

Tackling vacant and derelict land – Vacant and Derelict Land Fund Programme 2025/26 approved – Acceptance of funding agreed – Declaration of interest.

4 Councillor Kelly, City Convener for Housing, Development, Built Heritage and Land Use, presented a report regarding the main findings of the Scottish Vacant and Derelict Land Survey (SVDLS) 2024 return and on proposals for the use of vacant and derelict land (VDL) funding in 2025/26, advising

- (1) that for many years Glasgow had been disproportionately burdened by vacant and derelict land and although the rates of VDL had decreased, Glasgow still had the highest concentration of urban vacant land in Scotland, totalling 20% of all urban vacant land;
- (2) of the initiatives to mitigate VDL;
- (3) that local authorities in Scotland had a statutory responsibility to submit an annual SVDLS return to the Scottish Government and the Scottish Government intend to publish its findings of the SVDLS 2024 returns in June 2025, however they had accepted Glasgow's submission and data, which confirmed a continued trend of decreasing VDL in the city, as detailed in the report;
- (4) that the Scottish Government made an annual allocation of the VDL fund to 5 local authorities, including Glasgow and the 4 objectives of the VDL fund were namely to stimulate economic growth, create jobs, promote environmental justice and improve quality of life and support communities and tackle inequalities;
- (5) that the Scottish Government in December 2024 had confirmed an allocation of £1.907m of VDL funding in 2025/26 for Glasgow and 24 applications totalling £5,031,985 had been received for this funding and following an evaluation of the applications by a panel of senior officers from the Council, supplementary information from project partners and an additional assessment, officers had submitted the Council's delivery plan to the Scottish Government and once approved a formal offer would be made to the Council for its VDL allocation for 2025/26;
- (6) that the Vacant and Derelict Land Investment Programme (VDLIP) was established by the Scottish Government in 2020, however VDLIP applications were paused in 2024/25 while the Scottish Government reviewed its regeneration capital funding streams, at that time Glasgow had submitted a number of bids in partnership with local organisations for funding and in January 2025, the Council and project partners were invited to resubmit their previously shortlisted bids for funding for a revived funding round for 2025/26;
- (7) that on 28th April 2025, the Scottish Government had confirmed that the Tureen Street School Residential Conversion project had been awarded £1,978,441 of funding and the Milton Discovery Wood project had been awarded £665,200 of funding from the VDLIP for 2025/26, as detailed in the report;

- (8) that officers would continue to monitor ongoing VDLIP projects from previous funding rounds, as detailed in the report; and
- (9) that the current financial year marked the final year of VDLIP funding from the Scottish Government who had announced that future VDLIP applications would be considered as part of the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund process, with it anticipated that the Council would make several applications to this fund by its deadline of 27th June 2025.

After consideration, the committee

- (a) noted the report; and
- (b) accepted the 2 Vacant and Derelict Land Fund grant offers for 2025/26 from the Scottish Government, totalling £2,633,641.

In terms of Standing Order No 27, Bailie Wardrop declared an interest in this item of business and left the room and took no part in the discussion or decision thereon.