

# RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN DUNDEE

November 2004 to April 2005



The information contained within this document is intended as a guide only and is drawn from a variety of sources: Newspaper Cuttings; Websites; Personal Knowledge. Those developments in italics are at the plan stage only and may not progress any further. It is hoped to update progress in future reports.

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## Company Developments

<b>Name</b>	<b>Information</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Calico Jack</b>	Dundee based technology firm Calico Jack was one of the recent winners of a Scottish Executive SMART award (£50000) to enable it to develop advanced reasoning software for mobile devices. This is the second SMART award that the Dundee company has received.	Feb 05
<b>J T Inglis</b>	The J T Inglis textile processing plant has undergone substantial growth in recent years, with the workforce expanding from just over 30 to 130 in four years.	19/01/05
<b>Upstate</b>	Upstate a leading US life-sciences firm involved in the fight against cancer and diabetes has officially opened its European HQ in Dundee. The company has consolidated its' European operation in the City. They currently employ 75 people, but hope to increase this figure to 100 by the end of the year.	9/3/05
<b>Hiding Buffalo</b>	The collaboration between cash machine maker NCR and Abertay University spin off company Hiding Buffalo has been identified as an example of best practice by the Scottish Executive of business and academia working together. Computer games company Hiding Buffalo investigated the potential value of a patent held by NCR.	March 05
<b>Michelin</b>	Work has begun on a £1.2 million extension to the production facilities at Michelin's car tyre plant in Dundee. The project is the first phase of a planned £4 million investment programme aimed at increasing the output of tyres from the Baldovie complex by 20% by 2007.	March 05
<b>Axis Shield</b>	Dundee based in vitro diagnostics company Axis Shield announced preliminary results reflecting an "excellent year of progress". The figures, for the year ended 31 December 2004; showed turnover had increased to £52.3 million.	March 05
<b>CXR Biosciences</b>	CXR Biosciences, in conjunction with German company, Artemis Pharmaceuticals, has been awarded £5.5M by the Intermediary Technology Institute to develop screening and safety models to more accurately predict the effects of drug compounds on the human body. The global market for such tests is predicted to be £3B.	Feb 05
<b>Pensions Centre</b>	The pensions centre in Dundee is to play a key role in the Government's plans for the future of the service - sparing it from the treat of closure and safeguarding 600 jobs.	
<b>Quantum Filament Technologies</b>	Dundee University launches another spin-out company (in conjunction with the University of Surrey). QFT received £750000 in an equity deal led by Braveheart Ventures in Perth and aims to develop radical new technologies in the field of flat panel displays.	28/4/05
<b>Lumenus Ltd</b>	Lumenus Ltd is another spin-out company from the University of Dundee (this time in conjunction with business incubator company Soft Centre Perth), utilising research which has created ground-breaking technology that could revolutionise surgical procedures and result in a quantum leap for open and keyhole surgery by illuminating organ tissue. The surgical tools are likely to go on trial at Ninewells Hospital later in the year.	June 2005

## Leisure Facilities, Restaurants & Pubs

Name	Information	Date
<b>Olympia</b>	New activity rooms opened at the Olympia Leisure Centre as part of the £1 million transformation which will also include reconfiguration of the health suite, upgrading the cafe, improvements to the fitness studio, refurbishment of the water slides and a new aqua gym and dive pool.	28/04/05
<b>Factory Skatepark</b>	The Factory Skatepark in Douglas was praised at its official opening. It boasts a 22,000 ft space, internet cafe, IT suite, restaurant and rooms for youth support and community use.	04/02/05
<b>Bon Appetit</b>	A new French restaurant has opened in Exchange Street.	March 05
<b>The Parlour</b>	A new café called The Parlour, serving Mediterranean style food has opened, on Westport, opposite Mickey Coyles. It is owned by a local resident.	17/01/05
<b>Dudhope Skatepark</b>	<i>The City Council has secured £230000 to develop an outdoor skate park in Dudhope Park. £170000 is coming from the Leisure &amp; Arts Department budget and £60000 from the Scottish Executive's Quality of Life Fund.</i>	4/5/05
<b>Ward Road Gym</b>	Work is to start transforming the once closure-threatened Ward Road gym, giving the dilapidated centre a new lease of life. Funding of £262,000 has been secured leaving a shortfall of £73,000. User groups including table tennis, netball and badminton clubs are fund-raising to reduce the deficit.	18/04/05

