

REPORT

To: NORTHERN LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIP		Subject: CUMBERNAULD & KILSYTH TOWN CENTRES REPORT
From: HEAD OF PLANNING & REGENERATION		
Date: 24 October 2013	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 draft Framework and Action Plan for Cumbernauld town centre has been prepared by North Lanarkshire Council, Planning and Regeneration. The aims, outcomes and actions within the Framework and Action Plan have been informed by a Town Centre Health Check (TCHC) of Cumbernauld town centre and feedback from survey and consultation work undertaken between Autumn 2012 – Spring 2013. The findings of the Scottish Government's National Review of Town Centres have also been taken into account. The draft Framework and Action Plan has been circulated for comment to Local Councillors representing Cumbernauld Wards and to the Cumbernauld Community Forum. The draft documents are also available to view on the Cumbernauld town centre page www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/cumbernauld of the council's website. The Framework and Action Plan together set out the strategy for Cumbernauld town centre over the next 10 years and are supported by the Cumbernauld Town Centre Health Check. A formal public consultation period will follow in early 2014.

2.2 Kilsyth Town Centre Framework and Action Plan

A second stage consultation workshop for council officers, Local Councillors and public sector partners was held in September. This will be followed by a workshop with Kilsyth and Village Community Forum in November. The second stage workshops focus on the key issues and opportunities for Kilsyth town centre as identified through the first stage consultation work. Also the draft aims, outcomes and actions for the new Kilsyth Town Centre Framework and Action Plan and how action can be taken forward in partnership. Summary reports of the first stage consultation are available on the Kilsyth town centre page of the Council's website www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/kilsyth. Summary reports of the second stage consultation programme will be added to the page once available. The results of the second stage consultation will inform the preparation of a draft Framework and Action Plan for Kilsyth town centre, which will be circulated in November 2013. Recommendations from a recent Built Environment Forum Scotland (BEFS) study of Kilsyth town centre will also be taken into account. This will be followed by a formal public consultation period in early 2014.

3. Cumbernauld Town Centre Action PlanCumbernauld town centre open spaces

- 3.1 Proposals have been prepared by North Lanarkshire Council, Landscape Services, for environmental improvement and landscape works to six sites in Cumbernauld town centre within the ownership of Campsies Centre (Cumbernauld) Ltd (CCCL) and North Lanarkshire Council. It is intended that works at these sites will be implemented through one contract, to be awarded and implementation this financial year 2013/14 and jointly funded by CCCL and North Lanarkshire Council. The works are part of wider aims to improve the environment in Cumbernauld town centre through a green70and cleaning programme, as set out in the draft Cumbernauld Town Centre Action Plan.

3.2 Cumbernauld town centre signage strategy

Agreement has now been received from all three shopping centre managers to the Cumbernauld town centre internal wayfinding signage project and a contractor has been appointed to manufacture and install the signs. 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. An implementation programme is currently being discussed with the sign supplier and each shopping centre manager.

4. National Review of Town Centres

4.1 Further to the publication of the recommendations from the External Advisory Group to the Scottish Government on a national review of town centres, the Scottish Government is considering the report with a view to producing an action plan for Scotland's town centres this autumn. The action plan will set out the Government's response in the first instance and go on to invite local authorities, communities and other key sectors to contribute to its development. The report entitled "Community and Enterprise in Scotland's Town Centres" is available to view on-line at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/07/7250>.

5. Town Centre Activities

5.1 Vacancy Rates & Footfall:

TOWN CENTRE DATA (as at 18th September 2013)						FOOTFALL VARIATIONS		
TOWN CENTRE	No of Business units	No of Active businesses	New Businesses	Closed Businesses	VOID UNITS*	July 2013 to Aug 2013	Aug 2012 to Aug 2013	Q1 2012/13 to Q1 2013/14***
Airdrie	312	285	5	7	27 (8.5%)	3.14%	-4.66%	6.75%
Bellshill	145	132	2	0	13 (8.96%)	1.52%	-6.55%	-6.50%
Coatbridge	238	203	4	1	35 (14.7%)	-1.27%	-5.36%	2.04%
Cumbernauld	212	170	2	3	42 (20%)	-0.34%	21.47%	16.61%
Kilsyth	95	81	0	1	14 (14.7%)	-0.54%	-2.02%	-4.33%
Motherwell	278	252	4	3	26 (9.3%)	6.37%	9.95%	1.13%
Wishaw	301	258	3	2	43 (14.3%)	-9.24%	-0.10%	-5.89%
				UK Av	14.10%			
				Scotland Av	14.90%			

* note that void % can vary according to whether you count shops, businesses, community & charitable uses. Once a year voids are calculated by sq m.

** note that a number of footfall counters have not been operational for full 12 months

*** % from TCA

5.2 Cumbernauld and Kilsyth Events

The Christmas Light Switch On event will take place in Cumbernauld Town Centre on Saturday 16th November and Kilsyth Town Centre on Saturday 30th November 2013.

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 (11 September 2013)