

Main Themes from Consultation with the Public on the new South Library, Service Centre, Learning Centre facility

Access/Mobility

Awareness of accessibility for people with limited mobility

- Doors not too heavy – automatic doors – may need to be wider for people with disabilities
- Space for mobility scooters and wheelchairs to manoeuvre
- Unisex toilets for the disabled
- Parking close to the entrance for the disabled
- Ramps not too steep for hand propelled wheelchairs and walking frames – need good handrails – shallow step risers, wide treads, well defined edges
- Some seating should not be too low and should have good arms – small stools near shelves
- Small trolleys for carrying books
- Shelving with pull out tables, Not too low or high in the Large Print area

General Access Issues

- Safe pedestrian access
- Re-route the Orbiter
- Plenty of parking – landscaped – behind the building – bus parking for schools – safe egress – on site parking for staff
- Dual entrances from Colombo Street and Hunter Terrace
- Plenty of cycle stands
- Free Library service
- After hours returns slot – drive by
- Good security system
- Good, easy to read signage - Library branding and standards will dictate this – good advance external signage from Colombo Street
- Collection well identified
- Direction map
- Know where we need to go – clear distinction between the Library and the Service Centre
- If 2 storeys have as lift – no escalator – keep upstairs for mostly non-public functions
- Visible Service Centre contact

Environment/Ambience

- A mix of vitality and tranquillity – acoustics important
- Pleasant welcoming pleasurable environment
- Reading area with comfortable seating – river views, access to the river from the building – some outside reading areas – quiet study areas
- Retain as many trees as possible – make the most of the river – no flaxy grasses – fit with residential area – take a ‘global’ look at surrounding land – interface between Hunter Terrace and Colombo Street

- Long low building, but not too low ceilings – use ‘Cashmere’ materials, stone and scoria – not too much concrete and glass – vibrant colour - set back from corner – split roof line – doors opening to favourable weather conditions – courtyard effects – tie in with the Malt House across the road
- Avoid steps in unexpected places or unexpected changes in floor levels
- Café with reasonable prices
- Good lighting – natural light as much as possible
- Avoid security lighting which impacts on surrounding residential area
- Safe children’s play area outside
- Child friendly – crèche - children’s area away from the entrance – away from quiet areas – room for class visits, story reading sessions etc.- safe toilets
- Parenting room
- Young people’s area – comfortable seating – music – place to hang out
- Study areas with tables, comfortable seating
- Fish tanks
- Meeting rooms – available after hours

Sustainability

- No artificial air conditioning – use of passive solar energy – cool in summer, warm in winter
- Use of non-toxic materials
- Natural cladding – no need for painting

Services

- Free Library Service
- 7 day service until 9.00pm
- Varied resources – books, lots of new books, videos, CDs, DVD, Large Print, talking books, car and bike manuals, wide range of magazines and newspapers (Akaroa Mail and Ashburton papers etc.), business services, information, Council information, telephone directories etc.
- Free Internet, email – downloading from Internet to disc
- Facility to preview CDs
- Help with computer catalogues - community IT classes, sessions for Seniors – Seniornet
- Plenty of computers
- Printing, copying, binding services
- Word processing facilities
- Public Sky, Newsroom, CNN etc.
- Community noticeboards – display areas – window display facilities – facilities to display local art etc.
- Citizens’ Advice – counselling services for youth
- Toy Library
- Public telephone
- Story telling sessions for pre-schoolers – music sessions
- Supervised homework programmes
- Place for Local History
- Place to make Council payments – buy bus tickets, rubbish bags etc. – get Council information and advice
- Bank ATM in the foyer (none available in the area) – Post box

Other

- Acknowledgement of the contributions of volunteers at The Beckenham and Cashmere Junior Libraries over the years
- Personal service – people know you and what you like
- Library is still a place to borrow books
- Shift the Beckenham Library books
- Retain the Community Constable
- Keep the things available at the Library and Service Centre now
- Knowledgeable, qualified, friendly helpful staff
- Parents should control children
- No canned music
- Seating outside while waiting for buses or taxis
- Reuse existing building in some way