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scottishcitiesalliance

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Invest Smart, Invest Scottish

The Scottish Cities Alliance is a unique collaboration of Scotland's eight cities - Aberdeen, Dundee, Dunfermline, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverness, Perth, and Stirling - and The Scottish Government. Together we are dedicated to promoting the great economic potential of our country.

Scroll down to learn about how we are working collaboratively and speaking with a single voice to attract investment and jobs, drawing on the collective strengths of Scotland's vibrant and unique cities. This is a particularly exciting edition, as we look back on **UKREiiF (UK's Real Estate Investment & Infrastructure)**.

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UKREiiF - Leeds - 20th - 22nd May 2025

The Scottish Cities Alliance was delighted to return to **UKREiiF 2025**. UKREiiF is the UK's leading real estate and infrastructure investment event, bringing together **16,000+ delegates from local and national government, investors, developers, end-users and the wider built environment** industry together – and it's considered to be the place where conversations start to drive investment and regeneration into UK cities and regions.

This was our **largest and most exciting year**, as we hosted the 'Scotland' pavilion, bringing our city leaders, chief executives and senior officers together as one. We were incredibly grateful to have 500+ unique delegates visit our pavilion and engage in meaningful conversations.

Our programme highlighted:

- **The wealth of investment opportunities linked to Scotland's energy transition**
- **The strength of the knowledge economy in Scotland's cities, with a particular focus on life sciences and advanced manufacturing**
- **Residential investment opportunities across all tenures and cities**
- **Place-Based change across and between Scottish Cities**

Key Speakers across our programme included:

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Macleod LLP

- **Dame Susan Rice**, Chair, Forth Green Freeport
- **Richard Park**, Chief Executive, Hub North Scotland
- **Manuel Dusina**, Head of Real Assets, Phoenix Group
- **Philip Macdonald**, Managing Partner, Oberlander Architects
- **John Mackenzie**, Director of Scotland, Pioneer Group
- **Sandy Smith**, Development Director, Buccleuch Properties
- **Elaine Morrison**, Director of Productivity (Mission), Business Growth, Scottish Enterprise
- **Gareth Fairweather**, Cities Integration Lead, Arup
- **Susan Campbell**, Director of Market Creation (Place), Scottish National Investment Bank
- **Frances Moffett-Kouadio**, Strategic Investment Director, Thames Estuary
- **Andrew Lewis**, Chief Executive, Liverpool City Council

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Expressions of Interest

Preparations for UKREiiF 2026 are beginning in earnest, with the Alliance-led Scotland Pavilion making a return, so now is the perfect time to reach out to the Alliance team to discuss sponsorship & partnership opportunities.

Do also reach out to our team to learn more about **investment opportunities across the Scottish cities**, or to set up a meeting with our city partners.

[Email Lauren](#)[Email Dan](#)



Scottish Cities Week - London - 20th - 22nd January 2025

The **third Scottish Cities Week** programme took place in London from **January 20th to 22nd 2025**. This edition brought together leaders from Scotland's eight cities - Aberdeen, Dundee, Dunfermline, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverness, Perth, and Stirling - along with the Scottish Government Minister for Employment and Investment, Tom Arthur MSP.

We had an incredible array of partners, including:

- CBRE
- 3Ci - Cities Commission For Climate Investment
- JLL
- City of London Corporation
- Arup
- Department for Business and Trade
- Office for Investment
- National Wealth Fund

Scottish Cities Week has become a must-attend event for investors, setting the stage for future development and investment in Scotland's urban centres.

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Preparations are under way for our next instalment of this fantastic event, which will take place once again in London from 19th - 21st January 2026.

To discuss sponsorship and partnership opportunities, contact us.

[Learn more](#)[Email Lauren](#)[Email Dan](#)

Scottish Cities' Thriving Sectors

Latest Case Study

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Glasgow Champions Diversity in Innovation

Glasgow is a vibrant hub of innovation, leveraging its world-class institutions and strong investment environment to create a skilled, inclusive workforce. The city champions diversity, ensuring opportunities for all, and fosters a thriving entrepreneurial spirit. With ample support for startups and strategic initiatives, Glasgow is the perfect place for investors seeking high returns and sustainable growth

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Press and Coverage



Edinburgh to host £750m supercomputer

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powerhouse, unlocking billions in investment, creating high-value jobs, and accelerating innovation across AI, life sciences, and climate research.

