



Regional Councillor elections 2026

What is the role of a Regional Councillor?

Regional Councillors are elected to represent their local athletics and running community.

Becoming a Regional Councillor is both a rewarding and privileged role with the unique opportunity to help shape the sport for the benefit of their clubs and members, both now and in the future.

What does a Regional Councillor do?

Whilst Regional Councillors have many different roles to perform, their primary responsibilities are to:

- Engage and consult with local members, member clubs and other stakeholder groups within their community on a wide range of issues affecting athletics and running
- Represent the best interests of local athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, member clubs and the sport in general, through effective two-way communication and sharing of information
- Contribute to the review and development of strategies delivered by England Athletics, which improve the delivery and development of athletics and running both regionally and nationally

Regional Councillors serve on their Regional Council for an initial period of four years. After this, the Regional Councillor may apply again and, if successful, can then sit for a further four years. After eight years, they must stand down. There are anywhere between three and seven Regional Councillors per Regional Council.

What skills are required to be a Regional Councillor?

Primarily a Regional Councillor should have a passion and enthusiasm for the sport of athletics and running at a local level. Good communication and engagement skills are also central to being an effective regional councillor as well as leadership and innovation.

What are Regional Councils?

Regional Councils are the local representative bodies of athletics and running in England and form a key part of the sport's national structure. There are nine Regional Councils in England, each representing the sport at grassroots level within their own region*.

Regional Councils see the Councillors and co-opted members working together to deliver the purpose of the sport's national membership and development body, England Athletics, which is: "to inspire more athletes and runners of all abilities and backgrounds to fulfil their potential and have a lifelong love for the sport."

Therefore, Regional Councils provide a vital link between satisfying the specific needs and priorities of their local members and athletics clubs whilst contributing to the overall future health and success of athletics and running as a sport.

Given the important role that Regional Councils play in supporting the vision of England Athletics to make athletics and running: "...an inclusive sport where all athletes belong and flourish", the work to ensure that their membership is representative of the wider sport remains paramount.

Regional Councils meet at least three times a year with one Regional Councillor elected as chair to oversee delivery of that region's overall strategy. Furthermore, an elected representative of each Regional Council sits on England Council, which meets between four and six times a year.

*The nine regions for athletics and running in England are [in alphabetical order]: East / East Midlands / London / North East / North West / South East / South West / Yorkshire C Humberside / West Midlands.