

Chester Renaissance Board - Minutes
26 February 2013 8.00am – 10.00am
Palatine Room, Chester Town Hall

Attendees

Steven Broomhead (SB)	Chair Chester Renaissance
Rita Waters (RW)	Chester Renaissance (CR)
Tim Kenney (TK)	Cheshire Business Club
Kate McClean (KMc)	Planning Consultant
Steve Robinson (SR)	Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC)
Katrina Michel (KM)	Marketing Cheshire (MC)
Roger Croston (RC)	Croston Engineering
Cliff Mallows (CM)	Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC)
Charlie Seward (CS)	Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC)
Councillor Samantha Dixon (SD)	Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC)
Nigel Bruce (NB)	Chartered Surveyor
Eric Langton (EL)	Retired Editor in Chief
Laura Carstensen (LC)	
Sally Williamson (SW)	Chester Renaissance (CR)

Apologies

Councillor Tom Parry	Cheshire West and Chester (CWAC)
John Denny	Cosmopolitan Housing Group (CHG)
Councillor Mike Jones	Cheshire West and Chester (CWAC)

1.	<p>Welcome</p> <p>SB welcomed the Board and thanked everyone for attending. Apologies noted.</p> <p>Minutes from Board meeting 5 December 2012 recorded as accurate.</p>	SB
2.	<p>One City Plan / CEO Update</p> <p>CM provided a brief summary on the key projects. Central Business Quarter (CBQ) is progressing, Muse planning application in for Phase 1 end March and Public Realm application in.</p> <p>Theatre experienced a hiccup with the news that no Arts Council funding but the Arts Council have offered lots of support to the project which is a good sign. Pushing on to deliver in the same time frame. The scope might change a little bit but whole package should be delivered. Project Manager Graham Lister appointed.</p> <p>Northgate – consultation ended in January, comments have been collated mostly positive regarding principles of the scheme. Report to Executive in June will be a major milestone. Backing up with a fresh</p>	

	<p>look at retail research and viability and keeping momentum going.</p> <p>SD noted that the CBQ team responded well to engage with local residents which paid off as no turbulence going forward – early effective engagement with local residents does pay off.</p> <p>Board noted that whilst the Theatre funding was disappointing it's not as big a blow as perceived, communication is key for next six months to get messages out of options being looked at. CS commented that private sector funding is key, there is a strategy in place but waiting for Arts Council view before pushing, campaign will kick off in earnest now.</p> <p>RW confirmed Dee House / Amphitheatre is in period of exclusivity with developer until this summer. Will include as a presentation in forthcoming One City Plan drop-in's at Town Hall.</p> <p>Cathedral looking at how to move forward with consultation for new masterplan. Masterplan has been to Cathedral Chapter who are very supportive. Consultants appointed. Action: RW to invite Cathedral in to present 10/15 year masterplan to this Board.</p> <p>CS updated Board on LGA Conference next week in Chester – national event on culture – first performance in Odeon will help garner support nationally.</p> <p>SB confirmed Board replacements as per CEO recommendations: Chester Zoo wait for new CEO; welcome to Katrina Michel from Marketing Cheshire; West Cheshire College wait for S Mogel replacement; invite rep from Civic Trust as observer. No open recruitment at this stage.</p> <p>Chairman also thanked LC for all her input and hard work on this Board.</p> <p>Planning Template circulated and Board agreed to adopt this process. Template will be circulated in a timely manner and will be used for OCP planning apps only. Action: KMc will complete and send to Board as first example and see if it works well.</p> <p>9 Abbey Square – CR office relocation due mid-April, 3 year term lease, ground floor office space and access to first floor meeting rooms, saving on current location.</p>	
3.	<p>BID / CCM Update</p> <p>The Board discussed the Groundwork report and conclusions. Options include local authority, a public/private led or totally private – under impression that the last option is favourable – retail-led. The current CCM Board could be strengthened or create a Shadow BID Board to see if there is an appetite for a BID. Action: RW to approach key retailers to see if interest – establish a Shadow BID Board. By next CR Board meeting. If can't happen by then isn't the interest and momentum. CR</p>	RW

	<p>Board members to feed names to Rita. Understood that Renaissance are just facilitators at this stage of the process.</p> <p>RW there is support, looking at current level of investment, only CWAC keeping £55k investment – BID has potential for £0.5m / year (£2.5/3 over 5 years). SD feels there is an appetite from retailers who have an understanding of BIDs in other areas. Wariness to invest in Chester - £55k isn't enough to attract match funds.</p>	
4.	<p>Board Member items SD requested copy of RC's list of areas for improvement in the city. Action: RC to send SC list.</p> <p>Board discussed whether Renaissance should put "stamp of approval" on good things in the city and it was felt that this is covered by Civic Trust Awards.</p>	All
5.	<p>Renaissance Governance Review Chairman summarised current position – Renaissance formed in 2008 and 2/3 years ago focus on One City Plan. This is a strategic board who are guardians of the One City Plan – to monitor, support and progress the implementation of the One City Plan. CWAC is implementing its own Economic Strategy, there is an invigorated LEP.</p> <p>Issue of added value of Renaissance has been raised by others outside of the organisation. Opportunity to review and evaluate where things are at.</p> <p>RW presented paper regarding governance and Board discussed this along with Terms of Reference. Comments included would like to "get on and deliver agenda", "used to being do'ers" can be frustrating in strategic role, confusion over some areas like marketing of the city, would like definitive roles to play. Board agreed points a) and b) on terms of reference.</p> <p>CS noted that the Board can play a critical role in ongoing work developing investment plan for the city.</p> <p>CM noted that Renaissance is one Board of four across the CWAC Borough, and one of seven across the LEP. He is working on comparing and contrasting Boards and will report findings back this summer.</p> <p>Chairman stated Renaissance Board is a commissioning body with oversight of what others are doing in the city i.e. Chester Performs, Marketing Cheshire, Capital Programme for CWAC overall programmes are reported to this Board annually. CS suggested that Board members could work on each area.</p> <p>Action: CWAC as sponsors of Renaissance to send note to Board on expectations of Renaissance's role within a month of this meeting. Need</p>	All

	a communications plan about what Renaissance is doing moving forward.	
6.	CEO / Chairman update Covered earlier on agenda.	SB / RW
7.	AOB Roger would like to expand spreadsheet to include championing Chester. University making great investment in the City. LEP is going strong and coming into its own now. Action: HS2 to be agenda item at next meeting. Date of next meeting 24 April 2013 8am – 10am, Palatine Room, Chester Town Hall	All