



**St Helena
Government**

**GOVERNANCE REVIEW –
PROGRESS COMMITTEE,
DECEMBER 2020**

Governance Review – Progress Committee
Information for Legislative Council

December 2020

Background

On 3 August 2020, the Governance Commission submitted to Legislative Council a report that detailed the independent work they undertook between May and July to tailor the two alternative governance systems identified by Professor Sarkin to be relevant to St Helena.

On 28 August, the Legislative Council agreed a resolution to invite the Governance Commission members to undertake a wide-ranging public engagement exercise to seek public views and comments on the Revised Committee system and the Ministerial system. The public engagement exercise included not just public meetings, but also a wide range of other forums such as meetings with public and private sector work places and written feedback. The full list of public engagements is in Annex A. A Governance Commission Feedback Report was circulated to elected members.

At the Legislative Council on 16 October 2020, the Legislative Council having considered the report on the public's response to the public consultation on the two alternative systems of Governance resolved that a Progress Committee should be established.

The Legislative Council resolved that the Progress Committee should be determined from representatives from Elected Members, the office of the Speaker, the St Helena Government, the Attorney General's Chambers, the Governor's Office and from the public who are not employed by the St Helena Government. (Please see annex B for the Progress Committee membership).

Legislative Council resolved the functions of the Progress Committee should be as follows:

- I. Finalise the structural arrangements proposed for a Revised Committee or Ministerial system of governance.
- II. Instruct the Attorney General's Chambers regarding the constitutional and any other legislative amendments necessary to effect the two alternative systems of governance.
- III. Provide options for the question regarding the changes to the system of governance in St Helena that could be considered and decided by consultative poll.
- IV. Consider the financial resources necessary in respect of this endeavor.
- V. Liaise with the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office to agree the foregoing.

Structural arrangements proposed for a Revised Committee or Ministerial system of governance:

The Progress Committee scrutinised the comments and queries raised in the Governance Commission Feedback Report. The Progress Committee has set out in annex C a detailed set of "criteria" which compares how the present governance system operates and how the alternate systems are expected to operate.

Discussions in the Progress Committee substantially agreed with the changes to the present governance arrangements suggested previously by the Governance Commission and the work by Professor Sarkin and developed these further.

In assessing the likely workload on Ministers and the Chief Minister, the Progress Committee concluded the five ministries should each be led by a Minister, with the Chief Minister focusing on that leading role.

In parallel to the preparation of Annex C, an animated Powerpoint presentation with an audio soundtrack was prepared. This explains the structure and operation of the Present Committee system and is being broadcast via Sure on the television promotional channel.

Constitutional and any other legislative amendments necessary to effect the two alternative systems of governance

The starting point of instructions to the Attorney General's Chambers for Constitutional Amendments was the work in the Governance Commission Report on a Ministerial system. Instructions were further developed from finalising the structural arrangements. The Committee was also able to draw from a draft Constitution from 2005, which detailed a Ministerial system for St Helena.

The Attorney General's Chambers have prepared a first working draft of the Amendments. The FCDO undertook a generic review, which has not at this point raised any insurmountable concerns. Only after an expression of public will can the negotiation with the FCDO for the Amendments begin and detailed consideration by them take place.

The Committee did not consider Constitutional Amendments would be needed for a Revised Committee system.

The question regarding the changes to the system of governance in St Helena that could be considered and decided by consultative poll

The question underpins a decision for the Legislative Council to progress ahead with seeking an expression of public will on which, if any, of the two alternative governance systems the public prefer. Two options to measure the public will were identified by Professor Sarkin: a formal consultation exercise or a consultative poll, with Legislative Council endorsing the outcome.

