

# Blantyre

A vibrant community focussed town centre

A strategy for Blantyre town centre

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A vibrant community focussed town centre

# 1. Introduction

Town centres are a key part of successful places and have an increasingly important role in building stronger, more sustainable communities. Alongside towns across the UK, Blantyre has been challenged by changing patterns of use and shopper behaviours and this, plus the current pandemic issues have all impacted on their ability to support their community. To maintain their vitality and relevance, town centres must now react to social and economic changes and consider their offer, purpose, and value to communities.

South Lanarkshire Council (SLC), working with Blantyre Community and town centre partners, seek to support change that promotes additional vibrancy and vitality within the town centre and support its sustainable future. To support this, SLC commissioned a 'Your Town Audit' (YTA), conducted by Scotland's Towns Partnership and EKOS, which was completed in June 2018 and provides a comprehensive audit of Blantyre. Although the YTA study was pre COVID-19 the underlying issues are still relevant and will continue to influence the town centre post pandemic, and as such is a relevant base point to use.

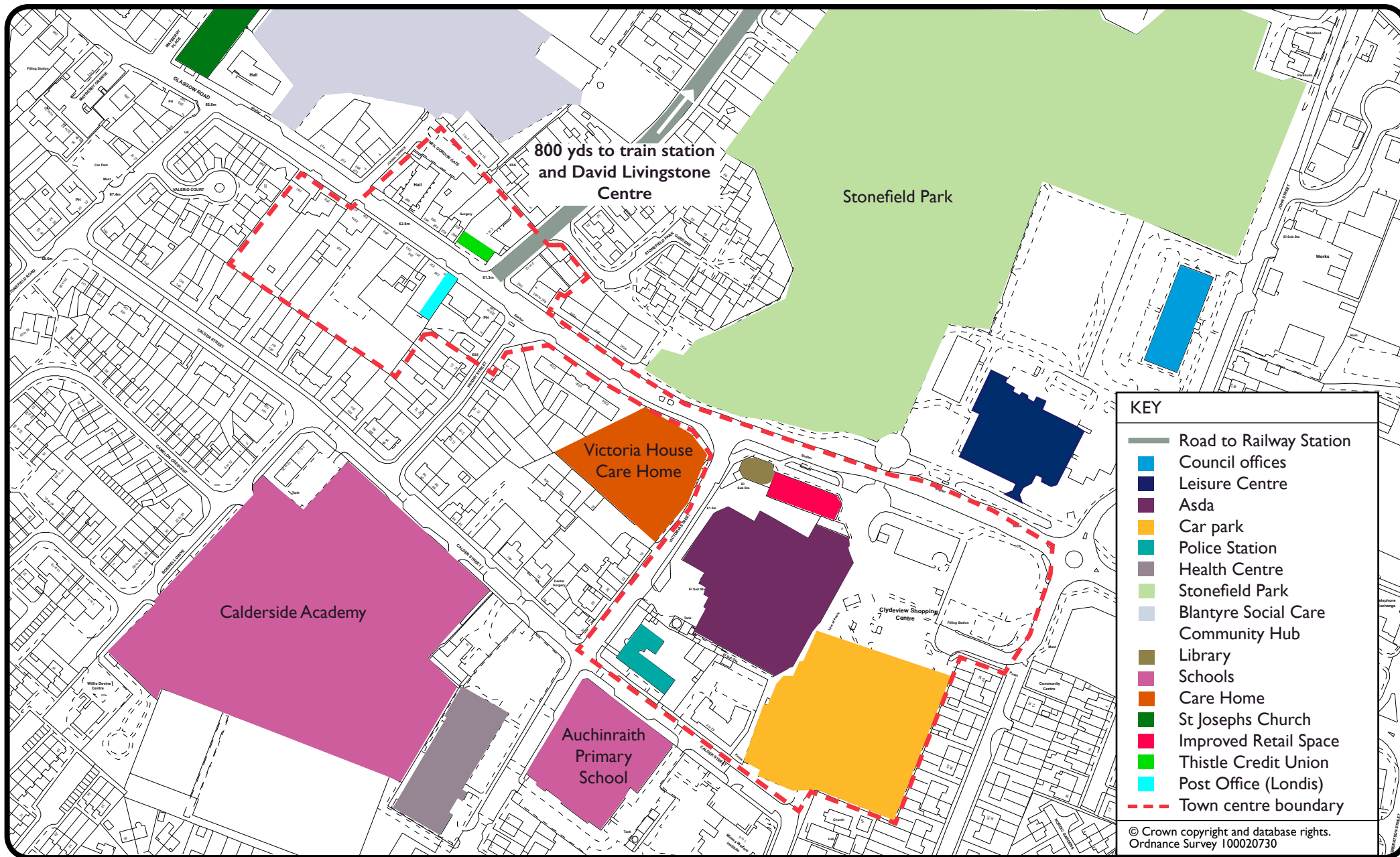
This is a five-year strategy from 2022 supporting actions to assist in the development of Blantyre town centre to respond to the current and future issues. The strategy seeks to

support and coordinate action aimed at revitalising Blantyre town centre, keeping relative to the community's needs whilst supporting local business to develop and grow. It is a partnership between public and private sector for mutual benefit, creating a range of supports that are relevant and enjoyed by local people.

This strategy document sets out a range of initiatives which will contribute both in the short and long term to town centre activity by establishing a welcoming, safe, and attractive centre to encourage footfall, create and support employment, and generate additional spend. Critical to the success of the strategy is partnership working. This will help to secure project goals and coordinate combined effort across public, private, third sectors and the local community for its successful delivery.



# Blantyre town centre





## 2. Background context

Blantyre is a suburban town approximately fifteen miles south-east of Glasgow. It is bounded by the River Clyde to the north, the Rotten Calder to the west, the Park Burn to the east (denoting the boundary with the larger adjoining town of Hamilton) and the Rotten Burn to the south. The town is very well connected by bus and rail to Hamilton, Glasgow, Central Scotland, and the wider South Lanarkshire.



Blantyre's core retail area is focused on Glasgow Road, a busy A-class road leading to Hamilton and Cambuslang in either direction which connects to the East Kilbride Expressway and M74 motorway onward to Glasgow and wider West Central Scotland.

The town centre area provides access to local services which, alongside a mix of retailers and business services, includes a library, police station, youth

centre, community centre, credit union and Post Office (within Londis convenience store).

The town centre provides a focus for local peoples and within walking distance of the town centre is the rail hub, with connections to Glasgow and wider central Scotland and the David Livingston Centre, a national heritage attraction. One of the highlights in town every summer is Blantyre Gala Day, providing a weekend of fun and entertainment. The popularity of this event shows the potential appetite for similar events to be scheduled throughout the year to encourage footfall in the town centre.

The redevelopment of the Clydeview Shopping Centre area in 2019 saw improvements and upgrades made to the ASDA store, adjoining car park and petrol station. The vacant retail and office units on Glasgow Road have been demolished and will be replaced

with proposed new modern units which will help encourage businesses back to this part of the town centre.

The current town centre has a mix of goods and services available to the consumers including convenience stores, charity shops, hairdresser, beauty salon, post office, health clinics, travel agent and a florist. There are also several leisure facilities located in and around the town centre including Blantyre Leisure Centre, Dance Central as well as a children's play area, skate park and football pitches located at a large public park known as Stonefield Park.

The YTA conducted in 2018 found that 70% of retailers are independently owned alongside several national chains including ASDA, Greggs, and Optical Express accounting for c.30% and of the total businesses in the town centre, 50% serve the evening rather than day-time economy.

In line with other town centre's across the UK, the Blantyre town centre has experienced challenges due to several factors such as previous economic downturns and austerity measures, the current coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis, decreasing consumer confidence and disposable income, the rise of convenience culture and the progressive rise of internet sales and digital high street.

Although the Your Town Audit reported that 21% of the town centre retail units are vacant, this vacancy rate has reduced with the redevelopment of the Clyde-view Shopping Centre and ASDA store.

