Dear Sirs

Budget Consultation – reduction in contribution to Tyne and Wear Specialist Conservation Team

The Council has some difficult decisions to make on how it should spend its budget for the next two years. The last few years have been very challenging for the Council and are set to get even tougher. Since 2010, we’ve made £75 million of savings and we now need to find an estimated £45 million in the next two years. The Council is currently consulting on proposals so that members can make a decision about the budget.

Amongst the proposals is one I thought I would bring to your attention.

The Council make a contribution to the running of the Tyne and Wear Specialist Conservation Team which is the curatorial service for archaeology, industrial archaeology and historic buildings for the five Tyne and Wear districts.

The budget proposal being considered is to reduce the financial contribution the Council makes by half (approximately £11,000). This will result in a reduced service to Gateshead Council although the exact areas of work provided by the Team which will be cut or reduced has not yet been finalised. The Council’s own Conservation Officer post is not affected by this proposal.

Should you have any views or comments on this proposal please address them to either:

budgetconsultation@gateshead.gov.uk, or;

Budget Consultation
Gateshead Council
Freepost NEA 3381
Gateshead
NE8 1BR

They must reach the Council by 17th December 2013.
If you have any queries about the contents of this letter, please contact me on GeoffUnderwood@gateshead.gov.uk or 0191 433 3435.

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]

Geoff Underwood  
Major Initiatives Manager  
Environment & Regeneration Service  
Development & Enterprise