

Autonomy Survey

	Shetland resident?	Should more powers be handed over to Shetland?
250828 15:25	Yes	Yes
1	We are getting windfarms pushed on us from the government. They have no interest in protecting our interests. I am a Shetlander, not Scottish .	
250828 15:28	Yes	Yes
1	The status quo is not serving Shetland. We have vast natural resources but only receive a pittance from their exploitation. Our traditional industries are under threat from the rush towards "green" energy and we have no say over these developments and will see little to no financial benefit. There are many examples, e.g. Faroe, where autonomous government is successful.	
2	The Islands Act 2018 provides a mechanism for some powers to be devolved from Holyrood to Shetland but none have yet been requested. That could be a first step on a journey towards much greater autonomy. Though some powers are reserved by Westminster so would require a different approach.	
3	Myself and others believe autonomy is not just desirable but will be essential if Shetland is to remain sustainable. We face many external threats but also have many opportunities but have the power to act on neither.	
250828 15:29	Yes	Yes
1	Shetland should be run by Shetlanders for shetlanders not by a corrupt group of mainly sooth moothers making decisions about here that they are not entitled too, we should be in control of the wind farm but as usual we were screwed over by th so called powers to be	
2	Oust out all Shetland councillors who are not from here, the council should be made up of local people trying to benefit the community instead of people not from here seeing any deal come across the table and settling for it	
250828 15:35	Yes	Yes
1	shetland belongs to norway and scotland stole us so why should we listen to scotland when we should be leaving for norway	
2	nope not under scotland but under norway yes	
250828 15:42	Yes	Yes
1	Shetland is my home — why wouldn't i wish for us to have more powers? To me, it's a no brainer	
2	In my opinion, Shetland can only achieve more power by demanding it ourselves. It won't be simply "given". I'd say the first step is building grassroots pressure here in the isles, making it clear that Shetlanders want autonomy over our own resources, land, and laws. A local referendum on home rule, like the Faroese held, would be the most democratic way forward. From there, negotiations can begin to gradually transfer powers — starting with control of our seabed, fishing, energy, and transport. This obviously wouldn't happen overnight, but within 5–10 years it could be fully achievable if the will is there.	
3	The fact that we don't have any powers says everything — it only proves my point. Edinburgh and London don't care about Shetland; they only care about what they can take from us. The sooner we face up to that truth, the better.	
250828 15:42	Yes	Yes

1	<p>There are a few obvious examples of powers which could be devolved to Shetland (not necessarily the SIC) which would immediately benefit the islands. Transport, fishing, energy/ planning would be my top picks. Picking the powers we want returned to us is the easy bit, but figuring out how to fund having and using those powers is much more difficult - and almost impossible without central government agreeing to continue funding processes over which they have relinquished power, or agreeing to also devolve an appropriate level of certain taxations to a local level. I think Shetland has proven in limited cases that it can manage extra powers (see Shetland Shellfish Management Organisation and associated Regulating Order) but again this example is beset by funding difficulties, and - at the end of the day - still governed by Scottish Parliament legislation, leading to constraints and differing priorities. Our set apart geography also makes things easier, and our unique constitutional history helps make the case for being treated differently to other parts of Scotland. Rome wasn't built in a day and neither will an autonomous Shetland be, but it's a path that can be started upon with one small bit of autonomy at a time: a programme of powers (and levy raising abilities) being devolved over the next few decades - building confidence, ironing out the unavoidable issues, and seeing how far Shetland can go, and wants to go, down the autonomy path. We may never be a Faroe Islands, or an Overseas Territory, but becoming a part of Scotland with more of a say over our own community would be a better position than the one we find ourselves in now. Other island groups have shown the world over what is possible, with far less resources than those which Shetland could find itself back in control of.</p>	
2	<p>Decades - slow and steady, but always progressing. It will take long term political commitment from both Shetland and Scotland and the wider UK. Really, it's a process that might never end. But that doesn't mean we shouldn't be shy about asking for a radical initial involvement of powers (transport, fishing, energy/planning) to begin with.</p>	
3	<p>The SIC has proven over successive councils that it is far too slow, far too timid, and far too divided to make any serious progress with autonomy for the isles. The community - I'm thinking a civic convention - should be the forum for agreeing a process among ourselves, and then with government. The Tunnel Action Groups have shown us the way.</p>	
250828 15:45	Yes	Yes
1	<p>Shetland should go for British overseas territory status to determine self governance and make decisions effecting local communities on the local level, because we live here the Scottish government does not</p>	
2	<p>British overseas territory status achieved through political means and will</p>	
3	<p>Shetland needs complete economic control over its future and destiny, otherwise we will always be at the mercy of big government and politicians who don't understand the needs of our islands</p>	
250828 15:46	Yes	No
1	<p>We do not need more powers, which will not necessarily come with any more funding, but we need the Scottish government to deliver on the multitude of promises already made.</p>	
250828 15:47	Yes	No
1	<p>The councillors are not able or qualified enough to handle more autonomy. They can not even get tunnels built</p>	
2	<p>The independent councillors would have to take responsibility, accountability and ownership for decisions. Look at the current debacle with election of Liberal and Labour MSP. If the council can balance the books over next few years without touching the reserves. Then they might be trustworthy</p>	
3	<p>What happens when it fails we are then taken over by Highland or Grampian.</p>	
250828 15:58	Yes	Yes
1	<p>Lack of understanding in Holyrood. Streamline local services with a new unitary service for local gov. plus health. Also some additional services brought back from Edinburgh plus less restriction on how our governing body would spend gov. grants. More ability to keep part of central tax revenue.</p>	
2	<p>The local authority needs to be much more confident in its ask from Edinburgh and flesh out what the governing body would look like. It will take several years to do.</p>	
3	<p>The existing council seem to lack the will and vision to take this forward.</p>	
250828 15:59	Yes	Yes

	1	Decisions made far away don't always fit local realities. Our transport links, healthcare challenges, and economic needs are very different from those of mainland Scotland. Autonomy would mean policies designed for Shetland, not forced into a one-size-fits-all approach. Faroe has thrived by taking charge of their fisheries. Norway has turned oil into long-term national wealth. With more control, Shetland could build a sustainable future—whether by leading on marine renewables, developing niche industries, or making fishing policies that secure both jobs and stocks for generations.
	2	<p>We have every right to demand more say over our own affairs, and we should not be afraid of it. The Faroe Islands have done it, Norway thrives on it, and Shetland is no less capable.</p> <p>But let's be honest: autonomy doesn't arrive overnight. It takes effort, unity, and a vision that people here believe in.</p> <p>The first step is to win over our own community. Autonomy only works if Shetlanders themselves understand it's worth striving for. That means open meetings, honest discussion, and showing in practical terms how greater self-rule would mean better ferries, fairer fisheries management, cheaper energy, and more secure jobs. People must not think it's just a dream; it has to be seen as a realistic, practical path to a stronger Shetland.</p> <p>The second step is to build a political voice of our own. At present, we have councillors, and we send an MSP and an MP to mainland parties. If we are serious about autonomy, we will need a Shetland movement, cross-party and rooted in the community, that consistently pushes for more powers. Nothing too radical, just steady demands: control of the seabed, stronger say over our fisheries, fair funding for transport and health. Bit by bit, we take back control.</p> <p>The third step is to use the powers we already have. Shetland Islands Council has the right under the Scotland Act to press for more devolved powers. If we are united, we can push Holyrood for a special status agreement, similar to what the Faroes have with Denmark. That doesn't require Westminster to collapse; it requires persistence, political pressure, and above all the will of the people.</p> <p>As for the timescale, it isn't instant. But within five to ten years, we could realistically secure meaningful new powers if we start now and remain determined. Once people see the benefits, momentum will grow for even greater autonomy after that.</p> <p>We have always been self-reliant islanders, living by what the sea and land provided. Autonomy isn't some romantic notion, it's the natural next step in taking responsibility for our own future. The real question isn't "Can we do it?" The real question is "Will we stand up and demand it?"</p>
	3	Basically start small (control of seabed revenues, transport, renewables) and expand gradually, proving capacity before pushing for full Faroese-style self-rule.
250828 16:01	Yes	No
	1	I am sorry to say that I see no leadership from councillors, or from SIC employees, that would give me confidence that more powers would be used wisely.
	3	Until Shetland Island Council starts to develop a credible strategy for Shetland, and for each individual sector of the economy, we are doomed to continue with ludicrous projects, which make no sense for Shetland. We need much stronger, and more intelligent, leadership. There are some impressive individuals around, mainly in their 30s and 40s, but they need to be encouraged to work together, for the future benefit of Shetland. They should not become politicians, but just a team of the future "great and good" of Shetland, with a strong voice, to stop all the stupidity that we are currently suffering.
250828 16:04	Yes	Not sure
	1	Emma McDonald cant handle the power. Need a businessman who cares about Shetland not just selling the island to big companies who don't care
	2	Shetland should get more power but need more reliable people who don't lie to get into power
	3	instead of building more housing in Lerwick they should look outside like Brae, tingwall
250828 16:23	Yes	Yes

1	<p>The way that our Shetland opinion was not taken into consideration with Viking Energy.</p> <p>The future is Nuclear power and what if the government decides 🤔 about nuclear waste the same way as with the windfarms.</p> <p>We saw in the debate in the museum that John Swinney look at us as only:" 20 000 voters".</p> <p>We could immediately pay less road tax if you do not take your car South. This will be a benefit of £50 to anyone who doesn't take their car South (mostly poorer Shetlanders for whom in Shetland having a car is a necessity).</p>	
2	<p>In a similar way as in CANTON in 🇨🇭 Switzerland.</p> <p>Language and a lot to be learned from the Swiss system.</p>	
3	<p>Rip off Shetland in all parts of life.</p> <p>No lawyer for poorer Shetlander. Those on Credit have to look for lawyer South unless you need a criminal lawyer.</p> <p>The lack of understanding that we live under monopolies here: Tesco (the only big supermarket), Loganair (no more Fly Be) this is why some regulation and support is needed.</p> <p>Bringing back Norona(in which the Council has invested).</p> <p>The army knows the strategical importance of Shetland.</p> <p>We do not like to criticise our own but our best chance was when we had the transport minister from Shetland</p> <p>John Swinney doesn't look at Shetland as how much Shetland contribute in Fish, Oil, Gas and strategical geographical to Scotland and UK but rather as 20 000 voters 😞 😞.</p> <p>A mix of Faroese and Swiss experience to be implemented on having more local power.</p> <p>When South all the capacity of a train/ bus is filled you provide another train/ bus so it should be here during the summer with the boat.</p> <p>We miss personalities we had like : Malcolm Green, Tommy Watt and Jimmy Moncrief. A debate/ interview with our ex MP Jim Wallace who knows Shetland will be welcomed.</p> <p>I will appreciate 🙏 if everything above stays in confidence.</p> <p>There's problems with remote working- managing from England like for Mental Health.</p> <p>We should not encourage the Code of silence(SIC/ NHS)as this does not help in resolving issues.</p>	
250828 16:25	Yes	No
1	to small in population	
2	no but if a Scottish government with sovereign powers could have a federal state giving more to all areas of Scotland there could in theory be more powers for Shetland in long term	
3	i think is more Scotland returns to EU that Shetland and rest of Scotland voting remain if there was more sShetland autonomy SHOULD BE A REFERENDUM	
250828 16:29	Yes	No
1	<p>It is not possible for any more power to be given to Shetland because nobody outside Shetland has it to give. Neither the UK nor Scotland has anything to give. The definition of sovereignty in Scots law is allodial ownership of the land (allodial means absolute). The uncomfortable reality is that, because the Crown does not own Shetland' land, by definition it doesn't have sovereignty. Charles III is not our king - by their definition. Shetland's land is owned by people living in Shetland. Allodial ownership gives them innate sovereignty. A sovereign does not have to ask for 'more powers'. A sovereign already has total power.</p> <p>Although the UK and Scotland exercise administration here, it is backed by force, not authority. During my 21 years of forays into every level of the Scottish court system, up to the Supreme Court in London and in both civil and criminal cases, not one has been able to show how it has jurisdiction in Shetland. One would think it was a simple matter "Here's the document Mr. Hill, now go away and stop being silly", but all they have is bluff and bluster. Typical was my case at Lerwick Sheriff Court, where the sheriff said he had jurisdiction "when I walk through that door and sit in this seat". I have suffered the indignity of being sent to police cells on numerous occasions and to prison four times, by sheriffs who not only knowingly act without authority, but in violation of their own laws. Shetland is occupied by foreign powers who will do whatever it takes to maintain their position. As long as you do what you are told, everything will be OK, but step out of line and see what happens to discourage the others.</p>	

	2	Although I have voted 'No' to more powers in the pre-judged question above, I shall fill this box in the spirit of the question. With our already existing sovereignty and more than enough money, there is no limit to what can be achieved. The current political setup has to step aside as unfit for purpose and we need an administration where the power is kept at the bottom. There are countries smaller than Shetland without the resources we have that have proved the ability to run their own affairs. We are not short of capable people, but corruption does not allow them to flourish. I certainly favour Shetland and its resources being used much less, if at all for the benefit of outside governments and operators. There is no reason or excuse for any poverty in Shetland, but that will be the case as long as our affairs are run by people who do not have our best interests at heart. We need to bite the bullet and get on with it. It may be uncomfortable to start with, but trust the people involved to sort it. Nothing can be achieved 'in the current political set-up'. It is bloated and not fit for purpose, but will do whatever necessary for its own survival unless we just turn our backs and leave it alone.
	3	In 2010, the input/output figures for Shetland showed that when we had paid all our direct and indirect taxes and got back all the grants and subsidies we need to run the place, there was £81 million every year left in the UK treasury. Not a word was said by anyone. This was our no-strings-attached subsidy to the UK. That money would have made a total difference to our economy. After I made this public, the goal posts were changed and the figure are now calculated on a different basis, which shows us owing the UK. That £81 million is dwarfed by the taxes on oil taken from our waters by a government that can show no authority to do so. There is no shortage of available money.
250828 16:30		
		Yes Yes
	1	I support full autonomy like the Faroes, or becoming part of Norway again. Shetland needs a moratorium over windfarms, control over fishing rights, and making nature and wildlife a priority.
	2	Current political set-up needs to be replaced and new powers in place within the next 5 years. It is rotten at every level from local development companies, community councils, SIC to the SNP dominated Scottish Government.
250828 16:51		
		Yes No
	1	SIC can't manage the powers they have, anything more would be a disaster.
250828 17:05		
		Yes Yes
	1	If we live in Shetland then we should have more of a say
	2	No idea
250828 17:06		
		Yes Not sure
	1	Without knowledge of what powers might be devolved it is silly to comment.
	2	No
250828 17:10		
		Yes No
250828 17:11		
		Yes No
	1	Shetland councillors are not trained or able enough for any further added financial nor governance responsibilities. Its complicated enough having two masters in London and Edinburgh without a third layer. I see no benefit other than an extra 'person' to blame when things go wrong. At present Edinburgh blames London when it cocks up, giving them an extra whipping boy is not a good thing
	2	N/A
250828 17:21		
		Yes No
	1	Judging by some of the decisions the SIC have made over the past decade, more decision making power is a backward step.
250828 17:21		
		Yes No
	1	I have doubts about the ability of local political leaders to lead Shetland into the future. Currently the local councillors are not brilliant and more would have to be done to attract a higher calibre of people. There are some councillors who are well intentioned and capable, but I wouldn't trust the others to lead Shetland with more autonomy.
250828 17:22		
		Yes Yes

	1	Shetland needs to be, and has the potential economic ability to be, on a par with Gibraltar, The Falkland Islands, Faroe, Greenland, Jersey, Guernsey, Isle of Man. There are many small, distinct communities around the world that punch way beyond their weight through having full autonomy within, or with constitutional links to, a larger state. I see no reason why Shetland couldn't, shouldn't or wouldn't benefit from existing under such a constitutional arrangement.
	2	The most feasible route to achieving this is by pursuing the following strategic steps toward Crown Dependency-like powers: Local Referendum: Gauge public support for autonomy. Council Motion: Formal request to UK Government to explore options. Legal Review: Commission constitutional lawyers to draft a feasible pathway. UK Parliamentary Engagement: Lobby MPs and Lords for enabling legislation. International Comparison: Use Faroese and Channel Islands models to build the case. These would need to take place within electoral cycles but within a reasonable time period that would build and remain momentum.
	3	Shetland could symbolically 'un-pawn' itself from Scotland by paying Norway's 'debt' of about £1.1million in today's money - to the Crown. This would raise the profile of the issue and also create the opportunity for opening negotiations with the both UK Crown and the modern democratic institutions of the UK state. The Norwegian Crown and State could be consulted out of courtesy despite the ancient dowry pledge being highly unlikely to have any modern validity.
250828 17:30	Yes	Yes
	1	Look at the Faeroes and the Isle of Man and see what can be achieved. Shetland has been treated like a feudal state for centuries and has been and is still exploited.
	2	Carrie status within 5 years
250828 17:38	Yes	No
	1	I feel we are better served by Holyrood than we would be by our own Council, etc.
250828 17:43	Yes	Yes
	1	Because faroe is a crown dependency of denmark we have as much if not more resources to be a crown dependency of norway or denmark reason the scottish and British governments just use us as a cash cow and dont look after us they just use us selling our isles to foreign windpower company letting every foreign fishing vessel take whatever they want yet the shetlander is policed like hes the foreigner . We need to control and look after our isles if not scotland and england certainly wont
	2	Vote for self governance the current political set up isnt fit for purpose
250828 17:46	Yes	Not sure
	1	We need councillors who are honest and competent. The current crop are neither. The recent resignations of two of them from political parties because they weren't selected for the elections next year shows what they really are. Out for themselves.
250828 17:50	Yes	No
	1	The SIC have too much power already and don't always work for the benefit of the islands. Too much job protection. Why does SIC employ hundreds more staff than Orkney for a similar population? More power to SIC equals more inefficiency
250828 17:51	Yes	No
	1	-
	2	-
	3	-
250828 17:54	Yes	Not sure
	1	In the 1970's Roy Gronneberg addressed an SNP conference, which later adopted a motion to give the islands more autonomy. 50 years ago! Nothing has happened, and the Council has been utterly pusillanimous, espousing this desire but not insisting upon it. It's time to call it out - we and Orkney have colonised by an aggressive power which has destroyed every vestige of our heritage and our links with Scandinavia. It's not a question of begging for more powers, because the members and senior officials are incapable of efficiently running what little exists. The authority is a bloated self-perpetuating bureaucracy with little interest in changing the status quo.

