

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: BELLSHILL LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIP		Subject : BELLSHILL TOWN CENTRE ACTION PLAN UPDATE
From: HEAD OF PLANNING AND REGENERATION		
Date: 8 October 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 October 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

4.1 The table below summarises the key findings of the business activity for the 7 town centres for quarter 1, April and June 2015/16.

Town Centre	Total No. of Available Units	Total No. of Active Businesses	New Business	Business Closed	Void Units (% vacancy rate)	Footfall Between Q1 15/16 & Q4 14/15	Footfall between Q1 14/15 & Q1 15/16
Airdrie	316	294	3	0	22 (6.9%)	8.9%	-9.4%
Bellshill	146	139	1	0	7 (4.7%)	4.7%	-13%
Coatbridge	230	184	1	4	46 (20%)	9.2%	-5.2%
Cumbernauld	215	174	1	2	41 (19%)	7.8%	6%
Kilsyth	97	85	1	0	12 (12.3%)	7.3%	-5.4%
Motherwell	278	253	0	4	25 (8.9%)	9.8%	-4.3%
Wishaw*	301	252	0	3	49 (16.2%)		
TOTAL	1583	1374	7	13	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.

4.2 The number of vacant units in Bellshill has fallen once more, with only 7 units empty at the end of quarter 1. Bellshill continues to be the top performing town in North Lanarkshire, with a vacancy rate which is less than half of the UK average.

- 4.3 Footfall figures for the period April to June 2015, as recorded on automated counters located throughout the town centre, show an increase of 4.7% in levels of activity compared to the previous quarter, January to March 2015. During April to June 2015, footfall fell by 13% when compared with the same period in 2014.
- 4.4 Eighty five new registrations were recorded on the town centre wifi between April and June 2015 with a total of 728 log ins. A technical problem, which was rectified by the replacement of equipment, accounts for the fall in the total number of log ins in this quarter.

TOWN CENTRE Wi-Fi	Airdrie	Bellshill	Coatbridge	Kilsyth	Motherwell	Wishaw
New Registrations	232	85	146	46	400	136
Total Log-ins	12629	728*	2111	731	11855	4978

* Within Q1 equipment was replaced in Bellshill. This accounts for the fall in the total number of log ins in this quarter.

- 4.5 The Christmas Light Switch On event will take place in Bellshill on Thursday, 19th November 15. Like last year, the event will take the form of a pantomime specially written for TCA, based on the story of Mother Goose, and starring Edward Reid and local actors. Audience participation will be a big part of the event.

5. Recommendations

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

Shirley Linton

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 (4 September 2015)