MINUTES OF THE BBC TRUST MEETING

Held on Thursday 18 July 2013
at BBC Newcastle

Present:

Lord Patten Chairman
Diane Coyle Vice Chairman
Sonita Alleyne Trust member
Richard Ayre Trust member
Alison Hastings Trust member for England
David Liddiment Trust member
Bill Matthews Trust member for Scotland
Aideen McGinley Trust member for Northern Ireland
Elan Closs Stephens Trust member for Wales
Suzanna Taverne Trust member
Lord Williams Trust member

Apologies:

Anthony Fry Trust member

In attendance from the Trust Unit:

Nicholas Kroll Director, BBC Trust
Alex Towers Deputy Director
Phil Harrold Head of Governance
Fran O’Brien Head of Editorial Standards

Mark Devane Head of Communications
Kate Atkins Chief Adviser, Governance
Jon Cowdock Head of Business Strategy
Alison Gold Head of Public Services Strategy
**From the Executive:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Items 92 and 93</th>
<th>Tony Hall</th>
<th>Director-General</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Items 92 and 93</td>
<td>Anne Bulford</td>
<td>Managing Director, Finance and Operations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Items 92 and 93</td>
<td>James Purnell</td>
<td>Director, Strategy and Digital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Items 92 and 93</td>
<td>Jessica Cecil</td>
<td>Chief of Staff, Director-General's office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGENDA</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>Minutes and matters arising</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>87</td>
<td>Committees and nations reports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>88</td>
<td>Director's report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>89</td>
<td>Severance pay, National Audit Office report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>90</td>
<td>Review of Children’s services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>91</td>
<td>Review of BBC network news</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>92</td>
<td>Director-General’s monthly report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>93</td>
<td>Strategy review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>94</td>
<td>Items for noting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>95</td>
<td>Business handling and communications</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
86 **MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**

86.1 The Trust approved the minutes of the meeting held on 20 June 2013 as an accurate record of proceedings. The Trust approved the publication of the minutes with no redactions.

86.2 The Trust noted the matters arising from previous meetings.

87 **COMMITTEES AND NATIONS REPORTS**

87.1 The Chairman of the Strategy and Approvals Committee said the committee had discussed the findings of the review by the Executive’s Audit Committee of BBC Worldwide’s acquisition of Lonely Planet.

87.2 The Chairman of the Editorial Standards Committee said the committee had considered the Executive’s follow up report on actions arising from the Trust’s review of the impartiality and accuracy of the BBC’s coverage of the events known as the "Arab Spring". The committee had been pleased with the actions taken and agreed that the Executive’s report should be published.

88 **DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

88.1 The Director, BBC Trust presented his report, which provided an overview of activity undertaken by the Trust and previewed the key issues to be discussed by the Trust at the meeting.

89 **SEVERANCE PAY, NATIONAL AUDIT OFFICE REPORT**

89.1 Trust members were updated on events that followed the Public Accounts Committee hearing on the National Audit Office report into severance payments for BBC senior managers. Members discussed the public and stakeholder reaction to the hearing, including the request from the Committee for the BBC to disclose the names of severance recipients, and what steps to take next. It was agreed that the Chairman and Director-General should discuss the Committee’s request for names.

90 **REVIEW OF CHILDREN’S SERVICES**

90.1 The Trust’s Head of Public Services Strategy provided an update on the Trust’s review of BBC Children’s services, which was nearing completion.

90.2 Members discussed the conclusions and actions of the review and agreed that CBBC and CBeebies were performing very well against their service licences.
They were the most watched children’s channels in the UK for their respective target audiences and, overall, feedback from children and parents was very positive. Members agreed that the BBC Children’s department was taking appropriate action to address the financial and technological challenges it faced. Members agreed with the conclusions reached in the review relating to the BBC’s radio provision for children.

90.3 The Trust delegated authority to its Audiences and Performance Committee to approve the final report of its review of BBC Children’s services. The report is due to be published in September.

91 REVIEW OF BBC NETWORK NEWS

91.1 The Trust’s Head of Public Services Strategy presented proposed terms of reference for the Trust’s forthcoming review of BBC network news.

91.2 Members discussed the scope of the review and agreed it should cover daily network news on TV, radio and online, current affairs output, the BBC News Channel and BBC Parliament. Members agreed that areas of focus for the review should include the quality and distinctiveness of BBC News output and the future direction of BBC News in response to changing audience expectations and technological developments.

91.3 The Trust approved the terms of reference for publication at the time of the review’s launch in September.

92 DIRECTOR-GENERAL’S MONTHLY REPORT

92.1 The Director-General updated Trust members on recent BBC programmes and events. He said he was delighted that the BBC had agreed a deal with the Football Association to broadcast live coverage of the FA Cup on television and online from 2014. He also welcomed the announcements that Charlotte Moore had been appointed Controller, BBC One and that journalist and broadcaster Mishal Husain would be joining Radio 4’s Today programme. He noted BBC programme highlights, including coverage of the Wimbledon tennis championships, Glastonbury music festival and the 2013 Proms season.

92.2 The Director-General provided an update on industrial relations issues, including the 2013 pay deal and proposals around the BBC’s redundancy policy.

93 STRATEGY REVIEW

93.1 The Director, Strategy and Digital updated Trust members on progress on the BBC strategy review.
93.2 Members discussed the issues raised by the review with the Executive and welcomed the focus on reaching all audiences, providing creative programmes and services and innovation. They also discussed how the strategy work addressed some of the public policy debates about the future of the BBC.

93.3 The Trust agreed to have further discussions with the Executive in September, ahead of a proposed speech by the Director-General in the autumn.

94 **ITEMS FOR NOTING**

94.1 (a) Minutes from committees and Audience Councils  
(b) Documents for sealing  
(c) Report of offline approvals

95 **BUSINESS HANDLING AND COMMUNICATIONS**

95.1 The Trust discussed the handling and communication of items considered at the meeting.