The Progress Committee considered three options for the form of Question to be put to the public. The pros and cons of these are summarised as:

	Description	Pros	Cons
1	Motion to LegCo for resolution for reform of the governance system. If agree, a simple ballot question: Revised Committee System v Ministerial system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LegCo based on general feedback from informal consultancies should endorse change. • Leads to a binary ballot or formal consultancy question. • Simple majority of 50%+1 decides 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Puts decision in hands of LegCo for need for change. • If LegCo decide against need for governance reform, then no prospect for change for years to come.
2	A three way question: No change / Revised Committee System / Ministerial system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offers the voting public to vote on "no change to the system". 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possibility that no one choice will reach a 50%+1 vote. • UK may not accept a preferred choice if less than 50%
3	A two part ballot question: Q1: Do you want change to the current system. Q2: If there is change, Revised Committee System v Ministerial system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gives the three choices but also allows for 50%+1 majority for a) change and then b) what type of change • Allows those who do not want change to also vote for what sort of change they prefer if there is over 50% in favour of change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More complicated • Possibility of increased spoilt ballot papers due to complexity. • Will require additional comms and explanation over process

The Committee **recommends** the third option above should be the form of the question to go forward for a public expression of will. This option will though need careful and detailed explanations so the public fully understand the two-part question. The exact wording for the two-part ballot would be:

- (a) Do you want the current system of governance to be changed? and
- (b) If the public will is for a change to the current system of governance, should the governance system be changed to:
- (i) a revised committee system of governance? or
- (ii) a ministerial system of governance?

The proposed arrangements for a consultative poll

Persons whose names are included in the Register of Electors effective 1 July 2020, along with any others who have applied to have their name added to that Register since its publication (and such applications have been publicised in an Extraordinary Government Gazette Notice) will be eligible to vote in the Poll.

It is intended also to offer an opportunity to others who meet the criteria to be registered as an elector as set out in the Elections Ordinance, 2009 (i.e. have St Helenian status, be ordinarily resident in St Helena and aged 17 years of age or over) but who do not wish to be listed in the Register of Electors, to apply to have their name included in a Supplementary list, which will be utilised for the purposes of the Consultative Poll only. This will include eligible persons who are temporarily absent from St Helena for employment purposes in the Falklands or Ascension Island, who will be required to nominate a Proxy in St Helena to vote on their behalf.

Financial considerations

The Progress Committee identified that any decision to move away from the Present Committee system should be cost neutral. Redeployment of clerical and secretarial personnel from within the SHG administration should be achieved by internal reorganisation of existing personnel. If a new post is required then a commensurate efficiency elsewhere would be necessary. Similarly, costs for operating additional offices in directorates for ministers and improved office facilities and clerical services for Councillors on Legislative Council should be covered through a redistribution of existing financial resources.

Feedback from the public engagement conducted by the Governance Commission indicated a general recognition by the public that remuneration for Councillors should be increased in line with the level of responsibilities they discharge. In both the Revised Committee and Ministerial systems of governance, Councillors, Ministers and Non-ministers are likely to be expected to undertake additional duties. In addition, the Governance Commission received feedback from the public that acknowledged an increased scale of remuneration for elected members would attract a broader range of candidates to stand for election and hence bring their skills and knowledge to government.

It is not practical at this stage to suggest the levels of remuneration. These should be set by human resource professionals through an Independent Panel, if a decision has been made on the selection of Revised Committee or Ministerial system. It is not realistic for the Progress Committee to predict what a Panel may recommend.

Liaison with the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO).

There have been ongoing discussions with the FCDO regarding governance reform and these discussions are expected to continue, should Legislative Council agree to continue to a consultative poll. The Committee is currently liaising with the FCDO on the draft Constitutional Amendments and the wording of the question for a consultative poll.

The motion

The Progress Committee agreed that the public expression of will should be through a consultative poll. The proposed motion for Legislative Council is as follows:

That the Legislative Council resolves that a consultative poll be taken in February 2021 and that two questions be balloted as follows—

(a) Do you want the current system of governance to be changed?

and

(b) If the public will is for a change to the current system of governance, should the governance system be changed to:

(i) a revised committee system of governance? or

(ii) a ministerial system of governance?

