



**Business Plan  
2016/17**

<b>Strategic Objective: 1</b>				
<b>To consider areas for improvement in the operation and delivery of the civil justice system, and to make recommendations for improvements</b>				
<b>Supporting activity</b>	<b>Body Responsible</b>	<b>Aim</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
To review the operation of the civil justice system, highlight problems and make recommendations for improvements	CJC Council and Executive Committee	To ensure the CJC is fulfilling its statutory role and drawing on the expertise and experience of members and other professionals	Ongoing	To identify areas for review and to take steps to assess and report on possible reforms to improve the system in particular areas
To support the Civil Courts Structure Review in its work leading to the preparation of its final report, and in specific projects resulting from that report	CJC and Exec Comm	To help inform the recommendations in that report, and to conduct further detailed work as recommended by it.	Jul 16	To assist in making well-informed recommendations on the structures in which the fruits of the HMCTS reform programme may be best integrated into the civil court structure
To prepare at least three reports on specific areas of civil litigation funding making recommendations as appropriate on areas for targeted modification and improvement.	Working group	To consider a series of discrete topics arising from the Jackson costs and funding reforms, with a focus on issues of concern to the legal marketplace	Feb 17	To recommend, where appropriate, ways of facilitating and further embedding the aims and recommendations of the Jackson reforms.
To prepare a short	CJC Council	To gather the views	Dec 16	To help ensure that

report on the parameters of any scheme for the extension of fixed recoverable costs, recommending the process and key principles to be followed in establishing such a regime.	and Exec Comm	of civil courts users on the advantages, disadvantages, exceptions to and practicalities of such a scheme of FRC and facilitate and early discussion of the principles of such a scheme.		litigation costs are reasonable, proportionate and that all parties to civil litigation can proceed with greater certainty
To explore a piece of collaborative research with the LSE in the field of civil justice.	CJC Council and Executive Committee	To fulfil the CJC's statutory role and explore previously unidentified issues of concern	March 17	To identify areas for review and of further work for the Council in considering possible reforms to improve the system.

### **Strategic Objective 2**

**To continue to implement the CJC report on access to justice for Litigants in Person (LIPs) and work with Mrs Justice Asplin, the MoJ and advice sector to put in place activities that will assist LIPs**

<b>Supporting activity</b>	<b>Body Responsible</b>	<b>Aim</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
To continue to work to implement the recommendations of the report and the conclusions of the 2015 National Forum	LIP WG and Secretariat	Produce a strategy for narrowing the gap between consumers and the provision of free and affordable legal advice  Arrange a fifth National Forum on LIPs in 2016	Nov 2016	To better equip LIPs and professionals in obtaining effective access to the civil justice system
To support Mrs Justice Asplin in her judicial coordinating role	CJC and Secretariat	To maintain contact and support the network of 80 liaison judges by sharing ideas and good practice from around England and Wales	Ongoing	To encourage country-wide consistency and reduce duplication in initiatives in courts in England and Wales to promote access to justice for LIPs

To work with the Judicial College to develop and produce a training module on hearing cases with LIPs	Asplin J working group and planning group	To facilitate a piece of learning that can be undertaken by judges in all jurisdictions and at all levels individually or in small groups.	April 16	To clarify for judges what they can do – and what they can't – to promote a fair hearing in a case with one or more LIPs
To work with the Government, judiciary, LIP support strategy, professions and advice sector to develop services and resources for LIPs	Working group	Work on priorities in WG strategy for 2016 including:  National and local database  Improving system for early initial advice  Improving PLE	Ongoing  Dec 16	To create better links and networks between advice and service providers  To improve the accessibility and reliability of reference material  To enable litigants to resolve their disputes at the earliest opportunity

<b>Strategic Objective 3</b>				
<b>To continue supporting the work of the working group on Property disputes</b>				
<b>Supporting activity</b>	<b>Body Responsible</b>	<b>Aim</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
To prepare a report to the CJC on modifications to the way in which specific types of property case are heard by court and tribunal, taking into account the views of stakeholders in those cases.	Working group	To advise the CJC and respond to the Civil Courts Review Structure on: - options for streamlining the hearing of cases in some areas of property law - some of the practical details relating to the preferred recommended option	April 2016	By informing the work of the Civil Courts Structure Review, to rationalise and improve the way in which specific types of property case are heard by the county court and First-tier Tribunal.
To consider the scope for improving the decision-making	CJC and working group	To make recommendations on ways of:	October 2016	To improve the process by which boundary

process in relation to boundary disputes		a) Improving court and tribunal procedure b) Encouraging mediation c) Making better information available when useful		disputes are resolved
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#### Strategic Objective 4

To continue supporting the work of the working group on claims for noise-induced hearing loss (NIHL)

Supporting activity	Body Responsible	Aim	Target Date	Outcome
To prepare a report for the MoJ on a streamlined process and fixed costs structure for NIHL cases.	Working group	To advise the MoJ on: - how the handling of NIHL cases might be improved - how a fixed costs regime for those cases might work.	July 2016	To encourage greater openness between claimants and defendants in preparing for NIHL cases, and thus improve the efficiency with which such cases are resolved and to reduce the costs of those cases.

#### Strategic Objective 5

To continue to support the work of HMCTS and other Government departments in their work to promote ADR and ODR.

Supporting activity	Body Responsible	Aim	Target Date	Outcome
To support HMCTS project group in the consideration and establishment of HM Online Court (HMOC) in resolving lower value civil disputes.	Working Party	To establish and support a reconstituted working group under the chairmanship of Richard Susskind.	October 16	To identify and draw up detailed arrangements for possible ODR pilots

To review current incentives to ADR	New working group	To consider issues arising from the Review of the EU Mediation Directive.  To consider the proposals of the Centre for Justice for a change in the CPR on whether courts can mandate mediation if just one party requests it.	October 16	To consider whether proposals for reform should be put to the CPRC
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### Strategic Objective 6

#### To respond to Government and other consultation papers that affect the civil justice system

Supporting activity	Body Responsible	Aim	Target Date	Outcome
To respond to all relevant MoJ and other departments' consultation papers relating to the civil justice system  To review other consultation papers affecting civil justice, e.g. on consumer or housing law	CJC and Secretariat	To seek advice from members to co-ordinate suitable and representative consultation responses	Varied	To ensure that the CJC contributes to civil justice policy and decision making by adding expert views on proposals and their impact on civil justice

**Strategic Objective 7****To improve communications and outreach work to promote the work of the Council and to engage effectively with other bodies in the civil justice system**

<b>Supporting activity</b>	<b>Body Responsible</b>	<b>Aim</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<p>To undertake engagement activities to promote and encourage access to the CJC</p> <p>To engage with equivalent civil justice review bodies, whether in the United Kingdom or elsewhere, to exchange views and experiences relevant to civil justice</p>	Secretariat and Council Members	<p>To publish summaries of Council meetings and working group reports.</p> <p>To publish Annual Report 2016/17.</p>		Increased Council efficacy through increased visibility of the work which it is doing, in particular in relation to objective 1

**Strategic Objective 8****To provide Secretariat support for the work of the Council**

<b>Supporting activity</b>	<b>Body Responsible</b>	<b>Aim</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
To ensure that the Council works in line with the guidelines for public bodies	Secretariat	To follow guidelines for recruitment and appraisal	Ongoing	To comply with the guidelines of the Office for the Commissioner of Public Appointments