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Corporate Plan Output: Libraries 8.2.0	

The purpose of this report is to provide a brief overview of the strategy for suburban library development as background to the decision regarding the siting of the Spreydon Library.

The strategy for the location and placement of libraries was first articulated by John Stringleman, City Librarian, in a report in 1968. It was revised and formalised by Dorothea Brown, Libraries Manager, as part of the enhancement projects in 1993-94. This strategy has seen the development of a ring of libraries surrounding the Central City Library at a distance of some 3.5 to 4 kilometres from the Central City (see the attached map). The rationale behind the strategy has a number of key points:

- Each suburban location is considered to serve a population within a 1.5 kilometre radius from the library, this being considered a maximum reasonable walking distance for the average person.
- Wherever possible the library has been sited adjacent to a significant suburban shopping complex so that customers can access other services at the same time.
- A catchment population of 10,000 is considered an optimum size for the location of a suburban library. However, where a community is identifiable by its geography, and is isolated from other parts of the city, a smaller population size would be considered for the siting of a community library, eg Sumner is a case in point.

The report “Suburban Service Delivery, beyond 1996” further confirmed the Library’s strategy for community library service development in bringing together the counter services function of the service centres and co-locating these with libraries wherever possible. The new joint library and service centre at Fendalton, currently under construction is part of the development resulting from this review.

In 1998 the City Manager, through an internal management review, further confirmed the work of the Suburban Service Delivery review by bringing together the management of libraries and of counter services into one unit.

The library strategy as it relates to the south area has resulted in an extended library in Spreydon, a full community library in St Martins, and a small extension to the Halswell Library some five years ago. The question of the location of the Beckenham Service Centre was to be considered in relation to the new St Martins Library, rather than the Spreydon Library which was awaiting its extension to an 850 square metre addition at the time of the Suburban Service Delivery report. The relocation of the Beckenham Service Centre was subject to community consultation before a final decision was to be made.

The size of the proposed community library at Spreydon is seen to be adequate to meet the population it is currently serving for a period of 15 to 20 years. It is not considered that its catchment will grow significantly during this period. Development on the Huntsbury Hill area is considered to be part of the catchment for the St Martins Library. Wigram developments are unlikely to have an effect on the Spreydon Library. It is considered that they are more likely to have an impact on Hornby, the new Upper Riccarton/Avonhead library – or even Halswell.

**Chairman's**

**Recommendation:** That the information be received.