

To: COATBRIDGE LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIP		Subject: COATBRIDGE TOWN CENTRE ACTION PLAN UPDATE
From: HEAD OF PLANNING & REGENERATION		
Date: 14 October 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 October/ November 14. The documents will be available online through the Planning Consultation hub for a period of 8 weeks.

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 was submitted at the end of August 14. The Council will be advised of the outcome at by end of January 2015. If the bid is successful grant funding would be available from April 2015 on for premises which have been identified as priorities for shopfront improvements, and to assist in tackling key Town Centre buildings – such as Bank Street and Carnegie Library.

4. Town Centre Activities

- 4.1 Overall Coatbridge is noted as having the second highest vacancy rate of 20.6% (47 units) when compared with the other town centres in North Lanarkshire.
- 4.2 Footfall figures for the period April to June 2014, as recorded on the automated counters located throughout the town centre, show an increase in levels of activity compared to the previous quarter January to March, and a year ago.

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*	288	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)

*The vacant Rialto building in Airdrie has had some considerable private investment and has now been renovated into 5 new shop units with flats above.

- 4.3 'Friday Frolics' took place throughout July and the Beach Party was held on 8th August. The next activity to be held in Coatbridge town centre is the Christmas Lights Switch on, which will take place on Friday, 28 November 14 between 3.30pm and 4.30pm.
- 4.4 The Christmas Light Switch-On event in Coatbridge is programmed for 3:30 – 4:30pm on Friday 28th November 2014.

5 Key Buildings

- 5.1 **Carnegie Library:** Clyde Valley Housing Association (CVHA) has appointed MAST Architects to assess the viability of redeveloping this 'B' Listed Building for residential use.
- 5.2 **Bank Street Terrace:** Clyde Valley Housing association (CVHA) has acquired this property with a view to delivering the conversion of the vacant/ derelict 'C' Listed Building from mixed commercial / residential properties to affordable housing. CVHA commissioned a noise and vibration survey due proximity of the adjacent railway bridge. The survey has revealed that mitigation is required to separate the building from the railway to reduce potential problems with vibration.
- 5.3 **Dundyvan Church:** The state of the building continues to be monitored. With some of the funds now recovered the owner is generally keeping the site more secure, whilst being actively marketed by the owners.

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.

Shirley Linton

**SHIRLEY LINTON
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 (8 September 2014)