The findings of the 2019 Community Action Plan have also been considered as part of this strategy and the findings have been used to influence the findings and outcomes.



The town's population has grown over the past decade and is projected to grow further. The YTA audit confirms that the population of the town has increased by 2% over the ten year period from 2006-2016 which contrasts with the average 5.7% increase recorded from other YTA audited towns. At 3%, the town centre has a slightly higher housing vacancy rate than the 2% average across Blantyre as a whole, meaning there is opportunity to increase the town centre population base and its customer base.

Although retail remains a fundamental part of a healthy town centre, leisure activity, café culture, evening

economy and local services for local communities have an increasing role and importance within the town centre. As highlighted in the previous section, Blantyre is well served with a range of goods and services it presents to its consumers. The opening of the Costa Coffee drive-thru, granted planning permission on the 6 June 2019 will add to the daytime provision of 'café culture'.

In addition, the re-opening of David Livingstone Centre in July 2021 will reinstate one of Blantyre's iconic attractions. Following a £9.1 million regeneration, the Centre now includes a new exhibition space in historic shuttle row tenements where the

## Blantyre has the potential to be a more thriving and successful centre.

explorer was born and raised, a newly refurbished shop and café, new children's play park and 11 hectares of free to access parkland.

This strategy and action plan will focus on a range of short and long term actions that will make the town centre more attractive to a local customer base by encouraging private sector involvement, enhancements to the physical environment and softer regeneration initiatives such as marketing and events.

South Lanarkshire Council, together with a range of partners and stakeholders have an interest and role in reacting to changing behaviours and recognising that Blantyre town centre must diversify its offer to give users the broadest range of reasons to visit and spend time there.

The private sector has a key role in providing a shopping, service and leisure offer that will attract and meet the needs of the local community.

The public sector has a role in ensuring that planning, investment, development, and other relevant policies maximise the attractiveness of the business environment. The wider community must be encouraged to support local business and safeguard the vitality of the town centre.

## The regeneration of Blantyre town centre is a collective responsibility

# 3. A vision for Blantyre



The vision statement reflects the wider South Lanarkshire aspirations and the outcomes of the Community plan for Blantyre town centre providing a direct link from wider Scottish/South Lanarkshire strategy to the community aspirations for their local centre to be a focal point for social and community activity for their town.

The vision for Blantyre is of an attractive, commercially successful, community focused, welcoming town centre which generates a sense of civic pride in its citizens.

Blantyre town centre has the potential to develop the quality and breadth of its offer and the appeal of place. The town centre must build on its strengths, celebrate its heritage, town centre connectivity and facilities associated with its town centre core.

The town can build on a range of current initiatives and trends such as local shopping and more specialist markets, associated with the increasing appeal of place and the importance of connections to modern living. A sense of place is the collection of qualities and characteristics that define a location. Sense of place is what makes Blantyre distinctive and creates its appeal.

Blantyre has well developed social networks and an active community. It has excellent accessibility and good quality greenspace close at hand, including a current application for a local nature reserve on the outskirts of town. The town needs to ensure that it can promote these advantages and present itself as a great place to live, shop, work and play.

The vision for Blantyre town centre therefore seeks to build on these strengths to create:

- An attractive, safe, and welcoming town centre providing a focal point for all sectors and age groups of the community to connect.
- A successful town that meets the needs of the community it serves.
- A town that remembers and retains its heritage.

Capturing investment, building confidence in the business community, engaging residents, and strengthening enterprise activity can all be better supported through collective action with South Lanarkshire Council, businesses and local community interests all committed to facilitating the delivery of the strategy through further engagement.



# 4. Aims and objectives

The aim of the Blantyre Town Centre Strategy is to create a town centre that is an attractive, commercially successful, sustainable, and vibrant place for people to live, work and socialise.

This strategy takes the theme from the 2019 Community Action Plan and wider strategic documents to detail actions to be considered for mutual benefit. This thread runs through all the hierarchy of plans below, taking the broad aspirations to a logical and achievable outcome.

