



Glasgow City Council

City Administration Committee

**Item 4**

4th September 2025

**Report by Councillor Ruairi Kelly, City Convener for Housing, Development, Built Heritage and Land Use**

**Contact: George Gillespie Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability Ext: 79106**

## **VACANT AND DERELICT LAND FUND – 2025/26 OFFER OF GRANT**

### **Purpose of Report:**

Further to the City Administration Committee meeting of 5 June 2025, the purpose of this report is:

- a. To request this Committee accepts Scottish Government's offer of grant to Glasgow City Council for the Vacant and Derelict Land Fund 2025/26.

### **Recommendations:**

It is recommended that Committee:

1. Note the contents of the report; and
2. Accept Scottish Government's offer of grant for the Vacant and Derelict Land Fund 2025/26 for £1,908,536

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

Local member(s) advised: Yes ☐ No ☐ consulted: Yes ☐ No ☐

### **PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:**

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## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1. Scottish Government supports the re-use of urban vacant and derelict land through the Vacant and Derelict Land Fund (VDLF). This is an annual allocation from the Scottish Government to Glasgow and four other local authorities for the purpose of bringing urban vacant and derelict land into productive use.
- 1.2. On 5 June 2025 officers brought a report to the City Administration Committee sharing a progress update on the 2025/26 Vacant and Derelict Land Fund (VDLF). Subsequently, a formal offer of grant for £1,908,536 VDLF in 2025/26 was received from Scottish Government on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2025.

## **2. Vacant and Derelict Land Fund 2025/26**

- 2.1. On 22 May 2025, details of proposed projects were submitted to Scottish Government for VDLF consideration (the “Delivery Plan”). Ten projects are included in the Delivery Plan and will be led by either Council or external project partners including housing associations and community organisations. The full list of projects is attached to this report at Appendix 1.
- 2.2. The projects included in the Delivery Plan will meet VDLF objectives by:
  - Stimulating economic growth: developing land for commercial use or enhancing open spaces for the benefit of town centres.
  - Creating jobs: bringing long-term work to deprived areas through commercial development of land; enabling fixed-term work in development of sites through partnership with local construction firms.
  - Environmental justice: development of green spaces in conjunction with local communities to enhance biodiversity, protect habitats, and mitigate climate change.
  - Supporting communities: opportunities for community led projects for social connection and recreation.
- 2.3. All proposed projects are either responses to demonstrated community demand or include comprehensive community engagement in the project plan.
- 2.4. The proposed projects will investigate and/or treat a total of 12.04 hectares of urban vacant and derelict land. A map setting out the proposed project locations is attached to this report at Appendix 2.
- 2.5. On 27<sup>th</sup> August 2025 the Delivery Plan was approved by Scottish Government and an offer of grant for £1,908,536 received.
- 2.6. Following acceptance of the offer of grant by this Committee, officers will negotiate legal agreements with project partners to enable disbursement of funds. All projects

are subject to Scottish Government and Council's established monitoring and claim requirements.

### 3. Policy and Resource Implications

#### Resource Implications:

<i>Financial:</i>	VLDF grant offer of £1,908,536 for the delivery of 10 projects.
<i>Legal:</i>	Officers will work with GCC solicitors to negotiate funding agreements to enable funds to be disbursed, as well as negotiating appropriate property occupancy permissions.
<i>Personnel:</i>	Staff input required to assist in the delivery of the programme has been accounted for within existing resources
<i>Procurement:</i>	Nil

#### Council Strategic Plan: **Fight the climate emergency in a just transition to a net zero Glasgow**

- Mission 2: Become a net zero carbon city by 2030
  - Continue work to reduce Vacant and Derelict Land, prioritising brownfield sites for development and ensuring adequate protection for Green Belt and designated Open Space
  - Increase biodiversity within parks and council-maintained green and open spaces, supporting wilding where appropriate and identifying opportunities for promoting nature-based activities

#### **Enable staff to deliver essential services in a sustainable, innovative, and efficient way for our communities**

- Mission 1: Create safe, clean and thriving neighbourhoods

#### Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

<i>Does the proposal support the Council's</i>	Yes, proposed VDLF funded projects include the delivery of enhanced green spaces for
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*Equality Outcomes 2021-25? Please specify.*

recreation and connection as well as a community centre feasibility study, which supports Equality Outcome Six to tackle social isolation.

*What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?*

The proposed VDLF funded projects listed below include the delivery of enhanced green spaces for recreation and social connection:

- Rogerfield Community Wellbeing
- Blairtummock Destination Play
- James Lindsay Memorial Park extension
- Milton Discovery Wood
- Dalmarnock Open Space and Play

These projects included a range of improvements for play, active travel, and food growing.

VDLF 2025/26 will also fund the feasibility study for Pollokshaws Community Centre.

Improved opportunities for connectivity is in alignment with Council's Equality Outcome to tackle social isolation and loneliness is recognised and prioritised.

*Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage.*

Almost all proposed projects are located within areas of multiple deprivation as informed by SIMD2020.

Bringing vacant and derelict land into productive use is a priority as SVDLS results demonstrate these communities are disproportionately burdened by the presence of vacant and derelict land, the presence of which may negatively impact perception on the local area and hinder opportunities for investment and regeneration.

## **Climate Impacts:**

*Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify:*

Yes, VDLF funding will support the following Climate Plan action:

37 - Identify and utilise Vacant and Derelict Land for greening and rewilding

<i>What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal?</i>	VDLF funding for the following greening and nature based solution projects will increase canopy cover for carbon sequestration and enhance biodiversity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pitmilley Road Nature Based Solution</li> <li>• Rogerfield Community Wellbeing</li> <li>• Blairtummock Destination Play</li> <li>• James Lindsay Memorial Park extension</li> <li>• Milton Discovery Wood</li> <li>• Dalmarnock Open Space and Play</li> </ul>
<i>Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target?</i>	Yes, VDLF funding will support carbon sequestration as noted above.

**Privacy and Data Protection Impacts:**

Are there any potential data protection impacts as a result of this report Y/N	Nil
If Yes, please confirm that a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) has been carried out	N/A

## 4 Recommendations

4.1 It is recommended that Committee:

1. Note the contents of the report; and
2. Accept Scottish Government's offer of grant for the Vacant and Derelict Land Fund 2025/26 for £1,908,536