Progress Committee

22 December 2020

Annex A

Public Engagement by the Governance Commission, September 2020

Public engagement events by the Governance Commission took place between 3rd September and 28th September and included:

- Nine evening community meetings
- A special evening event for youth members (16 to 25 years old) of the community
- Five workplace engagement meetings
- A dedicated meeting of the Chamber of Commerce
- Four special Q and A programmes on Saint FM
- Radio discussions on a SAMS FM scheduled programme
- Several newspaper articles on the topic of alternative governance options
- Widespread distribution of a summary leaflet through the Public Library, clinics, supermarkets, community centres and various workplaces
- A reference copy and subsequently additional copies of the Governance Commission report in the Public Library
- Copies of the Governance Commission report and summary slide presentation downloadable from the SHG website
- A dedicated response email address was advertised for written views and observations to be made.

A Feedback Report detailing public comments and views was prepared and provided the elected members in October 2020.

Principal Findings

Turnout at individual evening community centre meetings varied from many to a few. Taken together the broad range of public engagement events permitted views to be gathered from a large number of people. Collectively, the key points for consideration:

1. There was a distinct and predominant theme in public opinion to progress ahead with governance reform. The Present Committee system was not viewed by most participants as operating effectively and only a few believed it was sufficient for St Helena in the future.
2. It was stated frequently by participants that they did not understand how the Present Committee system operates but regarded it as not clearly demonstrating who was responsible at a political level for taking decisions or accountable for the performance of public services.
3. A minority of participants did not believe the Present Committee needed to be changed or if demonstrated it was necessary then change should be contemplated over a longer timescale varying between six months to two years.
4. The younger participants who expressed an opinion sought change immediately. Older participants in some parts of the island were more sanguine about the need for change or achieving change quickly.

5. A modest majority of opinions expressed favoured the Ministerial system over a Revised Committee one. It is cautioned this is only a qualitative view. No quantitative information was gathered.
6. Some people suggested substantial changes to the Constitution should be undertaken now. They were unmoved by the view expressed that this would potentially take several years and were content to sacrifice the opportunity of a limited amendment focusing on system of governance relating to Part 4 of the 2009 Constitution.
7. In the Revised Committee it was suggested why the changes had not already been put in place but some questioned if giving a Chair executive decision making powers would undermine the committee system.
8. The notion of a Chief Minister in the Ministerial system was well understood, although a view of many participants was the public should have an input into the choice rather than the LegCo members alone.
9. Several participants were concerned the greater level of responsibilities of a minister would require training and candidates with specialist knowledge. Other believed there was appropriate capabilities available in St Helena providing they were supported by a reformed public service.
10. There was widespread acknowledgement the workload of councillors and ministers would increase and remuneration levels needed to be greater than the present levels.
11. Many participants viewed the establishment of scrutiny committees for LegCo members under the Ministerial system as an important balance to the increased powers conferred on ministers.
12. The concept of a manifesto to set out a Chief Minister's objectives for a term of office was seen as a positive feature although there were differing views if a manifesto should be issued before or after a Chief Minister is selected.
13. A large proportion of participants favoured LegCo agreeing to stage a consultative poll to decide which governance system should be adopted in the future.
14. Some participants expressed a view the poll question should include an option to retain the Present Committee system. Others expressed no distinct opinion. Little public interest was expressed in a formal consultation approach.
15. Opinion varied on the nature of the Governor's role under a Ministerial system. Specific changes to be suggested to Part 4 of the Constitution needs to be defined and discussed with HM government.

Annex B

Membership of the Progress Committee, October-November 2020

On 9th October 2020, Legislative Council members agreed by a majority decision to establish the Progress Committee. It has maintained an active programme of work drawing upon the knowledge and expertise from across government and beyond. The regular members of the committee were:

- Elected Members (Cllr Cyril Leo and Cllr Lawson Henry)
- Speaker's Office (Deputy Speaker Maureen Thompson)
- SHG administration (Elections Returning Officer)
- AG's Chamber (principally the Attorney General)
- Governor's Office (As appropriate, Governor, Greg Gibson or other office personnel)
- Someone not employed by SHG administration (Ms Christine Thomas, who was also able to provide continuity with earlier discussions on governance undertaken within the ex-Governance Commission).

