

**Next Steps Briefing No. 2  
28 September 2007**

**Keeping You in Touch with the Unification Programme**

**SJR Project Director**

- Billy McCulloch, Project Director of the SCS Summary Justice Team, recently retired from the organisation to focus on his new role as a local councillor. Bill Savage has now taken his role as Project Director and heads the delivery programme of Court Unification and Fines Redesign.

*For further information on the delivery programme, Bill can be contacted on 0131 240 6660*

**Unification of L&B – Ministerial Approval**

- SCS has received approval from the Cabinet Secretary Kenny MacAskill for their proposals for court unification in Lothian and Borders with an implementation date of 10<sup>th</sup> March 2008. Under Summary Justice Reform proposals, district courts, currently operated by local authorities, will become JP courts operated by the Scottish Court Service.

The major change for Lothian and Borders, will involve closing the current District Court in Midlothian and moving all Midlothian and Edinburgh District Court business to the current Edinburgh Sheriff Court premises. There are no other planned changes to court locations proposed for Lothian and Borders.

An implementation plan, incorporating a communications strategy and a transitional arrangements plan, has been prepared and will form the basis for future actions within the User Groups that have already been set up.

*For further information, please contact Elaine Walker, Court Unification Project Team, Lothian and Borders 0131 225 2525 (ext 2017)*

<p><b>Fines Enforcement Officers</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recruitment for Fines Enforcement Officers (FEOs) is now underway in all Sheriffdoms. Recruitment Boards will take place during September and early October, with FEO training to commence in November.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Fines Enforcement Manager (FEM) Training</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The training for the Fines Enforcement Managers began in September and continues into October. The first module has been delivered and reviewed (Case Management 1) to ensure consistency and suitability of the training materials. Modules to follow include Emotional Intelligence and a 5 day programme covering enforcement skills. All modules will be reviewed prior to them being delivered to Fines Enforcement Officers.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Enhanced Fines Payment Methods</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At the Court Unification and Fines Project Board on 18 September, the Board approved the following enhanced payment methods in respect of fines collection: payment cards and standing orders. Online payments were also approved but further analysis requires to be undertaken.</li> </ul> <p><i>For further information on enhanced payment methods for fines collection, please contact Heather MacLeod 0131 240 6663</i></p>
<p><b>Fines Communications</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An invitation to tender has been submitted to suppliers to produce a national communications campaign in respect of the changes to Fines Enforcement. Posters and leaflets are being designed in order to be available to all SCS sites.</li> </ul> <p><i>For further information on please contact Heather MacLeod 0131 240 6663</i></p>
<p><b>COP II+ Update</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Direct Measures Part 1 has been delivered from STL ahead of schedule and will currently be undertaking system testing.</li> </ul>
<p>If you have any feedback or suggestions for content for future submissions contact: Heather MacLeod, Summary Justice Reform Team Tel: 0131 240 6663</p>	

