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### **Minister for Culture backs Local Radio Day**

The Minister of State for Digital and Culture, The Right Honourable Matt Hancock MP, has pledged his support to Local Radio Day during a visit to Guildford.

Eagle Radio (part of UKRD) helped host his visit to the Surrey town on Monday March 13<sup>th</sup>.

As well as making his first visit to a local commercial radio station since taking the role, Mr Hancock visited a number of culturally important organisations.

He also visited the Academy of Contemporary Music and the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre.

His tour ended with a visit to The University of Surrey's 5G mobile technology facilities.

During his visit, Mr Hancock was interviewed by Eagle Radio and was asked about Local Radio Day, which is being held in May: "I think local radio is incredibly important.

"Power is being devolved to more local communities and holding that to account through high-quality local news is really important.

"If we in central Government give more powers to a council or group of councils, there need to be good local newshounds holding that to account.

"But also, people's sense of place is as important as ever, and when local radio is embedded in a place there is an incredible value to that and people care about it."

Guildford MP Anne Milton, who arranged the visit, added: "I am delighted that the Minister has accepted my offer to come and see all the wonderful arts, music and cultural opportunities we have to offer in Guildford whilst visiting the 5G centre at the University of Surrey.

"My very grateful thanks to Eagle Radio for organising a programme so that the Minister can hear first-hand our local successes and also what Government can do to help."

Peter Gordon, Eagle Radio's Content Controller, said: "We were delighted to have the Minister visiting his first local commercial radio station since taking post and please that he gave his full support to Local Radio Day, which takes place on Friday May 26<sup>th</sup>.

"It was a pleasure to host the minister whilst touring the town and seeing some of the great cultural output which Guildford has to offer."



**A UKRD Group Radio Station**

Registered office: Cam Brea Studios, Barncoose Industrial Estate, Redruth, Cornwall

Eagle Radio Limited Registered in England: 2846346



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Notes to Editor:

Local Radio Day was held for the first time in 2016 and will take place on May 26<sup>th</sup> in 2017.

It celebrates the partnership that exists between radio stations and their listeners and sets out to demonstrate the difference that local really makes.

Local Radio can help local businesses prosper and thrive, making a real impact on the economy of the areas where it still exists and it can provide skills and training to local people.

To find out more visit the Local Radio Day website: <http://www.localradioday.co.uk/>

Photographs attached:

Local Radio Day1 – Matt Hancock MP is shown around the Eagle Radio studios by Peter Gordon

Local Radio Day2 – Matt Hancock MP in the Eagle Radio offices

Local Radio Day3 – Matt Hancock MP in the Eagle Radio studios

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