

**NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL**

**REPORT**

To: COATBRIDGE LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIP		Subject: COATBRIDGE TOWN CENTRE ACTION PLAN
From: HEAD OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT		
Date: 9 April 2013	Ref: SP/03/12/JT	

**1. Purpose of Report**

1.1 This report seeks to update the Partnership and Committee on the progress made on the preparation of Coatbridge Town Centre Framework and Action Plan, the delivery of Coatbridge projects and Town Centre Activities initiatives.

**2. Coatbridge Town Centre Framework and Action Plan**

2.1 The Council has been progressing survey and consultation work to inform the preparation of a new Framework and Action Plan for Coatbridge Town Centre. Business and customer perception surveys were undertaken throughout September, October and November 2012. First stage consultation workshops were held in November 2012, and these were followed by a public drop-in session in the Quadrant Shopping Centre and second stage consultation workshops in February 2013. Feedback from this consultation programme, along with the results of a Town Centre Health Check of Coatbridge town centre has informed the preparation of main aims, priorities and actions for the new Town Centre Framework and Action Plan. It is intended that the draft Coatbridge Town Centre Framework document will be advertised and circulated for public consultation in May 2013. This is to allow time for the findings of the Scottish Government's National Review of Town Centres, due to be published in the spring, to be taken into account.

2.2 Two newsletters which summarise the input to the consultation to date are available on the council's website [www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/coatbridge](http://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/coatbridge). Copies have been placed in the Buchanan Centre.

**3. Capital Budget**

3.1 The Council determined its Capital Plan for the period 2013/14 to 2017/18 in March 2013. It was confirmed in report to Policy and Resources Committee that there has been no capital funding allocated to Coatbridge within the Town Centres Capital Budget.

**4. Coatbridge Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme**

4.1 Historic Scotland announced in January 2013 that Coatbridge's bid for a new Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) for the central part of the Coatbridge (Blairhill and Dunbeth) Conservation Area was unsuccessful. The decision was made despite letters of support for the bid received from the MP, MSP's, the Community Forum and other local groups. The fifth round of Historic Scotland CARS program saw 25 applications seeking £24 million from a £10 million funding allocation.

4.2 Officers had a follow up meeting with Historic Scotland to better understand why the bid was unsuccessful. Historic Scotland has agreed to make the scoring basis used to assess schemes available. It is to be noted that the former "fair geographical spread" of grant funding is also no longer an Historic Scotland objective, and that a growing number (28%) of CARS schemes are

also in receipt of Lottery THI (Townscape Heritage Initiative) funding. The new THI funding scheme will be assessed as to whether it would be appropriate for Coatbridge.

## 5. Town Centre Activities

- 5.1 Town Centre Activities report that whilst the UK footfall figures for October, November and December show a national average fall of 4% on the same period last year, Coatbridge is lower than the national average at -1.75%.

### Footfall within Coatbridge

Town Centre	Q2 Jul-Sep 2012/13	Q3 Oct-Dec 2012/13	% comparison between Q2 and Q3	Q3 Oct -Dec 2011/12	% comparison Q3 2011/12 and Q3 2012/13
Coatbridge	1737149	1748664	0.66%	1779828	-1.75%

- 5.2 **CCTV Incident Analysis** - There were a total number of 185 incidents recorded for quarter 3 of 2012/13 for Coatbridge Town Centre.
- 5.3 **Coatbridge Events** - TCA will be delivering summer events and continue promoting the Live Local, Shop Local. On the 10<sup>th</sup> August TCA will host the first Wee Fair Day bringing local traders and community groups together. The next Coatbridge Business and Community Alliance will meet again on the 3<sup>rd</sup> April at 5.15pm.

## 6. Business Improvement Districts

- 6.1 As reported at the last meeting, the Council is currently looking into the potential for establishing Business Improvement Districts (BID) 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. Work to engage with town centre businesses to raise awareness of BIDs is underway with events **in Airdrie on Wednesday 20 March** at the Tudor Hotel at 5.30pm and the second event was **in Motherwell on Wednesday 27 March** at the Moorings Hotel at 5.30pm. This work is scheduled to be completed by the end of April 2013 and reported in due course.

## 7. Project updates

- 7.1 Monkland Steering Group are delivering a series of heritage environment and access improvements along the Monkland Canal Heritage Path/ National Cycle Network Route 75 Glasgow to Edinburgh. These aim to link Summerlee with the Monkland canal and wider environment. The works are financed with a shared funding package from Sustrans, EKF, WREN with contribution from NLC amongst others. Completed projects include: Blair Bridge, Drumpelzier Platform and Calderbank Bridge and there is also an ongoing project to float a replica of the Vulcan, the first iron hulled boat built in Scotland, for use as a classroom.
- 7.2 Work continues to find a positive use for Carnegie Library.
- 7.3 Traffic and Transportation have allocated £35,000 for repair of Merrystone Road Bridge at Blairhill Street within the Conservation Area (the bridge at Blair Street is also to be repaired). The contract is let this financial year and is due to continue into next financial year.
- 7.4 Stone repair works are being undertaken in Monklands canal basin and also the replacement of litter bins in Coatbridge Main Street is due for completion by the end of March 2013

## 8. Dundyvan Church

- 8.1 Legal services are continuing to seek reimbursement of costs from the owner of Dundyvan Church. The costs were incurred by the council in relation to the works carried out in default after

the serving of an Amenity Notice last year and also to monitor the security of the site. The council's legal services are progressing the necessary actions.

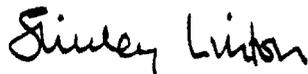
- 8.2 A contractor has been appointed to secure the site following locals entering Dundyvan Church via openings that have been created in the former windows. The works went out to tender to 4 companies recently and the appointment was made on the lowest price. The contractor is due to start work on the site on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March. The works to be undertaken include bricking up of nine of the former church windows, two openings in the wall of the church that have been created and infilling an opening in the ground (approx 3 foot deep). As similar to the previous works, the Council shall charge the owner of the site for the works that are to be undertaken.

## **9. Town Centre parking update**

- 9.1 A project estimate is being developed for a DDA compliant pedestrian ramp access to Monklands Hospital. Some tentative investigations have taken place regarding the possibility of providing a Park & Ride facility to the north side of Coatdyke Station, however, any such proposal would be dependent upon land ownership agreements and the need to improve the access road. Partnership will be kept informed of progress.

## **10. Recommendations**

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



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**HEAD OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT**

Local Government Access to Information Act: for further information about this report, please contact Jennifer Thomson on 01236 632625, or Richard Cartwright on CARS on 01236 632628.  
(18 March 2013)