



## **Civic courts to relocate into Newcastle Civic Centre**

Newcastle City Council's aim to transform their civic centre into a hub for government agencies has moved closer as talks with HM Courts & Tribunals Service (HMCTS) to move into the civic centre are at an advanced stage.

The council, part of the One Public Estate (OPE) North East Partnership, began the redevelopment of the civic centre in 2015, freeing up office space which will be leased to other public sector partners.

The council aim to generate £32million of rental income over the next 25 years with HMCTS expected to take a long term lease. The deal has been brokered by the Cabinet Office's Government Property Unit (GPU).

HMCTS will relocate civil, family courts and tribunal hearings to the civic centre once the refurbishment has completed in early 2019.

### **Press coverage:**

[ITV News](#)

[BDaily](#)

[Chronicle Live](#)

[Chronicle Live](#)

[Neconnected.co.uk](#)

### **Notes to editors:**

#### **One Public Estate (OPE)**

OPE is an established national programme delivered in partnership by the Cabinet Office Government Property Unit (GPU) and the LGA. It provides practical and technical support and funding to councils to deliver ambitious property-focused programmes in collaboration with central government and other public sector partners.

OPE partnerships across the country have shown the value of taking a strategic approach to asset management and working together across the public sector. At its heart, the programme is about getting more from our collective assets. This could be catalysing major service transformation, such as health and social care integration or benefits reform, unlocking land for new homes and commercial space, or creating new opportunities to save on running costs and generate income.



One Public Estate:

- creates economic growth (new homes and jobs)
- delivers more integrated, customer-focused services
- generates efficiencies through capital receipts and reduced running costs.

Starting in 2013 with just twelve areas, OPE is now working with more than 250 councils on projects that are transforming local communities and public services across the country. Together, these 63 local OPE partnerships have shown that, with the right expertise and support, a small investment can unlock significant service transformation, local growth and efficiency saving benefits. Expectations are that by 2019/20 these partnerships will have generated 44,000 jobs, released land for 25,000 homes, raised £615 million in capital receipts, and cut running costs by £158 million.