courts has been governed by Section 30 of the Courts Act 2003, and the Practice Direction made under it by the Lord Chancellor. The Practice Direction states that the guiding principle governing which magistrates' court should hear a case is:

“that it should be heard either at a magistrates' court for the local justice area (LJA) in which (i) the offence is alleged to have been committed or where the subject of the complaint originated or (ii) the person charged with the offence resides”

The Practice Direction authorises JBGs to depart from the general principle in relation to certain classes of cases for specific reasons, for example, “the consolidation of cases to be conducted by the same prosecutor”.

Cases from the Wisbech area, background

In 2010 HM Courts' Service consulted on a proposal to merge the Local Justice Areas of Peterborough and Fenland and to close the courthouse in Wisbech². A number of responses opposing the proposal pointed out that the distance from Wisbech to Kings' Lynn magistrates' court was shorter than the distance to Peterborough. As a result, when in 2011 the benches were merged and the courthouse at Wisbech closed, it was directed by the Judicial Issues Group (the precursor to the JBG) that criminal cases from Wisbech and six surrounding parishes³ should be heard at Kings' Lynn magistrate's court.⁴

In the ensuing years this arrangement has led to a number of problems. In particular both Cambridgeshire police and the Cambridgeshire Youth Offending Teams have asked for the decision to be reviewed.

It is open to the Cambridgeshire JBG under the Practice Direction to revoke the direction departing from the general principle (above), with the result that Wisbech cases would again be heard in Cambridgeshire. However since the original decision was made as the result of a public consultation, the JBGs for Cambridgeshire and Norfolk agreed that it would be

² *Proposal on the provision of courts services in Cambridgeshire, Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk*, <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20101013220600/http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-cp02-10.htm>

³ Wisbech, Elm, Gorefield, Leverington, Newton, Tydd St Giles, and Wisbech St Mary

⁴

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110106112002/http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-cp02-10.htm>

Consultation on the proposed changes to listing arrangements in Cambridgeshire

inappropriate to make any final decision without seeking the views of the public in the same way.

Impact Assessment

An Impact Assessment indicates that the following are likely to be particularly affected:

- Defendants, respondents and other litigants in person from North East Cambridgeshire appearing in magistrates' courts and their parents and other supporters
- Witnesses from North East Cambridgeshire appearing in magistrates' and Crown courts
- Members of the defence community representing parties in magistrates' courts in Cambridgeshire and Kings Lynn.
- Victims of domestic violence in North East Cambridgeshire.
- Cambridgeshire police lay presenters in road traffic courts and Fenland District Council staff dealing with cases of council tax default.

The Impact Assessment is attached. Comments on it are very welcome.

Consultation

Copies of the consultation paper are being sent to the individuals and organisations listed on page 12.

However, this list is not meant to be exhaustive or exclusive and responses are welcomed from anyone with an interest in or views on the subject covered by this paper.

Proposal and Options

- To revoke the direction that cases from the Wisbech area are commenced in the Norfolk Local Justice Area , with the result that they will be commenced the Cambridgeshire Local Justice Area in either Peterborough (most cases) or Huntingdon (domestic abuse and youth cases).
- Alternatively, to revoke the direction in relation to certain categories of work (to be determined following consultation).

Reason for the proposal

The current arrangement presents both defendants and agencies with a number of problems, which have become more severe in subsequent years. The JBG has not identified any significant benefits of the current arrangement which could offset the disadvantages, but would welcome any being identified before making a final decision.

Disadvantages of the present arrangement

Provision of services

Many of the services dealing with Cambridgeshire court proceedings and Cambridgeshire people are based in Cambridgeshire, even if case is heard in Norfolk.

- Cambridgeshire Police initiate most of the criminal cases in Cambridgeshire, including those heard in Norfolk. Because of volumes, variations in waiting times and a different approach to domestic violence cases, listing arrangements are different in the two counties which makes the work of the police more difficult and time-consuming.
- Staff of Cambridgeshire Youth Offending Service have to travel to Kings Lynn to deal with cases involving young people from Wisbech.
- At present Cambridgeshire police in the Fenland area have to arrange for the production of defendants in custody to three courts: Peterborough, Huntingdon and Norwich, and deal with two HMCTS offices.
- Road traffic prosecutions in Cambridgeshire are administered by a unit based in Stevenage, which has to send a prosecutor to present Wisbech cases in Norwich.
- Victims of domestic violence from the rest of Cambridgeshire whose cases come to court are supported by independent domestic violence advisers providing services in Cambridgeshire. This is not the case for victims from Cambridgeshire whose cases are heard in Kings Lynn.