	2	I wish to see Denmark and Norway apologise for having abandoned us, (Norway has done this with the Sami people) and offer to take us back into the North Atlantic constellation under Danish or Norwegian rule, by redeeming the islands (with the consent of native Shetlanders and Orcadians). Scottish rule must end.	
250828 18:05	Yes	No	
	1	None of the present councillors or council officials are capable of dealing with it in a competent manner.	
	2	Will never happen. It's all just more SNP propaganda and lies.	
	3	The only way Shetland would be successful with much more powers would be to get some people in from Faroe to run things.	
250828 18:07	Yes	Yes	
	1	Local knowledge is better than control from the Central Belt of Scotland	
	2	Keep the issue in the forefront regardless of political powers	
	3	Local control could be very advantageous but not at the repetition of our current situation. Local autonomy should lead to Norway style government with the spread of everything throughout the isles rather than concentrating all to Lerwick to the detriment of all the outlying areas of Shetland.	
250828 18:10	Yes	Yes	
	1	As a community we have to face up to the cold, hard truth that Shetland is in the throes of a slow painful death. The industries that are the backbone of Shetland such as fishing are fighting for their lives. Shetland is sleep-walking into a calamitous collapse of employment and social fabric as a result of the fishing industry being driven from the sea by offshore wind farms. The crews and Shetland Fisherman's Association are trying their best to sound the alarm bell but nobody is listening. It's high time that we woke up as a community and understood that what's happening is going to affect us all. United we stand, divided we fall. Many voted for the new Scottish Parliament in the hope that devolution wouldn't stop in Edinburgh but also bring more local control in Shetland. The complete and utter opposite has happened and I don't think anybody could have envisaged how bad it would be for Shetland. The Scottish Parliament has been a disaster for Shetland and if I could vote to take Shetland out of it I would. Infact, the Scottish Government has centralised and grabbed control of so much that it's a literal waste of time being an SIC Councillor. We're now in a position where the historic Scotland inflicted Clearances are happening all over again as the Scottish Government and Big Business clear us from the land and sea with wind farms. Make no mistake, what we're seeing is just the start of it and they want us gone. Shetland needs to waken up and understand that Edinburgh hates us. Period. And it's never going to change. As things stand it's difficult to see a bleaker picture and it's not going to change unless we take/ get control of our islands.	

2	<p>We need to be granted Faroese style Autonomy and Home Rule.</p> <p>It could be called The Shetland Sovereign Home Rule Act(SSHRA)</p> <p>A legally binding Yes/No referendum on Home Rule would be held in Shetland.</p> <p>In the event of a Yes vote and the Act put into Law(within 1 year), the first step would be to form a Sovereign Committee to control and establish all Home Rule sectors, developments and Legal Acts etc.</p> <p>Phase one grant immediate Sovereign Control of the seas around Shetland, including all Oil & Gas Licenses/developments and Sovereign Planning Control on land(over all developments).</p> <p>It could be called the Shetland Sovereign Seas and Land Act(SSSLA).</p> <p>This would give full, sovereign power over all past and future developments in Shetland's seas, seabed and land.</p> <p>The Sovereign and Economic Zone(SEZ) would be Half way to Norway, Half way to Faroe and half way between Fair Isle and Orkney. The Northern Boundary would extend 50 miles northwards from Muckle Flugga.</p> <p>The revenue from any future Oil & Gas licenses and Oil & Gas Field developments would come to Shetland(possibly the Shetland Charitable Trust or a new Sovereign Fund).</p> <p>Phase One would also grant full Legal Control of all Immigration with a Border Security Agency established.</p> <p>Phase Two would give control of the Transport to/from and within Shetland including the tendering process for the Shipping Contract.</p> <p>Phase Two would also include control of the Education and Social Services System in Shetland.</p> <p>Phase Three and so on.....</p>	
3	Time is running out.	
250828 18:18	Yes	Yes
250828 19:03	Yes	Yes
1	For Shetland to develop sustainably it must learn to take responsibility for its mistakes and its future. Central governments will always ignore specific needs in favour of the popular vote.	
2	If powers were to be devolved it must be done on the back of a council election in order for folk to stand who truly want to accept their responsibilities. The current council set up is failing the public.	
3	Instead of reinventing the wheel we need to identify working models of more autonomy. We must not rely on assistance from any UK governments or civil service	
250828 19:09	Yes	Yes
1	folk might take more of an interest in local politics if they had more say, local councillors and politicians might take more time and careful thought with decisions due to greater accountability. we know what we need more than any gov't 400/800 miles away as we are forgotten about until election time	
2	well we would need to start by planning out what we actually want the end goal to be, full autonomy? IOM style crown dependency? Faroese style semi autonomy? and then go from there. seeking advice from desired outcome areas & then make a roadmap from there, obviously not going to happen overnight	
250828 19:19	Yes	No
1	Current council administration does not exactly inspire confidence for more responsibility.	
250828 19:25	Yes	Yes
1	Decisions which impact on the people of Shetland, should be made by the people of Shetland, or their representatives (elected members)	

	2	SIC leadership should publicly ask Mr Swinney for specific powers, such as planning (the 'list' he referred to) and make public his response, as to whether he will grant those powers.	
	3	If Mr Swinney has said the door is open, to discuss autonomy, SIC leadership need to seize this moment, and ask for more power. Hold him to account, to see if he is genuine or not, on this issue.	
250828 19:30	Yes	Yes	
250828 19:32	Yes	Yes	
	1	If we could keep the money made in Shetland (oil/windfarms/fishing) we could be independent.	
	2	Stop wasting money on trying to impress folk outside Shetland. Spend the money on what really matters to Shetland. Tunnels is a good example of that.	
	3	I don't trust John Swinney enough to allow it to happen. He's a politician he's telling us what we want to hear.	
250828 19:54	Yes	No	
	1	Shetland would thrive much better as part of an independent Scotland. The current system delivers most of Shetland's resources to Westminster and our MP seems quite happy for that to continue.	
250828 20:20		No	
	1	I think Shetland needs support from mainland Scotland . We are too small with a fragile economy to survive alone.	
	2	No I'm not in favour of. Time and energy would be better spent making use of the powers we do have.	
250828 20:39	Yes	No	
	1	Autonomy would possibly work if the right people were in place to make decisions but if that was the current Councillors, it would be disastrous.	
	2	Shetland is better being managed by the Scottish Government.	
250828 20:40	No	Yes	
	1	The people on Shetland know better their problems and the solutions for these	
	2	Independence	
	3	Yes-give back the power/decisions to the people!	
250828 20:42	Yes	No	
	1	Unfortunately quango counsellors who've had their hands in the sweetie tin can never be trusted. When people think it's ok to spend hard working taxpayer's money so irresponsibly do not deserve any control. No one up here is fitting for such a role, to much money mismanagement and to many freemasons in the council.	
	3	I think there should be full audit investigation into how this council has spent every bit of taxpayers money over the decades.	
250828 20:49	Yes	Yes	
	1	I would like us to have more power to protect Shetland's landscape, to get the planning powers needed to prevent big multinational companies from just exploiting our natural resources for their own profit, with no consideration for our future. I really think it's just so wrong that there are people here who cannot afford to adequately heat their homes while corporations are being paid constraint payments. If Shetland had had autonomy over those decisions, maybe the wind power could have been harnessed in a much more gradual and equitable way that would have had real benefit to our community. A stop on further development that is not to the direct benefit of Shetland should be a bare minimum.	

	2	I'm not sure how I feel about "much more power". I'd need a better understanding of what this really meant. So much already seems to have been handed over to corporate or individual ownership that I wonder if we could actually afford the cost of "much more powers". I would like to see what this meant - what initial and future funding arrangements would look like and what tax and income options there might be. Before we take on more power we would really need to be sure that we could deliver what Shetland needs better than we can now, otherwise there's no benefit. I also feel strongly that we'd need to be making Shetland a fair place to live, that we'd need to be making sure that everyone can afford a good standard of living here. If it only benefits those who are already well off, I'd be very much against it.
250828 20:57	No	Yes
250828 20:57	Yes	Not sure
	1	Im not sure the Council in its current composition and form is up to the task and i think they actually do realise that, hence the lack of engagement. We need a better calibre of councillor. A strategy to achieve this would need to be devised - methods might be a much higher salary in line with senior private sector management. Perhaps targeting recently retired private sector workers. We need to have access to professional outside help to guide decisions too. There is no way we can expect the current lot to be able to navigate some of the complex issues they face. The Statkraft issue was a case in point. Shambles of a deal negotiated by folk out of their depth and with no perspective on the situation.
	2	We need to get our own house in order first. Get the right leadership, better councillors and maybe a secondary private sector 'sounding board' as well as outside professional help. You are looking at a 5-10 yr project, and that's after the decision to do it being taken. In reality it's never going to happen. We can forget it. We don't have the vision. Large swathes of the working population are passive to the situation.
	3	Shetland is really up against it at this present time. We are being shafted by the energy sector while our landscape is being ruined. Our fishing industry is in slow but steady decline, transport links are terrible, comms such as phone signals are terrible and the population is in decline. We are at the centre of a whole range of economic activity but we are mere spectators to it. Our economy is hot with various work on the go and we will always see a decent level of economic activity here but we are really a shell of what we could be. We are equipped to only wither, not prosper and that is also due to a very poor Scottish Government.
250828 20:58	Yes	Yes
250828 21:07	Yes	Yes
	1	A body need onnly look at Faroe an hoo de ir - in nearly ivvry wye - decades aheid o wis. Infrastructure, traivel ithin an ootwith da country, industry, commerce, government, language, public art. Gyaan dere on holiday is maed me realise hoo muckle Shetland is bøn neglectit an hoo far ahint we ir compared wi dem. As dey say, "Da rivven sleeve hadds back da haand".
	2	I tink if da Scottish government can lippen tae be grantit permission tae hadd a referendum on Scottish independence bi Westminster, it wid be totally contradictory fir da Scottish government tae deny Shetland da sam - a referendum on Shetland independance. Wir cooncil is alreidy passed a motion tae explore mair autonomy - whit "actionable" steps ir dey ivver taen tae explore dis, an why irn we heard aboot dem? I tink you jüst hae tae aks da Scottish Government da question ootricht - "Can we hadd a election on Shetland independence, an wid you honour da result?" If da answer comes back "no", you cross dat brig whin you come til him. Da cooncil, if dey haed a gumption tae dø it, could send aff a letter ithin twartree days. Whit's stoppin dem?
	3	Da very warst wye o gyaan aboot ony o dis is tae ging by Stuart Hill's method o caasin public obstruction in ivvry wye he possibly can. He is maed a complete fül o himsel ivver fae he ebbit up in Shetland. If he wis geen aboot his campaign in a sensical, unobstuctive mainner he micht a gotten mair suppoart. He could even be richt aboot Scotland haein nae claem tae aanin Shetland (I dunna ken enyoch aboot constitutional laa, bit da possibeelity laekly is dere), bit even if he is, nae sizeable portion o da Shetland population will ivver gie him da time o day wi da onkerry he's caased fae day wan.
250828 21:14	Yes	No
	1	I do not believe the current councilors have the knowledge or skills to manage Shetland with the current powers. Additional powers can only increase the risk of further mismanagement. Shetland has a limited pool of people willing to manage Shetland and that means people a smaller talent pool.

250828 21:43	Yes	Yes
1	The wishes of people who live in Shetland appear to be ignored by the Scottish and UK Governments when considering major developments such as windfarms and aquaculture. I am not a supporter of independence for Scotland. I am coming round to the view that independence from Scotland is the only way that proper account can be given to the views of people who live in Shetland. Mr.Swinney is simply wrong when he says Shetland is part of Scotland. By that token, Scotland is part of the United Kingdom.	
2	The question should read 'power'. Shetland needs to be allowed to explore being given the same kind of status as the Isle of Man, the Channel Islands etc. as well as the Faroese model. This will only achieved by councillors being open about their political affiliations and giving up the present sham of pretending party politics having no place in the SIC. The time scale is impossible to predict. If Swinney is sincere in what he has said, the 9 remaining months of his time in office would be insufficient to make any real progress. Whether the SNP will still be in government after the election is anybody's guess. It is not clear whether any of the other major parties would support a move towards greater independence for Shetland. It is hard to avoid the conclusion that Ms.Goodlad's efforts will get no further than her father's Shetland Movement did 40 years ago. Even if there is a sustained political will for much more power to be given to Shetland, it would likely take at least 20 years to achieve the end state.	
3	This is political posturing by the SNP in another attempt to sway public opinion in Shetland. Let's hope Stuart Hill will run for Sovereign Shetland in the Holyrood election. I don't agree with his views but at least he appears to be genuine. Ms.Goodlad's views appear to align more with those of the "back to Norrova" brigade rather than those of Scottish separatists. As one correspondent put it, she's in the wrong party.	
250828 22:00	Yes	Yes
1	The current situation has us ruled by the incompetent and corrupt hundreds of miles away that don't give a flying fuck for Shetland.	
2	Full independence now	
250828 22:13	Yes	Yes
1	We have been mistreated and robbed of oil revenue.fishing areas by UK and Scottish governments.	
2	Give us planning control over all new windfarms. Give us the money from the Crown Estate to fund projects in Shetland.	
3	We are being paid less money from the Viking windfarm than many smaller farms on Orkney and the Western Isles. We should have the cheapest electricity in the UK.	
250828 22:32	Yes	Yes
1	Decisions made locally are more accountable and more likely to be in the interests of local folk	
2	Using the islands act	
250828 22:52	Yes	Yes
1	Present set up gives us no control of our natural resoures , wind , fish etc	
2	Proably only with complete self goverment and im afarid that although being given a second chance with wind power we have missed the boat again as we did with oil . Best way at the moment is for Shetland to become SNP	
3	The present political leadership is weak and needs to be replaced with people who will stand up and declare thier political convictions / become shetland nationalist .	
250828 22:55	Yes	Yes
1	Other island groups are able to govern themselves and seem to be doing much better than Shetland is doing	
2	The SIC, and the rules governing the operation of UK local councils, must be replaced by a fit for purpose organisation which holds the powers required to turn Shetlands fortunes around	
3	Shetland cannot afford not to take control of its own affairs. It faces a long slow death at the hands of British and Scottish rule	
250828 22:59	Yes	Yes
1	In order to truly achieve genuinely representative democracy, it's absolutely vital that local communities get to decide how societal affairs are run. Decentralisation and devolution are the best ways to put the power in the hands of the people who live somewhere.	

2	<p>I think it was definitely a huge mistake to initiate the formation of Police Scotland. It used to be that Scotland's police organisations operated on a regional basis, with eight different forces, and the power for local criminal justice would lie in the hands of those in the North of Scotland. But now it's all in the large urban areas of the Central Belt. That's completely the opposite of what devolution is supposed to be. Now, the power over the local police services in Scotland is much further away from home than it used to be. This has resulted in almost 1,000 fewer police officers today (07/05/2025) than at the formation of Police Scotland. New figures reveal there were 16,553 full-time equivalent (FTE) police officers in Scotland on 31 March 2025, compared to the first quarter in 2013 when Police Scotland was formed (17,496). The Scottish Police Federation has previously said that the service has been "asset stripped and basically used as a cash cow".</p>	
3	<p>Yes, I honestly thought that John Swinney's visit to Shetland was extremely disingenuous and unimpressive. As the First Minister of Scotland, he should know all about the appalling state of affairs when it comes to lifeline ferry services. The fact that he is now "dumbfounded" with the sudden realisation that customers can't book after the 31st of December really just makes it clear to everyone how insanely out of touch he is with what things are like with the North Link experience. Beatrice Wishart has raised this issue multiple times before now, to which Fiona Hyslop responded with alarming condescension and coldly put her foot down to the requests being made by Wishart around reintroducing shared cabins and setting up a rolling booking system. If Swinney really didn't know about what's been happening, then the only conclusion to draw from his disgraceful ignorance is that he has not been listening. He came up here in an attempt to boost local SNP fortunes. Instead, it now seems that things are now looking even worse for Hannah Mary Goodlad. I find it extraordinary that she says she wants to change the way Shetland is being represented externally, but she's standing with the same party that has governed us at the Holyrood level for the past 18 years. You really can't present yourself as the change candidate when you openly express support for keeping the status quo. Besides, it's unbelievably hypocritical for Swinney to talk about how much he firmly believes in the decentralisation of power, when he has spent two decades at the heart of a big centralised government that has stripped local control of public services and it's clear that real-terms funding for local government has dipped by 20% since 2013, on his watch. I'm certainly not falling for his two-faced, manipulative claptrap. If Mr. Swinney was really as serious about fixing the problems in peoples' lives as he so proudly claims to be, then we wouldn't have to be dealing with this sticky situation, after they had 18 years to sort things out. But it's only gotten worse since 2007, which is why I certainly don't trust anything that the First Minister has got to say about autonomy. He hasn't got a clue.</p>	
250828 23:35	Yes	Yes
250828 23:52	Yes	No
1	Can't manage what they have to deal with now	
250829 00:31	No	Yes

1	<p>Shetland has deep historical roots with Norway, and it was never legally part of Scotland when it was pawned as part of a dowry for the daughter of the Danish King in 1468-69, so that his daughter could marry King James III of Scotland. Both the Shetland Isles and Orkney Isles were pawned, not actually sold to Scotland. Despite Edinburgh being 400 miles further south and London 800 miles away Shetland is centrally controlled by both the UK Government and Scottish Government, neither of whom have Shetlanders' interests at heart.</p> <p>The island does have strong cultural, family and linguistic ties with Norway. Bergen is closer to the north of the Shetland Isles than northern mainland Scotland. However, Brexit (which I understand because UK folk wanted to have control over their money, laws and borders), and the up-coming ETIAS Visa Waiver programme for all Schengen countries (including Norway) means that a hard border between Shetland and Norway is about to become harder. Shetlanders with a history will not be given an ETIAS if Schengen border authorities (FRONTEX) consider them a threat, and that will preclude such folk from visiting friends and family living in Norway. Brexit has soured relationships between the UK Government and continental Europe (including Scandinavia) because of the manner in which it has been executed, even though it is perfectly understandable and justifiable for the citizenry to want control over money, laws and borders.</p> <p>Shetland could proclaim that it wants more autonomy in it's own right, to be considered in the manner that the Isle of Man is (in relation to the UK, i.e., not actually part of the UK but in the Common Travel Area and a Crown Dependency). That would mean the Shetland Isles is free from the UK and Scottish Governments and it could be free to join Schengen, just be part of the EEA, or otherwise try to foster closer ties with Norway (i.e., reciprocal movement of people's from Norway to Shetland and vice-versa, though Norway's hands are tied by being in Schengen they could be persuaded to treat Shetlanders favourably). With autonomy from Scotland and the UK, a Shetland government could foster links with Norway, Denmark and the Faeroe Islands if they wished, and make Norwegian compulsory from Primary school. Shetlanders would be free to use their resources to cut tax to attract wealth and investment, to become rich like the Isle of Man.</p>
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2 Shetlanders and their local council could arrive at autonomy and strengthening ties with Norway through a proposition by Shetland Island Council (SIC) that this is what is best for Shetland and making the strong case for it. The Economic argument needs to be overcome first, though Shetland is firstly blessed with Oil/ Gas off-shore and a growing Renewable Energy business. With a lower tax and business-friendly government it could boom. It is also a fantastic tourist destination that has been put on the map by the TV Detective series "Shetland". Shetlanders do have strong, historic and cultural ties to Norway so they could be persuaded that fostering closer links to Norway and trying to dismantle the need for an ETIAS to travel there is positive for Shetland. Shetland could become a quasi-independent part of Norway like Spitsbergen (outside of Schengen, even though part of Norway) which means Shetland could adopt the Norwegian Krona as currency.

