

**REPORT**

To: BELLSHILL LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIP	Subject : BELLSHILL TOWN CENTRE ACTION PLAN UPDATE	
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 Bellshill Town Centre Action Plan.

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

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

**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 3, October to December 2015/16.


<b>North Lanarkshire Town Centre Vacancies September – December 2015</b>					
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%)
<b>Bellshill</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6 (3.2%)</b>
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%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>1583</b>	<b>1380</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>203 (12.8%)</b>

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.



**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 (14 March 2016)