

overdue. While the City is heavily dependent on the voluntary workers and cannot afford to replace them at this stage even if it wished to, the libraries in turn would not be able to function without Council subsidies and Council maintenance of buildings. Given a positive, energetic lead most libraries would, it is felt, respond to the challenge to provide something more than what are, in effect, reading clubs run largely on Council subsidy for the benefit of a small minority of the community.

FUTURE SUBURBAN LIBRARY POLICY :

|| The adoption of free and rental terms will do no more than improve the existing service, and much more positive action is necessary to put the library system on a sound basis with adequate coverage of all parts of the City.

A definite long-term policy will safeguard the Council from the likelihood of being further committed to the piecemeal development which has taken place in recent years and which has done little to improve the over-all service.

Because of the uneven development of suburban libraries the City has inherited a cluster of far too densely situated units in the southern suburbs providing service at vastly different levels and leaving large areas to the east and north unserved.

Recent trends in suburban service have been towards the provision of several larger, strategically located district branches supplemented by a number of smaller neighbourhood service points. This sort of development would fit in well with the Christchurch Development Plan envisaging five district centres and seventeen local centres. Each district centre would have a proper branch library of approximately 3,000 square feet with a paid qualified librarian in charge. The local centres would be served by some of the existing suburban libraries and the superfluous ones would have to be persuaded to wind up.

The district centres named in the Development Plan are Papanui, Shirley, New Brighton, Linwood Avenue, and Sydenham. Except in the case of Sydenham the siting is considered ideal for branch libraries. Sydenham is too close to the Central Library for a branch library to be economically viable and the south west area of the City would be better served by a full scale branch on the Spreydon Library site. The present Spreydon building may well have to be replaced in the near future and if this is so the new building should fulfill the desiderata of a branch library building.

*New Spreydon
Feb 1971
March*

As to the other sites, a new building is justified at Papanui as the Library is a busy one by suburban library standards, achieving good issues from a wretched adult library and a most inconveniently situated children's section at one end of the social hall upstairs.

New Brighton, with a reasonably adequate building is already showing good results and it is possible that they would be open to the suggestion of a qualified librarian in several years' time. The building would probably require further extensions within ten years.

The Shirley and Linwood Avenue areas would have to be served in the meantime by a mobile library but permanent buildings would be necessary within a few years - at the Marshland Road/Shirley Road intersection and at the Linwood Avenue/Buckley's Road intersection.

*mobile approved
C.C.C.
16 June 1969
Introduced
2.6.70*

The five branches are as much as the City could economically support at the full branch level. Of the remaining