

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE		Subject: KELVIN VALLEY ACTION PLAN: PROGRESS UPDATE
From: HEAD OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT		
Date: 26 JULY 2011	Ref: DPT/33/01/KG	

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 This report seeks to update Committee on the delivery of the Kelvin Valley Action Plan and to detail achievements to date, by the Council and its partners. Approval is sought from Committee to proceed with a review of the Kelvin Valley Action Plan, in consultation with key partners and Kelvin Valley communities, in order to assess and formulate the priority actions going forward, and methods of continuing coordinated regeneration activity.

2. Background

2.1 In 2003, North Lanarkshire Council Planning and Development and Scottish Enterprise Lanarkshire (SEL) commissioned consultants Yellowbook to produce an Action Plan to provide a development framework for the regeneration of the Kelvin Valley within North Lanarkshire. The catalyst for the study was the Millennium Link project and the re-opening of the Forth and Clyde Canal, which had the potential to stimulate a number of social, economic and environmental benefits for the surrounding communities within North Lanarkshire. In recognition of the many challenges and assets of the area, the Action Plan focussed on a wide range of issues and set out a number of priority actions to be achieved over a ten year period. The priority actions and guiding principles supported an overarching vision statement, devised in close consultation with a range of partners and stakeholders, and with the community.

2.2 Since the commission of the Kelvin Valley Action Plan (KVAP) in 2003, a significant number of regeneration, environmental and access improvement initiatives have been progressed by the Council and its partners, and by community and other local interest groups. The KVAP has supported the securing of a number of significant external funding awards, notably £325,000 awarded by Historic Scotland for a Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme for Kilsyth Town Centre, a further £665,000 from the Town Centre Regeneration Fund and £560,000 awarded from the Scotland Rural Development Programme LEADER fund to the Kelvin Valley Local Action Group, a partnership involving a range of public and private sector and community partners. The Kelvin Valley LEADER programme has involved cross boundary partnership working with East Dunbartonshire Council, considering the whole geographic area of the Kelvin Valley, and has delivered a range of initiatives to support the revitalising of communities and conservation of the rural environment.

2.3 The table attached as an Appendix to this report details the range of projects delivered, and levels of investment within the Kelvin Valley over the last seven years against key objectives of the plan. A significant programme of intervention has been progressed in Kilsyth Town Centre, through partnership and a mix of Council Capital Funding, other public funding streams, private developer contributions and grant funding secured by local community groups. This has involved streetscape improvements, a shopfront grant scheme, the refurbishment and redevelopment of key vacant buildings on Main Street and the upgrade of Burngreen Park, collectively boosting the vitality and viability of Kilsyth Town Centre. The development of Auchinstarry Basin as an activity hub on the Forth and Clyde Canal has progressed well, and a number of outdoor recreation, access and facilities improvement projects have also been delivered.

2.4 The Kelvin Valley Action Plan has therefore been successful to date at facilitating the sustainable regeneration of the Kelvin Valley within North Lanarkshire and providing a strategic overview to inform external funding bids, partnership working and the programming and allocation of capital budgets. Since its inception in 2003, a number of the priority actions and objectives have been achieved or partially achieved, however there remain significant challenges, new opportunities and a revised context of policy, plans and strategies to consider.

3. Review process

3.1 The aim of the proposed review of the Kelvin Valley Action Plan will be to consider how achievements to date and established partnership working practices within the Kelvin Valley can be sustained and built upon, and how future action can be best coordinated with new areas of partnership focus, such as the Antonine Wall World Heritage Site and Campsie Fells.

3.2 The Kelvin Valley Action Plan now sits within a context of new and emerging plans and strategies. A Strategic Review and Action Plan for the Campsie Fells, which encompasses the Kelvin Valley, has recently been produced by consultants URS and Scott Wilson for the Campsie Fells Steering Group. At a more detailed level, management plans have recently been produced for the Antonine Wall and Colzium Estate; an update of town centre action plans across North Lanarkshire, including for Kilsyth Town Centre, is also planned. The role of the Kelvin Valley Action Plan therefore requires to be assessed against this context, with coordination and consistency key considerations.

3.3 Consultation and close working will be required with North Lanarkshire Council Services, relevant Local Members, key stakeholders and existing partnership structures within the area to devise a set of recommendations for further discussion and engagement with local community groups and organisations. The aim of this engagement activity will be to devise an updated set of priority actions for further intervention in the Kelvin Valley, which has the support of the community, the Council and its partners, and which has a clear and realistic plan for delivery.

