

## **8. NEW BRIGHTON LIBRARY**

RR 10662

The Libraries Unit Manager, Sue Sutherland, sought the Committee's endorsement of a proposal for the Libraries Unit to extend its operations into the vacant first floor space in the New Brighton Pier Terminus building. The additional space would be used to provide a café for library patrons and extend the seating and browsing areas for the New Brighton Library.

The report indicated that since the New Brighton Library had opened on 24 July 1999, visitor numbers had far exceeded expectations and in the five and a half weeks since opening, just over 100,000 people had visited the library, it had issued 51,000 items and registered 859 new members. By comparison, Shirley Library (currently the busiest in the network) registered 151 new members, issued 48,234 items and had 26,660 visits for the month of August.

If this volume of business at the Library continued, projected visits for the year would exceed 1,000,000 and issues exceed 500,000.

Feedback from clients of the Library, whilst congratulating Council, emphasised the fact that the Library had become congested and that more space was needed for reading.

Estimated costs of fitout for the area were \$74,000, and additional operating costs per annum were noted as \$40,000 in Year 1 (allowing for rent rebate of 50%) and \$70,000 in Year 2. The café facility would be sub-contracted and could contribute revenue to offset operating costs in the vicinity of \$10,000 - \$20,000 per annum.

The Committee decided to support the Library approaching the Projects and Property Committee to lease the vacant first floor space in the New Brighton Pier Terminus building for the purposes of providing café and reader space, subject to confirmation of a source of funding for increased operating costs.

(Councillor Barry Corbett and Councillor Sally Thompson requested that their vote against the above recommendation be recorded.)