## Events

Name	Information	Date
<b>Social Care Fayre</b>	A drive to recruit more social carers in Dundee has been launched. Staff from Dundee College and the Social Work Department were on hand to answer any queries in the Overgate Centre.	Mar 05
<b>Dundee Book Prize</b>	The Dundee Book Prize 2005 attracted a record 240 entries from around the world, but was finally won by a lecturer from Dundee College.	Apr 05
<b>Half Marathon</b>	The second Dundee Half Marathon was under starters orders as organisers launched the event. The race is looking as if it will be twice as successful with up to 400 participants having signed up twice as many as the same time last year.	Mar 05

## Housing

<b>Name</b>	<b>Information</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Communities Scotland</b>	Tayside will benefit from a record affordable housing investment of £24 million from Communities Scotland. Dundee and Perth and Kinross will each receive £10 million in order to build 188 affordable homes in each area, Angus will receive £4 million to build 75 homes.	22/03/05
<b>Debenhams Building</b>	A large part of the former Debenhams building in Dundee is to be turned into two-bed roomed flats. Alterations and extensions to the upper floors of the B-listed building will allow for the creation of 28 flats.	29/03/05
<b>New South Mills</b>	<i>Plans for a £3.5 million renovation of the former New South Mill building in Paterson Street will provide flats and office accommodation and will also preserve a piece of Dundee's industrial heritage.</i>	29/03/05
<b>Liff Hospital</b>	Approval was given for a multi-million pound development which will see a new community created within the grounds of Royal Dundee Liff Hospital. 145 new homes, a leisure and spa facility, restaurant and day nursery will all be developed.	29/03/05
<b>Scottish Capital Group</b>	<i>Scottish Capital Group have lodged plans to build 82 flats and 19 town houses, landscaping and car parking beside the main campus of Dundee University at Hawkhill Court.</i>	
<b>Kirkton</b>	Servite Housing Association is to spend in the region of £3.5M constructing 34 new homes in Kirkton by 2006. The homes will include semi-detached family homes, flats and accommodation for wheelchair users. It will also include a special communal heating and power system that should reduce occupier's bills.	24/05/05
<b>New Housing Completions</b>	There were 593 new homes built in Dundee in 2004/05, 326 by the private sector and 267 by housing associations.	25/05/05
<b>Chalmers Hall</b>	Planning permission is sought for the final phases of the redevelopment of the former students' halls of residence on Nethergate. The first 2 phases are already underway and once complete the development will contain 15 flats and one commercial unit.	26/04/05
<b>Ballumbie Estate</b>	Planning permission has been granted for the next phase of the development - 17 homes totalling £1.7M, part of the £21M development of 220 new homes in the area.	29/03/05
<b>Justice Homes - Broughty Ferry</b>	<i>Justice Homes have renewed their attempts to gain planning permission to construct luxury flats on the site of the Loftus Service Station on Queen Street in Broughty Ferry. They have reduced the number of flats in the development from 9 to 8 following an unsuccessful planning application.</i>	17/05/05
<b>Student Accommodation - North Lindsay St</b>	<i>Bruce Linton Properties are hoping to construct accommodation for 140 students on the existing car park on North Lindsay Street behind the Overgate Centre, at a cost of £3M.</i>	16/05/05
<b>Student Accommodation Hawkhill/Session Street</b>	<i>Torith Ltd have submitted a planning application to construct 507 rooms for students in 4/5 bedroom flats on the corner of Hawkhill and Session Street. The accommodation will be available to students of either of the city's universities and Dundee College. Construction is scheduled to start in July 2005.</i>	16/05/05
<b>Albert Street</b>	Demolition of a vacant tenement on the corner of Albert Street and Victoria Street is now complete. Work can start on the construction, by Servite Housing Assoc. of 41 new flats for rent. Total cost of the project is £3.5M.	02/06/05

