

**16 June 2016 8.00am – 10.00am  
Palatine Room, Town Hall**

**CHESTER GROWTH PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS**

Guy Butler, Cllr Brian Crowe, Cllr Samantha Dixon, Katrina Michel, Peter Carstensen, Liz Carnie, Claire Griffiths, Fran Burgess, Sally Pilott, Andy Foster, Chis Matheson MP, Phil Harris

**WORKING GROUP MEMBERS**

Chris Capes, Ruth Wojtan, Caroline Thomas, Roz Munslow, Beth Skinner, Lisa Rowe

**OTHER ATTENDEES**

Alison Knight, Stephen Langtree, Helen Nellist, Leah Maltby

**APOLOGIES**

Georgina Patel, Gemma Davies, Phil Mayall, Peter Cocker, Dean Paton, Will Heath, Peter Carstensen, Ed Oliver

**Action Points**

- CC to circulate draft One City Plan review to board members for comments to be received by the end of the week.
- All to send KM any further possible attendees to be invited to the Invest in Chester event.
- SP to ensure CH1 BID are consulted on the CWaC Parking Strategy.
- Growth Track 360 prospectus to be circulated to board members once published.
- Coordination of bidding for same pots of funding to be discussed.
- Skills sub-group to be set up and hold quarterly meetings.
- Heritage, Museums and Visual Arts Strategy to be circulated to board members when launched.
- Draft Chester Investment Prospectus to be circulated for comments by the end of tomorrow.

1.	<p><b>Welcome and Introduction</b></p> <p>GB welcomed attendees to the meeting and began with an update on the latest activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CWaC Development Board Conference took place on 26<sup>th</sup> May which highlighted the various approaches of each board.</li> <li>• A new two year business plan focussed on delivery will be set in conjunction with the One City Plan Review. A business planning session will take place with workstream leads.</li> <li>• Wales Rally GB is coming to Chester for the first time in 20 years in October.</li> <li>• The planning application for Northgate has been submitted.</li> <li>• Chester Investment Prospectus is currently in draft format and being finalised ready to print for the Invest in Chester event on 29<sup>th</sup> June. It will be</li> </ul>	<b>GB</b>
----	--	-----------

	<p>a live pdf document that is continuously updated and features three areas: strategic sites, sites on market and opportunities. Property Week will be running a story on 30<sup>th</sup> June.</p> <p>CC updated on the One City Plan review which will sit alongside the new CGP Business Plan and an action plan/delivery schedule will be set by the end of July.</p> <p><b>Action point</b> – CC to circulate draft One City Plan review to board members for comments to be received by the end of the week.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Engage Working Group Update – Katrina Michel</b></p> <p>KM gave an update from the Engage workstream. There are currently 80 people registered for the Invest in Chester event in London on 29<sup>th</sup> June. Board members are encouraged to remind their contacts and send KM any further recommendations to increase registration numbers. The event has already been publicised on Insider Media and further PR will take place after the event.</p> <p><b>Action point</b> – All to send KM any further possible attendees to be invited to the Invest in Chester event.</p> <p>KM updated on a meeting with David Watson, Communications Director for the Northern Powerhouse, who will be attending the London event. The focus is changing from long term projects to a two year focus which will fit with our new business plan. There is also an opportunity for ideas to be considered for inclusion in the Autumn Statement.</p> <p>The group also aims to look at other events such as MIPIM 2017, possibly attaching to C&amp;W LEP or Liverpool, and holding an event in Manchester to further promote Chester.</p>	<b>KM</b>
3.	<p><b>Housing Working Group Update – Claire Griffiths &amp; Andy Foster</b></p> <p>CG and AF gave an update from the Housing workstream. Work is continuing on a strategic level looking at the emerging local plan and engaging with the University. GB updated on a meeting with Tim Wheeler who stated the University are not going to back any further student accommodation in the city due to lack of demand. WH will be picking up further conversations.</p> <p>On a practical level, sites have been identified by the group such as those included in the Investment Prospectus, and landowners are being approached to bring sites to the market.</p> <p>AF mentioned the three residential conversions above the Rows that are currently underway and how investors are reluctant to develop in the city due to heritage/planning barriers. SD commented on the unrealistic expectations developers have with the reality being it does take time, also adding the Cheshire West and Chester Design Review Panel is an underused asset to be utilised. AK informed of the new service rolled out in Planning which has received good feedback, and any issues can be brought directly to AK to be resolved.</p>	<b>CG/ AF</b>