Consultation on the proposed changes to listing arrangements in Cambridgeshire

- Fenland Council has to send staff to present cases in both Peterborough magistrates' court and Kings Lynn. The number of cases in Kings Lynn is particularly low, making this a very inefficient process.

Longer travel for defendants and other users

The primary reason for the decision to list Wisbech cases in Kings Lynn following the 2010 consultation was to reduce the distance defendants and witnesses would have to travel. However changes in the criminal justice landscape have reduced or eliminated that benefit. Many defendants have a much longer journey under the current arrangements than they would have if work were heard in Cambridgeshire.

- Road traffic cases in Norfolk are centralised in Norwich but are prosecuted by a team from Stevenage. Volumes are small (about 19 cases a month), so more time is spent travelling than in court and the cost to the taxpayer per case is very high.
- Cases from the Wisbech area committed or sent from Kings Lynn are heard at Cambridge Crown Court, rather than the court in Peterborough, as they would if they first appeared before a magistrates' court in Cambridgeshire.
- Most defendants appearing in custody following arrest are produced before Norwich magistrates' court by video link. This is convenient for defendants, but any supporter or victim wishing to observe the case has to travel to Norwich.

While Kings Lynn is closer to Wisbech than the courts in Cambridgeshire, the difference is not great. It is only seven miles farther to Peterborough than to Kings Lynn from Wisbech itself, and the saving in time by public transport is only ten minutes. For people living in Wisbech St Mary, however, Peterborough is only three miles further by road than Kings Lynn and the journey by public transport to Kings Lynn is considerably longer.

The distance from Wisbech to Norwich is 55 miles; the distance from Wisbech to Cambridge is 40 miles and there is no direct public transport route. The cost of public transport to Peterborough and Huntingdon is about £2 more than travel to King's Lynn. On the other hand, travel to Cambridge Crown Court costs £1.30 more than travel to Peterborough and the cost of travelling to Norwich is an additional £5.

Complex arrangements for orders supervised in the community

The normal practice is that proceedings for breach are commenced in the court which made the order, and that is therefore the standard procedure of the National Probation Service. However for legal reasons, orders made in the court at Kings Lynn against defendants resident in Cambridgeshire have to be enforced at a court in Cambridgeshire. This includes most of the defendants charged with Wisbech cases. Their breaches therefore require a non-standard approach and from time to time errors have been made, meaning defendants have been summoned to the wrong court.

Magistrates

Following the closure of Wisbech court, most of the magistrates who sat in Wisbech Area opted to sit in courts in Cambridgeshire. Only five magistrates on the Norfolk bench currently live in Cambridgeshire. It is therefore difficult to argue that justice is local in relation to cases from the Wisbech area.

Advantages of the present arrangement

An individual in Wisbech whose case is listed in Kings Lynn will often have a shorter journey than travelling to a court in Cambridgeshire. While the difference is modest or non-existent in relation to the majority of cases which would be heard in Peterborough, which is only seven miles farther than Kings Lynn and with similar public transport links, it is greater in relation to Huntingdon where domestic violence and youth cases are listed.

The view of the JBG is that the number of defendants significantly disadvantaged by this will be few – on current data only about fifteen people a month would be required to attend Huntingdon court.

Reducing requirement to travel

To set against the longer travel for some users, changes since 2010 mean that fewer parties have to travel than was the case when the decision was made to hear cases in Kings' Lynn.

- The use of video-linking for witnesses has increased significantly, reducing the need for them to attend the courthouse where the case is being heard. Most witnesses in the Huntingdon Domestic Violence Court give evidence by video link from Peterborough or Cambridge (and occasionally other sites, including police stations).
- Cambridgeshire Criminal Justice Board is currently developing live links from police stations (including Wisbech) to magistrates' courts, meaning that defendants in police custody would not need to travel to court, as is already the case in Norfolk.

The number of cases involved

There is no simple way of counting the volumes of Wisbech cases heard in Kings Lynn and a number of separate surveys have been carried out in 2014 and 2015. All these surveys collected data in a different way so are not fully comparable. The detail of the data is set out in Appendix B (page 23).

It is fairly safe however to conclude that an average of four youth defendants from the Wisbech area appear every month in Kings Lynn, and approximately 30 -40 adults. About 19 road traffic cases a month are also heard, most of them in absence. In addition a tiny number of council enforcement cases are heard.

Impact on listing in Cambridgeshire

Assuming no significant change in the crime rate or police practice, returning these cases to Cambridgeshire would increase volumes in the GAP and NGAP courts (general and domestic violence) by one or two cases a day. Youth court lists would increase by one case a week. The number in road traffic courts would increase (on the current listing model) by two or three cases. There is capacity in the current schedule in Peterborough and Huntingdon to absorb this volume of cases without any significant impact.

Regulatory offences (TV licence and vehicle excise licence enforcement) are already heard in Cambridgeshire so the change would have no impact on parties in those cases.

We welcome views from consultees on whether they think this assessment is correct.

Persons/bodies being consulted

Copies of the consultation paper are being sent to:

- All magistrates assigned to the Local Justice Areas of Cambridgeshire and Norfolk
- Resident Judge, Cambridgeshire Crown Courts
- Resident Judge, Norwich Crown Court
- Stephen Barclay MP
- Stewart Jackson MP
- Heidi Alan MP
- Henry Bellingham MP
- Jonathan Djanogly MP
- Lucy Frazer MP
- Shailesh Vara MP
- Daniel Zeichner MP
- Lord Lieutenant for Cambridgeshire
- Lord Lieutenant for Norfolk
- Cambridgeshire County Council
- Peterborough City Council
- Fenland District Council
- King's Lynn and West Norfolk District Council
- Chief Constable of Cambridgeshire Police
- Chief Constable of Norfolk Constabulary
- Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner
- Norfolk Police and Crime Commissioner
- Chief Crown Prosecutor for East of England Region
- National Probation Service
- Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire and Cambridgeshire Community Rehabilitation Company
- Norfolk and Suffolk Community Rehabilitation Company
- Youth Offending Service Cambridgeshire
- King's Lynn Youth Offending Team
- Cambridgeshire Criminal Justice Board
- Norfolk Criminal Justice Board

- Solicitors' firms practising in magistrates' courts in Peterborough, Huntingdon and Kings' Lynn
- Cambridge and District Law Society
- President, Peterborough and District Law Society
- President, King's Lynn and West Norfolk Law Society
- Secretary/Administrator, South Eastern Circuit
- The Witness Service, Peterborough
- The Witness Service, King's Lynn
- Victim Support Peterborough
- Victim Support, Norwich
- Fenland Community Safety Partnership
- Safer Peterborough Partnership
- Norfolk Community Safety Partnership]

However, this list is not meant to be exhaustive or exclusive and responses are welcomed from anyone with an interest in or views on the subject covered by this paper.

Questionnaire

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

Question 1: Do you support the proposal to return all Wisbech cases to Cambridgeshire? Please state your reasons.

Question 2: Would you support an alternative proposal to return only certain categories of work? If so which? Please state your reasons.

Question 3: Please describe any particular impacts which you think should be taken into account and why.

Question 4: Do you agree with our assessment of the impact on listing in Cambridgeshire?

Thank you for participating in this consultation exercise.

About you

Please use this section to tell us about yourself

Full name	
Job title or capacity in which you are responding to this consultation exercise (e.g. member of the public etc.)	
Date	
Company name/organisation (if applicable):	
Address	
Postcode	
If you would like us to acknowledge receipt of your response, please tick this box	<input type="checkbox"/>
Address to which the acknowledgement should be sent, if different from above	
Postcode	

If you are a representative of a group, please tell us the name of the group and give a summary of the people or organisations that you represent.

Name of Group	
Summary of representation	

Contact details/How to respond

Please send your response by 8th January 2016 to:

Siân Jones,
HM Courts & Tribunals Service
Peterborough Magistrates' Court
Bridge Street
Peterborough
Cambridgeshire
PE1 1ED

Email: legal_support_team@hmcts.gsi.gov.uk heading your email "Wisbech consultation".