3.4 It is proposed that a further report be made to Committee at the appropriate cycle detailing the results of the consultation process and subsequent proposed action for facilitating the continued sustainable regeneration of the Kelvin Valley.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 The delivery of the Kelvin Valley Action Plan to date has helped realise the Council aim's of creating strong sustainable communities and more attractive places to live, and supporting the development of town centres as centres of economic activity, two of the priorities contained with the Regeneration theme of the Corporate Plan; also improving the quality of built and managed landscapes and enhanced wellbeing within local communities, two of the priorities contained within the Environment theme of the Corporate Plan.

5 Recommendation

5.1 It is recommended that Committee note the achievements to date in delivering the Kelvin Valley Action Plan, and approve the proposed review of the action plan and associated community engagement activity. It is also recommended that Committee agree to a further report at the appropriate cycle detailing the results of the review process and associated recommendations.

5.2 That this report be referred to the Regeneration Services Committee for information.

Shirley Linton

SHIRLEY LINTON
HEAD OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Local Government Access to Information Act: for further information about this report, please contact Kirstv Grav on 01236 616251. (13 June 2011)

Appendix 1 Kelvin Valley Action Plan: projects and investment

Project	Project lead (s) and year	Funding source (s)	Investment
Reinventing and Regenerating Kilsyth Town Centre			
Kilsyth Town Centre Streetscape Improvements: Phase 1:	North Lanarkshire Council 2004 – 2005	North Lanarkshire Council Town Centres Capital Budget	£1.2million
Kilsyth Town Centre Streetscape Improvements Phase 2:	North Lanarkshire Council 2005-2006	North Lanarkshire Council Town Centre Capital Budget	£450,000
Kilsyth Town Centre Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme - Shopfront improvements phases 1 and 2 - White House refurbishment and redevelopment - 44/48 and 52-56 Main Street redevelopment - Burngreen Park - Heritage lighting and landscape improvement works	North Lanarkshire Council	Historic Scotland CARS	£325,000
	Friends of Burngreen Park	Heritage Lottery Fund	£20,000
	2007 – 2011 (CARS)	North Lanarkshire Council Regeneration Services	£110,000
	2009 – 2010 (Burngreen Park)	North Lanarkshire Council Environmental Services	£68,000
		Private sector and partner contributions	£1.5million
		Town Centre Regeneration Fund	£665,000
		WREN	£304,000
Kilsyth Town Centre Access Improvements	North Lanarkshire Council 2008 - 2009	North Lanarkshire Council Town Centre Capital Budget	£150,000
Sub-total investment			£4,762,000
Maximising the economic and amenity value of the Forth and Clyde Canal			
Auchinstarry Mooring Basin	British Waterways Scotland 2004 - 2005	British Waterways Scotland Scottish Enterprise	£1.2million

Project	Project lead (s) and year	Funding source (s)	Investment
Auchinstarry Hotel and Restaurant Development	British Waterways Scotland, Private sector 2007-2008	Private Sector Investment	£2 million
Auchinstarry Greenscene New visitor amenities at Auchinstarry Basin	The Waterways Trust Scotland 2007	A range of grant sources including: Environmental Key Fund CERS Aggregate Tax Tubney Charitable Trust Dulverton Charitable Trust	£200,000
Auchinstarry Scents and Sensitivities Phase 1 Sensory garden and nature trail at Auchinstarry Basin	The Waterways Trust Scotland, Central Scotland Forest Trust 2008	A range of grant sources including: Big Lottery Fund WREN Environmental Key Fund Tubney Charitable Trust	£126,125
Auchinstarry Scents and Sensitivites Phase 2 Environmental improvement and employability project	The Waterways Trust Scotland Forestry Commission Scotland 2010 – 2011	A range of grant sources including: Coalfields Trust Kelvin Valley LEADER WREN Cemex Community Fund Contributions from: NLC / Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS)	£315,430
Auchinstarry Soon Cut path New path link between Croy and Auchinstarry Basin	The Waterways Trust Scotland, FCS 2009	WREN	£10,000
Vital Spark project Artist led community interpretation project along the Forth and Clyde Canal	Cumbernauld College, British Waterways Scotland 2009 – 2010	Kelvin Valley LEADER / Match funding	£55,000
Sub-total Investment:			£3,906,555.00