Promoting inclusive growth (SL Community Partnership, Community Plan)	Support the local economy by providing the right conditions for inclusive growth (SLC Connect Plan 2017-2022)	South Lanarkshire Development Plan 2- Chapter 4 Economy - The support of Blantyre as a strategic centre and the policy to safeguard and support them in adapting to the changing needs of occupiers and technology.	Glasgow Road and shopping facilities (Blantyre Community Action Plan theme)	Blantyre Town Centre Strategy
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The strategy seeks to set out a range of objectives for Blantyre Town Centre and outlines in the Action Plan where resources and activities should be focused to deliver the desired outcomes. There is no one solution or intervention which will address all the issues facing the town centre. The issues and solutions are wide ranging, interrelated and complex. The approaches and actions adopted will need to be given time and progressed as a coordinated suite of measures to deliver the most effective impact. Regeneration requires long term sustained activity and initiatives and these actions need to be delivered flexibly.

The Scottish Government have completed a wide range of work identifying good and best practice to support the quality of local and regional centres. Key initiatives include:

- Business Improvement Districts
- The Scottish Governments Town Centre Action Plan and Toolkit
- A policy framework based on Designing Places, Designing Streets
- Town Centre Audits

Scotland's Towns Partnership, who completed the Your Town Audit (YTA), also provide a useful resource at sharing best practice. South Lanarkshire Council, together with partners and stakeholders believe that the Strategy and related actions should be framed through the following objectives. These objectives reflect national, regional, and local policy and the commitment of the council and town centre partners to supporting inclusive growth through the Local Outcome Improvement Plan.

**Objective one:** To support sustainable town centre growth, mixed use development and investment opportunities through planning and economic development initiatives in line with the Town Centre First policy initiative.

**Objective two:** To ensure that the town centre accessibility and movement is inclusive and supports all modes of transport and meets the needs of users through measures to ensure convenient and safe access by foot, cycle, car, and public transport.

**Objective three:** To ensure that the town centre has a welcoming, safe, and attractive physical environment that supports the needs of both business and town centre users and provides a focus for community life and events.

**Objective four:** To improve the commercial viability of the town centre by supporting enterprise through business advice, training, events, marketing, finance, and other support measures for existing and potential new businesses.

**Objective five:** To exploit the opportunities of digitalisation for business growth and usage of the town centre.

**Objective six:** To create conditions for social regeneration and improve the health and wellbeing of the community, particularly through the reduction of fear of crime and anti-social behaviour - creating a town centre that is welcoming to all and safe with strong sense of community.

*The links to these objectives are shown in column five of the action plan in section eight.*



# 5. Opportunities and challenges

On the 23 March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic led to high streets, town and city centres effectively close for business as a 'Stay at Home' order was announced by the Government. Most retailers, offices, restaurants, coffee shops, cultural and leisure destinations shut their doors, as only essential stores were allowed to stay open.

Following months of on and off coronavirus lockdown, non-essential retailers were able to re-open their doors. However, the evolving COVID-19 situation is complex with retailers having to adapt their operations and commercial decision making to rapidly to reflect the new day to day reality.

The impact of COVID-19 is still not known at this time and as such the Town Centre Strategy needs to encourage and support the development of new actions and flexible plans to respond to not only the challenges but the opportunities to out-perform their less agile competitors, increasing the focus on improving the experience at Blantyre Town Centre as an attractive place to dwell, shop, see friends and run errands.

