Single Regeneration Budget Programmes in Leicester

Report from the Director of Environment & Development

1. Purpose of report

To provide an overview of and update members on each of the SRB programmes underway in the city.

2. Summary

There are currently five SRB funded regeneration programmes underway in Leicester (SRB2 in the central area, SRB4 in Belgrave and Braunstone, SRB5 in Saffron and Leicester NorthWest), with a further 2 (SRB6 Greater Humberstone and Belgrave) due to begin later this year. The programmes vary greatly in size (from the £1.4million Braunstone programme to the £13million Leicester North West initiative), and in the range of projects and activities undertaken and supported. The programme manager and a representative from each partnership will make a presentation on each SRB programme to the Scrutiny Panel. Further details on each programme are attached as supporting papers.

3. Recommendations

Members are recommended to note the details in this report.

4. Financial & legal implications

The City Council is the accountable body for all of Leicester’s SRB programmes. This represents a current total of £31million of SRB funding for the city, with a further £11million anticipated for SRB6. The City Council is responsible for monitoring all financial transactions undertaken by the programmes and their agents. Quarterly returns are made by the City Council to the East Midlands Development Agency on behalf of the SRB partnerships. All programmes have to adhere to the City Council’s standing orders on the letting of contracts and purchasing of goods and services.

All contracts between the programmes and the projects they support are drawn up by the City Council’s Legal Services. Similarly, contracts for any
capital works undertaken by the SRB partnerships are drawn up by Legal Services on their behalf

5. **Report author**

Paul Quinn, Leicester North West SRB5 Programme Manager
Strategic Planning & Regeneration Scrutiny Panel

8th November 2000

Single Regeneration Budget Programmes in Leicester

Report from the Director of Environment & Development

Programme Title:

Leicester SRB2 covers St Margarets, Highfields and St Matthews.

Programme lifetime:

The programme is from 1996 to 2002. There are therefore 17 months of the programme left.

SRB Budget

The budget for the programme is £11.7 million.

Programme Objectives

The programme has three strategic objectives.

1. Promoting the Economic and Physical Regeneration of St Margarets.
2. Business support and Employment Initiatives.
3. Improving the quality of life for businesses and local people.

Management arrangements

The programme is managed by the Challenge Fund Sub Group, which is a sub group of the Leicester Regeneration Agency. The membership is as follows; the City Council, the Tec, the Chamber of Commerce, Voluntary Action Leicester, Highfields and St Matthews area forums, Leicestershire Police, two local Councillors and employment services.

The sub group deals with all the day to day business and meets monthly.
Programme details

The programme was approved at a time when the agenda for regeneration was very much physical development and business support. Although the national agenda has changed the programme must still deliver its objectives. One of these is improvements to the ring road and members will note the recent plans around that area. This will be complemented by other developments and environmental improvements.

Other key developments are a possible lottery bid for Spinney Hill Park, the development of the sports hall for Highfields Youth and Community Centre. This already has £2 Million support from the Lottery and the establishment of a computer club in St Matthews.

Barriers

The main barriers have been around the redevelopment of the ring road particularly relating to finding end users for the sites identified at the start of the programme. These have largely been overcome and I believe many exciting developments could soon start.

Future Plans / Exit strategies

With 17 months to run exit strategies are crucial to the continuation of the work already carried out. This, as with so many time limited regeneration programmes, is difficult. Some short-term solutions are possible via other funding regimes and the programme is employing a worker to facilitate this. The real issue is how to provide a long-term funding mechanism to enable those schemes that have proved their worth to continue. Without this it seems inevitable that regeneration will only seem to be a quick fix and that these areas will need more in the future.

