

Letter from Selby District Council's Chief Executive to David Atkinson re proposals to make CDRPs coterminous with Police BCUs

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7 March 2006

Mr D Atkinson
Chief Executive
City of York Council
The Guildhall
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Dear David

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to yourself and Councillor Steve Galloway on Tuesday last week. I said I would follow up this meeting with a letter setting out the perceived obstacles and opportunities of a CDRP merger involving York and Selby.

First of all, let me reiterate that, as a starting point, I recognise the impetus for the merging of CDRPs as a general concept:

- For Countywide agencies and government departments it will be less administratively cumbersome dealing with three bodies rather than 8 or 9.
- Joint working has the potential to reduce costs.

But in order to make this work for a joint CDRP comprising a unitary and a shire district, I think there are some key issues to consider. In no particular order, I would list the major ones as follows:

- The LAA process would mean that for the combined CDRP area, there would be two LAAs in operation.
- Selby's bid into the County LAA might be on a different premise or judged on different criteria. This could impact on either the direction taken by the combined partnership or funding allocations.
- The guidance indicates that the strategic and operational functions should be separated. In York this might be split between the LSP and the CDRP. In a combined CDRP situation, how would this be accommodated? We have the NYSP, the Selby LSP, the Selby CDRP and the Pan North Yorkshire Partnership Group. A recipe for confusion.

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- In York, you have a merged CDRP and DAT. This is not the case in the County.
- Political representation would also be an issue. The guidance indicates that the relevant portfolio holders will be members of the CDRP. Presumably this is to ensure engagement and accountability. Members would be expected to be accountable for both direction and delivery. If strategic and operational issues are to be dealt with at different forums does this mean that Members would also attend both levels of forum? Would Selby Members sit on the strategic forum at County? Indeed, with a combined CDRP would Selby Members sit on the York LSP if this is to be your strategic body?
- What form would community engagement take and who would conduct it on behalf of a combined CDRP?
- What funding arrangements would be in place in relation to Council contributions?
- What would happen if a combined CDRP felt that the greatest return would be gained from tackling issues in York to the exclusion of Selby or vice versa?
- Who would carry out the scrutiny function?

This is not an exhaustive list but indicates that the matter has not been adequately considered by the Home Office. I am disturbed by the fact that the police and other countywide agencies are supporting this move and that we will face pressure to conform. Unless we can properly resolve these issues both of our organisations and both of our CDRPs could be worse off than at present.

I should be pleased to receive your thoughts on how we should take this forward when you have had the chance to consult colleagues and partners. Currently, the Selby view is that a merger would be wrong although there is scope for greater collaboration at an operational level.

Yours sincerely

M Connor
Chief Executive