

**AGENDA ITEM NO.:** 15.2

**TO:** Council Meeting on 15 December 2015

**DIRECTOR:** Nathan Cunningham, Director Community, Planning and Communications

**REPORT AUTHOR:** Jo Cooper, Manager Library Services

**SUBJECT:** Library PLUS – Future of Library Services

---

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 In August 2015, the SA Department of Education and Child Development (DECD) confirmed in writing that it was the preference of Nailsworth Primary School and DECD to re-acquire the Thomas Street Centre building at 1 Thomas Street, Nailsworth at the conclusion of the current lease being 2 August 2019.
- 1.2 Elected Member workshops held in February, March and June 2015 set the scene for a project to consider the future of our library services. Discussions provided an overview of current services and programs, identified the gaps and started discussion about future opportunities. A service plan was developed to inform future facility type and a potential partnership with Port Adelaide Enfield Council was also explored in a preliminary sense.
- 1.3 In May 2015, Libraries Alive was engaged to work with Council on a service plan to evaluate the current functions at 1 Thomas Street, Nailsworth and to provide professional advice in relation to the future development of the library services that would respond to the needs of our community into the future.
- 1.4 An initial findings report covering community profile and characteristics, library services outline, library trends and recognised key performance indicators, status of the building at 1 Thomas Street, and broad costed options were presented at the 2 June 2015 Elected Member workshop.
- 1.5 The 'Library Service to the Future' project report and recommendations were adopted by Elected Members on 25 August 2015.
- 1.6 Further discussion at the Elected Member workshops resulted in a list of seven suggested sites needing to be explored for a new facility to house (as a minimum) all the Library and additional services currently housed in the Thomas Street Centre. The options covered various delivery models including new build, redevelopment of an existing site as well as leased options needing to be explored.
- 1.7 A brief site criteria analysis exercise was undertaken by Council staff to determine suitability from a locational viewpoint. The tool used was the 'site selection locational criteria' from *People, Places: a Guide for Public Library Buildings in New South Wales*. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. 2012 Commissioned by The State Library of New South Wales, Australia and undertaken by architects Francis-Jones Morehan Thorp (FJMT) and a number of other sources.

- 1.8 These potential sites were then discussed at the Elected Member workshop held on 10 November 2015. A SWOT analysis tool identifying the internal strengths, weaknesses and external opportunities and threats was used to generate discussion and assist with refining the shortlist for further investigation.
- 1.9 A total of four potential sites were shortlisted for further consideration and analysis to be undertaken by staff. Those sites are: Prospect Depot/Tram Barn on Main North Road; Northpark Shopping Centre on Main North Road; Prospect Oval Precinct on Main North Road/Willcox Avenue and Prospect Civic Centre on Prospect Road.
- 1.10 Elected Members were sent the SWOT analysis from the workshop for further individual input and ideas on 18 November 2015 with multiple responses received.
- 1.11 Elected Members will visit other libraries in metropolitan Adelaide as part of an off-site workshop tour to view a number of buildings that have created integrated, inclusive and flexible community spaces with different funding and functional models. It is envisaged that a broader tour with a project champion group would visit various relevant libraries as part of a brief study tour to ensure that best practice examples are seen.
- 1.12 The workshop also discussed the potential consultation process for the project. Council 'Community Engagement and Consultation Policy' is based on the IAP2/3 'International Association for Public Participation' model. Several methods for informing the community of the project were suggested at various stages throughout its development.
- 1.13 It was identified that an initial process of 'inform' of the project to date and to seek initial community opinion would take place. It was suggested that this could occur during the Touriffic Prospect event in January 2016, as well as facilitated community forums during 2016.
- 1.14 Endorsement of the next stages of the Library PLUS project are now sought to progress the consideration and analysis of the shortlisted four sites identified by Elected Members so as to ensure ongoing project momentum.
- 1.15 Endorsement is sought to establish a project working group with major stakeholders to address various issues and to provide specialist advice to Council. Working group representatives would initially comprise of Elected Members, Directors, Manager Library Services and other Council officers. It is envisaged that this group would evolve over the life of the project to include community representatives, external specialists and smaller project management groups as required.
- 1.16 Endorsement is also sought to commence the community engagement process following Council's 'Community Engagement and Consultation Policy'.

## **2. RECOMMENDATION**

- (1) Council staff commence an in-depth analysis using a detailed locational matrix criteria of the following four shortlisted potential sites for a future Library PLUS facility being:**
  - a. Prospect Depot/Tram Barn on Main North Road**
  - b. Northpark Shopping Centre – Main North Road**
  - c. Prospect Oval Precinct – Main North Road/Willcox Avenue**
  - d. Prospect Civic Centre (all services) – Prospect Road**

- (2) **The Chief Executive Officer establish a Library PLUS project working group comprised of an evolving group of stakeholders with its role and purpose to work collaboratively for an overall development plan for the project. Initially, the working group is to comprise the following Elected Members:**  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, **together with key Directors and Management representatives.**
- (3) **Staff to commence the community engagement process in line with Council's 'Community Engagement and Consultation Policy'. The first stage is to inform the community with a clear statement on the project and what has occurred to this point whilst being sure to gather community aspirations.**
- 

### **3. RELEVANCE TO CORE STRATEGIES / POLICY**

#### **3.1 Core Strategy 1 – Our Community.**

##### **1.2 Promote Lifelong Learning.**

- 1.2.1 Continue to provide accessible library, toy library and local history services.

### **4. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

- 4.1 No community involvement at this stage prior to project framework. Elected Members were consulted as representatives of the community at Council workshops held on 10 February, 10 March and 10 November 2015.
- 4.2 Part 3 of the recommendation is to commence the community engagement process in early 2016.

### **5. DISCUSSION**

- 5.1 In August 2015, the SA Department of Education and Child Development (DECD) confirmed with Council staff in writing that it was the preference of Nailsworth Primary School and DECD to re-acquire the Thomas Street Centre building at 1 Thomas Street, Nailsworth at the conclusion of the current lease being 2 August 2019. Since receiving written confirmation from SA Department of Education and Child Development (DECD) Council staff have had continued contact with DECD staff. Staff will maintain contact with DECD staff throughout the life of the project.
- 5.2 Elected Member workshops held in February, March and June 2015 focused on an overview of a project to consider the future of our library services. It set the scene in regard to the current lease. Discussions provided an overview of current services and programs, identified the gaps and started discussion about future opportunities. A service plan was developed to inform future facility type and a potential partnership with Port Adelaide Enfield Council was explored in a preliminary sense. Staff will maintain contact with Port Adelaide Enfield Council as the project progresses.

- 5.3 In May 2015, Libraries Alive was engaged to work with Council staff on a service plan to evaluate the current functions at 1 Thomas Street, Nailsworth to provide professional advice in relation to the future development of the library services that would respond to the needs of our community into the future. The service plan was developed in conjunction with Ian McCallum, Director, Libraries Alive, which was outlined in the report to Council – ‘*Library Services to the Future – Final Report*’.
- 5.4 An initial findings report covering community profile and characteristics, library services outline, library trends and benchmarked key performance indicators, status of the building at 1 Thomas Street, and broad costed options were presented at the 2 June 2015 Elected Member workshop.
- 5.5 ‘Library Services to the Future – Final Report’ findings were based on a number of core Australian best practice standards and research from Council staff including:
- 5.5.1 *People, Places: a Guide for Public Library Buildings in New South Wales*. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. 2012 Commissioned by The State Library of New South Wales, Australia and undertaken by architects Francis-Jones Morehan Thorp (FJMT).
  - 5.5.2 *Tomorrow's libraries: future directions of the South Australian public library network*, Libraries Board of South Australia, July 2015.
  - 5.5.3 *Ambition and opportunity: a strategy for public libraries in Scotland 2015-2020*. Scottish Library and Information Council, June 2015.
  - 5.5.4 *Region data summary for the Prospect LGA*, Australian Bureau of Statistics, accessed May 2015.
  - 5.5.5 *South Australian Public Library Statistical Bulletin 2013-2014*.
  - 5.5.6 Australian Library and Information Association, *Strengthening the social fabric: standards and guidelines for Australian public libraries*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition 2012.
- 5.6 Further discussion at the Elected Member workshops which resulted in a list of seven sites needing to be explored was collated as they were received. The option for a location outside of City of Prospect Council boundary was suggested by staff from Port Adelaide Enfield staff over several meetings. The options collated which formed the list consisted of various delivery models including new build on Council owned land, new build on privately owned land, redevelopment of an existing Council owned or privately owned site and lease requiring fit out.
- 5.7 The tool used by Council for initial analysis was the ‘site selection locational criteria’ from *People, Places: a Guide for Public Library Buildings in New South Wales*. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. 2012 Commissioned by The State Library of New South Wales, Australia and undertaken by architects Francis-Jones Morehan Thorp (FJMT). This tool details criteria for main street or shopping centre location, visibility, ground floor space, accessibility, personal and property safety, outdoor space, pedestrian access, public transport, parking and other factors.
- 5.8 Council staff formulated a spreadsheet listing all suggested locations and recorded locational information including ownership status, proximity to local schools, co-located services, transport links and parking options. This spreadsheet assisted with answering questions from Elected Members and for the site selection locational criteria tool.