Links to the community plan

The SRB links to the community plan in the following way:

- Equality with the programme focusing on, for example, providing the opportunities for people who are long term unemployed to find work.
- Community safety focussing on providing locks and bolts to a large number of homes providing CCTV and funding a domestic violence project.
- Environment, by schemes to improve the ring road, to tackle derelict sites, and improve the appearance of major roads.
- Jobs and regeneration through training programme employment advice, support to new businesses and job creation schemes linked to the new developments on the ring road.
**Appendix A2**

Wards: North Braunstone
Rowley Fields

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Strategic Planning & Regeneration
Scrubiny Panel

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Single Regeneration Budget Programme in Leicester

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**Programme Title**

SRB4 “Better Braunstone” Programme, covering the Braunstone Estates and comprising the North Braunstone Ward and the adjoining part of Rowley Fields Ward.

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**Programme Lifetime**

The programme is currently in its third year, and will run until March 2005; in total a 7 year programme.

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**SRB Budget**

A total of £1.44 million has been allocated from the Single Regeneration Challenge Fund.

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**Programme Objectives**

The agreed Delivery Plan has three broad objectives:

1. Community Capacity Building
2. Developing Economic Potential
3. Enhancing the Quality of Life

It is likely that for the Year 4 Delivery Plan these objectives will be fitted in to the five New Deal for Communities (NDC) programme areas:

1. Braunstone People and Health Programme
2. Braunstone Environmental Programme
3. Braunstone Community Economic Programme
4. Community Safety
5. Participation

This will allow SRB4 to work through the same consultation processes as NDC to encourage coherence and avoid duplication.
Management Arrangements

The SRB4 funding was awarded by EMDA to the Braunstone Partnership as programme managers. The Braunstone Community Association (BCA) has now been formed as the successor organisation to the Partnership and with the same voting membership. The BCA is a registered Company Limited by Guarantee with a Memorandum of Agreement and Articles of Association. This allows for 20 voting members. 12 are elected residents, 4 represent the statutory agencies (one being Leicester City Council), 2 represent the Braunstone voluntary sector and 2 from the ‘other organisations’ originally constituting the Braunstone Partnership. There is a provision that elected residents must be in the majority for the BCA to be quorate. The Braunstone Partnership has yet to be formally disassembled and the management of the SRB4 programme by the BCA in place of the Partnership is yet to be formalised.

The SRB4 programme manager is based at the New Deal Centre in Braunstone.

Programme Details

The original delivery plan for Better Braunstone stated that “The Braunstone Partnership will lead to the creation of a Braunstone Community Development Trust. These two bodies will be the vehicles which reverse the withdrawal of resources from Braunstone, pledge the commitment, secure the trust, mobilise the participation and energy and build the confidence and capacity of local residents to work in equal partnership with key decision makers and resource allocators to halt the decline of the estate and to attract new sources of capital and revenue.”

SRB4 set up the partnership. It undertook the preliminary work on setting up the Community Development Trust (BCA), and submitted the initial New Deal for Communities bid to DETR. In terms of capacity building SRB4 has achieved its vision and its succession strategy.

Projects for this financial year include:

- A home security package for victims of burglary, vulnerable people and locations. This will work alongside an NDC estate wide strategy
- Local and flexible training projects in: Basic skills – numeracy, literacy, IT, gardening and landscaping, bookkeeping, energy efficiency
- The improvement of library services to include IT and outreach work with all sections of the community
- Support to voluntary sector projects in the areas of employment, gardening, personal and organisational development
- Provision for young people including vacation Sports Coaching schemes, Summer Camps, work with young women, a small grants fund for young people and ultimately managed by young people, ‘On Two Wheels’, a mechanics and riding course for aspiring motorbike users.
- Assistance to schools via an ‘Inclusion Project’ to reduce exclusions and a Mentoring Achievement project working through the media
- The development of voluntary work – both as a service to the community and, combined with training, as work experience.
Barriers

Braunstone shares the same barriers as Leicester NorthWest – a feeling of cynicism amongst local residents. This is partly because of their perception that previous initiatives have failed. That money has previously been spent on outside experts or workers who have disappeared when the money ceased leaving little that has been sustained.

Similarly in Braunstone there is a widespread negative view of the Council and a belief that consultation with and participation of the community is superficial and ultimately the Council will make the decisions. Considerable progress is being made, for instance through the resident majority on the BCA, but progress is slow, fragile, and easily undermined.

