

# Report

Report to:	<b>Community and Enterprise Resources Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>28 September 2021</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director ( Community and Enterprise Resources)</b>

Subject:	<b>Scottish Government Vacant and Derelict Land Fund Programme 2021/2022</b>
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## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ advise the Committee of progress made during 2020/2021 in implementing the South Lanarkshire Delivery Plan for the Scottish Government financed Vacant and Derelict Land Fund (VDLF)
- ◆ seek approval for the VDLF Programme for 2021/2022

## 2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the progress made during 2020/2021 in delivering the agreed Vacant and Derelict Land Fund Programme be noted; and
- (2) that the allocation of funds in the 2021/2022 Vacant and Derelict Land Fund Delivery Plan, as set out in paragraphs 5.1 and 5.2, be approved.

## 3. Background

3.1. The Scottish Government allocation to South Lanarkshire for the Vacant and Derelict Land Fund (VDLF) for the financial year 2020/2021 was £697,000. A Local Delivery Plan was produced and approved by Committee on 31 March 2020 to implement the key objectives of the VDLF which are to:-

- ◆ tackle long-term vacant and derelict land
- ◆ stimulate economic growth and job creation
- ◆ develop a diverse, sustainable environment with a focus on temporary and permanent greening.
- ◆ support communities to flourish and tackle inequalities.

3.2. The Council acknowledges that vacant, derelict, and contaminated land acts as a major constraint to the re-development of land and impacts on the quality of life of many residents.

3.3. The VDLF programme that has been implemented consisted of a number of different projects as follows:-

- ◆ Clyde Gateway Urban Regeneration Company (URC) Shawfield Phase 2 – continued support to complete the next phase of remediation works at Clyde Gateway URC’s Shawfield Phase 2 project.
- ◆ Completion of environmental improvements and accessibility works at the former Milton Brick and Tile Works site, Carluke which has addressed issues arising from its former use as a land fill site.
- ◆ Clyde Cycle Park (CCP), Bogleshole Road, Cambuslang – financial assistance was provided to allow site investigations to be completed on this Scottish Enterprise owned site.

#### **4. Progress Achieved in 2020/2021**

4.1. The 2020/2021 Local Delivery Plan was designed to build on the work that has been undertaken over recent years on key projects located across South Lanarkshire as follows:-

- ◆ Support the completion of remediation works at Clyde Gateway URC’s Shawfield Phase 2 project. These works are now complete and despite challenging site conditions, technical obstacles and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on implementation of some aspects of the work packages, significant levels of Chromium VI contamination that existed within the site boundaries have been addressed. These works have a total cost of £6.1 million to implement (excluding professional fees and VAT) with £500,000 of SLC VDLF support being provided in 2020/2021 financial year.

From a VDLF perspective, these works aligned with the VDLF ‘economic growth and job creation’ priority set out in Section 3.1.

- ◆ Complete environmental improvements and accessibility works at the former Milton Brick and Tile Works site, Carluke which address issues identified by the site investigation works and improves the area’s attractiveness for informal physical activity. The site, which lies close to Carluke Rail Station, was previously used for landfill purposes and its difficult terrain and issues around surface water and flooding prevented it from being readily accessible for outdoor recreation. However, following the implementation of improvements to create site access points, a network of paths and measures to address surface water and flooding issues, this informal greenspace was made available to the public in May 2021 as a new outdoor asset to promote and encourage increased physical activity for Carluke residents.
- ◆ Completion of site investigation works at the proposed Clyde Cycle Park (CCP) site at Bogleshole Road, Cambuslang. The results obtained from this work have led to the development of further proposals for an ambitious cycling and active travel project which was recently successful in obtaining Clyde Mission financial support. Further funding applications are in progress and the first phase of works at the site to create a tarmac surfaced cycling circuit are underway.

From a VDLF perspective, the removal of environmental problems at Milton, Carluke and the works now being implemented at Cambuslang align with the VDLF ‘greening’ and ‘supporting communities’ priorities set out in Section 3.1.

