



## 10. LIBRARY SERVICES IN THE SOUTH OF THE CITY

The Board **received** a report on progress with looking at options for library services in the south of the city.

A reference group of residents, neighbourhood associations, businesses and voluntary libraries has been called together and Richard Budd was engaged to facilitate a series of meetings. Two meetings have been held to date.

Research among residents to determine their preferences in relation to siting libraries, their use of libraries and the relationship of libraries to service centres and other facilities has been collated and will be presented in the final report which will go to the Strategy and Resources Committee in June. Other data relating to demographics of the area, traffic patterns, etc has been collated with the assistance of the Environmental Policy and Planning Unit.

As well as investigating possible siting options along Colombo Street from Brougham Street in the north to Cashmere Road in the south the Property Unit has been revisiting various options for Spreydon and St Martins to review costs and options based on updated size requirements supplied by libraries.

### **Next steps**

A report is currently being prepared which will outline the research and data gathered and analyse the findings as they impact on the current library strategy. An option for providing library service from a larger facility serving the whole of the south area will be presented and evaluated in terms of costs and benefits to the community. This option will then be presented against the present library strategy, which is to develop the libraries in Spreydon and St Martins. These findings were tested against the Reference Group in the first week of June.