

8. LIBRARY SERVICE IN THE SOUTH OF THE CITY

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Corporate Plan Output: Capital development, Libraries	

The purpose of this report is to provide a review of the strategy and the options possible for library services in the south of the City.

BACKGROUND

At the Council meeting of 25 November 1999, the recommendation in the Strategy and Resources Report of 15 November regarding Spreydon Library accommodation options was replaced with the following resolution:

“That a report be sought on the provision of a combined service centre/library for the South Christchurch area, which would obviate the need for major upgrading of the St Martins and Spreydon Libraries.”

The resolution was passed on the casting vote of the Mayor, Garry Moore.

Some of the assumptions and issues behind this approach are:

- None of the solutions proposed for the Spreydon Library extension is ideal. All have compromises.
- The land that had been identified as suitable for the redeveloped St Martins’ library was sold to another purchaser and there are currently no alternative sites identified as suitable and available. While a library development could still be possible on this site the difficulties involved could be considerable.
- The library strategy has not been revisited for several years and some felt we should re-examine that before proceeding with a Spreydon option.
- None of the Spreydon options can accommodate the Beckenham Counter Services or Board requirements. The funding and proposed size of the St Martins Library do not provide for the possible relocation of the Beckenham Service Centre moving to co-locate with the St Martins Library.
- The consultation with the community concerning the location of services currently offered from Beckenham needs to occur before any decisions on its future can be made.
- Any solution requiring the purchase of land of sufficient size for a library, or for a library and service centre development, has been difficult to achieve in Spreydon and will probably be difficult to achieve in St Martins. There is some consensus that we should be looking at sites that the Council currently owns and viewing them for their suitability against established criteria for library development.

PROPOSED METHODOLOGY FOR THE REVIEW

There are a number of strands to this project.

1. A review of Library Strategy for the South area.

This will be broken down into a number of parts:

- Environmental analysis: definition of the catchment area, demographics, identification of shopping and community hubs, traffic patterns, areas for growth, etc, projected population in 20 years
 - Service delivery model: outline of library strategic goals for the period to 2010, services to be offered, space requirements and size of building for 20-year period
 - Review and identification of criteria for placement of libraries in a community
 - Impact on existing library service: options for Spreydon, St Martins, Beckenham.
2. Beckenham Service Centre – consultation with the Spreydon/Heathcote community on the services they need in their ward and feedback on alternative methods of delivery and location.
 3. Site Assessment – identification of suitable Council sites, assessment of the issues surrounding each site, particularly in relation to resource consent issues. Assessment of their suitability for library against the criteria outlined in the Library strategy. Identification of any suitable sites available for purchase and some assessment of the cost and likelihood of achieving purchase.
 4. Development of Options with costs including the long-term operating projections.

Staff from Property, Libraries and Community Relations units will form the project team. Consultation with a group of Councillors during the development of the proposal will be important so that the resulting report has no “surprises” and reflects the views of a key stakeholder group. It is intended to have a final report to Committees and the Council no later than May 2000 in time to allow reflection of any revised budget projections in the 2000/01 Annual Plan.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Council will have a clear alternative strategy to the present one, outlined for their consideration. The views of the Community in the Spreydon/Heathcote Wards on Council services and locations of those services will be known. Costs of the options proposed in the report will be available and will be able to be assessed against the proposed costs of the existing strategy. Impact on library service delivery of the various options will be assessed and an assessment of a change in strategy on the whole of Christchurch library service will be outlined.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the information be received.
 2. That the Community Services Committee appoint two Councillors to work with the project team on developing the strategy.

Chairman’s

- Recommendation:** That the above recommendation be adopted and the Chairman of the Community Services Committee and Councillor Sue Wells be appointed to work with the project team.