

To: NORTHERN LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIP		Subject: CUMBERNAULD & KILSYTH TOWN CENTRES REPORT
From: HEAD OF PLANNING & REGENERATION		
Date: 24 October 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

Cumbernauld Town Centre Framework and Action Plan

- 2.1 As previously reported, the council has prepared 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. The comments received on the draft are being fed into finalised version Town Centre Action Plan with a view to adopting it formally as Supplementary Guidance to the North Lanarkshire Local Plan by end of 2014. The latest documents will be available online at www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/Cumbernauldconsultation and will be 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 in early 2015. 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 & underpasses

- 3.1 The Cumbernauld town centre open spaces contract has now been completed. Officers are now looking at how the various underpasses and footpaths around the Town Centre might be enhanced to facilitate links into the town centre and their safe use.

Cumbernauld town centre signage strategy

- 3.2 The internal wayfinding signage project has now been completed. The new signs are being installed in each of the three shopping centres and link to the external wayfinding signage throughout the town centre.

3.3 Cumbernauld Bus Stances

Officers are now working with HubCo South West to develop more detailed costing and design details for enhancing the Bus Stances. Detailed negotiations will continue to take place with the relevant owners and with SPT and others to seek to co-ordinate legal agreements and funding.

4. Town Centre Activities Update

4.1 In Cumbernauld footfall is 1% down on a year ago – whereas footfall in Kilsyth shows little change. Cumbernauld remains with the highest vacancy rate of North Lanarkshire centres at 22.3% (48 units). Kilsyth town centre has a vacancy rate of 12.5% (12 units), below the national average. Vacancy rates across north Lanarkshire stand at 13% which is just below the UK average of 13.9%.

Town Centre	Total No of Available Units	Total No of Active Businesses	New Business	Business Closed	Void Units (% vacancy rate)	Footfall between Q1 14/15 w Q4 13/14	Footfall between Q4 13/14 and Q4 14/15
Airdrie	316*	228	14	3	28(8.8%)	14.2%	4.95%
Bellshill	145	136	5	2	9(6.3%)	12.22%	2.8%
Coatbridge	228	181	2	6	47(20.6%)	13.74%	2.4%
Cumbernauld	215	167	5	6	48(22.3%)	7.68%	-1.06%
Kilsyth	96	84	2	1	12(12.5%)	9.56%	0.09%
Motherwell	278	257	9	5	21(7.5%)	14%	15.99%
Wishaw	302	259	5	4	43(14.9%)	-8.04%	-12.62%
TOTAL:	1580	1372	42	27	208(13.1%)		

Source: TCA – Q1 2014/15 (Sept 2014)

4.2 A free wi-fi scheme was 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' took place throughout July and August. Christmas switch-on events are planned for Saturday 15th November 2014 3:30 – 4:30pm for Cumbernauld and Thursday 27th November 2014 3:30 – 4:30pm for Kilsyth.

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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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)