

Claire Bennett
Local Government: Transformation and Partnerships
1st Floor, North Wing
Cathays Park
Cardiff CF10 3NQ

12 January 2016

Dear Ms Bennett,

Alternative delivery models in public service delivery: an action plan for consultation

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this draft action plan.

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (ClfA) is the leading professional body representing archaeologists working in the UK and overseas. We promote high professional standards and strong ethics in archaeological practice, to maximise the benefits that archaeologists bring to society, and provide a self-regulatory quality assurance framework for the sector and those it serves.

ClfA has over 3,150 members and more than 70 registered practices across the United Kingdom. Its members work in all branches of the discipline: heritage management, planning advice, excavation, finds and environmental study, buildings recording, underwater and aerial archaeology, museums, conservation, survey, research and development, teaching and liaison with the community, industry and the commercial and financial sectors.

ClfA's Wales / Cymru Group has over 300 members practising in the public, private and voluntary sector in Wales.

Alternative delivery models in public service delivery

General

CifA recognises the continuing financial pressures under which local authorities are operating and welcomes Welsh Government's desire to ensure that public services continue most effectively to promote the public interest.

This response relates to services affecting the historic environment and, in particular, to archaeology. In this latter regard, Wales is extremely well served by the four Welsh Archaeological Trusts which are, in many respects, the envy of other parts of the United Kingdom.

As a professional body representing the interests of archaeology and archaeologists, the Institute's primary concern in assessing alternative methods of public service delivery is to ensure that the historic environment continues to be appropriately managed and protected.

Specific Questions

Question 1: Do you have any comments on the overall approach to alternative delivery models outlined in the draft Action Plan?

1.1 CifA notes that Welsh Government advocates *'cooperative and mutual models of delivery and other alternative delivery models only as an alternative to ceasing or privatising services, as a 'least worst' option.'* (page 2 of the consultation document) and is concerned to see that any consideration of alternative delivery models should not undermine the work of the Welsh Archaeological Trusts.

1.2 Furthermore, any services which are provided in relation to the historic environment should comply with CifA's Standard and guidance for archaeological advice by historic environment services (http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CifAS&GArchadvice_2.pdf) and other CifA Standards and guidance (<http://www.archaeologists.net/codes/ifa>). The Welsh Archaeological Trusts are all registered under CifA's registered organisations scheme

(<http://www.archaeologists.net/regulation/organisations>) and, as such, subscribe to the above Standards.

1.3 In the light of the above, we would add a fourth pre-condition for activity in this area (page 9) in cases affecting the historic environment, namely, 'appropriate management and protection of the historic environment'.

Question 2: Do you agree that the Action Plan should contain principles to guide the adoption of alternative delivery models?

2.1 Yes.

Question 3: Do you have any comments on the draft principles outlined in section 4 of the Action Plan?

3.1 If and insofar as the principles apply to local authority services affecting the environment, a further guiding principle should be added that 'we will respect, safeguard and promote the natural and historic environment'.

Question 4: Do you agree with the actions that have been identified in section 5 of the Action Plan?

4.1 No comment.

Question 5: Are there other actions you think should be included?

5.1 No comment.

Question 6: We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, please use this space to report them:

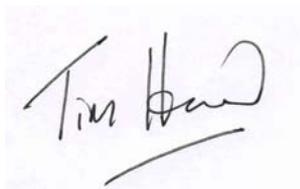
6.1 Community engagement is an important and integral part of the delivery of historic environment and archaeology services and nothing in this response should be taken to suggest otherwise. Such engagement is currently facilitated by the work of the Welsh Archaeological Trusts and

others both within and outside local government. This work should continue to be supported.

ClfA has no objection to the publication of this response.

If there is anything further that I can do to assist please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Howard', with a horizontal line underneath.

Tim Howard LLB, Dip Prof Arch
Senior Policy Advisor