

REPORT

To: NORTH LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIP		Subject : CUMBERNAULD & KILSYTH TOWN CENTRES REPORT
From: HEAD OF PLANNING AND REGENERATION		
Date: 25 August 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 The first stage of the project design, including site surveys, has been completed. It has been demonstrated by Hub SW through the preparation of a costed concept design that the project to adapt and upgrade the bus facilities is affordable and offers value for money.

3.2 On 15 June 2016, the NLC Planning and Transportation Committee approved progression to the next stage of project design and development. This second stage will include: preparing the detailed design in consultation with stakeholders and funders; public display of the proposal for information; obtaining the necessary statutory approvals; and market testing the construction costs.

3.3 The headline dates in the programme are as follows:

July – Sept 2016	Detailed design and costing
July/Aug	Continued consultation with main stakeholders Public display of design proposal
Oct 2016	Detailed design finalised and costed Land transfer and associated lease and licence agreements concluded
Nov 2016	Design and Build Development Agreement (between NLC and Hub SW)
Dec 2016	Contractor mobilisation

- 3.4 As previously reported the project is being developed by the Council through Hub South West (SW) with funding from Campsies Centre Cumbernauld Ltd and Strathclyde Partnership for Transport. Hub SW is a public-private partnership established to enable cost effective design and construction of community facilities.

The Muirfield Centre (Cumbernauld Community Enterprise Centre)

- 3.5 The Muirfield Centre is complete and was handed over to Culture NL on 14 July 2016. This enabled tenants within the old centre to start operating from the new centre on 19 July 2016, with wider community use programmed from 1 August 2016. The main contractor for the project will complete the second phase of work by mid-December. This involves the demolition of the remaining part of the old centre and the creation of a new play area, Multi use games area (MUGA) and community greenspace.

Colzium

- 3.6 Work on the new Colzium Café and Visitor Centre in the former Clock Theatre Building within estate started in March 2016. Construction works are programmed to be complete by late 2016. The works include the creation of a café, public toilets and visitor information centre. A new disabled car park and the re-opening of former links to Colzium House are also part of the scheme.

#### 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 4, January to March 2015/16.

North Lanarkshire Town Centre Vacancies January to March 2016					
Town Centre	Total no. of available units	Total no. of active businesses	New businesses	Businesses closed	Void Units (% vacancy rate)
Airdrie	316	284	1	3	32 (10.1%)
Bellshill	146	140	1	1	6 (4.1%)
Coatbridge	230	186	2	0	44 (19.1%)
<b>Cumbernauld</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>43 (20.0%)</b>
<b>Kilsyth</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12 (12.4%)</b>
Motherwell	278	258	5	5	20 (7.2%)
Wishaw	301	252	1	4	49 (16.3%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>1583</b>	<b>1377</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>206 (13.0%)</b>

Source TCA Q4 2015/16

- 4.2 The IN North Lanarkshire digital communication platform was launched at the end of May as a collective approach to promoting North Lanarkshire town centres. Each town has individual branding under the IN North Lanarkshire brand and has its own digital platform consisting of a custom built, mobile responsive website, a Facebook page and a twitter account.
- 4.3 The 'IN North Lanarkshire' websites are owned and managed by TCA Ltd. The brand has been promoted through Facebook and at town centre events with special promotions being offered to shoppers through the 'IN' Facebook sites. Training sessions were carried out in Wishaw and Motherwell to help businesses improve their digital skills and initial feedback being has been positive.
- 4.4 Kilsyth continues to have one of the lowest usage rates for free town centre WiFi with 280 registrations in the period January to March 2016. With the launch of Facebook pages for each town centre it is hoped that the use of free WiFi will increase further. The performance and usage statistics of the town centre WiFi service are outlined in the table below.

Town	Number of New Registrations for Q4	Number of Registrations to date	Number of logins for Q4	Total number of logins to date	Average time in minutes users spend on the network each day
Airdrie	1,363	19,407	15,615	64,156	9
Bellshill	949	15,563	14,137	59,531	13
Coatbridge	984	17,426	14,028	74,680	13
<b>Kilsyth</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>4333</b>	<b>6613</b>	<b>25,610</b>	<b>35</b>
Motherwell	2,953	56,645	32,307	168,396	6
Wishaw	1,210	22,300	18,943	96,045	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,739</b>	<b>135,674</b>	<b>10,1643</b>	<b>488,418</b>	<b>15</b>

Source TCA Q4 2015/16

## 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 (30 June 2016)