

Outcome of Scottish Parliament Elections in Glasgow - Emergency motion as adjusted approved, after division

9 Councillor Aitken, seconded by Councillor Millar, moved that:-

“Council notes the outcome of the Scottish Parliament elections that took place on 7 May 2026 and warmly congratulates Glasgow City Council colleagues who were elected to represent Scottish constituencies as MSPs. Council notes that, in addition to the election of a fourth consecutive majority of MSPs who believe in the democratic right of the Scottish people to choose their constitutional future in a referendum, all Glasgow constituencies also elected MSPs from parties who support Scottish independence and almost 55% of regional list votes likewise went to independence-supporting parties. Council therefore endorses the statement made by the First Minister that the UK government and Prime Minister must now treat Scotland and the democratically expressed wishes of the Scottish people with respect.

Council expresses its deep concern however that, for the first time, MSPs from a racist far-right party, Reform UK, now represent Glasgow and that many Glaswegians will feel fearful and less safe as a result. Council respects the democratic choice made by the people who voted for this party and understands many of the frustrations that lie behind that choice but does not believe that the policies of Reform UK will do anything to alleviate cost of living pressures, help struggling households or make the UK economy fairer. Council reiterates its unequivocal opposition to the targeting and scapegoating of minority communities, whether they are refugees, migrants or LGBTQ+; rejects UK Reform’s politics of division and hate; and restates our determination that Glasgow be a city built on inclusion and respect, where we stand against discrimination, welcome diversity and work to create a more equal society for all of our residents.

Council believes that Glasgow and Glasgow’s communities have been used as political footballs to an unacceptable degree in recent years and believes that the outcome of this election should mark a return to civic responsibility and pride being placed above party politics. Council agrees that Glasgow voters rejected campaigns that focused on attacking Glasgow and calls on all of Glasgow’s elected politicians, at all levels of government, to champion Glasgow rather than jeopardising investment and our visitor economy by talking the city down; to celebrate Glasgow’s successes; and to acknowledge that the complexity of many of Glasgow’s deep-seated challenges mean that easy solutions are seldom available and that shared, long-term effort to deliver transformation in places and life opportunities is required. Council warmly welcomes commitments for Glasgow made by the First Minister prior to and during the election campaign and looks forward to working with Scottish Government colleagues to implement pledges including: the roll-out of the £2 bus fare cap to Glasgow during the first 100 days of government; confirmation that the Scottish Government will provide financial support towards the ongoing refurbishment and restoration of the People’s Palace and Winter Gardens; commitment to recognise and treat the Clyde Tunnel as a strategic national asset; support for the next crucial phase of planning for the Clyde Metro; opening two additional walk-in GP centres in Glasgow; creating an urban development agency for the city centre, to drive investment and accelerate its ongoing transformation; and legislating to enable the empowerment of Scotland’s City and Growth Regions.

Council agrees that the Leader of the Council should write to all of Glasgow's MSPs asking them to ensure that they advocate for swift progress on the delivery of these commitments. Council further agrees that the Leader of the Council and City Treasurer should seek an early meeting with the relevant Cabinet Secretaries to ensure that the new Scottish Government treats as an urgent priority, work started before the election to address the unique homelessness pressures and costs facing Glasgow.

Council further agrees that Glasgow needs considerably improved engagement and support from the UK government on a range of priority issues and hopes that this will be forthcoming now that the election has passed. These issues include: the severe impact of policies that create mass homelessness among new refugees; the substantial resource deficit caused by the design and quantum of the Local Growth Fund; the unequal treatment of the Glasgow City Region and other city regions within devolved administrations compared with English combined mayoral authorities; and commitment by the UK government to support recovery and regeneration following the Union Street fire. Council agrees to write to the Prime Minister to seek his commitment for the Government to engage sincerely and meaningfully with the Council on these matters; and to Glasgow's MPs, asking that they advocate on behalf of the city to UK Government Ministers."

Councillor Hussain, seconded by Councillor Vallis, moved as an amendment that:-

Delete all and please insert:

"Council notes the outcome of the Scottish Parliament elections that took place on 7 May 2026 and warmly congratulates Glasgow City colleagues elected to represent Scottish constituencies as MSPs.

Council believes that the election was about who governs the devolved Scottish Government, and that the next term of the Scottish Parliament should focus on the priorities of the people of Scotland including tackling the cost of living, the economy, jobs, the NHS, homelessness, our education system and ensuring local government is adequately resourced to allow communities to flourish, rather than falter.