Under both the Scottish and UK Governments lawlessness has been allowed to increase, there are no real punishments for yobs that are increasingly proliferating and are even now found in the Shetland Isles! Uncontrolled immigration into the UK, that Brexit was supposed to stop, has continued unchecked and- as part of the UK- Shetland will have no means of turning away Islamic extremists when they eventually get this far north. But are arguments for going it alone, so that Shetlanders have control over anti-social behaviour, and incomers from lands hostile to local interests- and can deter it as they see fit. An independent Shetland could even decide they need corporal punishment back in schools and administered by the Police to miscreants if that is what they wish.

These arguments need to be made strongly to Shetlanders, then the local Government needs to get behind it. There are clear benefits for Shetland to be out of the grip of UK and Scottish Governments, as well as risks. What standing does an Independent Shetland have in the currency and Bond Markets- this is helped by having resources at the outset and policies that foster growth. They need to outline the case that Shetland was not legally part of Scotland from 1469.

Once local folk and government can get support for such changes, it is then to the practicalities of how to bring it about if neither the UK or Scottish Government acquiesce. They could be persuaded to let a legally-binding referendum take place, this should be tried over a few years. But if that does not happen, what then? It may be worth persuading the Norwegians to step in with regard to the legal rights Scotland (and by extension, the UK) has to keep hold of territory that never actually belonged to them in the first place (they may not want to get involved). The UK Supreme Court could be appealed to, and if that fails the International Court of Justice (ICJ) can be appealed to on the legal territorial status of the Shetland Islands.

The process of persuading Shetlanders of autonomy, then trying to get permission for a Referendum to cement the legal claim would take a decade. During this time, Shetlanders would be persuaded of the merits of breaking from the UK and forging closer ties with Scandinavia- easier access to places with proper winters, skiing, the Northern Lights, wonderful culture and music- like from Staysmann and Vassendguttane, beautiful people that are well-mannered and respectful, who still set store on strong communities, homes and families. During this time, articles extolling the virtues of setting Shetland free, to be more like the Isle of Man, lobbying politicians has to be consistent and vigorous.

Only after this time might it be necessary to think about how to free Shetland more forcefully from the UK. Perhaps by appealing to the block of five Nordic nations- Norway, Sweden, Finland, Iceland and Denmark to put pressure on the UK and Scottish Governments to "Let Shetland Go"- and getting them to impose sanctions and tariffs to allow Shetlanders to have a Legally-binding Referendum. But we are talking about 25 years before Shetlanders reach for such a solution.

	3	Yes, I have been to Orkney and I have been to Shetland- once. It's Nordic place-names like Solheim and cultural fixtures such as Up Helly Aa show that Shetland is unique, beautiful and- I would assert- needs to be protected from the moral decline and deterioration towards lawlessness in the UK as a whole. That protection is only guaranteed if Shetland can be afforded a degree of autonomy. As one who has been to Norway several times in my life, and been brought up in northernmost England - and lived over fifty years there and witnessed the societal decline- I know which country I would recommend Shetland to be aligned to in 2025, and not just out of geographical proximity. Not that I am not patriotic about England, but it is run by a government that favours incomers over the English (and Scottish), presides over a break down in law and order and has brought the country close to Bankruptcy. Norway has a Sovereign Wealth Fund, and has a Patriotic Government (which encourages "Syttende Mai") which deports those who have no right to be in Norway.
250829 05:50		Yes
	1	Yes
	1	Island communities with the ability to make important local decisions tend to be more successful economically than Shetland. For example the Faroe Islands and the Aland Islands.
	2	The people of Shetland have to decide what powers should be exercised in Shetland and then the council needs to act on that and engage with the Scottish government to get them transferred.
	3	Stop pleepsin and start doing!
250829 06:39		Yes
		Not sure
	1	It sounds good in theory, but all my life I've been shocked at how bad the SIC decision makers are at doing their job. Usually a lot of talk and money wasting, followed by an inconclusive or watered down result. Certain
	2	I'm not knowledgeable enough to answer this. I think certain issues would be better decided here, rather than us trying to fit with the rules for mainland Scotland. For instance, since waste can be used to heat the town, should we be shipping tonnes of plastic off the Isles for recycling?
	3	My fear is that with the current system of council decision making, we would be disastrous if given more autonomy. Perhaps a system of frequent local referendums would help.
250829 06:41		Yes
		No
	1	Shetlanders would make a mess of it. Look at the state of the SIC and decision making in general here. A joke
250829 06:57		Yes
		Yes
	1	Because central government suck and Westminster are colonising war mongers
	2	Devolved powers like we see in Holyrood but smaller scale. Funding still coming largely from central govt
250829 08:01		Prefer not to say
		Yes
	1	Edinburgh has no interest in Shetland and is forcing a cultural identity on the Islands that is foreign.
250829 09:11		Yes
		No
250829 09:12		Yes
		Yes
	1	National norms do not fit well on very different areas in Scotland with contrasts from urban central belt to remote islands. Having significantly more autonomy would let us prioritise what is most important for our long term social and economic benefit.
	2	Very difficult to answer. Depends on what central government is prepared to give and the capacity of the local council to receive. Overall I favour a federal structure for the UK , and perhaps a 'sub-federal' status might work for us. We may need a local 'autonomy party' not linked to any of the current political parties
	3	Needs to be serious attempt to get the views of residents. Must be a validated independent process not aligned to any pressure group or party
250829 09:38		Yes
		Yes
	1	We as Shetlanders know our islands better than anyone else, we understand better, the issues which affect us locally than anyone not living here.

	2	Yes, the current political set up isn't working anymore, this is locally, devolved and the English dominated Westminster. We should look towards Norway as a template for how we should govern ourselves, that would show us the way forward, or look to how Faroe is run and Governed	
250829 09:51	Yes	Yes	
250829 09:55			
250829 10:41	No	No	
	1	<p>Although autonomy for Shetland, at some as yet undefined level, may appear to be an attractive proposition, there are many potential adverse outcomes from pursuing it. Some of those are listed below as examples.</p> <p>Shetland's economy is predominantly based on fisheries and aquaculture, with a small but still significant contribution from the declining sector of hydrocarbons transfer.</p> <p>This leads to economic fragility, fluctuations, and vulnerability to external shocks in the market for fish, Shetland's economic base. If fragility, fluctuations and vulnerability leads to significant downturn or collapse in international markets for fish due to global influences, and Shetland has decided autonomy is the way forward, how will they cope with the economic difficulties that result?</p> <p>Shetland has a small and aging population which means it has limited human and financial resources that are insufficient to fulfil requirements for essential functions such as health, social care, education, police, fire, coastguard, fisheries protection, energy infrastructure, communications infrastructure, and transport infrastructure, not to mention defence, international relations and national infrastructure. How does the pro-autonomy lobby propose these functions will be provided, financed and operated?</p> <p>Autonomy can lead to isolation from international networks that facilitate access to trade agreements and legal frameworks. This can result in domination by international financial institutions, and developments that are not in the best interests of a small autonomous island group.</p>	
	3	<p>There are many pitfalls in seeking to become big fish in an inconsequential pond, not least political inexperience that leads to a belief that things could be much better under local control when that rarely turns out to be the case.</p> <p>Much better to seek to overturn the foolish decision narrowly taken to leave the EU. Just as a matter of interest, how has that turned out for everyone?</p>	
250829 11:23	Yes	Yes	
	1	Locally focused government on Shetland issues, not central belt focused	
	2	<p>Current political set up is focused on central belt problems, local councillors, mainly independent need to drive the focus of the council rather than relying upon non elected officials whose experience is driven by major political parties.</p> <p>Councillors need training in how to govern.</p>	
	3	<p>Council employees and non elected officials governed by COSLA a Labour driven central belt driven organisation. Shetland needs to review what of its guidelines are applicable to Shetland and those that are harmful, and replace the harmful.</p>	
250829 11:39	Yes	No	
	1	The SIC cause enough problems without giving them more powers	
250829 12:00	Yes	Yes	
	1	<p>Westminster and Holyrood are clueless about local issues that matter to local people.</p> <p>Centralisation clearly doesn't work.</p> <p>How can Scotland want more autonomy but not grant it to its own councils especially those in island communities so far off and a 2nd thought for those in big cities.</p>	
	2	<p>Make Shetland a crown dependant or its own devolved governments.</p> <p>Transfer various powers in a staggered approach over the next 4 years.</p>	

	3	If this is to happen shetland council needs much more scrutiny as they are burning through money without bringing more in. The oil money won't last for ever and if you transition to wind farms and don't reap the benefits from it then more local powers is pointless as it will just bankrupt shetland. Tho the whole UK I'd on oath to bankruptcy.	
250829 12:09	Yes	Yes	
250829 12:10	Yes	No	
	1	Look at the mess the council makes of things already , spending money to bolster their delusions of grandeur and believing all the crap that the incoming carpetbaggers spout .	
250829 12:43	Yes	Yes	
	1	The Scottish Govt has clearly been failing Shetland for decades now. The decisions take clearly show a total lack of understanding of the Islands issues and needs.	
	2	It is absolutely vital that the organisation elected to look after Shetlands interest be completely independent of the SIC. The SIC will still be needed to provide the excellent services it already does, but must not be involved in the political running of the islands.	
	3	It is clear Shetland has the talent and skills necessary to make this work. Although on a much smaller scale, the work done in Yell by the North Yell Development Council with it's windfarm and the community benefits it brings is a clear example of this. Having spent some time with relatives in North Yell, I think the wider community should be aware of everything the organisation provides for it's residents. Free meals, free busses to event, free swimming lessons for children, payments towards winter fuel bills, the list goes on and on. The whole of Shetland could have this as well, and more.	
250829 13:08	Yes	Yes	
	1	Place based policies and solutions to place based issues makes most sense. One size fits all kinds of policies, imposed from far away, never succeed.	
250829 14:12	Yes	Yes	
	1	I believe decentralisation of some authority and control would benefit the people of Shetland.	
	2	I think it would be interesting to explore how other island communities have structured their political and economic structures and "borrow" systems that have worked elsewhere i.e. Faroe and the Isle of Man etc. I imagine a transition over a fairly lengthy period- perhaps 10 years to a much more autonomous level of self-government.	
	3	This progression would involve a radical shake up of the current local council authority system however that would need to be alongside retaining substantive contact with the NHS.	
250829 15:00	Yes	Not sure	
	1	I think Shetland should have more powers, but I would not trust the present council with them.	
	2	Yes, I think Shetland should have much more power, but this should not be given to the current council. We need it to go to an organisation that actually represents the people of Shetland, not just the elite. People who see the bigger picture, for the whole of Shetland, the people and the environment. Not a group who want to sell Shetland off for promises of money and "jobs" which will destroy the environment and be of no benefit to Shetland.	
250829 15:27	Yes	Yes	
250829 15:44	Yes	No	
	1	In my opinion the record of S.I.C. does not give me confidence that they could positively handle more autonomy.	
250829 19:36	Yes	Yes	
	1	Logic Community spirit	
	2	Not a clue but hopefully reasonably soonr	
250829 22:39	Yes	Yes	

1	<p>I believe Shetland is a distinct cultural entity from the rest of Scotland, with a different history and identity. I believe that should be able to be reflected in our education policy, not that we would ditch Scottish qualification, but that we could have the freedom to teach our own history, literature and have the freedom to teach neighbouring Nordic languages instead of French.</p> <p>The great power is of course the power of the purse. If Shetland were to be given the North Sea oil royalty currently sent to Westminster, we could be financially independent, but I don't know if we could handle it. I don't know if we have the competence to run a micro state, but then... does Qatar? A population of our size is much smaller than Malta, Iceland or Qatar. We might not be financially dependant on the rest of the UK, but we would still be medically and educationally dependant. Shetland couldn't attract the number of specialists we have access to by being part of the UK. Shetland wouldn't have a university or college set-up that could train many of the functions we need in a micro-state. Shetland would also be at the back of the queue, somewhere behind Vanuatu, when it comes to negotiating visa-free travel to the UK, the EU or other regions.</p>	
2	<p>I don't know if I am in favour of much more powers, but if we are talking about a Crown Dependency style of government, we would have to negotiate with London. The most John Swinney can do is delegate some Scottish matters to Shetland but only Westminster can carry out constitutional change if we are to be anything more than a municipality in Scotland. The crown dependency model exists.</p>	
3	<p>There is a group that thinks Shetland is culturally Scandinavian and should "do a Faroe" and forge a local Nordic identity with the dialect upgraded to a language and begin (or maybe realign) our political and cultural life to look towards Copenhagen and Oslo instead of London and Edinburgh. To this group I would say that some form of home rule could promote this, but your mind is free. We are the descendants of the Norwegians that lived here before the pawning. We don't need any other excuse to connect with our ancestral homeland. We don't need home rule to learn to speak Norwegian when we have DuoLingo. The internet means we can already look to Oslo and Copenhagen for political inspiration. We can buy books, subscribe to digital newspapers and stream Nordic cultural output right here in Shetland. It has never been as easy as it is today, to be the Nordic minority in Shetland. We were pawned in 1468. Other national minorities have survived on foreign soil just as long. The Armenians in Istanbul, the German minority in Copenhagen, the Swedes in Finland and the Sami in northern Norway.</p>	
250830 07:47	Yes	Yes
1	<p>Shetland is unique not only in its physical distance from mainland Scotland but also in its culture, lifestyle and living expenses. Central government does not work well for communities at a distance like us. Unfortunately Shetland has fallen into the trap of being a so-called energy hub, which means it (land and people) will be used and abused for the Green agenda. But there is still time if only the council were not so single minded as to believe they can recreate the glory days of oil.</p>	
2	<p>If more powers were to be given to Shetland then there would need to be an independent body or group to manage the transition; it could not and should not be left in the hands of the council.</p>	
250830 10:59	Yes	Yes
1	<p>The exponential rate of ecological destruction in Shetland has to stop. Only by becoming autonomous will this be possible.</p>	
2	<p>Have no idea.</p>	
3	<p>If more powers are given then SIC has to be drastically changed. From it's current private-members club, to one of total transparency, with every resident voting on all decisions.</p>	
250830 12:07	Yes	Yes
1	<p>Limit the number of independent councillors. What's wrong with party politics? What are they afraid of? Without any discernable groupings to push back. then the agenda and direction just comes from SIC, which is really unaccountable. Having so many independents is not healthy for a democratic system.</p>	
250830 13:06	Yes	Yes
1	<p>We should have more autonomy over our actions, we should not be stifled by generic politicians used to governing the mainland as they do not have the skills, expertise or knowledge of island life. They do not understand what we need and how we need it or even why in some cases.</p>	
2	<p>We as Shetland elect an interim government that works in conjunction with the Scottish government.</p> <p>Doesn't need to be massive and it can slot in and work within the current local government.</p>	

	3	I think regardless of how you feel about independence (which I am not advocating for) whether that's from Scotland or with Scotland but from the United Kingdom. It's important that we as islanders have a say in how we are governed and in the current political climate we do not have that. People that send in issues with education, health or other local and political issues are ignored and treated like idiots rather than being addressed by those who we elected.	
250830 15:41		Yes	No
	1	It's a case of be careful what you ask for. What powers does this community need? Carrying the power could easily lead to responsibility for delivery including duty to pay for what we seek. Getting more powers will not a one way street.	
	2	Good question. I look forward to hearing views from others.	
250830 16:51		Prefer not to say	Yes
	1	Scotland has always made a mess of running Shetland and always will. From the truck system, to the Scottish courts failing to understand udal land holding, to currently failing to provide tunnels and bridges and selling it off to the highest bidder for wind farms, it is time to leave the incompetent, self-serving and often bullying Scots behind.	
	2	Either follow the autonomous, self governing route of other islands like the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands or increase contact with Norway and suggest to them that they offer voluntary Norwegian citizenship to residents of Shetland as dual citizenship. In time, Shetland will probably become majority Norwegian, and then returning to Norway, one of the richest countries in the world with the highest standard of living, becomes too difficult for any government to resist. Its also a peaceful and voluntary way of doing it. Many of us are ethnically Norwegian and don't look Scottish anyway.	
	3	I would rather Shetland became part of Norway again but failing that, an autonomous self governing island Crown dependency would be better than the status quo.	
250830 18:56		Yes	Yes
	1	The SNP run Scotland (badly) in the interests of their power base in the Central Belt. They have no interest in islands/other rural areas other than some votes every few years.	
	2	Control of natural resources, oil, renewables, fisheries etc. Less important but symbolic would be the removal of Gaelic, a language not spoken in Shetland, from police cars, fire engines etc.	
250830 19:43		Yes	Yes
	1	Shetland needs more powers to achieve a good result for the people of Shetland, Westminster and the hollyrood governments have consistently let Shetland down especially on fishing related matters.	
	2	No it cannot be achieved in the current political setup, we need to be able to make up our own policies especially where fishing and other business is concerned, we are dictated to far too much.	
	3	Shetland has become a slave to the Scottish government since the Scottish parliament was set up. The way they are enforcing their strategy on the people of Shetland is ridiculous, most of the native Shetland people know the history of the Scottish Lairds of the past, it's not much better now.	
250830 20:03		Yes	No
	1	I have seen the SIC inappropriately spend money over the years and it would worry me for them to have more powers.	
250830 21:26		Yes	Yes
	1	Shetland folk are never listened to by political folks on the mainland. Never getting any help for transportation, shetland should look to Faroe or scandinavian countries fir inspiration and what we could and should have	
	2	Declare shetland an independent agent.	
250830 21:29		Yes	Yes
	1	Council's need to be given more control over what is done in their area. Shetland is also unique in its heritage and separte from the rest of scotland. The best wag to protect and preserve this is with greater autonomy. We have the economic output to sustain it too.	

