

6. FENDALTON LIBRARY PROGRESS REPORT

RR 9866

Officer responsible Libraries Manager	Author Marion Ogier, Fendalton Community Library
Corporate Plan Output: 8.2.18 Fendalton Library	

The purpose of this report is to update Councillors on the rebuilding of the Fendalton Library and Service Centre. The report outlines the services to be provided and the funding which will be sought from external sources to bring about the library as a Community Learning Centre.

A new Fendalton library will be built on the site of the existing Fendalton Service Centre on the corner of Clyde and Jeffreys Roads in a new, purpose-built building. Demolition of the existing service centre building is scheduled for the end of June, with construction to start on the new building at the beginning of July 1999.

There are three key drivers for the relocation of the Fendalton Library:

- The library has outgrown its space and ability to accommodate new services
- The growth of business both of the Library and of the Fendalton school has caused a lack of safe parking for customers
- New initiatives in council service delivery

The design brief for the Fendalton Library identified its existing role as an important social focal point for the local community, “providing facilities for studying, meeting friends, taking time out to sit and read, accessing information for families sharing learning and recreation experiences.”

The existing building is limited by the space it can offer for such activities and limited space also dictates that the library’s collections have to be stored in high stacks and in cramped space. The Children’s Library is housed on a mezzanine floor, which is not satisfactory both from health and safety and space considerations.

The increased area of the new library (987m² public space v. 658m² total area of the old library building) means the following:

- Most book stacks are a user-friendly four shelves high, with 1.5m to 2m between each stack and audio visual materials can be properly displayed
- Comfortable seating near front windows – at least 18 seats (existing library has approximately 13 seats in cramped space for reading and study)
- Dedicated study tables – 18 spaces
- 50m² activities room next to the children’s area of the library – space for class visits, pre-school story telling, displays and other learning activities
- Public toilets, separate parents’ room for feeding and changing babies
- Room for photocopier, public phone, coffee and hot drink machine
- Room for six public internet terminals (three in adult area, three in children’s area) plus space to consider further options for technology developments
- Large print terminal for access to catalogue and internet
- Safe parking in the vicinity of the library has long been an issue. The new site offers 67 off-street parks for staff and customers.

Recent initiatives in council service delivery have been the development of community advocacy teams and the integration of walk-in council service delivery of payments and information into the Libraries and Information Unit. The new building will accommodate the Community Board, the Advocacy Team, a community police office, council payments and information counters as well as the library. The boardroom and two meeting rooms will be available for public hire. The library team is beginning to forge links with the advocacy team and we feel excited about the potential the relationship offers to develop services to the community.

The new library will be able to build on and focus on its existing role as a place for learning in the community. We plan to develop the activities room of the library as a learning centre with extra public internet terminals, printers and word processing. The familiar setting, ample safe off-street parking and relatively small size of the library make it an accessible place for a wide range of people to take part in small group or individual learning activities. The Library is also located in a part of the city which has an educational focus, with both the University and the College of Education being not far away. The cost for this project is approximately \$27,500 which is outside the scope of the library fitout budget and we will be attempting to secure funding from alternative sources. An approach was made to the Fendalton Waimairi Community Board, but their discretionary funds were already committed elsewhere.

The new building will be light and inviting with comfort and convenience as key factors for our customer service. We feel it will offer a new dimension to library service for our customers.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the information be received.