



Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Renewing the Routes Programme Update
Date:	14 January 2014
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officers:	Keith Sutherland, Urban Development Manager, ext 3578

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 in respect of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Progress of works under our current agreed programme in Ormeau and Newtownards Roads - Progress on the development of the Department of Social Development (DSD) funded local regeneration programme on Newtownards Road and on Lower Ormeau incorporating Cormac Street - Update on 2013/2014 programme on Oldpark Road and Andersonstown Road - Update on additional working using underspend monies to maximise Council's investment in Sandy Row, Castlereagh Street, Antrim Road and Grosvenor Road

2	Key Issues
2.1	<u>Newtownards Road Update</u> The commercial improvement programme is the main emphasis of work on the Newtownards Road (from Bridge End to Witham Street). The Newtownards Road scheme is being delivered in two phases, the Council funded programme (£150,000) is now complete with around 37 units receiving cosmetic improvement; and the DSD funded programme (£155,000) which will target around 35 further businesses by March 2014.
2.2	<u>Renewing the Routes Ormeau Road Update</u> Work is now complete on Ormeau Road (from Ormeau Embankment to Ravenhill)

	<p>Road Roundabout). Cosmetic upgrades to 31 commercial properties are now complete. The work to the commercial properties was supplemented by the completion of environmental improvement schemes on some of the road's prominent buildings including Ballynafeigh Orange Hall and Ballynafeigh Community Development Association.</p>
2.3	<p><u>Ongoing collaboration with DSD: Update on Cromac Street/Lower Ormeau Road and Newtownards Road</u> In May 2013, Committee supported a joint programme of regeneration activity in partnership with DSD's Belfast Regeneration Office (BRO), on the basis of a funding offer, 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 the Newtownards Road from Bridge End to the junction at Albertbridge Road with the support for £310,000.</p>
2.4	<p>The DSD funded programme on the Newtownards Road (£155,000) is targeting approximately 35 businesses who are currently signing up to the programme. On site work is currently underway on a number of units and it is anticipated works will be completed by March 2014. As part of the wider local regeneration activity on the road, a number of vacant sites have been identified and council is working with local stakeholders and statutory partners in developing projects to address the issues presented by the underutilised areas.</p>
2.5	<p>Similarly on Cromac Street/Lower Ormeau Road programme (from Cromac Street to Stranmillis Embankment), approximately 27 businesses are targeted as part of the commercial improvement programme. Negotiations with shop owners are currently underway with traders responding positively to the proposed commercial improvement programme. Works are due to commence early January with an anticipated completion date of March 2014. A number of small scale environmental improvement projects are being scoped to complement the proposed works to the shops.</p>
2.6	<p><u>2014/15 RTR Programme Andersonstown and Oldpark Roads</u> Since approval in August 2013, the team have continued to develop projects agreed in the Regeneration Action Plans for Andersonstown (Stewartstown Road) from Hillhead Crescent to Suffolk Road and on Oldpark Road from Oldpark Ave to Cliftondene Crescent.</p>
2.7	<p>Design schemes for the commercial improvement programmes on both roads are in an advanced stage and it is anticipated contact will be made with owners and tenants in January 2014.</p>
2.8	<p>Environmental improvements to vacant sites are the main emphasis of work on Stewartstown Road. Discussions to identify opportunities for joined working are ongoing with Department of Regional Development's (DRD) appointed consultants (Amey) on the implications of the enabling measures to facilitate the introduction of Belfast Rapid Transit (BRT) on these sites.</p>
2.9	<p><u>2011/12 Programme Underspend</u> Integrated Regeneration Plans for Sandy Row, Castlereagh Street, Antrim Road and Grosvenor Road were approved by Committee in August 2011. The completion of these initiatives in the agreed Regeneration Plans was achieved within the agreed allocations with an underspend identified to allow further consideration of additional projects across all four areas which was agreed by</p>

	Committee in May 2013. Work on the commercial improvement programme is currently underway on Antrim Road. Design schemes are at the final stages on Castlereagh Street, Sandy Row and Grosvenor Road with work proposed to commence in January 2014.
--	--

3	Resource Implications
3.1	There are no additional resource implications.

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 requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To note the work in relation to the current programme on Ormeau Road (Ormeau Embankment to Ravenhill Road roundabout) and Newtownards road (Bridge End to Witham Street); - To note the progress with the DSD funded local regeneration programme on Lower Ormeau Road incorporating Cromac Street and on Newtownards Road - To note the progress on the 2013/2014 Renewing the Routes programme, Andersonstown Road (Hillhead Crescent to Suffolk Road) and Oldpark Road (from Oldpark Ave to Cliftondene Crescent) - To note the progress on the 2011/12 underspend projects for Sandy Row, Castlereagh Street, Antrim Road and Grosvenor Road

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

7	Key to Abbreviations
	<p>BRO – Belfast Regeneration Office BRT – Belfast Rapid Transit DRD – Department of Regional Development DSD – Department for Social Development</p>

8	Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 – Renewing the Routes Programme Programme Areas 2012-2016

Appendix 1: Approved Renewing the Routes Programme 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	Oldpark Ave to Cliftondene 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