

To: BELLSHILL LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIP		Subject: BELLSHILL TOWN CENTRE ACTION PLAN UPDATE
From: HEAD OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT		
Date: 17 January 2013	Ref: SP/03/12/SP	

## 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report seeks to update the Partnership and Committee on the progress made on the Bellshill Town Centre Action Plan.

## 2 Bellshill Town Centre Framework and Action Plan

- 2.1 The Bellshill Town Centre Action Plan was approved by North Lanarkshire Council's Planning & Environment (Roads & Transport Sub Committee) in December 2001 as the basis for the regeneration of Bellshill Town Centre.
- 2.2 Physical works in the current Action Plan have been completed for Bellshill. The Council will determine its capital Plan for the period 2013/14 to 2017/18 in early 2013 and the partnership will be advised of any budget allocation for the town centre at a future meeting.
- 2.3 The Council is currently progressing survey and consultation work associated with the first phase of town centre frameworks which will form the basis of the new Town Centre Action Plans. Bellshill town centre will be within the second phase to be progressed and it is planned to commence survey and consultation work on the Bellshill town centre framework in spring 2013. This will involve undertaking surveys with town centre businesses and traders and customer perception surveys with town the people of Bellshill and other town centre users. The customer perception surveys will be undertaken using survey machines located in key buildings and facilities in the town centre. Customers will also be able to participate in the survey online on the Council's website. Workshops and drop-in sessions will also be arranged with Council services, Local Members, partners, town centre stakeholders, trader representatives, community and local interest groups. It is anticipated that the survey work for Bellshill will commence in February/ March 2013 with first phase of workshop events being held in April 2013. All points raised will go online at [www.northlan.gov.uk/bellshill](http://www.northlan.gov.uk/bellshill). The aim is to have the updated Bellshill town centre framework and action plan completed by autumn 2013. Future partnership meetings will be informed of progress and members involved as the framework develops.

## 3. Town Centre Activities

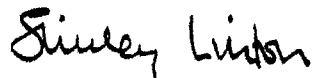
- 3.1 Bellshill had no new businesses opening or any closures during November 2012. The business (retail and offices) unit vacancy rate at that time was 7.3%. Although the Christmas light switch on attracted a large crowd, footfall was down when compared with November 2011.

## 4. Business Improvement Districts

- 4.1 The Council is currently looking into the potential for establishing Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) in North Lanarkshire's town centres. A BID is a defined area within which a levy is generated from all non domestic ratepayers and used to provide services additional to local authority baseline services. A BID is also conditional on strong support from the private sector via a formal ballot and must have the support of the local authority to succeed.
- 4.2 The growth of BIDs in Scotland has been steady since 2008 with 17 now established and a further 16 in development, covering 20 local authority areas. At its meeting on 22 November 2012, the Policy and Resources (Regeneration and Infrastructure) Sub Committee approved further work on BIDs. The work will involve engaging with town centre businesses to raise awareness of BIDs and assessing whether any of the town centres would like to work toward developing a pilot BID for North Lanarkshire. The work is scheduled to be completed by the end of April 2013.

## **5. Recommendations**

- 5.1 It is recommended that the Local Area Partnership note progress made on the projects and initiatives contained within the Bellshill Town Centre Action Plan.



**SHIRLEY LINTON**  
**HEAD OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT**

Local Government Access to Information Act: for further information about this report, please contact Shirley Penman on 01236 632633 (4 December 2012)