
COUNCILLOR JULIE THOMAS

Councillor Julie Thomas brings a unique blend of leadership, experience, and community connection to her second term in office. Having served as St Helena's inaugural Chief Minister from 2021 to 2025, she continues to represent the people of St Helena with energy, empathy, and a strong focus on accountability and inclusion.

Julie's political journey began long before her election, through years of community involvement and advocacy. She has always believed that good governance starts with listening, understanding, and empowering people – values that have guided her throughout her public life.

As Chief Minister, Julie led St Helena through one of the most pivotal periods in its modern history. She guided the island through its new ministerial system and was instrumental in taking several bold, but necessary decisions. These included the **responsible reopening of the island following the COVID-19 pandemic**, balancing health protection with the need to revitalise the economy; **securing an agreement with the UK Government** to support the safe acceptance of **migrants from the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT)** should their return to country of residence be deemed inadvisable; and initiating a **comprehensive Education Review**, which led to the **restructuring of primary schools** and the introduction of **Council of British International Schools (COBIS) standards** to strengthen educational outcomes and global alignment.

Her leadership was marked by a commitment to transparency, evidence-based decision-making, and compassion – ensuring that even the most difficult choices were guided by what was right for the long-term wellbeing of St Helena and its people.

Now serving as a Member of the Legislative Council, Julie brings the insight of a former Chief Minister to her scrutiny and representation roles. She currently sits on **Select Committee 1**, with responsibility for **Education, Skills & Employment; Health & Social Care**; and **Environment, Natural Resources & Planning**, and also serves as both **Children's Champion** and **Communications Champion**.

With more than 25 years of professional experience across public service, finance, business development, and fisheries governance, Julie has held senior roles with the St Helena Development Agency (SHDA) and the Bank of St Helena (BoSH), and has managed her own business advisory services. She also worked as St Helena Project Manager for the International Pole & Line Foundation (IPNLF), promoting sustainable fisheries and supporting local livelihoods.

Julie's community spirit runs deep – she co-founded **Saint FM Community Radio**, a vital local voice, and helped establish **Unified Saints**, a grassroots group advocating for transparency and public participation.

Known for her approachable and forward-thinking leadership style, Julie remains passionate about good governance, community engagement, and the wellbeing of St Helena's people.

Outside of public life, she enjoys keeping active, spending time outdoors, reading, and making memories with family and friends.

“ It is both an honour and a privilege to continue serving the people of St Helena, and to have represented our island at some of the most prestigious events – including Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II’s State Funeral, the Coronation of King Charles III, and hosting an environmental stewardship event at Speaker’s House. To play a part in shaping the future of our island is a tremendous pleasure, but one that comes with great responsibility – a responsibility I embrace wholeheartedly.” – **Councillor Julie Thomas**