



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Renewing the Routes: Update on Antrim Road and York Road Projects
Date:	21 February 2008
Reporting Officer:	Marie-Thérèse McGivern Director of Development, ext. 3470
Contact Officers:	Shirley McCay Head of Economic Initiatives, ext 3459. Keith Sutherland Planning and Transport Policy Manager, ext. 3578.

Relevant Background Information

Regeneration activity in the target areas on the York Road and Antrim Road has continued utilising resources provided from the Brighter Belfast budgets and an allocation from Urban II. The Development Committee on 20 September 2006 received a report on the potential for additional regeneration works on the Antrim and York Roads on the basis of an enhanced URBAN II budget allocation, provided following a review of ongoing activity.

The continued success of the regeneration activity in partnership with URBAN II has resulted in the Renewing the Route programme being considered for a further additional funding in respect of both the Antrim Road and York Road.

This report provides an update on the ongoing activity in these areas and seeks approval for the development and implementation of additional regeneration activity on these roads.

Key Issues

Update on existing activity

The Carlisle Circus artwork within the Antrim Road area is progressing towards completion by March 2008. Planning permission has been granted and the selected artist is currently fabricating the artwork with the proposed implementation date scheduled for the end of March 2008.

In parallel with the work on the Antrim Road the York Road the gateway piece is also progressing towards final implementation. Planning permission and the necessary approvals have again been secured and the art piece implementation is due to take place in March 2008.

Following a review of existing activity on the completion of the commercial shop frontage scheme the potential for an additional local signage project has been identified on the York Road utilising funding from the existing budgets agreed at the above mentioned Committee. This local information and visitor signage would build on the successful project initiated across the city centre and contribute to the development of linkages into the surrounding sectors of the city (**Appendix 1**).

Antrim Road & York Road funding uplift

The successful delivery of Phase previously approved projects has resulted, through further URBAN II funding, in an opportunity to extend the Renewing the Routes programme on the Antrim and York Road. As the schemes previously approved have now largely been completed it is necessary to identify further regeneration projects for implementation along the identified arterial routes. To inform this process additional scoping and feasibility work has been carried out in consultation with local community groups, organisations and statutory bodies including BRO Physical Development Unit, BRO North Team, NIHE Community Liaison and North District Office.

URBAN II have also confirmed that the Antrim Road has been allocated an additional £80,000 and York Road £60,000. The potential additional funding was confirmed in late December 2008 with a spend deadline for August 2008 to conform to EU guidelines. This presents a challenging timescale for the successful development and delivery of regeneration projects within the target areas.

The proposed additional priority and potential projects arising from the scoping works are set out in the appendices to this report for approval by Committee (**Appendix 1 & 2**). In response to the timescale restrictions it has been necessary to introduce a distinction between “priority” projects and “potential” projects within the appendices for both the York Road (**Appendix 1**) and Antrim Road (**Appendix 2**). The inclusion of the potential projects is, in effect, an over allocation to allow for flexibility in the delivery of projects within the tight timescales. In circumstances where the further development of the “priority project” suggests that they may not be feasible within the tight financial timescales it may be necessary to progress to development of the reserve projects identified as a “potential projects” in the appropriate appendix.

Resource Implications

Additional external funding from URBAN II of £80,000 for the Antrim Road and £60,000 for the York Road/ North Queen Street target regeneration areas.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- note the progress in relation to the ongoing regeneration projects
- approve the review and reallocation of project expenditure on York Road to allow the development of the local information and visitor signage
- endorse the proposed additional projects and outline budgets for the York Road /North Queen Street and Antrim areas as a basis for project development and implementation as detailed in Appendix 1 and 2 respectively

Documents Attached

Appendix 1 - York Road/ North Queen Street updates and proposed activity

Appendix 2 - Antrim Road updates and proposed activity