

## Glasgow 2006

## The quest for success

Glasgow businesses joined the quest for success at the annual Glasgow Business Awards on Thursday 20 April 2006.

Over 400 guests turned out to the prestigious awards, hosted by TV personality Jackie Bird, at the Crowne Plaza Glasgow. Bank of Scotland Corporate was once again main sponsor at this year's awards, which saw the cream of businesses in the West of Scotland recognised for their achievements throughout the last year.

Following on from the success of the 2005 awards, a record number of entries were received yet again for this, the ninth business awards, clearly reflecting the growing confidence amongst Glasgow's business community.

Winners were chosen from 11 categories, with special awards going to Bradfords Bakers as the Evening Times' Glasgow's Favourite Business and Moneyquest (UK) Ltd for Overall Best Performing Business and The Rt Hon Lord Macfarlane of Bearsden KT as the recipient of the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce Achievement Award. Further coverage of the evening and a full list of winners can be found inside.

The awards are a key event in the city's business life, and allow the celebration and recognition of the wealth of achievement and business success we have in Glasgow.

Lesley Sawers commented: "I'm delighted by the success of this year's awards and would like to extend my congratulations to all our winners.

"The talent represented at these awards is a credit to Glasgow and our business community and the Chamber are pleased to be able to recognise Glasgow's business successes in this way.

"I'd like to wish all our winners and entrants continued success for the forthcoming business year. We look forward to welcoming them to the tenth business awards in 2007."

The awards are not the only area where Glasgow is forging ahead. Earlier this spring, Glasgow was awarded funding from the Scottish Executive to produce a pilot plan for a city centre Business Improvement District (BID). BID programmes have been running in America for over 30 years with New York's Times Square considered a role model for the project.

The Scottish success at the Melbourne Commonwealth Games has renewed the city's enthusiasm to secure the 2014 Games. Speaking shortly after Scotland's medal wins, Councillor Liz Cameron, Lord Provost, said: "The performance of our swimmers, cyclists and other athletes has been astonishing. There is a real spring in the step of everyone associated with the team."

Lesley Sawers commented: "The feeling of success at Scotland's Games performance is one that businesses should hold on to. Should Glasgow win the



The Glasgow Business Awards 2006 Winners

2014 bid there is potential, not only for sporting success, but for business success throughout Scotland."

In order to tap into the Commonwealth Games business benefits, Glasgow must not lose sight of the challenge that still needs to be won.

Dr Sawers continued: "Glasgow must keep moving on issues that are important to the bid, mainly those concerning infrastructure in the city. Delay on projects such as the Glasgow Airport rail link and the extension of the M74 can not be allowed to go unchallenged."

Further success for Glasgow was revealed when reports suggested that Glasgow had been shortlisted as a suitable location for one of the UK supercasinos. Chamber members showed their support in a poll that showed 77% of responding members agreeing that a supercasino will bring economic benefit to the city.

Lesley Sawers commented: "A supercasino has the potential to bring substantial visitors and income to the city, as well as thousands of jobs. However, we must not rest on our laurels, and must continue to highlight the economic benefits and to promote the strong business case for Glasgow."

Peter Lederer, VisitScotland chairman, has said that a supercasino in Glasgow would bring massive benefits to Scotland and raise standards across the service sector.