

<b>Meeting date:</b>	30 August 2021
<b>Director:</b>	Andrea Blackshaw, Director Neighbourhoods & Communities Kara Puketapu-Dentice, Director Economy and Development
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>APPROACH TO LIBRARIES MAINTENANCE</b>

In April 2021, Council developed a high-level work plan which proposed carrying out work required on 5 libraries over approximately a two-year period, in two parts. Part One starting in August 2021 included repairs to Petone and Moera Libraries, with refurbishment of both facilities taking place at a later date, and being informed by further community engagement. The next step was to develop a more detailed work plan to share with community and staff, and this was underway.

On 30 July, Chief Executive Jo Miller temporarily closed the Hardwick Smith Lounge in Belmont and the first floor of the Petone Library building due to the health and safety risk to staff and users from toxic mould. The Petone Library remains open, with additional health and safety measures in place.

An inspection of both facilities had found toxic mould and high moisture levels and a decision was made to close them immediately as a precautionary measure while further inspections are undertaken. That work is now underway and will be updated separately once information is available. Future decisions on Hardwick Smith Lounge will also be considered separately, as part of our overall assets work.

The recent turn of events with Petone has led us to reconsider both the priorities and approach, and we're now proposing the following:

- i. Prioritise action on the full refurbishment of Petone Library, starting with community engagement via Community Board (in conjunction with work planned for Petone 2040)
- ii. Change approach on Moera Library – instead of carrying out just essential repairs now (and redevelopment later), revisit original plans for redevelopment with the Community Board and consider reinstating these. While we might miss an opportunity to improve on these plans, it would ensure Moera is available (and improved) to provide back-up when Petone/WML are closed, which is now deemed more important.
- iii. Bring forward work on Naenae Library, as this has a short lead in, and to ensure it can remain open during later works
- iv. Push back work on WML slightly, to prioritise other work (and as this requires longer lead in)

MEMORANDUM FOR PETONE COMMUNITY BOARD

This approach will give us the best chance of maintaining service levels across the city over the next two years, and tackling Petone first will mitigate the possible risk of further parts of Petone Library having to be being closed over time.

Staff at Petone Library and Heritage Centre have been informed about this approach. A paper will also go to the Communities Committee in September.

Tabled at the meeting