



4. BUS EXCHANGE BOOK RETURN

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Corporate Plan Output: 8.2 Library	

The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of a proposal to site a library book returns facility in the new Bus Exchange and to seek the Committee's support for a request for operating costs to the Strategy and Resources Annual Plan Working Party.

The Library was approached by Stuart Woods, Transportation Planner, Environmental Policy and Planning Unit, to site a book returns facility in the new bus exchange. It is proposed that it would be sited on the pedestrian bridge area where there will be security cameras and Environment Canterbury staff in place for monitoring.

Staff believe there will be benefits both to customers of the Bus Exchange and to Library customers. Currently library customers can return their items to any one of the 13 libraries in Christchurch and mobile library customers can return books to mobile library drop boxes that are cleared once a week. With issues running at 5.5 million per annum the volume of business expected could be significant.

It is proposed that the bus exchange book returns would be cleared twice daily and costs will be prepared on this basis. Certainly no less than daily would be the minimum clearance period. The onus is on the library member to ensure that his or her item has not moved into the extended loan period for which a charge is due. Should items be returned which do have charges due, this will be collected the next time the person comes to borrow an item. A courier firm would be contracted to clear the box twice daily and deliver the items to the Central City Library for discharge.

Costs

The box drop and trolleys would be built as part of the bus exchange project and would be part of the project cost. The Libraries and Information Unit would need to cover the ongoing operating costs, which would be the courier collection costs, possible rental of the book return, and a small amount to cover any maintenance and publicity. Details of costs are being collated at present and will be tabled at the meeting.

Whilst the Libraries and Information Unit could probably absorb the publicity and maintenance costs, the rental and courier costs would need to be additional to the Library's existing budget as no allowance has been made in the 2000-01 budget for such an initiative.

Benefits

As previously indicated we believe that the book return will be of considerable benefit to customers using the bus exchange and to people who live and work in the south side of the central city. The Central City Library's own after hours return is well used but can be difficult for customers to get to, particularly if they work on the other side of the city.

Recommendation: That the matter be discussed by the Committee.

Chairman's

Recommendation: For discussion.