



Scottish Council for
Development and Industry

PRESS RELEASE

31 December 2010

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SCDI New Year Message

Scotland must deliver for our young people in 2011

Dr Lesley Sawers, SCDI Chief Executive said:

‘SCDI believes in the creation of a sustainable future for Scotland. This includes our economy, our communities and crucially, our young people. 2011 must be the year Scotland succeeds in enhancing the life chances of all our young people, allowing every young person in Scotland the opportunity to achieve their full potential and to contribute to creating a better future for Scotland

‘Our young people are Scotland’s greatest future asset. But they need the right mix of skills, experience and opportunities to allow them to realise their ambitions and succeed. Achievement in education doesn’t just benefit individuals; it will help build a highly-skilled, productive nation whose innovations and enterprises can compete and grow on a global stage.

‘We must create new opportunities for all our young people to learn, train and work, ensuring we maximise their potential and play a full part in making Scotland a successful and sustainable nation.

‘As we start a new year, SCDI has developed six principles against which we believe budget decisions should be measured. One of these must be that Scotland’s public spending delivers inter-generational equity and funds the right mix of education, job and training opportunities for our young people.

‘This means testing budget decisions against their impact on the next generation. How do we secure the international competitiveness of our universities and colleges, create greater life chances and achieve social mobility for the next generation in a period of declining public spending? How can Scotland’s next generation become the entrepreneurs, innovators and leaders of the future?



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'The future of our young people and the economic future of Scotland are inter-related. A successful, dynamic and internationally-competitive economy depends on finding innovative and effective ways to deliver the right mix of work skills to as many of our young people as possible, where and when they need them. We must not be afraid to continue to ensure that the delivery of world-class education and training is a key priority for the Scottish Government's budget and for Scotland.

'In challenging times, tough choices must be made on where to invest our resources. Let's ensure that in 2011 and beyond, investing in securing a fulfilling future for all our young people remains a key priority within a successful, sustainable and inclusive Scotland'

ENDS

Notes to editors

SCDI is Scotland's leading economic development organisation representing 1,200 companies, SMEs, public sector bodies, charities, trade unions and faith groups.

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