

## NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

## REPORT

To: MOTHERWELL AND DISTRICT LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIP		Subject: MOTHERWELL TOWN CENTRE ACTION PLAN
From: HEAD OF PLANNING AND REGENERATION		
Date: 18 April 2016	Ref: DIT/03/12/LO	

**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 This report seeks to update the Partnership and Committee on the delivery of Motherwell Town Centre Action Plan projects and Town Centre Activities initiatives.

**2. Motherwell Town Centre Framework and Action Plan**

- 2.1 Planning Aid Scotland's report on the 'Motherwell Charrette' has been circulated to community planning partners and posted online following its publication in December. The Town Centre Framework and Actions are now being finalised to incorporate the Charrette project ideas and findings prior to their approval as Supplementary Guidance to the North Lanarkshire Local Plan. The 'Charrette' report is available to view online at [www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/motherwell](http://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/motherwell).

**3. Project Updates****3.1 Pedestrian Wayfinding**

This project idea was proposed at the 'Motherwell Charrette' to help direct pedestrians around the town centre and better link the areas beyond the ring road. The proposal will be developed in consultation with community planning partners, including Scotrail who are developing a travel plan for Motherwell station and Sustrans. The draft wayfinding proposal will be displayed and comments invited as part of the design process.

**4. Town Centre Activities Update****Business Activity and Footfall**

- 4.1 The table below summarises the key findings of the business activity for the seven North Lanarkshire town centres for October to December 2015. The overall vacancy rate in Motherwell remains comparatively low with more businesses opening than closing. Tanz in Merry Street has closed and the following three businesses have opened: Bodrum Turkish Barbers in Merry Street and Candy Pinks and Prime Vapour in Brandon Street.

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%)
<b>Motherwell</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>20 (7.1%)</b>
Wishaw	301	255	2	0	46 (15.2%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>1583</b>	<b>1380</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>203 (12.8%)</b>

- 4.2 The vacancy rate in Motherwell compares well with the average vacancy rate for Scotland's towns which was reported at 8.7% for November 2015 (source: Scottish Retail Consortium and Springboard).
- 4.3 Footfall figures for the period October to December 2015 indicated a slight increase in activity compared to the previous quarter (up by 1%) and the same quarter last year (up by 3%).

#### Town Centre Events

- 4.4 The Pearl Izumi Tour Series and Matrix Fitness Women's Grand Prix cycling event is returning to Motherwell on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May. The cycling races will take place over the same 1.7km circuit as last year, starting and finishing on Hamilton Road and taking in High Road, Farm Street, Ladywell Road, and Douglas Street.
- 4.5 On the day local school children will be able to cycle around the circuit and there will be additional family activities beside the Heritage Centre for spectators to enjoy.

### **5. Recommendation**

- 5.1 It is recommended that the Local Area Partnership note the report.

*Shirley Linton*

**SHIRLEY LINTON  
HEAD OF PLANNING & REGENERATION**

Local Government Access to Information Act: for further information about this report, please contact Lorna Ogilvy on 01236 632618 (6 April 2016).