

ENGLAND COUNCIL (EC) MEETING OUTCOMES

Thursday 13th November 2026
Newark on Trent, Nottingham and via Teams

Present:

Matthew Dalton, Chair, (East)
Jon Clarke, (Northwest), via Teams
Lynn Cooper, (North East)
Paul D'Arcy, (South West), via Teams
Neil Dawson, (East Midlands)
Adrian Day (London), via Teams
James de Vivenot, (South East)
Ian Martin, (Yorks & Humberside) via Teams
Stuart Paul, (West Midlands)

In attendance:

Sarah Benson, Talent & Performance Director, via Teams
Emma Davenport, Participation Director, via Teams
Dan Isherwood, Operations Director
Chris Jones, CEO
Kerry Jilks, England Council Secretary
Sam O'Shea, Board Secretary, via Teams

Part Attendance

Nichola Skedgel, (Item 7 only)

External attendees

Dean Hardman, (Item 7 only), via Teams

Apologies:

Gary Shaughnessy, Board Chair
Paul Miller, England Council Diversity Lead, via Teams

1. Apologies

MD welcomed Kerry Jilks, the new England Council Secretary.

2. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Draft minutes of previous meeting

Resolved and Actions:

1.) EC agreed the July minutes were a true reflection of the meeting.

4. Actions/matters arising

The outstanding actions were discussed along with those that were marked for closing.

5. EC Chair's report

MD referred to some points within his paper circulated.

The Whole Council Conference agenda has been circulated, and the conference will include a discussion on the Track & Field vision research.

6. Dashboard and CEO report

CJ highlighted some key points within the report.

- ESAA's AGM takes place this weekend when they will consider the conditions that EA has made in our most recent letter with regard to competition that will be held outside of the UKA rules from 1st April.
- CJ thanked Council for their ongoing work particularly with the club forums. The new welfare forums are extremely exciting and the additional CSMs will support these local initiatives even further.

Nichola Skedgel and Dean Hardman joined the meeting.

7. Competition strategy

NS shared some slides and reminded EC on the priorities, which included the development of a clear age-appropriate competition framework, including pilots for U10s and U12s, addressing the decline in T&F events, and new competition funding grants.

7a Track & Field Vision update

DH introduced the topic and shared the latest updates with EC.

The group was reminded that as a result in the decline in participation in young T&F athletes, HCAFs agreed it was important to understand their views and an independent group was set up to carry out a review. Some comments received by independent group say we need move best practice to business as usual.

DH confirmed that UKA and the HCAFs would be meeting to finalise and the documentation would then be published. At this stage organisations will be asked to feedback and shape any changes. CJ commented that this work will influence what activities EA focuses on.

7b Competition funding applications

NS introduced the topic and shared some slides.

41 applications were received and the full Panel decided upon a shortlist based on the criteria which aligns with EA's strategy. The outcomes list will be shared with the Board at their November meeting.

7c Competition Conference

NS updated EC on the number of people who have signed up and which area of the sport they are from. She also shared the agenda.

Nichola Skedgel and Dean Hardman left the meeting.

8. Power of 10 – verbal update

DI reminded EC that there are plans to modernise Power of 10, a UKA owned product. Stage 1 of the improvements should be launched imminently, and Stage 2 will focus on future innovations. It is understood that EA will be part of the working group.

9. Race discounts and licensing fee

CJ introduced the topic, which was discussed by the Board in September, and asked for EC's feedback.

10. Finance report

The annual report has been published with a more engaging video to communicate what has been achieved. It was agreed that the Operational Plan & Budget would be shared with EC ahead of the February meeting.

11. Review of regional forums and awards

Regional Council chairs provided feedback on their regional forums.

12. Skills Matrices

The EC noted the Skills Matrices and the good spread of particular skills. The council also shared their views on the format and whether any changes should be made. They agreed that this was an opportunity to fill gaps and look forward to topics that may arise in 2026 that may affect clubs.

13. Regional Action Plans

EC noted the Action Plans and reflected their individuality and their importance to reflect on what will be prioritised over the next period. The general consensus was that CSMs could work with chairs to help them to develop an overall basic structure to allow easy dissemination of information but still to allow flexibility and local nuance.

SO informed EC that EDI Manager, Georgina Best, was interested in seeing the regional council plans. EC was content for these to be shared.

14. England and Regional Council Diversity Lead Role Descriptions

EC reviewed the England and Regional Council Diversity Lead Role Descriptions.

Resolved and Actions:

1.) EC approved the updated role descriptions