

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL**REPORT**

To: NORTH LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIP		Subject: CUMBERNAULD & KILSYTH TOWN CENTRES REPORT
From: HEAD OF PLANNING & REGENERATION		
Date: 7 AUGUST 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. Following the end of the consultation period on the consultative draft documents the comments received are being considered prior to finalising the Town Centre Action Plan and presenting it for adoption as Supplementary Guidance to the North Lanarkshire Local Plan. The draft documents were available online at www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/Cumbernauldconsultation and available for reference at Cumbernauld, Abronhill and Condorrat libraries and Cumbernauld First Stop Shop.

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 due to go to public consultation with an 8 week period of statutory public consultation later this year. 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**3.1 Cumbernauld Town Centre Open Spaces**

The Cumbernauld town centre open spaces contract has now been completed. This has involved a range of environmental improvement works, path improvements and new tree planting. During the current financial year, further works are proposed to improve links into the town centre. This will include drainage and lighting improvements within town centre approach underpasses and footpath improvements. It is aimed to commence work on site in the autumn. .

3.2 Cumbernauld Town Centre Signage Strategy

The internal wayfinding signage project is nearing completion. The new signs are being installed in each of the three shopping centres and link to the external wayfinding signage throughout the town centre. This project is being funded by Campsies Centre (Cumbernauld) Ltd.

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.

Town Centre	Total No of Available Units	Total No of Active Businesses	New Business	Business Closed	Void Units (% vacancy rate)	Footfall between Q4 13/14 w Q3 13/14	Footfall between Q4 12/13 and Q4 13/14
Airdrie	312	278	2	2	34 (10.8%)	-5%	-0.01%
Bellshill	145	136	3	2	9 (6.3%)	-2%	5.64%
Coatbridge	228	187	1	3	41 (18%)	-5%	-6.85%
Cumbernauld	215	168	4	4	47 (21.8%)	-4%	8.35%
Kilsyth	96	86	5	1	10 (10.4%)	-6%	-0.25%
Motherwell	278	254	1	3	24 (8.6%)	-7.5%	10.95%
Wishaw	302	258	5	7	44 (14.9%)	-7%	-1.12%
TOTAL:	1576	1367	21	22	209 (13.3%)		

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%.

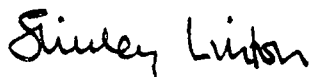
Source: TCA - Q4 2013/14 (June 2014)

4.3 A free wi-fi scheme is due to be rolled out to Kilsyth in July to benefit both businesses and shoppers. Registration requires a valid email address. After initial registration users are automatically connected each time they are in range in the Town Centre. The initial scheme in Motherwell has seen some 3000 registrations and an average of 252 people logging on each day. It also provides the ability to market the businesses and promote local offers.

4.4 In Kilsyth 'Friday Frolics' will take place throughout July and August.

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.



SHIRLEY LINTON
HEAD OF PLANNING & REGENERATION

Local Government Access to Information Act: for further information about this report, please contact Dave Sutton on 01236 632636 (30 June 2014)