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Budget Consultation
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Dear Sirs

Tyne and Wear Specialist Conservation Team: Proposed Budgetary Cuts

I am writing to you on behalf of the Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers (FAME). FAME represents around 50 archaeological businesses providing advice and specialist services to commercial clients and developers throughout the UK, and its members have been actively engaged in archaeological excavation, recording and publication in Tyne and Wear for many years.

This work has almost entirely been facilitated through the advice and expertise of the Tyne and Wear Specialist Conservation Team, which helps inform decision-making and promotes sustainable growth that respects and reflects the heritage of the area.

We were therefore very concerned to learn that Gateshead Council is proposing to reduce its financial contribution to the Tyne and Wear Specialist Conservation Team.


The present team enables the five Tyne and Wear districts to discharge their obligations for conserving and enhancing the historic environment under the *National Planning Policy Framework*, and also enables them to implement the policies set out in their own local development frameworks and emerging neighbourhood development plans.

Any reduction in the service would have serious consequences for the archaeology of Tyne and Wear, for those small businesses who record and publicise it, and for those local residents and communities who benefit from it.

It would also have potentially serious consequences for our clients in both the public and private sector, who depend upon timely and expert advice to provide greater certainty before planning applications are determined, and to reduce the risk to them of costly delays and disruption once planning consent has been granted and development is underway.

Whilst we fully understand the budgetary pressures facing local government at this time, the present service represents a most cost-effective and efficient way of providing strategic archaeological advice to the five Tyne and Wear authorities, and we urge you to maintain your current level of support for this highly-respected service.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Adrian Tindall". The signature is written in a cursive style. Below the signature is a long, horizontal, slightly wavy line that extends across the width of the signature.

Adrian Tindall MA FSA MI(f)A
Chief Executive, Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers