

REGENERATION PLAN FOR COATBRIDGE

A 10 year vision for Coatbridge



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UK Government



Foreword from Neighbourhood Board Chair

Coatbridge’s Regeneration Plan is a culmination of the work of Coatbridge Neighbourhood Board and North Lanarkshire Council, alongside Page Park architects, over 2024 and 2025 to create a 10-year vision for Coatbridge, based on the input and feedback from the Coatbridge community.

This 10-year vision is part of the UK Government’s Plan for Neighbourhoods which will be a game changer for Coatbridge, delivering £19.5m of additional investment over the next decade.

The Regeneration Plan sets out the community’s priorities for investment including creating more opportunities for young people, investing in Coatbridge’s key existing physical assets and revitalising Main Street to provide a place for people to shop, access local services and socialise.

The Coatbridge Regeneration Plan does not exist in isolation. It is also accompanied by an initial 4-year Investment Plan which details projects to be funded between 2026-27 to 2029-30. The Regeneration Plan will cover the full 10-year period of the Plan for Neighbourhoods programme whilst new Investment Plans will be created in future, covering period 2 (2030-31 to 2032-33) and period 3 (2033-34 to 2035-36) and as a Neighbourhood Board, we look forward to working with the community over this time to shape and inform those future Investment Plans whilst delivering on the current approved investments.

The Regeneration Plan aligns to the UK Government’s strategic objectives under the Plan for Neighbourhoods programme. It also aligns to The Plan for North Lanarkshire and other key strategic documents for the area such as the Economic Regeneration Delivery Plan and Coatbridge’s Town Vision which was approved in 2021.

I am delighted to present this Regeneration Plan for Coatbridge which will help us achieve our vision of Coatbridge being a more vibrant place with the town's existing strengths enhanced by 2036.

Gavin Whitefield
Chairperson, Coatbridge Neighbourhood Board
Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Lanarkshire.

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Introduction

Coatbridge has been awarded £19.5M in funding, from the UK Government as part of the 'Plan for Neighbourhoods' programme, for delivery over a 10-year investment period. The Coatbridge Neighbourhood Board ("the Board"), established in April 2024, has worked with North Lanarkshire Council and the local community to develop a Regeneration Plan for the town, outlining its vision for the next decade. The Coatbridge Neighbourhood Board is responsible for overseeing delivery of the Regeneration Plan through an initial four-year investment plan, and subsequent three-year investment plans, with support from North Lanarkshire Council as the accountable body for the funding.

The Board oversaw an extensive community engagement process during 2024, which gathered input from various stakeholders to identify current challenges and opportunities, as well as the aspirations of local residents. Based on this feedback, a set of outcomes and local priorities has been established, with a series of proposed interventions for the first four-year Investment Plan identified against these outcomes, laying the foundation for Coatbridge's long-term goals.

This document sets out:

- A vision for the future of Coatbridge informed by the Coatbridge community;
- A clear plan for how the Coatbridge Neighbourhood Board will deliver this vision for change over the next ten years, with a programme of investment and local capacity building.

It highlights key investment themes and proposed interventions shaped by the wishes of local people; and summarises how the investment themes and interventions will address the identified challenges in the local area to deliver improved outcomes and transformative change for Coatbridge over the next decade. It also details how this Regeneration Plan for Coatbridge aligns with wider strategies, regeneration and investment programmes for Coatbridge and how the Plan for Neighbourhoods funding will deliver additional benefits and enhanced outcomes for the area.

Key investment themes and emerging projects can be found from page 42.

1. Local context

The story of Coatbridge so far

This section provides an introduction to the local community, including its history, identity, people, economy and story so far.

It provides an overview of recent and planned investment through regeneration, asset and development programmes of North Lanarkshire Council and its partners, as part of the town's story so far. It then provides an overview of historical analysis, examining both the lost and preserved heritage of the town and a review of the town's social context, looking at the town's demographic and economic landscape.

Coatbridge today

Coatbridge is a town with deep industrial roots at the heart of North Lanarkshire. A town of more than 46,000 residents, historically known for its ironworks and coal mining industries within the industrial heartland of central Scotland. The Monkland Canal, which runs through the town, played a significant role in shaping the origins of the town, introducing the first links to Glasgow, and is a strong heritage asset.

Following the decline of these traditional industries in the 20th Century, the town has transformed significantly over the years to become a residential and commercial hub due to the town’s excellent transport connectivity.

Coatbridge is well connected with its three rail stations linking Glasgow/Edinburgh and regional centres and has a centrally located cluster of health and public sector services. The town has the capacity to be an important service hub with its good rail connections and diverse business base making it a strong investment location for both business and living.

Coatbridge also has a number of strong and valued assets which have the potential to be enhanced both for the local community and to attract additional visitors and footfall to central areas of the town. These include the Summerlee Museum of Industrial Life and the Time Capsule leisure centre.

Aswell as existing strengths and opportunities, Coatbridge also faces a number of challenges which support the case for its inclusion within the UK Government’s Plan for Neighbourhoods Programme. These challenges concern both the socio-economic characteristics and physical fabric of areas of the town where targeted action is required to address local priorities, as identified through a programme of extensive community and stakeholder consultation. This includes the regeneration of Main Street which has experienced decline over recent years due to structural changes in the retail environment and the impact of consumer behavioural change, competition from the nearby Faraday Retail Park and prominent vacant buildings.

Revitalising the town centre is a key focus of this Regeneration Plan, in response to local feedback which identified it as a primary goal. Local residents wish to see the Main Street restored to a vibrant and flourishing heart of the town, reinstating a stronger sense of pride in their town.

Local people also identified creating more activity and opportunities for young people and enhancing existing assets in the town that they value and contribute to a strong sense of identity as key priorities. These priorities are reflected within this Regeneration Plan.

Coatbridge local outcome improvement plan

As part of North Lanarkshire Council’s Community Planning structure, nine Community Boards are in place for each of the area’s main towns and population corridors. The Coatbridge Community Board is one of the boards in place and covers the boundary of the Coatbridge Neighbourhood Board area.

Local Outcome Improvement Plans (LOIPs) have been prepared for each community board in North Lanarkshire, outlining key priorities for each community board area. These have been identified through a range of engagement processes and are based on the needs of local communities.

They set out an approach to working with and empowering local communities, enabling them to contribute to, influence and shape locally

identified actions around the priorities to achieve improved outcomes for each area.

The Coatbridge LOIP recognises that the biggest assets in the Coatbridge area are the local people, community and voluntary sector networks and the community led approaches that are already in place. These existing strengths and the established community partnership working approach in the town provide a sound basis for the development and delivery of community- led initiatives identified within the Investment Plans that will support this Regeneration Plan.

Further detail on the local priorities identified within the Coatbridge LOIP is provided within Section 2 – Spatial Targeting.

Town vision

The challenges facing Coatbridge town centre and other town centres across North Lanarkshire are recognised by North Lanarkshire Council as is the need for strategies to arrest town centre decline and deliver economic and physical regeneration, in line with national level policy and guidance. Economic and Physical Regeneration priorities for North Lanarkshire are driven and guided by key council strategies including the Plan for North Lanarkshire and the Economic Regeneration Delivery Plan, approved in 2019.

The ERDP aims to co-ordinate the physical and economic regeneration of North Lanarkshire, increase economic output and help address social and economic inequality. Key aims of the ERDP are focused on:

- Increasing housing supply across all tenures
- Supporting the regeneration of our town centres
- Strategic infrastructure to support physical and economic regeneration
- Attracting and retaining businesses

The development of Town Centre Visions forms part of an action plan to support the delivery of the ERDP.

A Vision for Coatbridge Town Centre was approved in 2021. This vision illustrates the scale of transformative change that is envisaged over a 15–20 year period. This work closely aligns to the development and delivery of proposals for town and community hubs and the council’s asset rationalisation and tower re-provisioning plans. The investment delivered, underway and planned across Coatbridge through these and other recent investment programmes by the council’s public

sector partners, along with the Coatbridge Town Vision developed by North Lanarkshire Council, sets a sound basis from which this Regeneration Plan can build upon to support transformative change in Coatbridge in line with local priorities. The Regeneration Plan contains proposals based on in-depth analysis and comprehensive community engagement, conversations with local groups and a thorough analysis of challenges and opportunities.

The analysis undertaken includes an exploration of both the town’s heritage and its present-day identity, shaped by its historical, social and economic developments. The following pages provide a brief summary of this contextual analysis.

Further detail on the alignment of this Regeneration Plan with wider programmes and investment is provided within Section 5.



Historic context

Heritage

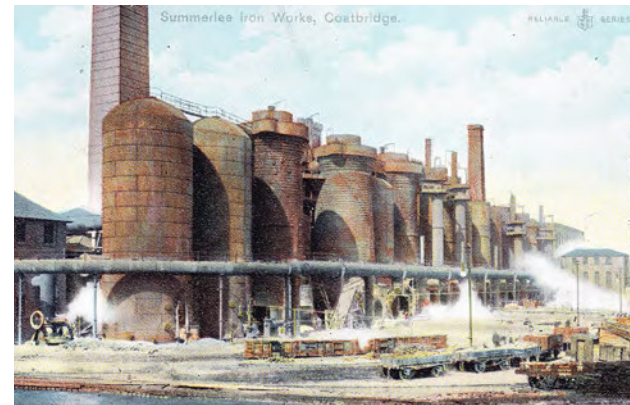
A first step in developing this Regeneration Plan was to delve into the history of Coatbridge and uncover the stories that have shaped the town. Coatbridge's origins trace back to when monks mined coal and transported it to Glasgow via the Monkland Canal. The town's history further evolved in the 19th century with the discovery of iron deposits, leading to a thriving iron industry. This rich, multilayered history is certainly worth researching, referencing, preserving, and celebrating.

While Coatbridge's heritage is predominantly linked to its industrial era, it is equally important to recognise the town's character before it became known as Scotland's 'industrial heartland.' Described in a text from 1799 as an 'immense lush garden,' this pre-industrial past adds another layer to Coatbridge's identity.

Despite the loss of historic ironworks, numerous buildings and open spaces of historical significance remain in the town, offering glimpses into its past. To further explore Coatbridge's history, a timeline highlighting key moments that have shaped the town was examined and significant elements of its cultural heritage identified.



Ironworks



Coatbridge became a focal point of industrial activity in the 19th century due to its prolific ironworks. The establishment of the Summerlee Iron Works in 1836 marked the beginning of Coatbridge's transformation into a major industrial hub. Leveraging the abundant local coal and iron ore resources, Summerlee Iron Works and other nearby foundries produced large quantities of pig iron, which was essential for various industrial applications.

The rise of the ironworks in Coatbridge attracted a substantial influx of Irish immigrants, particularly during and after the Great Famine of the 1840s. Seeking employment and better living conditions, many Irish families settled in Coatbridge, contributing significantly to its population growth and cultural landscape. The Irish immigrants provided much of the labor force needed for the ironworks and other industries, despite often facing challenging and hazardous working conditions. The rich cultural heritage brought by the Irish population remains a vital part of Coatbridge's identity, reflected in local traditions, festivals, and community life.

The Bridges



Coatbridge owes its name to a bridge that carried the old Edinburgh-Glasgow road over the Gartsherrie Burn, at what is now Coatbridge Cross. The name "Coatbridge" originates from the "Coitbrig" or "Coitbrigs," meaning the bridges that crossed the Monkland Canal and other waterways in the town. This first appears on Roy's survey of 1755 as Cottbrig, one of a number of places on the wider Coats estate.

Some notable bridges in the area were:

- the Bank Street Bridge, crossing the canal
- the Whifflet Viaduct, an engineering marvel from the industrial age,
- the Iron Bridges, built during the industrial boom, and
- the Coatdyke Bridge, an important crossing point in the town's transport network.

The bridges in Coatbridge not only provided practical routes for transportation but also contributed significantly to the town's development and expansion. The bridges are more than just physical structures; they represent the growth, industrial bloom, and historical significance of Coatbridge.



Monkland Canal

The Monkland Canal holds significant heritage importance as a testament to Scotland's industrial revolution and its transformative impact on the local economy and community. Completed in 1794, the canal was a critical infrastructure project that enabled the efficient transport of coal from the Monklands coalfields to Glasgow, fueling the growth of industries such as ironworks and factories in the region. This contributed to the economic boom and urbanisation of North Lanarkshire, laying the foundation for its industrial heritage. The canal was also significant in a social aspect as it acted as meeting, bathing and leisure place for the people living in Coatbridge at the time. The part of the canal that passes through Coatbridge town centre was culverted in the late 1920s and early 1930s.

Today, the Monkland Canal is cherished not only for its historical value but also for its cultural and recreational significance. Preservation efforts have revitalised parts of the canal, transforming it into a scenic area that attracts residents and visitors alike for walking, cycling, and fishing. These initiatives highlight the canal's enduring legacy and its role in connecting past and present.



1910

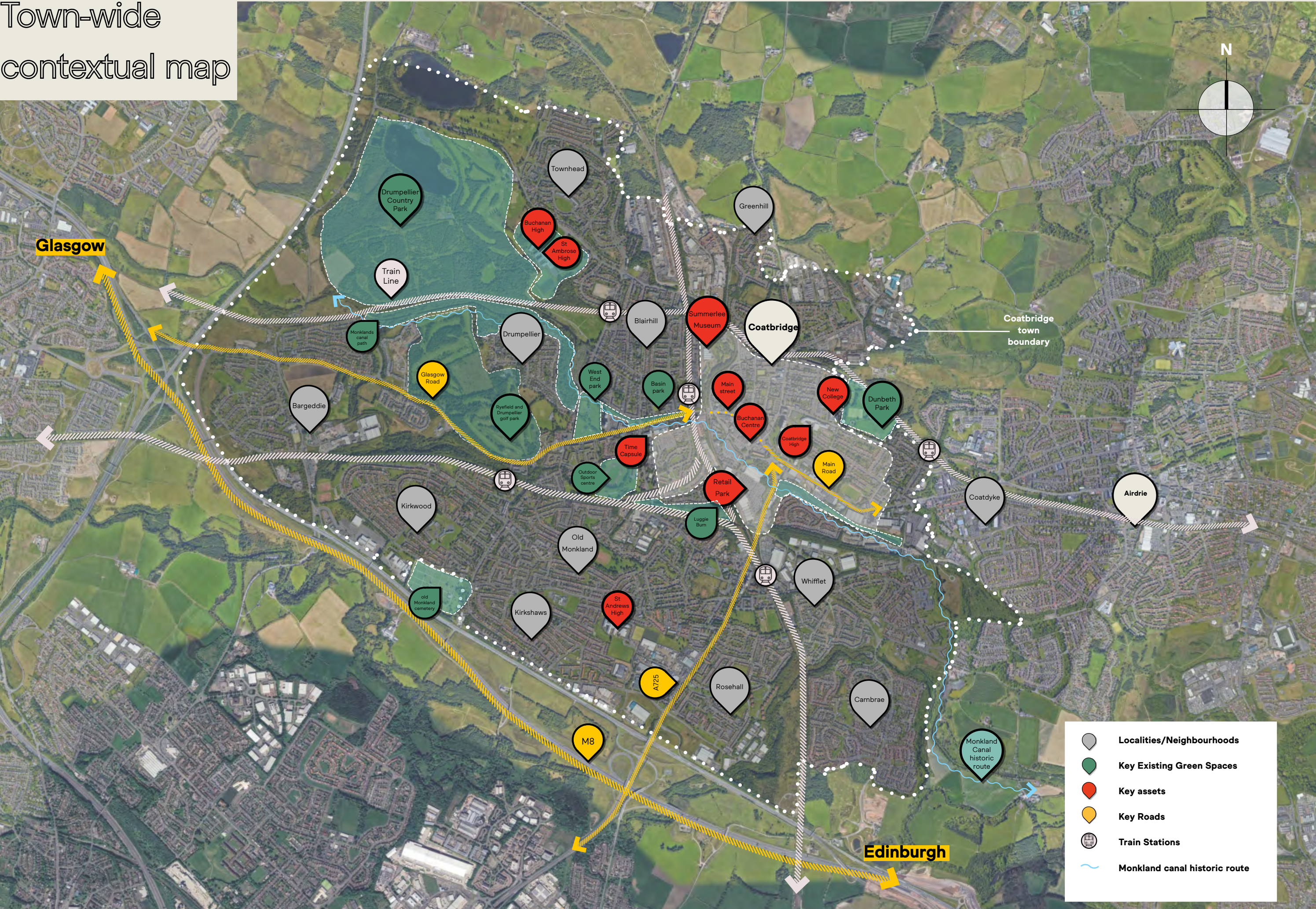




2. Spatial targeting

This section provides a map of the geographic boundary of Coatbridge and provides a description of areas within this boundary where the Coatbridge Neighbourhood Board intends to focus funding and interventions.

Town-wide contextual map



- Localities/Neighbourhoods
- Key Existing Green Spaces
- Key assets
- Key Roads
- Train Stations
- Monkland canal historic route

Coatbridge neighbourhoods

Coatbridge is a local town within North Lanarkshire. With its strong accessibility by both road and rail networks, it is well placed as a commuter town and to develop as a service hub and location for investment. However, it also has areas of high deprivation and social disadvantage. Coatbridge is a town characterised by numerous satellite neighbourhoods, each with well-defined boundaries, both in terms of established communities and geographical features. Coatbridge’s neighbourhoods are highlighted on the town wide contextual map. There is a wide range of socio-economic characteristics across the town’s neighbourhoods with a number of datazones within the top 20% most deprived according to the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation.

A primary goal identified by the residents of Coatbridge is to re-establish the town centre as the heart of the town. There is a clear wish for the town centre to be a vibrant and well-connected centre that brings people together from all neighbourhoods.

The Local Outcome Improvement Plan and data profile for Coatbridge provide further insight into areas of need and priorities for neighbourhoods and the broader Coatbridge community. Further information on these documents and identified areas of socio-economic disadvantage, economic need, key issues and opportunities are provided within Section 4: Strategic Case for Change. Across Coatbridge and its neighbourhoods, there are physical assets and strong community foundations that can be built upon to improve the prospects for the town and its people. The priorities and outcomes identified within this Regeneration Plan will contribute towards the delivery of positive change against the identified areas of need.

Greenspace and community assets

During consultation activity, existing greenspaces and green networks were identified as positive features of Coatbridge, but also that these were not being used to their full potential. Neighbourhoods across Coatbridge benefit from proximity to existing green spaces and remote path networks, such as Drumpellier Park, Dunbeth Park, Basin Park, the Monkland Canal and North Calder Heritage Trail. The existing green assets of Coatbridge are resources that can be harnessed for improved health and wellbeing outcomes, for example increased physical activity and mental health improvements from access to greenspace. Consultation feedback indicates that issues with safety or perceived safety and a need for

additional investment are curtailing this potential.

Neighbourhoods across Coatbridge also benefit from local access to a number of community facilities, including community centres, schools and sports facilities, including a modern High School estate which has seen significant investment with further community hub developments either underway or planned in the Coatbridge area. Additional funding would enable improvements to the accessibility of existing community facilities and the range of services and activities that can be provided within these facilities.

There is a strong base of community and third sector organisations within Coatbridge with many active groups delivering initiatives and providing services at neighbourhood and wider locality levels. Additional funding would enable these groups to enhance the services they offer and expand their reach within the community. These broad characteristics of neighbourhoods across Coatbridge have been taken into account when identifying local outcome priorities and investment plan initiatives.

Coatbridge town centre

Coatbridge has a traditional town centre core with a Main Street, fulfilling the traditional role of the centre point of the community’s neighbourhoods. It is currently not fulfilling this role to its full potential due to:

- Structural change within the retail sector and a need for diversification of uses to increase activity and vibrancy;
- Vacant buildings and commercial units;
- Underdeveloped links between the town centre and surrounding attractions and assets

Through community consultation activity, the need and support for town centre regeneration was a clear message. Many residents expressed a strong desire to see Main Street become the vibrant hub of the town once again. This vision was consistently mentioned across different responses, reflecting a shared desire among residents to see their town centre restored to its former vibrancy and appeal.

Key findings from the community engagement relevant to the town centre include:

- Poor connections between Faraday retail park and Main Street

- A lack of spaces for young people to meet
- Concerns over safety issues in town centre and green spaces in close proximity
- Opportunities for reconnecting a green corridor through the town centre
- Ideas to reshape Main Street with mixed uses, including arts, skill development workshops and music
- More visual links to heritage and community in the town centre
- Attract more footfall into the Main Street

- Requirement for incentives to attract and retain retailers and new uses onto the Main Street.