The specific opportunities and challenges that relate to Blantyre Town Centre are as follows:

## Opportunities

### Physical/Environmental

- Good access to local services
- Good road and rail links to central Scotland and the wider South Lanarkshire area
- Local greenspace (Stonefield Park)
- Close proximity to M74
- Proximity to East Kilbride Expressway and M74 motorway onward to Glasgow and West Central Scotland

### Social/cultural

- Growing population
- Distinctive local heritage (David Livingstone)
- Strong community involvement
- Sport and Leisure Facilities
- Civic Pride
- Gala Day Event
- Youth Centre (Terminal One)
- More working from home

## Challenges

### Physical/Environmental

- Use and control of town centre parking
- Perception of High Blantyre and Blantyre
- Attractiveness of Blantyre Town Centre
- Cycle parking facilities
- A safe environment
- COVID-19 issues

### Social/cultural

- High levels of deprivation in small pockets of the town centre
- Communication strategy to market events
- Ensuring the town centre is accessible to all sectors and age groups of the community
- Lack of programme for social and leisure events
- COVID-19 issues

## Opportunities

### Economic/Commercial

- Vacancy rate is low at the time of writing
- Strong evening economy
- High proportion of independent traders - opportunity for distinctive offerings
- Local banking provision

### Policy

- Commitment of relevant partners
- SLC Business Support team
- SLC Community Planning Partnership
- Opportunity to coordinate town centre activity through the strategy

**The above assessment indicates that the challenges for Blantyre are broad and varied however there are a number of areas of opportunity which can be exploited to the benefit of the town centre.**

Blantyre has a mix of opportunities and constraints that impact on the appeal and functionality of the centre. Many of the opportunities and challenges result from a legacy of historic conditions (shop closures, street patterns) and business practices (retail mix/shop opening hours) and changes in consumer buying behaviour (digital shopping). Key areas to review and address include:

## Challenges

### Economic/Commercial

- Daytime economy is not as strong as the evening economy
- Competition from within and edge of town supermarket and discount retailers
- Lack of mix of use
- Online competition
- Traditional shopping hours (no late-night shopping 5-8pm)
- No town centre wifi
- Vacant units and the ability to attract a diverse range of businesses to balance day and evening
- COVID-19 issues

### Policy

- Limited local authority and central government funding available
- Ensuring that all public and private investment in Blantyre directly benefits the town and its community

- Strengthening the appeal and the experience of the centre and not only making it a more attractive but safe place to visit and mix leisure/retail experiences with the evolving COVID-19 pandemic situation.
- Reviewing town centre parking and sustainable modes of transport arrangements that could address any perceived barriers to accessing and using the centre.
- Building on Blantyre's heritage and community spirit with a targeted program of events, marketing, and softer regeneration initiatives.
- Adapting to the new day to day reality with the evolving COVID-19 pandemic.

# 6. Consultation with stakeholders

As the local authority South Lanarkshire Council has powers and resources in key areas of planning, investment and business support that influence economic growth. Decision making and resource allocation in these areas will support the strategy.

Importantly, there are partners and stakeholders whose commitment is required to work towards a common goal of improving the physical, economic, and social conditions of the town. These include:

- MP, MSP's, and local Councillors
- Scottish Government
- Scotland's Towns Partnership
- South Lanarkshire's Community Planning Partnership
- Business owners/managers
- Property owners
- Blantyre Community
- Police Scotland (local community policing team)
- Local social media groups and networks

Successful delivery of the strategy will require commitment from all stakeholders working in partnership with SLC to support fundraising and project delivery of elements of the action plan.

As part of the development of the strategy the following groups were involved in discussions; Blantyre Community Council, Blantyre Futures, Blantyre Community Committee, Blantyre Volunteer Group, Blantyre Miners Welfare, Blantyre Soccer Academy, Community Links, Hyper Cyber, Lanarkshire Credit Union, Liber8/Beacons and Terminal One. We would like to thank them and all who took part, for their assistance in completing this strategy.



# 6a. Consultation outcomes

To ensure that the strategies outcomes are matched to the community's wishes, a public consultation was planned for February March 2022. Due to uncertainty regarding the status of COVID-19 the decision was made to hold this as a virtual consultation supported by an online town hall and notice board App, local flyers with copies of the draft strategy made available in town centre businesses and public spaces. This was held from the 28th February to the 3rd April 2022 and resulted in 419 visits to the site and 217 survey responses. The responses are summarised below.

The split in response was 69% female and 30% male 1% with no preference. The key age group participation was between 35-44 years old at 33% followed by 55-64 and 45-54, both at 19%.

