

Empty Homes Action Plan – Update noted etc – Request to City Convener for Climate, Glasgow Green Deal, Transport and City Centre Recovery - Instruction to officers.

3 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 December 2023 and that as at 29th February 2024, Council Tax records showed that there was a total of 2,641 non-exempt long term empty homes in Glasgow lying empty for more than 6 months, with 1,652 being empty for more than 12 months;
- (4) 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; and
- (5) of the current position 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;
- (b) requested that Councillor Millar, City Convener for Climate, Glasgow Green Deal, Transport and City Centre Recovery write to Scottish Ministers regarding the introduction of Compulsory Sales Notices by the end of this year; and

- (c) instructed officers to arrange a further workshop in Autumn 2024 on empty homes and to invite Scottish Ministers to attend.