Extra copies

Further paper copies or alternative format versions of this consultation can be obtained from this address or from courthouses in Cambridgeshire.

Publication of response

A paper summarising the responses to this consultation will be published by 1st February 2016. The response paper will be available online at https://consult.justice.gov.uk/consultation_finder.

Representative groups

Representative groups are asked to give a summary of the people and organisations they represent when they respond.

Confidentiality

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be published or disclosed in accordance with the access to information regimes (these are primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004).

If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please be aware that, under the FOIA, there is a statutory Code of Practice with which public authorities must comply and which deals, amongst other things, with obligations of confidence. In view of this it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Department.

The Department will process your personal data in accordance with the DPA and in the majority of circumstances, this will mean that your personal data will not be disclosed to third parties.

Impact Assessment

1) What is the problem under consideration and what are the policy objectives and intended effects?

Problem

Since 2012, cases in the Wisbech area of Cambridgeshire have been heard, not in courts in Cambridgeshire, by magistrates appointed to the Cambridgeshire Local Justice area, but in King's Lynn or Norwich. This is inconvenient for agencies who are based in Cambridgeshire, increases travelling time significantly for some defendants, and has led to confusion in dealing with defendants for breach of community orders⁵.

Aims/objectives

Cases from the Wisbech area will be heard in Peterborough and Huntingdon courts in Cambridgeshire.

Outcomes

- Excessive travelling time for defendants and their supporters whose cases are heard in Norwich or Cambridge will be eliminated.
- While travelling time for some defendants will increase, it will usually not exceed one hour.
- Agencies based in Cambridgeshire, such as the police, Youth Offending Team and Fenland District Council will not be obliged to attend courts in Norfolk for very small volumes of cases.
- Victims of domestic violence will have access to independent domestic violence advisers provided by local authorities in Cambridgeshire for victims in the county.
- Prosecutions for breach of community orders will be simplified and jurisdictional errors eliminated.

2) What policy options have been considered including alternatives to proposal?

- a) Return all cases from the Wisbech area to Cambridgeshire
- b) Take no action
- c) Return only traffic cases to Cambridgeshire.

3) Group(s) affected by this proposal.

We have identified that this proposal principally affects the following groups:

- Defendants, respondents and other litigants in person from the Wisbech area appearing in magistrates' and Crown courts and their parents and other supporters.

⁵ For more details see page 9

- Witnesses from the Wisbech area appearing in magistrates' and Crown courts.
- Victims of domestic violence in the Wisbech area.
- Members of the defence community representing parties in magistrates' courts in Cambridgeshire and Kings Lynn.
- Cambridgeshire police lay presenters in road traffic courts and Fenland District Council staff dealing with cases of council tax default.

We have identified that for most groups the impact is solely an increase or reduction in travel time and cost. There is an additional impact on the business of members of the defence community who may see a small reduction or increase in duty solicitor business.

Defendants, respondents and other litigants in person, and their supporters

Most defendants will have a slightly longer journey to the courthouse in Peterborough but the difference is not great – a matter of about seven miles and 15 minutes travel time. The difference in cost is small – the return fare is about £2 more.

Defendants under the age of 17 will have a longer journey, having to travel to Huntingdon, rather than King's Lynn. This amounts to about one defendant a week. A survey done in Cambridgeshire in 2013 showed that that 94% of young defendants attended court with an adult and that 58% travel by car.

The largest segment of defendants affected will be defendants charged with domestic violence offences who will have to travel to Huntingdon. The journey is 14 miles longer, taking an additional 18 minutes by car and three-quarters of an hour by public transport. The return fare is about £2 more.

Defendants living in the Wisbech area charged with road traffic offences would have a much shorter journey under the proposal (a reduction of about 33 miles) costing about £5 less. Defendants whose cases were sent to the Crown Court would have a journey about 18 miles less and a much shorter public transport route.

Since April 2015 defendants from all of Cambridgeshire have had to travel to the youth and specialist domestic violence court in Huntingdon while previously cases were listed in all three courts in the county. In many cases this is a longer journey than the journey from the Wisbech area. However since this change, the number of warrants for non-attendance has reduced rather than increased. There are no grounds at present to assume that this pattern will not be repeated in relation to defendants from Wisbech.

