

Automatic Voter Registration – Proposals noted.

2 With reference to the minutes of Glasgow City Council of 3rd April 2025 (Print 1, page 30) approving that

- (1) officers put forward Glasgow as a location for an Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) pilot with the Scottish Government; and
- (2) a paper be submitted to the Wellbeing, Equalities, Communities, Culture and Engagement City Policy Committee to explore the possibility of this and report back on other ways including the use of data that the Council could use to increase democratic participation and wellbeing,

there was submitted a report by the Executive Director of Financial Services detailing progress in developing proposals for AVR, advising

- (a) that AVR represented a shift from the existing approach of using data to invite potential electors to apply for inclusion in the electoral register to automatically enrol known eligible persons on the register using data;
- (b) that the Scottish Elections (Representation and Reform) Act 2025 Section 41(2) provided for a local authority or an electoral registration office to propose a pilot, which related to the register of local government electors in its area and must consult with the Electoral Commission and Electoral Management Board for Scotland prior to the submissions of such a proposal;
- (c) that AVR implementation would require the use of existing datasets that the Council held regarding eligible persons;
- (d) of the data considerations and the current AVR pilots being undertaken in Wales and that the Glasgow Electoral Registration Office would apply for funding to develop the pilot proposal, informed by the Welsh pilots; and
- (e) of the next steps.

After consideration, the committee noted

- (i) the report;
- (ii) that the Electoral Registration Officer would apply for funding to develop the pilot proposal, on the basis that this would be informed by the Welsh pilots; and
- (iii) that a further report would be presented to the committee before the end of the year.