

for the Nats

more votes than in 2017 in the process.

Upon the final count announcement, which was met with fervent cheers, Mr Wishart said: "This has been another profound and defining election which has once again shaken the political tectonic plates all over Scotland.

"One of the most important features I believe is that Scotland has chosen a different and distinct future to the rest of the UK and that choice will have profound consequences for the future of our nation.

"I will say as I did six elections ago back in 2001 – I will represent everybody in Perth and North Perthshire regardless of how they voted in this election.

"I particularly want to thank all the people of Perth and North Perthshire for putting their trust in me once again.

"I will not let you down."

Asked by the PA why the SNP had such strong support throughout Perthshire in this election, he said: "It was the clarity of our message.

"There were great concerns about Brexit and also about the character of the prime minister himself.

"And what we have seen is that Scotland has chosen a different path to the rest of UK.

"Credit to my campaign team who tried to do things a bit differently given the seasonal interests around campaigning this time round.

"I am amazed and delighted and I am so grateful to the people of Perth and North Perthshire for putting their trust in me for a sixth time since 2001."

The turnout was 74.63 per cent, 2.67 per cent higher than in 2017 but lower than the 74.89 per cent in 2015.



Angus Forbes (below) failed to build on the momentum of two years ago when the Tories came within a whisker of winning the seat.

He said: "Politics is a cruel sport – you are either a winner or a loser.

"And tonight there is a winner and we have to congratulate Pete.

"I would also like to congratulate the other three candidates who put themselves forward.

"Thank you to everyone for your support, it has been a good turnout and a particularly high turnout and it is nice to see that."

Finishing in third place was Lib Dem candidate Peter Barrett with 3780. He said: "I want to congratulate Pete Wishart for his re-election.

"Perth and Kinross Liberal Democrats have made a major and telling contribution in supporting our national party's campaign and targets. We are the only party to make a gain on the SNP in Scotland this evening [North East Fife]."

Labour candidate Angela Bretherton gained 2471 votes, a drop for the party from 5349 votes in 2017.

She said: "I would like to thank everyone that voted for me.

"We knew this was going to be a difficult seat.

"I came forward because I thought this election was the tipping point. I feel very strongly about prosperity and looking at the polls I am disappointed and worried about the most vulnerable people in our society."

Brexit Party candidate Stuart Powell totalled 651 votes. He said: "Perth and North Perthshire was not a constituency I was ever going to win."

Doogan does it

Pete Wishart was not the only SNP candidate to receive a rapturous cheer at Bell's Sports Centre yesterday.

Perth and Kinross Council members and SNP party members gathered round a TV set to see Perth councillor Dave Doogan clinch the Angus seat from the Conservatives.

The SNP won with 21,216 votes, a margin of 3795, in Arbroath, defeating the Conservative's Kirstene Hair on 17,421.

Upon being elected, Doogan said: "I declare my sincere thanks to the electors in Angus.

"This county has risen above a hollow narrative of division and privilege and today has chosen a SNP perspective of fairness and opportunity above all else."

The Perth City North councillor's message also focused on Brexit, the effect on Scotland of a strengthened Boris Johnson and what that could mean for further private sector involvement in the NHS.

There was less success for Conservative councillor Roz McCall, who finished third in the Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch East seat.