

Regional Candidates Chair - Report to Regional Conference November 2025

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Selections and candidates

We now have two candidates in place – Martin Tod is our Mayoral candidate for Hampshire & The Solent. Special thanks to all the team who made this selection happen – it was the first of its kind for South Central!

Charlie Murphy – PPC for Portsmouth South.

There are currently three selections underway (advert placed and in progress) – Romsey & Southampton North, East Hants & Hamble Valley. These three seats have been designated as Moving Forward + seats. Several other constituencies are starting the process, and more are planned for the new year.

The selection rules were updating this year. They enable the start of the process to be quicker but have introduced a new appendix D which local parties need to be aware of.

Assessment days for the approval of new candidates are taking place regularly. Please be aware that anyone applying for a seat must be on the list of approved candidates.

Returning Officers

Training on the new selection rules took place over the summer. We now have 8 Assistant Returning Officers (AROs) who are qualified to take on selections under the new rules, and 3 full Returning Officers who can select for Moving Forward + seats and those that attract 6 or more applicants.

HQ is ambitious about getting PPCs selected much earlier in this parliament. I am happy to talk to local parties about their selections.

There is always a need for people to come forward to train as AROs or candidate assessors. Please consider whether you would be able to help the party by taking on one of those voluntary roles.

Finally, thank you so much to our excellent ROs and AROs for their continuing hard work and commitment, to our e ballot administrators, local

parties, candidates committee, candidates and everyone involved in selections!