

EXETER CITY COUNCIL
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - ECONOMY
22 JANUARY 2009
ARCHAEOLOGY RESEARCH PROGRESS

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report advises Members as follows:
- Item 2: progress with archaeology reports and projects funded from the Economy & Tourism budget.
- Item 3: information relating to archaeological projects carried out in the City both for ECC and external clients.

2.0 ECONOMY AND TOURISM FUNDED WORK

Work to date

- 2.1 The purpose of this programme of work is to make available, in a range of formats and media, the results of archaeological and historical investigations and research undertaken by the City Council on a variety of topics.
- 2.2 As previously agreed by members this has included:
- Continuing work on preparation of booklets on Roman Exeter and medieval religious houses
 - Preparation of material for Underground Passages
- 2.3
- Preparation of exhibition material for Custom House.
- 2.4 The exhibition material was in place for the formal opening of the Custom House and has been available for Redcoat tours and other visitors. Presentation on the above will be made at the meeting.

3.0 PROJECTS FUNDED BY OTHER CLIENTS

- 3.1 As noted above it is intended to report on the work of the Unit using presentation material at the meeting, therefore only a brief written report is presented. 2008 has been a difficult trading year all round, with only a few significant projects being undertaken in the City. Progress on the RAM Museum refurbishment has also been delayed with consequent postponement of archaeological work.
- 3.2 It is proposed to report on the excavations at Dinham Road (a development which itself has succumbed to the difficult financial climate), where early Roman settlement has been found. Information will be presented on the discoveries at the Southgate Hotel, just outside the City Wall and on the newly discovered Roman site at St Loye's College, Topsham Road.
- 3.3 Outside Exeter the AFU has managed to maintain long term contract work with WBB Minerals, now Sibelco Ltd, on a number of projects relating to proposed major planning applications around Kingsteignton

and Newton Abbot. The Unit has also been retained by them to assist with mineral applications in the Lee Moor area on SW Dartmoor; this is providing a welcome income stream.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 AFU operates as a trading undertaking and with the remaining Princesshay income is anticipated to have a turnover of just over £1.2 million in 2008-09. For Economy and Tourism projects the Archaeology in Exeter budget allocation for 2008-09 is £27,000. It is proposed that in 2009-10 this will include:

- production of postcards and other merchandise based on previous research and reconstruction work
- Preparation of pamphlet/booklet for Custom House.

4.2 Much of this work will be of benefit to the Tourism unit and individual interpretation projects which they are developing.

5.0 RECOMMENDED that Members:

(1) note the progress being made with these projects.

PETER WEDDELL
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ECONOMY AND DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE

Local Government (Access to information) Act 1985 (as amended)

Background papers used in compiling this report:

None