The main challenges and opportunities for Coatbridge town centre are identified over the following pages. These have been taken into consideration when formulating the strategic vision for Coatbridge and identifying initiatives to deliver on this vision over the delivery period.



Photo from the Monkland Canal path, source: PP

Challenges

Key challenges identified in Coatbridge are primarily related to access to key sites and connections, safety and quality of green spaces, retail offer and deactivated Main Street, and generally pedestrian movement.

1. Declining Main Street

The Main Street faces significant challenges, including a marked decline in footfall, partly due to competition from Faraday Retail Park and the lack of diverse retail offerings and other uses. The pedestrianised section is frequently driven over by cars, creating safety hazards and blurring the intended function of this civic space.

2. Underused key assets

Assets drawing footfall to the town are the Summerlee Museum and the Time Capsule leisure facility, alongside Drumpellier park and Faraday retail park. Access to the Main Street from these sites is quite challenging, especially for pedestrians. Additionally, the existing assets are slightly underused either due to condition (for example slides not operating in Time Capsule) or access and space limitations.

3. Not enough for young people to do

Mostly highlighted in our community engagement, there are very limited opportunities for young people in activities and events, but also a safe central space to gather (see separate section for full findings). Similarly, there is lack of indoor and outdoor play areas for children.

4. Green spaces

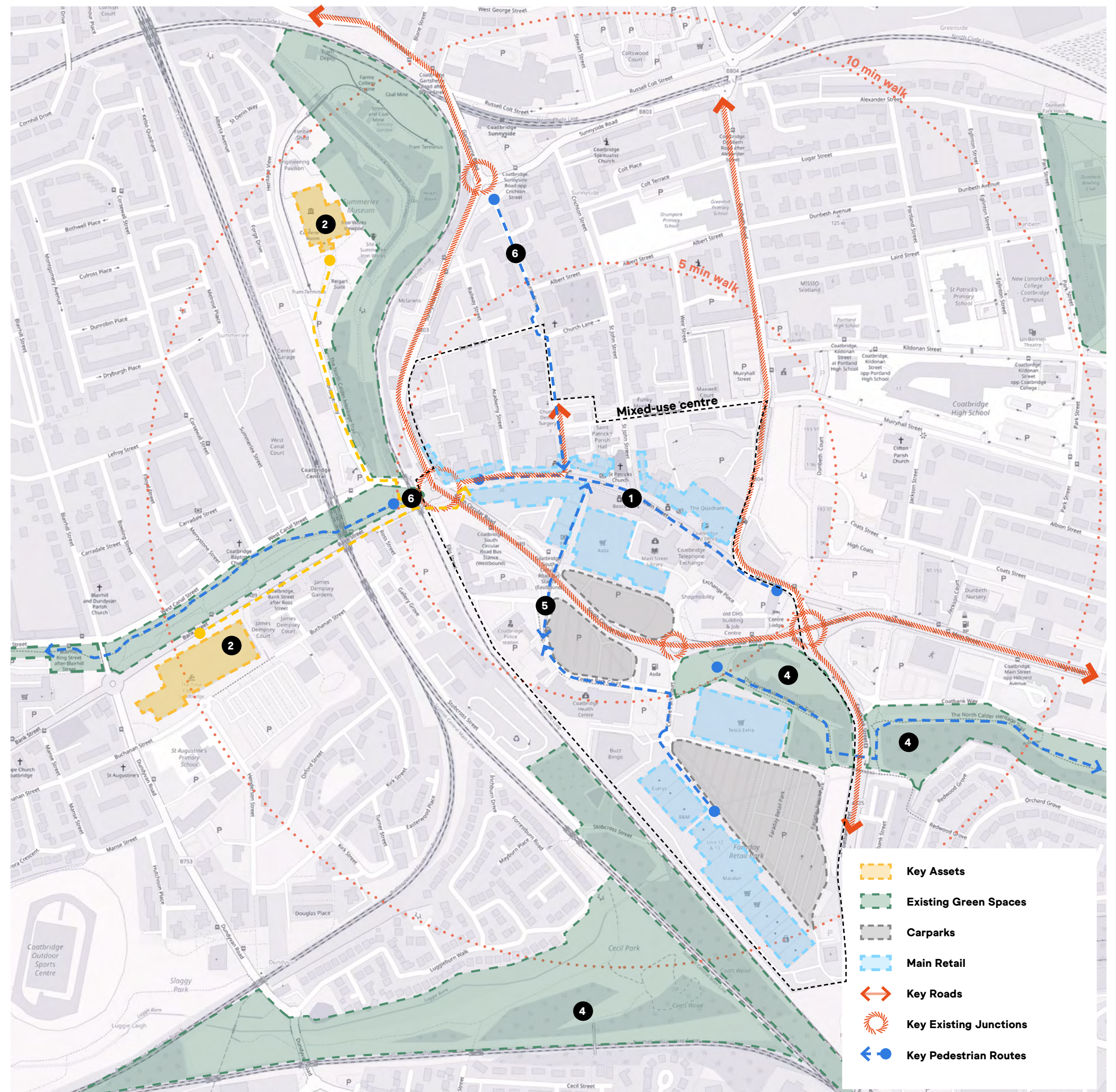
While the town centre is well-served by nearby green spaces, paths, especially those along the old heritage trail, would benefit from improved lighting and maintenance. As a result, these areas are underused by the local community.

5. Safety

Partly due to lighting and limited pedestrian crossings, but also related to the reported antisocial behaviour in the town centre, safety seems to be a significant concern, primarily during night hours, mainly expressed by young girls and older women.

6. Pedestrian movement and active travel

The extensive road infrastructure and numerous junctions make pedestrian movement difficult around the town centre. Accessing the town centre via public transport is also problematic, with several bus stops lacking adequate connections to the Main Street. Additionally, pedestrian access from Sunnyside train station is not ideal as there is not clear wayfinding or crossings, while the only link between the Main street and Faraday retail park is an overpass crossing which presents safety and aesthetic challenges.



Opportunities

Associated with the challenges outlined previously, the following opportunities have been identified:

1. Making the most of existing assets

Building on the town's current strengths of strong cultural, leisure, educational and green space offering, there is a great opportunity in further utilising these for activities and events promoting community interaction, health and wellbeing throughout the town centre.

2. Mix and variety of uses

Building on the town's existing variety of uses—including health, leisure, culture, and educational facilities—introducing a diverse mix of community, leisure, retail spaces and other suitable uses could significantly revitalise the town centre. This approach would ensure the area remains active throughout the day, attracting different age groups and catering to a wide range of needs, thereby creating a vibrant, inclusive environment for all.

3. Access to and moving around the Town Centre

Building on the town's strong rail connections to Glasgow, Edinburgh, and surrounding areas, there is a valuable opportunity to enhance arrival via active travel. Similarly, the large parking area south of ASDA offers potential for a more consolidated and integrated public transport hub. Assessing options for calming South Circular Road in the long term future plan, presents a significant chance to improve pedestrian movement in various parts of the town.

4. Connection to Faraday retail park

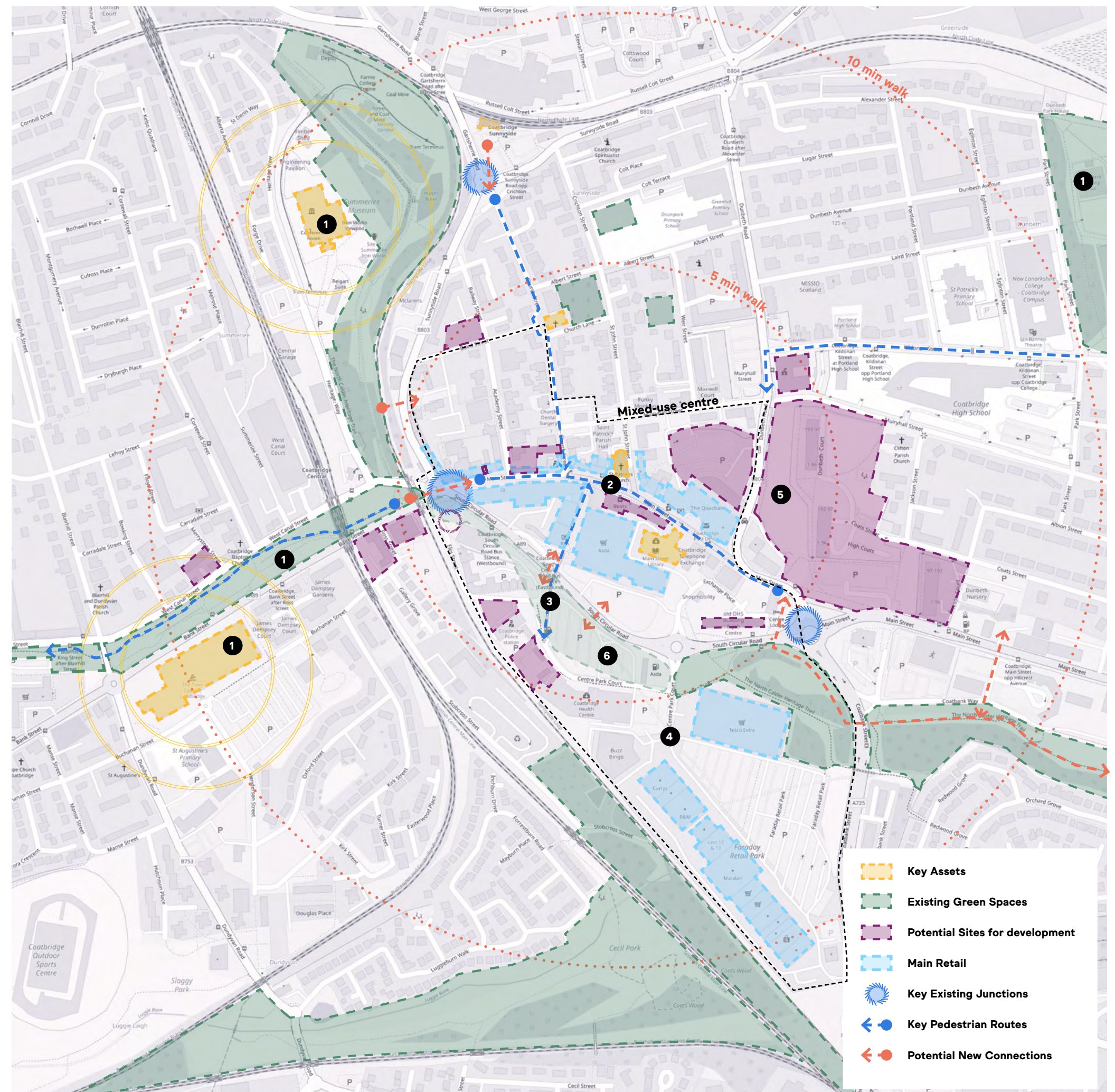
Unlocking the connection and 'bridging the gap' between the retail park and Main Street appears to be a crucial step in turning this challenge into an opportunity. The link could be improved with small enhancements on the overpass and a more welcoming civic space on either sides.

5. Sites and buildings for development

The various sites identified as potential areas for redevelopment present a great opportunity for introducing new uses within the heart of the town centre. New housing development is already planned for a key gap site on Main Street / Academy Street.

6. Green corridor connection

Relinking the green corridor along the original and culverted Monklands Canal presents a unique opportunity to celebrate the town's rich heritage while creating connected and well-utilised green spaces. This initiative would not only honour the historical significance of the canal but also provide residents with accessible, attractive areas for recreation and community activities. This opportunity, although not critical, could be utilised in the long-term future plan for the town.



3. Vision for the future

This Regeneration Plan sets out the strategic vision for Coatbridge over the next decade. It details where, why and how funds will be targeted and managed over the 10 year investment period, taking into account analysis of socio-economic data.

This section provides our detailed vision for Coatbridge over the next decade, it identifies specific areas for intervention and what change will be delivered in these areas. It also details what success looks like at the end of the programme.

By 2036, Coatbridge
will be a more
vibrant place, with
the town's existing
strengths enhanced.
A place where
people and local
businesses can
thrive.

To realise this vision we will focus on delivering
three key objectives:

1.

Coatbridge's communities will be stronger, with better social cohesion and more opportunities to come together, while empowering young people to shape the future of the town.

2.

The full potential of Coatbridge's key assets will be unlocked to ensure they can be enjoyed by current and future generations.

3.

Coatbridge's Main Street will become a vibrant heart of the town, better connected to its key assets and neighbourhoods. The town centre will be seen as a hub for civic, community and social life.

This vision statement is supported by the following Local Outcomes and Priorities, which will form the basis for initiatives and projects brought forward within each investment period:

1. More opportunities for young people - to help improve health and wellbeing, develop skills and improve life chances.

2. Invest in what we have - to provide improved opportunities to address health inequalities and to access local culture and sport offerings.

3. A safe and friendly town centre - the heart of the community. A place where people can access key local services and socialise together. A place where local businesses can start-up and thrive.

The key feedback received from the Coatbridge community on their town and their aspirations for the future has shaped this vision statement.

Positive aspects identified through community engagement have been reflected within the vision statement, outcomes and priorities through a focus on building on the community's existing strengths and creating better opportunities and prospects for future generations. Negative and challenging aspects identified during community engagement have informed the priorities for change.

The Regeneration Plan will target these priorities for change through:

Physical regeneration and redevelopment projects that:

- deliver additional investment to transform Coatbridge's key assets, the range of services, facilities and opportunities they provide for both residents and visitors to the town and the connections between them.
- deliver additional investment to support the regeneration of vacant buildings and commercial units and public spaces on Main Street to revitalise it as the heart of the community and bring new activities and business opportunities into the town centre.
- deliver additional investment in green spaces, parks and leisure paths across Coatbridge to improve their value to the local community, to improve the local environment, accessibility and safety, delivering a range of health and wellbeing benefits.
- deliver additional investment in community facilities to increase accessibility and to provide more activities and opportunities for all, with a particular focus on young people.

Support and capacity building for community based and third sector organisations by:

- Delivering community grant programmes targeting identified areas and themes of need

and building the capacity of community based groups and third sector organisations to respond to local priorities.

- Delivering events and activities to facilitate greater social cohesion and sense of local pride, generate increased footfall and promote awareness of the Coatbridge Neighbourhood Board.
- Identifying and facilitating partnership working opportunities to deliver improved skills, learning outcomes and training opportunities for young people, as part of regeneration and redevelopment projects

Targeted support for businesses and vacant commercial properties by:

- Developing a targeted business support programme for businesses in Coatbridge town centre;
- Developing grant programmes to improve the appearance of buildings and units on Main Street and to encourage the re-use of vacant commercial units
- Encouraging new businesses and uses to locate in the town centre. Engaging with business sectors on needs and opportunities
- Working in partnership with private sector property owners and retailers.

These actions will collectively deliver against the outcomes and local priorities identified to enhance the existing strengths of Coatbridge and support local enterprise, with a stronger and more cohesive community; improved and better connected physical assets; and a more vibrant town centre that is the heart of the community.

Measuring Success

The measures of success are the outcomes resulting from the capital and revenue investment. These are summarised in **Table 1**.

The assessment intervals for all measures of success will be Year 4, Year 7 and Year 10 of the delivery period.

The baseline positions against which outcome delivery will be assessed are:

- 2022 Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation Data;
- 2025 UK Government Data Pack for Coatbridge
- 2024 Coatbridge community engagement survey data
- 2024/25 North Lanarkshire Council town centre audit data
- 2025 UK Government Polling Data for Coatbridge

Outcomes	Measures of Success
People living in Coatbridge have improved health and wellbeing	Improvements to SIMD and Coatbridge Data Pack health and wellbeing indicators Number of health and wellbeing related Community Benefit Outcomes delivered
16-24 year olds living in Coatbridge will have improved life chances and more opportunities	Improvements to SIMD and Coatbridge Data Pack education and employment indicators Number of skills, training and employment Community Benefit Outcomes delivered
Coatbridge's communities will have better social cohesion with more opportunities to come together	Satisfaction rating with social cohesion and sense of community and local pride
Coatbridge's greenspaces and green networks will be enhanced by additional investment	Satisfaction rating of local people on the quality, safety and use value of local greenspaces and green networks
Coatbridge 's community, cultural and leisure assets will be enhanced by additional investment	Satisfaction rating of local people on the quality and use value of local community, cultural and leisure assets
Coatbridge Main Street will be more vibrant and better connected to other key assets in the town.	% of vacant commercial units against national averages Number of vacant buildings and gaps sites Town centre footfall levels against national averages Satisfaction rating of local people on the safety and appeal of the town centre, the quality and safety of path connections and pedestrian crossing facilities

Table 1

4. Strategic case for change

This section provides an outline of the strategic case for change in Coatbridge. It summarises evidence showing economic need and market failure and social disadvantage and it sets out the priorities for change identified in our Community Engagement. It shows how these priorities align to the objectives for the Plan for Neighbourhoods programme.

The case for change

The UK Government Plan for Neighbourhoods Programme is a long-term strategy to fix the foundations of those places most left behind. Seventy five areas across the UK were identified by the UK Government to receive a share of a £1.5billion programme over a ten year delivery programme to deliver change in line with local priorities within these areas. Coatbridge within North Lanarkshire was identified as one of the places for inclusion in this programme and will benefit from £19.5million of funding over a ten year period.

Selection of places for inclusion within the Plan for Neighbourhoods Programme was undertaken using metrics including:

- Indices of multiple deprivation
- Population size
- Healthy life expectancy
- Gross Value Added per hour worked
- Skill level (SCQF level 4+ in Scotland)

Coatbridge has areas of socio disadvantage and economic need which support it's inclusion within the Plan for Neighbourhoods programme. This is evident from socio-economic data sources and reinforced by a data pack produced in July 2025 by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) in collaboration with the Office for National Statistics (ONS) to support Neighbourhood Boards in identifying and evidencing local needs or trends.

Looking at both the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) and the Understanding Scottish Places (USP) platform, it becomes evident that Coatbridge faces significant socio-economic challenges and deprivation.

Factors that contribute to this situation are:

Economic Decline, after the closure of major businesses in the 20th century and widespread job losses.

Poverty and Unemployment, with low incomes and limited job opportunities.

Health Issues, with higher-than-average rates of chronic illnesses, mental health issues, and lower life expectancy.

Educational Attainment, lower than the national average.

Housing, in both quality and availability

Crime and Safety, creating a sense of insecurity and further hinder community development. In terms of demographic data, an interesting observation is that the percentage of younger

people in Coatbridge is slightly higher than the Scottish average, which is evident in the large number of schools in the town (19 primary and 4 secondary schools). There are large percentages of retail vacancies, reflected in the lack of vibrancy within the town centre. Evidence within the Data Pack for Coatbridge reflects the key socio-economic trends and statistics identified through the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) and Understanding Scottish Places (USP) platform and together, these data sources provide a robust evidence base of socio-economic disadvantage and economic need in Coatbridge, supporting the Case for Change. Headline statistics from the SIMD include:

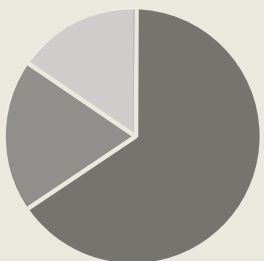
- Across the town, 8,234 people are income deprived, 18% of the population
- Claimant rate is higher compared to the National, Scottish and UK average. 25% of the 16-64 population is economically inactive
- Estimated Life Expectancy is below the Scottish Average
- People aged 16-64 with no formal education qualifications are almost 2.5 times higher in Coatbridge (20.1%) than the Scottish average (7.8%)

Table 2 further summaries findings from the socio-economic context, corresponding key issues/ opportunities and the relevant priority outcome heading of this Regeneration Plan. This socio-economic context data and evidence of economic need has been considered along with analysis of challenges and opportunities and feedback from extensive community consultation activities over 2024, to inform the identification of local priority outcomes for the Coatbridge Regeneration Plan. This includes a focus on improving health and wellbeing, skills and the life chances of young people and addressing health inequalities. It is notable from the community feedback that the young people of the town emerged as a priority, with residents wishing to see more activities and opportunities for this group. It is also notable that affordable housing was raised as an issue across all age groups surveyed.

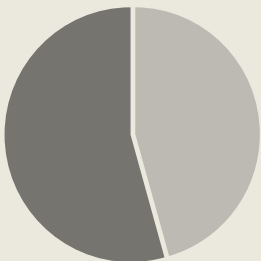
Local case study: the Coatbridge Local Outcome Improvement Plan

The Local Outcome Improvement Plan and data profile for Coatbridge provide further insight into areas of need and priorities for the town and its neighbourhoods. Further detail on the LOIP for Coatbridge is provided within Section 1 – Local Context.