ANNEX C - Comparison between the structure and operations of the Present Committee system with the two alternative governance systems		
	Present Committee	Revised Committee
		Ministerial
Legislative Council		
<i>Principal law-making body</i>		
Number of Elected Members on Legco	12 Elected Members are elected on to LegCo at a general election held every 4 years.	Same
Process for electing Members	The island is one single constituency . . . Only those over the age of 17 years, who hold Saint status and are ordinarily resident on St Helena and registered themselves in advance on the Electoral Register are eligible to stand for election to Legco and vote in an election.	Same process for electing Members.
Representation of constituents by Elected Members	All 12 Elected Members represent everyone. They can be approached by any constituent from anywhere on St Helena. Multiple requests by some constituents on the same subject to several Elected Members can occur.	The six non-ministers will be allocated a constituency to which they will be the first port-of-call for constituents in that area.
Plan and vision	There is no requirement for Elected Members to agree a collective vision over the life of a Legco St Helena has a 10-year National Plan with a set of strategic goals for the island. Each year a mid-term review (known as 'MTEF') is made by Elected Members and officials to set the priorities during the next year to endeavour, over time, to achieve the 10-year goals.	Same for the non-ministers sitting on Legco It would be a decision of the Chief Minister and Ministers if the 10-year National Plan and the annual MTEF process are continued and if so, in what form. The Chief Minister would be expected to set out his/her vision within a reasonable timeframe of election.

<p>Functions of Legislative Council</p>	<p><i>Legislative Council is the law-making body:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Debate motions brought by Elected Members on any topic - Question and scrutinise Committee Chairs and others on performance and delivery of their policies and public services - Amend and approve new legislation proposed by any elected member or committees and which may be prepared by Attorney General's Chambers - Debate and propose changes to policies and existing laws - Approve the annual public sector budget and how it is planned to be used <p>Decisions on motions are made by a majority vote of the Elected Members who are present and voting. If a vote is tied the motion fails to be approved</p> <p>There is no procedure for a casting vote by the Speaker or any other Legco member.</p>	<p>Same</p>	<p>Same mode of operation</p>
<p>Attendees of formal meetings of Legislative Council</p> <p>Role of the Speaker</p>	<p>All Elected Members, Ex-Officio Members, Speaker, Clerk of Councils and Governor in specified circumstances attend LegCo.</p> <p><i>Neutral Chair of Legco, not an elected member:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chairs Legco meetings - Sets Order Paper for Legco meetings - Upholds the Legco rules on procedures and conduct - Decides on disagreements over procedures, motions and queries made by Elected Members - Leads inquiries into Councillor misconduct claims and decides sanctions. 	<p>Same</p>	<p>All Elected Members, the AG as an Ex-Officio Member, Speaker, Clerk of Councils and Governor in specified circumstances attend LegCo.</p>
<p>Removing an Elected Member from office</p>	<p>An elected member can only be removed by the Speaker if absent without permission from 3 or more meetings of Legco or disqualified from office.</p>	<p>Same</p>	<p>Same</p>

<p>Governor's role on Legislative Council</p>	<p>The Constitution gives the Governor the right to address Legco on a particular matter. The Constitution permits Legco to request the Governor to attend Legco when they are debating a particular matter.</p> <p>The Constitution gives the Governor the right to address Legco at a time during a meeting of Council fixed by the Speaker at the Governor's request.</p>	<p>Same</p>	<p>Same</p>
<p>Council Committees (Economy, Finance, Health, Social Care, Education, Environment)</p>	<p>Members on a Committee</p>	<p>Each Committee has a Chair (normally an ExCo member) + 3 or 4 other Elected Members. A Council Committee does not have to be constituted of elected members but, conventionally is comprised of elected members.</p> <p>Sometimes Committees set up Working Groups to concentrate on preparing new policies (e.g. recently WGs on immigration, land development, traffic laws). These comprise Elected Members, SHG officials and sometimes other people.</p>	<p>Each Committee has a Chair (ExCo member) + 1 or 2 other Elected Members</p> <p>Same</p> <p>Council Committees would no longer be required</p>
<p>Process for Elected Members to become Committee Members</p>	<p>Elected Members vote for the Chair for each Committee. The Governor, after consultation with the Chairman, appoints other members to the committee. Elected Members usually sit on more than one Committee and are appointed by the Governor.</p>	<p>Same</p> <p>Likely Elected Members will be able to specialise if they sit on one Committee only</p>	<p>No longer required</p>

