

St Andrew's Day speech – creating conditions for every Scot to thrive

In the run up to St Andrew's Day on 30 November, the First Minister, John Swinney will make a speech in which he will set out his vision for Scotland.

He will make a major speech to representatives from the public and private sectors explaining his approach to leadership and why challenges must be “understood and solved from the bottom up”. The speech will be made a week ahead of the Scottish budget for the next financial year

The First Minister will say he is “here to do the hard work”.

He is expected to say: “Every single day, I meet inspirational people from all walks of life – people who are doing their bit to make their community, their business or their country that wee bit better today than it was yesterday.

“When added together, those efforts form the engine of progress that is driving our country forward. For me, unlocking that potential is what government is about – it is about creating the conditions for every person in Scotland to thrive.

“I do not believe in trying to solve problems from the top down. Rather, I believe they need to be understood and solved from the bottom up. I am not here to dictate from on high to

those on the front line. I am prepared to roll my sleeves up every single day to properly understand barriers to their progress and to find solutions. And in identifying those solutions, I am not looking for quick-fixes or sticking plasters.

“I am here to do the hard work, to lay the foundations for lasting improvements to our country, our economy, and our society. I do not pretend that this style of government is always headline-grabbing, but I do believe it is effective. And, in the long run, I know the results will speak for themselves.”



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First Minister John Swinney after the election at Port of Leith Distillery Picture Alan Simpson