Council also expresses concern that representatives from Reform UK have been elected for the first time to the Scottish Parliament, who many Glaswegians consider to hold racist, and far right ideological positions that will cause many to feel less safe and fearful as a result. Council further does not believe that Reform UK's policies hold any of the solutions that Glasgow needs.

Council reiterates its unequivocal opposition to the targeting and scapegoating of minority communities, whether they are refugees, migrants or LGBTQ+; rejects UK Reform's politics of division and hate; restates our determination that Glasgow and Glasgow's communities have been used as political footballs to an unacceptable degree in recent years and believes that the outcome of this election should mark a return to a civic responsibility and pride being placed above party politics.

Council agrees that all councillors in this chamber want the best for Glasgow, although they may disagree on how to achieve that, and robust scrutiny is an important part of democracy and every elected representatives responsibility.

Council warmly welcomes commitments for Glasgow made by the First Minister prior to and during the election campaign and looks forward to working with Scottish Government colleagues to implement pledges including: the roll-out of the £2 bus fare cap to Glasgow during the first 100 days of government; confirmation that the Scottish Government will provide financial support towards the ongoing refurbishment and restoration of the People's Palace and Winter Gardens; commitment to recognise and treat the Clyde Tunnel as a strategic national asset; support for the next crucial phase of planning for the Clyde Metro; opening two additional walk-in GP centres in Glasgow; creating an urban development agency for the city centre, to drive investment and accelerate its ongoing transformation; and legislating to enable the empowerment of Scotland's City and Growth Regions

Council agrees that the Leader of the Council should write to all of Glasgow's MSPs asking them to ensure that they advocate for swift progress on the delivery of these commitments. Council further agrees that the Leader of the Council and City Treasurer should seek an early meeting with the relevant Cabinet Secretaries to ensure that the new Scottish Government treats as an urgent priority, work started before the election to address the unique homelessness pressures and costs facing Glasgow.

Council further agrees that Glasgow needs continued engagement with and support from the UK Government on a range of priority issues.

Council agrees to write to the Prime Minister to seek his commitment for the Government to continue to engage sincerely and meaningfully with the Council; and to Glasgow's MPs, asking that they continue to advocate on behalf of the city to UK Government Ministers. “

Councillor Molyneux, seconded by Bailie Wardrop, moved as an amendment that:-

In the first paragraph delete 'and', and after 'MSPs' insert 'and thanks those who have stood down or not been re-elected for their service to the city. Council also thanks the Returning Officer, Elections Office and all staff who contributed to the smooth running of the election.'

In the second paragraph delete from after 'therefore' to end and replace with 'believes it is unacceptable that the UK Government continues to deny Glaswegians a democratic route for achieving that goal.'

Insert new third paragraph, to read:

'Council believes that the election was a comprehensive rejection of the UK Labour Government which has failed to deliver its promise of change and that the Prime Minister must resign.'

Reword following paragraph as follows:

'Council believes that the election result reaffirms Glasgow as an outward-looking, welcoming city, with the share of the vote for right wing and far right parties down from 2021 and that of progressive parties up. Council expresses its deep concern however that, for the first time, MSPs from a racist far-right party, Reform UK, now represent Glasgow and that many Glaswegians will feel fearful and less safe as a

result. Council respects the democratic choice made by the people who voted for this party; understands many of the frustrations that lie behind that choice; believes that while it is important to listen to and offer solutions to the actual sources of Reform voters' concerns, that does not mean legitimising those Reform MSPs who have engaged in overtly racist campaigning and tried to whip-up division; and further does not believe that the policies of Reform UK will do anything to alleviate cost of living pressures, help struggling households or make the UK economy fairer. In particular, Council condemns Reform's purported policy of placing migrant detention camps in Glasgow constituencies which elect progressive representatives, believing this was an attempt to mislead and scare Glaswegians. Council reiterates its unequivocal opposition to the targeting and scapegoating of minority communities, whether they are refugees, migrants or LGBTQ+; rejects UK Reform's politics of division and hate; and restates our determination that Glasgow be a city built on inclusion and respect, where we stand against discrimination, welcome diversity and work to create a more equal society for all of our residents.'

Insert new fifth paragraph, to read:

'Council is concerned by the growing threat to democracy posed by spoiler parties, including Independent Green Voice (IGV) and others. IGV did no campaigning yet received almost 3,000 votes in Glasgow, almost certainly as a result of deliberate voter confusion. Council agrees to write to the Electoral Commission asking that they undertake an urgent investigation into IGV and other spoiler parties and urges them to take swift action to end any further risk of voter confusion. Council is also concerned that turnout was down on other Scottish Parliament elections and therefore requests that the Convener for Open Government engages with relevant partners to consider what more can be done to encourage democratic engagement ahead of next year's council elections.'