52% came from the wider Blantyre area with 36% identifying as residing in the town centre area itself. 49% stated they visited the town centre most days with an additional 35% at least once a week with 64% coming by car and 31% walking.

The challenges facing the town centre were listed as per the draft strategy and participants were asked for comment on the most urgent. From this the 1st ranking issue was vehicle parking followed by the current economic conditions and empty buildings, used either as shops or housing, both adjacent and above shops. However, after parking a cluster of challenges were close in ranking and as such all these should be considered.

These are:

- Vehicle Parking
- Doesn't cater for the communities needs
- Empty upper spaces in buildings
- The current economic conditions
- Edge of town supermarkets
- The changing economic conditions

When proposed projects to help support the town centre, the main point brought up were activities to support a reduction in crime/ greater safety followed by redesigning the street parking to provide short term drop off collection and loading space and redesign the streetscape. The top answers are below:

- A reduction in crime, greater safety
- Redesign the streetscape
- Redesign street parking to provide short term collection and loading space
- Create a Civic space for public use and events

When asked to rank all the choices for solutions relating to the action plan the lead items changed but were similar. A review of parking arrangements was the highest priority followed by the list below:

- Review of Town Centre parking arrangements
- Review of car accessibility in town centre
- Review of interaction between wheeled and pedestrian traffic
- Introduction of cycle ways



When asked how easy it was to use Blantyre Town centre by car it was a mixed response with 48% though it was easy or very easy with 47% stating it was difficult or very difficult. The question of disabled access although answered by fewer participants showed 22% of responders stating it was difficult or very difficult against 12% stating easy or very easy. Overall 63% of participants thought that it was easy or very easy to navigate through the town centre to a destination of their choice.

When asked, 48% of responders stated they used public transport in Blantyre town centre with 66% agreeing or strongly agreeing that the town is well served by public transport.

The question was asked if they agreed that bringing more residential property into the town centre and 56% of responders either agreed or strongly agreed.

The question was asked if events and promotions and events would impact on their decision to visit the town centre and 70% stated it would make them more or much more likely to visit. When asked which type of event the spread was even with 79% interested in markets, 64% in community events and 62% for seasonal events.

The question asking if there was enough activity for young people came back with an 89% disagree or strongly disagree answer. The same question for older people was an even split between agree and disagree.

When the question was asked is Blantyre suitable for older people the response was 47% agreed or strongly agreed and 53% disagreed or strongly disagreed.

When asked if the local retail and service market catered for their needs 64% responded that the local market doesn't cater for their needs.

92% of people were unaware of any availability in the town centre, however when asked if free Wi-Fi would make the town more attractive to visit 65% said no.

In addition, a submission on the future for the town centre and wider areas was provided by Blantyre Community Council and the relevant sections for this has been used to refine the Strategy and action plan. Included in this submission were issues relating to parking and community facilities for areas out with the remit of the Town Centre Strategy. These will be passed to SLC Officers dealing with the wider Community Plan and sites concerned for appraisal and response.

**The conclusions to this are that wheeled traffic and the associated issue of parking access are important and there is support for the development of the streetscape to support a better mixed use for wheeled access. The community support the setting up of events to increase the use of the town centre, providing increased footfall for the existing businesses and to attract new people to the town centre. There is a strong feeling that there needs to be more focussed activity for younger people to attract them to the town centre. The action plan has been adjusted to support these findings.**

# 7. Town Centre Action Plan

The tables below detail the range of projects and initiatives along with the potential framework of delivery, although this will be dependent on several factors such as COVID-19 restrictions, availability of funding and market research. The action plan is broken down into three main themes:

- Physical Environment
- Accessibility and Transport
- Attractive Community and Business Environment

Each project within the theme are listed relating to the initiative they support followed by project details, progress to date, partners links to council and government objectives and finally timescale. Column five relates to the objectives on page six, and the initials in column six shows the link to the Scottish Government's Town Centre Plan (TCAP) objectives and the category under which they would fall. These categories are: **Town Centre Living (TCL)**, **Vibrant Local Economies (VLE)**, **Enterprising Communities (EC)**, **Accessible Public Services (APS)**, **Digital Towns (DT)** and **Pro-active Planning (PaP)**.

