



Report to: Development Committee

Subject: Renewing the Routes Programme

Date: 21 May 2013

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1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The ongoing Renewing the Routes Programme has delivered local regeneration projects at targeted locations across the arterial routes of Belfast since 2004. The Programme has facilitated the investment of approximately £6.5 million across these key routes and neighbourhoods.
1.2	The Committee agreed a four year rolling programme for the continuation of local regeneration across the target areas of the city in February 2012 (Appendix 1).
1.3	The purpose of this report is to provide updates and seek approval for a number of proposals linked to the ongoing programme. The updates are in respect of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="357 1435 1390 1503">- progress of works under our current agreed programme in Ormeau Road and Newtownards Road<li data-bbox="357 1503 1390 1536">- proposed consultations on Oldpark and Andersonstown programme.
1.4	The support of committee is sought in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="357 1603 1390 1704">- acceptance of funding support from the Department for Social Development (DSD) for joint initiatives in Lower Ormeau/Cromac Street and on Newtownards Road<li data-bbox="357 1704 1390 1771">- the approval of continued partnership working with DSD on future regeneration projects; and<li data-bbox="357 1771 1390 1872">- approval of additional works using underspend monies to maximise Council's investment in Sandy Row, Castlereagh Street, Antrim Road and Grosvenor Road.

2	Key Issues
2.1	<p><u>Current Programme</u></p> <p>Since approval in August 2012, the focus has been on the engagement and the development of projects outlined in the Renewing the Routes Plans for Ormeau Road (from Ormeau Embankment to Ravenhill Road Roundabout) and Newtownards Road (from Bridge End to Witham Street). The main emphasis of work on Ormeau Road is a commercial improvement programme targeting over 30 properties alongside environmental improvement works to some of the provincial buildings of local importance such as the Ballynafeigh Orange Hall and Ballynafeigh Community Development Association.</p>
2.2	<p>Similarly, on the Newtownards Road, the commercial improvement programme forms the main focus of works. Construction works on both roads will commence this month and is scheduled for completion in September 2013. In parallel with the physical projects the unit will continue to work with local Members, statutory agencies and internal departments to build upon the impact of these schemes and their potential contribution to the wider regeneration of the areas.</p>
2.3	<p><u>2013/2014 Programme: Oldpark Road and Andersonstown Road</u></p> <p>Scoping and engagement work for Oldpark Rd (Torrens Avenue to Cliftondene Crescent) and Andersonstown Rd (Hillhead Crescent to Suffolk Road) is due to commence in the coming weeks. It is proposed that an Integrated Development Plan with long and short list of projects will be presented to Committee in August 2013.</p>
2.4	<p>The Committee may wish to note that DSD has programmed a significant Environmental Improvement Scheme extending from the Westland Road/Alliance Avenue/Oldpark Road/Clintonville Road junction to the junction of Cliftonpark Avenue/Oldpark Road/Crumlin Road for 2015. As the Renewing the Routes node would form part of this larger scheme there may be the opportunity to further extend the node in order to support other commercial improvements in the vicinity. The potential for joint initiatives and integrated working will, if appropriate, be considered as part of the ongoing work with DSD as suggested in paragraph 2.7 below.</p>
2.5	<p><u>Joint working project with DSD</u></p> <p>On 21 August 2012, the Committee supported a proposal for partnership working with DSD's Belfast Regeneration Office (BRO) to explore additional funding to complement the activity on our current programme. BRO have now formally requested the Council to extend our current work by implementing a commercial improvement scheme from Cromac Street to Stranmillis embankment incorporating Lower Ormeau and add value to our current work on Newtownards Road from Bridge End to junction at Albertbridge Road with support of £310,000. (Appendix 2: DSD Contract for Funding for Lower Ormeau £155,000 and Newtownards Road £155,000).</p>
2.6	<p>The Department has confirmed that all costs associated with the commercial improvement programme will be covered by DSD's budgets. It is suggested that Committee accepts the offer of funding from DSD and the allocation of Council staff resources to the development and delivery of the additional regeneration activity utilising the existing contracts set up for the Programme.</p>

2.7	<p><u>Ongoing work with DSD</u> DSD has approached the Council to explore opportunities for partnership working in other areas outside the Renewing the Routes Programme. The successful delivery of previous joint initiatives has demonstrated the potential for collaboration on the delivery of shared programmes. Initial discussion has taken place with a view to exploring how DSD funding could add value to future activity such as local regeneration schemes to extend the current programme areas and hubs outside the main Renewing the Routes areas.</p>															
2.8	<p>Approval is therefore being sought from Committee for the Unit to continue engagement with DSD to explore the potential for further joint initiatives in other parts of the city.</p>															
2.9	<p><u>2011/2012 Programme Underspend</u> Integrated Regeneration Plans for Sandy Row, Castlereagh Street, Antrim Road and Grosvenor Road were approved by Committee in August 2011. A summary of the work completed as part of this programme is set out in Appendix 3.</p>															
2.10	<p>The completion of these initiatives in the agreed Action Plans was achieved within the agreed allocations and an underspend has been identified allowing the consideration of additional projects across all four areas. In addition to the projects identified in the original plans under the long and short lists there are new project opportunities being presented in table 1 below.</p>															
2.11	<p>In parallel with the main Renewing the Routes Programme £42,000 was provided by DSD to implement the commercial improvements at Woodstock Link. There was also an element of underspend for this project and it has been agreed by DSD that resources can be allocated to Castlereagh Street.</p>															
2.12	<p>Table 1: Proposed Additional Projects</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="327 1227 1378 1756"> <thead> <tr> <th><u>Area</u></th> <th><u>Works</u></th> <th><u>Indicative Cost</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Antrim Road</td> <td>-Additional commercial improvement units</td> <td>£26,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Castlereagh Street</td> <td>-Additional commercial improvement units and environmental improvements</td> <td>£32,900</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grosvenor Road</td> <td>-Environmental Improvement of boundaries and enclosures along Grosvenor Road -Signage to Grosvenor Road Recreation Centre (located at Community Garden)</td> <td>£35,700</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sandy Row</td> <td>-Additional tourism sign -Additional Commercial Improvement Units -Information signage for Sandy Row commercial area</td> <td>£31,250</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Works</u>	<u>Indicative Cost</u>	Antrim Road	-Additional commercial improvement units	£26,500	Castlereagh Street	-Additional commercial improvement units and environmental improvements	£32,900	Grosvenor Road	-Environmental Improvement of boundaries and enclosures along Grosvenor Road -Signage to Grosvenor Road Recreation Centre (located at Community Garden)	£35,700	Sandy Row	-Additional tourism sign -Additional Commercial Improvement Units -Information signage for Sandy Row commercial area	£31,250
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3	Resource Implications
3.1	The allocated budgets for the Renewing the Routes Programme is included as part of the Department estimates process.

