

REPORT

To: NORTH LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIP		Subject: CUMBERNAULD & KILSYTH TOWN CENTRES REPORT
From: HEAD OF PLANNING & REGENERATION		
Date: 10 th April 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

As previously reported, the council is preparing a new Framework and Action Plan for Cumbernauld town centre to guide the future management and regeneration of the town centre over the next 5-10 years. A Cumbernauld town centre health check has also been undertaken. Public consultation on the draft Framework and Action Plan for Cumbernauld town centre will commence at the end of March 2014 and continue for a period of 8 weeks. The draft documents will be available to view online at www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/Cumbernauldconsultation and available for reference at Cumbernauld, Abronhill and Condorrat libraries and Cumbernauld First Stop Shop. Comments sheets will also be available to download and fill out. The deadline for comments to be received is 30 May 2014. Adverts of the consultation will be placed in the local and national press w/c 17th March 2014.

2.2 Kilsyth Town Centre Framework and Action Plan

A draft Town Centre Framework and Action Plan for Kilsyth town centre has been prepared and is currently subject to consultation with North Lanarkshire Council services and partner organisations. This will be followed by consultation with local groups in the Kilsyth area and an 8 week period of statutory consultation over spring and early summer. Summary reports of the consultation work undertaken to date are available to download from the Kilsyth town centre page of the North Lanarkshire Council website www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/kilsyth.

3. Project updates

Cumbernauld town centre open spaces

- 3.1 Work is progressing well on the Cumbernauld town centre open space contract. This involves a range of environmental and path improvement works to six sites in Cumbernauld town centre owned by North Lanarkshire Council and Campsies Centre (Cumbernauld) Ltd. The works are due to be completed by the end of March 2014.

Cumbernauld town centre signage strategy

- 3.2 Work is also progressing on the internal wayfinding signage project. Prototype signs were installed within the shopping centres in early February 2014. Manufacturing work on the remaining signs is continuing and installation of all the signs is due to be completed by April 2014. This project is being funded by Campsies Centre (Cumbernauld) Ltd.

Access Audit

- 3.3 An access audit of Cumbernauld town centre was undertaken at the end of December 2013 with the North Lanarkshire Disability Access Panel. The audit was undertaken to help identify barriers to and opportunities for improving access around the town centre. Some of the issues identified will be addressed as part of the Cumbernauld Town Centre Open Spaces Contract. These are listed below:

Location	Issue	Action
Bron Way: ramp to rear of building from Tryst Walk	Uneven tarmac surface and poor drainage at bottom of the ramp.	Resurface bottom section of the ramp, install a new drain pipe across the path and connect to existing drain at base of the ramp.
Bron Way	Directional tactile paving slabs next to Bron Way next to main entrance are difficult for wheelchairs users to access across	Relocate one row of directional tactile paving slabs closer to the pavement edge and resurface tarmac area
Bron Way	High dropped kerbs.	Reduce height of dropped kerbs.
North Carbrain Road, Underpass leading to Tryst Sports Centre.	No tactile paving slabs at the top and bottom of the steps.	Install new tactile paving slabs at the top and bottom of the steps.
Path by Tryst Sports Centre.	Path is steep in places and there is no handrail.	Incorporate a handrail onto new railings proposed next to Tryst Sports Centre.

4. Town Centre Activities Update

- 4.1 In Cumbernauld footfall has increased on a year ago. Cumbernauld had a number of family attractions during November and December which may have increased footfall numbers. Cumbernauld reported a 16.85% footfall increase for the period October-December 2012/13 compared to October-December 2013/14, whilst Kilsyth reported a 1.4% decrease over the same period.
- 4.2 Cumbernauld has the highest vacancy rate of North Lanarkshire centres at 21.8% (47 units). Kilsyth town centre has a vacancy rate of 12.6% (12 units), below the national average. Vacancy rates across north Lanarkshire stand at 13% which is just below the UK average of 13.9%.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 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 (13 March 2014)