

Open Letter – Candidates and political parties in Scotland

The forthcoming Scottish Parliament Election on Thursday 6 May takes place at a crucial time, as we emerge from the pandemic and need to deliver economic growth that is socially inclusive and compatible with net zero.

ACE Scotland members are the engineering consultancies large and small who design and engineer every piece of social and economic infrastructure in Scotland: schools, hospitals, commercial buildings and transport schemes, to name but a few. Throughout this pandemic, ACE Scotland members and the wider construction industry have helped keep the Scottish economy moving.

Whoever is elected on Thursday we want to work with the next administration to make sure that our built environment is fit for purpose: resilient to existing climate change; ready for net zero and adding value and a sense of place to our communities. In particular we would urge the next administration to:

- Maintain the current administration's commitment to increasing public infrastructure investment as a share of Scottish GDP.
- Continue to support the 2045 net zero target and engage with our members to meet specific Scottish targets.
- Ensure that there is a visible pipeline of specific projects coming to market to enable the wider infrastructure sector to invest in skills and capabilities.
- Ensure fair and open procurement to deliver the above that encourages firms to invest locally and gives opportunities to SMEs.
- Ensure procurement is based on value not lowest cost and gives opportunities to SMEs.
- Work with business to develop the detailed systems architecture needed to create a net zero economy.

The coming decade will be decisive in addressing these challenges, in particular net zero. We look forward to working with the next administration to ensure we can meet these challenges.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Munro', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Steve Munro
ACE Scotland Chair
& Allen Gordon LLP