- 5.9 These potential sites were then discussed at the Elected Member workshop held on 10 November 2015. The purpose of using a SWOT analysis tool was to 'kick off' strategy formulation on the suggested sites and assist with refining the shortlist for further investigation. This generated excellent discussion which enabled the Elected Member group to quickly eliminate potential sites that would not be considered at this stage for further rigorous analysis.
- 5.10 Elected Members will visit other libraries in metropolitan Adelaide as part of an off-site workshop tour to view a number of buildings that have created integrated, inclusive and flexible community spaces with different funding and functional models. It is envisaged that a broader tour with a project champion group would visit various relevant libraries as part of a brief study tour to ensure that best practice examples are seen. This would further expand research on the types of key features of contemporary buildings and to view libraries who have been recent recipients of Australian design awards.
- 5.11 Elected Members responded with several other ideas after being sent the SWOT analysis from the workshop for further individual input and ideas on 18 November 2015 with multiple responses received.
- 5.12 The workshop also included discussion on the potential consultation process for the project. Council 'Community Engagement and Consultation Policy' is based on the IAP2/3 'International Association for Public Participation' model. Several methods for informing the community of the project were suggested at various stages throughout its development. In conjunction to the Council policy staff will utilise the *Community Engagement Handbook: a model framework for leading practice in Local Government in South Australia*, Local Government of South Australia, March 2015.
- 5.13 The first stage of community engagement process is to 'inform' and to seek initial community opinion which could occur during the Touriffic Prospect event and community forums during 2016. Staff will present information, answer questions and make a short online survey available to gain aspirations on services, programs and amenities that residents would like to see in a new facility.
- 5.14 Establishment of a project working group with major stakeholders is an established organisational method used by local government to work collaboratively. This process is outlined in *People, Places: a Guide for Public Library Buildings in New South Wales*. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. 2012 Commissioned by The State Library of New South Wales, Australia and undertaken by architects Francis-Jones Morehan Thorp (FJMT)
- 5.15 Initial work would focus on the role of the project working group and the issues to be addressed. Research on various best examples of similar projects would take place, with potential site visits by the group.
- 5.16 Through responses to the Council workshop SWOT analysis, the following members expressed a desire to be 'Project Champions': Mayor David O'Loughlin, Deputy Mayor Mark Groote, Cr Kristina Barnett, Cr Talis Evans, Cr Monica Lee and Cr Alison Bowman. It is envisaged that this group would visit various relevant libraries as part of a brief study tour to ensure that best practice examples are seen. This would further expand research on the types of key features of contemporary buildings and to view libraries who have been recent recipients of Australian design awards.

---

## ATTACHMENTS

**Attachments 1:** Nil