	2	I honestly dont know. When you have a UK government that arent very willing to budge on anything constitutionally, its hard to see the point. I'd like to see the scottish government decentralising police and emergency services in the short term, give local councils more say in local infrastructure projects - such as big wind farms. Swinney seemed to be impressed by GARTH and the NYDC, this would be great if it was applied nationally.	
250830 23:40		Yes	Yes
	1	I think more power should be surrendered to the people of Shetland, not necessarily too Shetland Islands Council. We could have a radical democracy of egalitarian, networks of local cooperative communities. In other words, real democracy.	
	2	Really I think it's something we practice together rather than wait for 'authorities'.	
	3	This seems essential for the times we're in. Western-style 'democracy' is not there opposite of fascism as we're seeing so clearly. Furthermore, the climate and other crises mean we need to be much more resilient than hierarchy allows. Real freedom and equality is possible.	
250831 13:13		Yes	No
	1	Because the type of people that put themselves forward for that type of positions in Shetland couldn't run a bath let alone an entire group of islands.	
	2	Some but limited	
250831 21:21		Yes	Yes
250831 22:18		Yes	No
250901 03:19		Yes	Yes
	1	Shetland has done much to support the SNP's cry for independence, I remember when oil was booming the growth in SNP support matched this with claims of "our oil" being the nationalist call to arms. Yet if the historical realities were understood a very large part of this oil was in waters illegally annexed by Scotland. Scotland joining into the union of the UK was voluntary, Shetland joining Scotland was not. Yet the SNP ignore this historical reality to suit their xenophobic power grab.	
250901 08:42		Yes	No
	1	We need the security being part of the UK brings. And that means defence, the NHS services, education, ferries and benefits. Brexit has not improved Britain. I don't think various degrees of 'Shexit' will improve life for Shetlanders. It's a romantic notion, not practical. What would Putin want? It leaves us more vulnerable	
250901 08:48		Yes	Yes
	1	Local knowlege Central belt thinking is irrelevant to Shetland	
	2	Would need a whole new set of councillors elected. Also a charter /set of rules to keep it all in check. Years and years	
	3	Shetland is just Scotland in minature. Scotland ruled by far away Westminster who have no interest (except tax revenue) in the place. Shetland ruled by far away Holyrood who have no interest (except tax revenue) in the place. If the councillors had a smidge of common sense about them thay would be pushing for similar status as Guernsey,Jersey and Isle of man.	
250901 10:00		Yes	Yes
	1	Conditional on a huge change in local government i.e. local income tax , end council tax , halve the never of councillors , ramp up community councils and halve their numbers. Compulsory training to 'pass' knowledge on legislation, finance and management before being allowed to to stand for Council.	
	2	5-10 years, but start with 2027 elections.	
	3	Re tax to find local taxation, national taxation would be halved, to allow flexibility on local income tax.	
250901 11:15		Yes	Yes

	1	I think alot of things going on in shetland is ridiculous electricity prices full prices and much more we work for all of it we built all of it why do we get none to very little of shetlands resources all to get nothing in return from the mainland
	2	I think if shetland actually had more power and more money it could easily turn around one of the biggest pandemics for this island and that's drugs there's no where near enough things to do or places to go for young kids teenagers and even adults no adult wants to spend there whole weekend drinking but that's all we get to do because there's nothing else for us to do if we had actual control maybe we could do something to tackle that and possibly see a complete turn in the drug epidemic
250901 11:48	Yes	No
	1	Because we do not have the pool of people in power with adequate knowledge to handle such a setup. If you look at what has been lost by weak council decisions over the past three decades alone it shows that the standard of people coming forward to represent shetlands governance to date are not getting the best deal for the people they represent. I am not saying that i would be any better at it but until that situation is resolved i think that it would be a foolhardy path to follow
	2	It takes a group of very forward looking brains with the skill and knowledge ofsenior management from a range of different business types to be able to sit around the table with senior politicians and negotiate what is best for shetland as a whole. Timescale = quite some time I think
250901 14:37	Yes	Not sure
	1	I am not convinced that local democracy is healthy enough. Is the SIC sufficiently representative or capable of handling additional power responsibly? I think the Council is too easily captured by vested interests. These reservations could be overcome by moving to a more participatory model of democracy eg Citizens Assemblies
250901 15:51	Yes	Yes
	1	We have the oil and the wind, yet we pay over the odds for our energy.
	2	We need to be a sovereign state.
	3	No
250902 00:33	No	Yes
	1	SIC is much better placed than central government to decide how available funding can be best spent.
	2	Limited additional powers, possibly related to health/education, should be tried first to assess the value of any additional authority, as well as the ability to effectively use or abuse this new freedom, before considering "much more power". This should be verified by a survey or even plebiscite of Shetland residents in association with SIC members
	3	These are the views of a non-resident, and should be treated with caution
250902 11:48	Yes	No
	1	The SIC can't even manage to run the island council properly so God help us if they took total control!
	2	.
	3	Maybe it's better to just focus on Scottish Independence: our common "itch that we can't scratch" is Westminster
250902 14:01	Yes	Yes
	1	We need more say over our own affairs
	2	Yes - over the lifetime of the next Scottish Parliament
	3	We may get autonomy from Holyrood We will never get autonomy from Westminster
250902 14:14	Yes	Yes
	1	Its time to leave Scotland and UK, who just keep blaming each other for both their incompetencies and lets become Scandinavian again before Holyrood and Westminster bleed us dry.
	2	As above

250902 14:18	Yes	Yes
1	We don't benefit from the oil fields, all those windmills are distorting our country and a total waste of money. The net zero projects is a money grab and totally unjustified by the climate scam. The fishing grounds will be destroyed if wind mills go up, the whales and sea life also. Our birds and wildlife suffering already. We have the highest energy bills when we sit on a huge oil field that could sustain us for 100s years with minimal destruction. The list is endless	
2	Considering there was a Magna Carta was issued years ago to the queen I think we have ample grounds to take control of our sovereignty. We the sovereign people have been abused by authority and fact systems for years. We have the right to take back our own sovereignty through Magna Carta. Even without that, we weren't actually properly part of Scotland let alone the uk, and we should actually be part of Norway if not taken out own sovereignty back, through treason committed by the royal family.	
3	We should have cheaper energy cheaper oil, cheaper gas, cheaper taxes. All because we make far more profit through oil and wind energy then the people actually use. It's a disgrace we got no benefits from the wind farm which is absolutely destroyed our land and wildlife. The uk don't care about us, so why should we care about what they think when we claim back our sovereign right.	
250902 14:20	Yes	Yes
1	We have to have more control over what happens here and not the government.	
250902 14:23	Yes	No
1	Because it is open to unchecked abuse, dialogue with neighbours is essential.	
250902 14:29	Yes	Yes
1	Scottish and British Giverment rest Shetland like 3rd class citizens keep making decisions that negatively effect our people and think they know what's best for us when they are never here	
2	Full control and rights to our fishing grounds Shetland waters= shetlander fishing not EU, The people of shetland should decide about the wind turbines and any other construction or the council recently has made decisions against the people to if there is autonomy we should revoke the entire council as many people have been displeased with the people in charge at the moment	
250902 14:33	Yes	Yes
1	Don't get enough support from Hollywood.	
2	By lobbying the UK parliament	
250902 14:37	Yes	Yes
1	The interests of Shetland and it's residents are not best served by Holyrood as they have repeatedly shown themselves to be out of touch with matters affecting anywhere outwith the Central Belt. Shetland's interests would be best served by having its own devolved adminstration who are familiar with the challenges unique to the location.	
2	As I understand it, "much more powers" are not in the gift of Holyrood so an approach to Westminster would be needed. As for timescales, hard to judge!	
250902 14:37	Yes	No
1	Current politicians seem to get nothing right. Autonomy will just give them more power to make a bigger mess of things.	
250902 14:38	Yes	No
1	Our councillors are already incompetent, don't let them have more power	
250902 14:38	Yes	No
1	More powers should be handed to Shetland BUT in its current form, Shetland fails hopelessly to demonstrate any clear management or strategy. Eg: investing in Israel 🇮🇱 ferry (inter island and to Aberdeen) are a disaster; wind farm development; fishing management. There is zero management capability due to an incredibly narrow minded short sighted approach unfortunately. Proof of this is simple: how many young people going to university actually return to Shetland? This was predictable 20 years ago.	
2	Ensure that not a single Shetland management team member is over the age of 40; remove the (chronic) nepotism; establish accountability and follow an Isle of Man governance system.	
3	The future for Shetland could be much brighter but not with the current and foreseeable management structure. It's appalling on every level.	

250902 14:56	Yes	Not sure
1	I feel that Shetland should have more ownership (and therefore power) over the energy produced in Shetland. I do not feel that we need more political power devolved to Shetland, but I would like to see more power devolved to Scotland (or Scottish independence).	
250902 14:58	Yes	Yes
250902 15:05	Yes	No
250902 15:12	Yes	Not sure
1	Depends on the powers, and who administers them. Current SIC has misused or not used the powers they have to benefit the people of Shetland.	
3	<p>Energy usage: SIC needs to stop electric companies from abusing Shetland. If we are going to supply power (electricity) to the rest of the UK, we should benefit from that directly in reduced energy bills. We should not be made dependent on UK energy supply via a cable through the North Sea.</p> <p>BP made the roads that make Shetland much easier to navigate. Big electric has destroyed the A96 and rides roughshod over our roads and scenery with its growing windfarms. SIC needs to take back control of our islands from control by big energy, and from the demands of London.</p>	
250902 15:16	Yes	Yes
1	Shetland currently has no say in big decisions. It's unethical and disheartening. Shetland is becoming a place many don't want to live.	
2	I'm not sure it can. I think the council need more power to make decisions and be allowed to say no to developments if it's not benefitting Shetland. However, the council then just listen to the population and follow the views of the people.	
3	Maybe we'd be better alone or with another entity than the Scottish government.	
250902 15:22	Yes	Not sure
250902 15:23	Yes	Yes
1	We have way too many government leaders telling us how we should live and operate having never been here. In a way we are more Nordic than traditionally British	
2	More autonomy to self govern	
250902 15:24	Yes	Yes
1	SNP (mainland Scotland) are failing us as islanders.	
2	<p>Fully control.</p> <p>Control cost of ferries, electricity tariffs and supply tariffs to mainland.</p>	
3	Islanders aren't respected enough for the sacrifice of green energy and wealth given to mainland Scotland and dealt a poor deal	
250902 15:25	Prefer not to say	Yes
1	Shetland has mega wealth and could be the Monaco of the north	
2	UK protectorate with shared protection and resources	
3	UK was up for it in 2020 when Boris wanted to come to Shetland to discuss it. SIC bottled it	
250902 15:25	Yes	Yes
1	We need control of our own waters and land which are being plundered to destruction out of our control. Sick of token gesture public consultations already set before hand by governments and energy companies.	
2	Don't know how best that can be achieved or which government can be trusted...if achieved each individual community area will need a voice equal to debate their needs like Faroe have for fairness.	
3	<p>I still think we should belong to Norway, they look after their own first and their lucrative precious fishing industry.</p> <p>The SNP have never helped Shetland only taken and rob us of our (oil, gas, wind, now sea and whats left of our heritage fishing grounds) and destroyed, cant be trusted until they prove themselves otherwise.</p>	
250902 15:28	Yes	Yes

	1	Noone other than islanders know what issues effect us and to what extent. Island life is completely different to mainland living and our needs are being neglected	
	2	Not sure. In theory we as islanders should have more control	
250902 15:31		Yes	Yes
	1	Because our local government, the SIC, is an almost completely moribund organisation. It seems powerless to act in the best interests of Shetland against large multinational companies such as SSE and Statkraft, to the point that senior councillors and council officers apparently put the interests of these companies first using lack of powers to do otherwise as the reason. Shetland has no control over our fishing grounds which are among the richest in the world: the SNP and UK governmental policy is to hand over a great part of these to offshore windfarms ignoring the disastrous effect it will have on our oldest and most sustainable industry as well as degrading the offshore environment for fish spawning and other wildlife. Also Shetland has no control over foreign vessels that are largely free to fish our waters and land fish without proper checks being carried out.	
	2	At the beginning of the oil era, Zetland County Council through Jo Grimond obtained from the Westminster government what was then unprecedented sweeping powers to control the arrival of the oil companies. The SIC has failed miserably to follow their example with the arrival of on and offshore wind - I guess it is a bolt an stable door job now. I think that there has to be a convention set up to hammer out what an autonomous Shetland would look like and exactly what powers is desirable and how it would be financed i.e. with or without present level of government subsidy for health, education, internal and external transport etc. Then when (or if) all interested parties agree that has to be put to a referendum in Shetland - if that is a yes vote then the UK government has to be approached.	
	3	Too seek autonomy I think Shetland has to join with Orkney as a joint project for both island groups. The goal would be a joint autonomous islands group. This would have the advantage of a population similar to that of Faeroe, and with a much broader economic base than just Shetland alone. An autonomous Shetland and Orkney would have much more chance of a prosperous success than just Shetland alone.	
250902 15:55		Yes	Yes
250902 15:58		Yes	No
	1	Council does not have the required skills or experience to run an autonomous "nation"	
250902 16:02		Yes	Not sure
	1	Shetland island council seem determined to destroy the rural communities and force everyone to live in Lerwick, Scalloway or Brea. And I would be concerned that is the council had more powers the damage they could inflict on the rural communities	
250902 16:30		Yes	Yes
	1	We need to have more control of our own spending so we can decide on ferries, tunnels etc. At the moment our local council is powerless. Mind you, we would need the right people in power here.	
	2	Maybe not "much more" powers but certainly more input.	
250902 16:39		Prefer not to say	No
	1	Need to get out of the clutches of the snp who take everything to Edinburgh and the central belt	
	2	We work better without the party lines	
250902 16:44		Yes	Yes
	1	Shetland economy is very different to the rest of Shetland. Local knowledge is very important to distribute the right funds to the most needed areas. However these 'powers' should be given to qualified Shetland people within the council, not someone with no suitable experience with major council decisions who may have 'fallen upwards' into a position.	
	2	Think if the powers were given, it should be after the next elections when the additional powers/responsibilities are explained. Also if a pay increase is also given, it then gives candidates with more qualifications/experiences a chance to submit if it's a big enough incentive to take them away from their current job.	
250902 16:54		Yes	Yes

250902 17:11	Yes	Not sure
1	Not sure I would trust those in charge to do the right thing	
2	Mandatory random selection of islanders to sit on any 'council' for a term, so that we have there is a wider knowledge and experience to ensure everyone is supported and heard	
250902 17:24	Yes	Yes
1	Transport both in and getting off the island is something that greatly affects the local population, and needs to be addressed.	
2	Don't know.	
250902 17:26	Yes	Yes
1	With the distance away from the mainland ,coupled with the distinct difference in culture brings needs that are not met by the one fits all system of local governance. Something along the lines of the IoM or the Channel Islands makes dar more sense	
2	The key areas would be autonomy over development, planning, and the ability for the governing body to raise money commercially for infrastructure projects. It would need an act of Parliament, but may be possible using the current special status quite quickly. SiC have some unique powers as it is.	
250902 17:28	Yes	Yes
250902 17:40	No	Yes
1	Scotland has never helped Shetland	
2	Go it alone or as a state of Norway	
250902 17:44	Yes	Yes
1	Hopefully Shetland would use powers to help Shetland	
3	Too much is happening to Shetland to benefit UK and not to help Shetland residents. We need cheaper transport to mainland, residents before tourists, better NHS facilities on Shetland, more housing, cheaper electric to help biggest heating bills in Uk.	
250902 17:48	Yes	No
1	Divisive and undermines the integrity of the Scottish nation.	
250902 17:50	Yes	Yes
1	The people of Shetland need to have more say in what goes on here. Viking Energy have destroyed our way of life, peace and quite and our environment! Really Badly! It's no Joy or Pleasure living here any more CERTAINLY DO NOT WANT THE TWO WINDFARMS PROPOSED FOR YELL. EITHER	
250902 17:55	Yes	Not sure
1	The current band of councillors will have to do alot better with regards to actually listening to those who elected them if they are going to be trusted to run Shetland autonomously	
250902 17:56	Yes	Yes
1	Because the SNP government at Holyrood is mad keen on centralising everything in a one-size-fits-all way - hence we lost our tourist information office. Having said that, our xouncil is only about fit to conduct county council business and couldn't cope with much more.	
2	See above - i am in favour of limited extra powers, not "much more!"	
250902 18:00	Yes	Not sure
1	Not all decisions in Shetland by SIC and other relevant bodies makes for much benefit to the Isles population. Outsiders always get much more consideration when major decisions are never listened to, and the local people treated with contempt. Unless Shetland can grow a backbone, they will never move forward, under their own rule.	
250902 18:24	Yes	No
1	The council seem incompetent and make poor decisions with what they have. I see no reason to give them more to mess up.	
3	We seem to reward the incompetent and lazy. We have some n credibly highly paid council workers who provide little to no value for money. I do not see how less accountability would help.	
250902 19:24	Yes	Yes

