

9. PRINCIPLES AND WORKING PARTY FOR LIBRARIES 2025 FACILITIES PLAN



General Manager responsible:	General Manager, Community Services, 941-8986
Officer responsible:	Libraries and Information Services Manager
Author:	Carolyn Robertson, Libraries and Information Services Manager

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To recommend adoption of principles that will guide the development of the Libraries 2025 Facilities Plan.
2. To recommend adoption of the terms of reference for the form, role and membership of the Libraries 2025 Facilities Plan Working Party.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

3. Work has commenced on developing a comprehensive plan for the future provision of library facilities in Christchurch and Banks Peninsula up until 2025. The final plan will be completed in time to inform the 2009 LTCCP decision-making process on prioritisation against other Council projects.
4. Staff have developed a set of principles that will underpin all considerations of future provision of library services by the Council. These principles will: ensure facilities and services are consistent with Council's Strategic Directions and strategies; ensure planning is responsive to current and future community needs; recognise that libraries strengthen communities by providing hubs; provide facilities and services that increase leisure and learning opportunities and community participation; enhance people's access to Council information and services; provide library facilities in context of a City-wide network; and ensure sustainable, long-lasting design and well maintained and planned facilities.
5. The proposed representation of the Working Party is detailed in Appendix C (attached) and specific names for external representatives will be provided at the meeting. To allow for discussion on the nominations at the meeting it is suggested that the Council may wish to exclude the public in terms of Section 7(2)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (Protection of the Privacy of Natural Persons).
6. The following terms of reference for the working party are proposed:

Goal: To recommend to the Council a draft plan for the future provision of libraries that will enhance access to facilities and services and inform the 2009 LTCCP decision-making process.

Objectives:

- *To meet the above goal by 28 February 2008.*
 - *Work in partnership with Council staff and elected members to gain a thorough, shared understanding of the Council and community's needs and expectations for library facilities within the context of Council-wide service delivery and its Strategic Directions.*
 - *To report to Council on progress during the Working Party's deliberations, particularly at milestone stages such as: (a) to confirm the criteria for assessing provision; and (b) seek feedback on identified priority areas for future provision.*
 - *To make recommendations on a draft plan to the Council that are consistent with the principles agreed to by the Council.*
7. In addition to the Working Party, staff will continue to research future community needs, expectations and demographic trends that will influence library and information provision. The process to be followed for the Plan's development is outlined in Appendix D (attached).

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8. There are no significant financial or legal implications from this report.

Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with 2006-16 LTCCP budgets?

9. N/A. However, the subsequent adoption of a Libraries 2025 Facilities Plan will influence the 2009 LTCCP decision-making process.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

10. The process followed during the Libraries 2025 Facilities Plan is in compliance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002.
11. Notably, the planning process is compliant with requirements set out in: S.78 to give consideration to community views in relation to decisions; S.80 requiring the identification of any "significant" inconsistent decisions; S.81 ensure opportunities for contributions to decision-making processes by Maori; ensure the Principles of consultation identified in S.82 are upheld.

Have you considered the legal implications of the issue under consideration?

12. Yes

ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

13. Yes.

Do the recommendations of this report support a level of service or project in the 2006-16 LTCCP?

14. Yes

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

15. The recommended principles set out in this report have been developed to ensure alignment with Council's Strategic Directions, most notably relating to Strong Communities:
- *Increase involvement in lifelong learning, by:*
 - *Providing resources and information, through libraries and website; Providing learning facilities, programmes and activities; Encouraging people of all ages to take advantage of learning opportunities.*
 - *Promote participation in democratic process, by:*
 - *Providing readily available and easily understood information about Council service and structures.*
 - *Help communities to meet their needs, by:*
 - *Targeting those who are most disadvantaged; Providing accessible and welcoming public buildings, spaces and facilities.*
 - *Encourage residents to enjoy living in the City and to have fun, by:*
 - *Providing and supporting sport, recreation and leisure activities.¹*
16. Other Council strategies and policies that the proposed principles are aligned with include: Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy, Strengthening Communities Strategy, Aquatic Facilities Strategy, Equity and Access for People with Disabilities Policy, and Ageing Together Policy.
17. Consistency and alignment with concurrent planning projects will be considered throughout the development of this plan, notably the Community Facilities Plan, Metropolitan Sports Facilities Plan, Akaroa Area Plan, Belfast Area Plan and the South West Area Plan.

¹ Christchurch City Council: Our Community Plan 2006-2016, page 59-60

Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?

18. This report recommends the adoption of principles that the Council will use as a foundation in determining the priorities for future library provision in the Libraries 2025 Facilities Plan. The proposed principles are aligned with the Council's Strategic Directions. In particular, they support the Strong Communities strategic direction to "give people a sense of belonging and encourage them to take part in social, cultural, economic and political life."²
19. The recommended establishment of a Working Party to lead the development of the Facilities Plan is aligned to the Strong Communities' goal to "Promote participation in democratic processes".³

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

20. Given the recognised strong community support for and interest in library facilities in the city, effective and comprehensive community consultation will be required during the development of the Libraries 2025 Facilities Plan, and particularly once a draft plan is finalised..
21. The recommended establishment of a Working Party is part of the acknowledged need for involvement of key stakeholders in the Plan's development.
22. Wider stakeholder consultation will additionally take place during the development of a draft Libraries 2025 Facilities Plan; to be followed by the special consultative procedure for wider community input once the draft plan is approved by the Council for consultation.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council:

- (a) Adopt the principles as set out in Appendix A (attached).
- (b) Agree to the Terms of Reference of the Libraries 2025 Facilities Plan Working Party as set out in Appendix B (attached).
- (c) Appoint two Councillors and a Community Board Chairperson to the Working Party.
- (d) Appoint an independent chairperson, and community members to the Working Party as set out in Appendix C (attached).