New Deal for Communities will work with SRB4 to ensure added value is provided. For Year 4 we hope to revise the SRB4 plan to concentrate on supporting existing provision in Braunstone, developing the successful elements of the existing SRB4 programme and identifying ‘niches’ whereby SRB4 can complement NDC strategy, but removing new initiatives which overlap with NDC.

Future plans/exit strategy

The exit strategy centres around the creation of the Development Trust – the Braunstone Community Association which was constituted and became a legal entity on 4th July 2000. Training of the elected resident members is ongoing, as is networking with other similar organisations. Elected residents now Chair the subgroups for each of the five programme areas.

Links

SRB4 is closely linked with New Deal for Communities and both are linked or in the process of developing joint strategies with, amongst others, the Education Action Zone, the Health Action Zone, the Crime and Disorder Strategy, the Sports Action Zone.

Author

Kathy Oliveira
Programme Manager
Single Regeneration Budget Programmes in Leicester

Report from the Director of Environment & Development

Programme Title:

“Leicester NorthWest SRB5 Programme: A Better Direction”, covering Beaumont Leys, Mowmacre, Stocking Farm and Abbey Rise

Programme Lifetime:

The programme is currently in its second year, and will run until 2006 (so five and a half years to go)

SRB Budget

A total of £13 million has been allocated from the Single Regeneration Challenge Fund

Programme Objectives

The programme has four strategic objectives –

1. Creating a Safe and Attractive Environment
2. Strengthening Community Capacity
3. Supporting Families and Young Children
4. Building the Future with Young People

In addition the programme has developed two additional strategic objectives based on tackling health inequalities in the area and using information communication technology (ICT) to tackle social exclusion

Management Arrangements

The programme is managed by the Leicester NorthWest SRB5 Partnership Board, which meets monthly. The Partnership is currently undergoing a major reorganisation to formalise the local community’s role in managing and overseeing the regeneration
of their area. The proposed structure for the Partnership allows for 12 local people, together with 8 representatives drawn from the agencies working in the area, the local authority, the Police, and local employers. Draft memorandum and articles are nearing completion. A postal ballot to identify the community representatives is currently underway, conducted by the Electoral Reform Society.

The SRB5 team, managing the programme, is based in the Tudor Centre in Mowmacre.

**Programme details**

Now well into its first full financial year the programme is beginning to pick up steam, with most of the main projects up and running or in the process of recruitment, awaiting planning permission, etc. The programme has focussed on addressing local people's priorities (e.g. community safety, play, and specific community buildings) first. Key projects for this financial year include:

- The establishment of the Community Forum (the formal voice of the local community in the management of the programme)
- The refurbishment of Stocking Farm Community Centre (phase 1 of these works is about to begin)
- The establishment of the Childcare and Play project (a half million project of play workers, toy libraries, playschemes, and support for existing community groups)
- Improvements to Bewcastle Grove and the Tudor Centre in Mowmacre (a new wing for the community building and security improvements to the area)
- CCTV for Beaumont Leys and Mowmacre (18 CCTV cameras plus a new mobile unit, to be completed by the end of March)
- Safe Neighbourhoods Strategy (community safety improvements to homes in the core Beaumont Leys area)
- The development of a Volunteering Network, Mediation Service, Action Against Domestic Violence project, Burglary Reduction project, and the BLISS project supporting young people and families moving into the area (all under way already)

**Barriers**

In the case of Leicester NorthWest the main barrier to be overcome is a huge feeling of cynicism amongst local residents. Residents are very sceptical about the programme, the scale of it, and what it will be able to achieve.

Similarly, there is a very negative view of the City Council amongst many local people and community groups – convincing people that it is in fact the Partnership Board which is driving the programme locally, and that a majority of people on that Board are local residents, is a continuing challenge.

Many of the barriers to delivering projects on time are “in-house” with delays generated by some of the requirement to adhere to some trading agreements between departments.