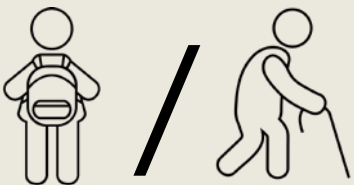
Profiles for each community board area in North Lanarkshire are available.



Age Groups (2022)
0-17 years 8,166 (19.3%)
18-64 years 26,720 (63.2%)
65+ years 7,378 (17.5%)



Sex (2022)
Males 48.5%
Females 51.5%



Community

Population aged 0-15 is slightly higher than the Scottish average (18.4% vs 16.9%). Population aged 85+ is also slightly higher than in the wider local authority area. 30% of people aged 65+ are on Pension Credit, higher than the Scottish average (14%)



Health

Estimated Life Expectancy is below the Scottish average. Alcohol related hospital admissions rate is higher compared to Scottish rates and has increased by around 28% over the last 5 years.



Work

Claimant rate is higher compared to the North Lanarkshire, Scottish and UK averages. 25% of the 16-64 population is economically inactive



Education

People aged 16-64 with no formal education qualifications are almost 2.5 times higher in Coatbridge (20.1%) than the Scottish average (7.8%)

Summary points from the Coatbridge Community Board area profile include:

- Coatbridge Community Board is made up of 3 wards – Coatbridge North, Coatbridge South and Coatbridge West.
- Attainment, qualifications and skills is a key issue in some areas of Coatbridge, as illustrated in the maps on page 42.

These statistics support a key focus of the Regeneration Plan on improving opportunities for young people and will guide the targeting of initiatives and community benefit outcome plans to improve skills and life chances of young people over each investment plan period.

Work led by the Coatbridge Community Board with local organisations to analyse data and feedback from community engagement agreed three key priorities for Coatbridge focusing on Poverty; Mental Health and Digital Inclusion. The LOIP highlights that these issues do not fall neatly within neighbourhood boundaries and that thematic approaches are the recommended way forward. It also highlights in relation to mental health that there is concern about the impact on those who do not have access to informal supports, including young people, older people and those who are considered vulnerable within communities.

Investment Plans for each investment period will seek to deliver additionality through targeted action and engagement activities to support improved resilience, health and wellbeing, access to services and digital connectivity in communities across Coatbridge, with particular areas of need identified through working with the council’s Community Partnership Team, Community Learning and Development Service, Coatbridge Community Board and the Third Sector.

Market Failure

Market failure, the failure of the market to deliver an efficient outcome or where the market has not or cannot of itself be expected to deliver an efficient outcome, is evident within priorities for change identified by the Coatbridge community.

Survey work undertaken as part of quantitative research to support development of the Coatbridge Regeneration Plan illustrates that 80% of all suggestions for 'one thing to do' for future priorities related to regeneration. Furthermore, revamping the Main Street was a recurring theme in all engagement sessions and across all age groups. This highlights the need for regeneration

within Coatbridge and in particular, within the town centre.

Decline within the traditional town centre retail market across the UK has been a long-standing trend and has expedited over recent years due to a range of external factors. Our towns and our needs and use of our town centres are changing and this requires targeted action and investment that the private sector cannot be expected to provide in isolation or to coordinate.

Whilst town centres have always changed and adapted to the needs of their communities, the scale of investment and change required to respond to these trends in many areas is significant. This context, coupled with wider economic and social conditions, requires public sector intervention to identify new approaches, set out a clear plan for change and facilitate private sector investment.

The Scottish Government’s update of the Town Centre Action Plan guidance 2024 evidences the need for intervention and investment in town centres and supports North Lanarkshire Council’s focus on and approach to town centre regeneration across our eight town centres, including Coatbridge.

Guided by a suite of Town Visions and town centre action plans, North Lanarkshire Council is seeking to reposition town centres as mixed-use centres including town centre living and a broad mix of uses which increase activity, footfall and vitality. In development of our Town Visions and actions plans, a range of evidence papers and statements were commissioned and referenced to justify the Town Visions. These papers cover a number of subjects including Mixed Use Town Centres, Demographic Change and Strategic Retail Centres. Further detail on the Coatbridge Town Centre Vision is provided within Section 5.

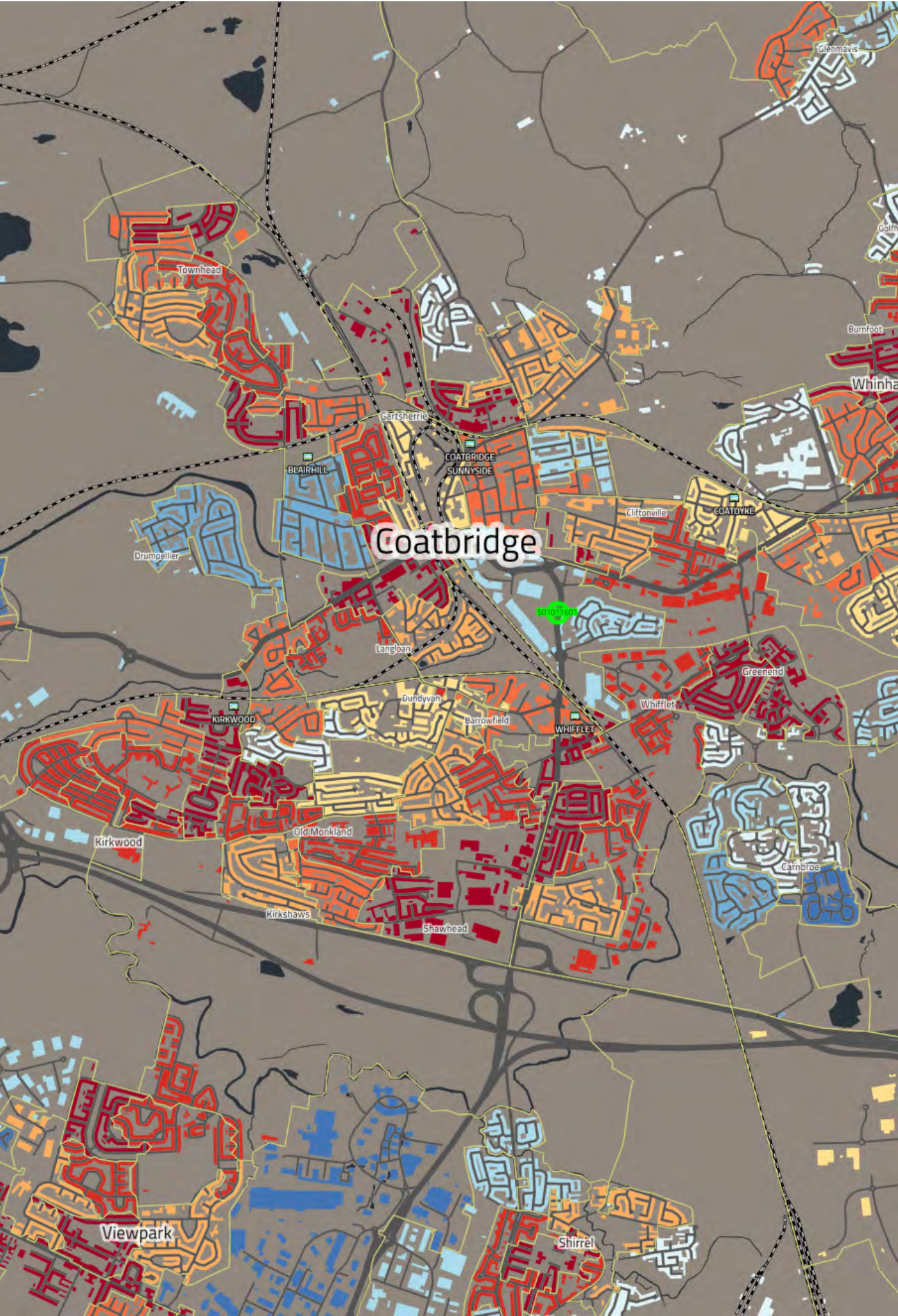
This Regeneration Plan for Coatbridge responds to this context and the clear feedback from local people on the priority for regeneration of their town centre.

Intended use of Powers

The Coatbridge Neighbourhood Board will work with North Lanarkshire Council to identify opportunities to use available existing statutory powers, strategies and guidance to drive forward delivery of the Regeneration Plan.

Socio-economic factors	Key issues/ opportunities	Priority Outcome
• A higher than the national average of 16-64 year olds with no qualification • A lower than the national average of 16-64 year olds with level 3+ qualifications • A higher than national average of people in Coatbridge are under 16 years old	• Educational attainment, qualifications and improved skills. • Engaging young people in positive activities to build their confidence, well-being, resilience and skills to improve their educational attainment and job/training opportunities.	• More Opportunities For Young People
• Commercial vacancy rate within the town centre is in line with the national average however this is high at 10.7% • A higher than national average recorded crime rate per 1,000 population • A higher than national average premises with gigabit capable broadband • A higher than national average footfall index	• Lack of vibrancy within Coatbridge town centre, need for new uses and activities. • Actual and perceived sense of safety. • Digital connectivity and footfall potential as strengths which can attract new businesses.	• A Safe and Friendly Town Centre
• Estimated Life Expectancy is below the Scottish average. Alcohol related hospital admissions rate is higher compared to Scottish rates. • A higher than national average footfall index	• Health inequalities • Improving green spaces and green networks could encourage increased physical activity and improved wellbeing. • Improving accessibility by walking and other active travel modes to key facilities and services could drive footfall figures further whilst also improving health outcomes.	• Invest in What we Have

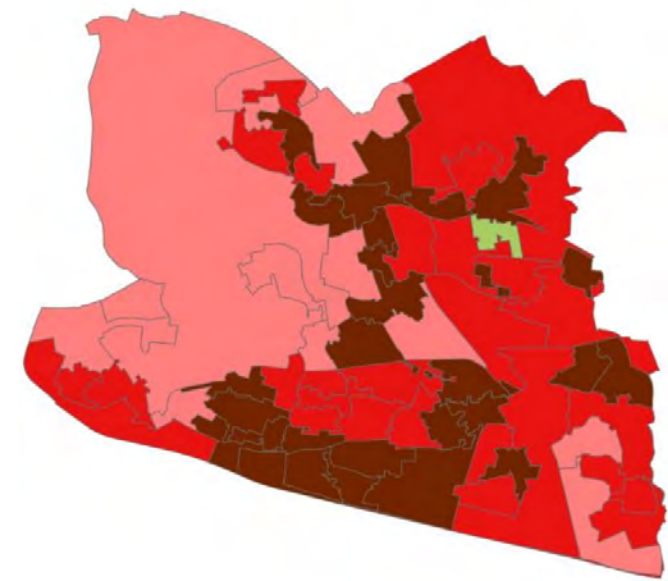
Table 2



Multiple Deprivation Index Maps, source: smid 2020

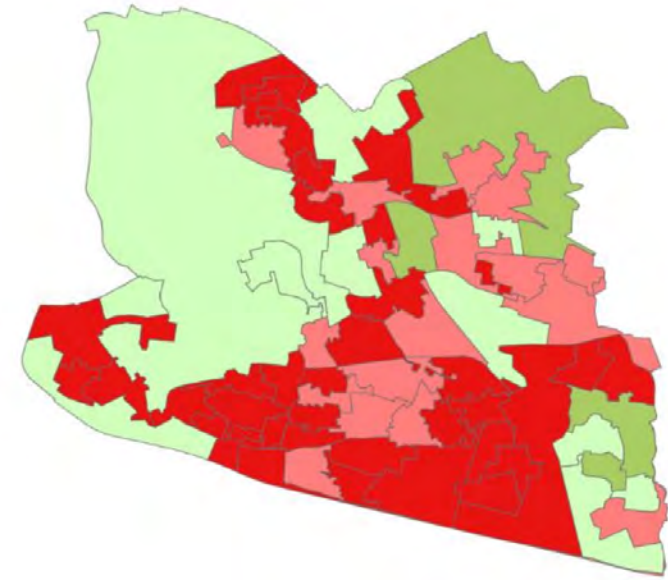
Young People aged 17-21 Participating in University

- Above 20%
- 15% to 20%
- 10% - 15%
- 5% - 10%
- Less than 5%



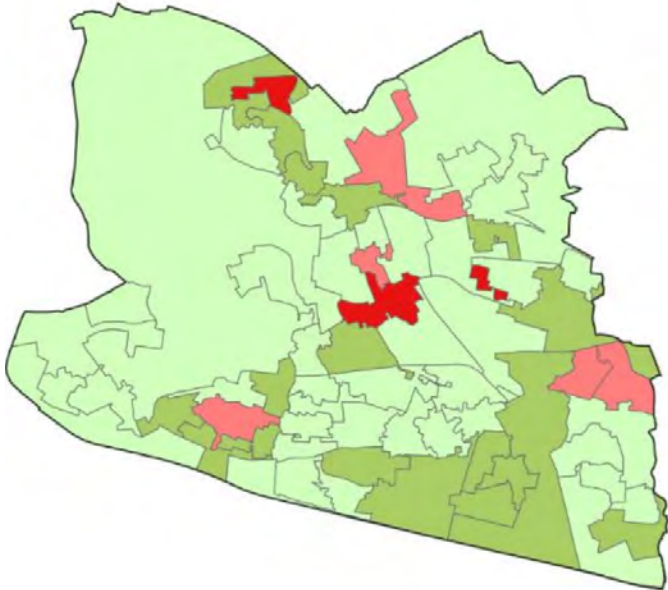
Working Age Population with no qualifications

- Better than the Scottish average
- Around than the Scottish average
- Worse than the Scottish average
- Much worse than Scottish average



Young People not in Education, Employment or Training

- Less than 5%
- Between 5% and 10%
- Between 10% and 15%
- More than 15%



Multiple Deprivation Index Maps, source: Coatbridge Community Board Data Profile, 2019

The Plan for Neighbourhoods is part of the UK Government's ambition to help revitalise local areas and tackle deprivation. Coatbridge Neighbourhood Board, working in partnership with North Lanarkshire Council, will pursue projects to achieve the three strategic objectives set out by the government. These are detailed on the next page.



Revitalised Town Centre, Artist Impression

Thriving places

Across the UK, many town centres and neighbourhoods need regeneration to better serve their communities, with residents having a say in the design. Places should be able to design public services that are accessible, responsive, and tailored to local need. Investing in our young people's futures and in preventative measures now will ease pressure on services over the longer-term.

Stronger communities

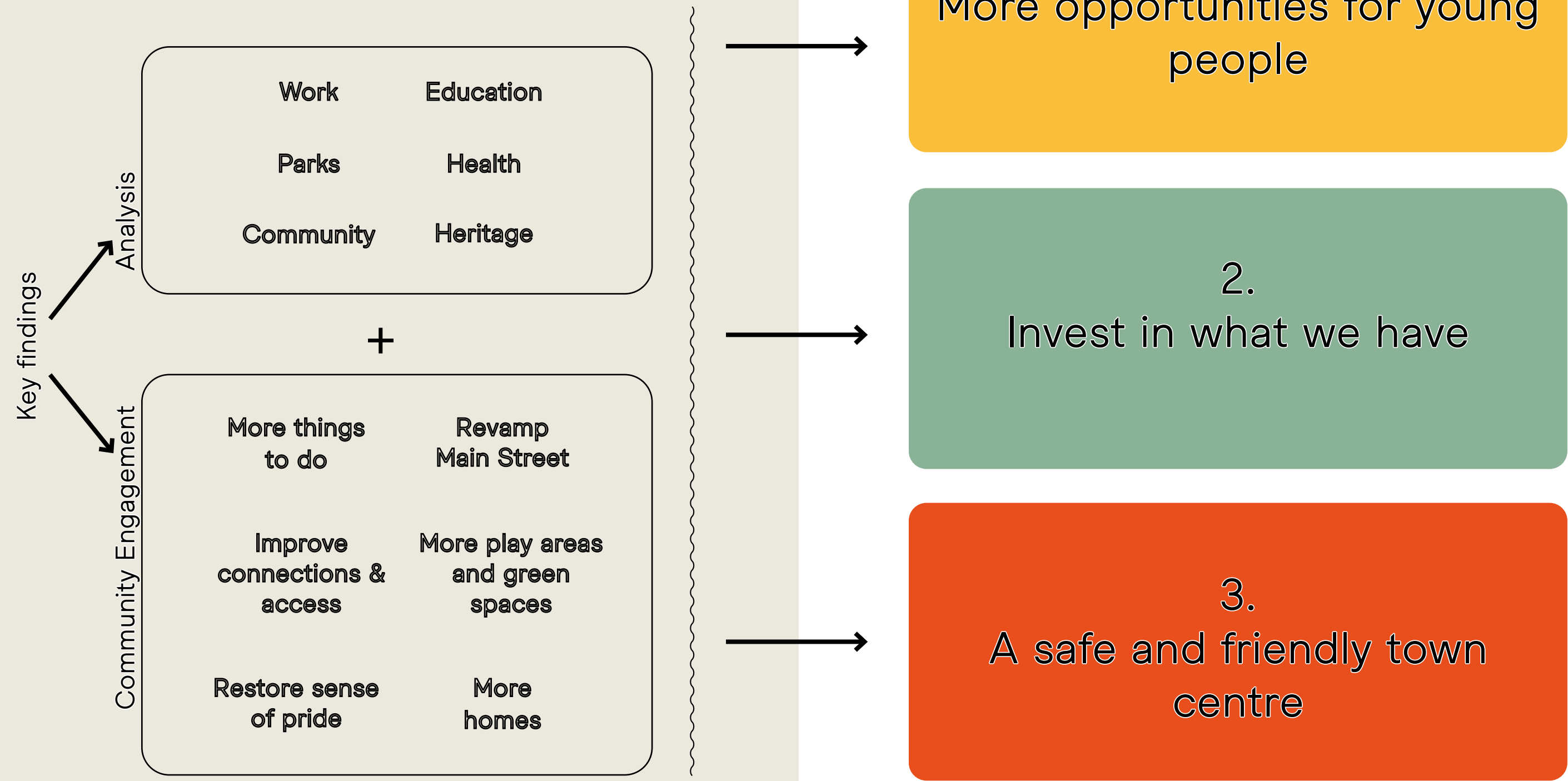
76% of Britons believe 'the UK feels divided' and fewer than half of Britons think of themselves as a member of a community, or part of a local group. The UK Government wants to empower boards to tackle the root causes, rebuild relationships, and restore a collective sense of belonging to their community, bringing people together so they can feel proud of their area and safe in their neighbourhood.

Taking back control

People want to be empowered and in control of their lives, to have a say over the future of their community. But this can feel a distant prospect when you are living payslip to payslip or stuck on a waiting list. UK Government wants to make sure children have the best start in life and that adults can live the life they want to. Whether that's accessing the skills required for emerging job markets as the UK transitions to net zero or supporting the thousands of would-be entrepreneurs through their first steps into self-employment.

Local Priorities

Extensive community engagement has been undertaken alongside desktop analysis both for challenges and opportunities. This has resulted in three priorities for change being identified which responds to local feedback. More detail on this is provided within section 7 of this document.



Alignment with plan for neighbourhoods objectives

Thriving places
Stronger communities
Taking back control

These three priority outcomes align with the Plan for Neighbourhoods objectives by:

Empowering the local community and particularly young people to improve health and wellbeing, develop skills and improve life chances;

Providing opportunities to address health inequalities and improve access to local culture and sport offerings

Regenerating Main Street to be the heart of the community. A place where people can access key local services and socialise together, and a place where local businesses can start up and thrive.



1.
More opportunities for young people



2.
Invest in what we have



3.
A safe and friendly town centre

More opportunities for young people

To help improve health and wellbeing, develop skills and improve life chances.

Most groups we engaged with identified young people as the group that needs most care and attention in the future plans for Coatbridge. From children in primary schools to older ladies' groups, most local people shared their desire for the town to offer "more to do" for teenagers and the youth. Although there are some green spaces young people use, and some evening activities, access issues arise due to these locations being quite far from the town centre. Overall, the nature, scale and variety of activities are currently insufficient to meet young people's needs and aspirations.

Through our community engagement, it became evident that young people are eager for activities to be hosted in a central, neutral location. The need for such a space in the town centre is significant and has the potential to serve as a catalyst for numerous positive developments in the community. Safe spaces for socialising and informal play were specifically requested by young girls, who expressed that they often cannot use many public spaces because they don't feel safe or included. Additionally, the community expressed a strong desire for more fun activities and events — featuring music, arts, and performances—while remaining open and accessible to all, contributing to a generally more active and vibrant town where there is "a lot to do."