	1	Shetland has its own community, culture and revenue. Shetland should have more powers just like any local government should have more powers. Only people who live here should be our political leaders, because that is the only way to ensure that politics is aligned with the interests of local people. More power to local politicians means more power to the local community.	
	2	This could perhaps be achieved with local elections being held not just over who should lead us, but over any major decision that affects a lot of residents. An example of this, is the decision to allow Viking wind farm to build wind turbines across the north of Shetland. This has affected local residents with noise pollution and destroying the beauty of the natural landscape. Locals got no say in whether this should be built and also no benefits from energy being farmed in Shetland (such as discounts on energy). To me, more powers means more democracy. It does not mean those in charge get to rake in cash from large business ventures at the detriment of the local community they're supposed to serve.	
250902 20:10		Yes	No
	1	Because the council is a corrupt self serving shambles as it stands and more powers clear of central government would nearly compound this self serving attitude the Council has. They forget they are employed as public servants.	
250902 20:17		No	Yes
	1	I'm a Shetlander who lives in Kent, I've always thought Shetland should have a similar status as the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man.	
	2	I'd expect the changes could be agreed during this Parliament, by Westminster and Holyrood agreeing a plan to support the transition. I'd be worried though that Shetland doesn't have the Quality of Leaders to run the Islands. Too many people with too many fingers in too many pots.	
250902 20:27		Yes	No
	1	Interconnectedness is the way forward. Did we learn nothing from Brexit??	
250902 20:39		Yes	No
250902 20:49		No	Yes
	1	I believe we should make as many decisions at community level as possible, cascading things upwards to the appropriate level (local authority, region then country.).	
	2	We need to do this in the correct sequence. There needs to be a clear demand amongst Shetlanders for more autonomy and a clear understanding of what it is we actually want. Otherwise a few folk will make enough noise and we'll end up like the yes minister quote "something must be done, this is something, therefore we must do it" and we'll end up with some autonomous-lite offering which some civil servants dream up in a brain storming session. It needs to be more than a few famous faces mentioning it in the press when asked - it needs to be our settled will before we go lobbying for it. I feel there is a lack of education amongst the public as to what "much more powers" would look like. I feel there's a lot of prep work to do if we want to get autonomy right. Perhaps Shetland News could do a series on autonomy to educate us on how other semi and mostly autonomous island groups actually work - the nuts and bolts of it (do they run their own tax system, planning, education, health, defence, foreign affairs etc... what is delegated upwards to national level?). It would be nice to get to a point when this is a major campaigning point in council elections and something Shetlanders have considered and made up their minds on. This needs to become a mainstream topic for all Shetland folk to discuss, not the preserve of a few enthusiasts.	
	3	I'd reiterate that most of us largely don't know enough about how it all currently works to be particularly agitated about getting more powers. We need to educate ourselves on how much autonomy we currently have and how it's funded and controlled/constrained. Understanding the strength of the Shetland economy and how much we contribute to the Scottish and uk economy would also help give folk confidence.	
250902 20:57		Yes	Yes
	1	It's difficult to 'island proof' decisions taken centrally and that can lead to peripheral areas being disadvantaged. A Faroe/Denmark model would be healthier for Shetland. Ideally together with an independent Scotland.	

	2	Shetland would need to have its own democratically elected parliament. Change could realistically take place over the next election period. Confidence in our own abilities and strengths and forward thinking, together with strong partnership working with our closest neighbours would see a vibrant and inclusive Shetland ready to meet the challenges of the decades ahead.	
250902 21:01	Yes	Yes	
	1	given the crap end of the stick more and more while the powers in edinburgh do not care	
	2	more devolution	
250902 22:23	Yes	Yes	
	1	Because i believe shetland should have full control of its resources and be able to govern itself.	
	2	Yes i'm in favour of shetland getting full control. It could be done by shetland going indipendant or we could become a self gorenning territory of norway.	
250902 22:52	Yes	No	
	1	The council have already sold Shetland down the swannie. If they had more power they will only ruin Shetland even more than they already have done.	
250902 23:21	Yes	Not sure	
	1	Shetland should be returned to Norwegian ownership... Period.	
	2	Referendum to rejoin Norway.	
	3	Neither Westminster nor Holy rood will ever have our interests at heart, both just want to financially rape us for their own gain. Norwegian ownership is the ONLY way forward.	
250902 23:31	Yes	Yes	
	1	All local areas should have control of what's happening in their area.	
	2	I don't belive it's posible to a large degree in the current devolved political setup,	
	3	Independent Scotland is the best path to greater autonomy for all areas of Scotland.	
250903 05:40	Yes	Yes	
250903 06:55	Yes	Yes	
	1	We are unique culturally and only by living here can you understand the challenges of a small community and what we need.	
	2	For starters we need the power to let our community actually vote anf have a say over massive projects coming into our lands. And whether this would be good for us or not. And we need the scottish government to listen and respect the community. For they do neither at the moment.	
	3	I am deeply worried for us as a small community that we are becoming out of balance with the land we live on, and that decisions are being made on centralised greed. Not need.	
250903 07:20	Yes	Yes	
	1	If Scotland is ever going to be serious about rejoining the EU then Shetland needs to be autonomous. If isn't already independent it will get sold off as an asset for wind touters and Greenies.	
250903 07:42	Yes	Not sure	
	1	More local decision making should be a good idea in theory but I'm not sure Shetland has the political expertise to take these powers on board.	
250903 09:07	Yes	Yes	
	1	Residents of Shetland have limited control about how our island is managed. When we question the SIC's decisions, we are told that because of central and (perhaps worse still) Scottish Government they had no choice but to agree to whatever nonsense was decided. I have heard for myself the contempt that people from other areas of Scotland have for us, they view us negatively (say we are slow) and see our sland as a money making commodity. If we had had autonomy when oil was discovered, we would have been very rich indeed, and it's still not too late to do it and end bad decision making.	
	2	Realistically there is a need to pay for people to make those decisions for us.	

	3	It needs the 'right people' at the front of the idea. In Shetland reputation counts far more than in the likes of a city. We had a chance with the likes of John Graham but with Joe Grimmond as MP also being held in high esteem, the idea didn't succeed. Around 2 years ago the idea was flouted again but it was in my opinion very poorly led, otherwise it would have probably had more traction.	
250903 10:10	Yes	Yes	
	1	Not to Shetland but to Shetlanders. The people that live here are forced to live fork out a fortune on the "lifeline" services.	
250903 10:11	No	Yes	
	1	Centralized powers will never give proper consideration to a low population area. Shetland provides far more resources to the government than they get back in the way of services. By localizing power, the people can directly hold the elected officials responsible for how they proceed with policies. Historically, such arrangements always work better for the local population. There will be an increase in jobs and careers if Shetland is able to modify certain policies to benefit the economy.	
	2	Tax revenue raised in Shetland shall remain in Shetland. Set a deadline of 2 years where by the end of the timeframe Shetland will cease exporting taxes, Shetland will cease receiving services which those taxes have paid for. Shetland also ceases importing beaurocratic regulations. That gives Shetland 2 years to set up the new system, set up committees to review all current beaurocratic regulations- allow hearings for citizens to state if they think the regulations should be copied over unchanged or if it makes more sense to modify them I'm some way.	
	3	I was born in Lerwick. I went to school in Aith. I currently reside abroad but would strongly consider returning home to finish my career if Shetland gains sovereignty in local matters!	
250903 10:22	Yes	Yes	
	1	The best decisions are always made locally.	
	2	SIC runs a referendum next year of everyone over 16. More powers take effect from 1st Jan 2027.	
250903 10:34	Yes	Yes	
250903 10:40	Yes	Not sure	
	1	I'm not sure I trust the people who would make the decisions - some councillors get there seat as there is no opposition, not necessarily because they're the smartest people around. This makes me feel uneasy.	
250903 14:30	Yes	Yes	
	1	It's about time power was held in the hands of the people who live here	
	2	It won't be achievable with any of the governments in place, Shetland is too valuable and asset	
250903 14:31	Yes	No	
250903 15:19	No	Yes	
	1	A 75%-ish, city based, national authority is blind to the needs of remote, rural, island communities. They have their own, very different priorities. Their weight of numbers is used to impose their will on small communities, witness the imposition of giant wind farms and otherwise completely unnecessary transmission pylon lines imposed on small communities (throughout the Highlands and Islands), the imposition of vast offshore wind farms on rich fishing grounds, etc..	

2	<p>Q2. Only Westminster can grant Faroese-style autonomy. IMO, neither government will give anything unless the alternative is worse because they would lose much power over the area and its resources eg wind farm planning, oil revenue, taxation, etc..</p> <p>Thus, IMO, the best chance will be if Scotland votes Yes to independence while Shetland votes No, opening the door to negotiations with both sides.</p> <p>SIC policy is to pursue autonomy to Faroese levels and such a vote would mandate the council to negotiate a way to remain with Westminster, full autonomy being the obvious way to manage the relationship.</p> <p>If that bears fruit, the Scottish government would then be forced to make a counter offer(s) for a post-independence arrangement.</p> <p>The local population would need to ratify its ultimate preference by local referendum.</p> <p>Alternatively, if Holyrood is willing to return powers incrementally, meanwhile, that's fine and the SIC should actively pursue that path.</p> <p>Shetland is already in a position to accept more powers in a steadily increasing, incremental way however each new power will need to be integrated into the existing organisation/operation and the SIC's ability to digest such change should dictate the rate at which it occurs.</p> <p>If a large number of powers (within ScotGov's authority) is, indeed, to be devolved, a plan should be agreed in advance, specifying the end state, actions, timing, finance, management, oversight, etc., for the project.</p> <p>In the case of full autonomy being awarded, especially, via Westminster, that would be a huge project that would need to be implemented over several years (at least (guessing) 3-5 years?), depending on progress and Holyrood's attitude to co-operation.</p> <p>Ultimately, it would all be linked to the atmosphere of the overall Scotland-UK negotiation which could push things either way however IMO, it's reasonable to be optimistic about co-operation as there would still be business incentives for independent Scotland whose finances after losing the UK's contribution to its 'notional deficit' would be in a pretty parlous state.</p> <p>With autonomy within Scotland, changeover should be more straightforward with less complex negotiations over various services that might continue to be supplied, at least, for a time eg some education (eg syllabus, grades, etc.) and health functions impractical to maintain locally.</p>		
3	<p>IMO, Shetland desperately needs control of energy planning to avoid a catastrophic 'free-for-all' by 'green energy' carpetbaggers.</p> <p>The fishing industry can be there for ever if it is not destroyed by the depredations of the offshore wind industry whereas, IMO, the renewable energy/battery/hydrogen madness will not last, the cost, not to mention environmental destruction, is simply too high. It is, in their own words, 'unsustainable, and there are other, more economic ways to reduce CO2 emissions eg nuclear.</p> <p>Also, the, IMO, incredibly stupid policy of banning future oil and gas exploration/production will be reversed, meaning Shetland will continue to be an important shore base for the oil industry.</p>		
250903 17:18	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>No</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> </table>	No	Yes
No	Yes		
1	Heightened autonomy is not allowed for islam groups across the world - Shetland is an outlier in being part of a larger nation that chooses to centralise it's governance.		
2	Introduction of local tax measures (e.g. an alternative to council tax), jointly agreed by SG and SIC, with a view to devolving power gradually over an agreed period		
250903 18:52	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>Not sure</td> </tr> </table>	Yes	Not sure
Yes	Not sure		
1	We need a more efficient group in charge of the islands in order to be able to achieve anything. SIC won't do it. They can't even organise the construction of the urgently needed 3 miles of road in north Yell. The people in charge have no interest in Shetland as a whole, and probably even less ability to make things happen.		

	2	While I am in favour of Shetland becoming more like Faroe, for instance, as I said above...we need good leaders who have the interests of Shetland as a whole at the forefront of their minds. We need forward thinking people in charge of progressing our islands in a way that will ensure an increased population, plenty jobs and housing, retention of our young people and a promising future for the whole of Shetland. This will not happen overnight, but it needs to start now with a new group of politicians and officials who wish to do their best for the whole of Shetland, rather than allowing the petty minded officials we presently have to continue their negative attitudes and self satisfaction.
	3	Appoint people like Hannah Goodlad and the North Yell Development Council to get things done in Shetland.
250903 19:24	Yes	Yes
250904 11:15	Yes	Not sure
	1	Being given increased autonomy requires local people to take more responsibility, and I'm not clear that we have the level of skills, expertise or energy locally - the number of uncontested local council elections is an illustration of this. We don't have a strong record of being able to negotiate good outcomes with government, national or multi national companies, which is unsurprising, given that we are a tiny population compared to Scotland/UK/Europe, but we would very much need to build up this strength and skill if we were to be more autonomous.
250904 11:37	Yes	Yes
	1	Wind farm industrialisation destroying the landscape and character without providing reduced energy prices to Shetlanders. There is already sufficient community facilities and we don't need any more but we do need better energy prices if hosting wind turbines and the substantial environmental costs and sacrifices that go with them.
	2	complete overhaul of current political set up, permanently
250904 14:56	Yes	Yes
	1	Completely detaching from Westminster is imperative, and having more independence from the Scottish government should promote better decision making for Shetland
	2	Considering the current and historical imperialist/colonialist political situation in the UK, it will be incredibly hard to even get a say in more independence for Shetland, but I believe that with Scottish independence, Shetland would have more power to set-up a campaign to increase local legislation and decision making
250904 18:17	Yes	No
	1	Da council are useless just Noo... Imagine if they had more things to! Wid be a disaster
	2	Vote SNP unfortunately
	3	What are the powers being talked about? Take a sooth boat... Wid it be any better in the hands of the council? I suspect it would be worse...
250904 23:01	Yes	Not sure
	1	i have no faith in the Scottish Gov. At the same time I do not see people elected at this time are fit or have the ability to deal with economic issues.
	2	Again, we need honest, able people who actually really know their subject matter, but also need to have that inner strength to compete with large organisations. Also the requirement to see the whole Shetland Isles picture. Too many are narrow in their views and those in power from elsewhere, just do not have that 'Shetland' viewpoint. Too many pals of pals here too. So very difficult mix
250905 19:54	Yes	Yes
250906 01:00	No	Yes
	1	I am a Geographer and was a student at UHI (Orkney) spending much time in Shetland over a number of years. I am familiar with the community and politics. Relative to other places that should be similar, there are strengths and weaknesses. I believe the local entities should have greater choice and authority on critical issues.
	2	From my vantage point, It seems the MPs would have to be on board as much as the locals with more than one party supporting, but I am not versed enough to give a cogent viewpoint.
250906 01:52	Yes	Yes

250906 06:00	Prefer not to say	No
250906 06:35	Yes	Yes
1	Empowering Shetland with more control over our own affairs could lead to more effective governance that's tailored to our specific needs. This would allow us to better manage key sectors like fisheries, renewable energy, and tourism, and address local challenges more directly.	
2	This is a complex issue with multiple stakeholders, including the Shetland Islands Council (SIC), the Scottish Government, and the UK Government. Utilizing the Islands Act Political dialogue and cross-party support Public and community engagement Learning from other models, Faroe	
250906 07:12	Yes	Not sure
1	Not 100% sure - but not convinced that the democratic process in Shetland would be robust	
250906 07:21	Yes	Yes
1	To provide more local control over decisions at a local level.	
2	It could only be achieved through agreement at national level and with more funding from the oil, fishing and windfarm revenues raised in Shetland coming back to Shetland	
3	To enable above requires local political vision, will and determination to achieve against central government who, despite their words, have a tendency towards maintaining a centralisation of control and power.	
250906 08:00	Yes	Yes
1	Hollywood and Westminster have no understanding of rural communities and are only interested in taking wealth from Shetland to central Scotland	
2	We should have over seas territory status and be devolved from central government. Thus allowing us to make important decisions on Shetland's future	
250906 08:03	Yes	Not sure
1	I'd need to know what powers we'd be given before I can answer this question	
250906 08:52	Yes	Not sure
1	Not enough confidence we would use powers wisely.	
250906 09:38	Yes	Yes
1	It would be good to have more say in any renewable energy projects so it's beneficial to our community. Our lifeline ferry service should be about the islanders needs they should be prioritised .	
2	I don't know it seems such a mess	
250906 09:55		No
1	I am afraid that Shetland appears incompetent to handle the powers they already have. There are glaring problems with transport, energy strategy, education, creative industries, and many other sectors. In fact there is no strategy whatsoever.	
2	There is a younger generation who show promise, but they must be encouraged to form a credible group, and develop a strategy that makes sense for the future. Otherwise, Shetland faces a bleak future.	
250906 10:05	Prefer not to say	No
250906 10:08	Yes	Yes
1	We should be Independent, Separate from EU, UK and Scotland, even NATO and the UN! but anything is better than nothing!	
250906 10:14	Yes	No
1	Can never make decisions about anything always goes out to consultation . Wasting money . Useless councilors in it for the money no backbone	
2	They can never make a decision	

