



North Derbyshire and North Nottinghamshire Single Regeneration Budget 5 and 6 Programme Evaluation Summary

Over its seven year life, the North Derbyshire and North Nottinghamshire Single Regeneration Budget programme invested £33 million of SRB funding, along with an additional £54 million from other public and private sector sources. It supported some 300 projects. The programme achieved a great deal – around 4,000 jobs and 1,000 new businesses and 16,000 learning opportunities. This programme was won and then subsequently managed by the Coalfield Alliance from 1999 to 2002. The Alliance SSP took over its management in October 2002. Lessons from the programme are captured by a final evaluation commissioned by the Alliance SSP from SQW Ltd. This brochure summarises the evaluation's findings and showcases some projects.

What did the programme achieve with the resources available?

Resources and activities

SRB funded over 300 projects, with three delegated grants schemes offering support to a large number of additional small projects. Its resources were shared geographically and thematically across the sub-region. This approach enabled partners to share the benefits of the programme and ensured that SRB funding was spent in the local area as planned. The SRB projects included feasibility work to bring forward Markham Employment Growth Zone (MEGZ), Mansfield Ashfield Regeneration Route (MARR) and Sherwood Energy Village e-centre with significant long term impact.

Enterprise & Innovation (£11 million):

133 projects including business development, start up support, rural enterprise, inward investment partnerships and community development projects.

Employment & Skills (£10 million):

58 projects including access to community learning, literacy and ICT skills projects.

Economic Infrastructure (£8 million):

79 projects including feasibility studies, industrial units, transport and tourism projects.

Enterprising Communities (£3 million):

29 projects including community enterprise, health and environmental projects.

What did the programme do?

The programme generated a shared sense of mission among a large number of partners (see list on back cover). It did this by developing a common agenda that tackled shared social, economic and environmental problems across the sub-region. Through various administrative changes and the merger of the Rounds 5 and 6 programmes it focused on four issues: enterprise and innovation, employment and skills, economic infrastructure and enterprising communities.

Over time the programme's emphasis moved from social to economic regeneration. The change occurred when overall management transferred from the Coalfield Alliance to the Alliance SSP.

What difference did the programme make?

The programme's impact can be viewed in terms of changes brought about by individual projects, achievement against programme targets and improvements in the sub-region's well-being.

At a project level, there have been positive changes in small local areas, with changed attitudes among target groups and evidence of individual beneficiaries who have been helped to move on into education or employment. The project case studies illustrate the work that has been done.

At the programme level most of the headline targets were achieved and a contribution was made to the overall improvement of the sub-region. These are summarised in the adjacent box.



Project case

Programme outputs

This programme exceeded most of its Delivery Plan targets. One exception was businesses surviving a year. A figure that needs to be read with caution, as some projects did not stay in touch with new businesses and therefore did not know if they had survived their first 12 months. It is likely that the business survival rate is higher than reported.

In addition to creating nearly 4,000 jobs and 1,000 businesses, the programme supported over 2,500 voluntary groups (560% of its lifetime target) and 2,600 community groups (906% of its lifetime target). This reflects the social focus and achievements of the earlier part of the programme and, in part, explains the change in focus to economic regeneration.

The evaluation used national data to assess the programme's value for money and found that for each £20,000 of investment the programme delivered good value for money relative to national benchmarks.

Core outputs	Gross actual*	% Lifetime target achieved
Jobs created	3,942	280%
Jobs safeguarded	3,809	448%
Brownfield land remediated (ha)	22.9	121%
Learning opportunities	16,229	207%
Businesses created	1,042	132%
Business surviving 1 year	220	35%
Private sector leverage	£439.5k	No target set

*A few projects are continuing to report outputs in 2006/07.

Programme outcomes

A review of the sub-regional baseline shows that between 1999 and 2006 there have been some improvements. It is difficult to claim these for SRB, but the programme did contribute to the rate of change. There is still some way to go to build the sub-region's business base and raise its employment rate to the regional average. Projects are needed to re-engage people in the labour market.

Furthermore, staying on rates at school have not improved, therefore, projects to encourage learning are still required. The gap between the sub-region and the region with regard to NVQ 4 attainment is actually widening.

These issues are shared across the sub-region. The challenge for partners is to identify how sub-regional interventions add value to local activity.

Baseline Outcome Indicator	Change in SSP area 1999–2006	Gap between SSP area, East Midlands and England
Employment rate	No change	Significant gap to East Midlands remains
Business registrations	Increased	Gap closed (because region and England underperformed)
Business survival (1 year)	Increased	No significant gap
% working age with NVQ3	Increased	Gap closed
% working age with NVQ4	No change	Gap increased
% pupils 5+ GCSE A-Cs	Increased	Significant gap remains
Post-16 stay on rates	No change	Variable between two counties

Unique Scrap Store Warehouse

The Unique Scrap Store Warehouse project delivered by Unique Social Enterprise has been operating for one year.