## Action Plan theme one: Physical Environment

Initiative	Project	Actions/progress - 2021	Lead partner	Town Centre Objective (TCO)	TCAP	Timescale
Shopfront improvement scheme	Refreshing of shopfronts (cleaning for cosmetic purposes)	Consultation with landlords and business owners	Business community	1/3	VLE	24 months
Funding plan	Development of funding package for the Action Plan	Identification of funding options and timetable for submitting bids	SLC and partners	All	All	6-12 months
Greenspace improvements	Improvement/upgrading of existing greenspace	Discuss the options for greenspace improvements	SLC and partners	3	VLE	6-12 months
Upgrade of leisure facility	Upgrading of Blantyre Leisure Centre	Based on the report presented at South Lanarkshire Council meeting 25 March 2020 assess options and funding issues	All	3	VLE	36 months

## Action Plan theme two: Accessibility and Transportation

Initiative	Project	Actions/progress - 2021	Lead partner	Town Centre Objective (TCO)	TCAP	Timescale
Parking provision	Review of park and ride strategy across South Lanarkshire	Agreed at SLC Community and Enterprise Resource Committee 04/02/2020, further consideration will be given to expanding parking opportunity at nearby park and ride facilities at Newton Station	SLC	2	VLE	ongoing
	Parking demand management review	Agreed by SLC Community and Enterprise Resources Committee 22/01/19, Blantyre is included in Phase three of the review (timescale tbc)	SLC	2	VLE	12 months
	Residents Parking Permit Zones (RPPZs)	Agreed by SLC Community and Enterprise Resources Committee 04/02/2020, to bring forward localised restrictions in the short term	SLC	2	VLE	ongoing
Active travel	Provision of cycling parking. Promotion of walking/cycling routes to improve physical and mental health	<p>Agreed by SLC Community and Enterprise Resources Committee on 15/09/2020, Active Travel Projects 2020/2021 report outlining</p> <p>Cycling parking provision on Glasgow Road, Blantyre programmed for completion in the coming months</p> <p>Active Travel Studies to be commissioned and carried out for Blantyre</p> <p>Spaces for People initiative which provides support to town centre's, to enable the local community to make essential trips by active travel methods</p> <p>Further publicity campaigns, building on the first to again encourage local shopping is to be undertaken in the coming weeks/months</p>	SLC			24 months

## Action Plan theme three/four/five: Attractive Community and Business Environment

Initiative	Project	Actions/progress - 2021	Lead partner	Town Centre Objective (TCO)	TCAP	Timescale
Business forum	Development of a Blantyre Business Forum	Identify lead for business forum. Possible development of a newsletter or business forum	Business group	4	VLE	6-18 months
Town centre marketing	Development of marketing strategy for Blantyre business sector	Creation of a town centre app	SLC	3	VLE	6-18 months
Town centre event programme	Development of events strategy - weekly, monthly and annual program of community events to attract visitors to the town centre throughout the year	Consult with businesses and residents on potential events and identify funding options	SLC and business group	3	VLE	6-18 months
Commercial Strategy	Development of commercial strategy	Identify lead for strategy development. Collation of ideas, innovation, business gaps, good practice from possibly other towns and resources	Business group	4	EC	12 months
Promotion of SLC service support (Business Gateway and Business Support Team)	Support for existing and potential businesses with advise on property, grants and funding, business cases	Provide an overview of SLC service support and access options available	SLC	4	EC	ongoing
Town centre hanging baskets and murals	Brighten up the environment with town centre hanging baskets and murals	Identify and review options	Community Council	3/6	VLE	24 months
Creation of a wifi zone	Delivery of free wifi network	Look at feasibility of creating a town centre wifi zone providing a free town centre network	SLC and partners	5	EC	24 months



