

## **SOUTH WYE SRB – FORWARD STRATEGY**

**Report By: Director of Policy and Community**

### **Wards Affected**

Belmont, St Martins and Hinton wards.

### **Purpose**

1. To advise Members of the regeneration initiatives being undertaken in the South Wye area of Hereford City, through the Single Regeneration Budget Scheme (SRB) and the need to have a forward strategy in place for when the scheme ends in March 2006.

### **Considerations**

2. The South Wye area covers the former wards of Belmont, Hinton and St Martins, together with the Rotherwas Industrial Estate. Representatives from the local community and local businesses, together with those from the public and voluntary sectors set up the South Wye Regeneration Partnership in 1998 to address the clear need and demand for a regeneration programme in South Wye. Herefordshire Council, on behalf of the Partnership submitted a bid for SRB funding which was successful in 1999. An overall funding package of £13.5 million was agreed, of which £4.3 million was SRB funding.
3. Since that date over 50 projects have been supported, worth £7.5 million investment in the area. The scheme is built around four separate but interlocking themes: Jobs, Education and Training; Housing, Transport and Environment; Quality of Life and Community Facilities. Feedback from local residents and local stakeholders, such as the Police, the Learning and Skills Council and the Primary Care Trust as well as local Councillors, indicates the SRB scheme is having a significant impact in addressing the needs and demands in the area.
4. However, the SRB funding ends in March 2006. There is growing concern within the local community about the future of the South Wye area, after this date and the consequent reduction in regeneration activity. The South Wye Regeneration Partnership shares this concern and has set up a Forward Strategy Working Group to examine the issues that still need to be addressed and the options to continue to deliver regeneration in South Wye.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT: (a) the initiatives that the South Wye Regeneration Partnership has supported in South Wye and the impact that the overall scheme has had be noted;**

**and**

**(b) the implications of the end of the SRB scheme in South Wye  
also be noted.**

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- None identified.