

Glasgow's European Future: Rebuilding our future in Europe - Motion as adjusted approved, after division.

12 Baile Christie, seconded by Councillor Richard Bell, moved that:-

“Council notes that Glasgow is a proudly outward-looking, international and European city, with deep cultural, economic, social and educational links to cities, regions and communities across Europe. Council further notes that since the UK left the European Union, against the clearly expressed will of the people of Scotland and Glasgow, Brexit has caused significant and well-documented economic, social and democratic harm to Glasgow, Scotland and the wider UK economy, including:

- higher costs for households including food and energy,
- damage to trade and export-focused sectors,
- labour shortages across key industries,
- worsening community relations,
- and reduced opportunities for young people, artists, businesses and universities.

Council agrees that Brexit has “deep damage to our economy”, with estimates placing the loss to the UK economy as high as 8% of GDP and up to £90 billion in lost annual tax revenues, money that could otherwise have supported public services such as health, transport and local government.

Council further agrees that recent international developments have underlined the importance of solidarity, peace and shared democratic values in Europe, and that closer partnership with European neighbours strengthens economic resilience, security and cooperation in an increasingly unstable global context.

Council acknowledges and commends that its previous advocacy regarding a UK-EU reset, especially rejoining of the Erasmus+ programme has proven successful, and the return of the Erasmus+ programme from 2027 will benefit an estimated 100,000 participants in the first year, expanding horizons for young people and rebuild cultural, educational and professional links, and, that this highlights both the demand for and the benefits of European cooperation, while underlining the wider spectrum of opportunities — in research, trade, climate action and regional development.

Council further acknowledges the harm of Brexit specifically impacting the cultural and creative sector which has lost an estimated €184 million since exiting Creative Europe and that the UK Government must prioritise joining the €8.58 billion AgoraEU, an integrated fund designed to support culture, media, and civil society which merges the previous Creative Europe within it.

Council notes that whilst the current UK Government policy seeks closer alignment with EU rules, however, Council agrees with the think tank ‘UK in a Changing Europe’ that Labour’s position betrays inherent contradictions in its vision and without full participation, representation or voting rights, leaving the UK — and Scotland — without a democratic voice at the table and that critics argue it could amount to “integration with the EU by stealth”, without the voting or veto rights conferred by membership of the bloc.

Council further notes that public opinion across the UK is increasingly supportive of a closer relationship with the European Union, with a clear majority of voters now supporting re-joining the EU rather than pursuing limited or “half-way” arrangements and that membership of the EU would give the UK decision making - as opposed to ‘decision shaping - rights over EU regulations.

Council believes that Glasgow’s future prosperity, security and social wellbeing are best served by the closest possible relationship with the European Union; that alignment with European standards and cooperation without representation risks leaving the UK as a permanent “rule-taker” rather than a partner with a voice, influence and vote; that re-joining the European Union represents the most stable, democratic and economically beneficial long-term settlement for Glasgow, Scotland and the UK, and that rebuilding relations with Europe is not about returning to the divisions of the past, but about learning from the damage of Brexit and acting pragmatically in the national, regional and local interest.

Council therefore resolves:

1. To reaffirm Glasgow City Council’s long-standing support for re-joining the European Union as the best long-term outcome for Glasgow’s economy, workforce, communities and young people.
2. To welcome efforts by the UK Government to rebuild relationships with the European Union and to encourage those efforts to go further and faster, moving beyond limited alignment towards full partnership.
3. To support calls for ambition and honesty in national debate on Europe, recognising that closer cooperation, security and prosperity require democratic participation and representation, not “integration by stealth”.
4. To celebrate and strengthen Glasgow’s existing European links through city partnerships, cultural networks, education, research, tourism and business collaboration.
5. To plan for wider European integration and bring together an Officer Working Group overseen by the City Convener for Culture, Sport & International Relations to investigate and capitalise on European funding and partnership opportunities, using this as an opportunity to mobilise wider city and regional engagement.
6. To instruct the Chief Executive to work with the City Convener for Culture, Sport & International Relations and Glasgow Life to organise an event with the British Council, UK Global Learning Association for Schools welcoming the return of Erasmus+ and raise awareness of this to schools, youth and support groups; adult, further and higher education and others; of the UK re-entry to the EU programme and the opportunities through the 2027-28 £570 million fund for study, training, work and skills development.
7. To instruct the Chief Executive to continue engaging with European networks like Eurocities, local authorities and institutions, ensuring Glasgow remains

