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| Report to: | Development Committee |
| Subject: | Future Renewing the Routes Programme 2011-2016 |
| Date: | 22 November 2011 |
| Reporting Officer: | John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470 |
| Contact Officers: | Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives, ext 3459 |

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| 1 | Relevant Background Information |
| 1.1 | In April 2011 a three-year prioritisation plan, identifying proposed target areas, was presented to the Development Committee. The suggested prioritisation was based on empirical data and a previously agreed methodology. Whilst the Committee resolved to support the first year proposals (Antrim Road 2, Sandy Row, Castlereagh Road 1 and the Grosvenor and Springfield Road 1) it was agreed that alongside this project development activity further work should be carried out on the longer term potential for the programme. |
| 1.2 | This review work was to focus on the proposed prioritisation and the potential for the identification of neighbourhood or local regeneration areas beyond the current arterial routes. Following Committee consideration and agreement of the broad parameters for the programme, set out below, it is proposed that a further report will be brought back to Committee to seek endorsement of a longer term arterial route programme. |
| 1.3 | This report seeks to update Members on progress in respect of the ongoing arterial routes programme prioritisation; outline the potential for the identification of neighbourhood areas for targeted regeneration activity; and secure delegated authority for the procurement of the necessary contracts to implement the works agreed by Committee for the existing approved arterial routes. |

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| 2 | Key Issues |
| 2.1 | <u>Arterial routes</u> The previous deliberation highlighted that the reviewed data and assessment results needed to be more clearly presented to allow effective consideration. |

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| | <p>The objective is to present the findings in a more straightforward way and provide for a clearer outline of a potential long-term programme approach. With this in mind the assessment of the arterial routes survey/review results are now presented using a colour coded notation, similar to that used in other reports, adopting a RAG (Red, Amber, Green) approach to highlight the findings (Appendix 1).</p> |
| 2.2 | <p>The arterial routes assessment in Appendix 1 presents the identified areas in each of the City quadrants (north, south, east, and west) from the initial empirical analysis. Resource limitations and capacity will necessitate phasing decisions and prioritisation in respect of the areas to target and the timing of regeneration activity.</p> |
| 2.3 | <p>From this review of all the arterial routes nodes it was possible to generate the initial prioritisation chart for all the nodes (Appendix 2). The chart illustrates the potential short (20%), medium (40%) and longer term (40%) node priorities across the different quadrants of the City, excluding the current target areas. This initial prioritisation is based purely on the more empirical area and survey data. The proposal would be to carry out a further assessment of the short and medium priority areas identified from this initial assessment, to determine where the programme could have the greatest potential impact. The results of this further assessment would then be brought back to Committee to seek endorsement for a prioritised planned programme.</p> |
| 2.4 | <p>The proposed final prioritisation process will incorporate the strategic influences that would supplement the empirical data that formed the basis of the first stage reassessment, illustrated in the prioritisation chart, and could involve shifting areas between the medium to short term categories and provide for a four year programme that would facilitate a city wide approach.</p> |
| 2.5 | <p>This strategic assessment would again include a simple scoring framework in respect of the different nodes to reflect:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - potential alignment of any proposed Renewing the Routes activity with existing regeneration proposals; - whether or not the defined area represents a natural neighbourhood or community focus; - the extent to which an area has previously benefited from assistance; and - the potential for the Renewing the Routes type of local regeneration activity and resources to make an impact within the specific area. |
| 2.6 | <p>This proposed approach would be to target resources over a four year period for the next phase of the Renewing the Routes. This would be based on four broad parameters for the proposed programme, reflecting potential resource availability and capacity, which would also inform the prioritisation assessment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the arterial routes programme in each financial year would target two new areas (over a four-year period) with each area allocated £150,000 of project resources; 2. to facilitate a city wide approach the programme would be developed and prioritised with areas being identified on a north/south/east/west basis; 3. the programme focus would be on the short to medium node priorities arising from the assessment, with any changes (between short and medium priority) based on the strategic assessment using the parameters set out above (para 2.5); and |

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| | <p>4. the programme would be reviewed during year three to ensure Committee would have the opportunity to consider programme extension, modification or termination as a planned approach.</p> |
| 2.7 | <p>It is therefore suggested that the Committee endorses the initial prioritisation; agrees the basis for the further prioritisation based on the strategic assessment; and endorse broad parameters for a proposed Renewing the Routes programme.</p> |
| 2.8 | <p><u>Neighbourhood areas</u> Committee, during the consideration of the extension to the current Renewing the Routes activity, requested that the Team explore the potential for a similar local regeneration approach outside of the defined arterial routes. The suggested focus was on potential target areas within neighbourhoods or communities but beyond the current scope of the existing arterial routes programme.</p> |
| 2.9 | <p>The initial identification of potential local or neighbourhood areas has been carried out by the Team. The initial survey work confirmed that the potential existed for the identification of a variety of areas across the city (Appendix 3). The locations identified are based on initial survey activity informed by the Committee guidance, and any appropriate, statutory designations.</p> |
| 2.10 | <p>In considering the scope for progression in this area of work it is important that any activity is presented in the context of the development of Council's overall place-shaping agenda; development of a city resourcing plan and discussion on local or neighbourhood funds. With this in mind it would be the intention to include this work as part of this wider agenda and report back to Committee once these issues have been programmed corporately.</p> |
| 2.11 | <p>The Committee is therefore requested to note the information provided in respect of the identified neighbourhood areas and consider potential for additions or omissions that would inform the continued work on this ongoing area of activity.</p> |
| 2.12 | <p><u>Delegated Authority</u> The Renewing the Routes team will work in liaison with the Project Management Unit of the Property and Projects Department who will manage the procurement of necessary construction related design services and measured term contracts for the carrying out of the works across all the areas and the subsequent administration of the contracts.</p> |
| 2.13 | <p>Committee is therefore requested to approve the invitation of tenders for construction related design services and measured term contracts for the carrying out of the works across all the areas identified and the award of contracts to those firms submitting the tenders which are evaluated as being the most economically advantageous in terms of quality and cost criteria, all in accordance with BCC procurement guidelines</p> |

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| 3 | Equality and Good Relations Considerations |
| | There are no Equality and Good Relations considerations attached to this report. |

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| 4 | Recommendations |
| 4.1 | <p>It is recommended that Members:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note the initial prioritisation set out in the prioritisation chart (Appendix 2); 2. Agree the further prioritisation based on the strategic assessment detailed in paragraph 2.5; 3. Endorse the parameters for a proposed Renewing the Routes programme; 4. Note and if appropriate modified through addition or removal the neighbourhood areas identified in the initial assessment and set out in Appendix 3; and 5. Approve the invitation of tenders for construction related design services and measured term contracts for the carrying out of the works across all the areas identified and the award of contracts to those firms submitting the tenders which are evaluated as being the most economically advantageous in terms of quality and cost criteria, all in accordance with BCC procurement guidelines. |

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| 5 | Decision Tracking |
| Subject to approval the final prioritisation results will be brought back to Committee for consideration in January 2012. | |
| Timeframe: | January 2012 |
| Reporting Officer: | Shirley McCay |

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| 6 | Key to Abbreviations |
| RAG – Red, Amber and Green Status report | |

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| 7 | Documents Attached |
| <p>Appendix 1 – Arterial routes survey and review results Appendix 2 – Arterial routes Prioritisation Chart Appendix 3 – Initial identification of Neighbourhood Areas Appendix 4 – Background information</p> | |