To create more opportunities for the community, the interventions proposed in the first four years include:

- Improvements to existing green spaces, such as Basin, Dunbeth, and West End parks, to make them safer and more attractive for the community and younger people.
- A community-wide heritage-themed festival centred around the Monklands Canal.
- Expanding the youth programme at Time Capsule.
- Providing community groups with grants to run events and activities across Coatbridge.
- Investment in community facilities across Coatbridge.

“There is nothing in the town for us (teenagers) to do, especially after school. We join groups but they meet far from the centre and it's hard to get there.”



Coatbridge Skate park , source: Scottish skatepark directory



images source: PP

Invest in what we have

To provide improved opportunities to address health inequalities and to access local culture and sport offerings.

Coatbridge is a town with a rich history and unique heritage rooted in its industrial past, alongside a pre-industrial abundance of green spaces. During our community engagement, local people shared stories of the past, expressing pride in the town's key attractions. Summerlee Museum of Scottish Industrial Life, the only remaining account of the area's rich industrial heritage, is a cherished asset for people of all ages. Similarly, many from surrounding areas associate Coatbridge with its Time Capsule, a long-standing indoor leisure facility that the local community holds in high regard.

Another invaluable asset is the Monkland Canal, a scheduled monument of great historical significance. The canal played a crucial role in the town's origins and success during industrialisation, providing vital connections to Glasgow and the shipyards. Today, it remains a remarkable feature, offering beautiful walks within close proximity to the town centre.

Listening to what local people appreciate most about their town, and building on Coatbridge's strengths—its cultural, leisure, and green space assets—the interventions for 'investing in what we have' over the next four years include:

- Summerlee Museum improvements and redevelopment works.
- Enhancements to the Time Capsule.
- Improvements along the Monkland Canal.
- Better pedestrian links between key attractions (Summerlee Museum, Time Capsule, Main street, and Drumpellier Park).

“Our town has such rich heritage with Summerlee and the canal, it would be a shame to lose it all. We need to celebrate our strengths and history.”



Summerlee Museum of Scottish Industrial Life



Monklands Canal



Time Capsule Water Park

A safe and friendly town centre

The heart of the community. A place where people can access key local services and socialise together. A place where local businesses can start-up and thrive.

Like many town centres, Coatbridge's Main Street has been in decline in recent decades as the traditional retail-led model for town centres has been threatened by the rise of internet shopping and out-of-town retail centres. Our engagement with local people has found that the Main Street is much-loved, with many people fondly remembering better days in a once-thriving town centre. Now, however, many feel that the Main Street is run-down and unattractive and we also know that Coatbridge has a large number of vacant retail units and buildings at the heart of its town centre.

Residents expressed a strong desire to revitalise the Main Street and re-establish a "heart" for the town—a place where everyone can gather, with attractive mixed-use spaces, a clean streetscape, and increased activity in both the mornings and evenings. By activating the Main Street, the aim is to reduce antisocial behaviour and encourage residents to use the pedestrianised shopping area more, fostering a sense of ownership and pride. This effort seeks to create a vibrant, well-connected centre that serves as a hub, bringing together people from all neighbourhoods.

Critical to this vision is linking the Main Street with other assets in the town to increase footfall, alongside introducing more activities and uses in the town centre. Smaller interventions to improve safety and enhance the appearance of the area will also play a key role.

To create a safer and more friendly town centre for Coatbridge, the proposed interventions for the first four years include:

- General improvements to the safety and appearance of Main Street.
- Enhancing the arrival spaces and connections to the Main street to ensure they are safe and inviting.
- Support for town centre businesses.
- Explore opportunities for repurposing vacant units and buildings.
- Events and activities on the Main street.

“I remember when the town was full of life, with lots of shops and events for everyone. I wish it could be like this again for my grandchildren to see it.”



Main street, image source: NovaLoca



Main street, image source: NovaLoca



Town centre signage, source: PP

Local priorities

Emerging projects

1.
More opportunities for young people



A. Green spaces for young people
B. Community grants for events and activities
C. Monklands canal festival
D. Invest in community facilities

2.
Invest in what we have

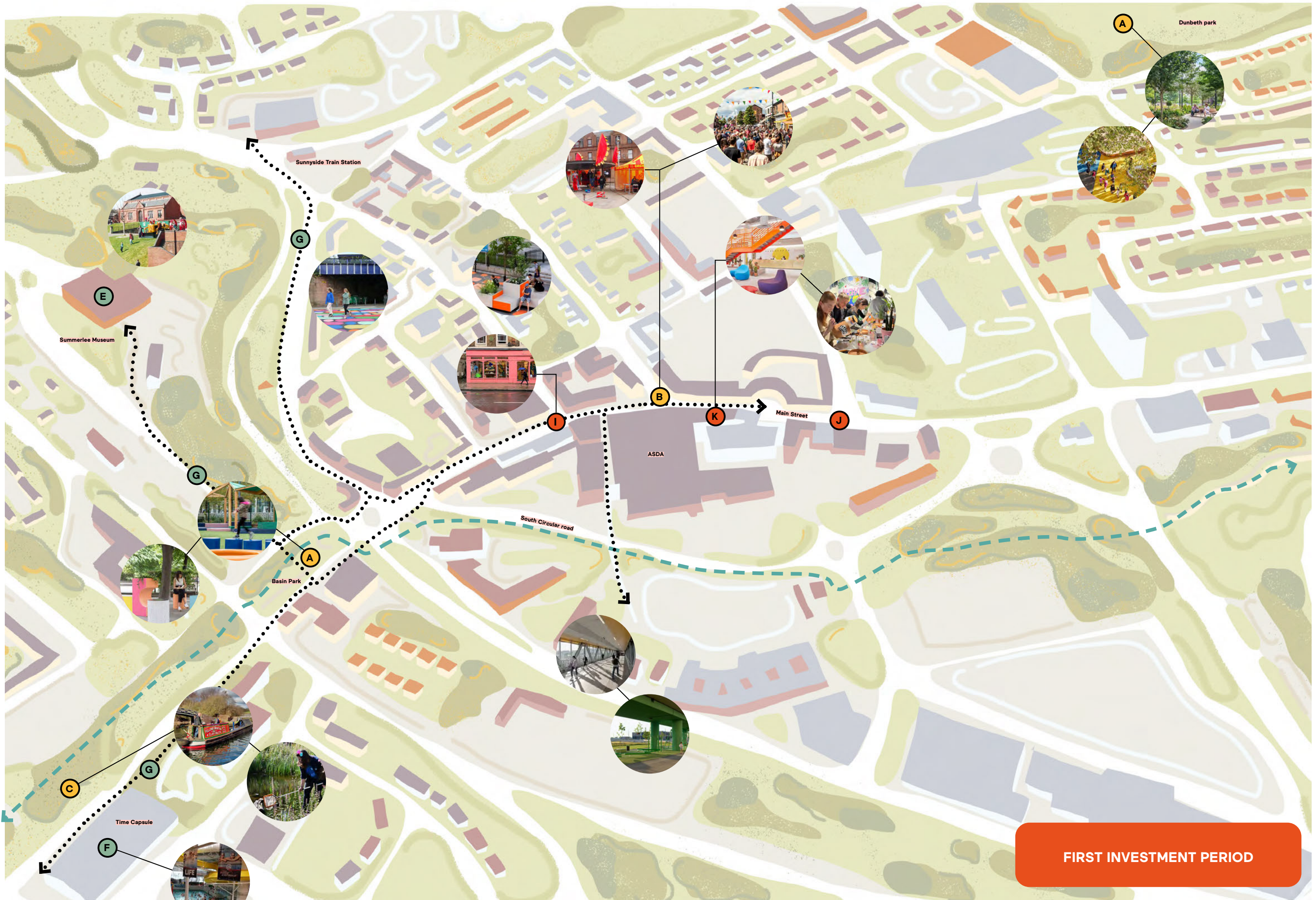


E. Sumerlee museum
F. Time capsule
G. Improved connections between key assets
H. Monkland canal improvements

3.
A safe and friendly town centre



I. Main street improvements
J. Supporting local businesses
K. Opportunities for new uses and activities



FIRST INVESTMENT PERIOD

LOCAL PRIORITY

1

More opportunities
for young people

“

Coatbridge has such
strong community, but
not much for young
people to do.

”

Green spaces for young people

A

Coatbridge - connected community

Why

Through engaging with various community groups, the youth was identified as a key focus group. Young people, and mainly girls, said they have "nothing to do" and no space to gather. Additionally, 61% of the online survey participants said they want better play and recreation areas.

What

- 1. Basin Park - A safe public space for girls to hang out with covered social seating.
- 2. Dunbeth Park - An active and safe space for all with space for youth and community events. Opportunity for small stage for performances.
- 3. West End Park - Improvements to existing skate park and children's playground.



Basin Park



Dunbeth Park

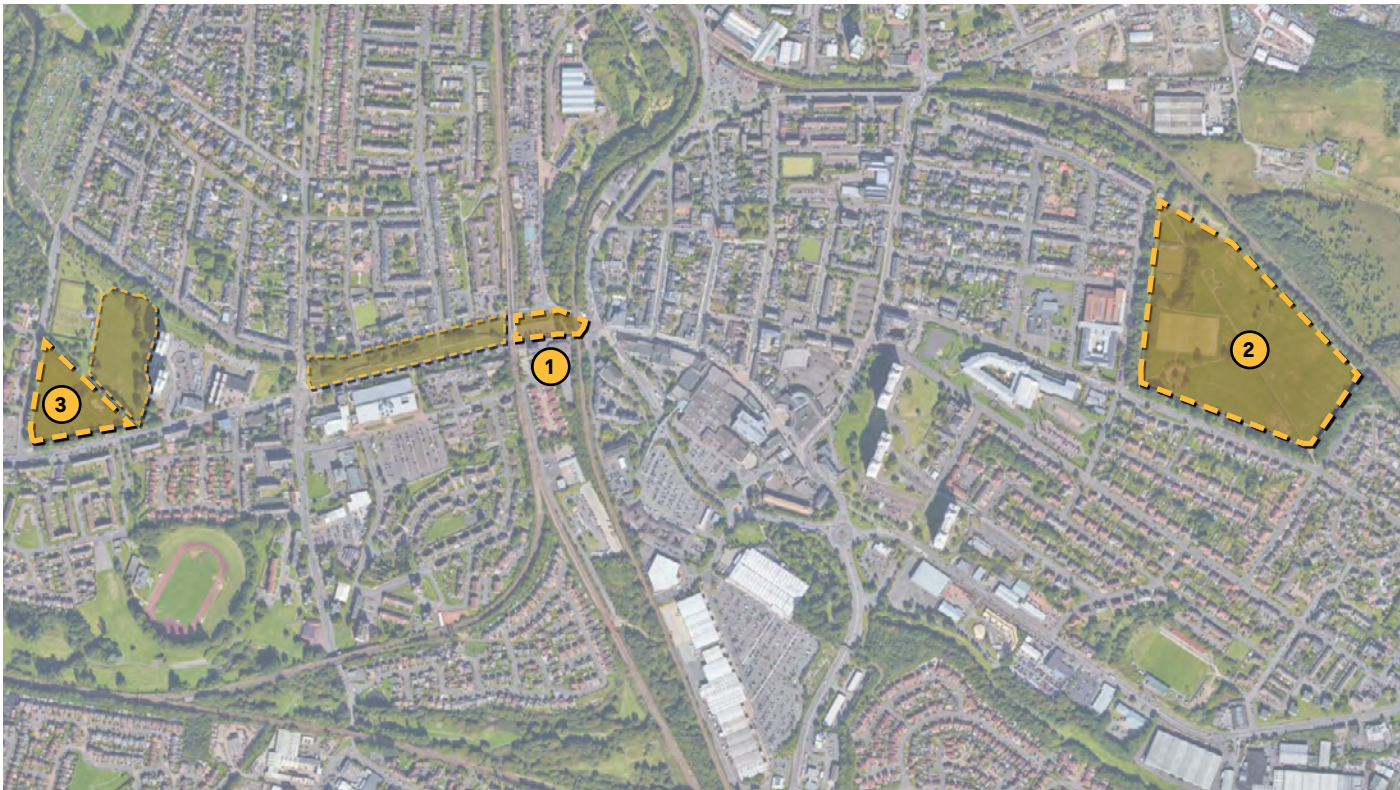


Diagram with intervention locations



Safe and attractive civic space
Photo: Plaza Superilla



Outdoor play for children and youth
Photo: Bredäng Park



Outdoor performance space in Vienna. Girls Stage
Photo: Christian Fürthner



Safe play space for children and girls with covered social seating
Photo: Samovar Space, Wembley Park



Safe and bright seating space
Photos: Make Space for Girls (top) and Olympic park (bottom)

Events and activities

B

Coatbridge - connected community

Why

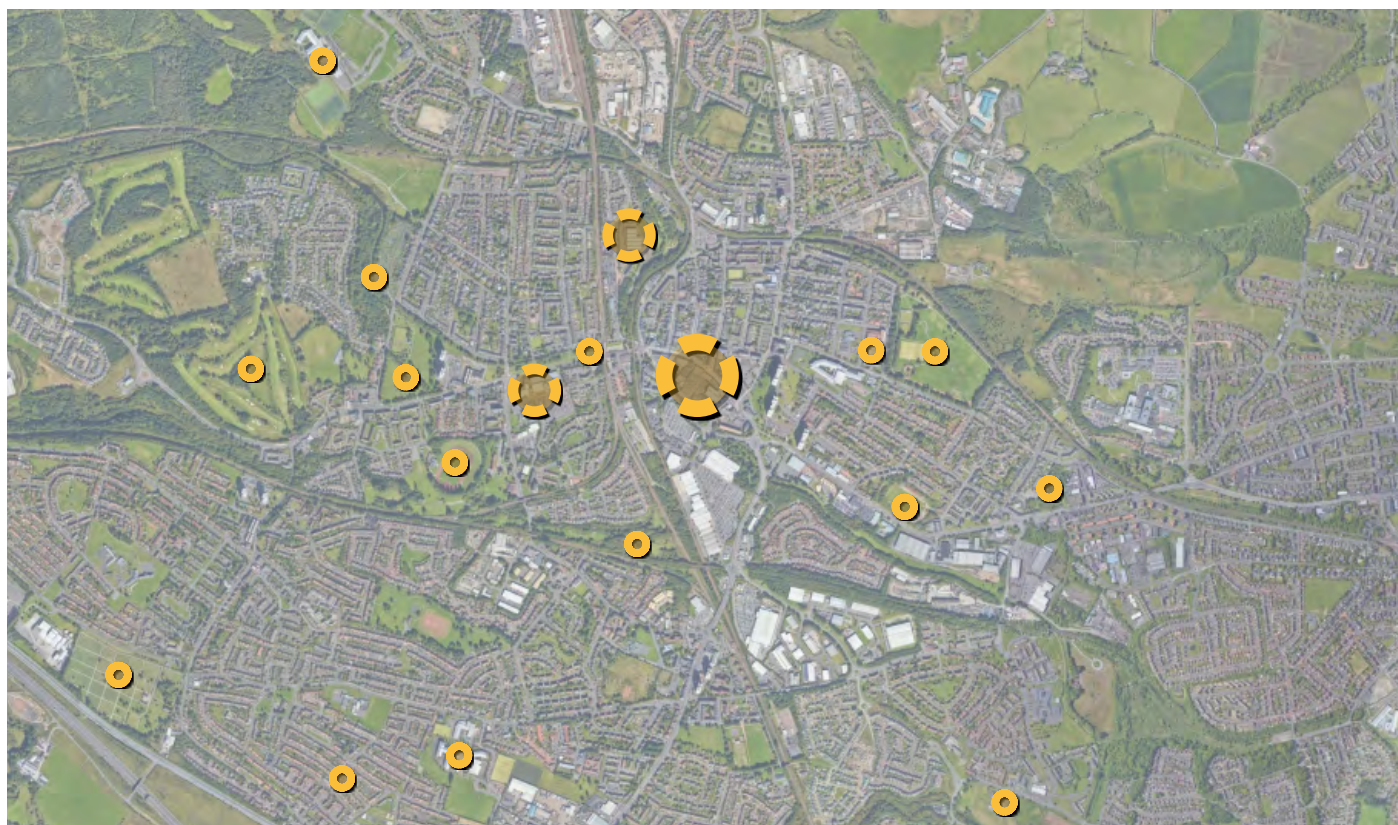
Most of the local people attending the family fun days we run as part of our engagement process, expressed a strong wish for more similar events in the town. 48% of the online survey participants said they want more community events.

What

To create more opportunities for local people and visitors to spend time with others, community grant programmes will be developed for community groups and third sector organisations to organise and run activities and events, with priority to be given to young people. This will be complemented by a youth activities programme in the Time Capsule and Summerlee Museum.



Photos from existing town centre and events in Summerlee



Multiple locations for future town events and activities



Outdoor well-being activities (photo: Newcastle park dance festival)



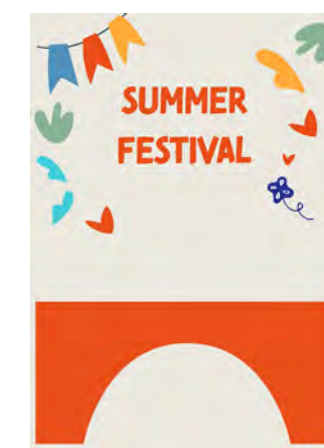
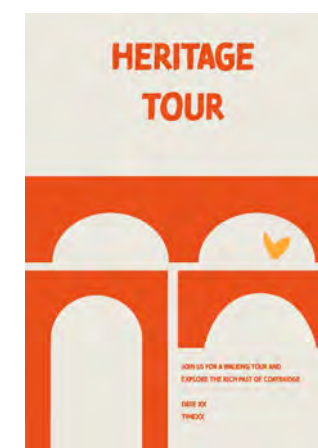
Outdoor events (photo: Peterhead community)



Regular outdoor activities. (photo: Lanark outdoor market)



Activities for teens & young adults (photo: National galleries)



Examples of event flyers and posters, based on the town's new Place Brand

Monklands canal festival

C

Coatbridge - connected community

Why

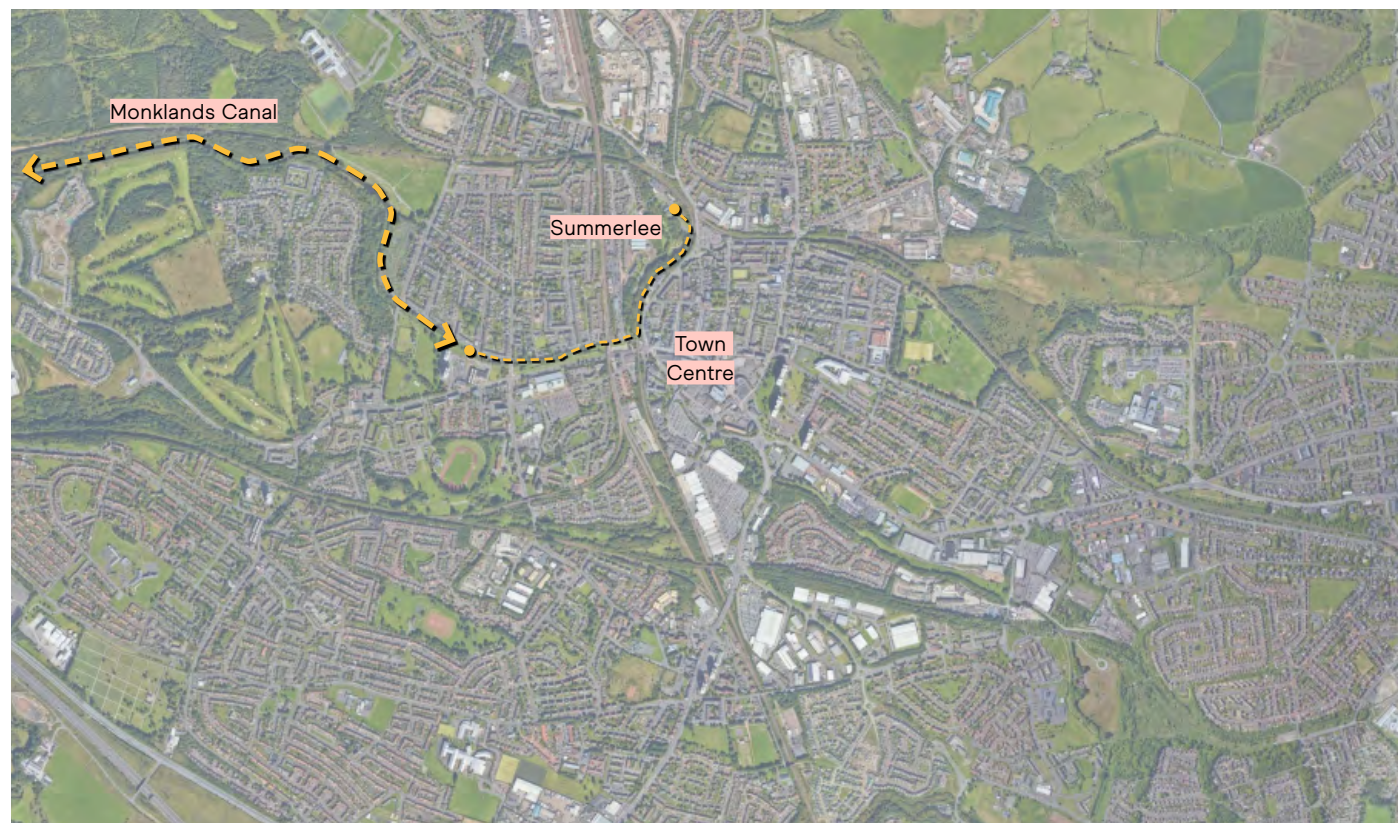
The Monklands Canal is a unique and valuable asset for the town, offering both green space infrastructure and rich cultural heritage. The local community is eager to see the canal more utilized and activated, with its history shared and celebrated. Hosting events in this space can foster community resilience by bringing people together, while enhancing health and well-being by providing more activities in a natural environment. By activating this space, it can become a vibrant hub that connects people with nature and their local heritage, contributing to a stronger, healthier community.

