

Hon. Denis Leo was elected to the Legislative Council in 2025, represents the Longwood electoral area and currently serves as the Champion for Sports and Culture.

Born and raised on St Helena, Councillor Leo, after a period working off-shore, built his career in conservation, focusing on the protection and restoration of the Island's endemic Wirebird population. His work has connected him deeply with St Helena's natural environment, from restoring native habitats to sharing the Island's biodiversity with visitors and residents alike. Alongside this, he has worked closely with international conservation partners, learning how to adapt global strategies to the realities of island life — a balance of local insight and global perspective that guides much of his approach to leadership.

A committed community member, Councillor Leo has served on the St Paul's Primary School Parent Teacher Association and the Kingshurst Community Centre Committee and has long been active in Island sports, including football and cricket. Through these roles, he has contributed to initiatives that build community spirit, promote wellbeing and preserve the Island's cultural identity.

Councillor Leo describes himself as someone who has reached a point in life where he feels ready to stand up and be counted. He believes deeply in community, self-sufficiency, fairness and sustainability and in the importance of listening to others and embracing diverse perspectives. He acknowledges that leadership is not about having all the answers, but about being willing to listen, to learn, and to build something that reflects the values and voices of the people. His key priorities include strengthening local food security, supporting youth empowerment, creating green jobs through conservation and promoting renewable energy and sustainable living. He believes access to fresh, local food is about more than health; it is about nourishing minds, supporting local growers, keeping people active and creating stronger, more self-reliant communities.

At the heart of his work is a strong belief in the value of local knowledge and cultural identity. He advocates for community-led solutions, trusting that the best ideas come from those who live and work on the Island. He believes that "the knowledge, strength and solutions we need are already here within our people, our land and our culture" and is committed to helping build a fair, confident and self-reliant St Helena through open dialogue, collaboration and respect for all.