

To: COATBRIDGE LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIP		Subject: COATBRIDGE TOWN CENTRE ACTION PLAN UPDATE
From: HEAD OF PLANNING & REGENERATION		
Date: 13 January 2015	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 consultative draft Coatbridge Town Centre Framework and Action Plan began on 5 November 2014 and comments can be submitted until 4.15pm on Friday, 30 January 2015. The Framework and Action Plan documents are available on the Council's website along with a comments form to enable individuals to make their comments.

2.3 The documents will be updated following the consultation period. Committee approval will be sought early in the New Year to enable the adoption of the Coatbridge Town Centre Action Plan as Supplementary Planning Guidance to the North Lanarkshire Local Plan (2012).

3. Capital Budget

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 Representatives of Historic Scotland visited Coatbridge on 25 November 2014 as part of the assessment of the Council's bid for funding through their Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS). Historic Scotland will advise the Council of their decision on the bid by the end of January 2015. If the bid is successful grant funding would be available from April 2015 for premises which have been identified as priorities for shopfront improvements, and to assist in tackling key town centre buildings including 7- 13 Bank Street and the Carnegie Library.

4. Town Centre Activities Update

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	287	1	2	29(9.1%)	-2%	1.1%
Bellshill	145	136	3	3	9(6.2%)	-2.8%	-1.6%
Coatbridge	230	182	4	4	48(20.8%)	2%	2.4%
Cumbernauld	215	169	3	1	46(21.3%)	2.77%	0.26%
Kilsyth	97	81	2	1	16(16.4%)	0.4%	-4.87%
Motherwell	278	254	2	5	24(8.63%)	-7.5%	10.95%
Wishaw	301	255	5	4	46(15.2%)	-22%	-11%
TOTAL:	1582	1364	20	20	218(13.7%)		

Source TCA Q2 2014/15 (Nov 2014)

- 4.1 Coatbridge continues to have a high vacancy rate - at just over 20.8% (48 units) when compared to the other town centres in North Lanarkshire. In the period from July to September 2014 four businesses opened and four closed.
- 4.2 Footfall figures for the period July to September 2014, as recorded on automated counters located throughout the centre, show an increase in levels of activity compared to the previous quarter April to June 2014, and a year ago.
- 4.3 Town Centre Wi-Fi received 444 new registrations between July and September this year bringing the total registrations to 517. There have been 2432 log-ins over the period.

TOWN CENTRE WI-FI	Airdrie	Bellshill	Coatbridge	Kilsyth	Motherwell	Wishaw
New Registrations	1,272	795	444	73	2,467	442
Total Registrations	1,284	902	517	75	6,841	1,512
Total Log-ins	11,483	6,704	2,432	281	26,787	5,770

Source: TCA Ltd July - September 2014

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 It is recommended that the Local Area Partnership note progress made on 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 on 01236 632633 (1 December 2014)