#### **5. 2021/2022 VDLF Proposal**

5.1. The Scottish Government allocation to South Lanarkshire for the VDLF for the financial year 2021/2022 is £737,000. A Local Delivery Plan (LDP) has now been produced and submitted to Scottish Government to implement the key objectives of the VDLF as follows:-

- ◆ Cuningar Loop Phase 2 - the successful development of the award-winning Cuningar Loop Urban Park has been a collaboration between South Lanarkshire Council, Clyde Gateway URC and Forestry and Land Scotland over the last 10 years. To date, the park has welcomed over 500,000 visitors. The current proposals have been successful in attracting £4 million of funding from Clyde Mission and Green Infrastructure Fund and, with the additionality directly associated with the introduction of £500,000 of VDLF, will enable it to provide the following elements:-
  - ◆ an extended riverside boardwalk
  - ◆ linked woodland walkways with seating and picnic areas
  - ◆ an orientation point with local maps highlighting zones for birds, bats and butterflies
  - ◆ arts walk with river viewpoints
  - ◆ an education zone with interpretation points explaining and describing the site and its historical legacy
  - ◆ additional car and mini-bus parking with associated electric vehicle (EV) charging points

This funding is conditional on Clyde Gateway URC reaching agreement with Forestry and Land Scotland on the future management and maintenance of the Phase 2 site.

- ◆ Cuningar Loop Phase 3 - this project is at Cuningar Loop to the south east of the Phase 2 site and aims to provide much needed food growing space in the Rutherglen area. Food growing spaces are instrumental in helping to improve the quality of life and wellbeing of those in disadvantaged communities.

This site offers the opportunity to regenerate a former vacant and derelict site into space that can be utilised for food growing, including where appropriate, allotments and raised beds. This site has specific challenges in terms of historic use, however, a range of different options will be utilised to maximise areas suitable for growing, adapt and enhance areas that need more significant interventions and, where food growing activity cannot be delivered, utilise those areas to support and service food growing activity and provide the required amenities to ensure that all users can access and utilise the site without barriers. Clyde Gateway will transfer control of the site to SLC at the appropriate time to allow the project to be delivered.

It is proposed to allocate £237,000 of 2021/2022 VDLF budget to this project together with a further £182,000 of 2020/2021 VDLF budget, giving a total budget of £419,000. This previous 2020/2021 funding allocation was to support the Hamilton Hub project – a mixed use community focussed development that was to be located at The Vogue, Keith Street, Hamilton. The community focussed elements of this project are now being delivered at a site at the New Cross Centre, Hamilton with the former cinema building at The Vogue being developed for social housing by Clyde Valley Housing Association, thereby freeing up this previous allocation for this project.

- 5.2. The above projects, their location shown on Appendix 1 of the report, represents a balanced programme of activities which address Scottish Government and Council priorities. The allocation of funding on these projects is proposed as:-

- ◆ £500,000 - Clyde Gateway, Cuningar Loop Phase 2, Rutherglen
- ◆ £419,000 – Cuningar Loop Phase 3, Rutherglen - Food Growing Space

## **6. Employee Implications**

- 6.1. There are no employee implications. Proposed workstreams will be managed using existing staff resources.

## **7. Financial Implications**

- 7.1. The VDLF programme will be funded from the Scottish Government Vacant and Derelict Land Fund allocation.

## **8. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications**

- 8.1. The initiative identified in this report will be delivered using a range of sustainable techniques and models, having regard to best practice and current construction industry guidance. It is also noted that the Clyde Cycle Park project may have a positive impact in reducing carbon emissions and assist in meeting local and national climate change targets.

## **9. Other Implications**

- 9.1. The key risks associated with these projects are focused on the potential for cost overruns or delays to the programme. These risks will be managed by Clyde Gateway URC in respect of the Cuningar Loop Phase 2 project and by Community and Enterprise Resources on the Cuningar Loop Phase 3 project.

## **10. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

- 10.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy and, therefore, no impact assessment is required.
- 10.2. This report has been prepared in consultation with Finance and Corporate Resources. Liaison with Clyde Gateway URC will continue utilising the Council's existing monitoring arrangements and attendance at URC Stakeholder meetings and Board meetings. The Council also has representation on the board of Clyde Cycle Park charity.

**Michael McGlynn**

**Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)**

27 August 2021

## **Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/ Objectives**

- ◆ Focused on people and their needs.
- ◆ Fair open and sustainable
- ◆ Work with communities and partners to promote high quality, thriving and sustainable communities
- ◆ Support our communities by tackling disadvantage and deprivation and supporting aspiration.

## **Previous References**

- ◆ None

### **List of Background Papers**

- ◆ Community and Enterprise Resources Committee 31 March 2020
- ◆ South Lanarkshire Council 2021/2022 Proposed VDLF Delivery Plan – June 2021

### **Contact for Further Information**

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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