In the penultimate paragraph, after Growth Regions; insert:

'delivering rent controls, expanding free bus travel and a major expansion of funded childcare. Council also requests further detail on how the Scottish Government will increase the powers and resources available to Glasgow City Council so we can better support and empower our communities and instructs the Chief Executive to write to the next First Minister asking them to set out how their Government will deliver the progress Glasgow voted for.'

Councillor Aitken, with the approval of her seconder, accepted the amendment by Councillor Molyneux, resulting in the following adjusted motion:-

Council notes the outcome of the Scottish Parliament elections that took place on 7 May 2026; warmly congratulates Glasgow City Council colleagues who were elected to represent Scottish constituencies as MSPs; and thanks those who have stood down or not been re-elected for their service to the city. Council also thanks the Returning Officer, Elections Office and all staff who contributed to the smooth running of the election.

Council notes that, in addition to the election of a fourth consecutive majority of MSPs who believe in the democratic right of the Scottish people to choose their constitutional future in a referendum, all Glasgow constituencies also elected MSPs

from parties who support Scottish independence and almost 55% of regional list votes likewise went to independence-supporting parties. Council therefore believes it is unacceptable that the UK Government continues to deny Glaswegians a democratic route for achieving that goal.

Council believes that the election was a comprehensive rejection of the UK Labour Government which has failed to deliver its promise of change and that the Prime Minister must resign.

Council believes that the election result reaffirms Glasgow as an outward-looking, welcoming city, with the share of the vote for right wing and far right parties down from 2021 and that of progressive parties up. Council expresses its deep concern however that, for the first time, MSPs from a racist far-right party, Reform UK, now represent Glasgow and that many Glaswegians will feel fearful and less safe as a result. Council respects the democratic choice made by the people who voted for this party; understands many of the frustrations that lie behind that choice; believes that while it is important to listen to and offer solutions to the actual sources of Reform voters' concerns, that does not mean legitimising those Reform MSPs who have engaged in overtly racist campaigning and tried to whip-up division; and further does not believe that the policies of Reform UK will do anything to alleviate cost of living pressures, help struggling households or make the UK economy fairer. In particular, Council condemns Reform's purported policy of placing migrant detention camps in Glasgow constituencies which elect progressive representatives, believing this was an attempt to mislead and scare Glaswegians. Council reiterates its unequivocal opposition to the targeting and scapegoating of minority communities, whether they are refugees, migrants or LGBTQ+; rejects UK Reform's politics of division and hate; and restates our determination that Glasgow be a city built on inclusion and respect, where we stand against discrimination, welcome diversity and work to create a more equal society for all of our residents.

Council is also concerned that turnout was down on other Scottish Parliament elections and therefore requests that the Convener for Open Government engages with relevant partners to consider what more can be done to encourage democratic engagement ahead of next year's council elections. Council is further concerned that the far right spoiler party Independent Green Voice was one example of an attempt to cause deliberate voter confusion. Council agrees to write to the Electoral Commission asking that they undertake an urgent investigation into IGV and other spoiler parties and urges them to take swift action to end any further risk of voter confusion. Council is also concerned that turnout was down on other Scottish Parliament elections and therefore requests that the Convener for Open Government engages with relevant partners to consider what more can be done to encourage democratic engagement ahead of next year's council elections.

Council believes that Glasgow and Glasgow's communities have been used as political footballs to an unacceptable degree in recent years and believes that the outcome of this election should mark a return to civic responsibility and pride being placed above party politics. Council agrees that Glasgow voters rejected campaigns that focused on attacking Glasgow and calls on all of Glasgow's elected politicians, at all levels of government, to champion Glasgow rather than jeopardising investment and our visitor economy by talking the city down; to celebrate Glasgow's successes; and to acknowledge that the complexity of many of Glasgow's deep-