Initiative	Project	Actions/progress - 2019	Lead partner	Town Centre Objective (TCO)	TCAP	Timescale
Digital Skills Training	Provision of training for businesses and residents	Identify and review options	SLC and partners	5	DT	36 months
Crime and antisocial behaviour	Reduction of fear and crime and anti-social behaviour	Regular meetings between the local community and Police Scotland	Blantyre Futures Group	6	TCL	ongoing
Blantyre 'Something for All'	Consider initiatives which will make the town centre more attractive to young families/young people and community in general	Identify and review options	SLC and partners	3	VLE	12-18 months

# 8. Monitoring and reporting

The main indicators for monitoring the outputs of the Action Plan, recorded and reviewed annually are as follows:

Objective	Indicator	Source of information
1	Progress with improvement in appearance of shopfronts	SLC/C/BG
2	Progress with improving parking demand management	SLC
2	Progress with provision of cycling parking and promoting walking/cycling routes	SLC
3	Progress with improving/upgrading of existing greenspace	SLC/CG
3	Progress with Town Centre Marketing Plan	SLC/C/BG
3	Progress with Events Strategy	SLC/C/BG
3	Progress with town centre murals/Hanging baskets	CG
3	Progress with communication strategy	SLC/C/BG
3	Progress with initiatives to make the Town Centre more attractive to young families/young people and community in general	SLC/C/BG
4	Progress with developing commercial strategy	SLC/C/BG
4	Business support provided for existing and new businesses	SLC/C/BG
4	Progress with developing a business forum	SLC and Business Group
4	Progress with the provision of community facility for hot desking	SLC/C /BG
5	Progress with developing wifi strategy and training	SLC/C/BG
5	Progress with provision of digital skills training	SLC/C/BG
6	Progress with initiatives undertaken by Police Scotland	Police Scotland



The key indicators for assessing the results of the Action Plan, over a five year period are as follows:

Indicator	Data Source	Baseline
Retail profile - diversity/range of shops	SLC/SG data	Your Town Audit 2018
Vacancy rate (trend relative to average)	SLC/SG data	Your Town Audit 2018
Employment in town centre	SLC/SG data	Your Town Audit 2018
Community perceptions of town centre	Blantyre Community Action Plan	Blantyre Community Action Plan
Residents living in town centre	SLC/SG data	Your Town Audit 2018

# 9. Next steps

Coordinated and sustained activity is key to supporting Blantyre Town Centre. The delivery of the range of projects and initiatives will require agreement across the range of partners and stakeholders but also a coordinated approach to delivery.

This needs to reflect the resources available across the partners, the alignment and deliverability of the various proposals and timescales. It is therefore proposed that the strategy provides a basis to consult with a range of partners and the local community. The consultation will have three main elements:

- Regular Partner and Community Council engagement - sharing the plan with partners for initial feedback on the content
- Stakeholder's engagement facilitated by SLC and partners
- Public engagement organized by SLC and partners through regular consultation to allow the community to consider the progress and feedback

These three elements will run concurrently. This combined approach will allow feedback from those in the town but also independent feedback from those in the town but also independent feedback from place-making professionals who can bring learning and best practice from across the country.

The finalized plan for Blantyre Town Centre will be implemented in conjunction with local groups and organisations. The full findings of the consultation have been benchmarked against the action plan and will provide a strong baseline from which to benchmark the current performance of the town, measure the success of the plan going forward and give the ability to and knowledge to update/revisit when appropriate.

The strategy will be used to engage with key stakeholders and to support funding bids and submissions for specific projects. Funding may be available through a variety of sources including the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund, Town Centre Community Funds and funds associated with any developer contributions, grants and public and private sector programs.

Engagement and sharing the Town Centre vision, objectives and strategy with local people and is important to building a broad base of support for action. The ongoing events, consultations and facilitated workshops, taken together, will provide all parties with a clear understanding of the vision of the town over the next 5-10 years and allow all to work in a collective approach to delivery.



# A vibrant community focussed town centre



If you need this information in another language or format,  
please contact us to discuss how we can best meet your needs.

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