

Draft Key Issues and Role Weighting for Community, Civic, Independent and Foundational Media

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Tuesday 23rd June 2026

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/watch-this-space-a-new-strategic-direction-for-uk-media-green-paper-and-public-consultation/watch-this-space-a-new-strategic-direction-for-uk-media-green-paper-and-public-consultation>

Weighting scale: five = essential role; four = major role; three = significant supporting role; two = limited or conditional role; one = peripheral role.

Weight	Key Issue	Relevance To Community and Civic Media	Likely And Necessary Role for Community Media Providers
Five	Trustworthy News Prominence	The consultation proposes making trustworthy news more visible on social media and potentially including local news providers.	Community and civic media providers should argue for inclusion in any trusted-news framework, subject to proportionate editorial standards, transparent complaints processes, correction policies and accountable governance.
Five	Definition of a Trustworthy News Provider	The criteria are not yet fixed. This is a decisive policy opening.	Providers should argue that the definition must not exclude small, voluntary, non-profit, community-interest or independent civic publishers simply because they lack the scale of established media organisations.
Five	Media Literacy	The Green Paper proposes a PSM media literacy duty and a cross-sector initiative involving civil society.	Community media providers should be recognised as practical media literacy partners, delivering learning through making media, community reporting, discussion, verification and reflective platform use.
Five	Misinformation, Local Tension and Civic Resilience	The consultation recognises the role of trusted news during periods of community	Community radio, local civic media and independent community publishers should be included in local resilience and trusted-information networks, especially where they have

		tension, unrest and democratic events.	relationships with local communities and voluntary groups.
Four	IPTV Transition and Digital Inclusion	The proposed move from DTT to IPTV risks excluding people by income, age, disability, geography or low digital confidence.	Community media providers can help explain changes, host local support sessions, gather feedback, identify barriers, and work with local authorities, libraries, housing providers and voluntary organisations.
Four	Emergency Broadcasting and Radio Resilience	Radio is mentioned as part of emergency communication, but community radio is not explicitly recognised.	Community radio and SSDAB operators should be included in emergency communication planning, public information protocols and resilience exercises.
Four	Future Public Service Media System	DCMS is considering a more flexible PSM system, possibly with a greater or different range of providers.	A formal pathway should be proposed for accredited local, civic and community media providers to deliver public service content, especially where they serve specific places, communities of experience or under-served audiences.
Four	Platform Algorithms and Discoverability	Public value content is increasingly mediated by platform algorithms and user interfaces.	Community media providers should argue for fair discoverability, open standards, platform transparency and access to audience data where this supports civic communication and local accountability.
Four	Communications Impact and Social Value Evaluation	The consultation risks measuring success through reach, prominence and technical access rather than civic value.	Community media providers should propose evaluation based on trust, participation, inclusion, local relevance, social cohesion, digital confidence, civic learning and community benefit.
Three	Local TV And Local Video Journalism	The consultation notes local TV, but the local TV model does not cover the wider field of local civic media.	Community media should argue that local public service content cannot be reduced to local TV. Video, audio, newsletters, forums, podcasts, print, blogs and social platforms all matter in local civic communication.
Three	Independent Production, IP And	The Green Paper discusses independent production, IP retention	Community media providers can contribute to local talent development, low-cost

	Local Creative Capacity	and the creator economy.	production, community storytelling, archives and training, but this role needs capacity funding.
Three	Regulatory Reform	DCMS recognises that regulation based on delivery technology is becoming outdated.	Community and civic media should argue for proportionate regulation that supports editorial responsibility without imposing compliance burdens that only large providers can meet.
Three	Partnerships With PSM Providers	The consultation encourages partnerships between PSM providers, platforms and creators.	Partnerships should include community media providers, not only commercial creators. PSM providers should be encouraged to commission, mentor and collaborate with local civic media organisations.
Five	Foundational Media Recognition	The Green Paper treats media mainly as an industry and public service content system, rather than as civic infrastructure.	The response should argue that foundational media is a necessary layer of democratic life: local, participatory, trusted, accountable and rooted in civic relationships rather than only audience markets.

1. Suggested Core Position

The consultation should be welcomed for recognising the civic importance of trusted media, media literacy, universal access and public service content. However, its present framing remains too focused on national public service media, television distribution and established news providers.

A stronger settlement would recognise community, civic, independent and foundational media as part of the UK's democratic and social infrastructure. These providers are not simply content suppliers. They support trust, participation, social cohesion, local knowledge, digital confidence, community learning and practical accountability.

Any future media policy should therefore include a dedicated community and civic media strand, with proportionate standards, capacity funding, local delivery partnerships, access to prominence where justified, and a social value framework for measuring public benefit.