

REPORT

To: NORTH LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIP		Subject : CUMBERNAULD & KILSYTH TOWN CENTRES REPORT
From: HEAD OF PLANNING AND REGENERATION		
Date: 14 April 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

- 2.2 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 take place during 2016. 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 Central Way Bus Stances**

- 3.1 Work has started on the site survey and outline design for the adaption and upgrading of the Central Way Bus facilities. The design will take approximately seven months to complete. Dates for public consultation will be confirmed as the design progresses.

- 3.2 The project is being developed by the Council through Hub South West with funding from Campsie 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.

The Muirfield Centre (Cumbernauld Community Enterprise Centre)

- 3.3 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 14 months and are progressing to timetable. External works on the building are almost complete and internal fit out and decoration in progress. It is anticipated that the building will be completed by summer 2016 and, managed through Culture NL, will be handed over for use by community and voluntary groups as well as commercial enterprises on 15th July 2016.

3.4 Following the planned opening of this new centre and relocation of local groups to this new building, the remaining part of the former Muirfield Community Education Centre will be demolished and replaced with greenspace and a new children's play area due to be completed by December 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 3, October to December 2015/16.

North Lanarkshire Town Centre Vacancies September – December 2015					
Town Centre	Total no. of available units	Total no. of active businesses	New businesses	Businesses closed	Void Units (% vacancy rate)
Airdrie	316	286	0	2	30 (9.4%)
Bellshill	146	140	1	0	6 (3.2%)
Coatbridge	230	184	1	1	46 (20%)
Cumbernauld	215	173	1	1	42 (19.5%)
Kilsyth	97	84	2	4	13 (13.4%)
Motherwell	278	258	3	1	20 (7.1%)
Wishaw	301	255	2	0	46 (15.2%)
Total	1583	1380	10	9	203 (12.8%)

4.2 In November 2015, the average vacancy rate for Scotland's towns was reported at 8.7% reporting an improvement from the average vacancy rate of 10.6% previously reported. These figures were reported by Scottish Retail Consortium and Springboard. It puts the average vacancy rate lower than the average vacancy rate for the whole of the UK which sits at 9.1%.

4.3 Looking at North Lanarkshire as a whole we have a vacancy rate which is 4.1% higher with all but two towns performing much worse than the reported average.

5. Recommendations

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

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Local Government Access to Information Act: for further information about this report,
 Please contact Shirley Penman on 01236 632633 (15 March 2016)