Guidance notes for BBC Local News Partnership applications

General principles

The BBC’s Local News Partnership [LNP] supports established news providers who can
demonstrate an ongoing commitment to the production of public interest journalism for
local or regional audiences, irrespective of size or means of distribution. The BBC also
welcomes applications for membership from news providers that target BAME
communities in the UK and which can demonstrate an ongoing commitment to bringing
public interest journalism to those communities.

The project has defined two types of partner – Partner and Supplier:

x Partner: Receives free content generated through the News Hub, Shared Data Unit
and Local Democracy Reporting Service,

x Supplier: Receives free content generated through the News Hub, Shared Data
Unit and Local Democracy Reporting Service and employs one or more of the
Local Democracy Reporters.

Eligibility

All potential Partners must meet the editorial criteria set out in the Criteria for Local

x can demonstrate coverage of all aspects of public institutions, organisations and
civic life, including councils and public bodies x regularly publishes, broadcasts or distributes news content. Interpretation of
‘regularly’ will depend on the applicant (i.e. it might be hourly for a broadcaster,
daily for a news website or weekly for some newspapers)
Organisations not eligible for these partnerships include: x news providers whose target audience is restricted to a community of interest (e.g.
supporters of a sports team) x news providers whose editorial is local, but focussed on a narrow genre (e.g.
entertainment listings, satire, etc.) x providers of national or international news x organisations which aggregate or distribute content made by third-party providers. x media production companies
News agencies
News agencies will not be eligible to receive any content generated by these partnerships,
but agencies which supply local content will be eligible to tender for Local Democracy
Reporter Supplier contracts, so long as they meet all other relevant criteria.
All news agencies, including members of the National Association of Press Agencies, will
be processed through the ‘non-regulated’ application process.(i)-3(a)-3(l)11(i)-3(s)-3(l)11(oca3<0004>] TJ
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Non-regulated applicants will be asked to provide ten examples of appropriate content,
two of which must be at least one year old. These examples may be links, AV files or
electronic versions of printed materials.
Editorial standards
All applicants must meet and maintain high journalistic standards with reference to both
the BBC’s Editorial Guidelines
2 and the Editors’ Code of Practice.
High journalistic standards can be evidenced by having journalists subject to oversight by
a ‘regulator or self-regulator’ such as, but not limited to, Ipso, IMPRESS or OFCOM, or by
producing a demonstrable track record of quality journalism. x Being subject to a regulator or being a member of a regulatory body will be
accepted as a commitment to high journalistic standards, so long as local/regional
news (as set out above) is central to the offering.

For larger news providers this will mean indicating a number of council areas. For smaller
providers (ie a news website for a single postcode area in a large town), please indicate the

- manage relationships with other users of the service - engage with relevant communities and audiences - promote and develop the work of the LDRS - support the delivery of work in multi-media formats - attract a diverse and inclusive cohort of reporters - support sustainability