acevo
third sector leaders

BBC Charter Review Consultation
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ACEVO Submission to the BBC Charter Review

1. ACEVO is the professional body for the third sector's chief executives, with over 1700 members. The broad not-for-profit sector now employs the full-time equivalent of 1.5m staff, with a collective annual turnover of £46bn.
2. The BBC is valued by the third sector as a source of impartial, independent, information, providing the means for citizens to participate in debate.
3. The BBC should:
    1. Renew its focus on public service broadcasting, through a stated purpose of "serving the needs, rights and interests of citizens". This commitment should be laid down in the Charter Agreement, and services that do not provide public service value should be closed or reorganised;
    2. Ensure it raises awareness of socially important issues that would otherwise be under-represented in the media, becoming a powerful voice for social inclusion and community cohesion;
    3. Become a more supportive and enabling partner to the third sector as a whole, and to third sector organisations, particularly new forms of not-for-profit and community media;
    4. Take steps to improve its governance, performance and accountability, through
        a. Increasing the range of governors' relevant expertise and skills, with a focus on broadcasting, new media, regulation and the third sector;
        b. Introduce improved performance measures, including education and involvement of users;
        c. A modern, comprehensible Charter and Agreement, setting out the BBC's purposes and decided by parliament;
    5. Continue to raise its standards in broadcasting and communication, encouraging others to raise their standards.

Nick Aldridge

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