Witnesses appearing in magistrates' courts and their supporters

Much of what is said above applies also to witnesses. However in their case it will usually be possible to arrange for witnesses to give evidence by live link at a court or police station convenient to them, so the impact will be much less. The classes of witnesses most affected are those in Youth and domestic violence courts, most of whom already give evidence by live link.

Members of the defence community representing parties in magistrates' courts

The business of solicitors in the Kings Lynn area may be affected if defendants go to Peterborough or Huntingdon and use duty solicitors based there. We are aware that

some solicitors' firms practising in Kings Lynn also have offices in Cambridgeshire, but some do not.

We would welcome the help of the defence community to identify the impacts and what can be done to mitigate them.

- a) *Are there gaps in information that make it difficult or impossible to form an opinion on how your proposals might affect different groups of people? If so what are the gaps in the information and how and when do you plan to collect additional information?*

We may not have as much information on the impacts on the defence community as we would like and hope to gain a better insight through this consultation.

- b) *Having analysed the initial and additional sources of information is there any evidence that the proposed changes will have a positive impact on any of these different groups of people and/or promote equality of opportunity? Please provide details of which benefits from the positive impacts and the evidence and analysis used to identify them.*

As identified above, some defendants and their supporters will have a shorter journey, in some cases, significantly so.

Witnesses in the Crown Court will similarly benefit from the shorter distance and lower cost of transport in attending Peterborough Crown Court rather than Cambridge.

Defendants and witnesses in youth and domestic violence cases will have the benefit of shorter waiting times to conclude cases (2-3 weeks as opposed to 4-5).

Witnesses in youth and domestic violence cases will have the benefit of the excellent facilities at Huntingdonshire law courts, and the facility to give evidence by video link.

Victims of domestic violence will benefit from the attendance at court of an independent domestic violence adviser and specialist police officer appointed to provide support for people living in Cambridgeshire.

- c) *Is there any feedback or evidence that additional work could be done to promote equality of opportunity? If the answer is yes, please provide details of whether or not you plan to undertake this work. If not, please say why.*

HM Court Service has a plan to develop live link technology, as does Cambridgeshire police, in the next year. This will reduce travel time for both defendants and witnesses, who will increasingly be able to attend court by link at a location convenient to them.

Legislative changes in relation to non-imprisonable summary-only offences, including road traffic matters (the Single Justice Procedure) will probably reduce the number of defendants attending court.

- d) *Is there any evidence that proposed changes will have an adverse equality impact on any of these different groups of people? Please provide details of who the proposals affect, what the adverse impacts are and the evidence and analysis used to identify them*

The only likely equality impact we have identified is on those defendants, witnesses and supporters on low incomes who would have to pay more to travel than under previous arrangements. The additional cost will be no more than £2. Conversely, others would pay £2 - £5 less than they do under the present arrangements.

- e) *Is there any evidence that the proposed changes have no equality impacts? Please provide details of the evidence and analysis used to reach the conclusion that the proposed changes have no impact on any of these different groups of people.*

N/A.

- f) *Is a full Equality Impact Assessment Required?* Yes No

- g) *Even if a full EIA is not required, you are legally required to monitor and review the proposed changes after implementation to check they work as planned and to screen for unexpected equality impacts. Please provide details of how you will monitor evaluate or review your proposals and when the review will take place.*

A review will take place 12 months after implementation by means of a survey.

4) Will the proposal affect the availability of public services?

There will be no reduction in the level of public service provided by the courts.