	3	Feel that our council sells out shetland cheaply. Copies up to the big boys	
250906 10:24	Yes	Not sure	
	1	It depends who was making the decisions. For example the councillors who made the decision around our renewable income royally fucked us over. So it would really need to be people that had a few brain cells.	
	2	It couldn't. It would take a board of 'normal' folks, like community councils providing a spokesperson and coming together to discuss benefits for Shetland as a whole. It would be ongoing.	
	3	Don't involve the council. The airport should've been in Tingwall	
250906 10:33	Yes	Yes	
	1	Devolvment of power to a local level means that decisions are made by people who have the most knowledge of Shetland issues and opportunities. Planning rules /Scottish government overruling SIC re. Viking wind farm application to increase size of turbines was the last straw.	
	2	Devolve powers around transportation policy to allow local communities to define fit for purpose solutions - ferries, tunnels, flights. Reduce power in Edinburgh to that of providing funding rather than implementing national policies that are designed for central belt/cities and are not suitable for island communities. Powers should be phased over 3 year period.	
	3	We live in a modern forward looking community. The scottish parliament could have achieved so much since its inception. Instead it has focused on fighting with Westminster and trying to achieve Scottish independence. We need the Scottish parliament to devolve powers around controlling our fishing grounds, our land and tidal resources and our transportation policy.	
250906 10:40	No	Yes	
	1	Shetland is a money pit for Scotland and the UK.	
	2	A local referendum on the following: 1 - to be a Crown Dependency of the UK 2 - Stay in the UK 3 - be given back to Norway	
250906 10:56	Yes	Not sure	
	1	It would make sense for us to have an independent Scotland first. All powers would then lie with the Scottish Parliament and it would then be easier to devolve more powers to local authorities and other bodies. Devolved powers are complicated at the moment with Westminster's apparent reluctance to devolve more powers and in some cases interfere with powers which have already been devolved by statute.	
	2	As said previously I feel it would be difficult in the current political set-up.	
	3	I am certainly not in favour of an independent Shetland but would be in favour of more powers devolved to local authorities within an independent Scotland.	
250906 10:56	Yes	Yes	
	1	We the people of Shetland, should have more say when it comes to important decisions like wind farms, ferries, fishing etc. We need what works for us, we live here and are largely marooned at times due to lack of capacity on the Northlink Ferry. We (Shetland) should also have the power to prevent large projects like the wind farm from taking up space on our lifeline service, they should have had their own vessel and not have been taking up space on the Northlink Ferry at the expense of the people of Shetland for whom the ferry service exists. I know of people who have missed hospital appointments due to a lack of capacity on the ferry. I also believe Shetland needs to be able to control who moves here in a similar way to the Australian model. With the shortage of housing we would need to be able to only accept people of a working age who are coming to work in a job that benefits Shetland as a whole. That's a broad brush ofcourse and there will be exceptions but in the main it should be controlled.	
250906 10:58	Yes	Yes	

250906 11:00	Yes	No
1	Better to be part of a bigger organisation. Nobody here capable of running things.	
250906 11:04	Yes	Yes
1	Edinburgh has its hands full already and cannae deal with everything we need up here	
2	I really don't know. I am not a political person.	
250906 11:14	Yes	No
1	SIC increased council tax and rent during a cost of living crisis. Unforgivable considering they could have shouldered the cost for another year using their reserves.	
3	Council tax should be abolished.	
250906 11:31	Yes	No
1	The people in charge can't handle more power, it comes with more greed	
250906 11:41	Yes	No
1	The SIC ably demonstrates their financial incompetence every year. Why would anybody think more powers would be better!	
2	Na.	
250906 12:15	Yes	No
1	If power was handed over to Shetland through the SIC we would be in an avalanche of office jobs..The incompetence displayed at the moment with the ferry service would be applied to a great deal more with even less accountability.I for one would resist any more devolution.	
3	We have a political system in place where people join any political party they want for personal gain and leave equally fast.	
250906 12:37	Yes	Not sure
1	The longwinded way the local council works would mean nothing would get done at all.	
250906 12:48	Yes	Yes
1	Far too many decisions are made for us not by us. These decisions are unrepresentative of the needs of Shetland	
2	I reckon the best way might be an autonomous autonomy By that I mean implementing an extreme democracy (kinda like Estonia) where we register our opinions and preferences using secured locally verified ID for all sorts of services	
250906 12:52	Yes	Not sure
1	Don't know if we have knowledgeable councillors to handle any more powers.	
2	Unsure	
250906 13:01	Yes	Not sure
1	Not sure who in Shetland would actually be responsible enough to use more powers for the good of Shetland and Shetland folk rather than just make things better for themselves and to hell with the rest.	
2	For example - If there was less "red tape" or amount of levels of consultants before actually using "much more powers" to action Shetlands infrastructure, Shetland would be a much better place for all to live where they wanted with a better level of good transport due to good roads or access. otherwise "much more powers" is just another way of dragging approval out over even more years as no-one still wants to make decisions for results in the next couple of years rather than the next decade or more.	
250906 13:17	Yes	Yes
1	Shetland is too often saddled with 'one size fits all' solutions. I consider it sensible that decision making is devolved to those closest to the end user	
2	The current system doesn't appear to work. Elected members are either unwilling or are unable to direct and control the executive. This results in no overall direction or vision and the tail wagging the dog. This needs to change. Leadership is required not some loose 'managerialism'	
250906 13:24	Yes	Yes
250906 14:05	Yes	Yes

	1	The disconnect from mainland UK and even from the rest of Scotland is very noticeable if you live here for any length of time.	
	2	Limit the number of independent councillors. What's wrong with party politics? What are they afraid of? Without any discernable groupings to push back. then the agenda and direction just comes from SIC, which is really unaccountable. Having so many independents is not healthy for a democratic system.	
	3	Any chance of a reduction in the number of tourists?	
250906 14:27		Yes	No
	1	Don't think we handle what we do have very well at present	
250906 14:43		Yes	Yes
250906 15:18		Yes	Yes
	1	<p>The hope would be that having greater powers would attract more talented elected members and offers to work for a more powerful body. In addition more power will come with more accountability and scrutiny. At the moment we are given by a group of people who do everything g they can to avoid making the hard decisions that are needed to create a thriving community. The biggest issue is a shrinking and aging population. This is a leather cocktail that as with all cocktails creeps up and then floors the drinker.</p> <p>At the present rate we are 30 years away from having a population of un dear 20,000 and at that punt the viability of core services becomes very marginal and very expensive. Our hospitals and high schools will close and we become and "care and maintenance" community.</p>	
	2	Much more power needs much better people to lead the community. There is no shortage of talented leaders in Shetland but none of the want to work in a moribund local authority.	
250906 15:38		Yes	Not sure
	1	<p>Until such time as we have adequate political representatives at a local government level, I'm honestly not convinced more powers is a good thing. The principles of subsidiary are of course great but those decision makers at the lowest level of democracy then need to be strong and effective! At the moment, it feels like the council lacks strategic thinkers or bold decision making. There are plenty of incredibly insightful knowledgeable and passionate people who live in Shetland who I would trust in these decision making roles, but why on earth would they leave secure employment to take on all the hassles of a councillor in return for a sum of money that barely equates the real living wage. Unless the remuneration of elected members at the lowest tiers of democracy is made more attractive, we'll continue to be represented by mediocre candidates who lack the vision, credibility and coherence to be strategic and effective at making use of enhanced powers.</p>	
	2	See above- I'd only be in favour IF it coincided with a move to make the elected representatives a more appealing career prospect (through enhanced remuneration and flexibility)	
250906 15:45		Yes	No
	1	When things go private then that's where it can get tricky. Best to try and run services we have and rally for support from the Scottish government when needed. Making sure our needs are heard.	
250906 15:46		Yes	Yes
	1	Too many decisions are being made without the knowledge of how they relate on impact on life in Shetland	
	2	It would take a number of years to transition much of the current central-belt / Scottish Government to any Council, but more so to one that has a number of blocks to recruiting the type of staff required to guide and support the democratic purpose. Therefore, as any transition period would be very much dictated by the availability of staff, and homes fir those staff and their families, it would likely take at least 5 years for any significant degree of meaningful powers to be properly transferred.	
	3	A phased transition plan needs to be drafted at the outset with guideline timescales clearly established. If the Council can get up to speed quickly then things could be accelerated, if not then moving some powers would be delayed.	
250906 16:01		No	Yes
	1	Shetland's geographical and historical distinctiveness means that Shetland should have as much control over its affairs as possible.	

	2	Anything that is a power devolved to the Scottish Parliament should be devolved to a Shetland assembly. Dialogue should begin immediately with a referendum to be held within 5-10 years when a plan for what greater autonomy for Shetland looks like in practice.	
	3	Former resident. Now living in the Central Belt and feel I have less in common in regards to culture and upbringing with people from mainland Scotland compared to what I did growing up in Shetland and have come to believe Shetland should be a distinct entity politically from the rest of Scotland. Whether that is part of an independent Scotland or remaining in the United Kingdom:	
250906 16:12		Yes	No
	1	Nobody in Shetland competent enough to run our affairs. Strong possibility that the local business Mafia would take control and drag in whatever outside investment they could attract to further their own ends. Shetland's environment and fishing industry would be big time losers. Renewables and aquaculture would be allowed to run amok!	
	3	Shetland born and raised with values which abhor the destruction of our environment and biodiversity over the last forty years.	
250906 16:12		Yes	Yes
250906 17:03		Yes	Yes
	1	We should have the same self governance as the Faroe island's.	
	2	Declare ourselves independent and shun the uk, approach Norway.	
	3	Neither the scots or the English serve us very well, exploited to the max and left with the crumbs.	
250906 17:25		Yes	Yes
	1	Decisions relevant to local life should be made by the people who will be affected by it. Over-centralisation leads to decision-making that is based on false assumptions and/or incorrect information	
	2	Staged devolution to a Shetland governing body, preferably after a review of SIC and how it (barely) works. Note that devolution should also mean decentralised governance from Lerwick.	
	3	Happy to remain a part of a decentralised Scotland. I don't think Faroes-style autonomy would currently work in Shetland.	
250906 17:40		No	Yes

1	<p>Island needs are different from the mainland. More powers must to be given to those that understand the needs of the local people and their environment.</p> <p>I live on the Isle of Wight. Although ferry dependent (with no lifeline services at all) we are very close to the mainland UK by comparison to Shetland. However, mainland UK entities have no concept of island needs and as a consequence the island suffers.</p> <p>An example is that our fire service was combined with the mainland. The 55 minute crossing for a back-up fire engine has a 2 hourly service in daytime in winter, if it runs. If you call 999 mainlanders (we refer to it as the North Island) have no understanding of locations. Postcodes can result in confusion as automated lookups are not always correct. My postcode/postal town is over 5 miles from where I live. The house numbers appear random (more than one number one on a road) because of the way some villages developed. Services are starting to use what3words but householders aren't very likely to know the ones for their home.</p> <p>To cut costs they have closed two of our fire stations and moved equipment off the island. https://www.countypress.co.uk/news/25444724.2-isle-wight-fire-stations-close-amid-fire-service-cuts/ but we pay the same fire precept as Hampshire.</p> <p>Claims are made that we don't often need extra engines but I watched every available fire vehicle park near my house as a huge portion of the terrace over the road burnt. If there'd have been another big incident on the day they'd have needed an engine from the North island.</p> <p>My point is that those who do not live on the island do not perceive how restricting the water between us is. Even when it isn't far.</p> <p>Distribution of money on a per-capita basis doesn't work the same for islands as it does for mainland UK. Equity is needed. We can't just have a fire engine, police vehicle, ambulance pop over a county border.</p> <p>Island services are complex and require specialist knowledge.</p>	
2	I am not knowledgeable enough to provide suggestion for these points.	
3	Good luck.	
250906 18:21	Yes	Yes
1	Shetland people are best placed to make decisions about the things which impact them	
2	SIC needs to push for these powers from Scottish and UK govt. It needs to be done a bit at a time. Start now.	
250906 18:37	Yes	Yes
1	<p>I think that some decisions could be best taken locally or at least Shetland opinion should have more weight when some decisions are made eg transport to and from the Isles. I think Shetland could make better use of the Islands Act to demonstrate that we can make good decisions to benefit island communities without needing to take more than our fair share of resources which are getting scarcer,</p> <p>.</p>	
2	<p>I think Scotland needs independence before Shetland gets a greater voice as so many major decision areas are reserved matters eg energy, immigration and some welfare benefits. Scotland's growth could be greater with more control and that could lead to a fairer society.</p> <p>I think if more powers were held by Scotland and some decision making devolved further out to local areas it would attract a better quality of candidate to serve as local councillors - people who had more vision and more determination to make the most of Shetland's assets to ensure that the whole of Shetland's population can thrive and contribute to Shetland's and the country's wellbeing.</p>	
250906 19:10	Yes	Yes
1	We are so remote we need to control the industry's that are important to us, and retain what is left of our very distinct culture.	
2	Ultimately have a referendum of the Shetland people.	

3	I have been in the aquaculture industry for the past 35 years and have seen the very unfair tax the Crown Estate take out of Shetland each year. The fishing industry being used as a political football in one of the richest fishing grounds in the world.	
250906 19:20	Yes	No
250906 19:23	Yes	Yes
1	Because we allways should have had our own powers and we would be far better off on our own as long as we could find a proper council/government to run it properly	
2	No idea	
250906 21:11	Yes	Yes
1	Shetland does not belong to Scotland.	
250906 21:22	Yes	No
1	Shetland is too inbred. The Council is weak and favours 'friends and relatives' over impartiality. More power would aggravate the situation.	
2	n/a	
250906 22:10	Yes	Not sure
250906 22:40	Yes	Not sure
250906 23:42	Prefer not to say	Yes
1	Autonomy is generally a good & democratic principle	
2	1. As part of wider commitment to devolution across Scotland 2. Within the next 5 years	
250906 23:59	Yes	Yes
1	we can decide our own needs re wind farms, fishing, boat travel..	
2	it cannot. The SNP do not work for Shetland	
3	It is dependent upon Shetland s considerable reserves being controlled by Shetland	
250907 00:58	Yes	No
1	Another layer of politics that will add cost and likely be run by inexperienced, inept, individuals	
250907 05:55	Yes	Yes
1	Local problems are better handled at a local level.	
250907 08:27	No	Yes
1	I believe the local community knows what is best.	
2	I think a gradual and persistent approach working within the current set-up to change the current political set-up to benefit islanders and respectful visitors.	
3	Change is never easy. It needs calm, thoughtful and strong leadership at every level.	
250907 08:39	Yes	Yes
1	Theoretically better decision making closer to home, made by islanders for the island.	
2	Unsure but maybe look at how the Isle of Man operates and take the good things from that model? Achievable in 10 years?	
250907 08:51	No	Yes
1	Decisions should be made locally	
2	Not sure but work needs to ve done on the options. Asap.	
250907 08:54	Yes	Yes
1	Shetland would be more efficient at managing local policies	
2	In stages over 10 years?	
250907 09:13	Yes	Yes
1	I think Shetland needs to be autonomous. Wiv got rosebank and the gas field victory. Add some interisland tunnels and we can be a self sufficient country	
2	Duncan Anderson for Shetland First PM	

250907 09:14	Yes	Yes
1	Central government don't care nor consider the islands in general let alone Shetland.	
2	Other than social security benefits and NHS it should all be done by community councils, which are overseen by SIC	
250907 09:20	Yes	No
1	No confidence in ability of local council and councillors to hold and manage more powers.	
250907 12:02	Yes	No
1	<p>an the moment they go after building awards for new build over saving money by going for a cheaper plain building ie the Mareel shows this well, I would like to see a lot done for Shetlander, but not money over used to go after building awards cost far more that need for a good plain building.</p> <p>The Anderson High School is an other way money has been lost, how much was lost over going to build at the Knab in the 30 years before it was builded at Lochside. So we do NOT have a endless pot of money to spend.</p>	
250907 12:21	Prefer not to say	Yes
1	I born bred in Shetland, speak Shaetlan. I am one of the 30,000 diaspora of Shetlanders (Faroe 53,000 minus Shetlands 23,000) oblidged to leave/work elsewhere because of being controled by Scotland and its Lairds for the last 500 years	
2	<p>The wording in the questionnaire Is a bit "Rich" and condesending refering to --- powers to be GIVEN? to Shetland, as Shetland was illegally incorprated into Scotland in 1469/72.</p> <p>Change the political system . Vote for Autonomy as a Crown Dependency to get control back over everything, then delegate back to the Crown (not the Westminster or Holyrood Parliaments) items such as Defence as Shetlanders may decide. Sucessful Faroe severed from Denmark in 1948. Shetland shoud follow Faroes lead. The Channel Islands and Isle of Man are examplars.</p>	
250907 12:23	Yes	Yes
1	Often forgot by central belt political class and even the politicians meant to represent us.(I grew up in central Scotland).	
2	Similar powers as crown dependencies like Channel Isles and Mann. Within 10 to 20 years.	
250907 12:45	Yes	Not sure
1	Council do a bad enough job with the powers they have, why give them more	
3	Surely there are more pressing issues in shetland just now without worrying about more powers	
250907 13:13	Yes	No
1	Our current council can't even take into consideration how to run what we have let alone having more power .	
250907 13:23	Yes	No
1	I wouldn't trust anyone to make sensible decisions, given the decisions the local councils have made in the last decade.	
250907 13:46	Yes	No
1	The council have shown over many years that they are not competent at the current level. Devolving more power would not be wise.	
3	Abolish the devolved Scottish government at Holyrood. It's an expensive vanity project. No reason Scotland and Shetland can't be run directly from Westminster as it all should be.	
250907 14:05	Yes	Yes
1	We are not being well served by those who govern us currently. Decisions affecting local people are better taken closer to the point of impact.	
2	I don't know in detail about the political and legal mechanisms at our disposal, but I would like more power over all aspects of our lives to be requested by Shetlanders as soon as possible.	
250907 14:28	Yes	Yes
250907 15:19	No	Yes
1	There should be more ferries and tunnels.	
2	More powers to local councils, especially island ones.	