SRB provided £70,000 (matched with £157,000) for refurbishment of warehouse space into a social enterprise shop selling recycled products. The shop provides an income stream for an alternative education project working with young people not in education employment or training and young offenders. It trains them in warehouse and retail skills and provides them with routes into employment. Already, there are success stories of young offenders who have got jobs and the project has collected 'waste' from 120 businesses, saving over 20 tonnes of waste and 16 tonnes of paint from landfill a year. It won National Lottery Project of the Year and Green Guardians Award for Environmental Business.



Skillsbuilder

Skillsbuilder is a national programme run by the Coalfields Regeneration Trust to tackle worklessness resulting from pit closures.

SRB provided £203,000 (matched with £579,000) to enable the project to run in North Nottinghamshire and extend its work to those affected by local manufacturing industry redundancies. The project works with redundant workers to assess their skills needs and supports their retraining into an appropriate industry through an intermediate labour market scheme. The project placed trainees with construction, electrician and plumber employers – sectors where there are skills shortages. This project offered a wage subsidy and contributed to external training costs, in return for permanent job outcomes.

Debut II

Debut II continued the Debut project from SRB3. It was delivered by North



Derbyshire Chamber of Commerce and received £147,000 of SRB (matched with £141,000) to provide advice, support and training to individuals looking to start up businesses and a small number of existing businesses in North Derbyshire. The project employed 2 advisers who helped businesses to identify and plan for their need, and encouraged entrepreneurship. It also provided free business start up training and 'taster' training sessions covering business start/planning, book keeping, sales and marketing awareness. These sessions increased accessibility and created a 'market' for the project. It also facilitated a Business Women's Network – 'Women in Business', now a national flagship programme. At the time of the evaluation, follow on projects which incorporated best practice from Debut II had secured funding to March 2007.



Meden Valley Town and Village Centres Management Programme

This project was designed to establish an integrated programme of works to renew smaller town and village centres, especially in rural areas experiencing decline. It received £916,000 SRB (matched with £4 million) and was delivered by Mansfield District Council and Bolsover District Council. SRB part-funded two project officers to work alongside local communities in 34 towns and village centres. They identified needs and devised regeneration action plans. It funded a variety of activity including business grants, public realm improvements, and promotional work. One example of the 'before and after' impact of the project 'facelift scheme' is shown below.



Before

After



Delegated Grant Funds

There were three large delegated grant funds in the SRB Programme.

The Coalfield Community Fund (CCF) was a five year project that began in 1999/00 and provided £1.3 million of seed-corn funding directly to community and voluntary organisations. It funded over 570 local projects. CCF grants were awarded by panels of local residents and communities of interest serving the priority wards.

The Sustainable Communities Fund (SCF) was designed to engage the voluntary and community sector in economic development activities, including building the skills of local people, increasing employment opportunities and carrying out environmental improvements in disadvantaged communities. It funded 42 projects. SCF has since secured emda funding until 2008.

ICT in the Coalfield was a two phase £1.8 million fund which provided capital and revenue grants to small businesses and voluntary and community organisations for purchasing ICT equipment, training and installation, to increase their ICT use. Since it ended, two new region-wide funding streams have developed which provide capital grants for ICT purchase.





What worked?

Overall, the programme's rationale for intervention was about addressing the economic, social and environmental problems experienced at a sub-regional level. This generated a shared sense of mission for local authorities and other partners to work across local administrative boundaries, in order to develop and then deliver the programme.

The programme's objectives were effectively met given the economic decline of the sub-region's core industries.

The shift in the programme's emphasis from social to economic regeneration reflected the new priorities of partners and the progress that had been made in the first three years of the programme.

The programme levered in a considerable level of match funding – although levels of private sector match funding were relatively low.

Programme management was effective – although there was disruption due to changes in lead organisations. The local authority led SRB programme team effectively supported project development in the early stages of the programme; while, a smaller team led by the Alliance SSP successfully closed the programme on budget.

What are the issues for the future?

The sub-region still faces significant challenges with fewer firms per head of population than the national average and lower rates of employment and participation in the labour market than the region. This indicates the need for further activity at the sub-regional level to promote economic development and participation in the labour market.

The lessons from the programme suggest the need for a more strategic approach to delivery, informed by regular updates on the impact that the programme is having on the ground, as well as updates on performance against targets.

Furthermore, partners need to develop a strategy to mainstream projects, so that the knowledge, skills and impact developed by projects are not lost to the sub-region once grants end.

SRB Programme Partners

- District Councils of Ashfield, Bassetlaw, Bolsover, Chesterfield, Mansfield, Newark & Sherwood and North East Derbyshire
- County Councils of Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire
- Learning and Skills Councils of Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire
- Business Link Nottinghamshire
- Derbyshire Chamber and Business Link
- Health Authorities of North Derbyshire and North Nottinghamshire
- Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Constabularies
- Bassetlaw Development Agency
- Local Strategic Partnerships in Ashfield; Bassetlaw; Bolsover; CHART (Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire); Mansfield; Newark & Sherwood
- Derbyshire and North Nottinghamshire Learning Partnerships
- Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation
- Groundwork Trusts
- Coalfields Regeneration Trust
- Trades Union Congress
- Faith groups and representatives from the voluntary and private sectors

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