



## **EPSOM AND EWELL CAB CRITICISES COURT CLOSURE**

Epsom and Ewell CAB has criticised the decision to close Epsom County Court and transfer cases to Guildford and Reigate. Epsom is a modern Court and was recently refurbished. It has an expensive lease which does not have a break clause until 2017.

Tom Sheriff, manager of Epsom and Ewell CAB, said 'closure of the court will significantly reduce access to justice for local residents. Many of our most poor and vulnerable clients will find it difficult to travel to Guildford and Reigate. I am particularly worried that more people will lose their homes as a result.'

Epsom and Ewell CAB also questioned the financial benefits projected from the closure. Mr Sheriff added 'when all factors are taken into account- the long lease, the recent cost of refurbishment and the possible costs to the borough of re-housing more homeless families - it is not clear that there will be significant financial savings overall'

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