

To: COATBRIDGE LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIP		Subject: COATBRIDGE TOWN CENTRE ACTION PLAN UPDATE
From: HEAD OF PLANNING & REGENERATION		
Date: 29 JULY 2014	Ref: SP/03/12/SP	

1. Purpose of Report

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

2. Coatbridge Town Centre Framework and Action Plan

- 2.1 The Council continues work on Town Centre Frameworks and Action Plans for all town centres. A guidance note which sets out the process for preparing these Frameworks can be viewed at www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/towncentres.
- 2.2 Public consultation on the finalised draft Coatbridge Town Centre Framework and Action Plan will take place during August / September. The deadline for comments is Friday, 12 September 2014 at 16.45 hours.

3. Project Updates

- 3.1 As previously reported, no funding was allocated to Coatbridge in the Council's Capital Programme for the period 2013/14 to 2017/18. Consequently the new Framework and Action Plan for Coatbridge will need to identify opportunities for external funding.
- 3.2 A revised bid to Historic Scotland for Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) funding is currently being prepared for submission in August. If the bid is successful grant funding would be available from 2015 for premises which have been identified as priorities for shopfront improvements.

4. Town Centre Activities

- 4.1 Overall Coatbridge is noted as having the second highest vacancy rate of 18% (41 units) when compared with the other town centres in North Lanarkshire.
- 4.2 Footfall for the period January to March 2014, as recorded on the automated counters located throughout the town centre was 5% down on the level recorded in the previous quarter and nearly 7% less than that recorded in January to March 2013.

Town Centre	Total No of Available Units	Total No of Active Businesses	New Business	Business Closed	Void Units (% vacancy rate)	Footfall between Q4 13/14 w Q3 13/14	Footfall between Q4 12/13 and Q4 13/14
Airdrie	312	278	2	2	34 (10.8%)	-5%	-0.01%
Bellshill	145	136	3	2	9 (6.3%)	-2%	5.64%
Coatbridge	228	187	1	3	41 (18%)	-5%	-6.85%
Cumbernauld	215	168	4	4	47 (21.8%)	-4%	8.35%
Kilsyth	96	86	5	1	10 (10.4%)	-6%	-0.25%
Motherwell	278	254	1	3	24 (8.6%)	-7.5%	10.95%
Wishaw	302	258	5	7	44 (14.9%)	-7%	-1.12%
TOTAL:	1576	1367	21	22	209 (13.3%)		

Source: TCA - Q4 2013/14 (June 2014)

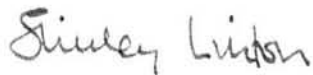
- 4.3 A free wi-fi scheme has now been rolled out to Coatbridge as part of benefiting both businesses and shoppers. Registration requires a valid email address. After initial registration users are automatically connected each time they are in range in the Town Centre. The initial scheme in Motherwell 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 'Friday Frolics' will take place throughout July and the Beach Party is being held on 8th August.

5 Key Buildings

- 5.1 **Carnegie Library:** Following the theft of lead from the roof temporary waterproofing measures have been undertaken.
- 5.2 **Bank Street Terrace:** Clyde Valley HA has now had their noise report and is identifying the extra costs of addressing the airborne and ground vibration aspects. The terrace is likely to need to be physically separated from the railway viaduct.
- 5.3 **Dundyvan Church:** Whilst the costs of initial boundary works and other works to opening to address amenity and safety issues have been recovered the state of the site is of ongoing concern. The property is currently being marketed by its owners. Officers are evaluating options.

6 Recommendation

- 6.1 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 & REGENERATION

Local Government Access to Information Act: for further information about this report, please contact Shirley Penman or Dave Sutton on 01236 632636 (23 June 2014)