

Community radio licence: key commitments

Licence outline

Station name	Express FM
Community to be served	People in Portsmouth who are, or might like to be, involved in learning.
Licence area	Portsmouth (up to a 5km radius from the transmission site)
Frequency	93.7 MHz

Character of service

Express FM will provide access to the airwaves for the learning community of Portsmouth. The station will enable school, college and university students and volunteers from across the city to make their own radio programmes giving voice to young people, the city's education providers and the wider community. Express FM aims to teach skills, promote lifelong learning and encourage debate.

Programming

The programming will prominently feature four main strands: output that promotes lifelong learning and engagement in the affairs of the city; output produced by volunteers who wish to learn radio skills; output produced by students studying at college to gain media or other qualifications; output that showcases the work of participants in the station's radio workshops.

- Live programming output will typically comprise 80% music and 20% speech (around 25% speech in daytime, and a lower proportion at night). ('Speech' excludes advertising, programme/promotional trails and sponsor credits, and may be calculated over any four hours).
- Current and recent chart hits will form the largest part of music output as some programming will be created by children and young people. A variety of other styles will also be featured as output reflects the tastes and interests of volunteers. Music from local musicians may be included.
- Speech output will include news bulletins, local news features, features about Portsmouth issues, studio discussions and debates.
- Output will be in English; programming may be produced in other languages if there is a community need that can be addressed.

Social gain objectives

Community Radio Order 2004: "It is a characteristic of community radio services that they are local services provided primarily (a) for the good of members of the public, or of particular communities, and (b) in order to deliver social gain, rather than primarily for commercial reasons or for the financial or other material gain of the individuals involved in providing the service."

"(a) the provision of sound broadcasting services to individuals who are otherwise underserved"

- At the start of Express FM's licence term, the station's focus on planned access to the airwaves for those involved in learning was not offered by any other service in the area.
- At the start of Express FM's licence term radio that celebrates learning and community engagement was unlike any other service available to people in Portsmouth.

"(b) the facilitation of discussion and the expression of opinion"

- Express FM's aim is to give a voice to people in Portsmouth. Output will embrace debate and opinion. News features and live studio discussions will explore both sides of local issues. Such output will be scheduled to take into account availability of both listeners and volunteer programme-makers.

"(c) the provision (whether by means of programmes included in the service or otherwise) or education or training to individuals not employed by the person providing the service"

- Express FM's overarching mission is to encourage more people in Portsmouth to engage in education. Radio will be used as a means of making education more fun and of teaching core skills 'by stealth'.
- The primary means of creating this provision is through the training of volunteers and participants in radio skills workshops.
- Collaborative output will be produced with at least eight Portsmouth bodies such as schools, colleges, local government departments and youth projects in each year.
- Express FM will provide opportunities for hundreds of local people to participate in the making of its programmes each year.

"(d) the better understanding of the particular community and the strengthening of the links within it"

- Express FM will endeavour to expand and strengthen links with educational establishments and training providers to ensure that the learning and development opportunities offered reflect the needs of the whole community.
- Relevant parts of the output will reflect and celebrate the enthusiasms of volunteers and workshop participants.

Access and participation

Community Radio Order 2004: "It is a characteristic of every community radio service that members of the community it is intended to serve are given opportunities to participate in the operation and management of the service."

- The group structure provides for target community participation at all levels and community representation shall be encouraged throughout the group from top to bottom.

Accountability to the target community

Community Radio Order 2004: "It is a characteristic of every community radio service that, in respect of the provision of that service, the person providing the service makes himself accountable to the community that the service is intended to serve."

Express FM's accountability to the community shall be by the following methods:

- The creation of an 'Ideas and Reviews Panel' that meets at least 3 times per year and feeds back to the board
- The panel shall combine station representatives, community representatives and users of local services.
- A feedback mechanism will be included on the station website

**All material in italics is direct quotations from the Community Radio Order 2004*

March 2006