

To: AIRDRIE LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIP		Subject: AIRDRIE TOWN CENTRE ACTION PLAN
From: HEAD OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT		
Date: 10 April 2013	Ref: DPT/01/01/KG	

**1. Purpose of Report**

1.1 This report seeks to update the Partnership and Committee on the progress made on the Airdrie Town Centre Action Plan projects and initiatives. The report also provides an update on progress made on developing a new Town Centre Framework and Action Plan for Airdrie town centre.

**2. Airdrie Town Centre Framework and Action Plan**

2.1 Survey work on a new Town Centre Framework for Airdrie town centre has now commenced. Customer and business surveys are available to complete at the Airdrie town centre page of the Council's website ([www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/Airdrie](http://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/Airdrie)). A standpoint survey machine with the customer survey will be also be located in local facilities over a six week period starting from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March. Paper copies of the business survey have been issued to all businesses in the town centre. The first consultation workshop for Airdrie town centre will be held at the end of April. It is intended to combine consultation with local traders and community groups with meetings of the Trader Liaison Group and Airdrie and Villages Community Forum in June 2013. A public drop-in event is also planned for June 2013. Details of the exact dates and locations of these events will be circulated to Local Members, partners, traders and community groups once available.

**3. Capital Budget**

3.1 The Council determined its Capital Plan for the period 2013/14 to 2017/18 in March 2013. It was confirmed in a report to the Policy and Resources Committee that there has been no capital funding allocated to Airdrie town centre within the Town Centres Capital Budget. The new Framework and Action Plan for Airdrie town centre strategy for the next 10 year period will therefore need to identify opportunities for external funding.

**4 Project Updates**

Airdrie Town Centre - streetscape works

4.1 Tenders have now been returned and a contract awarded for streetscape works in Graham Street. The funding for these works is being met jointly by the Roads and Transportation Capital Budget with a contribution from Planning and Development's Town Centres Capital Budget 2012/13. The works involve the replacement of all areas of temporary tarmac patching in pedestrian areas with Caithness stone slabs and the removal and replacement of all remaining sections of unsuitable Alta Quartzite and Otta Phillite paving with more robust Caithness stone slabs in the pedestrian precinct. The works will therefore address problems with deterioration and unsightly tarmac patching in Graham Street. The new slabs will be laid using a more robust mortar bedding system that has proven to be effective in other areas of the town centre.

Sir John Wilson Town Hall

4.2 Funding is available through the 2013/14 Local Development Programme to undertake architectural lighting works at Sir John <sup>W</sup>Wilson Town Hall. A Listed Building Consent

Application will be submitted for the works in April. It will then be aimed to issue tenders for the works if consented during the summer for implementation in the autumn. The lighting works aim to highlight main features of the buildings, complementing the recent building refurbishment works, and to better emphasise the role of the building as a landmark on the entrance to Airdrie town centre. At present, there is no funding available to take forward public realm improvements to the front of the town hall. A re-design exercise is being progressed by the Council's Landscape Services team to take into account the location of shallow utilities infrastructure. The designs will be progressed to a detailed stage, so that tenders for the works may be issued expediently should funding become available for the works.

Former Orr's building

- 4.3 Regarding the former Orr's building on South Bridge Street, discussions continue between the council and the owners of the building, Clyde Valley Housing Association on the timescale for taking forward redevelopment of the building. Clyde Valley Housing Association will be invited to a future meeting of the Local Area Partnership to provide a detailed update.

**5. Town Centre Activities**

- 5.1 Footfall - The UK footfall figures for October, November and December show a national average fall of 4% on the same period last year. Airdrie is currently bucking this trend at plus 1.5%.

Town Centre	Q2 Jul-Sep 2012/13	Q3 Oct-Dec 2012/13	% comparison between Q2 and Q3	Q3 Oct -Dec 2011/12	% comparison Q3 2011/12 and Q3 2012/13
Airdrie	1764124	1739296	-1.41%	1713673	1.50%

- 5.2 CCTV Incident Analysis - There were a total number of 113 incidents recorded for quarter 3 of 2012/13 for Airdrie Town Centre.
- 5.3 TCA will deliver Easter events in South Bridge St over the school holiday. The next Town Centre Alliance Group will meet on 18<sup>th</sup> April at 5.30pm venue to be confirmed.

**6. Business Improvement Districts**

- 6.1 As reported at the last meeting, the Council is currently looking into the potential for establishing Business Improvement Districts (BID) in North Lanarkshire's town centres. A BID is a defined area within which a levy is generated from all non domestic ratepayers and used to provide services additional to local authority baseline services. Work to engage with town centre businesses to raise awareness of BIDs is underway with an event being held in Airdrie on Wednesday 20 March at the Tudor Hotel at 5.30pm. This work is scheduled to be completed by the end of April 2013 and reported in due course.

**7. Recommendations**

- 7.1 It is recommended that the Local Area Partnership note progress made on the projects and initiatives contained within the Airdrie Town Centre Action Plan.

*Shirley Linton*

**SHIRLEY LINTON  
HEAD OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT**

Local Government Access to Information Act: for further information about this report, please contact Kirsty Gray on 01236 632629 (18 March 2013)