Finally, the area the programme covers (Beaumont Leys, Mowmacre, Stocking Farm and part of Abbey Rise) are very distinct communities with different demographics. Resolving some of the tensions and suspicions between the communities has been a feature of the programme’s early development.
Future plans / exit strategies

This is the first full financial year and the programme has a further five and a half years to run. However, we are already looking at the exit strategy in terms of the development of Community Development Trust. It is likely the newly formed Community Forum could be the vehicle for the adoption of the Trust model. In terms of programme over the next two years the main emphasis will continue to be tackling community safety and security issues (particularly in the core Beaumont Leys area and Bewcastle Grove area in Mowmacre).

Links to the Community Plan

The Leicester NorthWest SRB5 Programme makes considerable contribution to the emerging Community Plan goals, particularly in terms of:

- Equality, with the development of new employment opportunities, the raising of educational standards amongst disadvantaged groups, and the involvement of local people in the decision making process
- Community Safety, focussing on reducing burglaries, tackling anti-social behaviour, and supporting victims of domestic violence
- Education, by providing support for schools working with young people at risk of exclusion, lifelong learning through new computer training opportunities and equipment, and training for local community groups and representatives
- Health, with the development of programmes to encourage healthy eating, a community café and the preparation of a bid for a healthy living network
- Environment, through the improvement of derelict sites, new play and open spaces and improved maintenance of existing sites, and traffic reduction initiatives in residential areas
- Jobs and Regeneration, through new training opportunities, employment advice services, ICT based job search facilities, and additional support for careers guidance and linkages between schools and businesses

Report Author

Paul Quinn, Programme Manager
Wards: Saffron

Single Regeneration Budget Programmes in Leicester

Report from the Director of Environment & Development

Programme Title:

“Sustainable Saffron SRB5 Programme”, covering the local authority housing estate of Saffron.

Programme Lifetime:

The programme is in its second year and will run until 2004. (Three and a half years remain.)

SRB Budget

A total of £2 million has been allocated from the Single Regeneration Challenge Fund.

Programme Objectives

The Programme has five strategic objectives:

1. Enhance the employment prospects, education and skills of local people.
2. Address social exclusion and enhance opportunities for the disadvantaged.
3. Promote sustainable regeneration, improving and protecting the environment.
4. Support and promote growth in local economies and businesses.
5. Tackle crime and drug abuse and improve community safety.

Management Arrangements

The programme is managed by the Sustainable Saffron Partnership. The executive board of the partnership is the decision making body and meets every month. The board comprises of one representative from each of the five signatory organisations, seven local residents (one nominated by each of the signatory organisations, plus two others), one officer nominated by Leicester City Council representing the accountable body, and one co-opted member. In addition there is a vacancy for a
Private Sector representative and the board has the capacity to co-opt another member if appropriate.

**Programme details**

At the half way stage of the first financial year the programme has several active projects with others in the process of recruitment or due to complete appraisal in the next few weeks.

Key active projects include:

- **Employment Support.** High quality advice and support service is delivering excellent results.
- **Skills and Opportunities Audit.** A substantial research programme examining skill shortages amongst local businesses and profiling the skills and experience of local residents.
- **Youth Audit.** Another substantial piece of research examining the activities and aspirations of young residents encouraging them to identify their own leaning and development needs and setting out a programme to meet those needs and aspirations.
- **Healthy eating.** A project promoting healthy eating and lifestyles is popular and successful.
- **A Peer Health block sum will soon be distributing small grants to local voluntary groups.**
- **A series of projects aimed at the parents of young children are now active and feeding in to the Sure Start development process.**

Projects recruiting staff include:

A project working with parents and pupils to enhance educational performance by providing greater homework support, and a Community Support worker to help support the three thematic groups, promote the activities of the programme and enable community groups to make greater use of SRB funding.

