

STAFF REPORT

TO: Community Services Committee
FROM: District Librarian
REFERENCE: L407
DATE: 23 November 2005
SUBJECT: Changes to Library Hours of Opening

PURPOSE/REASON FOR REPORT

These changes have been proposed in response to feedback received from customers during the focus group meetings held this year. We are aware that many people would like to see additional open hours particularly at the weekend. Although financial constraints mean that we are unable to meet those demands at present, they will remain under consideration in the future.

BACKGROUND

The current 10.00 am Wednesday opening is different from the other days of the week and causes confusion and frustration for customers.

Thursday late opening is poorly used both in Richmond and Motueka.

Saturday opening has become increasingly popular. The half hour from 12.30 pm to 1.00 pm has been well used in Richmond and indications are that the same will be true in Motueka.

COMMENT/DISCUSSION

The effect of these changes will be that the same number of open hours are offered to customers (half an hour extra a week in the case of Takaka), but potentially at times that will be more suitable for a larger number of people.

The proposed changes have been advertised to the public through Newsline and by means of pamphlets in the libraries. Comments have been invited either by using the form provided with the pamphlet or by email. Although many pamphlets have been

taken not a lot of written comments have been received. Verbal responses have been almost uniformly positive about the proposals. Of the 27 written responses received by 23 November, 24 were positive about the changes. An update on responses received up to the closing date of 30 November will be given at this meeting.

SIGNIFICANCE

Not significant in terms of Council's policy on significance.

AFFECTED PARTIES

Customers of the Tasman District Libraries and Library staff.

OPTIONS

Options are limited by the need to remain within budget. Existing hours could be maintained or minor changes could be made to meet expressed needs.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the following changes are made to the opening hours of libraries with effect from 4 January 2006:

District Library, Richmond and Motueka and Takaka Branch Libraries – Doors open on Wednesday at 9.30 am instead of 10.00 am.

District Library, Richmond closes on Thursday at 7.00 pm instead of 7.30 pm.

Motueka Library closes on Thursday at 5.00 pm instead of 6.00 pm.

Motueka Library remains open until 1.00 pm on Saturday instead of 12.30 pm.

Brian Paterson
District Librarian