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<b>REPORT TO EXECUTIVE</b>			
<b>PORTFOLIO AREA: Infrastructure Environment and Transport</b>			
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>		<b>3 MARCH 2003</b>	
<b>Public</b>			
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Recorded in Forward Plan:</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Inside Policy Framework</b>			

**Title:** **GATEWAY CITY PROJECT - ARCHAEOLOGICAL UPDATE**

**Report of:** **HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

**Report reference:** **LDS.11/03**

### **Summary:**

The report sets out the current position in relation to post excavation archaeological work being undertaken by Oxford Archaeology (North).

### **Recommendations:**

That the report be noted.

**Contact Officer:** John Egan

**Ext:** 7004

## **1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND OPTIONS**

1.1 Members will recall that last year the Council appointed Oxford Archaeology (North) to undertake the post-excavation archaeology works at a cost of £659,100. A more expensive proposal was, at that time, put forward by Oxford costing £708,388, which included additional benefits such as an education pack for Key Stage 2 pupils, placing a digital archive of the site with the Archaeological Data Services and the provision of a website throughout the project which would be regularly updated. The wish of the Executive was that the extra benefits of the additional work should be secured, if possible, but requested that Oxford and Officers approach other parties to see if they could provide the gap funding between the lower and higher costs of the two packages, rather than the Council funding the difference.

1.2 A number of discussions and meetings have recently taken place with English Heritage and Dr Carol Allen of Oxford Archaeology and she has now reported that she is confident that sufficient help in kind will be provided by English Heritage, in the form of conservation work, to enable Oxford to proceed with the more expensive package of work but at no extra cost to the Council, if the Council so wishes.

After consultation with Councillor Prest, the Portfolio Holder, instructions have been given to Oxford to proceed with the more extensive package and so secure the additional benefits for the project mentioned above but on the basis that there will be no increase in costs to the Council. This is in accordance with the previously expressed wishes of the Executive.

1.3 As far as the rest of the Millennium Project is concerned, Officers and MPM Capita are aiming to report fully to the Executive at its next meeting with an update on the projected financial outturn when the contractual position has been reviewed with MPM Capita, together with a timetable for completing the outstanding matters which are still in the course of resolution.

## **2. CONSULTATION**

### **1. Consultation to Date**

Consultation has taken place with English Heritage and Oxford Archaeology (North).

### **2. Consultation Proposed**

None further.

### **3. STAFFING/RESOURCES COMMENTS**

None anticipated.

### **4. HEAD OF FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMENTS**

No comments.

### **5. LEGAL COMMENTS**

They are included in this report.

### **6. CORPORATE COMMENTS**

None required.

### **7. RISK MANAGEMENT ASSESSMENT**

It is not anticipated that the risk will increase as a result of the matters referred to in this report.

### **8. EQUALITY ISSUES**

None anticipated.

### **9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

None anticipated.

### **10. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

None anticipated.

### **11. RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the report be noted.

### **12. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

To inform the Executive of the current position.



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