

Empty Homes Action Plan – Update noted etc - Instruction to officers.

6 With reference to the minutes of the City Administration Committee of 18th May 2023 (Print 2, page 29) approving Glasgow's Local Housing Strategy (LHS) 2023-28, there was submitted a report by the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability regarding the progress of the empty homes action plan which had been incorporated within Glasgow's LHS 2023-28, advising

- (1) that in March 2021, the Scottish Government had published Scotland's first long-term national strategy "Housing to 2040" which included the priorities for empty homes, as detailed in the report;
- (2) that in November 2021 in response to the Scottish Government's "Housing to 2040" document, the Scottish Empty Homes Partnership in collaboration with COSLA and the Association of Local Authority Chief Housing Officers had published its paper "Why Empty Homes Matter" the aim of which was to further develop the work of local authorities on empty homes through an awareness campaign to highlight the benefits of empty homes work, as detailed in the report;
- (3) of the statistics obtained from Council Tax records across Scotland in relation to empty properties in September 2024 and that as at 28th February 2025, Council Tax records had shown that a total of 3,030 non-exempt long term empty homes in Glasgow lying empty for more than 6 months, with 1,805 being empty for more than 12 months;
- (4) of the breakdown of local term empty homes by Ward with the highest number of long-term empty properties being in Ward 10, Anderston/City/Yorkhill;
- (5) that residential priorities and empty homes had been identified as 1 of the 10 strategic and crosscutting critical success factors for delivering housing priorities outlined in the LHS and the repurposing of vacant buildings and former office accommodation for housing in the city centre was a key action within the Empty Homes Action Plan, as detailed in the report;
- (6) that the Empty Homes Team had continued to work successfully with Registered Social Landlords partners in acquiring empty flats or shops that could be converted to housing in pre-19 tenement properties in order to facilitate common repair works and enable factoring arrangements to be put in place and in addition action was also being targeted at bringing larger family homes back into use;
- (7) of the key Empty Homes Targets which had been identified in the Empty Homes Review report, as detailed in the report;
- (8) of the progress of the Empty Homes Action Plan 2023/24, as detailed in Appendix 1, to the report; and
- (9) of the actions taken and the next steps.

After consideration, the committee

- (a) noted
 - (i) the report; and
 - (ii) that Glasgow's Empty Homes Action Plan had been incorporated within the Local Housing Strategy 2023-28 with an annual update on progress being submitted to this committee; and
- (b) instructed officers in Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability to arrange another Empty Homes workshop for members of this committee in 2026.