visible, active and influential within European civic life and bring an annual report to the Wellbeing, Equalities, Communities, Culture and Engagement City Policy Committee by August 2026. Also instructs the Chief Executive to write to the UK Government, the Scottish Government, local Glasgow MPs and MSPs, expressing this Council's support for rebuilding the UK–EU relationship

Council believes that re-joining the European Union as an independent Scottish nation is an act of economic common sense, international cooperation and democratic renewal.”

Bailie Murray, seconded by Councillor Brown, moved as an amendment that:-

In first paragraph after “communities across Europe”, delete the rest of this paragraph.

Remove the paragraph beginning “Council agrees that Brexit” and insert a new paragraph, which should read as:

“As characterised by Keir Starmer, Council agrees that Brexit has done “deep damage to our economy.”

In the next paragraph, remove “solidarity, peace and shared democratic values in Europe”. In the same paragraph remove “European” so that sentence should now read as: “closer partnership with neighbours strengthens economic resilience”

Delete the paragraph beginning with “Council notes that whilst the current UK Government policy seeks closer alignment with EU rules” and insert new paragraph, which should read as:

“Council notes that the UK Government has indicated an intention to pursue closer cooperation and alignment with the European Union in areas of mutual interest.”

Remove the next paragraph beginning with “Council further notes that public opinion across the UK”

In the next paragraph after “European Union” delete the rest of this paragraph and then insert a new sentence, which should read as:

“Council therefore agrees to continue supporting and expanding practical cooperation with European partners in areas such as culture, education skills, research, climate action and economic development, where doing so delivers tangible benefits for the people of Glasgow.”

In the resolves to section, please delete resolution one, three and seven.

In resolution five, delete “plan for wider European integration and bring together an” and also remove “European” and insert “create an” and “international. Resolution five should now read as:

“To create an Officer Working Group overseen by the City Convener for Culture, Sport & International Relations to investigate and capitalise on international funding and partnership opportunities, using this as an opportunity to mobilise wider city and regional engagement.”

Please delete: “Council believes that rejoining the European Union as an independent Scottish nation is an act of economic common sense, international cooperation and democratic renewal.”

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

In paragraph five, after “in research, trade, climate action and regional development”, insert:

“Council believes that children and young people particularly benefit from experiences of travel and international educational exchange which broadens their worldview and instils appreciation for diversity from a young age. Council recalls the report on International Education & Turing Funding heard at Education, Skills and Early Years City Policy Committee in January 2025 and notes the opportunities that this funding provided to young people in Glasgow who may not otherwise have had the opportunity to experience international travel.”

In the bulleted list of resolutions, after resolution seven ending “expressing this Council’s support for rebuilding the UK-EU relationship”, add additional bullet point:

“8. To instruct the Executive Director of Education to engage with UK and Scottish Governments and colleagues within Glasgow City Council to identify further funding streams to enable more children and young people in Glasgow to experience international travel and education for the first time, and to bring a future report to the Education, Skills and Early Years City Policy Committee detailing how the Council is taking forward work on international education.”