[Learn more](#)

Scotland's Future Real Estate and Infrastructure Opportunities

Cllr Laing, Leader, Perth and Kinross Council and Chair of the Alliance, writes for Co-Star, highlighting the immense opportunity that Scotland can provide to investors and developers, which will create positive impacts on our cities. This is more relevant than ever, and was a crucial theme in our UKREiiF programme.

[Learn more](#)

Signed in 2020, the Tay Cities Region Deal, is a partnership between UK and Scottish governments, along with public and private organisations across Angus, Dundee, Fife and Perth & Kinross, created to promote sustainable and inclusive prosperity for the region. Over 2,451 jobs have been created since the deal was signed. There is a fantastic opportunity to invest in these cities whilst the deal is still active.

[Learn more](#)

Success Relies on Unity & Collaboration

John Alexander, the now Chief Executive of Hillcrest, reflects on his time as Chair of the Alliance. Referencing our crucial role in facilitating conversation, attracting investment, contributing to policy development, and ultimately driving positive change for Scotland.

[Learn more](#)

Blogs



Green Industrial Strategy

Sustainability is at the heart of our cities future, and Scotland is paving the way.



Building Scotland's Future

Spotlight on why housing investment is a city priority, and is a critical foundation to

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Culture

Tall Ships Races Aberdeen: A rich mix of arts, community and educational experiences.

The Tall Ships Races Aberdeen 2025 is a major maritime event returning to the city for the first time in nearly three decades, running from **19–22 July 2025**. It will transform Aberdeen's North Harbour into a vibrant festival site, welcoming 49 majestic sailing vessels from around the world.

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Investment Achievements





Discover the eleven transformative projects awarded a share of £20 million through the Community Regeneration Partnership (CRG), via the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). These initiatives promise to positively impact every aspect of society, from developing the Life Sciences Innovation District and enhancing the Central Waterfront area, to preserving historic buildings and advancing educational programmes at Dundee & Angus College. Now is the opportune moment to invest and capitalise on Dundee's exciting development trajectory.

[Learn more](#)

FDI Report Emphasises Glasgow and Edinburgh's Attractiveness



According to the latest flagship FDI report titled 'European Cities and Regions of the Future 2025', both Edinburgh & Glasgow are making waves in the global investment landscape, with a powerful competitive advantage established through a combination of FDI and business strategy as well as making the most of the lifestyle benefits that Scotland has to offer.

[Learn more](#)

Stirling Studios to Drive Creative Regional Growth



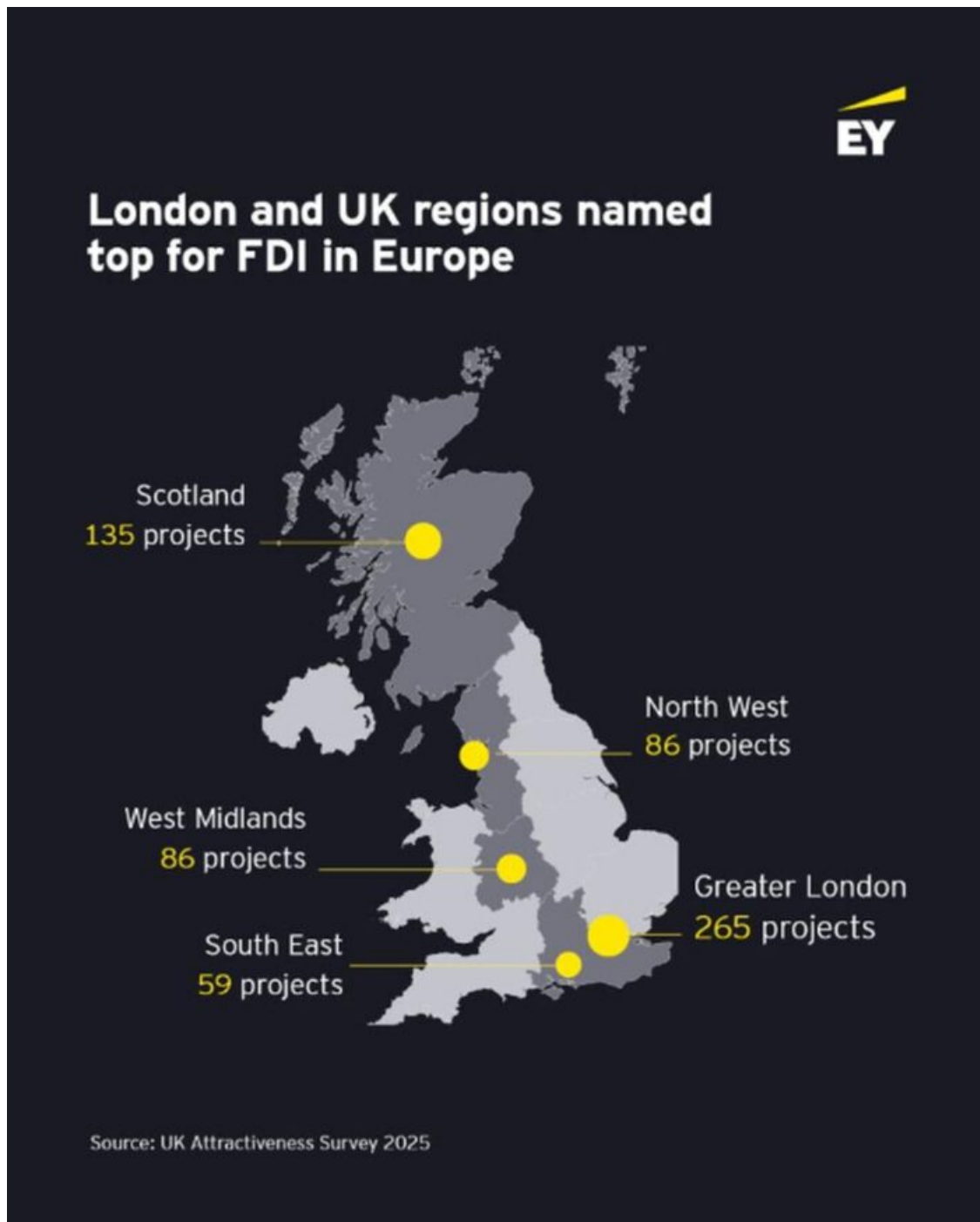
Stirling Studios is poised to become one of Scotland's largest film studio campuses, heralding the creation of thousands of high-skilled jobs and delivering

