

The Trust's plans for 2007/2008

The year ahead will be a busy one for the Trust as we continue to build and operate the new BBC governance systems and establish the Trust as the representative of the licence fee payer.

Our duties under the new Charter fall into three main groups:

- Stewardship of the licence fee income and other resources
- Upholding the public interest within the BBC, particularly the interests of licence fee payers
- Effectively promoting the BBC's Public Purposes

The key elements of our plans for 2007/2008 that address these issues are outlined below.

Stewardship of the licence fee

Reprioritisation

Following the licence fee settlement, the BBC Executive has carried out an extensive reprioritisation exercise. We will be examining the proposals closely in order to protect the interests of licence fee payers and ensure that their voice is taken into account as spending decisions are made.

Value-for-money studies

The Charter requires us to carry out value-for-money studies into specific areas of BBC activity. In 2007/2008 we will investigate:

- BBC use of radio spectrum – to ensure that the BBC is making the most efficient use of this valuable resource
- In-house commissioning – to ensure that BBC commissioning processes drive value and reflect our strategic priorities
- Procurement – to ensure that the BBC is getting best value from its suppliers
- Preparations for digital switchover – to ensure that the BBC is playing an effective role in digital switchover

Additionally, we will carry out a study into the BBC's role in the talent market – to ensure that the BBC is generating the greatest value for audiences.

Upholding licence fee payers' interests

Public Value Tests

We expect to conduct a number of Public Value Tests (PVTs) during the coming year. We have already announced a PVT on BBC plans to launch a high-definition television channel. Details are on the Trust website. Following the suspension of BBC jam we look forward to receiving fresh proposals from the Executive, which we expect to be subject to a Public Value Test. Other tests may follow from the reprioritisation work.

Audience engagement

We want to make it as easy as possible for licence fee payers to take part in our consultations. To find out licence fee payers' own ideas on how we can best achieve this, we are currently consulting publicly on ways to engage with BBC audiences. Full details and a consultation form are on our website.

Complaints framework

It is important that anyone with a complaint about the BBC is given a clear idea of how to complain, and can do so with confidence that the complaint will be dealt with seriously and in a timely manner. We will consult publicly on a complaints framework later in the year.

Effectively promoting the BBC's Public Purposes

Purpose remits

We consulted publicly on our draft purpose remits and will finalise the remits over the summer alongside the Trust's view on reprioritisation.

Service licences

For the first time, each BBC service has a licence setting out clearly what is expected of it. We published interim service licences at the start of 2007. We will amend these later this year in the light of our public consultation.

Service reviews

We will review each BBC service at least once every five years. Our first review will be of bbc.co.uk.

Our full work plan can be found on bbc.co.uk/bbctrust. You can also find details of how the public may contribute to our various planned consultations