## Community Regeneration

Name	Information	Date
<b>New Tomorrow</b>	A programme to help people on benefits into work was launched in Dundee. The New Tomorrow project is being spearheaded by Jobcentre Plus in partnership with Claverhouse Training and Dundee City Council.	Feb 05
<b>Childcare Courses</b>	A free 18 week childcare course, backed by the Scottish Executive, is to be run in Dundee as the result of work initiated by the Charleston turnaround Project's employment and learning action group.	March 05
<b>£4.5 m for Dundee's Anti-Social Strategy</b>	Dundee is to receive over £4.5 million to support activities aimed at curbing anti-social behaviour in the city.	Feb 05
<b>Dundee Employment &amp; Aftercare Project</b>	Dundee Employment and Aftercare Project Ltd (DEAP) has recently expanded its training division by securing a new contract to deliver an enhanced version of its popular and successful Ready, Steady, Work! programme to candidates who are currently in receipt of Incapacity Benefit.	Feb 05
<b>Ardler Regeneration</b>	A Dundee regeneration project has been held us as an example of how spending money on parks and green spaces can directly benefit communities. The once run down Ardler Housing Estate now has a new park with bowling green, football pitches, children's play area, ponds and informal open spaces.	Feb 05
<b>Waterfront</b>	Dundee City Council and Scottish Enterprise Tayside are set to enter into a partnership aimed at making the proposed £270 million development of the city's waterfront a reality. One of the first duties of the new partnership will be to prepare a detailed business plan and financial appraisal for implementation of the waterfront project.	Feb 05

## Retail/city Centre

Name	Information	Date
<b>City Centre Ambassadors</b>	The city centre ambassadors project began in 2000 and has been a great success. The ambassadors meet and greet visitors and pass on local information. They are also involved in a number of extra functions such as security, business liaison and environmental duties. They regularly liaise with police and various council departments as part of their daily routine.	24/02/05
<b>Wellgate Centre</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The redevelopment of the Wellgate Centre continues apace - the former TK Maxx store will be taken over by English-based TJ Hughes Department Stores in August, creating a new 35000 sq.ft. outlet and Virgin Megastore will relocate to the former Mothercare Store at the front of the centre, with direct on-street access.</li> <li>The Wellgate Centre is to develop a new food court, which will open this summer.</li> </ul>	May 2005

## Infrastructure and Property

Name	Information	Date
<b>Marketgait</b>	Roadworks at South Marketgait that are the first phase of the ambitious waterfront project designed to connect the city centre with the River Tay are progressing well and are due for completion in October.	26/04/05
<b>Scottish Water</b>	Scottish Water outlined details of a massive £41 million investment to transform the water and waste infrastructure across Dundee and Angus. Investment will be used for: replacing aging water mains and improving sewers, storm water storage and drinking water	11/04/05
<b>Safer Streets</b>	Almost £750,000 is to be made available to Dundee city Council to make the streets safer for pedestrians, cyclists and bus passengers. All city bus shelters are being upgraded and CCTV's installed	
<b>Al-Maktoum Institute</b>	Al-Maktoum Institute plans to create a cultural centre on the site of the former Harris Academy annexes. The centre would include a 3 storey Islamic library, sports facilities, an internet cafe, restaurant, car parking, a small mosque and an exhibition centre.	17/03/05
<b>Esplanade Restaurant</b>	A proposal to convert the former bathing shelter on Broughty Ferry's Esplanade into a 52-seat licensed restaurant and lifeguard facility won the approval of Dundee councillors.	1/3/05
<b>Seabraes Yards</b>	SET is seeking planning permission for the first 25,000 square foot commercial building in the Seabraes Yard project, which is transforming a derelict rail yard into a digital media park.	19/3/05
<b>Scottish Enterprise Tayside/ Waterfront</b>	SET's new 18000 sq.ft. premises are due from completion later this year. The organisation will move from its' current location on North Lindsay Street to its' new premises currently under construction at Greenmarket (behind the railway station). This is just one of 3 new buildings being constructed (for Civil Service occupation) on former Enterprise Zone sites - another will be located next to SET's new headquarters and a third next to the Care Commission building on Riverside Drive.	31/05/05

## Economy

Name	Information	Date
<b>Optimistic Future for Dundee</b>	The leader of Dundee City Council said she was "very optimistic!" about the City's future. Councillor Jill Shimi was reacting to a study that said Dundee's population decline was tapering off and job prospects for its well-educated workforce were improving.	March 05
<b>Modernising Government Fund</b>	More than £1 million has been awarded to Dundee City Council from the Executive's modernising government fund. The money will be used for a range of projects that will improve access to services.	21/04/05
<b>Dundee Care Groups</b>	Four care groups in Dundee are to benefit from more than £60,000 worth of funding from the Scottish Executive's voluntary sector development fund. Gowrie Care will receive £40,000, Carolina House Trust £15,000, Dundee Women's Aid, £4,000 and the Jean Drummond Day Centre £1525.	18/01/05

## Tourism

Name	Information	Date
<b>Science Centre</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Almost 75,000 people visited Dundee's award winning Sensation science centre last year. Sensation is the UK's only science centre devoted to the five senses and was named the Scottish family attraction of the year in 2003 by the Good Britain Guide.</li> <li>The Sensation Centre has received another seven-figure cash injection from the Millennium commission - just six months after collecting £1.4 million from the same body. Centre chiefs said this would allow them to complete an almost transformation since the centre opened just five years ago.</li> </ul>	25/03/05
		16/03/05
<b>Caird Hall</b>	A busy season of major conferences is scheduled for the Caird Hall, which will boost the economy of Dundee. This can be seen as reflecting the confidence conference organisers have in staging their events in Dundee, and the recent refurbishment of the Caird Hall.	7/01/04
<b>Travelodge</b>	<i>Budget Hotel company Travelodge are planning to redevelop the Tay Works building in West Marketgait (which previously housed the University of Abertay's students union). The company is set to operate a 48-bedroom hotel in the building which is also earmarked for offices theme restaurants and bars. The development could represent an investment of £8-10M and create 20 new jobs.</i>	15/03/05
<b>Park Hotel</b>	The Park Hotel, in the NW of the City has re-opened after a £500000 refurbishment.	

## Good News

Name	Information	Date
<b>Tayside Business Awards</b>	A village shop in Perthshire, a health centre in Dundee and a trio of further education colleges across Tayside emerged among the winners of this year's Tayside Business Awards.	23/04/05
<b>Dundee's Central Waterfront</b>	Ambitious plans have been put in place which will completely change the face of Dundee's waterfront. The project which will cost £270 million and take 12 years to complete will sweep away virtually everything south of the Caird Hall. The road system will be replaced, a new green space created and there will be a marina at the river.	14/03/05

## Further & Higher Education & Research Activity

Name	Information	Date
<b>Dundee University</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The new Space Technology Centre was opened at the University. The Centre aims to carry out advanced research into planetary land simulations and support space missions - working already with the European Space Agency on the development of SpaceWire - a data handling network used on board space craft to gather data, store and relay information to earth.</li> </ul>	18/3/05
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scientists in Dundee have been awarded nearly £9million by the European Commission to lead research that could result in every dieter's dream - a drug that mimics the effects of exercise on the body. The five-year Exgenesis project - led by Dundee University - will examine how exercise prevents people from becoming obese.</li> </ul>	21/01/05
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dundee University has secured almost £26M in research grants in the first 5 months of 2005.</li> </ul>	June 2005
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dundee University has been named top for teaching quality in the Times Higher Education Supplement's UK League Tables. The University finished in the top 25 in the UK across all criteria.</li> </ul>	27/05/05
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three scientists in Dundee are to share a £12M grant from the Interdisciplinary Research Collaboration in Proteomic Technology with scientists from Edinburgh and Glasgow Universities. Dundee will receive £1.55M to fund equipment and the salaries of postdoctoral researchers and technicians for 6 years, along with £109000 from SHEFC to strengthen research infrastructure.</li> </ul>	12/05/05
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dundee University's diabetes laboratories have been awarded "Centre" status to promote communication amongst research and clinical groups and to raise public awareness of their work. It consists of 25 research teams in the faculties of Life Science and Medicine, Dentistry &amp; Nursing. Te centre will provide funds to pilot collaborative studies and to enable students to attend courses and visit other labs to gain new skills.</li> </ul>	18/04/05
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The University of Dundee and NHS Tayside are developing a Clinical Research Centre. Planning permission is now being sought for the development of the £12.1M centre, attached to Ninewells Hospital. The Centre will act as a "research hotel" where researchers can book beds to conduct their patient based trials. It will assist in the development of new treatments for patients and will further develop research and treatment in key areas.</li> </ul>	06/04/05
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dundee University has launched Scotland's latest publishing house, Dundee University Press Ltd, which will publish law books.</li> <li>The University of Dundee is to invest £7M in new sports facilities. Work is due to start this summer on the £3.4M redevelopment of the Riverside Sports Ground to create 2 state of the art artificial grass surfaces for hockey and 6 five-a-side outdoor floodlit pitches, new changing facilities and a social area and on the £3.6M extension to the sports centre on Hawkhill. The extension to the sports centre will house 3 squash courts, a large extended fitness suite and a special strength &amp; conditioning suite for top athletes.</li> </ul>	30/03/05  28/02/05

