

# Leader of the Council

## Councillor Mike Mitchelson

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04 December 2008

Dear Sirs

I write on behalf of the three group leaders of Carlisle City Council who recently met with yourselves regarding the proposed merger of Border and Tyne Tees regional news programming.

I would like to thank you for the time given to us to put forward our views and hope that they would be taken into consideration when reaching your verdict on the consultation exercise.

I would like to confirm that Carlisle City Council is still totally opposed to the merger of regional news programmes. I would like to reiterate some of the main points put forward at our meeting

- It would have a severe effect of the economy of our region including the loss of important jobs.
- It would have a detrimental effect on our communities who rely on Border TV news programmes as their main source of information, which would not be replicated in the new proposals.
- It would severely affect Carlisle's position as a media centre for Cumbria and the Border Region.

I would also like to remind you of the point that you have made in your preliminary reviews regarding the Isle of Man's position in that you felt that to include them within the Granada region their news items would be lost within the densely populated areas of the Granada region. This is something that we feel in respect to the Border region's stories being lost within the more densely populated areas of Tyne, Wear and Tees areas.

I would also like to remind you of our concerns regarding the seriousness of the consultation following ITV's move in issuing redundancy notices to the staff based in Carlisle together with advertising and interviewing for jobs under their new proposed structure during the consultation period.

We also raised our concern that under the new proposed programming there would be no specific Border news programmes from 10.40pm until 6pm the following day together with none over the weekend period. This is far too big a step to take, as currently there are many news bulletins during these times.

Finally, as the Government's official body to represent the best interests of the public I would ask you to bear in mind the strength of public opinion throughout the Border TV Region against these proposals.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Mitchelson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Mike Mitchelson  
Leader of Carlisle City Council



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE