UK EU settlement - Soft Reset for a Hard Brexit – Motion approved, after division.

16 Bailie Christie, seconded by Councillor Leinster, moved that

"Council notes the UK-EU summit on 19 May 2025 which was a long-overdue step toward rebuilding a constructive, cooperative relationship between the United Kingdom and the European Union.

Council further notes the agreements reached include some trade alignment, youth experience, security cooperation and joint defence initiatives. Council believes that the removal of obstacles to food and agricultural exports, greater support for energy trading and an indication of rejoining the Erasmus exchange scheme for students, are all positive aspects of the UK-EU agreement but cautions that there are still much to be finalised.

Council cautiously welcomes these initial steps, which are sensible and mutually beneficial, but believes that deeper and more meaningful cooperation must and can be built by Westminster with the EU, and Council agrees that we must not stop here. Council further agrees that lack of consultation with local government and the Scottish Government on key aspects of the deal, particularly on industries important to Scotland like fishing, was an affront to devolution, and asserts that the UK Government must work collaboratively with devolved governments, regions and cities in developing its priorities - as the EU does with its Member States.

Council notes that Glasgow has been unfailing in its commitment to European cooperation as detailed in recent reports to both the WECCE and Net Zero Committees; with Glasgow's ongoing collaboration with our European twins and other peer cities and networks like Eurocities, and reinforces the sentiment of the May 2024 motion which called for a UK European Youth Mobility Scheme, reinforcing our place as a proud European city and continued support for peace and unity in Europe.

Council agrees that whilst there is movement in the UK-EU agreement on plant and animal health, Energy and Net Zero Cooperation and defence partnership which are indicators of progress, Council believes that we will only truly put the harm of Brexit behind us when Scotland is independently able to determine its future with and in Europe.

Council further agrees that in the meantime the UK Government should step outside its self-imposed 'red lines' to embrace closer alignment, in particular towards a pathway for rejoining the Single Market and Customs Union and other matters.

Council endorses the Calls by the European Movement, IETM (International network for contemporary performing arts) and others to improve a reset by taking the following measures:

- Youth Experience Scheme - extend to a more ambitious scheme that would enable young people to live, work, and study across the UK and EU as

envisioned by the original youth mobility scheme, a clear move toward restoring people-to-people ties.

- Rejoin Erasmus+ - make a firm commitment on fully participating in this programme
- Deal for Musicians and Touring Artists - ease restrictions, ensuring to reach agreements on frictionless touring between the UK and Europe
- Rejoin Creative Europe - restoring access to this essential cultural funding and collaboration programme.
- Remove red tape for workers - recognise the need for improved professional mobility and formal qualification frameworks
- European Environment Agency - take steps toward rejoining or cooperating with the EEA on environmental data and policy.
- Mutual Recognition of Conformity Assessments - remove the barriers that result in UK goods facing costly duplication of testing for EU markets.

Council reaffirms that Scotland's best future lies as an independent country within the European Union but we will engage constructively and positively in the next phase of negotiations if the UK is to successfully reset its relationship with Europe. Council believes that the UK must work in partnership with the cities, regions and devolved governments which have shown consistent constructive cooperation with Europe; and Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to the UK Prime Minister to state this and our support for the above Calls for action.

Council further instructs the Chief Executive to write to the EU Ambassador to the UK noting this correspondence and content, and to invite the Ambassador to visit Glasgow again, reiterating that we are city that is open for economic, social, and cultural collaboration, eager to discuss opportunities arising from the UK - EU reset and our ongoing engagement, alongside welcoming the Ambassador to our ongoing 850th anniversary celebrations which will have Glasgow's place in Europe at its heart."

Councillor Carson, seconded by Councillor Curran, moved as an amendment that:

(1) at paragraph 2, after "are all positive aspects of the UK-EU agreement" insert full stop and remove rest of paragraph;

(2) at paragraph 3, remove all and insert two new paragraphs, which should read as:

"Council welcomes early signs of improved UK-EU cooperation and believes that deeper collaboration is both possible and necessary, particularly in sectors critical to Glasgow. Council supports greater involvement of local authorities in shaping international engagement and urges both the UK and Scottish Governments to consult directly with cities and regions – ensuring local voices are heard.

Council notes that the Scottish Government has failed to involve local government in its European engagement strategy, despite repeated calls by COSLA. Council believes that Glasgow's interests are best served by practical cooperation, not constitutional grandstanding.";

(3) at paragraph 5 delete all and replace with:

"Council believes that while Brexit has created challenges, the focus must now be on repairing relationships and forging stronger links to the EU through pragmatic cooperation. Council believes that this can only be done together, not constitutional division.";

(4) delete paragraph 6 and replace with:

"Council regrets that the SNP continue to promote constitutional upheaval over constructive cooperation. Labour believes Glasgow's interests lie in working with both governments to rebuild our relationships through diplomacy and delivery – not division." and

(5) delete paragraph 8 and replace with:

"Council reaffirms Glasgow's role as a European-facing city that is proud if its international outlook. Council believes that we must maximise opportunities for cooperation and partnership."

On a vote being taken electronically and by calling the roll, 27 voted for the amendment by Councillor Carson and 48 for the motion, which was accordingly declared to be carried.