## Further & Higher Education & Research Activity - cont.

Name	Information	Date
<b>Dundee University cont.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The second phase of the University's Campus Plan is due to start. Work on Phase 1 - the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research and the Queen Mother Building are due for completion this summer and Phase 2 - the development of a new teaching building for the Faculty of Education and Social Work at Heathfield, behind the Sports Centre (at a cost of £15.8M) and student residences at the Belmont and Heathfield sites. Phase 2 also includes the development of the Campus Green and the development of the sports facilities outlined above.</li> <li>Dundee University is to share in a £9M award from the European Commission to establish scientific evidence on how exercise prevents weight gain, obesity and diabetes. Dundee University will lead the consortium of 26 labs from 13 European countries. £1M will come directly to the University.</li> <li></li> </ul>	<p>June 05</p> <p>20/01/05</p>
<b>BioDundee</b>	The fifth annual BioDundee conference, at Discovery Point, will demonstrate how ground-breaking research in the city is being turned into business ventures.	18/03/05
<b>Scottish Crop Research Institute</b>	The Scottish Crop Research Institute's Barley Programme has just won 4 competitive research contracts worth over £3M, enabling the team to employ 5 additional scientists for the next 4 years. They will look at the underlying genetic mechanisms that control yield, quality and environmental sustainability of the crop.	May 2005
<b>Medipark</b>	Cypex and Alchemy, two leading Dundee-based Biotech companies, have announced plans to move to the prestigious Medipark site next to Ninewells Hospital.	1/03/05
<b>University of Abertay</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The University of Abertay has joined a number of other institutions in Scotland; to purchase the state of the art "voyager" library management system which will give library users a range of enhanced access facilities and also introduces a self-issuing service.</li> <li>Abertay University's SIMBIOS Centre (Scottish Informatics, Mathematics, Biology &amp; Statistics Centre) has been awarded £206000 by the European Commission to fund a 3-year programme working with institutions in China and Nepal, allowing staff from SCRI to share their expertise in soil biophysics.</li> </ul>	<p>17/5/05</p> <p>1/6/05</p>
<b>Recycling Institute</b>	An international institute which could focus worldwide attention on Dundee is to be set up with the City Council as one of its partners. The organisation named Recycling Institute will extend and enhance the major investment Dundee has made as a recycling city.	15/03/05
<b>Dundee City of Learning</b>	The heads of Dundee higher and further education sector joined with civic and business leaders to launch the new Dundee City of Learning brochure. The brochure will be distributed at recruitment fairs around the world with the aim of attracting more international students to the city.	03/03/05

## Environmental Improvements

Name	Information	Date
<b>Award for Council's environmental campaign</b>	A Dundee City Council plan aimed at cracking down on litter, dog fouling, vandalism and other anti social behaviour has received national recognition. Keep Scotland Beautiful, the organisers of Keep Scotland Tidy Campaign have awarded the council a certificate under the people and places scheme.	Dec 04
<b>Derelict Land</b>	Dundee City Council was awarded £440000 by the Scottish Executive to enable them to clean up 2 former industrial sites - £300000 for the former Dens Metals site and £140000 for the demolition of a derelict industrial unit on Kilspindie Road.	16/12/05
<b>Vacant and Derelict Land Fund</b>	Dundee City Council received £2M (over 2 years) from the Scottish Executive's Vacant and Derelict Land Fund. This includes £0.5M for a BMX track off Piper Street in Baldovie, the creation of a woodland park in the Dighty Valley, the purchase and demolition of vacant property in Stobswell and the creation of a village green in Trottick.	Dec 04
<b>Cultural Quarter</b>	The environmental improvement programme for the City's Cultural Quarter is continuing with the replacement of pavements on Nethergate between Marketgait and Park Place with distinctive, high quality granite at a cost of £370000. There will be some realignment of the streetscape involved.	254/01/05
<b>Dundee City Council Recycling</b>	Dundee City Council is to spend over £600000 on expanding the domestic and trade waste collection system to improve recycling in the City. Several thousand more homes are to be included in the Council's collection schemes covering domestic green waste and paper. The Council will also introduce a cardboard collection scheme.	3/5/05
<b>Baxter Park</b>	Dundee City Council has given the go-ahead for the £840000 redevelopment of the pavilion in Baxter Park as part of the £3.5M restoration of the park.	13/04/05