3	This site is a really good news site, and it's a shame about the lack of an equivalent for Orkney. The local news industry there is rubbish.	
250907 16:32	Yes	Yes
250907 17:26	Prefer not to say	Yes
1	<p>Shetland has suffered over 20 years of being dictated to by external powers. Shetland suffers exploitation and a great lack of dignity is shown to public feeling. Very recently, a sizeable group of Shetlanders made an important and democratic request to John Swinney. He answered 'no': without any consultation or engagement with these communities. This demonstrates how the First Minister has no connection to ordinary people/ inland communities. But the ordinary people, the working class, in Scotland amounts to 5,490,100 people: there are a mere 129 people in the Scottish parliament. Life experience matters: Shetlanders know and understand their life-world, and consequently are connected to it. Having this connection enables us to care for and protect all we love. Mr Swinney demonstrated his complete lack of connection to our life-world, and to the communities of Shetland. There is no accountability shown to Shetland communities: a lack of democracy, a lack of openness, honesty and transparency. 'NO' without accountability is an inappropriate response to the dignity of local communities and to the occasion of not being accepting of local feeling. especially from those in a position of power. As it stands, life is undemocratic for communities living on Shetland.</p>	
2	<p>Communities know, understand and connect to their Spaces. Politicians are well-removed from the public life-world and the democratic process. Can this only be fixed by democracies that no longer rely on our elected representatives, but include the life-world of the public/communities: people that live our everyday lives?</p> <p>If we are to have a democracy, that which our future now depends on, we will be clear that the binary-force of science (either yes/no: it is/it isn't) does not define a democracy, which is a political value of equal freedom which avoids those disagreements which fracture the political system. Instead we shall have compromise.</p> <p>Politicians are not representing our country or our communities, so let us consider our fellow human beings, and as in France, we can successfully form CITIZEN ASSEMBLIES.</p> <p>Not based on knowledge, book or intellectual learning: a mix of random, non-elected public, 'thinking more clearly'. Becoming humble, empathetic and wise: presenting a wider view of democracy. Just like the JURY SYSTEM. Where citizen members create solutions on policy, using emotion, good deliberation and compromise. This brings a clear decision and maintains democracy. This future entertains ideas, self-control, judgement and compromise: doing away with strangled choices of yes or no. Building policy needs to rely on feedback to reach reliable conclusions, which includes local community input. Politicians are not understanding. So we need a new process: the Citizen Assemblies, in which good deliberation makes good decisions, and compromise makes the process democratic. That of the public/community life-world.</p>	
3	<p>Government fails to understand complexity in areas they know nothing about. This results in them failing to connect with process or policy. Even 'experts' can be biased and unreliable (they have their own critiques) and they may help government to make poor decisions/ big mistakes. No one can always be right: there is overreach, bias and a lack of honesty.</p> <p>The politician-expert sandwich needs a local public-filling. Public institutions can be very approachable for consultation.</p> <p>Local and community voices are needed: they know their areas. And because there is high pressure in politics and uncertainty about potential unintended consequences. Not knowing the future: but how can we predict the future?</p> <p>Why not take a hunch/idea and figure out the failure ASAP. This cannot happen when a politician thinks he knows the future already.</p> <p>The real answer could come from the public and their unbiased ideas. The public and community are aware of problems and will change their behaviour. We are adaptable.</p>	
250907 17:39	Yes	No
1	Things take ages enough to get done locally as it is. I don't feel that the powers that be in Shetland would be able to handle more responsibilities.	
250907 19:09	No	Yes
1	Shetland is remote from the mainland and, should therefore, be given as much autonomy as possible to make decisions in matters which affect the local population and the future development of Shetland.	

2	<p>The Scottish Government could be more proactive in devolving powers over local rights, for instance over energy generation and fishing, such that they can be developed within an 'all-Shetland' context, i.e. that benefits the whole community and not just those entities (people, companies, central government) which have a narrower interest.</p> <p>The Faeroese "Home Rule" Act and its subsequent development might provide a template.</p> <p>No doubt the Scottish Government would not want to relinquish any powers, and probably none relating to oil and gas.</p>	
3	<p>Although this would be difficult, devolving more powers to Shetlanders, would enable the archipelago to develop in its own best interests. Having vibrant political institutions with real powers might help to address the declining population of people of working age within the islands, enable the depopulation of north and west Mainland and the islands to be addressed, and it possibly attract more young people to return after working away or going to university. The 'returners' might even want to become Shetland MPs if they can see that their decisions will have a direct impact on their children!</p> <p>Faeroes has increased its population from 45750 in 2000, to 53600 today. In Shetland the figures were 21960 in 2001, and 23000 in 2021, but the number of people aged 65 and over is increasing rather than a population which might be regarded as an 'active work force'. See https://www.shetlandpartnership.org/downloads/file/78/population-deep-dive-2024</p> <p>If Shetland was able to determine local tax receipts, for instance for power generation, and local and business taxes; it would be able to use that money to 'power up' local economic growth for future years by improving transport links and incentivising people to set up businesses in Shetland, especially in the fields of IT and AI. Shetland is in a position to offer a quality of life which could be attractive to many providing it has the transport links and infrastructure to do so.</p>	
250907 19:47	Yes	Yes
1	We need to make decisions to benefit the Shetland people and not to go cap in hand to the SNP. While the SNP are in power we will get nothing. All the SNP want is independence and to hell with the rest of the country.	
2	A smaller amount of powers for Shetland to act for themselves. Things need to change.	
3	I rather think the elected councillors in Shetland would be out of their depth, if given to much powers.	
250907 20:33	Yes	Yes
1	The SNP Government to date has failed to recognise what a benefit Shetland is to the Scottish Economy. Shetland would be far better off if it followed the model that operates in the Faroe Islands. Shetland would also benefit from our fishing and oil rights if we were autonomous from Scotland. I believe that we should go it alone to the benefit of all living in Shetland. We would also benefit from leaving behind the bureaucracy forced on us by successive UK and Scottish Governments.	
2	I believe that Shetland has the ability to become autonomous over a period of 5-10 years with the correct political will being in place.	
250907 21:10	Yes	Yes
1	ONLY, if the current councillors are sacked and replaced by councillors that actually listen to the community.	
250907 21:32	Prefer not to say	No
250907 21:50	Yes	Yes
1	To give Shetland more choice/say in our own matters! Too much outside interference from people that don't care about our local economy.	
2	Next 2-5 years, gradually introducing new powers to the Shetland authorities, until full autonomy.	
3	I Think full autonomy would only come from the Westminster government, as they see our financial benefits towards the Scottish government.	
250907 22:55	Yes	Yes
1	It would allow important decisions to be made locally and Shetland receive a fairer share of our resources	

	2	Not sure it can be achieved with the current setup	
250908 07:22	No	Yes	
	1	I think it is obvious that the needs and wishes of the people of Shetland are constantly being ignored by both the Scottish government and Westminster but I also believe that the current SIC is sadly lacking in the ability to properly manage negotiations with international enterprise. The national governments are only interested in exploiting the islands' resources with little thought for the island population. International enterprises believe that a few crumbs from their vast profits will suffice to keep the islanders happy.	
	2	I regret that while the present SNP in Scotland and Labour at Westminster are in charge the struggle will be to stop them from viewing the Shetland islands as purely a resource to be exploited. They both need to be out of the picture and then there needs to be a serious change in the make up and mentality of the SIC. The council needs people who are truly interested in doing the job for everyone in the islands and not just 'making the numbers up' because it will look good on their CVs.	
	3	I do not live in Shetland now, but three younger generations of my family were born and bred there hence my interest. I strongly believe that anyone who is even loosely affiliated to any of the national political parties should not be serving on the SIC and the MPs and MSPs representing the island should be Independent and not members of the national political parties.	
250908 09:25	Yes	No	
	1	SIC struggle to keep Shetland running as it is. I don't trust anyone here enough to believe more power would be used wisely.	
250908 09:40	Yes	Yes	
	1	Take more control Shetland is different . We need power to enable us to control how we are governed	
	2	Be more like Faroe	
250908 10:07	Yes	Yes	
	1	SNP (and Westminster) do not care about Shetland, and overturn decisions made by SIC, eg Viking etc, so-called "lifeline" ferry service	
	2	Probably a long-term thing. Maybe need to set up own parliament, over and above SIC, though who would do this is questionable. It needs to be people who are actually living in Shetland and understand the issues	
250908 10:18	Yes	Yes	
250908 10:35	Prefer not to say	Yes	
250908 10:43	Yes	Not sure	
	1	There is a limited amount of 'cake' in this situation, and there is no way that the cake is ever going to get bigger. There are a few 'Haves ' and a lot of 'Have nots' in Shetland and it will be the usual haves that will take control and the have nots will be in the same boat (ie with nothing.) as they are in now, but with a totality smaller piece of 'cake.'	
	2	No. because the people involved with the decision making, for the rest of Shetland, is not up to it.	
250908 10:45	Yes	Yes	
	1	Too many important decisions which affect Shetland made outside the community	
	2	Can't be done within the "current political set up"	
250908 11:23	Yes	No	

	1	I agree in principle with the 'Switzerland model' of delegating of delegating authority for decision-making and management to the lowest possible level of the public service structure, with benefits of money-saving, a lean public sector and local accountability and ownership of political decisions. However, the current structure in the UK is not based on this principle, different powers are delegated to the three different devolved nations, and much decision making is retained or over-ridden by local or national parliaments. This could therefore potentially be replicated with, say, Shetland being devolved different powers from Orkney. This is not beneficial to anybody and processes are likely to become more costly and slow-moving, with additional tiers of administration being involved. Address this problem and the question is worth revisiting, although I do have reservations about too much fragmentation resulting in many small, not very strong and not very wealthy nations which become weaker than they are at present.
250908 11:43	Yes	Yes
	1	ScotGov doesn't meet our needs.
	2	Shetland should be given it's own assembly for domestic matters.
250908 12:17	Yes	No
	1	Currently. we have very few able Councillors to be able to take on and decently run further powers..
	3	Any additional powers gained must be when Shetland gets decent clever politicians to run with it.
250908 12:28	Yes	Yes
	1	I think we absolutely could have more powers but we would have to be very particular in how this was carried out. I would like to see more residents engage in local democracy by participating more in their communities by being part of local groups, community council, community events etc. and engaging with local developments and then feeling more informed and able to have views on how Shetland should be run by the people living here. I think that we have resources in Shetland that would enable us to be independent. Renewables, tourism, fishing and agriculture.
	2	As mentioned in my previous comment, there would have to be far more activity from communities around their communities and how they would like to move forward. I enjoy that there are more development groups becoming established in the isles which is demonstrating that some communities are taking back control and trying to lead the way forward with community led initiatives, look no further than North Yell with their wind turbines or Northmavine with their polytunnels. There are savvy community minded folk out there who's skills would be necessary for moving an independent Shetland forward. I'm sure this would take a long period of time, but I think that there is potential in the future for this to happen.
250908 12:48	Prefer not to say	Yes
	1	The communist, Islamist government of Scotland is suppressing the Aryan Shetland population by trying to make all their children gay and transgender and pasteurize their milk. Because raw milk, as my good friend Rob Kennedy says - it's very good, folks. It's a very good thing. The woke left are trying to tell you that vaccines and pasteurization - they work. They don't. The Democrats - they're trying to silence me - they tried to kill me. It's very bad, folks. My mother - she was from Scotland. I love Scotland. But the government... they ruined the country. They must be punished. They tried to say that I was on Epstein's island - Epstein was innocent. But you know who wasn't? Nicola Sturgeon. She had an evil Blofeld island on Shetland. She was shooting transsexual lasers into space and reflecting the lasers back onto the populace. But in the United States, we are safe. Pete Hegseth, the Secretary for War has built a shield around the ozone layer of the United States. It's like that movie - Highlander II: The Quickening. Good movie. Very real. My hero, the great Hannibal Lecter would have loved it if he were alive to see it. I, Donald J. Trump, will help Shetland and save it from these Marxists in Holyrood. I love Shetland - I love their culture, their women, their cuisine. Frankie's Fish & Chips, ladies and gentlemen. It's the greatest fish I've ever eaten in my life. That's because the fish weren't woke. They were caught in waters that weren't infected by the woke mind virus. The fish could run Holyrood better than John Swinney. That's a fact. It's a fact, folks. The Nordic Shetland race are tired of woke and gay and transgender and Black Lives Matter. With my help, Shetland will become autonomous, and we will MAKE SHETLAND GREAT AGAIN!!!

	2	It could not. In order to bring Reform to Shetland, the people must storm the Lerwick Town Hall and overthrow the bureaucrats who are eating the dogs. It's true - they think they can do it because they have the power, but the people shall rise up - not in a Communist way, but in a MAGA way. On January 6th, 2026 the Lerwick Town Hall will be razed to the ground and order restored. MSGA!!!	
	3	Stuart Hill had the right idea. Shetland must begin on the path to independence. He will be the George Washington of Shetland - mark my words. His disciples shall be the Founding Fathers of democracy in Shetland. Just as JD Vance is a Founding Father of the New America. An America where free speech is sacred. The Best America. MAGA!!! MSGA!!!	
250908 13:34	No	Not sure	
250908 14:52	Yes	No	
	1	Too much power already to central belt Holyrood. Wouldn't trust SNP and the Scottish devolved 'Council' as far as I could throw them!	
		More powers to Shetland only if we stayed tied to the United Kingdom, on a Jersey, Isle of Man, Crown dependency basis.	
250908 14:58	Yes	Yes	
	1	Im a firm believer in a more independent Shetland. Still apart of Scotland, but separate. We used to be owned by Norway, and therefore our traditional culture is different of that from "Sooth" but im pleased how it is with being apart of Scotland. Therefore I believe we should be a little more independent, and our council having way more power	
	2	I believe it should begin as soon as possible. Maybe elections for every single sitting, and unfilled place in the council, to make sure we have people in the council running the Island who are for Shetland, respect the gorgeous natural wildlife and environment we live in, and do more to protect it, and protect Shetlands interests. Have like a mayor, or a leader elected, who is for these things, and would like to see Shetlands industries grow, and put that profits back to the community. Dont understand politics all that well, but bottom line, there would need to be an upheaval of whos working high up in the town hall.	
	3	In doing so, hopefully with more powers the council then can and will block any damaging developments on the island, I.E block all the proposed windfarms these companies want to build, so they can turn them off, and claim constraint money. There should be absolutely ZERO of these developments in Shetland, UNLESS the council fights for Shetlands favour. The VE windfarm has only made Shetlanders lives worse. We should at least get lower energy bills, not higher, and the council should be paid a lot more money annually. Just used windfarms as an example herr. If you look at the councils deal with, I presume EnQuest in the 1970s in the building of Sullom Voe, there was a far better deal with the council. (Yearly or monthly payments, shares, and a percent of profits, for operating here) We should not let foreign companies take advantage of our beautiful Island, without a fair AND beneficial deal with the local residents, such as myself. Reviving the street is needed as well. Give out more grants to people wanting to open shops, businesses, pubs/bars ect. If tourists werent coming here on cruise ships, I wouldn't be surprised if I saw a tumbleweed barrelling down Commercial St. some days.	
250908 15:05	Yes	Yes	
	1	Ferry link to mainland & inter-island tunnels - financial responsibility ... priorities would be different!	
	2	Ferries - link to mainland AND interisland tunnels.... Community Councils - rather than Scotland model Ditto schools	
	3	Holyrood wants independence from Westminster.... and how much they want to adopt Shetland style Charitable trust.... But Shetland would benefit more from a Crown Dependency style independence - and build closer links to Norway!	
250908 15:49	Yes	Yes	
	1	We have wind, oil, gas and fish resources in abundance to the rest of the UK.	
	2	Probably not in my lifetime.	
	3	It's been tried numerous times before. Does it need a new selling point?	
250908 16:19	Yes	Yes	

	1	Shetland has the ability to thrive and develop industry with more autonomy, with the correct use of taxes/income the islands communities would do what they do best and build a great Island infrastructure for generations going forward.	
	2	Major overhaul of the current inefficient council system, need to ensure value for money which the Shetland population isn't currently getting. Need to use the oil funds to help fund some major infrastructure projects along with bank borrowing. The islands need to have a leadership that is not reliant on handouts and has clear visibility and an ability to develop a 5 year, 10 year and 20 year plan and not just panic from one year to the next on grant from Scottish Government.	
250908 16:46		Yes	Yes
	1	I believe we could thrive with similar conditions to either the Isle of Man or even Faroe.	
	2	I've no idea as I'm in no way politically minded. I do worry that the current council set-up and elected members are not capable of running an independent Shetland. Maybe with more power they would be capable but that's an unknown.	
	3	In general I feel us as Shetlanders get a very poor deal. Poverty levels be it with fuel, food or any other normal necessity are high and without support how can it end.	
250908 16:51		Yes	Yes
250908 18:54		Yes	No
	1	From my experience, the SIC can't run a bath, never mind a council - more powers will lead to more problems	
	3	Scottish Independence is the only sensible future for us.	
250908 21:30		Yes	Yes
	1	Holyrood has no more interest in the way Shetland is run than Westminster. Island communities know best where money is needed most.	
	2	Uncertain it can change under the current government.	
250909 07:43		No	Yes
	1	As an Orcadian I would like in the long run Orkney and Shetland to receive powers more akin to the Isle of Man or Channel Islands, it is clear Scotland's interests often diverge from ours and many in Holyrood could barely point to Lerwick or Kirkwall on a map, let alone understand the needs of island communities. If the Faroe Islands can manage a degree of self governance why can't we?	
	2	I would like to see it done by an act of parliament, probably it couldn't be immediate but within 10-15 years would seem realistic. Possibly it could be part of a coalition formation deal should Labour have to call on the Lib Dems, given their strength here?	
250909 08:21		Prefer not to say	Yes
	1	More devolution	
	2	Get an snp mp onside	
250909 12:39		No	Yes
	1	The less (of anything) Whitehall has, the better.	
	2	Shetland MSP given a cabinet position in every administration Shetland to establish closer links with Iceland, Norway, Denmark and Ireland	
	3	Need to have alot less nepotism in the labour party	
250909 14:03		Yes	Yes
	1	Faroe	
	2	Revolucion	
	3	Scottish independence now. Support Palestine action. All zionists are evil.	
250909 14:36		Yes	Yes
	1	scottish gov don't care about islanders	
250909 15:13		Yes	Yes
	1	No	

