

## 7. LIBRARY SERVICE IN THE SOUTH OF THE CITY

The Libraries Unit Manager, Sue Sutherland, provided a report reviewing the strategy and options possible for library services in the south of the city. At the Council meeting of 25 November 1999 the Council resolved:

*“That a report be sought on the provision of a combined service centre/library for the South Christchurch area, which would obviate the need for major upgrading of the St Martins and Spreydon Libraries.”*

The report detailed the assumptions and issues as being:

- None of the solutions proposed for the Spreydon Library extension is ideal. All have compromises.
- The land identified as suitable for the redeveloped St Martins’ library has been sold to another purchaser and there are currently no alternative sites identified as suitable and available. While a library development could still be possible on this site the difficulties involved could be considerable.
- The library strategy has not been revisited for several years and some elected representatives felt this should be re-examined before proceeding with a Spreydon option.
- None of the Spreydon options can accommodate the Beckenham Counter Services or Board requirements. The funding and proposed size of the St Martins Library do not provide for the possible relocation of the Beckenham Service Centre moving to co-locate with the St Martins Library.
- The consultation with the community concerning the location of services currently offered from Beckenham needs to occur before any decisions on its future can be made.
- Any solution requiring the purchase of land of sufficient size for a library, or for a library and service centre development, has been difficult to achieve in Spreydon and will probably be difficult to achieve in St Martins. There is some consensus that we should be looking at sites that the Council currently owns and viewing them for their suitability against established criteria for library development.

The report detailed the methodology for the review in relation to:

1. A review of the Library Strategy for the south Christchurch area.
2. Beckenham Service Centre.
3. Site assessment.
4. Development of costing options, including operating projections.

It was expected that following completion of the review, the Council would have a clear alternative strategy for its consideration, including the views of the community in the Spreydon/Heathcote wards on Council services and locations of those services.

The committee **received** the information and decided that the Chairman of the Community Services Committee, Councillor Anderton, and Councillor Sue Wells be appointed to work with the project team.