



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Development Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Renewing the Routes Programme 2012-2016
<b>Date:</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> April 2012
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John McGrillen Director of Development ext 3470
<b>Contact Officers:</b>	Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives ext 3463 Keith Sutherland, Planning & Transport Policy Manager, ext 3578

<b>1</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	This report provides an update on the general progress of the Renewing the Routes programme and seeks the authority to invite tenders for the next phase of the programme.
1.2	In February 2012 Committee agreed the 2012-16 programme covering eight target areas across the city.

<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	<u>Renewing the Routes Update</u> Now in its eighth year, the Renewing the Routes initiative is currently in action across the city - at Sandy Row, Castlereagh Street, Grosvenor Road and Antrim Road. Our trademark commercial improvement scheme is now well underway in all the areas, with over 80 local businesses receiving environmental enhancements, including items such as painting and new signage.
2.2	<u>Antrim Road</u> The main emphasis for the Antrim Road work is the commercial improvements. Around 30 properties will be included in the final scheme, while works are already underway on a number of properties. The public realm resurfacing work at the Atlantic Ave shopping area is nearing completion and plans are progressing for lighting at the prominent St Ignatius Orthodox Church. Building on this project, the church is working with PSNI, PBNI and our Community

	<p>Services who helped to host an Open Day showcasing their facilities which are available to the wider community.</p>
2.3	<p><u>Castlereagh Street</u>  The commercial improvement scheme has started on site and in addition to the other environmental schemes, we have secured additional resources from the Department for Social Development to improve the appearance of five vacant properties through works coordinated by the unit. Designs are also being finalised for the lighting and environmental improvement works to the Mountpottinger Presbyterian and Mountpottinger Non-Subscribing churches.</p>
2.4	<p><u>Grosvenor Road</u>  On Grosvenor Road we have worked closely with the local community and our Parks &amp; Leisure colleagues to create a new community garden adjacent to the Grosvenor Road pitches. The Renewing the Routes element delivered the infrastructure for the project which included layout and resurfacing works. Adjacent to the community garden public realm improvement works are underway at the corner of Distillery Street and Grosvenor Road. The Commercial Improvement scheme has been a popular success with 90% participation in the project. In conjunction with this we are currently carrying out improvements works to a local community facility and club. A new tourism sign to be located at the shops will link the existing trail on Falls Road and has been installed working in conjunction with our Tourism Culture &amp; Arts. We will continue to look at projects to build on the impact of these completed schemes with our partners both within and outside the council.</p>
2.5	<p><u>Sandy Row</u>  Working in partnership with statutory agencies, the Revitalise Partnership, Greater Village Regeneration Trust and the Belfast South Resource Centre a number of joint initiatives have been developed to complement the Renewing the Routes projects. With close to 80% of the scheme complete initial feedback from traders has been very positive. Working with TREE, local long-term unemployed youths underwent extensive training and worked in parallel to the Council by improving a number of vacant properties. Improvement works to the Orange Hall and the installation of the tourist blade is close to completion. As a direct result of the improvements vacant properties three new business have been attracted to the area. The Revitalise Partnership, working with our economic development unit, has scheduled a Sandy Row “Revitalise Day” to promote independent traders in the area. Additional work is soon to commence on a feasibility study for the former Gilpins site and Sandy Row has now been included in DSD masterplan for extensive public realm improvements.</p>
2.6	<p><u>Delegated Authority</u>  Procurement of proposed works</p> <p>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 construction contracts for the carrying out of the works across all the areas and the subsequent administration of the contracts.</p> <p>To support the ongoing activity and successful implementation of the future programme committee is requested to approve the invitation of tenders for</p>

	<p>construction related design services and construction contracts. These are required 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, in accordance with Council procurement guidelines.</p>
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<b>3</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
	There are no Resource Implications attached to this report

<b>4</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Considerations</b>
	There are no Equality and Good Relations considerations attached to this report

<b>5</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	It is recommended that Members:
5.1	Note the updates on the current implementation activity in Antrim, Castlereagh Street, Sandy Row and Grosvenor Road; and
5.2	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, in accordance with Council procurement guidelines.