

Scottish Government submission of 10 August 2022

PE1943/A: Help prevent the destruction of greenfield sites by providing financial incentives towards the remediation and reuse of brownfield sites

The Scottish Government recognises that long term vacant and derelict land blights communities, especially in areas with greatest levels of deprivation. Without action these sites will continue to have negative impacts on communities (social, economic, environmental) and will not live up to their potential for supporting re-uses that can deliver inclusive growth and help with tackling climate change.

Following the publication of the Scottish Land Commission's Vacant and Derelict Land Taskforce recommendations, which included a call for a national programme of investment, the £50 million low carbon Vacant & Derelict Land Investment Programme (VDLIP) was launched in March 2021. Over an initial five years, it will provide funding for and support innovative local approaches to tackling persistent vacant and derelict land and delivering new green infrastructure in support of our ambitions for a just transition to net zero.

The VDLIP is being delivered around four main pillars of action: urban green space; community-led regeneration; low carbon developments, and; multiyear/sustained investment to tackle the most problematic sites.

It is available on a competitive basis to all Scottish local authorities and Clyde Gateway Urban Regeneration Company who are working with communities and other partners to bring forward suitable project proposals for the reuse of vacant and derelict land. The VDLIP complements the delivery of our Place Based Investment Programme, helping to accelerate our ambitions around place, town centre action, 20 minute neighbourhoods, community regeneration, and community wealth building. Projects supported from the VDLIP will make use of capital grant funding to de-risk and unblock sites for re-uses that align with our place-based regeneration and green ambitions.

In September 2021, 10 successful projects were announced from the first round of funding representing an investment £5 million in financial year 2021/22. 10 additional successful projects were announced in May 2022 constituting a further investment of £5 million for financial year 2022/23. A list of successful projects can be seen here [Low Carbon Fund: Vacant and Derelict Land Investment Programme projects - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/low-carbon-fund/vacant-derelict-land-investment-programme/projects/pages/12.aspx)

Additionally, draft National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) proposes an updated and expanded policy on vacant and derelict land and empty buildings which encourages re-use of land and buildings and discourages greenfield development unless there are no suitable brownfield alternatives.

We are now carefully considering the consultation responses received and it is intended to lay a revised NPF4 in the Scottish Parliament in the autumn.