<p>Functions of a Committee</p>	<p><i>Council Committee functions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Debate the contents of new policies, considers public views and professional advice - Scrutinise and modify existing policies - Prepare requirements for drafting new laws - Decide on changes and developing new public services - Decide on priorities if insufficient resources available 	<p>Same</p>	<p>No longer required</p>
<p>Attendees of Committees</p>	<p>Through the Chairman, Elected Members can ask SHG officials to attend a meeting. Elected Members can ask other people with a relevant contribution to make to attend a meeting. The Chief Secretary, Financial Secretary and Attorney General have the right to attend any Council Committee meeting – either personally or by proxy. They can speak but cannot vote.</p>	<p>Same</p>	<p>No longer required</p>
<p>Decision-making processes within Committees</p>	<p>Committee decisions are made using advice from its own Working Groups, Sub-Committees, from officials and third parties. Also, if a public engagement has occurred, the outcome of public meetings and written submissions, are taken into consideration. The preference is for Committee members to agree unanimously. It may take time to get full agreement for some proposals. Alternatively, majority voting for decisions can be taken.</p>	<p>Same</p>	<p>No longer required</p>
<p>Committee Chairs</p>	<p><i>Chairs and their Committees:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have no direct responsibility for the standards or performance achieved in the delivery of services by a Directorate - Have no direct responsibility for the distribution of funds and resources allocated by a Directorate to the services a Committee wants it to achieve - Chairs may determine a matter that is to be determined by a Committee if the Chair is of the opinion that, given the circumstances of the matter, it is unlikely to be determined in a reasonable time; this action may only be taken by a Chair after consultation with the Governor and the relevant Head of 	<p><i>Chairs and their Committees:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chairs will be given a direct responsibility for the standards or performance achieved in the delivery of services by a Directorate - Chairs will be given a direct responsibility for the distribution of funds and resources allocated by a Directorate to the services a Committee wants it to 	<p>No longer required</p>

	<p>Department. It is then the responsibility of the Chair to report back to the Committee at its next meeting explaining that a determination has been made and give the reasons for it. Committee members who may disagree with the determination made by the Chair have the right of appeal to the Governor to quash the determination</p> <p>- Chairs may act on behalf of the Committee between meetings of a Committee on matters which are of a routine nature or are of such nature that to convene a meeting would be convened by the time in which the Chair needs to act. The Chair is then required to report the action taken at the next meeting of the Committee.</p>	<p>achieve</p> <p>- Chairs will be given a greater role in prioritising the objectives a Directorate should follow</p>	
<p>Processes for policies and legislative changes within a Committee</p>	<p>Committees adopt minor government policy within their mandate. Proposals from a Committee for major new policies and legislation are often sent out for public comment after being presented by a Chair to Exco for cross-government approval.</p> <p><i>Policies</i> - Once agreed by Exco, policies become the responsibility of the Chief Secretary and Directorates to follow.</p> <p><i>Legislative changes</i> - Once agreed by Exco, the Attorney General prepares a draft ordinance or regulation. It is then debated by Legco before voted upon for acceptance. The final version of an ordinance goes to the Governor (as the representative of the Crown) for signing before it comes into effect on a prescribed commencement date</p>	<p>Same</p>	<p>No longer required</p>

<p>Public Accounts Committee (PAC) Membership of the PAC</p>	<p>Two Independents (including the Chair) , 3 Elected Members The Chief Auditor is an advisor to the PAC (s69 Constitution).</p>	<p>Same</p>	<p>Same</p>	<p>Same Non-minister Elected Members, not Ministers, would serve on the PAC</p>
<p>Role of PAC</p>	<p>Reviews the financial statements, quality and value for money of individual public services and publicly owned organisations</p>	<p>Same</p>	<p>Same</p>	<p>Same</p>
<p>Outputs of PAC</p>	<p>Holds meetings and questioning of officials and Elected Members in public Publishes a report on its findings into each subject or organisation</p>	<p>Same</p>	<p>Same</p>	<p>Same approach to question senior officials and Ministers</p>