What

A festival along the green path and the canal, organized in partnership with Friends of Monkland Canal, celebrating its rich history and cultural significance for the town.



Photos from Monklands Canal Path



Monklands Canal



Falkirk Canal Festival (photo: Scottish canals)



The Vulcan - Summerlee Museum's iron boat



Friends of Monklands Canal Community Group, alongside Sustans and Scottish Canals



Linlithgow Canal Festival (photo: Scottish canals)

Invest in community facilities

D

Coatbridge - connected community

Why

Consultation activity with local residents revealed positive feelings for the sense of community in Coatbridge and strong third sector groups in the town. The feedback also illustrated that building on these strengths was important to local people and that enhancing community and leisure facilities in the town and more events were a priority, to bring the community together. Engagement with young people in the town revealed a consistent message that there was nothing for young people to do in the town. More activities and opportunities for young people was identified as a priority.

What

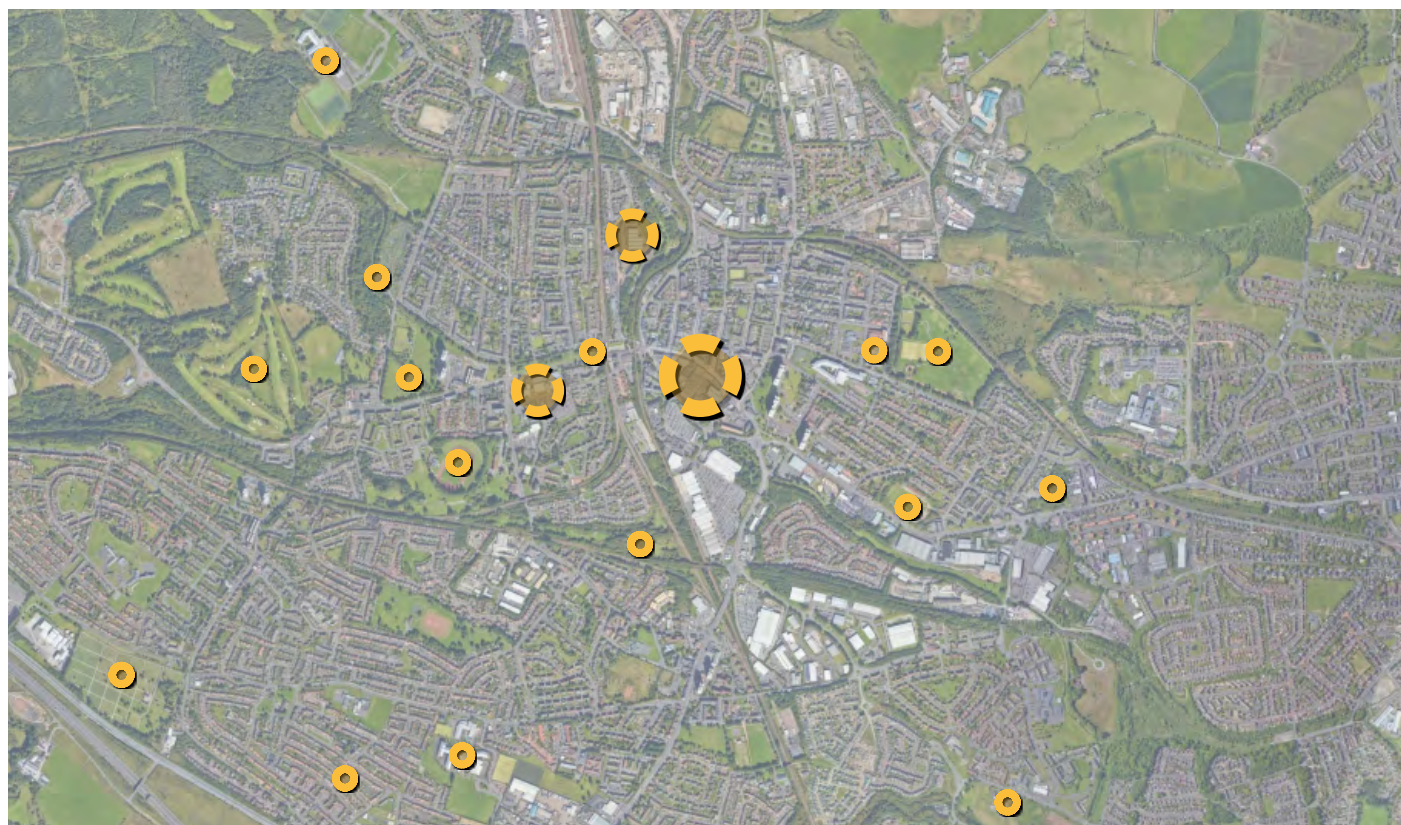
Investment in community facilities and spaces, including those run by community based voluntary organisations, to improve the range of activities, services and accessibility for all.



Photo of Coatbridge Library



Photo of Basin Park



Multiple locations for potential future investment in community facilities



Indoor space for young people (photo: Storyline kids)



Fun activities for youth (photo: Onside)



Photos from Family fun day events organised as part of town-wide engagement for the development of this plan in Summerlee (left) and Kirkshaws neighbourhood centre (right). (Photos: PP)

LOCAL PRIORITY

2

Invest in what
we have

“

The town has everything
we need, we just need
to be able to walk
around it easily and
safely.

”

Summerlee museum



Coatbridge - connected community

Why

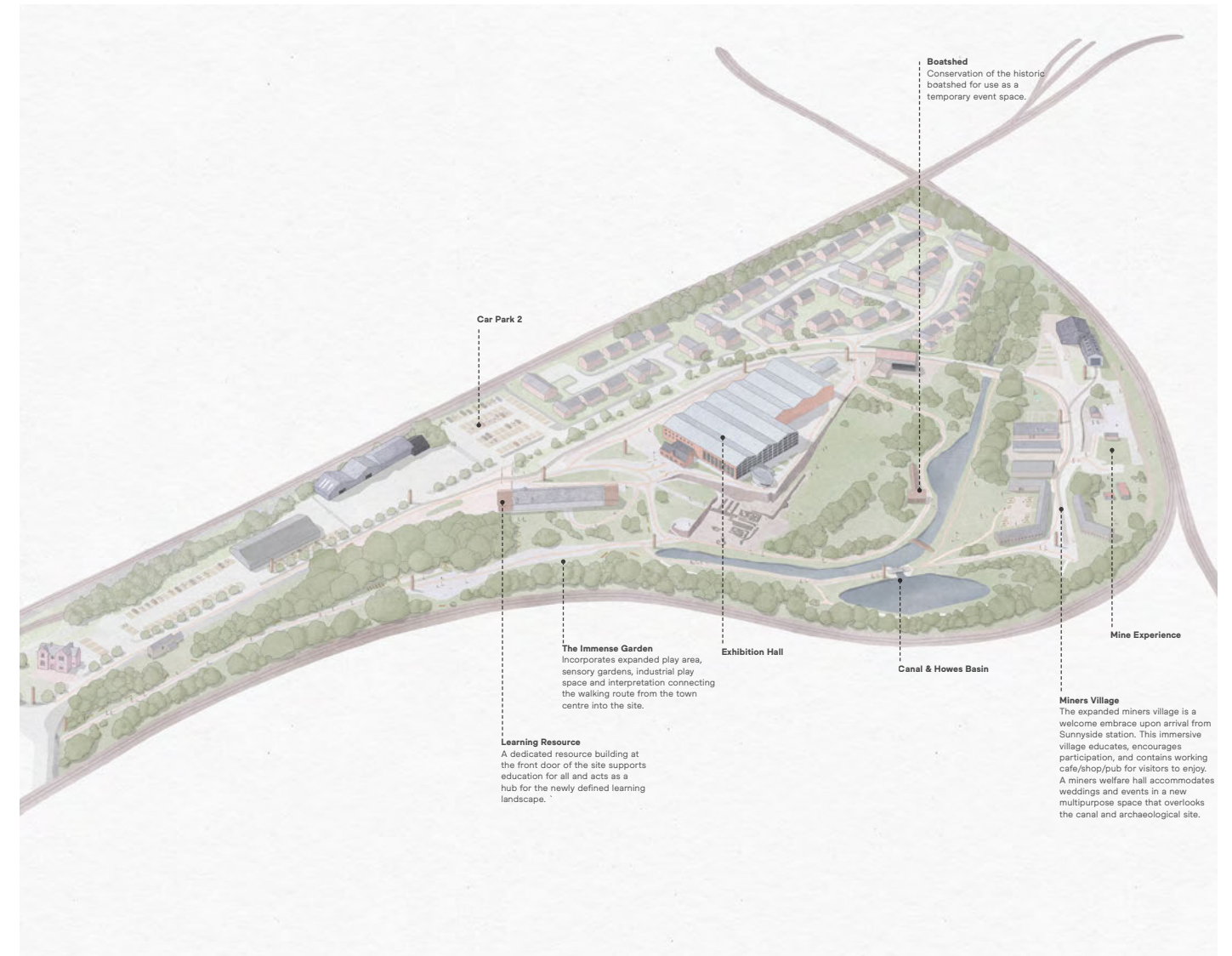
The Summerlee Museum of Industrial Heritage is an incredibly unique and significant asset for Coatbridge, offering insights into the cultural and historical development of the local area. It serves as a vital educational resource, fostering a deeper understanding of the community's heritage through engaging exhibits and programs. 62% of the online survey participants said they wish for improvements to cultural and public buildings. Summerlee Museum was mentioned repeatedly when people were asked what their favourite thing about their town is.

What

Additional investment to lever in external funding to deliver a masterplan with improvements to the museum's grounds and facilities. This will enable it to host further community activities and utilise its space to its full potential.



Summerlee Museum



Emerging ideas for the future redevelopment of Summerlee Museum



Summerlee Museum entrance



Sculptural trail in Milngavie Park

Time Capsule

F

Coatbridge - connected community

Why

Time Capsule is a very important community facility as it offers a range of recreational and wellness amenities, including a swimming pool, sports facilities, and a gym, promoting healthy lifestyles and community engagement. It also serves as a hub for local events and activities, enhancing the quality of life for residents and fostering a sense of community. Engagement with young people and children in particular, highlighted their love for Time Capsule and the need for improving current facilities.

What

Additional investment to enhance council funded repairs. This will deliver enhanced facilities to ensure this unique asset is offering its full potential to the local community and visitors to the town.



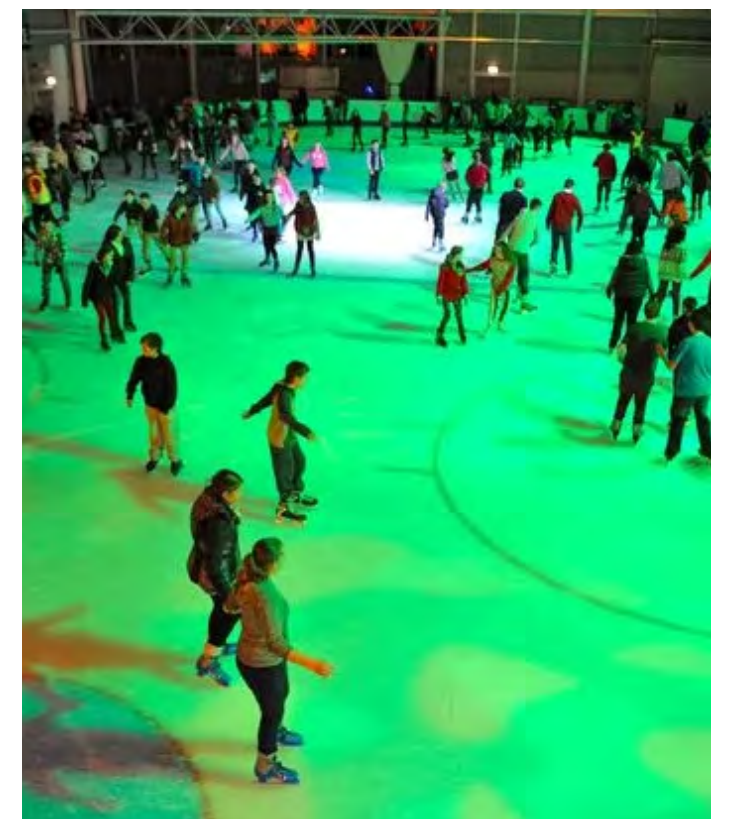
Time Capsule facade



Time Capsule Swimming pool. (Photo: DOWTK)



Time Capsule external view.
(Photo: facebook)



Time capsule ice skating,
(Photo: Glasgow Live)

Improved connections

G

Coatbridge - connected community

Why

Coatbridge is characterised by its various strong assets especially in culture, green spaces, retail, and education offering. There seems to be a challenge currently in how these assets are connected, particularly for pedestrians and with public transport. 61% of the survey respondents said they usually travel by car and 28% walk. During the engagement process, many participants requested for better and more accessible and attractive links between key assets.

What

Improved surfaces, safety and aesthetic appearance with potential integration of heritage information. Additional studies for improving connections to key assets.



West entrance to town centre



Existing pedestrian path to Summerlee Museum

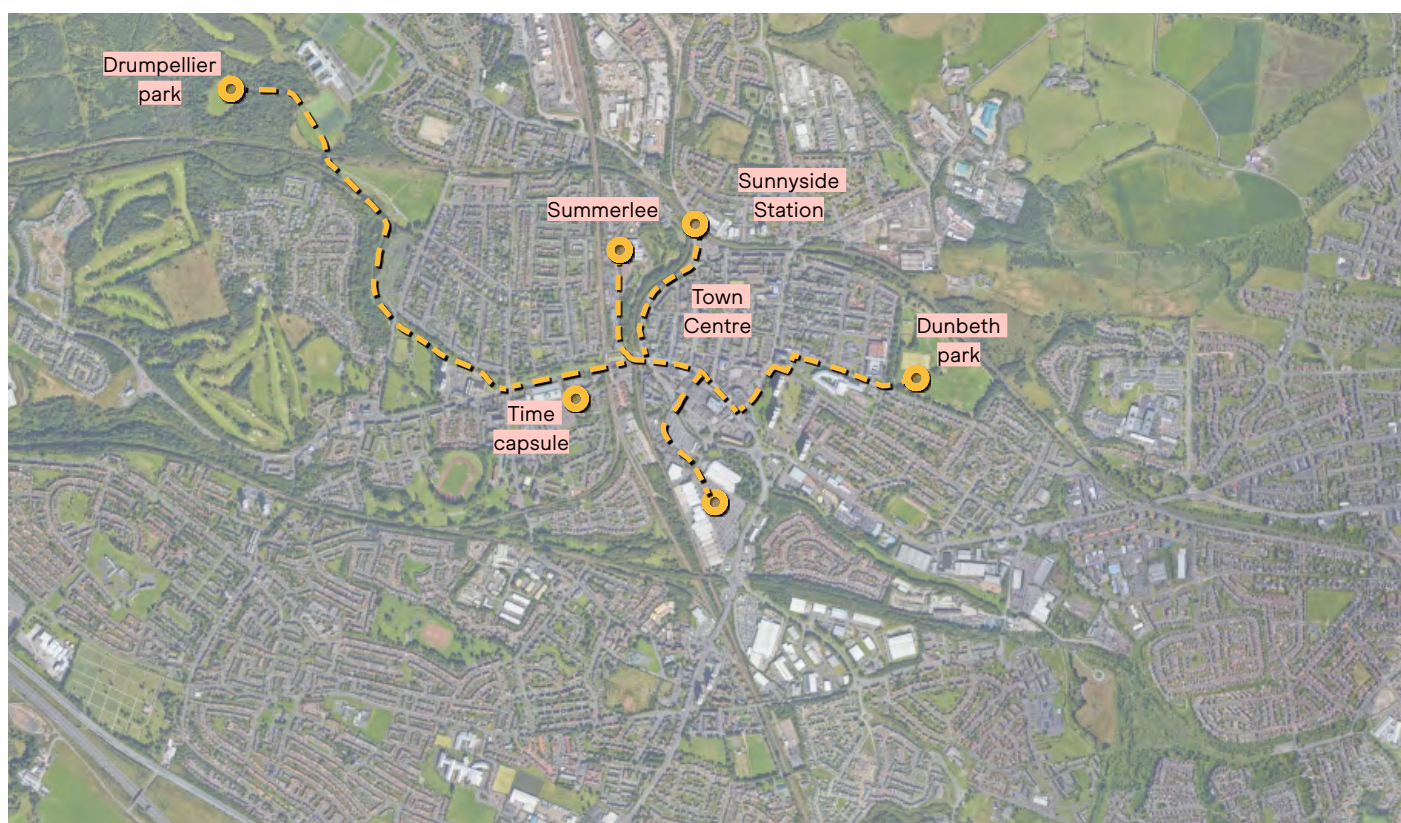


Diagram with intervention locations



Attractive and safe paths (photo: 'Play-za' public realm project)



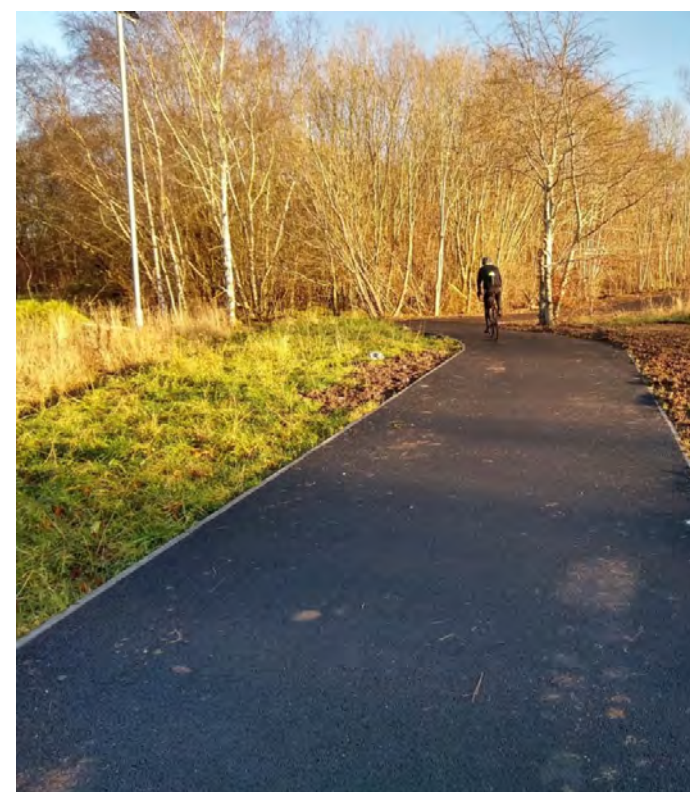
Community Arts/Mural (photo: Cambuslang Gateway project)



Shared paths and safer crossings (photo: Sustrans)



Attractive links for pedestrians (photo: Dumbarton Active Travel strategy, New Practice)



Improved shared paths (photo: Wishawill woods, Sustrans)



Improved and safe walking and cycling paths (photo: Station Road by Europa)

Monkland canal improvements



Why
 The Monkland Canal is a unique and valuable asset for the town, offering both green space infrastructure and rich cultural heritage. It has been highlighted during community engagement activity as a key asset that is underused, but has potential for development as a linear park, linking Coatbridge neighbourhoods.

What
 Develop and deliver improvements along the Monklands Canal Line (to east and west of the town centre), which could include improved pathways for walking and cycling; lighting; heritage interpretation and natural play.



Photos from Monklands Canal Path



Source: Monkland Canal Technical Vision, AECOM



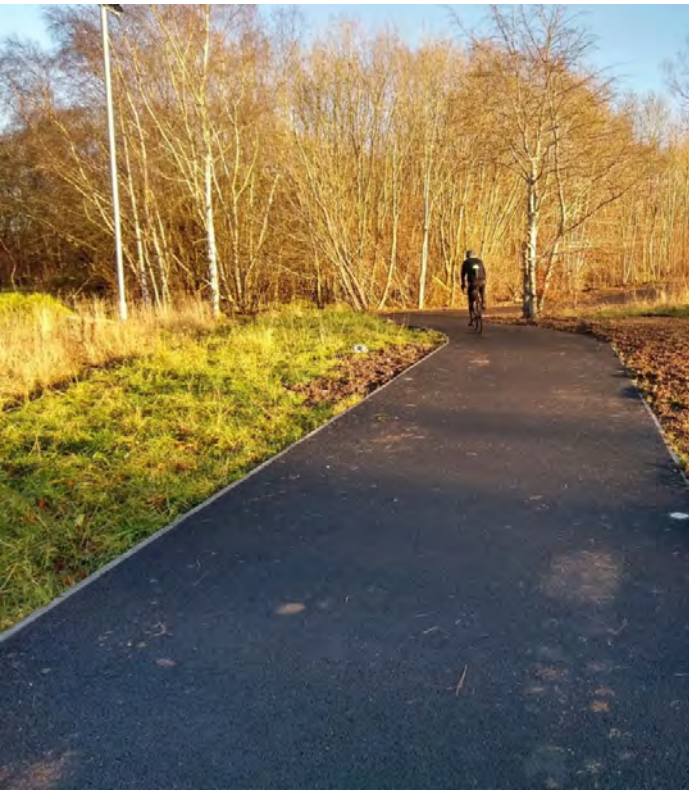
Improved share use paths (photos: Sustrans)



Heritage interpretation along Crinan Canal (photo: Four-by-two)



Salt Brook Heritage Trail (photo: North staffsire)



Improved shared paths (photo: Wishawill woods, Sustrans)



Charlotte Dundas Heritage Trail (photo: Charlotte Dundas)

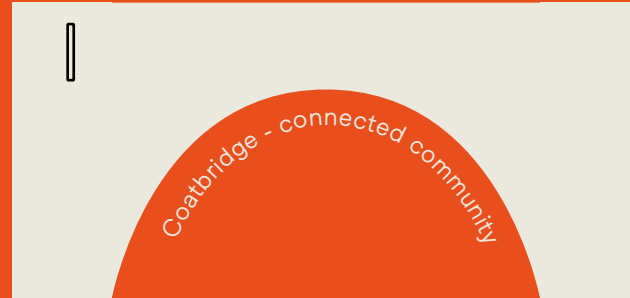
LOCAL PRIORITY

3

A safe and
friendly
town centre

“
The Main Street used to
be so lively when we were
younger. It needs some
love put into it again.
”

Main street improvements



Why

Revamping the Main Street was a recurring theme in all engagement sessions. All age groups, from teenagers and students, to young families and elderly people said they wished for a more active, cleaner, more attractive and safer Main Street. 54% of the online survey participants said that they wanted increased variety of retail offering. 15% asked for a cleaner town centre while 20% said they feel unsafe in the town centre. The need for brighter spaces was particularly mentioned when meeting young girls groups.

What

Safer and more attractive Main Street with cleaner buildings, better lighting, more greenery, street furniture and improved aesthetic appearance.



Photos of Main Street



Main street improvements (photo: Inverness BID)



Informal play (photo: Glasshouse Gardens Public Realm)



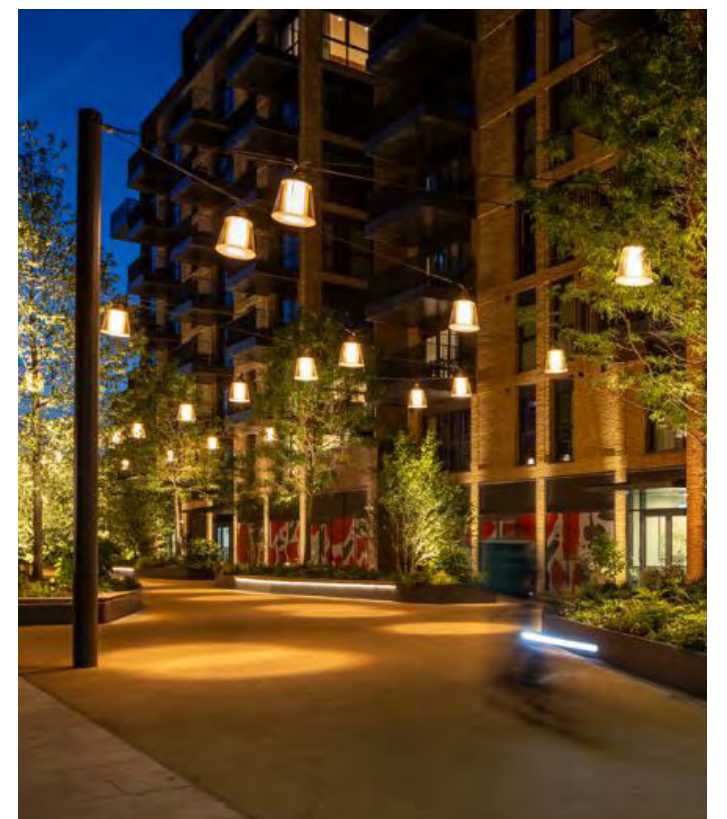
Historic timeline (photo: mural in Chiswick)



Informal seating/play (photo: Make space for Girls)



Shared seating (photo: Ede Market)



Improved lighting (photo: Dpa Lighting)

Supporting local businesses



Why
Findings from community engagement suggest that people in Coatbridge are clear in their demand to improve the Main Street, with an improved retail offer and wider mix of uses. Key aspects include enhancing the retail offering with better shops and overall making Main Street a more attractive and lively destination within Coatbridge. This vision was consistently mentioned across different responses, reflecting a shared desire among residents to see their town centre restored to its former vibrancy and appeal

What
Develop and deliver targeted initiatives to support town centre businesses, to help revitalise Main Street. This could include funding to support events and activities on Main Street and establishing a group to coordinate these; business support grant programmes and engagement with business sectors on needs and opportunities.



Photos of ASDA canopy and overpass



Example of Main street improvements in Milngavie (photo: Improvement Districts Scotland)



Support for businesses (photo: Scotland's Improvement Districts)



Digital promotion and shopping (photo: High street app, DKCM)

New uses and activities

K

Coatbridge - connected community

Why

Findings from community engagement suggest that people in Coatbridge are clear in their demand to improve the Main Street, with a wider mix of uses. Key aspects included attracting more visitors and overall making Main Street a more attractive and lively destination within Coatbridge. This vision was consistently mentioned across different responses, reflecting a shared desire among residents to see their town centre restored to its former vibrancy and appeal.

What

Develop and deliver targeted initiatives to address the number and appearance of vacant commercial units on Main Street. This could include grant programmes targeted towards shopfront improvements and the re-use of vacant units; working in partnership with building owners and other key stakeholders on joint initiatives and ideas for the re-use of vacant buildings and units.



Photos of Main Street and ASDA Canopy



Repurposed vacant buildings
(Photo: The Hive coworking space, Airdrie)



Indoor Community Space
(Photo: Onside Youth Zone)



Repurposed vacant buildings
(Photo: International House workspace)



Improved and cleaner shopfronts (photo: Upper street, Islington)

Summary of priorities for change

The diagram below illustrates alignment between the Strategic Objectives, Local Priorities and Emerging Projects. Emerging projects align with the pre-approved interventions for the Plan for Neighbourhoods Programme.



Long-term aspirations

The project ideas detailed on the proceeding pages form the basis for the Investment Plan for the First Investment Period (2026/27 – 2029/30). They also lay the foundations for medium and long term aspirations, for delivery over subsequent investment periods.

Delivery of a programme of projects, combined with initiatives focussed on expanding community capacity and cohesion; community empowerment; skills development; improving health and wellbeing and access to opportunities, will deliver outcomes against the local priorities and measures of success.

The relationship between the inputs, activities, outputs, outcomes and impact is illustrated within the Coatbridge Regeneration Plan Logic Model.

Long Term project aspirations for the second and third investment periods are illustrated in map form. These are focussed within the town centre and surrounding leisure, cultural, greenspace and green network/heritage assets, in line with the priorities of local people. Medium and long term initiatives focussing on improving access to opportunities, health and wellbeing and skills outcomes, events, activities and facilities are spread across the Neighbourhood Board area.



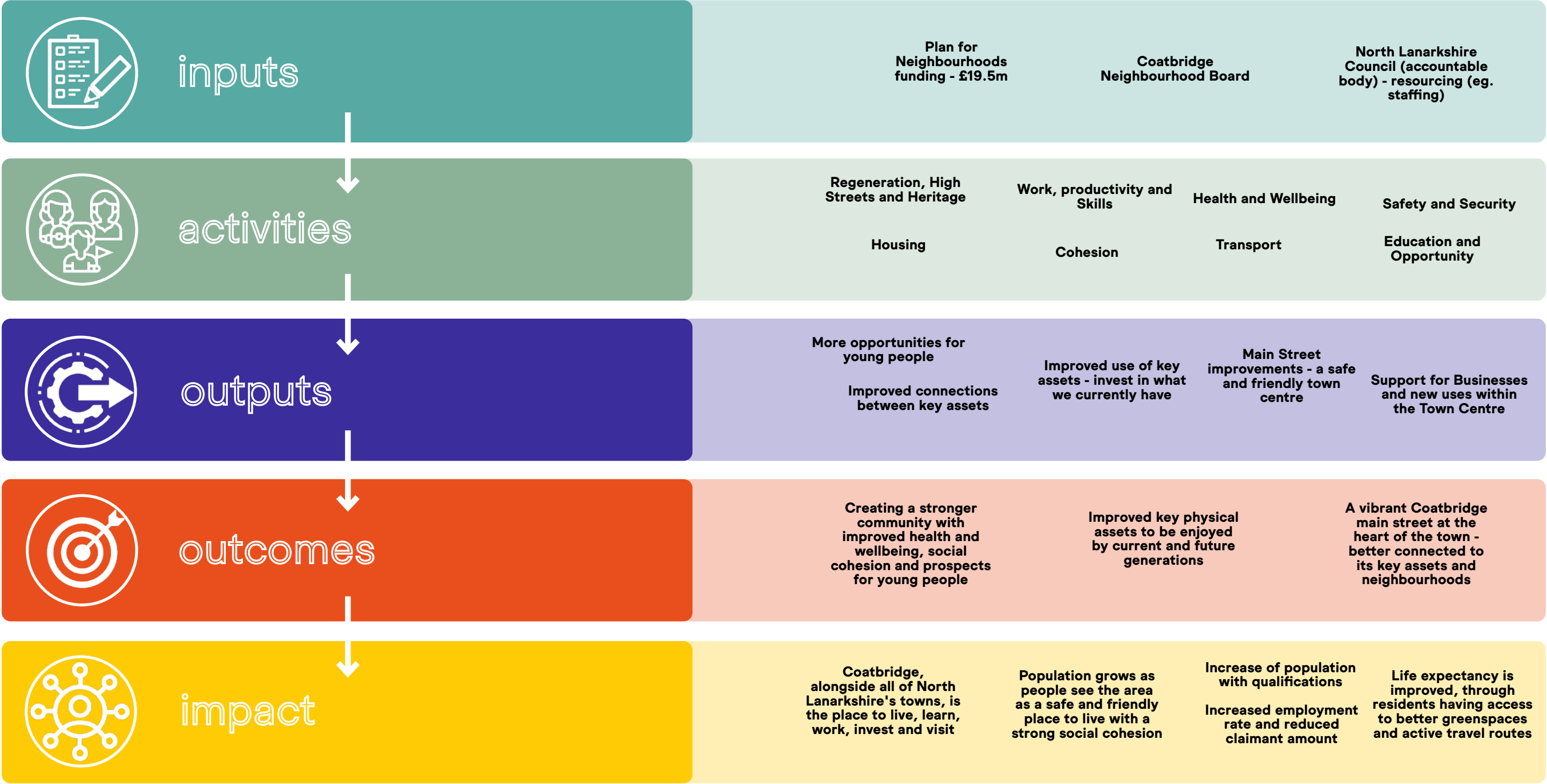


SECOND/ THIRD INVESTMENT PERIOD

Logic model regeneration plan

Plan for neighbourhood strategic objectives

THRIVING PLACES - STRONGER COMMUNITIES - TAKING BACK CONTROL

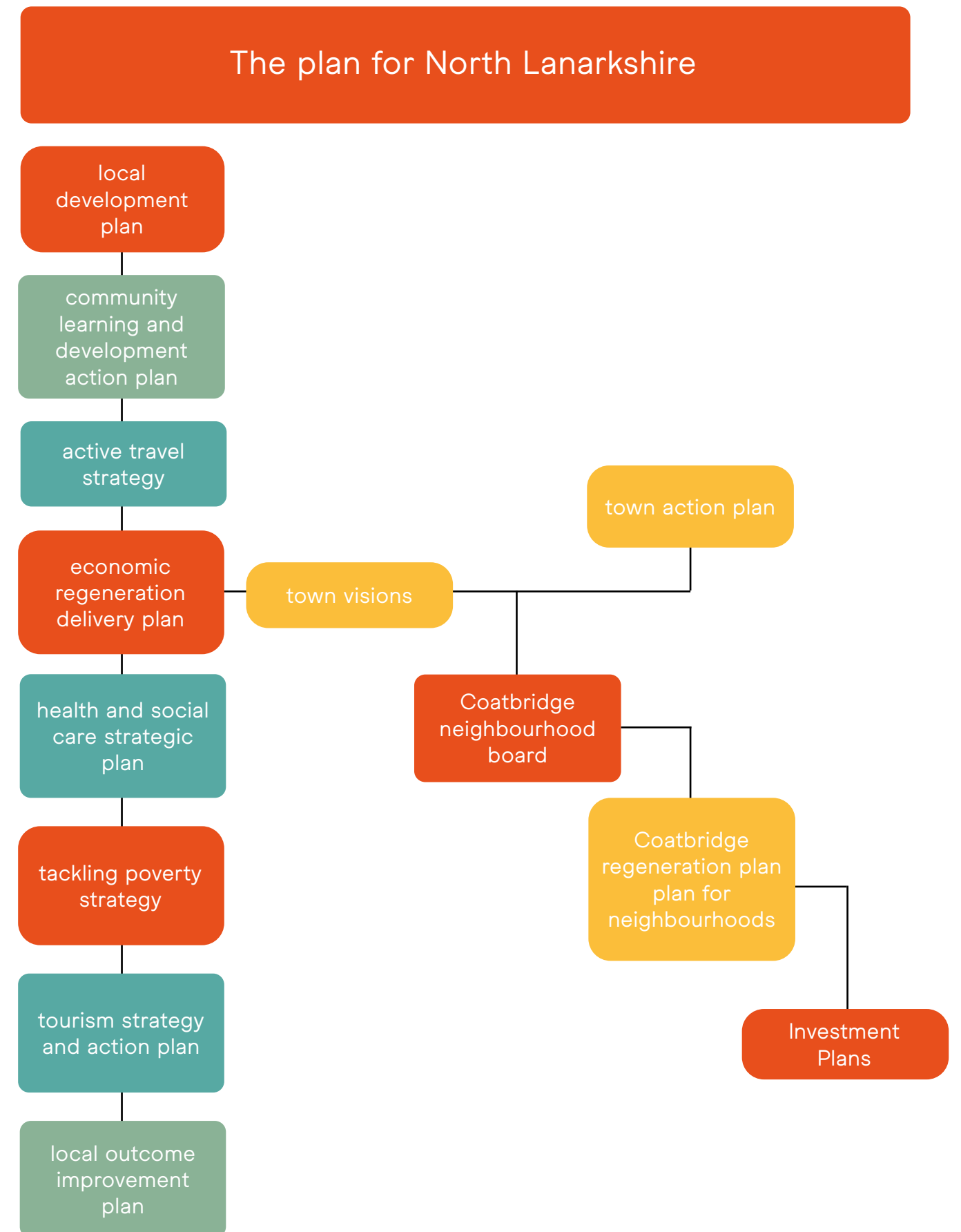


5. Alignment with other programmes and investments

This section contains a summary of how the proposed activity for the Coatbridge Regeneration Plan will align with and complement existing and planned programmes, visions and strategies.

Alignment with other strategies and plans

The Coatbridge Regeneration Plan aligns with the Plan for North Lanarkshire as well as a variety of other key strategies, action plans and improvement plans and supports delivery of the Coatbridge Town Centre Vision.



The Plan for North Lanarkshire sets out the shared aspirations of North Lanarkshire Council and its community planning partners to make North Lanarkshire the place to live, learn, work, invest and visit. The Plan sets out five key priorities for investment and activity in North Lanarkshire:

- **Improving economic opportunities and outcomes.**
- **Supporting all children and young people to realise their potential.**
- **Improving the health and wellbeing of our communities.**
- **Enhancing participation, capacity and empowerment across our communities.**
- **Improving North Lanarkshire’s resource base.**

The Plan identifies a further 25 ‘ambition statements’, which are aligned to the five priorities and collectively support the shared ambition. While this Regeneration Plan for Coatbridge contributes to all of these ambition statements, it is particularly guided by six which are set out in Table 3 below.

The Coatbridge Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) and Coatbridge Town Vision are also important local strategies for improving outcomes for local people and for place. These documents are informed by engagement with local people, are supported by the Coatbridge Community Board (a forum for community organisations in the town) and have been formally adopted by the council.

The LOIP identifies three key priorities for Coatbridge between 2022 and 2027:

- **Tackling poverty**
- **Improving mental health**
- **Increasing digital inclusion**

These priorities guide the council’s community planning activity in Coatbridge and the work of its local third sector partners.

The Place, The Vision considers the role of place-based regeneration across each of North Lanarkshire’s eight towns and sets the purpose of this work:

“We believe our towns and major settlements are at the centre of civic life and the foundation of a more sustainable future. As places, our towns are important but of more significance are the

communities that our towns service, support and sustain. We are seeking to empower communities to share the sense of vision that promotes towns as liveable, appealing, successful net-zero destinations.

“Through a partnership approach, we can shape areas of opportunity and change, based on changing needs, a shared ambition and future aspiration that can lead the way in shaping our centres.”

“Creating more people-centric, liveable town centres are central to the vision. Liveable towns with stronger amenity, greenspace, and better environmental quality work for all. Supporting inclusive growth means addressing health and wellbeing and inequalities and the imperative of climate change means our towns need to be greener, support active travel and deliver their part in the transition to net zero.”

It also sets out specific visions for the future of each town, with Coatbridge recognised as having an opportunity re-define and strengthen its town centre and establish it as an attractive, appealing and better connected place.

The Place, The Vision (and this Regeneration Plan for Coatbridge) was informed by a number of national plans and policies, including the Scottish Government’s Place Principle. The Place Principle recognises that:

- **Place is where people, location and resources combine to create a sense of identity and purpose, and is at the heart of addressing the needs and full potential of communities. Places are shaped by the way resources, services and assets are directed and used by the people who live in and invest in them**
- **A more joined-up, collaborative, and participative approach to services, land and buildings, across all sectors within a place, enables better outcomes for everyone and increased opportunities for people and communities to shape their own lives.**

A New Future for Scotland’s Town Centres, published in 2021 by the independent Town Centre Action Plan Review Group as an update to the previous national Town Centre Action Plan, acknowledged that the Covid-19 pandemic had accelerated long-term changes in Scotland’s town centres, but that these centres still provide the social, cultural and economic hearts of their towns and communities.

This report recognised that town centres had to change in a number of ways, but that with change

they could be ‘organised to be more resilient, healthier for our population and communities and deliver enhanced wellbeing for all citizens’.

