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Cllr George Dunning
Leader & Chair of Cabinet
Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council
Town Hall
Fabian Road
South Bank TS6 9AR

27 January 2011

Dear Cllr Dunning

Tees Archaeology

The Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers (FAME) is concerned to learn that Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council is proposing to withdraw its financial support for Tees Archaeology.

FAME represents around 50 archaeological businesses providing advice and specialist services to commercial clients and developers throughout the UK. Its members have been actively engaged in archaeological excavation, recording and publication in Teesside for many years.

This work has only been made possible through the advice and expertise of Tees Archaeology in informing local planning decisions, promoting sustainable growth and protecting the historic environment of Teesside.

Through its support for Tees Archaeology, the Borough Council is able to meet its obligations, under both current and proposed national planning guidance, which require it to have access to expert advice and an up-to-date Historic Environment Record.

Access to such advice also enables the Council to implement those historic environment policies set out in its statutory Local Development Framework (LDF).

The Council's LDF Adopted Core Strategy DPD (2007) sets out the vision (2.11) of a Borough of "strong cohesive, forward looking communities motivated by pride, heritage and ambition", and its spatial aims (2.13) include "to protect, conserve and enhance the Borough's built, historic, cultural and natural environments".

Strategic aim 5 *Creating Sustainable Communities* has an objective to "ensure that the impact of new development on the diversity and cultural heritage of the community is fully

considered in the decision making process”, and strategic aim 6 *Conserving, Enhancing and Capitalising on the Borough’s Natural and Built Environment* “to protect and enhance the built heritage and preserve the archaeological heritage of the Borough”.

Policy CS25 *Built and Historic Environment* states that “development proposals will be expected to contribute positively to the character of the built and historic environment of the Borough.

“The character of the built and historic environment will be protected, preserved or enhanced. Particular protection will be given to the character and special features of conservation areas, listed buildings, historic parks and gardens, archaeological sites and the historic landscape of the Eston Hills.

“Development which preserves or, where appropriate, enhances the character of important historic buildings and sites and their settings will be encouraged”.

Implementation of these LDF policies depends entirely upon the Borough Council having access to the appropriate specialist advice, supported by an up-to-date Historic Environment Record. The most cost-effective way of providing this is through a shared service, such as that provided by Tees Archaeology, which is both more resilient and less costly to administer than a system of recharging or service level agreements.

We fully appreciate the difficult budgetary choices facing the Borough Council, but we urge you to reconsider your proposal to withdraw totally your support for Tees Archaeology.

If the Borough Council does decide to withdraw, we would like to ask you how you intend to implement the policies set out in your statutory LDF, and to meet your obligations under current and proposed national planning guidance?

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Adrian Tindall". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Adrian Tindall MA FSA MIfA
Chief Executive, Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers