

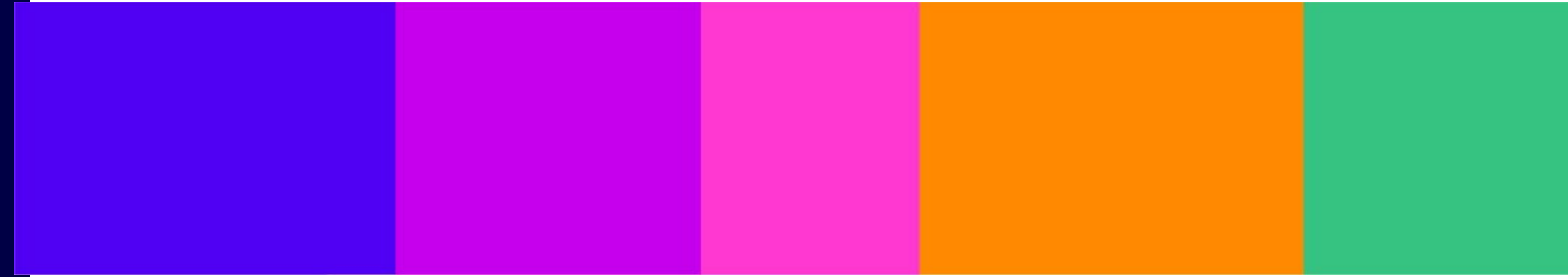


Community Radio: Improvements to existing coverage and coverage extensions

Technical change request form

Application form

Published 17 June 2024



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1. Applicant's details

1.1 Licence number:

CR00009

1.2 Licence area:

Hedge End, West End, Botley, Fair Oak, Bishopstoke and surrounding areas

1.3 Licensee:

Outreach FM Limited

1.4 Station name:

Outreach Radio

1.5 Contact name:

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX]

1.6 Contact email address:

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX]

1.7 Contact telephone number:

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX]

1.8 Date of request:

1st July 2026

2. Current transmission details

2.1 Site name:

Hedge End

2.2 Site address (including postcode):

Hedge End Gold Centre, Upper Northam Road, Hedge End, SO30 4PZ

2.3 Site owner:

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX]

2.4 National Grid Reference:

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX]

2.5 Site height (aod):

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX]

2.6 Antenna height(agl):

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX]

2.7 Aerial pattern:

Omnidirectional

2.8 Frequency:

102.5 MHz

2.9 Transmission power:

200W (100W HP, 100W VP)

2.10 If you are currently have more than one existing transmission site, please let us know and complete one set of details for the additional existing transmission site(s) in Annex 1.

There is more than one existing transmission site and I have completed the details of additional existing site(s) in Annex 1, Part A.

No (delete as appropriate)

3. Details of proposed change

Improvement to existing coverage of coverage extension

- 3.1 Do you request an improvement to existing coverage or a coverage extension? See Section 3 of the guidance document for further information.

Licensees should first check the technical conditions in their WTA licence and assess if there might be scope for changing or upgrading equipment in order to improve the radio signal while remaining within the limits authorised under the WTA licence and community radio licence as it stands now.

I am requesting an improvement to existing coverage within the licensed coverage area (please complete Part 3a) – **No**

I am requesting a coverage extension of the licensed coverage area (please complete Part 3b) – **Yes**

Technical change being applied for

- 3.2 Please indicate below which technical change(s) you are applying for. In paragraphs 3.6 – 3.35 of the guidance document we describe some technical changes for which you might apply.

I want to change the transmission parameters at an existing transmission site, e.g. a power increase, changing the aerial height or pattern (please complete Section 4) – **No**

I want to change the location of the transmission site (please complete Section 5) – **No**

I want to add a new transmission site (please complete Section 6) – **Yes**

- 3.3 If you are requesting a combination of changes or if you want to provide multiple options (see paragraphs 2.12 – 2.13 in the guidance document), please explain why:

3a. Coverage improvement

Complete this section if you are requesting to improve the existing coverage within your licensed coverage area. See sections 3.36-3.44 of the guidance document for further information. If you refer to annexes such as maps or evidence, please list them in section 3.4. Your application may be unsuccessful if you do not provide all the information requested. If you are requesting a coverage extension of the licensed coverage area, please skip to Section 3b.

Outline of proposed change

- 3.4 Describe the areas in which you want to improve your existing coverage within the licensed coverage area and provide evidence of poor coverage or significant and harmful incoming interference in your licensed coverage area, including a map in which you have marked the areas in which you want to improve your coverage¹.

