

REPORT

To: NORTH LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIP		Subject : CUMBERNAULD & KILSYTH TOWN CENTRES REPORT
From: HEAD OF PLANNING AND REGENERATION		
Date: 15 October 2015	Ref: PL/DIT/12/	

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report seeks to update the Partnership and Committee on progress made in delivering the regeneration of Cumbernauld and Kilsyth Town Centres. It also provides an update on progress made on the preparation of new Town Centre Frameworks and Action Plans for both town centres.

2. Town Centre Frameworks and Action Plans

- 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.

Cumbernauld

- 2.2 The Cumbernauld Town Centre Framework and Action Plan have been reviewed and revised, where appropriate, to take account of comments received during the final consultation period. Committee approval will be sought in October to enable the adoption of the Cumbernauld Town Centre Action Plan as Supplementary Guidance to the North Lanarkshire Local Plan 2012 and subsequent Local Development Plan.

Kilsyth

- 2.3 Consultation on the draft Kilsyth Town Centre Framework and Action Plan has been delayed to enable the incorporation of the Kelvin Valley Action Plan within the Town Centre Action Plan. This will give the Kelvin Valley Action Plan a statutory status which it would not have otherwise. It is anticipated that public consultation on the draft documents will over an 8 week period later in the year. Following consultation, Committee approval will be sought to enable the adoption of the Kilsyth Town Centre / Kelvin Valley Action Plan as Supplementary Guidance to the North Lanarkshire Local Plan 2012 and subsequent Local Development Plan.

3. Project Updates

Cumbernauld Bus Stances and Stops

- 3.1 The detailed design to improve the Central Way bus stances will be developed over the next 6 months with a view to works starting on site in 2016. Work to lengthen the bus bays on North Carbrain Road by the health centre and sport centre is on site and due to be completed mid September. This work is being funded by Strathclyde Partnership for Transport.

Cumbernauld Town Centre Pedestrian Underpasses

- 3.2 The work on the pedestrian underpasses on main routes into the town centre was completed at the beginning of August 15.

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 15/16 & Q414/15	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%)		

Cumbernauld

- 4.1 Cumbernauld continues to have one of the highest vacancy rates at 19% (41 units) when compared with the other town centres in North Lanarkshire. In the period from April to June 2015 one business opened and 2 businesses closed.
- 4.2 Footfall figures for the period April to June 2015, as recorded on automated counters located around the centre (but not in the shopping malls), show an increase of 7.8% in levels of activity compared to the previous quarter, January to March 2015 and increase of 6% in activity when compared with the same period in the previous year.

Kilsyth

- 4.3 Kilsyth has a vacancy rate of 12.3% (12 units). In the period April to June 2015 one new business opened and there were no closures.
- 4.4 Footfall figures for Kilsyth in the period April to June 2015, as recorded on automated counters located around the centre, show an increase of 7.3% in levels of activity compared to the previous quarter January to March 2015, and a decrease of 5.4% when compared with a year ago.
- 4.5 Town Centre Wi-Fi in Kilsyth received 46 new registrations between January and March and there have been 731 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	232	85	146	46	400	136
Total Log-ins	12629	728*	2111	731	11855	4978

Source: TCA, Quarter 1 2015/16

- 4.6 The Christmas Light Switch On events will take place in Cumbernauld on Saturday, 14th November 15 and on Thursday 26th November in Kilsyth. 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 (11 September 2015)