4.	<p><b>Infrastructure Working Group Update – Sally Pilott &amp; Chris Matheson MP</b>  SP and CM gave an update from the Infrastructure workstream. Mott McDonald are undertaking a consultation on the CWaC Parking Strategy, with public consultations taking place in Autumn. An update will be provided at the next Board meeting. RM also mentioned the importance of consulting with CH1 BID as parking is a high priority for them.</p> <p><b>Action point –</b> SP to ensure CH1 BID are consulted on the CWaC Parking Strategy</p> <p>Responses have been prepared to public rail consultations including lobbying the importance of Chester’s connectivity with the HS2 hub in Crewe. CM is meeting with transport minister Claire Perry on 7<sup>th</sup> July to discuss long term infrastructure investment. Agenda items for the meeting to include discussing direct access to Manchester Airport on the Mid-Cheshire line and a decision on the northern route of HS2. SP highlighted the importance of working with North Wales, who are expected to have the largest growth outside of London in the next five years, and the Mersey Dee Alliance (MDA).</p> <p>RW informed of the rail prospectus ‘Growth Track 360’ going to press next week which is driven by the taskforce and includes connectivity to HS2 and capacity issues with the link to Manchester.</p> <p><b>Action point –</b> Growth Track 360 prospectus to be circulated to board members once published.</p> <p>A discussion took place on the reopening of Saltney/Lache to increase cross city communication with SD commenting it had previously been explored and its viability isn’t strong, and parking around the station is a key investment.</p>	SP/ CM
5.	<p><b>Dwell Working Group Update – Fran Burgess &amp; Phil Harris</b>  FB and PH gave an update from the Dwell workstream. Chester Zoo’s dinosaur trail is starting in the city next week and has been sponsored by CH1 BID. Chester Zoo are also currently filming their Channel 4 series, with discussions taking place to bring the camera’s into the city centre.</p> <p>The group are undertaking a tour next week of potential event spaces to map out key spaces in the city. BID are completing a piece of work to understand the base dwell time for the city and the group are also exploring the option of a combi-ticket across multiple attractions.</p> <p>PH updated on the Chinese tourism market and conversations with Marketing Cheshire have been taking place. Grosvenor Museum are holding a two hour taster session on 15<sup>th</sup> September on the basics of dealing with Chinese tourism. KM highlighted the need not to forget other markets as 65% of visitors are from Europe.</p> <p>KM mentioned the need for discussions to take place to ensure that we aren’t individually bidding for the same pots of money, for example with the Zoo Dinosaur Trail and summer Destination Campaign with BID funding.</p> <p><b>Action point –</b> Coordination of bidding for same pots of funding to be discussed.</p>	FB/ PH

6.	<p><b>Investment Working Group Update – Liz Carnie</b></p> <p>LC gave an update from the Investment workstream. Good progress on the objectives has been made, including the production of the Investment Map. The Economic Dashboard has been launched and is linked from the CGP website, and HC has been working on the Chester Investment Prospectus.</p> <p>Skills is an area the group are struggling with and are focusing on at the moment. Work is underway to gather baseline data and contact is being made with local employers. Further discussions to take place in the next agenda item.</p>	LC
7.	<p><b>Skills Discussion</b></p> <p>Skills came through strongly at the board conference in May as a borough priority and the Investment group are keen to ensure that all board members understand who the providers are, consider the skills needs in Chester and what the CGP is best placed to do.</p> <p>Helen Nellist, Acting Principle and Chief Executive of West Cheshire College gave an update with the following highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The college plays a significant role in the borough with a range of opportunities for young people and adults.</li> <li>• The skills agenda is from a Cheshire wide perspective with a focus and drive from the LEP.</li> <li>• Apprenticeship Levy – important as key employers have to pay in.</li> <li>• Engagement with employers is difficult and developing skills within existing workforces – links with DWP and Job Centre Plus are critical.</li> </ul> <p>A discussion took place on what the board can do to support the college. HN highlighted an opportunity to look forward at future developments to predict x number of people will be needed with x skills, and working more closely with CWaC through the process. GB agreed adding there is strength in the connections with other organisations the board has which could benefit this.</p> <p>Leah Maltby, Senior Employment and Skills Strategy Officer at Cheshire West and Chester Council gave an update with the following highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are three strands to the work being focussed on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Employment – getting people into work with the Work Zones.</li> <li>○ Young people engagement – career support and post 16 review across the sub-region.</li> <li>○ Growth – employers role, work experience etc.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Also involved in wider networks such as the LEP skills agenda, devolution route and Mersey Dee Alliance.</li> </ul> <p>Lisa Rowe, Senior Lecturer at University of Chester gave an update on degree apprenticeships, a form of work based learning which entails a job from an employer and a full university degree, that the University will be delivering starting in September.</p> <p>A point was also raised on schools walking away from work experience with a focus needed on engaging with employers to promote the agenda and positive outcomes it brings.</p>	ALL

	<p>GB highlighted the skills gap within the group and proposed the setting up of a skills sub-group holding quarterly meetings, engaging with West Cheshire College, CWaC, University of Chester amongst others as a mechanism to support the wider agenda.</p> <p><b>Action point</b> – Skills sub-group to be set up and hold quarterly meetings</p>	
8.	<p><b>AOB</b>  CC gave an update on Dee House. The procurement process has now closed and decision making is taking place with an announcement due fairly soon. Further engagement will take place with the developers and the scheme will go to the Design Review Panel. CC also mentioned the Heritage, Museums and Visual Arts Strategy which is reaching its final draft and will go to Cabinet in September to be formally adopted.</p> <p><b>Action point</b> - Heritage, Museums and Visual Arts Strategy to be circulated to board members when launched.</p> <p>AF informed of the Murmurations: the #makechester talks event taking place on 1<sup>st</sup> July at St Mary's Centre. 120 people are currently attending and any board members are welcome to register.</p> <p>GB mentioned the Investment Prospectus with an electronic draft to be circulated for comments by the end of tomorrow.</p> <p><b>Action point</b> – Draft Chester Investment Prospectus to be circulated for comments by the end of tomorrow.</p>	<b>ALL</b>
9.	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b>  Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2016, 8am</p>	<b>ALL</b>