

The Elections Ordinance Review by a Sub-Committee of the Social and Community Development Committee

Terms of Reference

Composition: Hon Jeffrey Ellick (Chairman)
Hon Gavin Ellick – Elected Member
Carol George – Head of Corporate Support
Nicole Plato – Secretary
Attorney General’s Chambers Representative – as and when required

Objectives

1. The Sub-Committee will review the Elections Ordinance, 2009 to ascertain whether any amendments can be made to take into account representation received in recent months from various parties for improvements in the administration of matters relating to Elections; these include:
 - Review processes relating to persons who are eligible to vote but who may be unable to do so in person at the time of a Bye or General Election with a view to such processes being as secret as possible
 - Consider the introduction of postal voting and how this might be facilitated
 - Consider a definitive time limit set out in Regulations for persons wishing to register as an Elector in the run-up to a Bye or General Election
 - Look into the possibility of amending the Ordinance to enable registered electors to be able to vote in any electoral district
 - Look into ways in which it can be made easier to remove names from the register of those persons who are no longer eligible to be registered as an Elector, ie persons no longer ordinarily resident on St Helena or persons who may be imprisoned for a period of 12 months or more
 - Consider whether there is any appetite in the community to lower the voting age to 16 years
2. The Sub-Committee will consider modernisation of the Elections process, exploring the possibility of speeding up counting of votes by utilising electronic systems
3. The Sub-Committee will consider whether the criteria for eligibility to stand for election as a Member of the Legislative Council should be more stringent, taking into account the provisions of the St Helena Constitution Order, 2009
4. The Sub-Committee will research ways in which elections are conducted in other parts of the world
5. In undertaking the review of the Elections Ordinance, the Sub-Committee will be mindful of the governance review work being undertaken by Professor Dr Jeremy Sarkin and any proposals for changes to the Elections Ordinance that may arise as a result of his work

Approved by SCDC:

Chairperson

Date: