



Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers
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Cllr Acraman
West Sussex County Council
County Hall
West Street
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12 March 2015

Dear Cllr Acraman

**PROVISION OF HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ADVICE TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES
IN WEST SUSSEX**

The Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers represents a large number of commercial archaeological organisations across Britain. These organisations undertake archaeological mitigation works (such as archaeological survey and excavations) as part of wider development projects. Through this work they support economic development and it also helps local communities and the broader public through securing archaeological materials for archaeological study and display. This work is a crucial element of the broader land-use planning process in Britain as reflected in the government's land-use planning and environmental legislation and guidance relating to archaeology and the historic environment.

We understand from our members that the historic environment/archaeological advice service provided by your council to local authorities is under review and is likely to cease. This is of significant concern to us as without such provision there is a strong likelihood that the effective management of the county's archaeological resource will suffer significantly and that the responsibilities falling to local authorities under the planning and related legislation will not be met. This in turn will have significant implications for the local economy, ranging from development to tourism and community identity. Should the demand for archaeological services weaken as a result of cuts to the advice services, there is also a strong likelihood that the archaeological organisations undertaking such work in response to planning requirements will suffer significantly. This would seem to have further implications both for employment and for the existence of expert services to be drawn on by the councils and by the development community.

We understand that discussions are underway in relevant local authorities to identify how an alternative expert advice service can be put in place. This would seem particularly important and if your council is resolved to pursue its decision to stop its archaeological advice service we would seek

reassurance that you are providing your full support to ensuring that an effective alternative service is put in place seamlessly. To allow us to reassure our members, it would be very helpful if you would set out for us the background to the recent decision and the steps your council is taking both to support the development of alternative advice and to ensure the provision of an effective advice service during the transitional period to the new arrangements.

Yours sincerely

Malcom Cooper
Chief Executive Officer