

Tackling vacant and derelict land noted – Vacant and Derelict Land Fund Programme 2024/25 approved – Acceptance of funding agreed - Declaration of interest.

5 Councillor Kelly, City Convener for Neighbourhood Services and Assets, presented a report regarding the main findings of the Scottish Vacant and Derelict Land Survey (SVDLS) 2023 return and on proposals for the use of vacant and derelict land (VDL) funding in 2024/25, advising

- (1) that Glasgow consistently had the highest concentration of urban vacant and derelict land of any authority in Scotland and that the Council continued to work with the Scottish Government by utilising available funding for the purpose of bringing vacant and derelict land back into beneficial use in accordance with Council and Government objectives;
- (2) of the main findings of the 2023 SVDLS, as detailed in the report;
- (3) that Glasgow's SVDLS results for 2023 had demonstrated the successes that Glasgow had achieved over that year, whilst at the same time highlighting the scale of the problem still to be tackled;
- (4) that, in February 2024, the Scottish Government had confirmed an allocation of £1,270,000 for 2024/25 from the VDL fund for Glasgow, however at this time, the Council was informed that the Clyde Gateway's Green Regeneration and Innovation District would require to be reduced in scale due to site ownership issues and with the agreement of the Scottish Government the unallocated grant had been allocated in the delivery plan for 2024/25, making a total allocation of £1,810,920;
- (5) of the proposed projects for the 2024/25 programme, as detailed in an appendix to the report;
- (6) that, in December 2020, the Scottish Government and the Scottish Land Commission had jointly announced a £50m VDL Investment Programme (VDLIP) over 5 years and this funding stream had been opened to local authorities to apply under a competitive bid system, as detailed in the report;
- (7) of the progress on projects in the VDLIP, Rounds 1, 2 and 3 which had 4 projects being delivered over multiple years and as a result, the Council would be able to claim £3,296,507 of VDLIP in 2024/25 for those projects; and
- (8) of the decision of the Scottish Government to pause VDLIP in 2024/25 due to financial challenges as set out in its budget and no new callout for funding in 2025/26 had been announced by the Scottish Government.

After consideration, the committee

- (a) approved the Vacant and Derelict Land Fund Programme for 2024/25;

- (b) accepted the Vacant and Derelict Land Fund grant offer of £1,270,000 for 2024/25; and
- (c) noted
 - (i) the progress being made in tackling vacant and derelict land in the city; and
 - (ii) the progress being made through the Vacant and Derelict Land Investment Programme.

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