

**Councillor Angus Millar**  
**Scottish National Party**  
ANDERSTON/CITY/YORKHILL - WARD 10

APPENDIX 1



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7 November 2023

FAO Minister for Local Government Empowerment and Planning, Joe FitzPatrick MSP  
Sent by email to [MinisterLGEP@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterLGEP@gov.scot)

Dear Joe,

**Re: Local Authority Powers for City Centre Recovery**

I hope I find you well and that Summer Recess has afforded you some time to recharge.

I write, as promised, following our meeting of June 21<sup>st</sup>, with regard to the recovery and long-term future of Glasgow City Centre and in particular the impact of vacant properties, poor stewardship of buildings and the resulting environmental blight.

Since that positive and productive meeting, officer colleagues within the Council have continued to progress several related workstreams and strategies which will inform and focus our responses to the city centre's challenges and opportunities.

Indeed, while the UCI Cycling World Championships has brought considerable public and media attention to the challenges within the city centre, it has also provided several opportunities, particularly for the Council Leader, to discuss our strategies for the city centre and private investment committed to it, as well as the repurposing and redevelopment potential of many buildings and the mechanisms required to make that happen.

As we discussed at our meeting earlier in the summer, the interventions necessary to deliver on that potential and reinvigorate the city centre require coordinated action with various partners but also legislative tools and resources the Council does not currently have.

Glasgow City Council is clear in its desire to revisit the conversation with the Scottish Government around Compulsory Sales Order (CSO) powers. Better enabling councils to address longstanding issues of fragmented ownership, land-banking and long-term blight in our town and city centres would present a substantial opportunity to advance both the recovery and local government empowerment agendas. We would very much welcome detailed engagement between Council and Scottish Government, with a view to scoping and delivering such new powers.

I also welcome your confirmation that the Scottish Government is in the early stages of reviewing Compulsory Purchase (CPO) processes and legislation. As I intimated when we met, Glasgow is very keen to be engaged in the consideration of these matters. While the Council has used CPO powers to good effect, there is a clear gap between our ambition to be as proactive as possible in addressing long-term vacancy within the city centre and the time and resource-intensive nature of the CPO process. I would welcome further detailed discussion on this agenda between Council officers and Scottish Government officials.

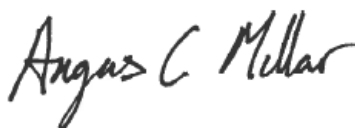
Finally, Glasgow would welcome further and more detailed engagement with the Scottish Government on our aspirations to pursue new financial models to support public intervention in regeneration. At our meeting, we briefly discussed the potential for land value capture mechanisms, and I am aware that Ministers are in the very early stages of considering opportunities on this.

You may additionally be aware that Glasgow City Council is currently preparing a business case for the use of a Tax Incremental Finance (TIF) mechanism in relation to the proposed redevelopment of the Buchanan Quarter at the north end of Buchanan Street, which has the potential to transform this important section of the city centre. I understand that Council officers have been liaising with Scottish Government officials regarding these proposals.

To best inform the next steps on the critical transition of Glasgow city centre I would greatly appreciate a further update on your thoughts and more detailed engagement between our respective officials. I am aware from our discussion that some of these topics will sit with different Ministers but appreciate your continued engagement from an overarching city centre recovery and local government empowerment perspective.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angus C Millar". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

**Cllr Angus Millar**

SNP – Anderston/City/Yorkhill

City Convener for Climate, Glasgow Green Deal, Transport and City Centre Recovery