

Reactions and Responses to Urban Land Reform Briefing Papers

SURF - Scotland's Independent Regeneration Network

“SURF is a cross-sector network of organisations and individuals committed to the regeneration of Scotland’s disadvantaged communities. SURF has a keen interest in how the use and ownership of land influences regeneration investments and strategies.

A particular concern, which was strongly evidenced in extensive consultations towards SURF's ‘Manifesto for Community Regeneration’ for the 2016 Scottish Parliament elections, is the persistently high volume of long-term of vacant and derelict land in urban areas. That problematic phenomenon is closely linked to land-banking and property speculation and has wide-ranging negative impacts on local economic activity, environmental justice and housing development.

The University of Glasgow’s Policy Scotland briefing papers series on urban land reform is a timely and useful resource for all regeneration stakeholders. The briefings provide a concise and accessible overview of the current policy landscape for land issues in urban Scotland. They also draw attention to a number of proposals that will support informed debate on how to adjust policy and practice in addressing unacceptably high levels of vacant & derelict land and the related challenges.”

RICS (Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors)

“With the Scottish Parliamentary elections approaching, this response to the Scottish Government’s Sounding Board on Land Reform recommendations is a welcome addition to the discussion. It is imperative that housing, regeneration and infrastructure are high on the next Government administration’s agenda, and RICS hopes that this is reflected in all Scottish political party manifestos.”

ULR Briefing paper 7 (authored by Professor David Adams, Ian Cooke, Richard Heggie, Bob Reid and Dr Madhu Satsangi), provides evidence-based research and the view of experts that complements the dialogue and debate around what interventions can be achieved to help shape and enhance the housing development and land supply frameworks in order to improve Scotland’s housing sector. Regardless of their position on the political spectrum, there are recommendations – such as the Housing Land Corporation, Urban Partnership Zone, or Public Interest Led Development - that can, and should, be taken forward by parties in the manifesto commitments.

RICS supports the notion of a Housing Land Corporation; a body that will work with local authorities to facilitate development (and which is a very similar proposal to the Scottish Land Delivery Agency proposed by the RICS Scottish Housing Commission). Reformed CPOs, as highlighted in this paper, would also be beneficial in assisting housing supply match demand which will serve to stabilise house prices and rents, as well as a range of other benefits.”