Bailie Christie, with the approval of her seconder, accepted the amendment by Councillor Anderson, resulting in the following adjusted motion:-

“Council notes that Glasgow is a proudly outward looking, international and European city, with deep cultural, economic, social and educational links to cities, regions and communities across Europe. Council further notes that since the UK left the European Union, against the clearly expressed will of the people of Scotland and Glasgow, Brexit has caused significant and well documented economic, social and democratic harm to Glasgow, Scotland and the wider UK economy, including:

- higher costs for households including food and energy,
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Council agrees that Brexit has "deep damage to our economy", with estimates placing the loss to the UK economy as high as 8% of GDP and up to £90 billion in lost annual tax revenues, money that could otherwise have supported public services such as health, transport and local government.

Council further agrees that recent international developments have underlined the importance of solidarity, peace and shared democratic values in Europe, and that closer partnership with European neighbours strengthens economic resilience, security and cooperation in an increasingly unstable global context.

Council acknowledges and commends that its previous advocacy regarding a UK-EU reset, especially rejoining of the Erasmus+ programme has proven successful, and the return of the Erasmus+ programme from 2027 will benefit an estimated 100,000 participants in the first year, expanding horizons for young people and rebuild cultural, educational and professional links, and, that this highlights both the demand for and the benefits of European cooperation, while underlining the wider spectrum of opportunities - in research, trade, climate action and regional development. Council believes that children and young people particularly benefit from experiences of travel and international educational exchange which broadens their worldview and instils appreciation for diversity from a young age. Council recalls the report on International Education & Turing Funding heard at Education, Skills and Early Years City Policy Committee in January 2025 and notes the opportunities that this funding provided to young people in Glasgow who may not otherwise have had the opportunity to experience international travel

Council further acknowledges the harm of Brexit specifically impacting the cultural and creative sector which has lost an estimated €184 million since exiting Creative Europe and that the UK Government must prioritise joining the €8.58 billion AgoraEU, an integrated fund designed to support culture, media, and civil society which merges the previous Creative Europe within it.

Council notes that whilst the current UK Government policy seeks closer alignment with EU rules, however, Council agrees with the think tank 'UK in a Changing Europe' that Labour's position betrays inherent contradictions in its vision and without full participation, representation or voting rights, leaving the UK - and Scotland -without a democratic voice at the table and that critics argue it could amount to "integration with the EU by stealth", without the voting or veto rights conferred by membership of the bloc.

Council further notes that public opinion across the UK is increasingly supportive of a closer relationship with the European Union, with a clear majority of voters now supporting re-joining the EU rather than pursuing limited or "half way" arrangements and that membership of the EU would give the UK decision making - as opposed to 'decision shaping - rights over EU regulations.

Council believes that Glasgow's future prosperity, security and social wellbeing are best served by the closest possible relationship with the European Union; that alignment with European standards and cooperation without representation risks leaving the UK as a permanent "rule taker" rather than a partner with a voice, influence and vote; that rejoining the European Union represents the most stable,

democratic and economically beneficial long term settlement for Glasgow, Scotland and the UK, and that rebuilding relations with Europe is not about returning to the divisions of the past, but about learning from the damage of Brexit and acting pragmatically in the national, regional and local interest.

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7. To instruct the Chief Executive to continue engaging with European networks like Eurocities, local authorities and institutions, ensuring Glasgow remains visible, active and influential within European civic life and bring an annual report to the Wellbeing, Equalities, Communities, Culture and Engagement City Policy Committee by August 2026. Also instructs the Chief Executive to write to the UK Government, the Scottish Government, local Glasgow MPs and MSPs, expressing this Council's support for rebuilding the UK-EU relationship.
8. To request the City Convener for Education and Early Years write to both the UK and Scottish Government's highlighting how Glasgow's Education Service has continued to promote the benefits of international educational connections

and the life changing opportunities they create, and the Erasmus + fund must be continued beyond the 2027/28 academic year.

On a vote being taken electronically and by calling the roll, 27 voted for the amendment and 42 for the motion as adjusted, with 1 abstention.

The motion as adjusted was accordingly declared to be carried.