² Ibid, page 59

³ Ibid, page 59

BACKGROUND (THE ISSUES)

23. In 2006 the Council completed a 10-year development programme that saw the addition of new library buildings at Papanui, Shirley, New Brighton and Fendalton, new services at South Christchurch, Parklands and Upper Riccarton, establishment of three co-located learning centres, major upgrades at Central and Sumner, and the addition of four Banks Peninsula libraries into the network. With growth in residential housing, the issue of providing access to new and growing communities needs to be addressed. The 2025 Plan will provide a tool and information to support decisions about future planning and identify areas of current need.
24. Usage of the Council's Library and Information services continue to grow and compares very favourably with other local authorities' reported usage:
 - Library visits: 3.9 million visits = 10.59 visits per capita (*national average = 7.97*)
 - Library events' attendance: 22.5% increase from 2005/06 to 2006/07
 - Items borrowed: 6 million issues = 17.5 issues per capita (*national average = 13.74*)
 - E-access to library continues to increase: 49% of access to the library website is happening *in* libraries. Website visits have increased by 122% in the last five years
 - Total items in library network: 1.1 million = 3.17 items per capita
 - Items' turnover: 6.13 times per annum (*national average = 4.74*)
25. There are strong indications from our communities that libraries are valued as key destinations and "anchors". Libraries help fulfil several of the City's Community Outcomes and are a key contributor to meeting the Council's strategic direction for Creating Strong Communities.
26. A wider view of libraries' role expresses that: "The contribution that libraries make to community development, learning and literacy, to reading and creative recreation and to strengthening our sense of who we are as New Zealanders is also of considerable significance." (*Public Libraries of New Zealand: a strategic framework 2006 to 2016*, LIANZA. 2006)
27. Initial scoping work in 2005 identified a need to plan in more detail for library facility provision for the next 20 years, including the location of and services available at all community libraries and the role and location of the Central Library.
28. Currently there is no capital provision for major library projects in the 2006/2016 LTCCP. A programme of regular refurbishment continues, allowing limited opportunity for service re-definition at the same time if required.
29. The goal of the Libraries 2025 Facilities Plan is: *To develop a comprehensive facilities plan that supports ongoing and future library and learning centre provision and anticipates future service delivery needs.*
30. Key issues to be addressed in the 2025 Plan:
 - Network definition – services, size, gaps and areas of overlap
 - Facilities and services – benchmarking standards, future proofing, building performance measures, customer expectations, libraries as community space
 - Planning for partnerships and joint use opportunities
 - Contingency (planning for change) and refurbishment planning; asset management
31. Given the strong community use and loyalty for the City's library services, it is anticipated that the Plan will stimulate a high degree of community interest. A comprehensive programme of community engagement will form an essential part of the Plan's development and communication planning, in order to ensure that communities views are fully considered.
32. A comprehensive communications plan has been developed. It is designed to keep all key stakeholders well-informed of progress with development of a draft Libraries 2025 Facilities Plan.

33. This features regular Mayor, Councillor and Community Board briefings – both formal and informal, an e-newsletter to connect with all key stakeholders, including elected members, and regular stories in Our Christchurch pages to keep the wider community briefed on progress/developments with the Plan.
34. Media briefings are also a key tactic in the communications plan to ensure the media is kept informed through each key phase of the development. This will help foster a better knowledge and understanding of the Plan as Council looks to deliver Christchurch a world-class library service.
35. The communications plan identifies early the role Christchurch and Banks Peninsula residents will play in the decision-making process, providing a timeline for the development of the Plan.
36. When a draft Libraries 2025 Facilities Plan is available, the wider community will be consulted on various aspects of this Plan. A full consultation plan will be developed as the draft Plan is nearing completion.
37. The process followed in the Plan's development is outlined in Appendix D (attached). Work to date on the recommended principles and Working Party, and development of a comprehensive communications plan has been carried by a project team in consultation with the Strong Communities Portfolio Group. Development of this initial work also benefited from discussion and feedback from a Council seminar in July 2007 and Community Boards' chairs' meeting in August 2007.
38. Feedback at the Council seminar included the following:
 - The plan's emphasis should be on enhancing access to Library facilities and services.
 - The plan needs to recognise that communities' needs for library facilities are many and varied. Planning must accommodate this diversity– one size or style of library will not suit all locations.
 - The Council is proud of its numerous iconic library buildings and services which have earned national and international accolades. It is keen to continue to support the role of its libraries to inspire through outstanding building design and innovative services.
 - The Council is committed to libraries today and in the future and recognises the increasing relevance of access to library-accessed information and technology and the enriching diversity of resources that they offer.
 - Co-location of Council services and partnership opportunities with other service providers in the community is a priority in planning.

THE OBJECTIVES

39. Principles: To guide the development of a Libraries 2025 Facilities Plan that will be consistent with Council's Strategic Directions.
40. Working Party: To benefit from the expertise and views of key stakeholders in the community and to ensure that the planning process incorporates their views throughout.