

PRESS RELEASE

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SCDI announces appointment of Scottish Cities Alliance Strategic Director

SCDI is announcing today the appointment of Stewart Carruth as the Strategic Director of the Scottish Cities Alliance.

Stewart takes up this appointment on part-time secondment from Stirling Council, where he is currently Depute Chief Executive. He has been appointed to lead the Alliance as it works with its partner councils and the Scottish Government to deliver economic growth.

His primary role with the Scottish Cities Alliance will be to drive and deliver the development of collaborative projects and investment propositions to promote growth and create jobs, capitalising on the cities' capabilities and securing maximum impact and delivery of their shared economic aspirations.

The Scottish Cities Alliance, funded jointly by Scotland's seven cities and by the Scottish Government, has successfully built a framework for collaboration since its launch in 2011. In embarking on this next phase, it aims to translate this collaboration into delivering significant added value to Scotland's economy, and to elevating the position of Scotland's cities within the wider UK and international context.

Stewart has senior strategic and leadership experience across public, private and third sectors including posts with Aberdeen City Council and PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Stewart Carruth said: "This is an exciting opportunity. I look forward to working on the various collaborative projects and investment opportunities in order to maximise the profile of the Scottish Cities Alliance, its member-cities and their shared economic aspirations."

Commenting on the appointment, Deputy First Minister and Minister for Cities, Nicola Sturgeon MSP said:

"It has been a pleasure to watch the Scottish Cities Alliance grow and mature over the past two years, building collaborative partnerships at a level not previously seen which benefit our cities, their regions and Scotland as a whole. The Alliance is firmly committed to delivering its objectives of increased investment, jobs and businesses.

"Stewart's appointment as Strategic Director is a huge opportunity for our cities and I know he is dedicated to helping the Alliance deliver its ambitious plans".

Councillor Johanna Boyd, Leader of Stirling Council, said:

"Stirling Council is delighted with this opportunity to contribute to the Scottish Cities Alliance. The appointment of Stewart on a part-time secondment builds on our commitment to

delivering a challenging and exciting cities agenda. Stirling looks forward to working with the other cities in this hugely important project.”

Ross Martin, Chief Executive of SCDI, said:

“I am delighted to be working with Stewart on this crucial and exciting agenda. Our cities have fantastic potential to ensure a vital contribution to the Scottish economy as centres of innovation, knowledge and creativity, combining the entirety of their assets in physical, social and intellectual capital. By translating ambitious plans into practical projects and collaboration, I am certain that the Alliance will deliver significant value from a shared approach.

“I am grateful to the leaders of our seven cities and to the Scottish Government for ensuring the goodwill and resource to make the Scottish Cities Alliance a success for Scotland. SCDI has an integral role to play in working closely with the partners to ensure we can deliver the maximum output for the economy, and this aligns perfectly with our core mission of “Engaging Civic Scotland, Driving Economic Growth”.

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Notes to editors

SCDI is Scotland's leading independent economic development organisation representing 1,200 member organisations across private, public and third sectors.

The Scottish Cities Alliance was formed as part of the Agenda for Cities launched by the Deputy First Minister and Scotland's Cities in December 2011. The Alliance is established to lead a programme of collaborative action for delivering the aspirations of the cities and the Scottish Government, thereby achieving economic growth and creating jobs in cities and their regions through shared action on four key areas: connected cities, sustainable cities, knowledge cities and vibrant & cultural cities.

Scotland's seven cities are: Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverness, Perth and Stirling.

For further information, please contact Ross Martin, Chief Executive, SCDI on 0141 222 9720 or 07971 906084.