

# Scotland's Philanthropy Debate 2010

## Q&A

Panellists Lord Smith of Kelvin, patron of the Scottish Community Foundation; Sir Christopher Gent, chair of GlaxoSmithKline; Ann Gloag, business woman and philanthropist; Jim McColl, chief executive of Clyde Blowers and Anne Boyd, chair of the Scottish Community Foundation took questions from the audience on a variety of philanthropy orientated questions. The debate was ably hosted by journalist and broadcaster Sally Magnusson.

**Asked by David Thomson, Chief Investment Officer of VWM Wealth Management**  
**Given the public cuts in expenditure announced by the government, and the impact this will have on many charities across the country, what role do panel members see for philanthropists in the next few years?**

**Lord Smith:** "I see an increased role for philanthropists. I feel that the Government should provide a basic level of service, but philanthropists have to step in at times when the Government can't offer this, but only in the short term."

**Jim McColl:** "I think we need to see smarter thinking from philanthropists and charities to make sure that money is used effectively. I'd like to see more collaboration between charities and in some cases the amalgamation of charities that are working in similar fields. There are lots of charities working in the same locations offering similar or complementary services that are competing for the same funding."

Note: After some supplementary comments from the audience, the host asked Sir Christopher Gent whether it was a cop out for the Government to expect philanthropists to step in.

**Sir Christopher Gent:** "I don't think it's a cop out for the Government to rely on philanthropy. We are all part of the community, so we have a responsibility to contribute where we can. This applies to businesses too. The corporates should be taking more responsibility by supporting the communities they're working in, or investing in charitable initiatives akin to their businesses."