- 3.5 Set out details of the change(s) you wish to make to your transmission arrangements, and explain why you think this is the best technical solution:

- 3.6 Provide a list of the annexes (maps and any other evidence). Your application may be unsuccessful if you do not provide all the information requested. You can expand the table if necessary:

Annex number	Name	Short description

¹ Please refer to the [licensed coverage area map](#) of your area on our website.

3b. Extension of existing coverage

Complete this section if you are requesting to extend your licensed coverage area. See sections 3.45-3.52 of the guidance document for further information. If you refer to annexes such as maps or evidence, please provide a list at section 3.14 below. Your application may be unsuccessful if you do not provide all the information requested.

Outline of proposed change

- 3.7 Please provide a reasoned argument for the extension of existing coverage, including:
- a) a description of the area you wish to extend existing coverage to (e.g. the streets, council ward or town), along with a map illustrating the area concerned (with the requested area marked or circled)²;
 - b) the reason why you are requesting an extension of coverage into this area;
 - c) an estimate of the size of the population in the area you wish to extend into, the source of this information (e.g. local council statistics), and any evidence of demand or support for the service in the extended area;
 - d) whether the area or locality into which you are extending existing coverage has a relationship or affinity to the existing licensed area, and a description of that relationship or affinity;
 - e) whether there are any exceptional circumstances which would justify an increase that would be reasonably considered “significant”;
 - f) a short description of how the station will provide a radio service for the target community in the extended area; and
 - g) any other reasons for the request that you wish us to consider.
- 3.8 Set out details of the change(s) you wish to make to your transmission arrangements, and explain why you think this is the best technical solution:

Due to the adjacent 102.5 MHz BFBS Radio service in Aldershot, the transmission power of the existing Hedge End 102.5 MHz FM transmitter is unable to be increased to include Eastleigh without potentially affecting the BFBS service.

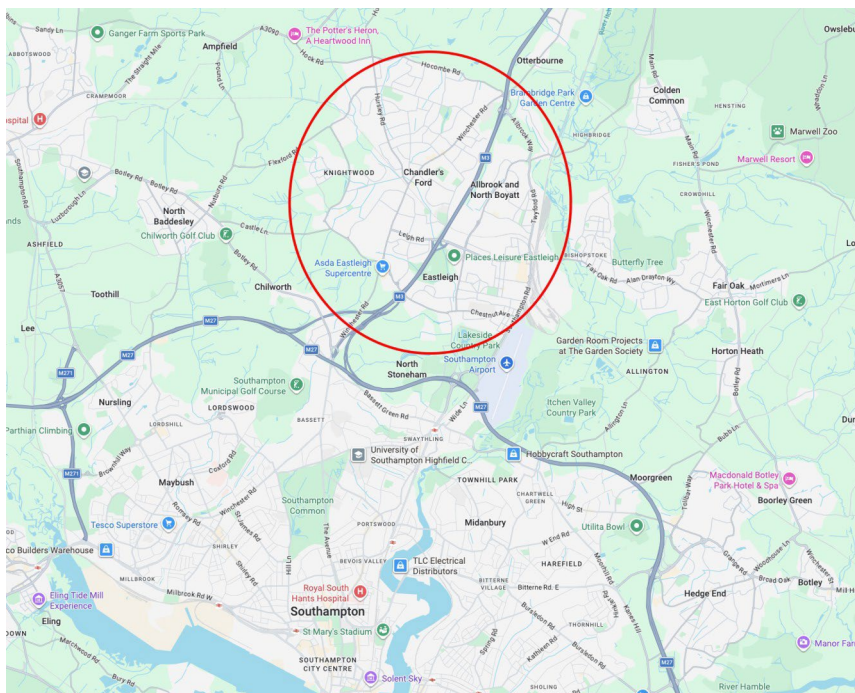
Our analysis also shows that there is also a land ridge in the terrain between Hedge End and Chandler’s Ford / Eastleigh which could make it difficult to reach from the existing low level transmission site. We have therefore concluded that the coverage extension would require an additional FM transmission site.

Outreach Radio has spare equipment available to be deployed to create the new site, so capital expenditure is covered.

² Please refer to the licensed coverage area map of your area on our website.

3.9 Describe the area you wish to extend existing coverage into:

Chandler's Ford and Eastleigh. Please see map below.



3.10 Explain why you are requesting an extension into this area:

Outreach Radio is seeking to extend its FM coverage to include the neighbouring areas of Eastleigh & Chandler's Ford.

The service currently broadcasts to Hedge End, West End, Botley, Fair Oak, Bishopstoke, and surrounding areas; areas governed by Eastleigh Borough Council.

As part of our service, we incorporate local news, information, interviews and updates from members of the local council, as well as members of the community as a whole. Whilst information is aimed at listeners in our existing coverage area, it is equally relevant to listeners in the neighbouring areas, which also form part of Eastleigh Borough.

As part of our commitment to facilitating discussions and receiving opinions from our listeners, we are now receiving a high demand for our service coverage to include Eastleigh and Chandler's Ford. This is from both residents in our existing coverage who work in Eastleigh or Chandler's Ford and wish to continue listening, and from local council representatives wishing to ensure that the information they broadcast through Outreach Radio can obtain the best possible reach of their local constituencies.

This demand is, in part, due to the local and county councils in our area undergoing major changes, which in due course will change the landscape of our

existing council areas. Part of these changes will include the amalgamation of areas to create new larger local authorities. Whilst the final picture is still unclear, these forthcoming changes are already bringing a lot of uncertainty and concern to the residents and businesses in our existing and proposed coverage area, who will be directly affected by these future changes.

As the “truly local” radio station for this area, and the only community radio station based in the Eastleigh Borough area, we are being approached by listeners seeking information and clarification on these local council changes, and similarly, local councillors seeking to use Outreach Radio as a platform to help communicate plans and changes.

Extending our coverage area will allow Outreach Radio to better support the local communities we serve, which on an on-going basis will allow us to enhance the service we provide when inviting local councillors to join Outreach Radio for regular interviews and discussions about activities that affect/impact the residents of the Eastleigh Borough area.

Further to this requirement, Outreach Radio, through its initiative “Outreach Extra”, which supports the training of young people as radio presenters, has also become a platform for supporting young people in our area. Our programme not only helps young people to develop media skills, but also helps overcome the worry and anxiety faced as they go through transitionary times, by opening the airwaves to problem sharing, discussion and advice – e.g. how to cope with exam stress, how to stay safe online, how to handle the transition from secondary school to college, or college to university, or seeking employment. The enhancement of our coverage area will allow Outreach Radio to better engage with key local colleges Eastleigh College & Barton Peverill College, which currently fall outside our FM coverage area yet are the largest colleges in our area, taking in students from both our existing and proposed extended coverage area.

From our established studios in West End (existing FM coverage area) and Chandler’s Ford (proposed coverage area), Outreach Radio will be able to provide more relevant and in-depth information for the local audience, and also have the facility to opt-out at an ultra-local level and carry different programmes/information for each FM frequency coverage area, if required.

Finally, as Outreach Radio works to improve its revenues to achieve financial sustainability, (having received an Ofcom Community Radio Grant award for the employment of a full-time Business Development Manager), having coverage of Eastleigh Town, which is one of the main towns for the existing and proposed coverage area, access to much needed revenues from this area may be possible.

The proposed extended coverage area lies between the Cities of Southampton and Winchester, and is unserved by any other community radio stations, bar

Outreach Radio, which is based in these outlying areas, and in which we are seeking to enhance our service offering.

- 3.11 Describe the size of the population, the source of this information, and any evidence of demand or support for the service in the extended area:

The population of Chandler's Ford is 21,436, based on the census information from 2011.

The population of Eastleigh is 20,411, based on the census information from 2011.

- 3.12 Describe any relationship or affinity the area or locality into which you are extending existing coverage has with the existing licensed area:

Outreach Radio began broadcasting from Chandler's Ford during the pandemic lockdown in 2020 (originally under the name Lockdown FM, then Outreach Radio during the second lockdown), under a temporary Ofcom SRSL Covid-19 licence, covering Romsey (partially), Eastleigh, Chandler's Ford and North Baddesley.

The "reach" in the name Outreach comes from the towns: Romsey (partial coverage), Eastleigh, Chandler's Ford.

During the two years that we broadcast under the SRSL FM licence, we forged a very strong relationship with all areas of the communities we served – a relationship we still hold, albeit more so via online listening since neither our existing FM signal nor our SS-DAB signals from Winchester or Southampton reach Eastleigh or Chandler's Ford,

- 3.13 Describe any exceptional circumstances which would justify an increase that would be reasonably considered "significant" (if appropriate):

The local and county councils changes affecting our area are a major change to our local landscape, and Hampshire is one of the first councils to undertake a change of this nature or scale. This somewhat unprecedented aspect has put as high demand on our radio service, which we are seeking to adapt to accommodate.