3.2	There are no additional resource implications arising from the proposed assistance to the joint working project with DSD in the development and implementation of an environmental/commercial improvement project for Newtownards Road and Lower Ormeau incorporating Cromac Street. The Department has confirmed that all capital costs associated with the commercial improvement programme will be covered by DSD's budgets and permission is being sought from Committee for staff assistance in the development and delivery of the commercial regeneration project.
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4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	There are no relevant equality and good relations implications attached to this report.

5	Recommendations
5.1	<p>Committee are asked:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To note the ongoing work in relation to the current programme on Ormeau Road (from Ormeau Embankment to roundabout at Ravenhill Road) and Newtownards Road (Bridge End to Witham Street); 2. To note the ongoing work in relation to the development and consultations of 2013-2014 Programme in Oldpark Rd (Torrens Avenue to Clifftodene Crescent) and Andersonstown Road (Hillhead Crescent to Suffolk Road) the proposal for a report outlining potential projects to be brought back to Committee for consideration. 3. To approve the support for the delivery of a DSD funded environmental/commercial improvement programme for Newtownards Road and Lower Ormeau incorporating Cromac Street as detailed in paragraph 2.5; 4. To approve ongoing engagement with a view to developing the potential for joint initiatives with DSD; 5. To endorse the proposals for additional projects utilising the underspend from the 2011/2012 programme as detailed in paragraph 2.12.

6	Decision Tracking
There is no decision tracking attached to this report.	

7	Key to Abbreviations
<p>BRO – Belfast Regeneration Office DSD – Department for Social Development</p>	

8	Documents Attached
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Appendix 1 - Renewing the Routes Programme Target Areas 2012-2016 2. Appendix 2 - Letters of Offer from the Department of Social Development (DSD) for additional works to Newtownards Road and Lower Ormeau incorporating Cromac Street to Stranmillis Embankment. 3. Appendix 3 - 2011/2012 Programme: Summary of Projects 	

Appendix 1: Renewing the Routes Programme Target Areas 2012-2016

Year	Area	Road	Location
2012/13	South	Ormeau Rd £150,000	Ormeau Embankment to roundabout at Ravenhill Rd
	East	Newtownards Rd £150,000	Bridge End to Witham Street
2013/14	North	Oldpark Rd £150,000	Torrens Avenue to Clifftodene Crescent
	West	Andersonstown Rd £150,000	Hillhead Crescent to Suffolk Rd
2014/15	South	Lisburn Rd £150,000	Bradbury Place to Tates Avenue
	East	Castlereagh Rd £150,000	Beersbridge Rd to Grand Parade
2015/16	North	York Rd £150,000	Fife Street to York Street
	West	Shankill Rd £150,000	Peters Hill to Agnes Street

Appendix 3: 2011/2012 Programme: Summary of Projects

The agreed 2011/2012 programme focused on four areas, Antrim Road, Castlereagh Street, Grosvenor Road and Sandy Row. A summary of the work completed as part of this programme includes:

Antrim Road

The main emphasis of work on the Antrim Road centered on our trademark commercial improvement scheme. 32 properties received cosmetic upgrade to their unit along with a public realm resurfacing scheme to Atlantic Avenue shopping area and a lighting scheme at St Ignatius Orthodox Church.

Castlereagh Street

17 commercial units received cosmetic upgrade of their units which typically included paintworks, signage and strip lighting. An environmental scheme to a block of residential schemes also received a spruce up. Two, separate environmental improvement schemes to Mountpottinger Presbyterian Church and Mountpottinger Non Subscribing Church also benefited from a range of environmental improvement works such as lighting, improvement works to stained glass, paint work and stonework.

Grosvenor Road

We worked closely with local community groups, Parks and Leisure and Community Service colleagues in creating a community garden adjacent to the Grosvenor Road pitches. The successful completion of the garden is widely used by local schools and groups. The commercial improvement scheme has been a success with 90% of units participating in the project. As a direct result of the improvements vacant units to the block have now become occupied. A tourism blade was installed outside the shops on Grosvenor Road which provides a link for tourists coming from the city centre to the trail of tourism blades on Falls Road installed by the IDF programme.

Sandy Row

A collaborative project was implemented by TREE who engaged with local long term unemployed youths underwent extensive training in acquiring transferrable skills and worked in parallel with Council by aesthetically improving a number of vacant properties. Council successfully delivered a comprehensive commercial improvement programme to 22 units and carried out improvement works to Sandy Row Orange Hall. A tourism blade was also installed at the Hope Street end of Sandy Row to draw attention to site of local and historical importance.