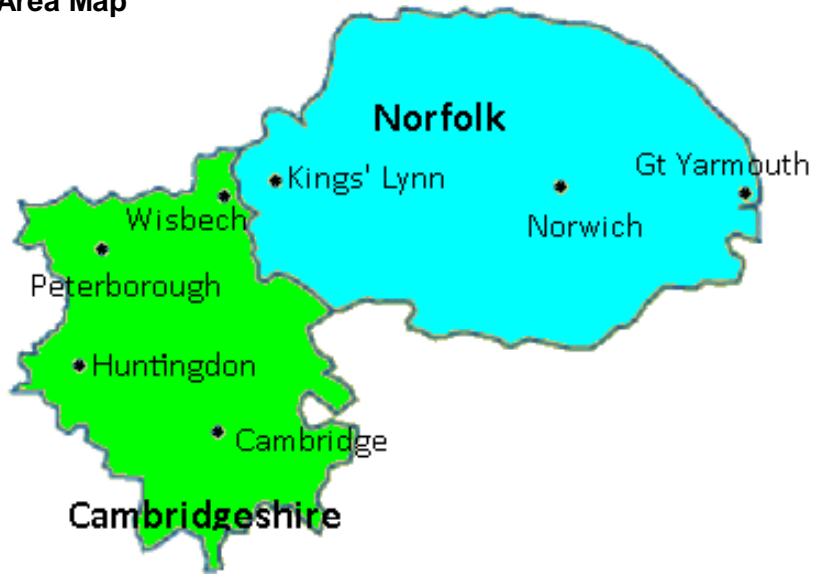
Victims of domestic violence will benefit from the provision of dedicated domestic violence advisers and specialist police officers serving the people of Cambridgeshire.

5) Name of Senior Manager and date approved

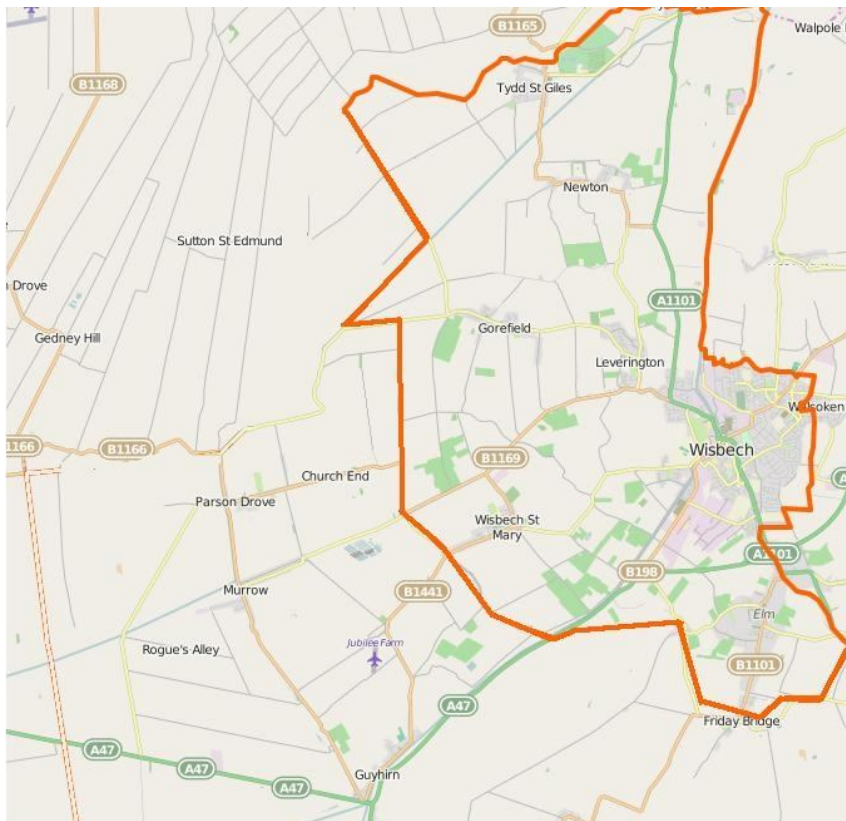
Name: Paul Harris (Delivery Director)
Department: HM Courts & Tribunals Service South East Regional Support Unit
Date 30 November 2015

Appendix A: Maps

General Area Map



Relevant parishes (rough guide)



Appendix B: data on volumes

Defendants in Kings Lynn with a Wisbech postcode January – March 2015

This survey covered all business. Its weakness is that it is based on the residence of the defendant, rather than the place where the matter arose. It therefore eliminates all offences alleged to have been committed by people who do not live in the Wisbech area. It will also include matters arising in Norfolk by people who live in the Wisbech area (which would remain in Norfolk under this proposal).

