



Glasgow City Council

City Administration Committee

Item 2

6th August 2026

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

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VACANT AND DERELICT LAND – UPDATE AND GRANT AWARD FOR 2026/27

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of the report is:

- a. To brief Committee as to indicative findings of the Scottish Vacant and Derelict Land Survey 2025 return for Glasgow; and
- b. To formally accept Scottish Government's offer of grant to Glasgow City Council for the Vacant and Derelict Land Fund 2026/27.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that Committee:

- Note the contents of the report; and
- Accept Scottish Government's Vacant and Derelict Land Fund 2026/27 offer of grant for £1,841,679.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

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

1 Background

- 1.1. For many years Glasgow has been disproportionately burdened by vacant and derelict land. Although rates of vacant and derelict land are decreasing, Glasgow has the highest concentration of urban vacant land in Scotland, totalling 20% of all urban vacant land.
- 1.2. Vacant and derelict land constrains the economic potential of the city in addition to blighting local communities, with 42.5% of the Glasgow City population living less than 500m away from long term derelict land, concentrated in areas of multiple deprivation. A combination of poor ground condition, fragmented ownership, and inadequate infrastructure hinders development of Glasgow's vacant and derelict land for productive use.
- 1.3. Scottish Government supports the re-use of urban vacant and derelict land through the Vacant and Derelict Land Fund. 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.

2. Scottish Vacant and Derelict Land Survey – progress update

- 2.1. All local authorities in Scotland, including Glasgow City Council, have a statutory responsibility to submit an annual Vacant and Derelict Land Survey return to Scottish Government. The 2025 return was submitted in January 2026 and confirms an overall trend of decreasing vacant and derelict land in Glasgow.
- 2.2. In 2025, officers recorded 767 hectares of vacant and derelict land, a net reduction of 14 hectares. This is the equivalent of 19 full-sized football pitches.

	2024	2025
Area (hectares)	781	767
Number of sites	574	581

*NB only sites greater than 0.1ha/1,000m² are eligible for inclusion in the survey.

- 2.3. Although there was a reduction in the total area of vacant and derelict land, officers recorded a small increase in the total number of sites. In 2025, officers were able to identify sites that had become vacant and derelict in the last few years but had not yet been added. In 2025, 37 sites totalling 30ha were added to the register.
- 2.4. Part of the decrease in vacant and derelict land area is owing to residential development. In 2025, officers recorded 22.2ha of vacant and derelict land re-used for housing. 4.2ha was reused for commercial purposes, and 0.5ha was reused for community growing spaces.

- 2.1. Scottish Government intend to publish official findings for the Scottish Vacant and Derelict Land Survey in August 2026. At this time, officers will update the [Council's public vacant and derelict land web map](#) to reflect the official 2025 results.

3. Vacant and Derelict Land Fund

- 3.1. The Scottish Government makes an annual allocation of the Vacant and Derelict Land Fund (VDLF) to five local authorities, including Glasgow City Council. There are four objectives of the VDLF:
- Stimulate economic growth;
 - Create jobs;
 - Promote environmental justice and improved quality of life; and
 - Support communities and tackle inequalities.
- 3.2. In 2026/27 Glasgow's VDLF allocation is £1,841,679. In February, officers extended a callout for VDLF applications to internal and external partners. 21 applications were received, with a combined ask of over £5m. Applications were evaluated by a panel of senior officers.
- 3.3. On 31 March 2026, details of proposed projects were submitted to Scottish Government for VDLF consideration (the "Delivery Plan"). Eleven 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.
- 3.4. All proposed projects are either responses to demonstrated community demand or include comprehensive community engagement in the project plan. The proposed projects will investigate and/or treat a total of 12.93 hectares of urban vacant and derelict land. A map setting out the proposed project locations is attached to this report at Appendix 2.
- 3.5. On 3 July 2026 the Delivery Plan was approved by Scottish Government and an offer of grant for £1,841,679 received.
- 3.6. 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.

4. Vacant and Derelict Land Investment Programme

- 4.1. The Vacant and Derelict Land Investment Programme (VDLIP) was established by Scottish Government in 2020. The fund was open to local authorities and Clyde Gateway to apply under a competitive bid system.

4.2. In 2026/27 VDLIP ceased to continue as a standalone fund and has been subsumed into another Scottish Government capital fund, the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund (RCGF).

4.3. Over four years of VDLIP awards, Glasgow City Council has benefitted from £10.6m in funding across 11 projects. In the next six months, officers intend to bring a report to the Economy, Housing, Transport, and Regeneration City Policy Committee further outlining the successes and challenges of VDLIP funding, VDLF awards, and vacant and derelict land survey trends.

5. Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

Financial: £1,841,679 VLDF grant offer for the delivery of 11 projects.

Legal: Officers will work with GCC solicitors to negotiate funding agreements to enable funds to be disbursed, as well as negotiating appropriate property occupancy permissions.

Personnel: Staff input required to assist in the delivery of the programme has been accounted for within existing resources.

Procurement: Nil.

Council Strategic Plan: Specify which Grand Challenge (s) and Mission (s) the proposal supports. Where appropriate the relevant Commitment can also be listed.

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,

Mission 1: Create safe, clean and thriving neighbourhoods

and efficient way for our communities	Help communities to acquire and manage land as recreational greenspace, including parks, land managed for nature, community orchards and growing projects
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Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

<i>Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2025-29? Please specify.</i>	Yes, proposed VDLF projects include the delivery of enhanced green and open spaces for recreation and connection which supports Equality Outcome Six to tackle social isolation.
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<i>What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?</i>	The proposed VDLF projects listed below include the delivery of enhanced open spaces for recreation and social connection: • Cranhill Food System Development • Phase 2 Craigend Civic Space • Springburn Winter Gardens • Devon Street Urban Park
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These projects include a range of improvements for play, active travel, and food growing. Improving opportunities for social connections is in alignment with Council's Equality Outcome to reduce isolation and loneliness.

<i>Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage.</i>	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.
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Climate Impacts:

<i>Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify:</i>	Yes, VDLF funding will support the following Climate Plan action: 37 - Identify and utilise Vacant and Derelict Land for greening, rewilding, and renewable energy
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<i>What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal?</i>	VDLF funding for the following greening and renewable projects will increase canopy cover for carbon sequestration and enhance biodiversity:
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- Project 2030 Chirnsyde Playing Fields exploring installation of solar panels
- Govan Old landscaping, Craigend Civic Space – planting and improving green spaces

Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target? Yes, VDLF funding will support carbon sequestration as noted above.

Privacy and Data Protection Impacts: No

Are there any potential data protection impacts as a result of this report
Y/N

If Yes, please confirm that a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) has been carried out

6. Recommendations

6.1. It is recommended that Committee:

6.1.1. Note the contents of the report; and

6.1.2. Accept Scottish Government's offer of grant for the Vacant and Derelict Land Fund 2026/27 for £1,841,679.