**Barriers**

The executive board and local community groups have identified one major barrier to progress. There are insufficient funds in a small programme to support a full time manager. As the standard formula is 5% of lifetime approval for management and administration, small community led bids face severe capacity deficits. Combined with limited management and development capacity amongst voluntary sector groups active in the programme area, this has caused delays in getting projects started.

At present this is being tackled by creating new partnerships with city wide voluntary groups and other partners are being identified. However, given the limited management capacity even the formation of these partnerships is being delayed.

**Report Author:** Mark Jones, Programme Development Officer, SRB5 Saffron
Appendix A5

Abbey, Belgrave
Latimer, Rushey Mead

Leicester City Council

Strategic Planning & Regeneration Scrutiny Panel 8th November 2000

Single Regeneration Budget Programmes in Leicester

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1. Programme Title:

2. Programme Lifetime(s):
   1.1 The Round 4 Programme is in its third year, and was planned to run until 2004.
   2.2 The Round 6 Programme is about to start its first year, and run until 2005.

3. SRB Budget
   The Round 4 budget is for £2.54m    The Round 6 budget is for £3m.

4. Programme Objectives
   4.1 The SRB4 Programme has the following key themes as its core objectives –
       A. Economic & Employment initiatives
       B. Community ‘Capacity Building’
       C. Crime and Community Safety
       D. Environmental issues
   4.2 The SRB6 Programme has the following key themes as its core objectives –
       A. Lifelong Learning
       B. Tourism & Culture
       C. Business Development

5. Management Arrangements
   5.1 The SRB4 Programme is managed by the “Regenerating Belgrave SRB4 Sub-Group”, which meets monthly. This has a current structure of equal representation from Leicester City Council, the business sector and the community sector, plus representatives from other bodies involved in the SRB4 themes. It is Chaired by Cllr Gajjar from LCC.
5.2 The SRB6 Programme is being developed through the “Belgrave Heartland SRB6 Management Group”, which has been meeting monthly in order to finalise the first year Delivery Plan in by the 31st October 2000. A formal structure for the Group is also being finalised, which will include agreement on the role of Chair.

5.3 The SRB officers managing the SRB4 Programme and servicing the start of the SRB6 Programme are based in LCC’s Regeneration Team.

6. **Key Belgrave SRB development issues**

6.1 The SRB4 Programme has focused on training, advice and community safety issues to date, due not least to its initial funding agreement. There has been some delay in bringing key projects on-line, however a local impact is beginning to be apparent from the strong local collaborations that are being developed.

6.2 The themes for the SRB6 finance should enable a much wider and more visible impact of SRB ‘regeneration’ activity. Proposed works under the ‘Tourism & Culture’ and ‘Business Development’ themes will naturally generate more public attention to SRB activity and will focus directly upon visible cultural issues.

6.3 There is an understanding that the two separate SRB programmes will be amalgamated at some time during the next financial year, with a new Management structure. The work under both SRB headings will be promoted through the new Centre being established in Belgrave Road.

6.4 It remains to be seen to what extent the SRB Programmes and its participants can combine their roles with involvement within other local physical development and employment initiatives. Principally these include the National Space Science Centre; the English Partnerships “Site Investment Strategy”; the Riverside Development Strategy; and the ‘EU Objective 2’ strategy.

7. **Links to the Community Plan**

The two Belgrave SRB Programmes will contribute to the aspirations of “Leicester’s Community Plan” in terms of:

- **Equality** : both Programmes represent a fundamental opportunity for the local population in and around the Belgrave area to be involved in making decisions for how local communities and cultures can be supported.
- **Community Safety** : focused upon reducing burglaries; improved CCTV services; and support to community sector safety initiatives.
- **Education** : linking schools and students with training and employment contacts; work with young people through ‘lifelong learning’ opportunities; ICT training, etc.
- **Environment** : contribution to the ongoing ‘Leicester Corridor’ project; work to promote improvement to play and open spaces like Cossington Park.
- **Jobs and Regeneration** : provision of new training opportunities; the ‘One Stop Network’ careers and advice service; business support services; and other developmental work to promote sustainable employment opportunities.

8. **Author** :  
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