

6. DRAFT PLAN FOR LIBRARY FACILITIES

General Manager responsible:	General Manager Community Services, DDI 941-8534
Officer responsible:	Libraries and Information Manager
Author:	Carolyn Robertson

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to recommend a Draft Plan for Library Facilities (separately circulated) in preparation for consultation; and to request that the Council appoint a hearings panel for the purpose of considering submissions on the draft plan and reporting to the Council thereon.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. A collaborative Working Party of elected members and community representatives has been meeting since September 2007 to lead the development of a draft plan for public library facilities in Christchurch and to make recommendations to the Council. The Working Party comprised Councillor Carole Evans (Chair), Environment Canterbury; Councillor Sue Wells, Christchurch City Council; Community Board member Yvonne Palmer, Christchurch City Council; Michael Gorman, Christchurch City Missioner; Leann Watson, Canterbury Employers' Chamber of Commerce; Nicky Page, Lecturer, Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology; and Bruce Tulloch, Community representative. Stephen McArthur, General Manager Community Services, subsequently Jason Rivett, Acting General Manager, Community Services, and Carolyn Robertson, Libraries and Information Unit Manager, attended the Working Party meeting *ex officio*, along with Council officers as required.
3. The Working Party objectives were to:
 - Work collaboratively 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 the 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 in the Draft Plan to the Council that are consistent with the principles agreed to by the Council.
4. The scope of the work was to:
 - Confirm criteria for prioritising and planning future library provision.
 - Identify and consider priority areas that will enhance community access to library services across the city.
 - Consider the hierarchy of size, function and ranges of services to be delivered from future Library Facilities.
 - Assess vicinities (including co-locations) for future location of libraries.
 - Seek feedback from key community stakeholders, including Community Boards, to inform the Working Party's deliberations and recommendations.
5. The Working Party completed a comprehensive work programme during its investigation of issues and options for library provision through to 2025. This included definition of network 'shape', identification of priority areas (informed by the Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy and area plans), formulation of criteria for prioritising future facility developments and options' assessment.
6. The Working Party presented an overview of its work, including identified issues and opportunities, to a combined Community Boards' seminar on 31 January 2008. A similar presentation was made to Councillors at a workshop on 14 February 2008. This included suggested proposals for future facility provision.

7. Feedback from the workshops with elected members has been incorporated into the Draft Plan, which is now presented to the Council for approval to proceed with community consultation.
8. In August 2007 the Council approved key principles for the provision of library facilities. These, along with agreed criteria for assessing options for development underpin the Draft Plan's recommendations. They can be summarised as follows:
 - Provision of library facilities that are community focal points and reflect and respond to local needs over time
 - Accessibility to a mix of library services and facilities across the library network, including non-asset provision
 - Maximum efficiency and effectiveness of facilities across the network
 - Optimised partnership opportunities with other agencies and/or services
9. Key recommendations for future library provision include the following:
 - Fill a gap in current provision and meet recognised community need (new service at Aranui)
 - Meet growth demand generated by population increases (larger service at Halswell, new facility at Belfast and explore development options for Central Library facility)
 - Respond to changing facility asset condition over time (replace or move from current building in Bishopdale, review Council contribution to maintenance of voluntary libraries)
 - Optimise partnership and/or co-location opportunities should they arise (Shirley, Linwood, Hornby, Papanui)

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10. This report recommends that the Council seeks feedback on the Draft Plan from stakeholders. The Council will not be asked to make any decisions with a financial or legal impact. Any decisions will be made through the Long-Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) process.
11. The Plan, if adopted, will act as a framework for future Council decision making. Each project identified in the Draft Plan will come back to the Council with a separate business case, as part of the LTCCP process for funding decisions.

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

12. Yes

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

13. The process followed during the development of the Draft Plan for Library Facilities is in compliance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002.
14. 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?

15. N/A

ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

16. The draft plan aligns with the Council's Strategic Directions and contributes to the Community Outcomes of:

- A City of lifelong learning
- A City for recreation, fun and creativity
- A City of inclusive and diverse communities

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

17. Yes, completion of the Libraries 2025 Facilities Plan.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

18. The Draft Plan has been developed in 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*

19. Other Council strategies and policies that the Draft Plan 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, South West Area Plan and the Belfast Area Plan.

Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?

20. Yes.

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

21. Given the recognised strong community support for and interest in library facilities in the city, effective and comprehensive community consultation will be undertaken. Early engagement carried out during the Draft Plan's development included a combined Community Boards' seminar, Councillors' workshop, meetings with key stakeholder groups, market research and an online library users' survey.

22. The establishment of a Working Party to lead the Draft Plan's development was part of the acknowledged need for involvement of key stakeholders in the Plan's development.

23. A Council decision is required regarding a process if submitters wish to be heard. Options for this process could include either a) the full Council to hear the submissions, or b) the appointment of a subcommittee for the purpose of hearing the submissions and reporting back to the Council on its recommendations.

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

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended:

- (a) That the Council approve the Draft Plan for Library Facilities in Christchurch for community consultation.
- (b) That the Council decide whether to allow submitters to be heard following the period of community consultation.
- (c) That either:
 - (i) the full Council hear the submissions on the Draft Plan; or
 - (ii) a subcommittee be appointed for this purpose and report to the Council on its recommendations.
- (d) That, should a subcommittee be appointed, that the Council approve the appointment of Bruce Tulloch, community representative on the Working Party, as a member of the subcommittee.