

13. 12. 2007



**REPORT BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE
SPREYDON/HEATHCOTE COMMUNITY BOARD**

PART A – MATTERS REQUIRING A COUNCIL DECISION

1. BOARD MEMBERS' INFORMATION EXCHANGE- SOUTH LEARNING CENTRE

Under the Board Members' Information Exchange, the Board discussed the continued funding of the South Learning Centre. The Board held a seminar to discuss the Learning Centre on Tuesday 22 November 2007, to which all Councillors were invited. The seminar heard presentations from Stephen McArthur (General Manager, Community Services), Carolyn Robertson (Libraries and Information Manager), and Pat Street (Programme and Information Manager, Libraries and Information Unit).

The discussion focused on how to ensure that the Learning Centre could continue the services it has been providing to school students and members of the community.

The Community Board Adviser recommended that before making any decisions or recommendations the Board request a comprehensive report from Council staff covering both the operation and the funding of the Learning Centre. The Board Adviser also provided information on the Council resolution of 21 June 2007 on this matter.

Staff comment: The Board does not have delegated authority to approve the grant proposed in recommendation (b) below, as the Council's resolution of 21 June 2007 provided that no ratepayers' funds were to be expended on the South Learning Centre, and the Board cannot make delegated decisions contrary to a policy or standard set by the Council such as the 21 June resolution. Consequently this matter of the grant has come to the Council as a recommendation from the Board.

BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

- (a) That the Council note that the Board places considerable value on the operation of the service provided by the South Learning Centre to the schools in the Spreydon/Heathcote Ward.
- (b) That the Council approve that a one-off grant of up to \$50,000 from the Community Board's discretionary and SCAP funds can be made to enable the continuation of the Learning Centre's services to schools, while other solutions to the funding of such services are explored.
- (c) That the Council direct officers to work with the Community Board to seek other sources of funding to cover the balance of the period through to 30 June 2008, including (for example) funding for services to schools in the neighbouring Hagley/Ferrymead and Riccarton/Wigram communities, community trust grants, and the possible formation of a new trust to seek funding for the continuation of the service.
- (d) That the Council direct staff to report back on the possibility of implementing a targeted rate for all rateable property in the Spreydon/Heathcote community to provide the required funding of \$205,000 per annum from 1 July 2008, until such time as either other sources of funding are found to provide the service to schools in the community, or until metropolitan funding is found to enable a service to be provided at a similar level to schools in other parts of the city.

(Sue Wells recorded her vote against the resolution (b) above).

**PHIL CLEARWATER
CHAIRPERSON**