

## **Automatic Voter Registration – Proposed pilot – Progress noted.**

**6** With reference to the minutes of 14th August 2025 (Print 3, page 122) noting that the Electoral Registration Officer would apply for funding from the Scottish Government for Glasgow to develop an Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) pilot, on the basis that it would be informed by the Welsh pilots and that a further report would be presented to the committee before the end of the year, there was submitted a report by the City Assessor and Electoral Registration Officer on the progress in developing proposals for an AVR, advising

- (1) that the Scottish Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) at their Electoral Registration Committee meeting on 14th January 2026 had discussed the Electoral Commission's Automatic Registration pilots' evaluation report which was published on 17th December 2025;
- (2) that the UK Government on 12th February 2026 had introduced the Representation of the People Bill 2026 which under the banner of Improving Registration, sets out similar AVR pilot provisions and its intention was to end the presumption that a person's registration should be made publicly available to data purchasers unless they removed their consent;
- (3) of the ERO's comments on the evaluation report; and
- (4) that it had been proposed that the Glasgow's AVR pilot be undertaken jointly with other interested EROS in Scotland and that as ERO resources were currently focusing on delivering the Scottish Parliamentary Elections on 7th May 2026, the work on the pilot would commence after the conclusion of that election.

After consideration, the committee noted

- (a) the report;
- (b) that the Electoral Registration Officer proposed to design a joint Automatic Voter Registration pilot with other interested Electoral Registration Officers in Scotland;
- (c) that the pilot would commence after the Scottish Parliamentary Election being held on 7th May 2026; and
- (d) that a report would be presented to this committee on the progress of the Automatic Voter Registration pilot before the end of the 2026 calendar year.