The report made recommendations for national policy change, many of which were accepted and implemented by Scottish Government, including that town centres be prioritised within national planning policy.

National Planning Framework 4, the spatial planning strategy for Scotland from 2023 to 2045, adopts the ‘town centre first’ principle. It requires that local authorities support new developments for uses that ‘will generate significant footfall, including commercial, leisure, offices, community, sport and cultural facilities, public buildings such as libraries, education and healthcare facilities, and public spaces’ in town and city centres. Developments for these types of uses should only be considered for out-of-town locations where a town centre first assessment has been carried out and finds no other suitable alternative sites were available and that the development has no significant adverse effects on the vitality or viability of the town centre.

This high-level review of key local and national strategies informs the development of The Regeneration Plan for Coatbridge – a plan that must be for people, place and community.

“Through a partnership approach, we can shape areas of opportunity and change, based on changing needs, a shared ambition and future aspiration that can lead the way in shaping our centres.”

	Key Ambition Statements
No.	Ambition Statement
2	Refocus our town centres and communities to be multi-functional connected places which maximise social, economic and environmental opportunities
9	Invest in early interventions, positive transitions and preventative approaches to improve outcomes for children and young people
15	Encourage the health and well-being of people through a range of social, cultural and leisure activities
16	Transform our natural environment to support well-being and inward investment an enhance it for current and future generations
19	Improve engagement with communities and develop their capacity to help themselves
21	Continue to identify and access opportunities to leverage additional resources to support our ambition

Table 3

Local development plan (LDP)

North Lanarkshire Council's Local Development Plan (LDP) sets out a comprehensive framework for guiding the development and regeneration of Coatbridge and the wider area. The latest plan was adopted in 2022.

Key focus area that the Plan sets are:

Economic Regeneration:

Promoting sustainable economic growth by
revitalising town centres, including Coatbridge.

Housing Development:

Addressing housing needs by planning for a range of housing types and tenures.

Infrastructure and Connectivity:

Enhancing transport infrastructure to improve connectivity within Coatbridge and to other regions.

Encouraging sustainable transport options such as public transportation, walking, and cycling.

Environmental Protection:

Protecting and enhancing green spaces, parks, and natural habitats. Promoting policies to reduce carbon emissions and adapt to climate change.

Community and Leisure Facilities:

Developing and improving community facilities,

including schools, healthcare centres, and recreational spaces.
Ensuring that new developments contribute to the provision of community amenities.

Heritage and Conservation:

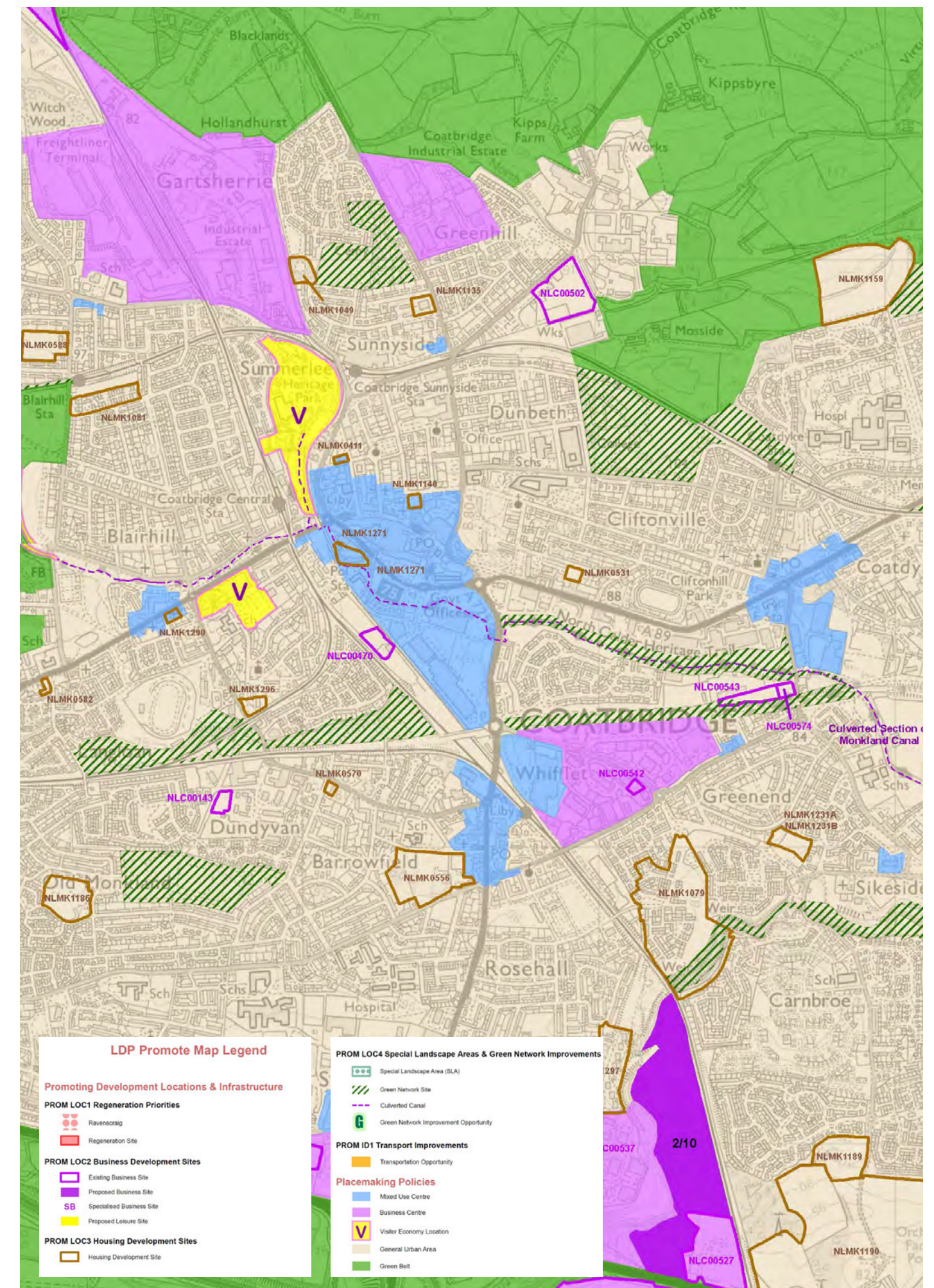
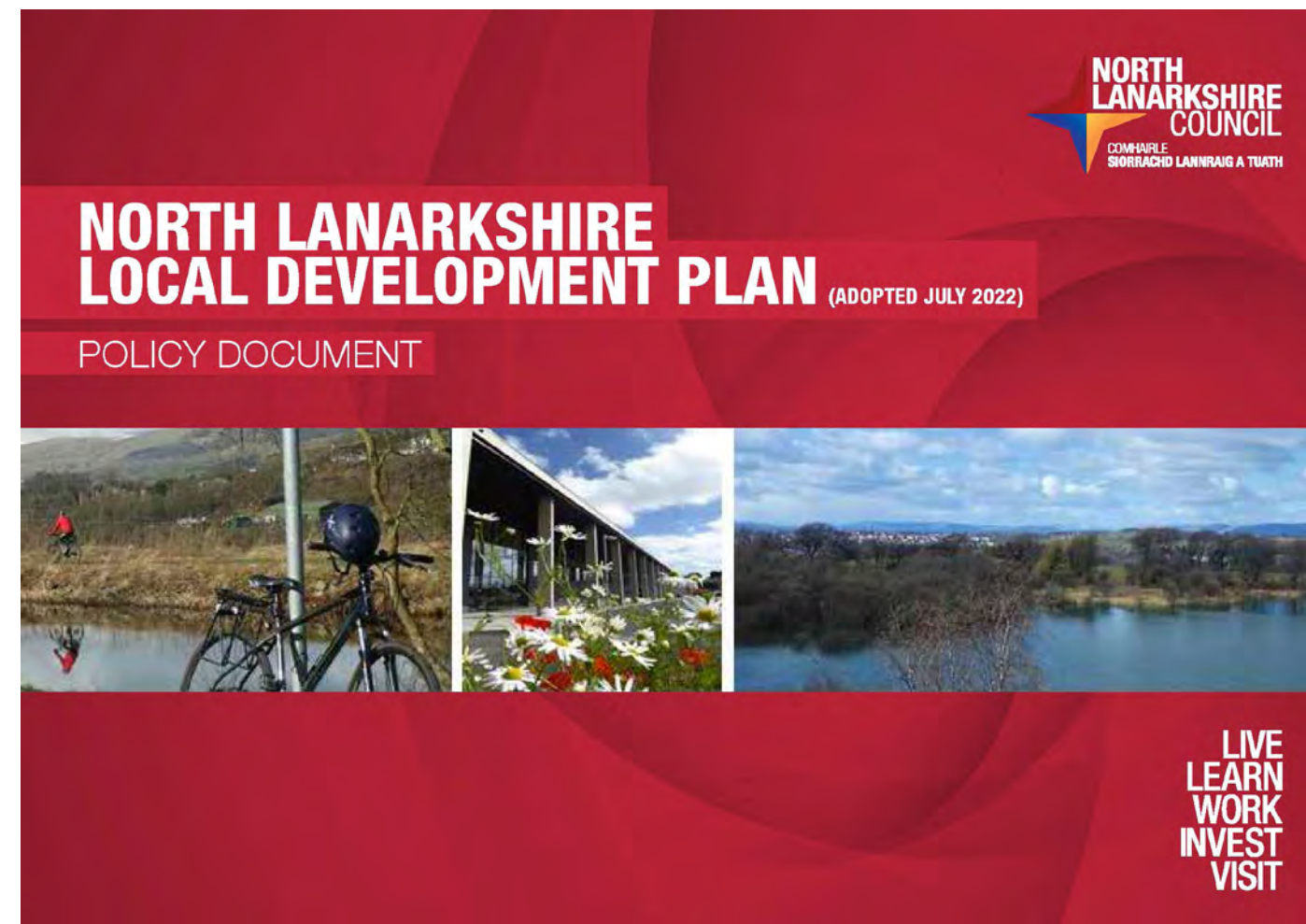
Preserving the historical and cultural heritage of Coatbridge. Ensuring that new developments respect the town's heritage and character.

Sustainable Development:

Promoting sustainable land use and development practices. Encouraging energy-efficient buildings and the use of renewable energy sources.

Community engagement is another crucial component of the LDP, ensuring that the voices of local residents are heard and considered in the planning process.

In the LDP map adjacent, we can see Summerlee Museum and Time Capsule as visitor attraction sites and numerous new housing and business sites identified. It is also observed that the identified green network areas are quite sporadic and disconnected, especially within and around the mixed-use centre.



Coatbridge Local Development Plan Map

Town vision

In 2020, North Lanarkshire Council published a vision statement for rethinking the town centres and setting out new bold ambitions for all towns, through engagement and participation.

The Plan for North Lanarkshire sets out a shared ambition for inclusive growth and prosperity for all - where North Lanarkshire is a place to **Live, Work, Invest and Visit**.

The complementary strategy **'The Place, The Vision'** outlined a vision for eight town centres, including Coatbridge. For Coatbridge, the Vision set out the following priorities:

Coatbridge – A Connected Place
Coatbridge is a strong services hub and is well connected with its three stations linking Glasgow/Edinburgh and Regional Centres. Services by rail connect Motherwell, Cumbernauld, Glasgow, Edinburgh and other centres. With a regional cluster of commercial, employment, health and public sector facilities Coatbridge is well placed to build a more compact, greener more accessible centre that supports town centre living.

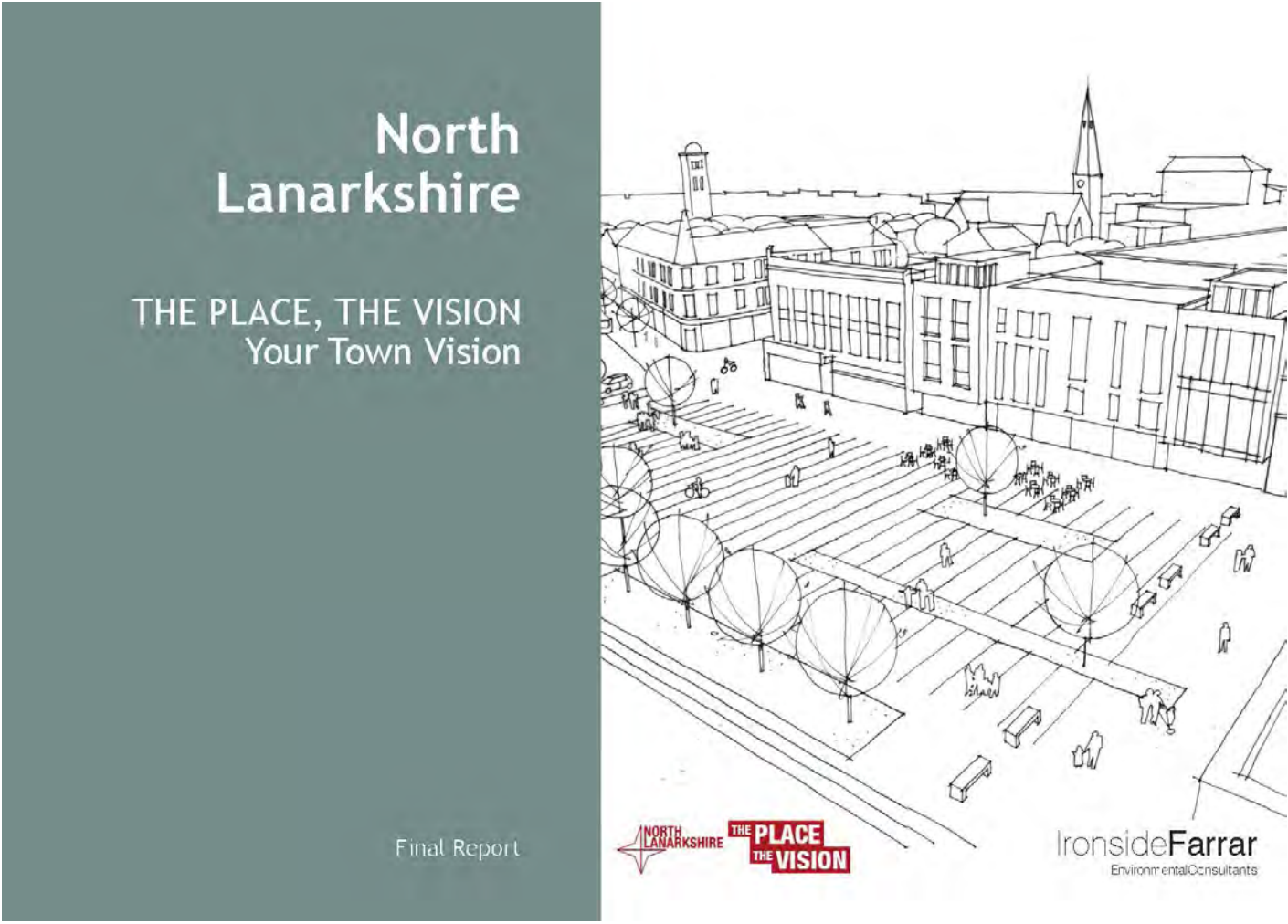
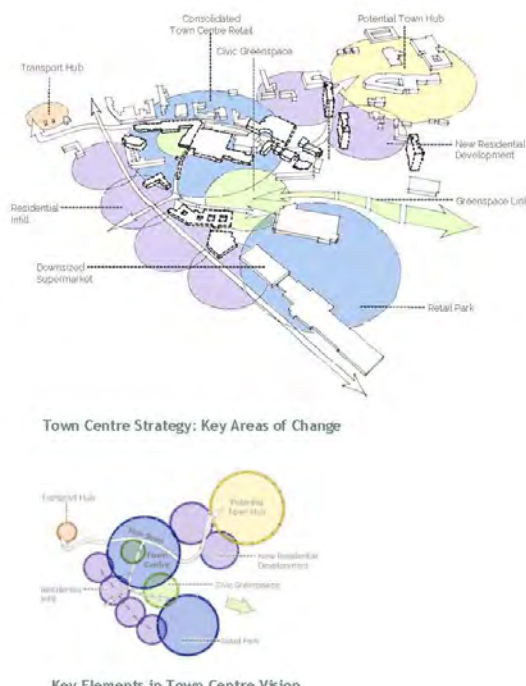
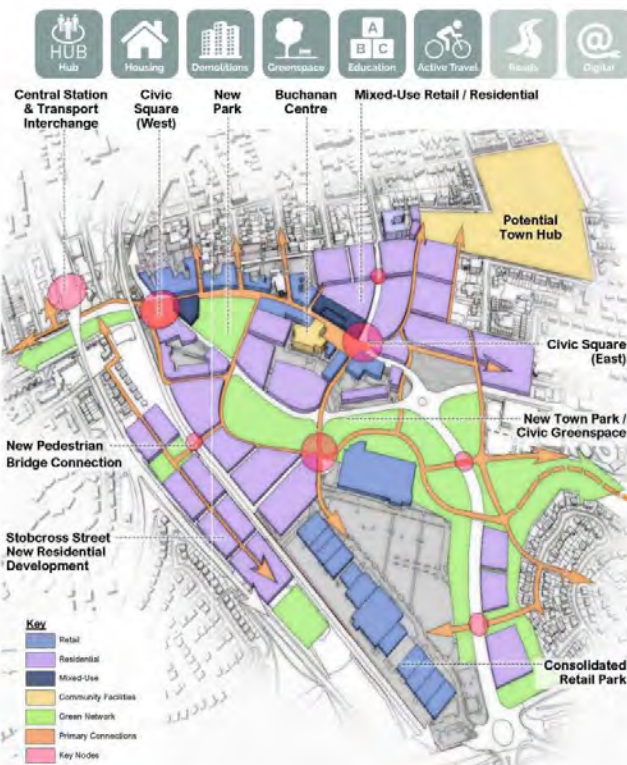
Attractive & Appealing Sense of Place
Redevelopment of the Quadrant, demolition of the tall flats and development of the new Community Hub can all start to re-shape a stronger sense of place. The focus of the centre will be the Main Street with the Buchanan Centre and an upgraded Town Square. New parks and greenspace will connect up the existing green network and offer

active travel routes connecting the town centre, stations, Town Hub, retail and visitor sites.

Coatbridge a Place to support New Investment
Coatbridge has the location, catchment, infrastructure and business base to be a strong location for new investment. Future changes in retailing and the connections offered by rail/road and active travel routes will re-balance the centre with a more compact Retail Park and a more diverse traditional Main Street incorporating leisure, convenience retail and services. The centre will meet both local and wider regional needs with new homes creating additional demand supporting a more vibrant, active and compact centre.

This new Regeneration Plan for Coatbridge has been developed on behalf of the newly established Neighbourhood Board following the town receiving funding from the UK Government Plan for Neighbourhoods programme. It is a separate and more progressed vision study, based on in-depth analysis and stakeholder engagement.

While it takes into consideration and largely aligns with the town vision's key priorities, the list of proposed interventions differ, as they are based on our community engagement outcomes and local people's wish-list.



Alignment with wider investments

The Plan for North Lanarkshire sets the direction for North Lanarkshire Council and its partners and provides a focus for activities, resources and the delivery of a series of Programmes of Work to achieve the long-term vision for North Lanarkshire as the place to Live, Learn, Work, Invest, and Visit.

Key delivery programmes of the council stemming from the Plan for North Lanarkshire include the New Supply Programme, which aims to provide 6,000 additional affordable homes by 2035, and the Town and Community Hubs Programme. Through these programmes, significant investment has either been made, is underway or is planned within the Coatbridge area. The Coatbridge Regeneration Plan will complement these existing investment plans and deliver additional benefits and outcomes for the town against the local priorities identified.

Recent and upcoming council investments in Coatbridge are detailed in the table below.