<p>Scrutiny Committees</p> <p>Role of scrutiny committees</p>	<p>While not a requirement, all Legco Elected Members are on more than one Council Committees.</p> <p>The Public Accounts Committee is a scrutiny committee under system.</p>	<p>All Legco Elected Members are on at least one Council Committee.</p> <p>No Scrutiny Committees possible in Revised Committee system of Council Committees as they would be scrutinising their own actions and decisions.</p>	<p>Scrutiny Committees made up of non-ministers are possible in the Ministerial system</p> <p>A Minister has responsibility and accountability, through the public service, for all policies and services delivered by their Directorate (Ministry).</p> <p>Ministers should justify to Legco the effective use of public funds appropriated to their responsibility. This responsibility and accountability would be exercised by Legco-run Scrutiny Committees and the whole House.</p> <p>The six non-minister Legco Elected Members would have a formal role to scrutinise the performance of Ministers and their Directorates (e.g. ministries)</p> <p>Two Scrutiny Committees are proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Committee 1 would scrutinise the two largest Directorates - Committee 2 would scrutinise the other three Directorates <p>Each scrutiny committee would have three non-minister Legco Elected Members. Non-minister Elected Members would agree themselves on which committee they will serve</p>
<p>Procedures of scrutiny committees</p>	<p>All Legco Elected Members are on more than one Council Committees. No Scrutiny Committees possible in Present Committee system of Council Committees as they would be scrutinising their own actions and decisions</p>	<p>All Legco Elected Members are on at least one Council Committee.</p> <p>No Scrutiny Committees possible in Revised Committee system of Council Committees as they would be scrutinising their own actions and decisions</p>	<p>Each scrutiny committee would publish a forward programme of individual issues it sought to scrutinise, meet regularly (monthly?) and be able to require senior officials and ministers to attend (and invite not compel non-public sector parties to attend)</p>

<p>Minister Question Time</p>	<p>There are no Chief Minister or Ministers to be the basis of a Ministerial Question Time in the Present Committee system.</p> <p>However, there is currently a mechanism under the current system for written and oral questions to be put and answered.</p>	<p>There are no Chief Minister or Ministers to be the basis of a Ministerial Question Time in the Revised Committee system.</p> <p>However, there is currently a mechanism under the current system for written and oral questions to be put and answered.</p>	<p>A regular forum (e.g. Question Time) will be held for non-minister Elected Members to question the Chief Minister and Ministers.</p>
<p>Executive Council (Exco) Principal policy-making and senior decision-making body Number of Elected Members on ExCo</p>	<p>The five Elected Members who chair each of the Committees are normally members of ExCo. The Chairs are voted on to ExCo by all elected members</p>	<p>Same</p>	<p>A Chief Minister and five Ministers would be the elected members of ExCo. The Chief Minister would be chosen by all Legco Elected Members. The Chief Minister would then choose the five Elected Members from Legco he/she wanted to serve as Ministers</p>
<p>Process for joining ExCo</p>	<p>Elected Members are voted by Legco to sit on Executive Council for 2 years after a general election. They are re-elected or replaced for a further one year at the start of year 3 and again at the beginning of year 4. This arrangement is described in Section 36(2) of the 2009 Constitution. By convention the Governor appoints those elected to ExCo to be chairs of the council committees.</p>	<p>Same</p>	<p>The Elected Members on Legco who become the Chief Minister and Ministers would each serve a term on ExCo of up to four years.</p>

