

CRFM is a Community radio station, but in my view should be classed as a LOCAL radio service. I can go on about Bauer buying up all the local heritage local brands and running them all from Manchester as a national service but I won't. However my thoughts on moving forward for small stations, especially Community services is that you take the shackles off and let them expand, especially into areas that have no local service due to either terrain or no licence ever been offered. We are a CIC, meaning every penny that we make goes back into the station, with that in mind if community stations are ran as a CIC then their expansion plans are not driven by profit, but a desire to give more people the option of a local service..

Instead of advertising a licence for an area that has no local service, why doesn't OFCOM allow interested parties to apply to provide a service. This should be available as an FM licence as well as a Digital Multiplex due to terrain.

As technology has taken over and larger areas can be covered by split programming, more and more presenters are losing their jobs. The main breakfast presenter of CFM which is now "Greatest Hits" brand is now driving bus in the area as his post was axed....what a waste!!! The small community stations are giving these axed presenters a sense of belonging as they are able to continue their love for broadcasting on these stations in a volunteering capacity and as long as these stations can wash their face and financially survive there is no harm. Personally we have ex BBC as well as Commercial presenters that volunteer on our community service and they have grabbed the opportunity to remain involved in broadcasting and the local people have warmed to it.

Those are my thoughts, a bit personal but having spent 40 years in commercial radio, I have seen it all. John Myers was my mentor and he always said to me that local radio is the heart of the community and I second that, so I ask that OFCOM allows this to continue and available to all with no restrictions.