



SCOTTISH LAND COMMISSION  
COIMISEAN FEARAINN NA H-ÀIRDE

**NOT SO**

**PRETTY VACANT**

Transforming vacant and  
derelict land in Scotland

[www.landcommission.gov.scot/notsoprettyvacant](http://www.landcommission.gov.scot/notsoprettyvacant)  
#notsoprettyvacant

Shona Glenn

27<sup>th</sup> November 2019



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# The Challenge

- Scale
- Complexity
- Duration





# Why Does it Matter?

**Harm** – V&D sites blight communities and damage well being

**Missed opportunity** – tackling land dereliction can help address some of society's biggest challenges







# Shettleston Growing Project





# Cuningar Loop



# Craigneuk Pump Track





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Three phase approach

- phase 1 - understanding the problem
- **phase 2 - demonstrating solutions**
- phase 3 - roll out and delivery



# Phase One Findings

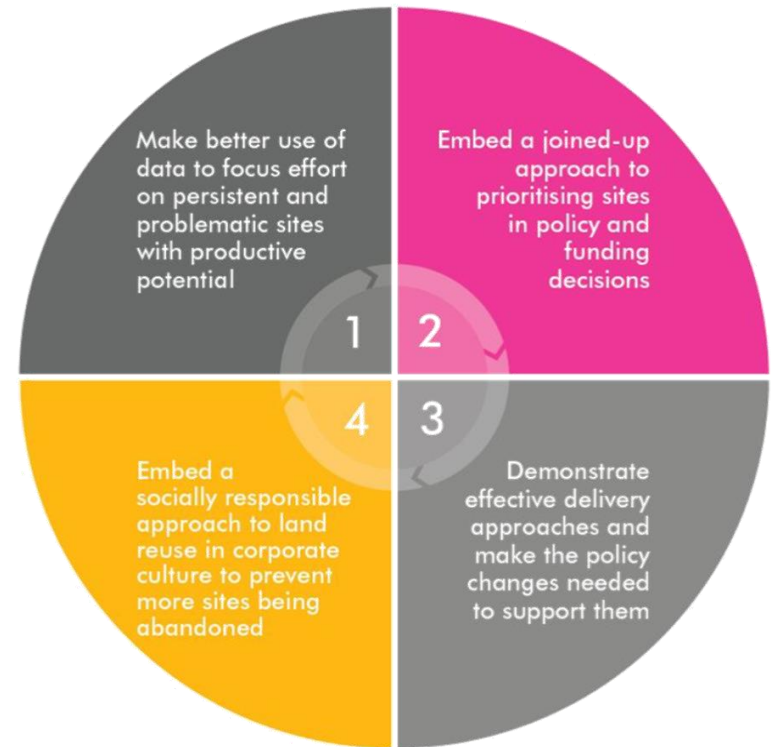
- Problem may not be as big as we thought
  - 589 DUSTEs (**D**erelict **U**rban **S**ites unused since 2000 or **E**arlier)
- Thematic approach required
- Small sites can make a big difference
- Lack of market demand = difficult choices





# Strategic Priorities

1. Make better use of data to focus effort on persistent and problematic sites
2. Align funding and policy to support delivery
3. Demonstrating effective approaches to delivery
4. Embed socially responsible culture to land reuse





# 1) Better Use of Data

## Focus

Reforming the V&DL register to focus effort on sites where we can make the greatest difference



## Understand

Improving the availability and accessibility of site information to inform better decision making



## Present

Making information available through a modern, map-based, publicly accessible portal of opportunity





## 2) Prioritise & Align

### Costs & Benefits

**Social**

**Environmental**

**Economic**

### Priorities

New approaches to appraisal and land valuation needed to reflect full costs of long-term dereliction and full benefits of productive reuse

**Policy**

**Funding**



## 3) Demonstrate & Learn

### Demonstration Sites & Uses

Thematic approach to different types of sites and identification of characteristics that make sites suitable for different uses



#### Large Sites

National, multi-agency approach required

#### Local Sites

Build on existing experience of local authorities

#### Small Sites

Potential for community-led regeneration



### Recommendations

For policy change & lessons for similar sites elsewhere





## 4) Culture Change

### Prevention & Early Intervention

Embedding a socially responsible approach to land reuse in corporate culture



**Voluntary  
Measures**



**Corporate Social  
Responsibility**



**Compulsory  
Measures**



**Legislative Change**



Thank You!

Shona Glenn  
Scottish Land Commission  
[shona.glenn@landcommission.gov.scot](mailto:shona.glenn@landcommission.gov.scot)





# Workstream 3: Demonstration

- What lessons can we learn from past experience?
  - What would you change next time round?
- How should demonstrator sites be identified?
  - What criteria should we consider?
- How can local authorities be effectively engaged in the work of the Task Force?
  - Who, when and how?