



ELECTION 2021

BRIEFING

scdi Scottish Council
for Development
and Industry

INTRODUCTION

The next five years are critical to Scotland's future as we adapt to maximise the opportunities and face up to the challenges of building a strong recovery from the COVID-19 crisis, responding with the necessary urgency to the climate and nature emergencies by accelerating our progress to net zero, and beginning new relationships with the EU and international partners.

It is vital that the newly elected Scottish Parliament and Scottish Government work to ensure economic and social prosperity for all.

This SCDI Briefing pulls together the big ideas and headline recommendations from our recent reports and research outputs ahead of May's election under four key themes:

- **Learning Throughout Life**
- **A living lab for innovation**
- **Places people want to live, work, and visit and;**
- **Clean growth world leader**

We continue to work with our members on our vision and strategy for the Scottish economy, which we produce every five years.

We will share this Blueprint with you ahead of the election.

OUR IDEAS & RECOMENDATIONS

SCDI's broad convening power across public, private and third sector means we take the longer view and see the bigger picture. In arriving at our 'asks' for the Scottish economy all sectors and parts of Scotland are included in the conversation. Incorporating our policy proposals into your manifesto sends the message that you seek to balance economic, social, and environmental concerns and are committed to a better economy for all of Scotland. Working across parties and governments and with stakeholders across sectors is key to their design and delivery in the years to 2026.

Each idea and recommendation is colour coded to reflect the SCDI report from which it originates:

Mind the Data Gap: Harnessing Data, Digital and Technology to Transform Health & Social Care (TBC 2021)

Manifesto for Clean Growth (December 2020)

Building Scotland's Green Recovery (June 2020)

Upskilling Scotland: The Future of Skills and the Fourth Industrial Revolution (January 2020)

An Economy for All of Scotland (September 2019)

Building a World-Leading AI and Data Strategy for an Inclusive Scotland (February 2019)

OUR IDEAS & RECOMENDATIONS (CONT)

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROSPERITY FOR ALL

LEARNING THROUGHOUT LIFE	A LIVING LAB FOR INNOVATIONS	PLACES WHERE PEOPLE WANT TO LIVE, WORK AND VISIT	CLEAN GROWTH WORLD LEADER
We need to help everyone to prepare for and realise their full potential in all jobs in a changing economy	We need to be at the forefront of developing, deploying, and exporting technological innovations	We need to build sustainable, resilient, and thriving communities everywhere in Scotland	We need to maximise the economic opportunities of the Just Transition to Net Zero
Establish an ambitious, flexible, and universal Reskilling and Upskilling Fund which empowers all learners and all workers to reskill or upskill at any stage of their life or career	Implement an AI Strategy for Scotland which unlocks opportunities for Scotland to lead global best practice in innovation, ethical standards, and inclusivity	Level the digital playing field by connecting all of Scotland with future-proof 5G infrastructure, prioritising rollout in the hardest-to-reach places and the most deprived communities	Work with industry to build an internationally competitive domestic supply chain for renewable energy manufacturing and related services and increase local content in equipment and people
Ensure all schools, colleges, universities, training providers and employers embed meta-skills and core digital and green skills in all curricula, professional learning, and work-based learning	Develop new Big Data Strategy for Health & Social Care and establish Health & Social Care Transformation Fund to build a national culture of innovation; reskill and upskill the workforce; and modernise data, digital and physical infrastructure across NHS, pharmacy, and care	Implement new presumption in favour for Net Zero developments , such as active travel routes, zero-carbon housing, onshore wind farms or pumped storage hydro, within the context of plan-led development through National	Planning Framework 4 Introduce mandatory repair, durability and sustainability ratings for all electronic and household appliances and develop a national repair network
Coordinate a voluntary, inclusive, and accessible National Service for Net Zero programme of employment and volunteering opportunities in every community across public, private and third sectors backed by a Green Skills Passport	Invest in clean energy innovations and demonstrator projects , establishing Scotland as a European leader in technologies including clean hydrogen, floating offshore wind and CCS	Develop and implement an ambitious Net Zero Standard for all new buildings by 2023	Work with UK Government to revisit potential for national model of road user pricing or similar measures to reduce pollution and to fund future low- and zero-carbon infrastructure
Support universities and colleges to expand and develop their offer of flexible, modular, and personalised learning opportunities , including unbundling existing qualifications into bitesize- or micro-credentials, through new incentives and support	Back biotechnological innovation which supports industry to decarbonise, transform Grangemouth into a biorefinery and protect jobs through public investment, innovation, and incentives	Embed the economy of rural Scotland across all government departments to 'rural-proof' decision-making and consider where rural areas can play a greater role	Implement new system of farm support payments which protects and restores biodiversity ; supports innovative and sustainable food production; and is aligned with expanded and strengthened advisory services to help farmers and crofters become more sustainable and more productive
Set a timeline for a transition to implement Fair Work First criteria and conditionality in all public sector contracts, procurement, and licensing	Establish an independent advisory body on innovation, new industries, and agile regulation to advise government and parliament on updating legislation; stimulating ethical and equitable innovation; attracting investment; and boosting research capacity	Mobilise public spending through Community Wealth Building to create local, green jobs, build local, resilient supply chains and back inclusive, sustainable business models	Scale-up public investment funded through additional affordable borrowing and taxation of carbon emissions to deliver a large-scale green stimulus to create new green jobs and build a Green Recovery

WHY SCDI?

The The Scottish Council for Development and Industry (SCDI) is an independent and inclusive economic development network established in 1931 which represents businesses and organisations across all sectors and all geographies of the Scottish economy.

Our members are in the private, public and third sectors. We have a strong regional presence in the Central Belt, Highlands & Islands, North East, and South of Scotland. We believe in a Scottish economy which works for everyone, everywhere.

Our Productivity Club Scotland programme in partnership with the Scottish Government supports collaboration and peer-to-peer learning between businesses of all kinds to improve their productivity. The programme is currently being expanded across Scotland.

Our Young Engineers and Science Clubs (YESC) programme works with industry partners and 1,575 schools across Scotland to develop STEM skills in children, young people and teachers and inspire the next generation of coders, engineers, entrepreneurs, innovators, and scientists.

Further Information

You can find out more by downloading the full SCDI reports and summaries from our website.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss our ideas and recommendations in more detail.

Clare Reid

Director of Policy and Public Affairs

Click the links below to download the reports referenced throughout

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