

BBC Criteria for Local News Partnerships

These criteria are designed to set a fair and non-discriminatory approach to the selection of partners and avoid conferring an unfair advantage on a particular partner or class of partners which could distort the market.

All potential partners must meet the editorial criteria set out in section 1.

To be eligible to bid for the contracts to employ the Local Democracy Reporters, potential partners must additionally meet the criteria set out in section 2.

1) Demonstrate quality and a previous track record of public service journalism

- A consistent level of contemporaneous coverage of all aspects of public institutions, organisations and civic life, including councils and public bodies.
- Meets and maintains high journalistic standards with reference to both the BBC's Editorial Guidelines and the Editors' Code of Practice. This can be evidenced by having journalists subject to oversight by a recognised regulator such as Ipso and/or by producing a demonstrable track record of quality material.
- Must be able to demonstrate a robust method for handling complaints.

2) Additional requirements for employing Local Democracy Reporters:

- Content must be able to be provided in multi-media format including text, audio and digital format.
- Must already employ journalists trained to recognised standards with relevant experience.
- A current employer who has, or can acquire:
 - Ability to handle payroll, overheads, holiday cover, sick leave, etc
 - Ability to ensure submitted material has been checked by another trained journalist
 - Capacity to manage performance
 - Provide support and exercise a duty of care
- A bidder must be preferably located within or close to the relevant authority area.

3) Other considerations:

Although not strict criteria, there are other factors which may be taken into account when awarding a contract to entities that have met the above criteria. These include:

- If no suitable local bidders come forward, the ability to accommodate the reporter(s) within or close to the relevant authority area
- Demonstrating a commitment to diversity and equality
- Commitment to working in partnership (so long as the main partner meets all the above criteria and any other parties meet the editorial criteria and can supply content in a multimedia format)