

|                                       |                  |  |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|--|
| To: AIRDRIE LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIP    |                  | Subject: AIRDRIE TOWN CENTRE<br>ACTION PLAN UPDATE |
| From: HEAD OF PLANNING & REGENERATION |                  |  |
| Date: 22 October 2014                 | Ref: SP/03/12/SP |  |

## 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 Public consultation on the finalised draft Airdrie Town Centre Framework and Action Plan will take place during November / December 2014. The documents will be available online through the Planning Consultation hub for a period of 8 weeks.

## 3 Project Updates

- 3.1 Heritage Lottery Fund – Townscape Heritage Bid - A revised bid, as supported by Planning and Transportation Committee, has been submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) under their Townscape Heritage programme. Heritage Lottery will advise whether or not it has been successful in January 2015.
- 3.2 Sir John Wilson Town Hall - Lighting - The bat surveys have been carried out over the summer. No bats were found. The listed building application has been re-submitted for consideration. The anticipated start date for the lighting works is now winter 2014.

## 4. Town Centre Activities Update

- 4.1 Overall Airdrie is noted as having a relatively low vacancy rate (at some 8.8%) when compared with the other town centres in North Lanarkshire. In the period from April to June 2014 three businesses closed and fourteen opened.
- 4.2 Footfall figures for the period April to June 2014, as recorded on automated counters located throughout the centre, show an increase in levels of activity compared to the previous quarter January to March 2014, and a year ago.

| Town Centre    | Total No of Available Units | Total No of Active Businesses | New Business | Business Closed | Void Units (% vacancy rate) | Footfall between Q1 14/15 w Q4 13/14 | Footfall between Q1 13/14 and Q1 14/15 |
|----------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Airdrie</b> | <b>316*</b>                 | <b>288</b>                    | <b>14</b>    | <b>3</b>        | <b>28 (8.8%)</b>            | <b>14.2%</b>                         | <b>4.95%</b>                           |
| Bellshill      | 145                         | 136                           | 5            | 2               | 9 (6.3%)                    | 12.22%                               | 2.8%                                   |
| Coatbridge     | 228                         | 181                           | 2            | 6               | 47 (20.6%)                  | 13.74%                               | 2.4%                                   |
| Cumbernauld    | 215                         | 167                           | 5            | 6               | 48 (22.3%)                  | 7.68%                                | -1.06%                                 |
| Kilsyth        | 96                          | 84                            | 2            | 1               | 12 (12.5%)                  | 9.56%                                | 0.09%                                  |
| Motherwell     | 278                         | 257                           | 9            | 5               | 21 (7.5%)                   | 14%                                  | 15.99%                                 |
| Wishaw         | 302                         | 259                           | 5            | 4               | 43 (14.9%)                  | -8.04%                               | -12.62%                                |
| <b>TOTAL:</b>  | <b>1580</b>                 | <b>1372</b>                   | <b>42</b>    | <b>27</b>       | <b>208 (13.1%)</b>          |                                      |  |

Source: TCA - Q1 2014/15 (Sept 2014)

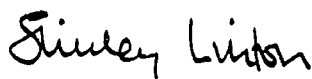
\*The vacant Rialto building in Airdrie has had some considerable private investment and has now been renovated into 5 new shop units with flats above.

- 4.3 'Friday Frolics' took place in Airdrie throughout the school summer holidays with a number of arranged activities including arts and crafts, stilt walkers, balloon shapers, face painters, inflatable characters. The activities and performances were well received with positive feedback given.
- 4.4 The Christmas Light Switch-On event in Airdrie will take place on Friday 21st November 2014 from 3.30pm to 4.30pm.

## 5. Recommendation

- 5.1 It is recommended that the Local Area Partnership note progress made on the Airdrie Town Centre Action Plan.

SHIRLEY LINTON



HEAD OF PLANNING & REGENERATION

Local Government Access to Information Act: for further information about this report, please contact Lorna Ogilvy on 01236 632633 (12 September 2014)