



Scottish Council for
Development and Industry

PRESS RELEASE

19 May 2011

For immediate release

SIX CITIES UNVEIL SHARED VISION FOR SCOTLAND

SIX CITIES SHARED VISION PLEDGE available to download at

<http://www.scdi.org.uk/downloads/SixCitiesASharedVision.doc>

PHOTOGRAPH available to download at

<http://www.scdi.org.uk/downloads/cityleaders.jpg>

Photograph Left-Right:

- Cllr Kate Dean, Convener of Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure, Aberdeen City Council
- Cllr Ken Guild, Leader, Dundee City Council
- Cllr Jenny Dawe, Leader, City of Edinburgh Council
- Cllr Gordon Matheson, Leader, Glasgow City Council
- Cllr Jimmy Gray, Provost of Inverness, Highland Council
- Cllr Graham Houston, Leader, Stirling Council

Leaders from Scotland's Six Cities today (Thursday, May 19) joined forces to sign a pledge in support of a shared vision of success for Scotland.

At a historic meeting in Stirling, Scotland's cities – Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Dundee, Glasgow, Inverness and Stirling – formally signed their commitment to Scotland's first **Six Cities: Shared Vision** pledge.

The Scottish Government is set to appoint a Minister for Cities. As well as delivering a new Scottish Cities Review, the Minister will focus on investment in the economy, culture, transport and infrastructure to support cities as the nation's engines for growth.

SCDI Chief Executive, Dr Lesley Sawers said:

"Today's historic meeting is the start of a shared process that SCDI and the six cities will take forward.

PRESS RELEASE

“The cities will now seek to work in partnership with the Scottish Government, Scotland Office and civic Scotland to move forward with this joint economic agenda.

“We are looking for an early meeting with the new Cities Minister and the Secretary of State to progress our shared vision for economic growth.”

ENDS

Notes to editors

For further information, please contact James Alexander, SCDI Policy and Communications Manager on 0776 202 3985.

SCDI is Scotland's leading economic development organisation representing 1,200 companies, SMEs, public sector bodies, charities, trade unions and faith groups. SCDI's aim is to influence and inspire government and key stakeholders to create sustainable economic prosperity for Scotland.

Scotland's six cities act as hubs for Scotland's business, tourism, social and cultural life. Evidence is growing on the importance of cities to creating sustainable economic growth while governments and investors see cities as key drivers of both regional and national economies, offering solutions to the social and environmental challenges of the 21st century.

Despite accommodating just 27% of Scotland's population, Scotland's cities produce:

- 47% of Gross Value Added – more than £44bn
- 43% of business turnover
- 40% of jobs
- 36% of research and development

In November 2010, SCDI's Cities Conference brought together Scotland's Six Cities. The conference was attended by more than 100 delegates, including business leaders, senior civil servants, politicians, academics and local authority representatives and focused on the role of Scotland's cities individually and collectively as key drivers of our nation's future economy.

Key issues for Scotland's cities identified and debated at the November conference included:

- How do they compete effectively on a UK and international basis?
- What will ensure they are vibrant and successful places to live, work and visit?
- How do we maximise their combined strengths yet celebrate their diversity?
- How can Scotland's cities become a powerhouse of new innovation, and a major support for Scotland's businesses?
- How can Scotland's cities be sustainable and meet carbon reduction targets
- How do Scotland's cities maximise their connectivity with each other and with international markets?

At the Six Cities Conference, Professor Duncan MacLennan of St Andrews University made the case for a clearer, more concise articulation of city policy for Scotland and greater strategic decision making which delivered competitiveness and social justice. He also identified potential to change the community and environmental planning vision.

PRESS RELEASE

The OECD makes recommendations on policy for cities. These include:

- A flexible strategic vision is necessary to foster competitiveness, ensure a diversified range of interdependent ventures, and information and transportation links between universities, researchers, technicians, and manufacturers.
- Liveable cities with high-quality infrastructure, green spaces, and inner city residential areas and public projects can contribute to economic success, attracting foreign investors as well as highly qualified professionals and tourists.
- Effective governance of cities depends on leadership from the national government to encourage reform, a formal government at the metro-regional level, and lower level local networks that include non-governmental actors, associations and businesses which can deal with social tensions and understand market realities.

The Centre for Cities report, Cities Outlook 2011, identified Scotland's major cities as being in better shape to avoid a double-dip recession than those elsewhere in the UK. The report identified the importance of giving cities more power and flexibility to respond in more flexible ways to challenges and identify and support growth.