seated challenges mean that easy solutions are seldom available and that shared, long-term effort to deliver transformation in places and life opportunities is required. Council warmly welcomes commitments for Glasgow made by the First Minister prior to and during the election campaign and looks forward to working with Scottish Government colleagues to implement pledges including: the roll-out of the £2 bus fare cap to Glasgow during the first 100 days of government; confirmation that the Scottish Government will provide financial support towards the ongoing refurbishment and restoration of the People's Palace and Winter Gardens; commitment to recognise and treat the Clyde Tunnel as a strategic national asset; support for the next crucial phase of planning for the Clyde Metro; opening two additional walk-in GP centres in Glasgow; creating an urban development agency for the city centre, to drive investment and accelerate its ongoing transformation; legislating to enable the empowerment of Scotland's City and Growth Regions; delivering rent controls, expanding free bus travel and a major expansion of funded childcare. Council also requests further detail on how the Scottish Government will increase the powers and resources available to Glasgow City Council so we can better support and empower our communities and instructs the Chief Executive to write to the next First Minister asking them to set out how their Government will deliver the progress Glasgow voted for. Council further agrees to request that the Leader of the Council should write to all of Glasgow's MSPs asking them to ensure that they advocate for swift progress on the delivery of these commitments. Council further agrees that the Leader of the Council, Chief Executive and City Treasurer should seek an early meeting with the relevant Cabinet Secretaries and officials to ensure that the new Scottish Government treats as an urgent priority, work started before the election to address the unique homelessness pressures and costs facing Glasgow.

Council further agrees that Glasgow needs considerably improved engagement and support from the UK government on a range of priority issues and hopes that this will be forthcoming now that the election has passed. These issues include: the severe impact of policies that create mass homelessness among new refugees; the substantial resource deficit caused by the design and quantum of the Local Growth Fund; the unequal treatment of the Glasgow City Region and other city regions within devolved administrations compared with English combined mayoral authorities; and commitment by the UK government to support recovery and regeneration following the Union Street fire. Council agrees to write to the Prime Minister to seek his commitment for the Government to engage sincerely and meaningfully with the Council on these matters; and to Glasgow's MPs, asking that they advocate on behalf of the city to UK Government Ministers."

On a vote being taken electronically and by calling the roll, 28 voted for the amendment and 41 for the motion as adjusted, with 1 abstention.

The motion as adjusted was accordingly declared to be carried.

Adjournment.

10 In terms of Standing Order No 17, the Council agreed to adjourn the meeting at 1250 hours until 1400 hours.

Resumption of meeting.

11 The meeting resumed at 1400 hours and the sederunt was taken as follows:-

Present: The Lord Provost, Jacqueline McLaren (Chair).

JAMES ADAMS	STEPHEN DORNAN	ANNE MCTAGGART
SUSAN AITKEN	SEAN FERGUSON	LEÒDHAS MASSIE
IMRAN ALAM	MARIE GARRITY	CHRISTY MEARNNS
BLAIR ANDERSON	ALLAN GOW	ANGUS MILLAR
KEN ANDREW	WILLIAM GRAHAM	MALCOLM MITCHELL
ALEXANDER BELIC	SHARON GREER	JON MOLYNEUX
RICHARD BELL	GREG HEPBURN	ROBERT MOONEY
DECLAN BLENCH	FIONA HIGGINS	MARGARET MORGAN
EVA BOLANDER	SEONAD HOY	EVA MURRAY
ABDUL BOSTANI	MHAIRI HUNTER	CECILIA O'LONE
PHILIP BRAAT	RASHID HUSSAIN	JILL PIDGEON
JILL BROWN	DAN HUTCHISON	LINDA PIKE
GRAHAM CAMPBELL	FYEZA IKHLAQ	HANIF RAJA
CHRISTINA CANNON	EUNIS JASSEMI	DAVENA RANKIN
PAUL CAREY	ANN JENKINS	THOMAS RANNACHAN
ANTHONY CARROLL	LILITH JOHNSTONE	GEORGE REDMOND
ALLAN CASEY	RUAIRI KELLY	LANA REID-MCCONNELL
ANNETTE CHRISTIE	KEVIN LALLEY	FRANNY SCALLY
CHRIS CUNNINGHAM	PAUL LEINSTER	SORYIA SIDDIQUE
STEPHEN CURRAN	PAUL MCCABE	KIERAN TURNER
FEARGAL DALTON	ELAINE MCDOUGALL	CATHERINE VALLIS
JOHN DALY	DONNA MCGILL	MARTHA WARDROP
STEPHEN DOCHERTY	NORMAN MACLEOD	
LAURA DOHERTY	ELAINE MCSPORRAN	

Apologies: Bill Butler and Frank McAveety.

Present: E Rodger (Clerk), M Millar, Director of Legal and Administration; S Millar, Chief Executive; J McGhee, Executive Director of Education Services; R Emmott, Executive Director of Finance; G Gillespie, Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability; and C Edgar, Director of Communication and Corporate Governance.