Project	Project lead (s) and year	Funding source (s)	Investment
Creating a network of attractions, activities and access routes			
Woodland and Access projects			
New woodland planting and access improvements in the Kilsyth Hills, at Corrie Wood and Wester Auchinrivoch	Central Scotland Forest Trust 2003 - 2004	CSFT Forestry Commission SNH Scottish Enterprise Lanarkshire NLC	£75,000
Dumbreck Marsh Nature Reserve Artist Project Artist in residence working with local communities to develop knowledge and understanding of biodiversity and industrial heritage	Dumbreck Marsh Art Project Management Group 2003 - 2007	Scottish Natural Heritage Esmee Fairbairn NLC North Lanarkshire Forward CERS (Aggregate Levy)	£290,000
Duncarron Replica Medieval Fort Construction of a replica fort and associated facilities in the Carron Valley Forest	Clanranald Trust for Scotland 2003 - 2006	Awards for All Environmental Key Fund North Lanarkshire Community Grants Fund North Lanarkshire Entrust Heritage Lottery Fund Scottish Water Entrust Metropolitan College Glasgow Forth Valley Enterprise	£170,000
Carron Valley Mountain Bike Trails 10.5km of mountain bike trails constructed within the Carron Valley Forest	Carron Valley Partnership 2004 - 2006	Scottish Enterprise Lanarkshire North Lanarkshire Council Stirling Council Environmental Key Fund LEADER + Charitable grants	£125,000
Nethercroy Community Woodland Restoration of a former industrial site into a woodland for recreational use	Forestry Commission Scotland 2005 - ?	Forestry Commission <i>Others TBC</i>	<i>TBC</i>
Banton Loch Footpath improvements Widening and resurfacing of path and new footbridges	North Lanarkshire Council 2006 - 2008	North Lanarkshire Council Scottish Natural Heritage	£150,000

Project	Project lead (s) and year	Funding source (s)	Investment
Carron Valley Multi-user path	Central Scotland Forest Trust 2009	NLC WREN SNH ERDF	£110,000
Carron Valley: Footpath construction at fortified village	Clanranald Trust for Scotland 2009	Kelvin Valley LEADER and Match funding	£82,000
Colzium Woods Improvement of access and environment within Colzium Woods, Kilsyth	North Lanarkshire Council 2009 – 2011	Forestry Commission Woodlands In and Around Towns Challenge Fund NLC Local Development Programme	£75,000
Access to the Antonine Wall Physical access improvements to pathways leading to the World Heritage Site	Antonine Wall Management Group, NLC, CSFT 2010 – 2011	Kelvin Valley LEADER CSFT NLC	£75,000
Facilities improvements			
Burngreen Recreation Ground Improvement of community recreation facility	NLC 2010 – 2011	Kelvin Valley LEADER WREN Environmental Key Fund NLC Environmental Services	£140,000
Colzium House Clock Theatre feasibility study Colzium Estate Conservation Management Plan	North Lanarkshire Council 2009 – 2011	Kelvin Valley LEADER NLC	£50,000
Colzium House refurbishment works Refurbishment of Colzium House to improve usability access and installation of new disabled toilets	North Lanarkshire Council 2010 – 2011	North Lanarkshire Council	£180,000
Marketing, promotion and events			
Friend of Kelvin Valley Park Newsletter and leaflet guides; Production of Kelvin Valley Guide Book	Friends of Kelvin Valley Park 2007 – 2011	Kelvin Valley LEADER / match funding	£10,500

Project	Project lead (s) and year	Funding source (s)	Investment
Kilsyth International Carnival Dance and music event held in Kilsyth	Kilsyth Internal Carnival (KIC) 2009 - 2010	Kelvin Valley LEADER / Match funding	£67,000
Kelvin Valley Marketing Project	East Dunbartonshire Council 2009	Kelvin Valley LEADER EDC	£12,000
Friends of Kelvin Valley Park: Walkers are Welcome Hosting of a Walkers are Welcome conference in Kilsyth	Friends of Kelvin Valley Park 2010	Kelvin Valley LEADER / match funding	£10,000
Sub-total investment			£1,196,500
Total Investment			£9,865,055.00