

REPORT

To: NORTH LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIP		Subject : CUMBERNAULD & KILSYTH TOWN CENTRES REPORT
From: HEAD OF PLANNING AND REGENERATION		
Date: 21 January 2016	Ref: PL/DIT/12/	

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report seeks to update the Partnership and Committee on progress with the preparation of new Town Centre Frameworks and Action Plans for Cumbernauld and Kilsyth town centres.

2. Town Centre Frameworks and Action Plans**2.1 Cumbernauld**

The Cumbernauld Town Centre Framework and Action Plan were approved by the Planning and Transportation Committee on 9 December 2015. The Cumbernauld Town Centre Action Plan has now been adopted as Supplementary Guidance to the North Lanarkshire Local Plan 2012.

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 be over an 8 week period early in the new 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.
- 2.4 In October 2015, the Council submitted an application, for £15,000 grant funding, to the Scottish Government's Town Centre Charrette Mainstreaming Programme 2015/16. The proposal was to develop a community vision and action plan for Kilsyth and the Kelvin Valley to address the changing focus of Kilsyth town centre and enhance the visitor economy of the Kelvin Valley. The Council was advised in November that its bid was unsuccessful.

3. Project Updates**Cumbernauld Central Way Bus Stances**

- 3.1 Work on the design stage of the project to adapt and upgrade the Central Way Bus facilities will start in January and take approximately seven months to complete.
- 3.2 The project is being developed by the Council through Hub South West with funding from Campsies Centre Cumbernauld Ltd and Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT). Hub SW is a public-private partnership established to enable cost effective design and construction of community facilities and through which the Cumbernauld Community Enterprise Centre, currently under construction, is being delivered.

- 3.3 The scope of the bus stances project has been informed by the options studies funded by Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) undertaken in 2012 and 2013. The project will look to adapt the existing bus facilities to upgrade their quality, function and appearance.
- 3.4 Community Planning Partners, stakeholders and the community will be consulted on the design as it is developed and will be kept informed as the project progresses.

Cumbernauld Bus Stops

- 3.5 Work to lengthen the bus bays on North Carbrain Road by the health centre and sports centre are now complete. This project was funded by SPT.

The Muirfield Centre (Cumbernauld Community Enterprise Centre)

- 3.6 Construction works for the new Muirfield Centre, offering a mix of community and commercial/voluntary sector office space, have now been on site for over 10 months and are progressing to timetable. The building's brick work, roofing and glazing is almost complete and internal fit out commenced. It is anticipated that the building will be completed by summer 2016 and, managed through Culture NL, will be available for use by community and voluntary groups as well as commercial enterprises from July 2016.
- 3.7 Following the planned opening of this new centre and relocation of local groups in to this new building, the remaining part of the former Muirfield Community Education Centre will be demolished and replaced with a new children's play area due to be completed by November 2016.

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 2, July to September 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 & Q414/15	Footfall between Q1 14/15 & Q1 15/16
Airdrie	316	293	1	2	23 (7.3%)	1.00%	-6.7%
Bellshill	146	139	0	0	7 (4.8%)	8.00%	-3.4%
Coatbridge	230	184	3	3	46 (20%)	2.9%	-4.3%
Cumbernauld	215	173	1	2	42 (19.5%)	3.4%	6.6%
Kilsyth	97	86	0	1	11 (11.3%)	4.6%	-0.7%
Motherwell	278	256	5	2	22 (7.9%)	5.4%	-1.3%
Wishaw*	301	253	1	0	48 (15.9%)	-	-
TOTAL	1,583	1,384	11	10	204 (12.9%)		

Cumbernauld

- 4.2 Cumbernauld continues to have one of the highest vacancy rates at 19.5% (42 units) when compared with the other town centres in North Lanarkshire. In the period from July to September 2015 one business opened and two businesses closed.
- 4.3 Footfall figures for the period July to September 2015, as recorded on automated counters located around the centre (but not in the shopping malls), show an improvement of 3.4% in levels of activity compared to the previous quarter, April to June 2015 and increase of 6.6% in activity when compared with the same period in the previous year.

Kilsyth

- 4.4 Kilsyth has a vacancy rate of 11.3% (11 units). In the period July to September 2015 no new businesses opened and one business closed.
- 4.5 Footfall figures for Kilsyth in the period July to September 2015, as recorded on automated counters located around the centre, show an increase of 4.6% in levels of activity compared to the previous quarter April to June 2015, and a decrease 0.7% when compared with a year ago.

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 (27 November 2015)