

**NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL
REPORT**

To: PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE		Subject: Designing North Lanarkshire
From: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT		
Date: 28 March 2007	Ref: D/PL/EPT/42/40/LB	

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report informs Members of progress to date on the Council's design strategy entitled 'Designing North Lanarkshire'.

2. Background

- 2.1 Members will recall approving the text for the document at the meeting on 7th June 2006. The finalised document was designed by the Council's consultants for this project Anderson Bell Christie and was launched to staff at a series of training events held in December 2006. This represents the first step in an ambitious initiative that seeks to improve the overall quality of design across the Council area.
- 2.2 The Strategy establishes some key principles for developing design policies and guidance and suggests a range of ways in which these principles can be put into practice.

3. Next Steps

- 3.1 The document will now be made available to the Council's partner organisations, developers and other interested parties. Copies of the strategy have been placed in the Members' Library.
- 3.2 A programme of training for staff on design related matters is currently being developed for roll-out in 2007-09, this reflects the emphasis being placed on the importance of achieving good design to improve the quality of places by the Scottish Executive.
- 3.3 Design policies will be developed as part of the preparation of the Finalised Local Plan and this will be complemented by supplementary planning guidance.

4. Sustainability Implications

- 4.1 It is widely recognised that promoting, and ultimately securing, good quality design through the development process has a range of environmental, social and economic benefits. This can make a significant contribution towards securing many of the Council's corporate priorities, particularly the need to ensure that people have access to good quality housing and a pleasant safe environment.
- 4.2 In particular good quality design can assist in the regeneration process, lifting the image of the area. It can help create well-connected, inclusive and accessible places that relate to their

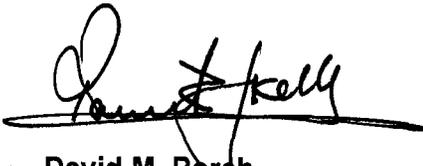
surroundings. Other benefits include enhanced safety and security, reduced maintenance costs and helping to establish or reinforce local sense of identity.

5 Corporate Considerations

5.1 Securing better quality design requires to be achieved through close working between a range of Council Services who together contribute towards the quality of the built and natural environment across North Lanarkshire. Implementation and actions may require new working practices to be introduced and staff training costs, which will be met through the existing training budget.

6 Recommendations

6.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes the publication of Designing North Lanarkshire and the development of the design initiative.



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DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT
(12 March 2007)

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