No	Investment Type	Details	Status (as of Sept 2025)
1	Housing	Summerlee Street – 14 new build homes ML5 1PW	Completed (January 2015)
2	Housing	Old School Court – 20 new build homes ML5 4FY	Completed (October 2018)
3	Housing	Ambrose Court, Jerome Court and Gregory Place – 40 new build homes ML5 1NU	Completed (August 2019)
4	Housing	Graham Place (former St James Primary School) – 58 new build homes ML5 5PG	Completed (February 2022)
5	Housing	Brooks Drive – 19 new build homes ML5 4NH	Completed (December 2023)
6	Housing	Lorne Place – 24 new build homes (off the shelf purchase) ML5 4FS	Completed (March 2024)
7	Housing	Falstaff Way, Bramley Place and Braeburn Drive – 18 new build homes (off the shelf purchase) ML5 4GE	Completed (June 2024)
8	Housing	Former Columba High School – 127 new build homes ML5 4DG	Ongoing (Estimated completion Autumn 2027)
9	Housing	Dunottar Avenue – 100 new build homes (towers re-provisioning) ML5 4LS	Ongoing (Estimated completion 2027)
10	Housing	Kildonan Street – Conversion of former Municipal buildings to 43 new homes ML5 3BT	Planned (2026 site start)
11	Housing	Main Street – 49 new homes to be developed ML5 3AE	Planned (site start TBC)
12	Housing	Bank Street – 17 new homes including supported accommodation ML5 1AJ	Planned (February 2026 site start)
13	Housing	Tay Street (former Pentland Primary School) – 16 new build homes ML5 2NA	Planned (2026 site start)
14	Housing	Former Portland School – 16 new build homes ML5 3LG	Planned (2027 site start)
15	Housing	Coats Street – 56 new build homes (towers re-provisioning) ML5 3PA	Planned (2027 site start)
16	Housing	Dunbeth Court – 114 new build homes (towers re-provisioning) ML5 3HF	Planned (2028 site start)
17	Community Hub	St Kevin's Community Hub (G69 7TW Coatbridge Road) - not shown on map	Ongoing (estimated completion 2026)
18	Community Hub	St Stephen's Community Hub, ML5 4QH	Ongoing (estimated completion 2027)
19	Greenspace	Drumpellier Country Park – crannog play area ML5 1RX (not shown on map)	Completed (May 2017)
20	Connectivity	Active Travel Network to be planned alongside transport hubs at St Ambrose (ML5 2HT), Coatbridge and St Andrew's Schools (ML5 5EA).	Planned

Table 4

Other recent investments in Coatbridge include the redevelopment of the Carnegie Library via Clyde Valley Housing Association to convert the Category B Listed property into 12 flats. Fusion Assets, North Lanarkshire Council's Arm's Length External Organisation also developed new office accommodation at the Drumpellier Business Park development in 2016.

New College Lanarkshire has invested significantly in modernising its Coatbridge campus, creating a cutting-edge and contemporary learning environment. The Kildonan Street campus saw a £22.5 million refurbishment which was completed in 2011, and the college is committed to continuous improvement.

North Lanarkshire Council has also invested in modernising Coatbridge's school estate over the last decade. A £44 million Coatbridge campus, including St Ambrose High and Buchanan High schools, opened in November 2012 as a joint community and sports hub.



New Supply and Town and Community Hub Delivery Programme Map
Source: North Lanarkshire Council

6. Match funding and leveraged investment

This section outlines how the Neighbourhood Board will attract and maximise opportunities for match funding and investment.

Match Funding and Leveraged Investment

The Regeneration Plan for Coatbridge aims to have a transformative impact on the town and provide a catalyst for wider investment, providing a vision and an investment prospectus that will allow the Neighbourhood Board, council and partners to engage with private, public and philanthropic investors and attract and maximise opportunities for investment in Coatbridge. It further aims to align with and complement existing investment plans.

The availability of secured match funding (whether capital or revenue), as the Plan for Neighbourhoods funding for Coatbridge provides, can increase the competitiveness of funding bids, whether submitted by the local authority, a community group or third sector organisation. It can increase the chances of success of funding bids by demonstrating support from the Coatbridge Neighbourhood Board and joint working to meet shared priorities and achieve multiple benefits, in line with an approved Regeneration Plan for the town.

The Regeneration Plan can also help to lever in private sector investment, for example from building owners, commercial landlords and High Street retailers, by presenting the community's vision for their town and local priorities which local businesses and stakeholders can resonate with and buy into.

The Neighbourhood Board has assessed opportunities to lever in external funding as part of its consideration of projects for inclusion in the Investment Plan for the first investment period. For example, a capital contribution has been identified towards the Summerlee Museum of Industrial Life: New Stories, New Audiences,

Better Lives project, as match funding to help lever in external funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Securing this funding would enable delivery of an ambitious project to enhance its role as a hub for heritage, health, wellbeing and social enterprise. Opportunities for project capital funding contributions to provide match funding for bids to funders such as Transport Scotland and the National Lottery Heritage Grants Programme have also been identified.

Capital and Revenue funding from the Plan for Neighbourhoods Programme also provides opportunities for match funding for community groups seeking to develop their own projects for community and heritage grants, aligned to the council's 'Your Heritage in Focus' and Local Development Programmes.

Capital and revenue funding allocated against project ideas under the Safe and Friendly Town Centre priority outcome has the potential to lever in private sector investment from town centre businesses, commercial landlords, building owners and the Scottish Government. During the first investment period, a key aim will be to progress discussions these stakeholders and other interested parties with a view to leveraging additional private and social investment capital into medium and long term plans for the revitalisation and regeneration of the Main Street.

The Council has and will continue to provide staff resource support to the Board to support both strategic and project development, to ensure the Regeneration Plan for Coatbridge aligns with wider investments to maximise the opportunities for leveraging in additional investment and match funding.



Summerlee Museum of Scottish Industrial Life
Source: Museum website

7. Community and stakeholder engagement

This sections outlines the community and stakeholder engagement we carried out to develop this Regeneration Plan. It also outlines how we will ensure the local community and key stakeholders are involved in the ongoing development and delivery of the Regeneration Plan over the next 10 years.

Summary of engagement undertaken to develop the plan

Listening to local people was a critical step towards developing the Regeneration Plan for Coatbridge. Our engagement strategy aimed to spark the energy of the local community to establish a pathway for a new chapter of the town, that's grounded in the needs of locals, visitors, and in the identity of Coatbridge.

Community consultation worked towards identifying local priorities and objectives for change with the associated methods shown here. Learning from local people and understanding their priorities is vital for the Regeneration Plan's future success.

Continuing to develop project ideas with the local community is necessary for each investment period.

The community of Coatbridge was engaged throughout the project, in a process that was designed to foster a sense of ownership of future ideas and proposals.

We engaged in a democratic manner, ensuring all groups were represented and taking into account all views, concerns and hopes. Consultation activities were led by Page\Park Architects and supported by Sculpture House artist collective.



online survey



family days



question boards



active listening



project promotion



collaborative mapping



bespoke website



art workshops

Groups consulted

- neighbourhood board
- local authority
- youth action group
- schools
- families & wider public
- elderly women group
- local businesses
- community groups



Various images from community engagement sessions

Key themes

- MORE THINGS TO DO
- REVAMP MAIN STREET
- RESTORE SENSE OF PRIDE
- MORE HOMES
- IMPROVE CONNECTIONS & ACCESS
- MORE PLAY AREAS GREEN SPACES

Jump research findings

Jump Research (The Research Consortium) was commissioned in 2024 to undertake quantitative research to support the development of the Coatbridge Regeneration Plan.

This information was intended to supplement various community consultation activities taking place, also aimed at informing and developing the Regeneration Plan and initial 4-Year Investment Plan.

Research objectives included:

- Generating a baseline of community attitudes within the town
- Recognising key feelings of strength for the town as well as key issues which need to be addressed
- Measuring regeneration priorities for Coatbridge and exploring attitudes to issues which could form part of the Regeneration Plan

851 face to face interviews were conducted across Coatbridge using a structured questionnaire.

This research found that people had positive attitudes towards Coatbridge as a place:

- to live
- to raise a family
- to work
- with a strong heritage
- for good transport links
- for leisure opportunities or to socialise

However, only 54% of respondents felt that any of the following words or phrases could be applied to Coatbridge:

- sense of community
- family friendly
- accessible
- lively
- cared for
- attractive
- safe
- clean
- cosmopolitan
- calm

When asked to describe the least positive or worst aspects of Coatbridge in terms of regeneration, the top three words were 'dirty', 'rundown' and 'empty shops'.

Only 1% of respondents felt there were no negatives associated with Coatbridge.

52% of respondents said 'high streets, regeneration and heritage' were their top priorities for Coatbridge. This rose to 62% amongst respondents aged 16-24.

40% of respondents said 'safety and security' were their top priority, whilst just 7% said transport and connectivity was the top priority for Coatbridge. However, 63% of respondents commented that each of these issues were of importance to the area.

99% of respondents said that the regeneration of the town centre and heritage was important (26%) or very important (73%).

When asked to describe what could be done to improve Coatbridge, the top responses included:

- revamping and modernising the town centre
- ensuring streets and pathways are clean, tidy and litter free
- there should be more shops including independent boutiques and larger department stores.

When asked to select from a pre-populated list of priorities, the top 5 responses include:

- Improving the appearance of the town centre, including vacant buildings and signage
- Attracting a more diverse range of shops and businesses in the town centre
- Road improvements
- More activities for young people during evenings and weekends
- More policing or wardens in key areas in the town centre during evenings and weekends

The research findings summarised that generally, Coatbridge is a positive place to live and work.

However, leisure and retail options are the least positive aspects of Coatbridge.

80% of all suggestions for 'one thing to do' for future priorities related to regeneration.



Word clouds showing local challenges (top) and positive attitude (bottom) as identified in Jump Research study

People's thoughts map



People's wishlist

	MORE THINGS TO DO	REVAMP MAIN STREET	IMPROVE CONNECTIONS & ACCESS	RESTORE SENSE OF PRIDE	MORE HOMES	MORE PLAY AREAS AND GREEN SPACES
children	✓	✓			✓	✓
teenagers	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
elderly	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
families	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
businesses		✓	✓	✓		
professionals	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Future engagement

Future Engagement

The extensive community and stakeholder engagement undertaken to develop the Regeneration Plan for Coatbridge has delivered clear messages on the priorities for change of local people for their town. This has provided a robust basis from which to define a ten year strategic vision and outcomes for the plan.

We recognise that continued community and stakeholder engagement throughout the delivery period is vital to ensure projects and initiatives within each investment period continue to respond to local needs and opportunities.

Table 5 summarises how we will ensure the local community and key stakeholders are involved in the ongoing development and delivery of the Coatbridge Regeneration Plan over the 10 year delivery period.

Further detail on the Governance and Membership of the Coatbridge Neighbourhood Board and how it operates is provided with Section 8: Governance.

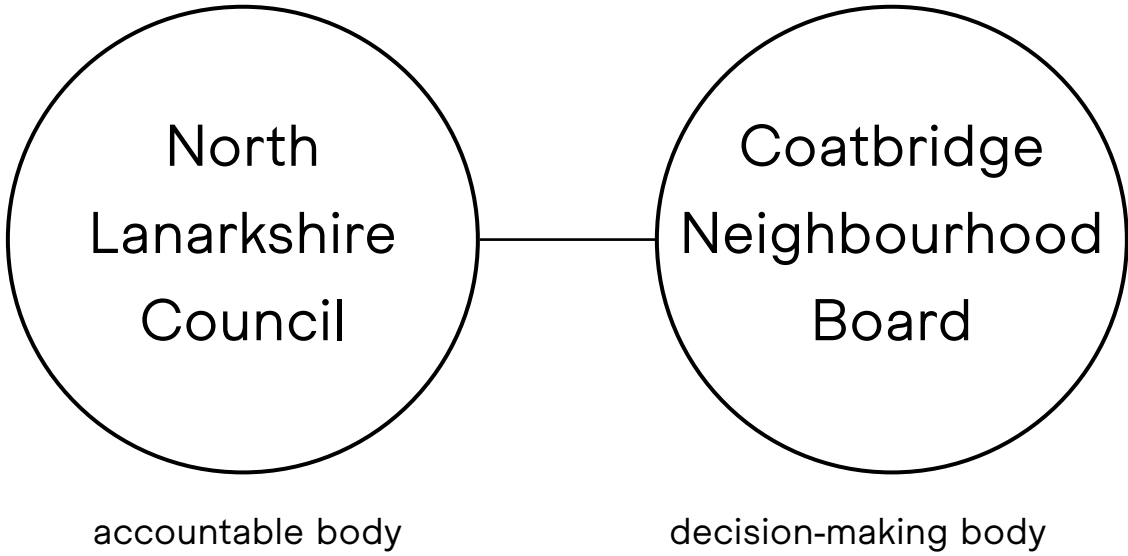


Method	What will we do?
Neighbourhood Board Membership and Leadership	- Continue and build on the strong foundations of good leadership and joint working with North Lanarkshire Council - Maintain a varied membership profile across political and local member representatives; members from the business and educational communities, other civil society sectors; community board members and community representatives, with support from NLC officers. - Strengthen the links between the Neighbourhood Board and Coatbridge Community Board and promote more information sharing and joint working - Maintain a regular schedule of Board meetings to agree actions and track progress
Operation of the Board	- Continue to operate as an Independent Neighbourhood Board, but working in partnership with the Local Authority. - Raise awareness of the Board, the Plan for Neighbourhoods and the Regeneration Plan through a suite of specific branding materials, community capacity building initiatives and activities; engagement on future investment plans.
Securing buy-in from local businesses, civil society and communities	- Develop and deliver projects and initiatives during each investment period which respond to identified priorities for local businesses including targeted action within the Main Street - Continuation of a Retailers Sub-Group, supported by NLC Officers, reporting to the Board. - Continuation of an Events Sub-Group, supported by NLC Officers, reporting to the Board. - Development and delivery of community capacity building and engagement initiatives to co-create plans for investment in greenspaces and community facilities/activities. This will include a particular focus on engaging with hard to reach groups and young people. - Identification of partnership working opportunities across projects to achieve added value and maximise delivery of positive outcomes.
Delivery of initiatives	- Undertake focussed community and stakeholder engagement on the development and design of capital projects identified within the first and subsequent investment plans; - Learn from what worked well during consultation on the Regeneration Plan and what could be improved. Identify additional or new methods of engagement where relevant; - Work with North Lanarkshire Council, third sector organisations and community based groups to develop and deliver community engagement and capacity building initiatives at key stages of the delivery plan - Listen and respond to feedback. Communicate regularly with the community and stakeholders on actions, activities, progress and timescales. - Prepare and deliver a programme of community and stakeholder engagement leading up to the second and third investment on Investment Plan projects and initiatives. - Identify opportunities for additional external funding, philanthropic or private investment that can be leveraged to support delivery of each investment plan.

Table 5

8. Governance

This sections outlines the roles and responsibilities fo the Neighbourhood Board and North Lanarkshire Council and confirms how the programme will be managed in line with the Nolan Principles. It also provides a high level overview of the process for appraising and approving investments.



North Lanarkshire Council ("the Council") is the accountable body for the Coatbridge Regeneration Plan and is required to provide assurance to the UK Government that its funding is being used for approved purposes and meets Best Value duties.

The Council has established and appointed an independent Coatbridge Neighbourhood Board to develop and deliver the Coatbridge Regeneration Plan, which it provides ongoing advisory and secretariat support to.

The Coatbridge Neighbourhood Board will drive the priorities for investment, convene powers and responsibilities for making change, and steer the strategic vision for Coatbridge hand-in-hand with local people. Terms of Reference are in place which govern the operation of the Board. These will be reviewed and updated where required throughout the Plan for Neighbourhoods Programme period by the council in consultation with the Chair of the Board.

The Neighbourhood Board are responsible for:

- working with the local authority to develop a Regeneration Plan, setting out how local partners will use their knowledge, powers, assets and new funding to deliver for their communities.
- identifying the issues and priorities to focus on for the Regeneration Plan, including supporting a process of ongoing community engagement
- identifying opportunities for Neighbourhood Board Members to utilise specific powers, such as neighbourhood planning, to drive forward the Regeneration Plan.
- identifying opportunities to bring in additional philanthropic or private investment to support the Regeneration Plan.

- overseeing the delivery of projects set out in the Regeneration Plan.
- Undertaking its responsibilities in accordance with guidance issued, and subsequent guidance that may be issued, by the UK Government.

The Chair, in consultation with the Council, may set up sub-groups of the Neighbourhood Board to focus on specific aspects of the Regeneration Plan. Approval of the Chair and the Council will be required for the participation of non-board members in any sub-group. Sub-groups will report their findings and insights to the Neighbourhood Board. They will not have any decision-making function.

The Neighbourhood Board is not a legal entity. It is not the accountable body for any grant or funding regime.

North Lanarkshire Council as the Accountable Body is responsible for:

- The appointment of an independent chair of the Neighbourhood Board, following consultation with the relevant Member of Parliament;
- Appointment of Neighbourhood Board Members, in consultation with the Chair.
- Management of the Neighbourhood Board's financial affairs and ensuring that the Council's Financial Procedure Rules are followed
- Providing secretariat, advisory, programme management, project development and delivery support to the Board in delivery of the Regeneration Plan.

The Neighbourhood Board Governance and Transparency requirements will be met through the implementation of a Terms of Reference, including documented decision-making process, and associated Register of Declarable Interests; Register of Gifts and Hospitality and adherence to a Coatbridge Neighbourhood Board Code of Conduct by Board Members. Minutes of Board Meetings will be published on the North Lanarkshire Council website for public accessibility, in line with UK Government guidance.

The Terms of Reference for the Coatbridge Neighbourhood Board require that the Chair, the Board Members and the Council will ensure that the Nolan Principles for standards in public life, are upheld in the carrying out of all business and activities of the Neighbourhood Board.

The Board are aware of and will manage the programme in line with the principles and standards expected for projects and proposals as outlined in Managing Public Money (regularity, propriety, value for money and feasibility). Further assurance on the use of public funds is provided by the council.

Nolan Principles: The Seven Principles of Public Life

- **Selflessness:** Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest;
- **Integrity:** Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships;
- **Objectivity:** Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias;
- **Accountability:** Holders of public office are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this;
- **Openness:** Holders of public office should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing;
- **Honesty:** Holders of public office should be truthful; and
- **Leadership:** Holders of public office should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support

Route to Market and Process for appraising and approving investments

The management of the Neighbourhood Board's financial affairs will be conducted by the Council in its capacity as the Accountable Body and will follow the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.

The council will support the Board with the development and delivery of projects within the Regeneration Plan and is responsible as the accountable body for the undertaking of procurement activity and management of contracts, in line with applicable Procurement Regulations and the Council's General Contract Standing Orders and Financial Regulations to ensure that Best Value is achieved.

As the Board is not a formally constituted body and cannot hold its own funds, all funding awards, for example through contracts for works or services or grant programmes, will be made by the council.

Where the delivery of projects, services or initiatives is to be taken forward by community groups/organisations, third sector organisations or other constituted bodies through grant awards, grant conditions and/or funding agreements will be put in place by the council to govern the funding contribution.

Grant award conditions will be developed and implemented for grant programmes to support the regeneration and revitalisation of Main Street and provision of more opportunities for young people. Relevant legislation including the Subsidy Control Act will be taken into account when developing specific grant programmes, to inform threshold and assessment criteria and grant terms and conditions.

The Coatbridge Neighbourhood Board are the decision-making body for the Regeneration Plan. A decision-making process is contained within the Terms of Reference for the Board. This will be reviewed by the council and the Chair throughout the delivery period and updated if or when required.



Coatbridge town centre aerial view
Source: Google Maps

9. Assurance

This section provides a high level description of how the local authority will ensure that the programme is delivered in line with best value standards and managing public money.

North Lanarkshire Council is the accountable body for the Regeneration Plan for Coatbridge and associated plan for Neighbourhoods funding provided by the UK government.

The Council has adequate and robust assurance systems in place to ensure that public funds are spent for the purpose intended. These include through effective strategic planning, performance and risk management, governance and both internal and independent auditing. The Council's financial assurance systems, including in how it plans for, monitors and scrutinises spending have also been independently confirmed as effective by Audit Scotland in both its annual audits and in its 2019 Best Value Assurance report.

In its 2019 Best Value Assurance Report on North Lanarkshire Council, Audit Scotland commended the Council for its 'effective budgetary control' and found that it is 'well placed to tackle the financial challenges ahead'. Noting the Council's 'strong' long-term sustainability and 'good medium-term financial plans the report also recognised it has 'effective scrutiny of finances through well-established processes for monitoring budgets and the achievement of agreed savings'.

All formal assurance will formally be provided to UK Government by the council's Chief Officer (Financial Solutions), who will liaise with other council officers engaged in supporting the Neighbourhood Board to ensure that Best Value duties are being met. A Chief Officer of the council will attend all formal Board meetings as an observer, to ensure that the interests of the council in its role as accountable body are understood by the Board and that its Best Value duties are met.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank all the local community groups and residents that shared their stories and thoughts, contributing in the creation the Regeneration Plan for Coatbridge. We thank all the public institutions and authorities, businesses, social enterprises and schools that met with us and helped us understand more about their town and their wishes for its future development.

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Thank you

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