

## PRESS RELEASE

29 December 2011

SCDI New Year Message

# Scotland's cities can further their success in 2012

**SCDI Chief Executive, Dr Lesley Sawers said:**

“Over the last 12 months, SCDI, the Scottish Government and Scotland's six cities – Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverness and Stirling – have worked closely together to define and develop a vision and action plan for shared success. 2012 is the year when this will begin to have a real, measurable impact.

“SCDI has engaged in Scotland's cities agenda because, as international evidence shows, when cities grow and expand their economies, the economies of whole nations also grow and develop. Six cities working together to achieve growth is therefore vital to Scotland's efforts to return to economic prosperity and tackle unemployment.

“By working together the cities are not pitting urban priorities against rural ones, but recognising that here in Scotland, as well as globally, it is our cities that will drive regional and national economies as well as offering solutions to the social and environmental challenges we face.

“The action plan, *Scotland's Cities: Delivering For Scotland*, published in mid-December, outlines four key areas where Scotland's cities, the Scottish Government and the private sector – strategically facilitated by SCDI – can work together to deliver success. These areas are connectivity, sustainability, knowledge and culture.

“To be the engines of growth, our cities need impactful investment in infrastructure. They need to be well-connected – both digitally and physically – with their regions, with each other and to international markets.

“They need 21st century funding models which support long-term strategic development, they need to be vibrant and creative, and they need to be sustainable.

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“This year, the Leaders of Scotland's cities have demonstrated their positive aspirations for their own cities and regions and delivered an important collective commitment to delivering economic growth for Scotland. 2012 will be the year where this shared ambition begins to deliver on the ground – engaging international experts, finding new sources of finance and achieving the growth our cities and our nation need.

“2011 has brought us to an important milestone on the new journey for our cities. The year ahead will see us racing forwards to further success.”

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### **Notes to editors**

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

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