

The BBC Charter Review Alternative Green Paper

The **Alternative Green Paper** is an open collection of ideas for how to reform the BBC. It will be launched publicly, and remain open to continued responses from anyone who wishes to contribute. It is positioned as a complement, rather than a replacement, for the DCMS Green Paper, with the aim of expanding the debate about Charter review.

We are inviting the public, civil society organisations, researchers & other interested groups to contribute their own submissions. The priorities for the compilation are that it:

- Is as open and accessible as possible for a public audience as well as policy experts and industry professionals.
- Covers a range of proposals that together address large to small issues relating to the BBC, from essential principles and technical tinkering to content standards, governance models and ideas for new services or kinds of programming.

Keeping all proposals to a standard format will ensure all readers can explore and engage with the Alternative Green Paper.

SUBMISSIONS SHOULD:

- have a clear title and present a specific proposal for reforming the BBC;
- fit within a topic or theme about the BBC – see indicative list below, though we still welcome proposals outside of these topics.
- explain the context and benefits of the proposal - e.g. why does this matter, what is the existing evidence for change, who would this affect?
- detail how this proposal can be achieved - i.e. what policy mechanism: the Royal Charter, regulatory frameworks, new legislation etc.
- provide open consultation-style questions to invite further public discussion;
- be no longer than 2 A4 pages, using 11 point font.

POTENTIAL TOPICS FOR SUBMISSION INCLUDE (BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO):

- The BBC's mission and purposes as a public media institution – what should the BBC exist to do?
- The constitution and governance of the BBC, including its accountability and political independence.
- How the BBC is funded, alternative collection methods, and how the funding level is determined.
- Regulation of the BBC, including its news and journalism, its production and commissioning of content, and assessing the benefits and impact of its services.
- The BBC's role in serving and representing the nations, regions and local communities of the UK.
- The relationship between the BBC and its staff, media workers and the wider creative industries.
- The BBC's provision of different genres of programmes and content, services for particular audiences (both in the UK and internationally) and broader public service activities provided by the BBC.
- The BBC's role in the digital media landscape, including how it distributes content and services to audiences, the use and development of new digital technologies, and the BBC's relationship with existing digital/online platforms.

Submissions or expressions of interest should be sent to mediareformcoalitionUK@gmail.com

The deadline for submissions to the first 'round' of Alternative Green Paper publication is 20th February – but the compilation will remain open to further submissions after then.

See next page for submission guidelines.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES AND EXAMPLE STRUCTURE:

Title

“Transforming the BBC into an ‘anchor institution’ for reviving the UK’s local media.”

Proposal-in-brief

“Local media is essential for empowering local democracy and fostering our sense of belonging and shared community. But the collapse in local newspapers, radio & TV services (including the BBC’s Local Radio network) has left millions of people without news and media made in, about and for their local communities. The BBC’s next Royal Charter should feature a new Public Purpose requiring the BBC to partner with local media providers and to open its local resources for community-made public service media content, helping to revive and empower local media across the UK.”

1. Intro and background

The context/challenges that makes this proposal important; the BBC’s role in the context/challenges; the core principles or ideals this submission is interested in

2. Rationale, analysis and/or evidence

What is the BBC doing (or not doing) now; what research or BBC/Ofcom/government analysis is there to support/contest the proposal; what are the likely future developments that affect/motivate this idea

3. How would it work?

What is the tangible reform or policy change that would make this work? If possible, include proposals for precise wording of new principles, outline of new structures or processes etc.

4. Benefits & alternatives

What would success look like, what would failure to implement this mean for the future of the BBC, audiences, media workers, the industry etc. What are alternatives or counter-proposals?

5. ‘Your views’

Suggestion of 3-5 consultation-style questions, depending on the complexity of the topic. Questions can be closed or open, but bear in mind the priority is to make this document accessible, so please ensure questions are clear, do not ‘lead’ the respondent, and avoid jargon. A free-text response option is required for all submissions to invite public deliberation, support, critique & opposition.