

REPORT

To: BELLSHILL LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIP		Subject : BELLSHILL TOWN CENTRE ACTION PLAN UPDATE	
From: HEAD OF PLANNING AND REGENERATION			
Date: 30 July 2015	Ref: PL/DIT/12/		

1. Purpose of Report

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

2. Bellshill 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 The Bellshill Town Centre Framework and Action Plan have been reviewed and revised, where appropriate, to take account of comments received during the final public consultation period earlier this year. Committee approval will be sought in August to enable the adoption of the Bellshill Town Centre Action Plan as Supplementary Guidance to the North Lanarkshire Local Plan 2012 and subsequent Local Development Plan.

3. Capital Budget

3.1 As previously reported, no funding was allocated to Bellshill in the Council's Capital Programme for the period 2013/14 to 2017/18. Consequently the new Framework and Action Plan for Bellshill will need to identify opportunities for external funding.

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 Q4 14/15 & Q3 14/15	Footfall between Q4 13/14 & Q4 14/15
Airdrie	316	291	4	0	25 (7.9%)	-10%	-5%
Bellshill	146	138	3	3	8 (5.4%)	-12%	-7%
Coatbridge	230	187	4	0	43 (18.6%)	-10%	-1%
Cumbernauld	215	175	4	3	40 (18.6%)	-5%	-6%
Kilsyth	97	84	1	0	13 (13.4%)	-7%	-3%
Motherwell	278	251	0	3	27 (9.7%)	-12%	-2%
Wishaw*	301	255	2	2	46 (15.2%)		
TOTAL	1583	1381	18	11	202 (12.7%)		

* Wishaw footfall counters have been displaced due to streetscape works. Current year figures are therefore not directly comparable with previous year figures.

4.1 Bellshill continues to have the lowest vacancy rate at 5.4% (8 units) when compared with the other town centres in North Lanarkshire. In the period from January to March 2015 three businesses opened and three businesses closed.

4.2 Footfall figures for the period January to March 2015, as recorded on automated counters located throughout the town centre, show a decrease of 12% in levels of activity compared to the previous quarter, October to December 2014. During January to March 2015, footfall fell by 7% when compared with the same period in 2014.

- 4.3 Town Centre Wi-Fi received 161 new registrations between January and March 2015 and there were 5922 log-ins in total. Comparative figures for the other town centres are as follows:

TOWN CENTRE Wi-Fi	Airdrie	Bellshill	Coatbridge	Kilsyth	Motherwell	Wishaw
New Registrations	197	161	179	47	572	224
Total Log-ins	6,555	5,922	9,724	1,378	22,916	11,849

Source: TCA, Quarter 4 2014/15

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes the content of this report.



SHIRLEY LINTON
HEAD OF PLANNING AND REGENERATION

Local Government Access to Information Act: for further information about this report,
Please contact Shirley Penman on 01236 632633 (25 June 2015)