

Backing Scotland's Businesses

A Plan for Growth



National Policy Asks



Restore
Competitiveness and
Investment Confidence

Scotland must cultivate an attractive, pro-business economy underpinned by stable fiscal policies and decisive regulation by 2050. To achieve this, the government must provide businesses with the confidence to invest by committing to multi-year budgets and transparent fiscal strategies.



Deliver
infrastructure that
powers growth

To power sustainable growth, Scotland must accelerate the delivery of critical infrastructure spanning energy, housing, transport, and digital networks. The business community is calling for a clear, cross-party National Infrastructure Acceleration Plan that removes planning delays and gets projects built at pace. By upgrading strategic transport routes and expanding grid capacity, the government can lower business costs and seamlessly connect communities to domestic and global markets.



Secure the future
workforce

Ensuring that Scotland has the skilled personnel required to scale key industries is vital for long-term economic resilience. This requires a joined-up workforce system that improves domestic training, retains graduates, and attracts international talent to counteract demographic challenges. Additionally, strengthening employer-led apprenticeships and green skills pipelines will guarantee that workers are fully equipped to support the transition to net zero.



Create the
conditions for
digital leadership

Scotland must empower its businesses to safely adopt artificial intelligence, strengthen their cyber-security, and enhance overall digital skills. Implementing a coordinated national strategy, such as the proposed 'Digital Ready Scotland' campaign, will help firms build digital confidence and resilience against escalating cyber threats. Ultimately, this comprehensive support will allow businesses of all sizes to innovate, increase productivity, and compete securely on the global stage.



Expand our
global reach

To drive sustained productivity, Scotland needs to transition toward a highly diversified, outward-looking economy with a significantly increased share of global trade. This ambition requires making exporting simpler and more accessible for SMEs by improving trade data, expanding export finance, and removing compliance barriers. By embedding business networks directly into the design of trade policy, the government can ensure more firms can confidently enter and scale within international markets.



Ayrshire Chamber Policy Priorities

Ayrshire has a strong economy anchored by world-class strengths in key sectors such as aerospace and advanced manufacturing. To fully realise the region's economic potential and drive long-term prosperity, businesses need an operating environment that encourages investment, innovation, and expansion. However, local firms require targeted government action to unlock this growth and support these high-value industries.

Central to this ambition is the need for modern, reliable infrastructure. Accelerating strategic transport improvements across the region is essential not only for moving goods efficiently to domestic and global markets but also for expanding the talent pool available to local employers. Better connectivity reduces the cost of doing business and makes Ayrshire a more attractive, competitive destination for inward investment.

Furthermore, securing the future of the region's most dynamic sectors requires a workforce equipped with the right expertise. Strengthening regional skills pipelines, developed in close partnership with employers and education providers, will ensure that industries like aerospace and advanced manufacturing have access to the highly skilled talent they need to scale and compete on the global stage.

Businesses in Ayrshire are calling for:

- Targeted support for the development of key sectors, particularly aerospace and advanced manufacturing, to drive innovation and high-value job creation
- Accelerated strategic transport improvements across the region to enhance connectivity and reduce operational barriers
- Strengthened regional skills pipelines to ensure training and education pathways are directly aligned with employer demands
- Investment in local infrastructure to make the region a more attractive destination for inward investment



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