

REPORT

To: NORTHERN LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIP	Subject: CUMBERNAULD & KILSYTH TOWN CENTRES REPORT	
From: HEAD OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT		
Date: 11 OCTOBER 2012	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.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Cumbernauld Town Centre Action plan was approved by North Lanarkshire Council's Economic Regeneration Committee in 2006 as a multi-agency and wide ranging approach for the regeneration process in Cumbernauld Town Centre. The Kelvin Valley Action Plan, produced in 2003, sets out the priorities for the regeneration of Kilsyth town centre. This report is the latest in a series of updates provided at each cycle of the Area Partnership on the individual projects contained within the Cumbernauld Town Centre Action Plan and in Kilsyth town centre which are under development or have been recently completed. The report also provides an update on the anticipated programme for the new Cumbernauld and Kilsyth town centre frameworks and action plans.
- 2.2 As previously reported to the Local Area Partnership, Town Centre Frameworks are being produced by the Council to guide future management and change in North Lanarkshire's town centres, to continue to build on the successes that have been achieved to date. A guidance note which sets out the process for preparing these Frameworks can be viewed at www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/framework
- 2.3 The Council is currently progressing survey and consultation work associated with the first phase of the town centre frameworks, which includes Cumbernauld town centre. Surveys have been issued to businesses and traders within Cumbernauld town centre seeking their feedback on the town centre as a place to do business. Customer perception surveys are also being undertaken with town centre users and the people of Cumbernauld. Computer survey terminals have been located within Cumbernauld library, Cumbernauld College, the Tryst Sports Centre and Link Community Facility throughout the month of September. Both the businesses and customer surveys are also available online until 9th November 2012 at www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/cumbernauld. A copy of the customer perception survey is attached to this report for information. The survey period will be followed by workshop and drop-in events where community groups, local interest groups, traders, businesses, town centre stakeholders and community planning partners can discuss and share their views on Cumbernauld town centre with Council officers. A workshop event for North Area Councillors has been organised for the afternoon of Monday 5th November at Cumbernauld New Town Hall.
- 2.4 Kilsyth town centre will be within the second phase to be progressed, and it is planned to commence survey and consultation work on the Kilsyth town centre framework in early 2013. This will follow the same process as is being undertaken for the Cumbernauld town centre framework. Details of survey periods, survey locations and workshop events will be

advertised nearer the time, and updates provided at future cycles of the Local Area Partnership.

- 2.5 A capital bid for Town Centres is currently under preparation for the five year period from 2013/14 – 2017/18 to secure funding for delivery of future capital projects and initiatives in each town centre through the new Frameworks and associated action plans. Future Partnership meetings will be advised of the progress of the bid in relation to Cumbernauld and Kilsyth.

3. Cumbernauld Town Centre Action Plan

Central Way Corridor

- 3.1 Additional fencing works along Central Way corridor, involving an additional stretch of fencing above the crash barriers between the north and south bus stances and further curved panels around the new lampposts have now been completed. Re-surfacing work to the westbound carriageway has also been undertaken by Roads and Transportation.
- 3.2 Revised lighting designs have been prepared for the area in between the bus stances and will be issued to community groups and councillors in the Cumbernauld area for feedback. The lighting proposals will aim to improve the sense of safety and arrival into Cumbernauld town centre, and also to improve road lighting levels in the area under the building canopy.
- 3.3 Design work is also being progressed by the Council's Roads Design team for first phase improvements at the Cumbernauld town centre bus stances, following the award of a £150,000 grant by Strathclyde Partnership for Transport. The works will focus on improving external kerb waiting areas at the south bus stances and improving the operation of both the north and south bus stances by implementing appropriate and feasible bus priority measures. The proposals will be circulated in mid-October to Councillors and community groups, and will require to be discussed and agreed with SPT and the Network Maintenance Team prior to finalisation. A Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) will require to be submitted for the designation of formal bus lanes along sections of Central Way.

Cumbernauld town centre signage strategy

- 3.4 Agreement is awaited from the three shopping centre managers on matters of long term maintenance responsibility and access arrangements to implement the Cumbernauld town centre internal wayfinding signage project. Positive discussions have been undertaken with two of the three owners. However progress with the third owner has been slow due to the centre recently having gone into administration. The Council is attempting to arrange a meeting with the administrators and their managing agents in an effort to reach agreement with them, to allow this project to proceed. Detailed design work is meanwhile progressing on the proposed entrance signs and associated landscaping at town centre east and town centre west roundabout. It is anticipated that the signs will be manufactured and installed on site in early 2013, subject to necessary permissions being secured.

4. Cumbernauld Village Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme

- 4.1 Improvement works to 22 shop or business premises through a group Shopfront Improvement Grants programme are now largely complete. This programme has resulted in improved signage, new doors, new and refurbished windows (some with ornate grilles), in keeping with the Conservation Area's character, as well as necessary repair work, e.g. to rainwater goods, stonework and render, with associated redecoration. Under the Householder Grants scheme, 25 applications have been approved and works carried out to over 20 properties. These grant aided improvements consist primarily of timber window refurbishment/ replacement work and repairs to slate roofs and chimneys.

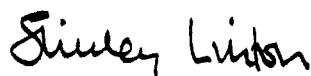
4.2 In addition to the small grant schemes, there are four priority buildings identified within the Cumbernauld Village CARS. Refurbishment works to Ardenlea House, the former library/museum behind the Village Hall, have progressed on site with replacement timber sash windows now fitted, following its sale by auction in Spring 2012. For the former Village Primary School, the Cumbernauld House Trust and Cumbernauld Village Action for the Community (CVAC) continue to develop their proposal to refurbish the building for community and charity hub uses, with the support of North Lanarkshire Council. Big Lottery Fund (£10,000) and a small CARS grant (£4,100) have been used to prepare an overall Feasibility Study and an Architectural Feasibility Study to assess viable use options within this community/ charity remit. It is anticipated that funding application(s) for refurbishment works to the former Primary School will be submitted by the Trust in 2012, including to the Big Lottery Fund's Growing Community Assets programme. The Category B Listed former Villager (now Circle) public house has been refurbished internally and re-opened in Autumn 2011; roof repair grants may be available for this (with the owner currently seeking quotations) and the 4th priority building, the Category C Listed Spur public house.

5. Town Centre Activities Christmas Programme

5.1 Town Centre Activities in conjunction with Cumbernauld Shopping Centre will host this year's Cumbernauld Christmas event which will culminate in the Christmas Lights in Central Way, and the internal Centre's own Christmas Lights, being switched on by the Provost or Deputy Provost at the same time on Saturday 17 November, signifying the official start of Christmas Shopping. TCA are presently organising a festive programme of entertainment to precede the switch-on both here and in all other town centres, including Kilsyth on Friday 30 November.

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 or Richard Cartwright on 01236 632628 (19 September 2012)