2	Yes	
3	T for Texas, T for Tennessee!	
250909 17:23	Yes	Yes
1	Particularly when it comes to handling national budgets such as the NHS, it seems mainland Scotland has no idea of the unique needs of Shetland.	
250909 17:27	Yes	Yes
1	I think we should have some more powers, but I don't think we are a size where we can be fully autonomous. Denmark subsidises the Faroes, I am given to understand, for example. I think their actual financial set up is worth exploring more.	
2	Slowly! I don't think the Lib Dem's help - I think a big reason they still get voted in here because they've not had a chance to muck things up in Holyrood or Westminster. Shetland is voting for its own 'opposition', and to me, that's no way to plan strategically.	
	I think it would be easier in a much more devolved or independent Scotland, where it can handle its own money. Westminster will only ever pay lip service to Shetland, just as it does to Scotland - it would never let Shetland go, same as Scotland - we are too important strategically.	
250909 18:44	Yes	Yes
250909 19:18	Yes	Not sure
1	I don't trust the council, don't think that they have enough business acumen to take on a project as large as this.	
250909 19:30	Prefer not to say	Yes
1	I've been a recent a visitor to Shetland and immediately feel how special the Islands are. It is important for this unique community to treasure the genuine care for the well-being and infrastructure	
2	I believe a community is vital and it gives pride in open communication with foresight to society as it changes. Involvement and hope to keep the future secure would be beneficial initially over a five year term	
3	I have been made so welcome visiting Shetland and felt emotional when seeing and meeting Islanders. Thank you to Laurie Goodlad for her wonderful book, 'Shetland, Your Essential Tour Guide' enabling me to visit as a solo traveller!	
250909 20:44	Prefer not to say	Yes
1	Only people in Shetland know best what's required for the people who live there and the land environmentally and economically	
2	Changes could be made within 5 years initially by moving certain areas to SIC, however at the same time SIC requires to be able to be more scrutinised over spending/ looking after the people they employ/ ensuring that more money is left to the SIC from private initiatives (eg wind turbines/ rockets- to name the biggest at the moment) If Shetland is being used (as it appears to be via saxavord) for military purposes and defence then Shetland has to be recompensed substantially via uk government.	
3	Housing has to be urgently prioritised in particular in a way that any new builds are if passivhaus standards AND substantial improvements have to be put in place to bring other housing up to (or close to) passivhaus standards. Providing the urgent means for heatpumps to get fitted to everyone who is interested in them (my son has waited over 2 years so far to get one fitted and after having paid out a substantial amount of money months ago, he still doesn't know when he is likely going to get a heatpump fitted).	
250909 20:53	Yes	Yes
1	Basically more control over ,wind farms, more money for islanders, cheaper electricity, petrol. More control over the essential boat service	
2	Over a period of 2 years. Give the islanders a proper vote on how they want things to be divided. Not just the Council	
250909 20:56	No	Yes

	1	National, central and even regional governments is too far away from Shetland to be entirely relevant to the islands communities. Decisions that directly impact them should be taken locally rather than London or even Edinburgh.	
	2	Extending the powers of SIC, including powers to tax will ultimately benefit local people. Projects developed would be localised rather than one size fits all except Shetland!	
250909 20:59		Yes	Yes
	1	Shetland should have the option to decide for itself if it wants the changes that are told to us by government south	
	2	If they are beneficial to our islands as it just seems a empty statement	
250909 21:23		Yes	Yes
	1	Fishing, farming, renewables	
	2	Could start immediately in run up to election next year	
250909 22:06		No	Yes
	1	If small island countries like Putcain, Tristan Da Cunha, Ascension and St Helena can run their own national affairs - then why not Shetland? With 20,000+ citizenship!	
	2	Base it on a beefed up St Helena model, with a Cheif Minister and Cabinet with Island Legislative Council. Use the old parishes to frame the new constituencies on. By all means keep a Scottish Parliament rep in the form of a Baylie who signs off Shetland Ordinances	
	3	Makes all logical sense that Shetland is self determining.	
250909 22:16		Yes	No
	1	I have no confidence in the current Council leadership so giving them more power is not a good idea.	
	3	Shetland is just too small and vulnerable a place to consider more powers.	
250909 22:34		Yes	Yes
	1	Unique island	
	2	Via independent Scotland	
250910 01:03		No	Yes
	1	Shetland deserves the right to self determination just like Scotland	
	2	Not sure I just believe that Shetland is culturally different and also politically different from the rest of Scotland, in terms of traditions, language, ethnicity and also the way that Shetland (or Hjatland) votes in the general elections	
250910 03:35		Yes	Yes
	1	Only Shetland can truley state and help the people in Shetland.	
	2	They make the decsions and need no middle man	
250910 07:08		Yes	Yes
	1	the visual impact is one reason why we should be consulted	
	2	we need free electricity in Shetland this would go a small way in helping shetland go net zero. think about it free electricity, how many more electric cars would be sold. everything would be electric with your so called green energy, which we all know is not.	
250910 07:33		Yes	Not sure
250910 08:12		Yes	Yes
	1	Islanders would know better the issues that affect us and how to deal with them.	
	2	Powers transferred to the SIC from Holyrood over the next few years.	
250910 09:31		No	Yes
250910 11:24		No	Yes
	1	Shetlanders should have a say in how our islands are run..not be ruled by people who haven't a clue what island life entails.	
250910 13:26		Yes	No

	1	We are part of Scotland. Our needs are not ignored and we have neither the economies of scale nor the track record of efficiently handling public finances to do anything meaningful with more powers.	
250910 13:48	Yes	Yes	
	1	Why should, Hollyrood or Westminster decide what happens in Shetland?, all they're interested in is what they can take out of it, decisions can be made here in Shetland then just overturned on a whim by the Scottish or UK government's, its a joke.	
	2	More autonomy for Shetland.	
	3	It's pointless filling in surveys about wind farms, onshore or offshore, sailing capacity on our "lifeline " services, when nobody listens.	
250910 14:05	Yes	Not sure	
	1	I think there are things that would be better to be decided locally as neither Westminster nor holyrood take time nor particularly care about what implications of certain policies may be here locally. However, I worry that shetland is too cliquey and too much about "who you know" rather than having any foresight or vision of what kind of community and future we are trying to develop. I worry things could be done really badly if kept to local "talent" without external ideas and wider thinking.	
250910 16:37	No	Yes	
	1	you are so far away from Aberdeen and they only think Scotland is the centre belt	
	2	the should have own council just like the Isle of Man and Aberdeen should leave it to you	
250910 18:34	Yes	No	
	1	i bilieve in the scottish program it has been this way for hundreds of years why change it	
	2	i'm not in favour the power would go straight to the heads of the sic	
250910 18:41	Yes	Yes	
	1	Follow the Isle of Man/Channel Isles method. Become a UK protectorate and adopt UK tax rates, laws and benefits systems.	
	2	Once devolved from Scotland, Shetland centric issues can be tackled by Shetland based people. Estimate a 5 year plan to separate from Scottish control.	
250910 19:46	Yes	Yes	
	1	I've seen how autonomy could improve Shetland as half of my family are Guernsey (C.I.) people and I have recently spent a year working in the Falkland Islands. Being autonomous would greatly improve the future prospects for Shetland.	
250910 20:01	No	Yes	
	1	Future seems to be framed by the Shetlanders for the benefits of the islanders rather than a political approach.	
	2	Be interesting should the islands move to become a Crown dependency	
	3	The futuristic idea of interior island tunnels would be wonderful and one would expect it to lure people into the advantages of settling on the islands.	
250910 22:22	Yes	No	
250910 23:22	Yes	Not sure	
	1	Every community should have more involvement in the decisions that affect it but the SIC for many years have failed completely to represent the best interests of the whole community	
	2	I'm not	
	3	Until we see a fairer political system with a more open, honest & equitable attitude. All we will get is a continuation of the years of democratic failure	
250911 01:44	Yes	Yes	
	1	Decisions that effect us should be made by us	
	2	Full independence asap	
250911 08:58	Yes	Yes	
	1	Same set up as Faroe or Sark or Isle of Jersey.....total control to Shetland	

	2	Not an easy question really....this would be a journey.....we have valuable resources which need to be cherish not destroy....government policies seems to change which gives Shetland less power...for example Windfarm....Still nothing about commissioning and why are they not producing as we are not getting the rebates expected only Viking getting compensation for stopping to produce.....why	
	3	Survey does not ask correct questions and needs to be simple	
250911 09:17	No	Yes	
	1	more control of wind farms and revenue from them seems all the power is on the developers side	
250911 09:35	Yes	Not sure	
	1	The current council does not inspire confidence for administration of more power.	
250911 11:14	Yes	No	
	1	It is good being one with Scotland	
	2	Don't do it	
	3	Please don't	
250911 15:15	Prefer not to say	Yes	
	1	Power to the people	
	2	If Shetland made a proposal to become independent and did, a new independent island could be used as an example to sway the Scottish public vote on independence for Scotland.	
250911 16:30	Yes	Yes	
	1	We need to be more able to control big developments in Shetland. We had no say in the Viking Wind Farm which is too big and has destroyed the landscape of Shetland. The British and the Scottish government are only interested in making us the powerhouse for Britain, as long as it is not in their backyard. There is nothing green about it, so much peat dug up and thousands of tons of concrete poured.It is simply greed. Millions of pounds are paid in constraint payments, this means there is no risk to the developers, they will be paid whether they turn or not, absolutely criminal. Stop the payments and you will soon see how many wind farms will be built.	
	2	We need to have power over local planning decisions. Shetland planning committee were against the Viking Wind farm but were over ruled by the Scottish government, that is so unfair.	
	3	No more wind developments in Shetland.	
250911 17:14	Yes	No	
	1	If by more power handed over to Shetland you mean the council then NO they waste money harm the environment and don't work for the island communities.	
250911 17:38	No	Yes	
	1	It's such a unique and wonderful place which the governments of the British Isles know little or nothing about, so how can they make meaningful decisions for the islands?It feels as if all they're interested in is benefitting as much as possible from Shetland's natural resources.	
	2	You seem to be very good at working as communities so could you utilise that strength in some way?Perhaps setting up discussions with different island community leaders or members?	
	3	Don't make the mistakes we've made here in England where we have governments who are only interested in London and the South.Everyone needs a forum through which they can be heard so that the strengths of your wonderful communities will survive.	
250911 18:36	No	Yes	
	1	Because I care about Shetland	
	2	Every community should have a spokesperson and important decisions should be put to the vote amongst the communities it affects more like a lawting that would befit the islands It works in IOM and Iceland	
250911 18:40	Yes	Yes	
	1	We should be able to have a say on factors affecting us such as windy turbines, hydrogen, agriculture and ferries.	
	2	Referendums Unsure of the timeframe as some issues are ongoing and others present themselves unexpectedly.	

	3	I think we should have close ties with the uk in respect of national security and the island's security.	
250911 18:49	Yes	Yes	
	1	Decisions about things are made away from Shetland but we have no say. For example Shetland college was sold, now the textiles and arts departments are being cut back because the decisions are not made locally.	
250911 23:37	No	Yes	
	1	Shetland is a unique place with a heritage dissimilar to the rest of Scotland (apart from Orkney). It generates substantial revenue through the oil terminal but now needs to consider what will happen once that runs out. Simultaneously it has unique needs that can only be addressed locally.	
	2	As soon as possible and by the Scottish Parliament agreeing to devolve. There are no issues with the current political set up beyond the SNP's desire to centralise everything.	
250912 03:28	Yes	Yes	
	1	shetland should be able to make decisions on our own behalf so that we can make decisions that affect us that would never be thought of by someone who's never lived here before	
	2	we could achieve more powers by gaining more regional autonomy in general	
250912 08:04	No	Yes	
	1	Shetland should become a Crown Dependency, and govern itself exactly like Jersey and Guernsey	
	2	As quickly as possible	
	3	The best people to decide the future of Shetland are the residents themselves.	
250912 09:54	Yes	Yes	
	1	The push to develop energy at speed and without consultation of any sort with the people of Shetland is alarming and wrong. We are small in number and far from any seat of power and so our views have little 'volume'. We need more direct control over our affairs to restore a degree of balance and equity.	
	2	It should not be party political. It should be truly representative so some sort of proportional representation. There are even within the community individuals who have strong voices. It can be hard for less loud voices to be heard and taken account of unless they are given the respectful space in which to do it. It is important too that decisions are only made when the a large majority favour them. The standard 51% leaves a divided and embittered community.	
250912 10:27	Yes	Yes	
	1	It's absolutely criminal the way Shetland (and surrounding waters) is being industrialised and in consequence polluted for generations to come; Scottish & UK governments giving huge corporations a free-hand to rip up centuries old carbon-holding peatland and disturbing relatively pristine seabeds that have always fed the Shetland population. Utter disgrace that "laws" enable this yet give no power or say to local inhabitants, and an utter disgrace that the Scottish government (one person in many cases of questionable ability) can so easily overturn a decision made by democratically elected councillors representing their constituents' views (eg use of Science building at Knab). So many silly rules wasting public money emanating from Holyrood, also so hypocritical - cyclists, lowering speed limits too far all adding to air pollution as cars having to travel through town mostly in second gear, etc. More interference through new crofting laws supposedly to protect the land while they're actively encouraging and allowing pollution on a huge scale (wind farms, cables, pylons, rocket launches) - utter hypocrisy	
250912 10:50	No	Yes	

1	<p>Shetland needs to control and benefit from renewable energy and other major infrastructure developments.</p> <p>The islands have very different problems to those of the Highlands, never mind the central belt and borders.</p> <p>Transport development is essential for the wellbeing of the islands economy and without additional powers and resources it wont be able to develop the ferry and tunnel capacity that it needs.</p> <p>I don't think that the Nationalists have the best interests of Shetland at heart as its history and identity doesn't fit with their cultural narrative.</p>	
2	<p>This would require cooperation from the Scottish and UK government. Many of the powers needed over fiscal matters and current developments in energy would come from Westminster. I think that there would be less resistance to devolving powers to Shetland from Westminster than Holyrood. A constitutional arrangement which would put the islands outside any independent Scotland would be needed to ensure that self determination couldn't be revoked in these circumstances.</p> <p>The Isle of Man and the Channel Islands manage almost total self determination .</p>	
3	<p>I was initially reluctant to participate in this survey as I am not a Shetland resident. I have however visited the islands on many occasions and have had the opportunity in the past to visit the Faroes.</p> <p>Effective independence for the Faroes has seen it maintain a population twice that of Shetland and a per capita GDP also approximately twice, with islands of a similar size and without the oil / gas resources.</p>	
250912 13:58	Prefer not to say	Yes
1	I would say Shetland need more power, as a resident that frequently returns to the island, it's truly scary to see the island be pillaged by all these useless windfarms. The Electricity bill has gone up by 250£. For net zero? We are fighting a losing battle that will be decided in China, India and El Salvador and other parts of southern America where pollution is more a problem. We need to stop killing Shetland because some Eco terrorist made us feel bad. Shetland does not produces a fraction of thr pollution China makes!	
2	Complete utter political reform for the island. Either we have sovereignty or we move back to Norway.	
3	The island need to do something about the pedophiles it has on it. Lobotomised and castrate throw them in a cell.	
250912 14:34	Yes	Yes
1	Shetland is remote from the rest of the UK; not just in distance but in history and culture too. We have different needs, have less amenities than the rest of Scotland mainland - as in trains, trams, sports and leisure facilities such as ice rinks, bowling alleys. We also have little say as individual as to what our land, our hills and our futures will look like. Environmental vandalism is rife - as in the proliferation of giant wind turbines - apparently wealthy and unaccountable big business can and do as they please on our islands, while local people's health, welfare, homes and future suffer from lack of care.	
2	Changes which could change the lives of us all, or of many, such as the plans for giant wind farms, tunnels, bridges, ferries - should be put to the vote for ALL over 16s who live here, not for anyone who does not. We know that "public consultations" - for example - only proved to those hosting the events that the majority were against the VE windfarm, so no public vote was allowed. This was a clear and blatant side step for permission for the windfarm to go ahead against the wishes of Shetland inhabitants.	
3	I often send enquiries or complaints about our roads here in Scatness - to the Dunrossness Community Council, to the SIC 's appropriate dept, and to local councillors but nothing is done. Will it take a serious accident for change to happen? Who cares?	
250912 15:22	Yes	Yes
1	We need to stand up for our selves	
2	Referendum	

3	I love Shetland	
250912 16:00	Yes	Yes
1	Shetland Should be Separate and In Charge!	
250912 16:40	Yes	No
250912 16:44	Yes	Yes
1	Shetland is resource rich. We should be able to control our own purse rather than give it all to Edinburgh and London. New ferries and tunnels should already be underway.	
2	First of all, Our council needs to become a lot more professional. They let the windfarm potential slip through their fingers. We could easily offer to be the convenient tax haven for an independent Scotland.	
250912 17:02	Yes	No
1	SIC can hardly cope with powers they already have . Decision making slow .If more powers to be given we need very strong people to fight our side	
250912 17:12	No	Yes
250912 18:46	No	Yes
1	I believe Shetland should be able to determine it's future with a degree of independence similar to Faroe, the IOM, Jersey and so on.	
2	I doubt this will happen in my life time.	
250912 19:42	No	Yes
1	As an island resident, albeit a different island, I understand that central government decisions are made very often with little or no thought to the local area. As such, the whole character and identity of the islands are changing, and not for the best.	
2	There would unfortunately have to be a completely different political leader, and a multitude of policy changes that would be too costly and time consuming to happen at any pace. And the islands are too valuable to the economy to separate from the central government.	
250912 19:57	No	Not sure
1	Maybe	
2	In the current political set-up.....Well I think so In the current political set-up unfortunately that is impossible	
3	Yes	