



Meeting of the BBC England Committee

Teams

MINUTES

24th June 2026

Members:

Robbie Gibb	Non-Executive Director, Member for England (Chair)
Rhuanedd Richards	Interim Director, Nations
Michael Plaut	Non-Executive Director
Robert Thompson	Interim Director, Local Production

With:

Chris Burns	Controller, Local Audio Commissioning
Adrian Mills	Business Operations Director
Samantha Sing	Divisional Finance Director
Non Tudur Williams	Executive Lead, Nations (Secretary)
Anjla Kumar	Finance Divisional Lead (for item 3)
Tim Burke	Head of Editorial Standards (item 4 & 9)
Kate Squire	Senior Head of Content Production (for Item 6)
Jon Petrie	Commissioning Director, Comedy (item 7)
Rebecca Davis	Head of Audience Research (item 10)

Agenda:

1. Welcome and previous minutes
2. Director's report incl. savings and finance update
3. Thematic review update
4. Controller's report - Audio

5. Regional report
6. Content update
7. Director's report - Nations
8. Editorial Monitoring
9. Audiences
- 10.AOB and Close

1. Welcome and Previous Minutes

1.1 The minutes from the previous meeting (4 February 2026) were approved.

1.2 The Chair welcomed Kate Squire to attend as Senior Head of Content Production, North of England.

1.3 Jon Petrie has been appointed Creative Director at Hat Trick Productions. The Chair thanked Jon for attending the Committee meetings and his contribution.

1.4 The next England Committee would be held on 30th September.

2. Director's Report and savings

2.1 The Director of Local Production paid tribute to teams who covered the train crash outside Bedford recently and praised the extraordinary coverage which included streaming a special edition of evening news programmes.

2.2 The Committee noted and discussed the launch of news notifications from the Local teams, another way of helping the audience find content.

2.3 The recent savings announcement was discussed.

3. Thematic Review update

3.1 The Committee discussed and noted the recent Senior Adviser Report, which contained a review of BBC coverage of the two-child benefit cap.

4 Controller, Local Audio Commissioning report

4.1 The recent strong RAJAR figures were noted and discussed. The audience research and subsequent editorial initiatives in Breakfast audio was also noted and discussed.

4.2 The Controller outlined new content on BBC Sounds. The Committee noted the focus on umbrella brands which has been successful in attracting audiences.

4.3 Make a Difference day, which took place in June was noted. It highlighted the exceptional work people are doing in their communities and was celebrated following Volunteers Week.

4.4 BBC Local radio was successful in this year's ARIA awards. BBC Radio Merseyside won Station of the Year and Joe Sims' 'Proper Bristol Breakfast' on BBC Radio Bristol won best Speech Breakfast Show. The recent success at the Crime Podcast Awards was also noted.

5. Regional report

5.1 The Committee noted the regional report on the services provided in the North West and North East of England. The breadth and scale of the output from the area was noted as was a number of high-profile news stories emerging from the area in recent months.

5.2 The Committee noted that streaming of content has developed in recent months in the region. Recent examples include the Makerfield by-election and Gill Scott's return to Sunderland. The regular In The Hot Seat strand is also streamed as a matter of course.

5.3 Digital growth was discussed and noted.

6. Content update

6.1 An update on recent comedy commissions was provided with a focus on the commissions filmed in England.

7. Director, Nations update

7.1 The impact of recent savings announcements in the nations was noted.

7.2 The success of the BBC Radio 1 Big Weekend in Sunderland was noted. The Committee heard about the scale and impact of the event.

8. Editorial monitoring update

8.1 The Committee noted the improved workflow of editorial queries as well as actions and outcomes following any editorial issues. It was noted by the Committee.

9. Audiences

9.1 The Audiences report was noted.

10 AOB and Close

10.1 No other business was raised.

The Chair thanked Committee members and contributors.