<p>Functions of Exco</p>	<p><i>Principal policy-making body:</i> <i>Executive Council gives the Governor binding advice in respect of all matters, except in certain circumstances (of law, urgency etc) and except in areas that are the Governor's Special Responsibilities in which Executive Council's advice does not bind the Governor. When given binding advice the Secretary of State or other special circumstances allow.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sets national strategy for national development and legislative programme - Approves policies of national importance - Final decider on difficult island decisions that cannot be resolved by the Committees - Takes matters forward with the UK and other governments 	<p>Same</p>	<p>Same</p>
<p>Attendees of ExCo</p>	<p>Governor (but not compulsory) & Non-voting SHG officials:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chief Secretary - Financial Secretary - Attorney General - Other SHG officers attend on request 	<p>Same</p>	<p>Governor & Non-voting SHG officials:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chief Secretary - Attorney General - Other SHG officers attend on request <p>Finance Minister covers role of Finance Secretary</p>
<p>Change in ExCo membership</p>	<p>Elected Members are free to step down at any time. Ordinarily, Elected Members of Executive Council require re-election for further terms on Exco at the end of year 2 and 3.</p> <p>There can also be a no-confidence motion in Exco members.</p>	<p>Same</p>	<p>The term for each person could be shorter than four years if the Chief Minister resigns or an individual Minister resigns or asked to leave their post by the Chief Minister.</p> <p>Legco non-ministers can also bring a motion of no confidence in the Chief Minister, which if passed, he/she and all Ministers would be expected to step down</p> <p>This might trigger a general election if Legco cannot find another Councillor to be the Chief Minister and who could command the approval of a majority of Legco Elected Members</p>

Governor's role	<p>The Governor chairs formal meetings of ExCo.</p> <p>In most circumstances the Governor must consult and act on the advice of ExCo.</p> <p>The Governor has a number of special responsibilities under the constitution. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Defence - External/international affairs - Internal security - policing - Overall Administration of Justice - Shipping - Finance - Appointments to the St Helena Public Service 	Same	Same responsibilities and chairing, although expected the majority of discussion on the substantive business of government would be led by the Chief Minister.
Caucusing			
Purpose of caucusing	<p>The 5 Committee Chairs on Exco often hold a political meeting (no officials present) to which other elected members are invited to discuss and receive their views on topics on the agenda for the next Exco meeting. No minutes are taken at caucusing meetings.</p>	Same	<p>No formal requirement</p> <p>Could be continued at the discretion of the Chief Minister or liaison with non-Ministers may be undertaken in another form</p>
Chairperson's Assembly			
Purpose of Chairperson's Assembly	<p>The 5 Committee Chairs on Exco meet periodically themselves to discuss the progress of policy and legislative matters they want to complete in the foreseeable future. Officials may attend if requested</p>	Same	<p>No formal requirement. It would be at the discretion of the Chief Minister if he/she wished to discuss in a ministerial forum the political aspects of Exco agenda items without SHG officials present</p>
St Helena Public Service ('SHG')			

<p>Number of SHG Directorates (as at November 2020)</p>	<p><i>Eight Directorates:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Corporate Services - Children & Adult Social Care - Health - Education & Employment - Environment & Natural Resources - Infrastructure & Transport - Air Access - Policing 	<p>Same as at November 2020</p>	<p>Same as at November 2020</p>
<p>Future structure of the public service (from 2021)</p>	<p>The intention before the end of the 2020/21 financial year is to slim down to 5 Directorates + central services, each led by a Portfolio Director:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Health & Social Care - Education, Skills & Employment - Environment, Natural Resources & Planning - Safety & Home Affairs - Treasury & Sustainable Development + Central Support Services 	<p>Same as from 2021</p>	<p>Same as from 2021</p>
<p>Relationship between Directors and Committee Chairs</p>	<p>An advisory and reporting interaction exists between a Director and a Committee Chair. Directors and Chairs are not co-located in the same places</p>	<p>Same</p>	<p>Ministers would be co-located to work from an office in their corresponding Directorate The Director and other specialist staff would be required to develop a productive working relationship with the Minister and meet frequently to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - advise and brief the Minister on the policies and legislation being pursued or developed - advise on the implementation of activities - seek decisions on issues and resources relating to the delivery of services - report on achievements by the Directorate