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with enthusiasm, as the establishment of Sirling Studios promises substantial benefits for the region.

[Learn more](#)

Further European FDI Intelligence Rankings



With 135 FDI projects, Scotland remained the UK's top FDI location outside of London for the 10th consecutive year. It also ranked 6th among Europe's top FDI

Investor confidence in Scotland is on the rise, with 30% of global investors planning UK operations in 2025 expected to choose Scotland - up from 25% earlier this year. With a skilled workforce, world-class infrastructure, and a strong international reputation, Scotland is primed for continued foreign direct investment growth.

[Learn more](#)

Looking Forward

Scottish Cities Week - 19th-21st January 2026 - London

Scottish Cities Week offers a distinct and strategic opportunity for Scotland's cities to step into the spotlight on their own terms. This week is purpose-built to elevate the voices, ambitions, and innovations of Scotland's urban centres. It allows cities to lead the conversation, sharing their progress on climate action, digital transformation, and inclusive growth, while forging new relationships with stakeholders who are aligned with their long-term visions. The Alliance are currently making preparations for this and we look forward to discussing plans.

UKREiiF - 19th-21st May 2026 - Leeds

The Scottish Cities Alliance is set to make a prominent appearance at UKREiiF 2026, highlighting investment opportunities and transformational projects across Scotland.

The event creates immense value for all Scottish cities and the Scottish Cities Alliance by serving as a powerful platform for strategic engagement with both domestic and international investors. It enables cities to showcase their investment-ready projects, innovation ecosystems, and sustainable infrastructure ambitions directly to a global audience of developers, funders, and policymakers.

Night-Time Economy & Retail Peer-to-Peer Event Insight



At the Alliance, we are always inspired by the reflections and insights shared by our event participants. Below is a brief excerpt from Kathryn Chiswell Jones, CEO of Artspace Lifespace, who captured the essence of our peer-to-peer event on 24 June 2025 with exceptional clarity. We highly recommend reading her full post for a deeper perspective.

‘I felt inspired coming away from the session which reinforced the importance of:

- **Creating experiences**
- **Working with communities**
- **Engaging with local creatives**
- **Supportive local authorities and BIDs**
- **and other Partnership working to create investment opportunities**

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**sustainable way. It is great to see cities acknowledge that we can't just
artwash our cities, community and culture have to be at the heart of any
regeneration.'**

-Kathryn Chiswell Jones, CEO, [Artspace Lifespace](#), sharing her thoughts from our recent peer-to-peer event on the Night-Time Economy and Retail in city centres.

[Learn more](#)

Contact Us



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