	Adult crime	Domestic violence	Youth crime	Probation breach	Motoring	Council Tax	Total
January 15	42	12	4	5	9	1	73
February 15	29	10	4	5	7	1	56
March 15	40	11	4	3	8	2	68
Average	37	11	4	4	8	1	66

Source HMCTS

Young defendants from the Wisbech area, September 2014 – March 2015

Cambridgeshire Youth Offending Service's data shows that 28 youth defendants from the Wisbech were dealt with at Kings Lynn Youth court, averaging 4 cases per month.

Sep-14	Oct-14	Dec-14	Jan-15	Feb-15	Mar-15
2	4	3	3	2	6

Source: Cambridgeshire Youth Offending Service

Criminal cases in Kings Lynn June – September 2015

A manual count was conducted of all criminal offences alleged to have been committed in the Wisbech area. This avoided the problem of missing defendants who did not have a Wisbech postcode, but being a manual count, is susceptible to error, and likely to undercount. This shows a monthly average of 20 cases. This is obviously much lower than the figure based on address above.

Offences alleged to have been committed in the Wisbech Area

Month	Total number of cases	Defendants with offences committed in Cambridgeshire	Percentage
w/c 15th June	36	7	19.4%
w/c 22nd June	11	1	9.1%
w/c 29th June	30	7	23.3%
w/c 6th July	23	6	26.1%
w/c 13th July	38	1	2.6%
w/c 20th July	36	9	25.0%

w/c 27th July	47	7	14.9%
w/c 3rd August	73	3	4.1%
w/c 10th August	66	7	10.6%
w/c 17th August	0	0	0.0%
w/c 24th August	24	2	8.3%
w/c 31st August	14	5	35.7%
w/c 7th September	22	8	36.4%
w/c 14th September	0	0	0.0%
w/c 21st September	36	0	0.0%
w/c 28th September	35	7	20.0%
w/c 5th October	11	10	90.9%
Total	502	80	15.9%

Source HMCTS

Police figures December 2014 – June 2015

A file review by Cambridgeshire police showed that Cambridgeshire police charged or requisitioned 247 defendants to the adult court in Kings Lynn and five to the youth court in the period 1 December 2014 to 1 June 2015. This averages 41 cases a month.

Police figures: police-prosecuted traffic cases heard in Norwich in 2015

These data are based on accurate information maintained by the prosecution unit. They cover only first hearings. We do not have a precise figure for attendance, but it is only a fraction of the total.

April	26
May	19
June	24
July	3
August	19
September	25
Average per month	19

Source: Beds, Cambs & Herts Traffic Prosecution & Collision Administration Unit

Cambridgeshire Caseload

Location	Adult breach	Adult crime ⁶	Adult motoring	Adult summary non-motoring ⁷	Fines enforcement	Youth court	Civil applications	Total
July	61	382	810	1,044	90	59	40	2,486
August	63	280	782	866	45	47	34	2,117
September	48	332	685	885	76	48	35	2,109

Source: HMCTS

⁶ Indictable and triable either way

⁷ Ranges from offences of assault and harassment to minor regulatory offences

Appendix C Travel

Travel distances and times by car and public transport from Wisbech

Journey times and distances are from the centre of Wisbech, actual distances for individuals will vary. Public transport times are based on arrival at 09:30 – off-peak times may be shorter.

Current State						Proposal								
Kings Lynn Courthouse			Norwich Courthouse			Cambridge Crown Court			Peterborough Courthouses Crown and mags'			Huntingdon Courthouse		
Miles	Time)		Miles	Time		Miles	Time		Miles	Time		Miles	Time	
	Car	P/T		Car	P/T		Car	P/T		Car	P/T		Car	P/T
14.1	28m	40m	55	1h 15m	2h 43m	40	1h 5m	2h 23m	22	35m	53m	32	50m	1h 26m

Source: Google Maps.

Cost of travel by public transport from Wisbech (return ticket)

Current State			Proposal			
Kings Lynn Courthouse		Norwich Courthouse	Cambridge Crown Court		Peterborough Courthouses Crown and mags'	Huntingdon Courthouse
£4.60		£11.50	£7.60		£6.30	£6.60

Source: GoEuro

The consultation principles

The Cabinet Office Consultation Principles of October 2013 sets out a set of principles to help policy makers make the right judgments about when, with whom and how to consult. They can be found here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/255180/Consultation-Principles-Oct-2013.pdf

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