ENGLAND COUNCIL (EC) MEETING

Wednesday 15th April 2026 11:30am to 3:30pm
Sixth Form Centre, Kings College, South Road, Taunton, TA1 3LA
and via Teams

Present:
Matthew Dalton, Chair, (MD)
Jon Clarke, (JC), via Teams (from Item 6)
Lynn Cooper, (LC), via Teams
Paul D'Arcy,(PD)
Adrian Day (AD), via Teams
James de Vivenot, (JdV)
Ian Martin, (IM), via Teams
Paul Miller, England Council Diversity Lead, (PM), via Teams (from Item 6.3)
Stuart Paul, (SP)
Gary Shaughnessy, Board Chair, (GS), via Teams (except Item 9)
Terry Timmis (Vice Chair, East Mids) (TT) via Teams

In attendance:
Emma Davenport, Clubs & Development Director, (ED) via Teams
Dan Isherwood, Operations Director (DI)
Chris Jones, CEO, (CJ) via Teams
Sam O'Shea, Board & NED Secretary, (SO) via Teams

Part Attendance
David Bull, Head of Commercial Partnerships, (DB) via Teams (Item 9 only)

External Attendee
Dean Hardman, T&F project consultant, (DH) via Teams (Items 8.1 to 8.3 only)

Apologies:
Sarah Benson, Talent & Performance Director (SB)
Neil Dawson (East Midlands) (ND), Terry Timmis attending in ND's absence.

Some agenda items were discussed in a different order to that listed on the agenda.

1. Welcome and Apologies

2. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Draft minutes of the previous meeting

Resolved and Actions:

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

4. Actions/matters arising

There were none outstanding. EC noted those that were marked to close.

Resolved and Actions:

1.) None

5. EC Chair's report

The Chair highlighted some key points from his report.

6. Dashboard and CEO report *(agenda item 7)*

CJ highlighted some key points from the paper circulated including the confirmation that EA will be part of the new Power of 10 User Group and work continues to migrate data from UKA.

Recruitment is ongoing for 3 new CSMs and exploration work is being undertaken around new competition providers.

EA representation has been identified for the new review group in relation to the newly formed UK wide cross-country calendar.

The direction of travel for many KPIs is positive

7. Operational Plan and Budget update (Item 8 on the agenda)

DI highlighted some key priorities which include club/CSM support, competition and coach/officials development.

DI provided a summary of the budget, aligned to the Operational Plan, along with the rolling 4-year plan which were approved by the Board in March.

8. Age Groups, Regional Plans, T&F Vision update and Board Chair report (Agenda items 9, 10 and 6 combined)

<u>Age groups</u>

DH confirmed that the rule book is now live and downloadable from UKA website. A short summary has also been produced and informal Q&A sessions have been scheduled to support the October change for off-track competition.

<u>Regional Action Plans</u>

RC Chairs gave a summary of their plans including priorities, progress and challenges.

Wider Track & Field review
Next steps include establishing hubs in each region and key stakeholder meetings will take place to support initial pilots. A toolkit and support from other clubs will be provided for clubs who are keen to create hubs more independently.

Board Chair
GS summarised a recent Board discussion around how athletics can help the mental health pandemic and how it is often the starting point for other sports.

9. Commercial Strategy *(Item 11 on agenda)*
DB presented slides explaining the rationale for change, the challenges and opportunities and informed EC of the new commercial strategy.

A question was asked about what categories of sponsor that EA would accept. DB explained that we have established guidelines to ensure any sponsor aligns with our values.

10. New affiliation year – 15 days in *(Item 12 on the agenda)*
DI informed EC that numbers were currently 73.5k and we are on track to achieve the end of year target. He added that early indications are positive for U10s and U12s.

11. Power of 10 verbal update *(Item 13 on the agenda)*
EC noted the verbal update provided in relation to the Power of 10.

12. **Participation and facilities strategy update** (Item 14 on the agenda)

Participation strategy
Conversations are taking place with all those in the sport, resulting in an executive summary / next steps.
For the Officials Review, a briefing document has been produced for tender.

Facilities strategy
ED updated EC on the appointment of FMG as the consultancy firm who have commenced their research phase with internal and external stakeholders.

Council elections *(Item 15 on the agenda)*

MD provided an update in relation to Council Elections and asked that consideration be given to succession planning.

As per Article 77, the Board can agree an additional term for RC members and RC Chairs and a clear proforma will be provided to support this at regional council level.

2026 elections

SO updated the Council that 3 elected councillors have joined the council during the recent elections: 2 new members and 1 existing co-optee.

2027 documentation

The EC discussed the various council documents which been reviewed by the EDI Manager and edits were visible via track changes.

EC approved the following documents:

1.) **Regional Council Code of Conduct.**
- **Subject to the edit of Bullet 1**
- **Subject to the edit of Bullet 5.**
  - Discuss with London Council and report back.

2.) Regional Council Terms of Reference
- **With the exception of the proposed edit on pg. 3 relating to the number of co-optees.**

3.) Regional Councillor role description

4.) Regional Council Chair role description
- **Subject to last bullet being amended as per the RC Code of Conduct Bullet 5.**

5.) Approve the England Council Code of Conduct
- **Subject to Bullet 1 being amended as per the RC version.**
- **Subject to Bullet 5 being amended as per the RC version.**

6.) England Council Terms of Reference

7.) England Council Chair role description

8.) With regard to the co-optee reference in the RC Terms of Reference, EC recommended that Article 65 is changed and the suggestion below will be put to Governance Committee:
- *"The number of co-opted members must be lower than the number of elected members at the time of the election".*

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Chair