

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: NORTHERN LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIP	Subject: CUMBERNAULD & KILSYTH TOWN CENTRES REPORT	
From: HEAD OF PLANNING & REGENERATION		
Date: 16 th January 2014	Ref: PL/DIT/12/KG	

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report seeks to update the Partnership and Committee on the progress made in delivering the regeneration of Cumbernauld and Kilsyth Town Centres. It also provides an update on progress made on the preparation of new Town Centre Frameworks and Action Plans for Cumbernauld and Kilsyth town centres.

2. Town Centre Frameworks**2.1 Cumbernauld Town Centre Framework and Action Plan**

A Town Centre Health Check, draft Framework and Action Plan for Cumbernauld town centre has been prepared by North Lanarkshire Council, Planning and Regeneration. The framework and action plan will to guide the future management and regeneration of the town centre over the next 5-10 years. The documents will be adopted as supplementary planning guidance to the North Lanarkshire Local Plan and will be subject to a period of statutory public consultation over February and March 2014 which will be advertised in local and regional press. The documents will be available to download from the North Lanarkshire Council website (www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/cumbernauldconsultation) and a hard copy of will available to view in local libraries. Comments sheets will be available in local libraries and on the website.

2.2 Kilsyth Town Centre Framework and Action Plan

The second phase of consultation on a new framework and action plan for Kilsyth town centre has now been completed. Summary reports of the consultation are available to download from the Kilsyth town centre page of the North Lanarkshire Council website www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/kilsyth. A draft framework and action plan for Kilsyth town centre will be prepared by January 2014 and be subject to a period of statutory public consultation over April and May 2014.

3. Project updatesCumbernauld town centre open spaces

- 3.1 Tenders have been returned for the Cumbernauld town centre open spaces contract, which involves a range of environmental and path improvement works to six sites in Cumbernauld town centre. The works are being jointly funded by North Lanarkshire Council and Campsies Centre (Cumbernauld) Ltd. It is intended to appoint a contractor in December 2013 and for work to commence on site in early January 2014. The contract period is 12 weeks with works at all six sites due to be completed by the end of March 2014.

Cumbernauld town centre signage strategy

- 3.2 A contract for the Cumbernauld town centre internal wayfinding signage project has now been awarded. The internal signage will form an extension of the external wayfinding signage recently installed by North Lanarkshire Council, to help users of Cumbernauld town centre find their way around the town and its facilities more easily, for example to Cumbernauld library and the north and south bus stops. Installation work is due to be completed by the end of January 2014.

4 National Review of Town Centres

- 4.1 Under the national review of town centres the Scottish Government has published its Action Plan in response to the External Advisory Group's publication 'Community and Enterprise in Scotland's Town Centres' in the summer. 'Town Centre Action Plan – the Scottish Government Response' was published in November 2013 and identifies 38 actions which aim to stimulate, encourage and support action across the wider public, private and community sectors.
- 4.2 The Action Plan endorses and supports the External Advisory Group recommendations presented under the six themes of: Town Centre Living, Vibrant Local Economies; Enterprising Communities; Proactive Planning; Digital Towns; and Accessible Public Services. Specific actions identified under these themes support partnership action at a local level which will be developed through the emerging Cumbernauld Town Centre Framework and Action Plan.
- 4.3 The Scottish Government report is available to view on line at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/11/6415/0>

5 Town Centre Activities update

- 5.1 FOOTFALL: The British Retail Consortium reported that UK Footfall in October was 2.9% lower than a year ago, down on the 2.4% fall in September. On a three-month rolling basis, this is the worst performance since the start of the year. High Streets reported the greatest fall, down 3.6%, with shopping centres recording the same 2.9% fall as they did in September. In Cumbernauld and Kilsyth the figures recorded show:

CUMBERNAULD	Month	% Increase / Decrease
	August	21.20% Increase
	September	24.14% Increase
	October	18% Increase

KILSYTH	Month	% Increase / Decrease
	August	-2%
	September	-0.3%
	October	-0.6%

- 5.2 VACANCIES: In Scotland the British Retail Consortium vacancy rates rose to 11.1% in October; that shows a rise from 10.1% in July 2013. The Local Data Company average business vacancy rate in Town Centres is around 14.1%. For Cumbernauld and Kilsyth the recorded figures show:

Cumbernauld town centre

Month	Number of Business Units	Number of Vacant Units	% Vacant Units
August	212	43	20%
September	212	44	21%
October	212	44	21%

Kilsyth town centre

Month	Number of Business Units	Number of Vacant Units	% Vacant Units
August	95	15	15.7%
September	95	14	14.7%
October	95	13	13.7%

5.3 Cumbernauld and Kilsyth Events

Following joint working the three shopping centres in Cumbernauld, the town Christmas lights were switched on simultaneously. Festive activities in all three centres heralded the official start to Christmas shopping. The Kilsyth Christmas Lights Switch-on took place on Saturday 30th November. TCA has joined with the retailers and community representatives to form the town network group. Its aim is to promote and market Kilsyth as a unique town centre

6. Recommendation

- 6.1 It is recommended that the Local Area Partnership note progress made on the projects and initiatives that have progressed recently within Cumbernauld and Kilsyth Town Centres.



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Local Government Access to Information Act: for further information about this report, please contact Kirsty Gray on 01236 632629 (3 December 2013)