Outreach Radio is the only community radio station based in the Eastleigh Borough area, from which listeners are seeking information, and local councillors are seeking to use Outreach Radio as a platform to help communicate plans and changes.

- 3.14 Explain how you will provide a community radio service for the target community in the extended area:

Since taking on the 102.5 MHz FM licence (formerly belonging to former Skyline Gold), we have respected and adhered to our Key Commitments of serving Hedge End, West End, Botley, Fair Oak, Bishopstoke & surrounding areas, including the investment in a new studio at the Hilddene Community Centre in West End.

Whilst we've maintained our Chandler's Ford studio for some programmes, training, pre-recorded interviews, etc, if approved, our intention is to continue operating from both West End and Chandler's Ford, allowing programmes to be switched between studios or opt-out content to be provided at an ultra-local level on the respective FM frequencies.

We feel this will allow us to provide a very high standard of service and relevance to all areas we serve, without damaging or diminishing the service we currently provide.

- 3.15 Provide any other reasons for the request that you would like us to consider (if applicable):

- 3.16 Provide a list of the annexes (maps and any other evidence). Your application may be unsuccessful if you do not provide all the information requested. You can expand the table if necessary:

Annex number	Name	Short description

4. Modification to an existing transmission site(s)

About this section

Please complete this section if you are requesting to modify the transmission parameters (e.g. a power increase, a change to aerial pattern) at an existing transmission site.

4.1 Site name (use the same name you have provided in Part 2).

4.2 What change are you looking to make to the transmission parameters?

I want to increase the transmission power (Ofcom will determine the transmission power that you need to improve or extend the coverages in the areas you have described in sections 3a or 3b of this application form) – **Yes / No (delete as appropriate)**

I want to change the aerial height – **Yes / No (delete as appropriate)**

I want to change the aerial pattern – **Yes / No (delete as appropriate)**

4.3 Explain the requested change to the transmission parameters:

4.4 If you are requesting permission to modify more than one existing transmission site, please let us know and complete one set of details for each site in Annex 1.

I want to request permission to modify more than one existing transmission site and I have completed the details of additional existing site(s) in Annex 1, Part B.

Yes / No (delete as appropriate).

5. Proposed move of the transmission site

About this section

Complete this section if you are requesting to move to a new transmission site.

- 5.1 Please provide the following details of the existing transmission and the proposed new transmission site.

Current transmission details

- a. Site name:

- b. Site address:

- c. Site owner:

- d. National Grid Reference:

- e. Site height:

- f. Antenna height:

- g. Aerial pattern:

- h. Frequency:

- i. Transmission power:

Proposed new transmission details

a. Site name:

b. Site address:

c. Site owner:

d. National Grid Reference:

e. Site height:

f. Antenna height:

g. Aerial pattern:

h. Frequency:

i. Transmission power:

Comments:

5.2 If you are requesting permission to move more than one existing transmission site, please let us know and complete one set of details for the other site(s) in Annex 1.

I want to request permission to move more than one existing transmission site and I have completed the details of additional existing site(s) in Annex 1, Part C.

Yes / No (delete as appropriate)

6. Proposed additional transmission site(s)

About this section

Complete this section if you are requesting to add one or more new transmission sites to your existing site(s).

6.1 Please provide details of the proposed new transmission site:

a. Site name:

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX]

b. Site address:

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX]

c. Site owner:

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX]

d. National Grid Reference:

XXXXXXXXXXXX]

e. Site height:

XXXXXXXXXXXX]

f. Antenna height:

g. Aerial pattern:

Omnidirectional

h. Frequency:

If available XXXXXXX used in Chandler's Ford by Lockdown FM/Outreach Radio for two years during the 2020 pandemic lockdown. Otherwise, as determined by Ofcom.

i. Transmission power:

50W ERP, if possible, to be determined by Ofcom
50W requested since antenna is a low level and will suffer attenuation due to being located inside clock tower on community centre roof.

6.2 If you are requesting permission to add more than one existing transmission site, please let us know and complete one set of details for the other site(s) in Annex 1.

I want to request permission to add more than one existing transmission site and I have completed the details of additional existing site(s) in Annex 1, Part D.

No (delete as appropriate)