

**Chester Renaissance Board - Minutes**  
**24 April 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
Steve Robinson (SR)	Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC)
Councillor Mike Jones (MJ)	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
Peter Carstensen (LC)	
Sally Williamson (SW)	Chester Renaissance (CR)
Peter Howell-Jones (PHJ)	Chester Cathedral
Simon Warburton (SiW)	Chester Cathedral

Apologies

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

1.	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p>SB welcomed the Board and thanked everyone for attending. Apologies noted. Welcome to Peter Carstensen.</p> <p>Minutes from Board meeting 26 February 2013 recorded as accurate.</p> <p>HS2 update to be added to future agenda.</p> <p>Chester Renaissance team moving office 10 May to 9 Abbey Square – look at low cost soft opening event for partners. TK suggests a larger event possibly with Chamber / Cathedral. <b>Action:</b> RW / TK to look at.</p>	<b>SB</b>
2.	<p><b>One City Plan</b></p> <p>PHJ and SW presented the Cathedral Masterplan and current Cathedral updates – including Cathedral at Height (2014), free entry attraction, Free School still ongoing, capacity is a challenge. Lots of ambition for change – renovation, demolition, consultation – deliverability is a challenge within the large programme of change.</p>	<b>PHJ</b> <b>SiW</b>

	<p>The information was well received by the Board and the Board extended thanks for the update and will promote and support Cathedral initiatives where possible.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Cathedral to present again to this Board end of 2013 with update.</p>	
3.	<p><b>CWAC Response on Governance issues</b></p> <p>The Board discussed and accepted the paper from CWAC about the role of Renaissance – the collective role of the Board and the role of individual Board members. Renaissance welcomes the paper which clearly defines Renaissance in a strategic direction. <b>Action:</b> RW to present more details at future meeting regarding linking Board members to themes rather than projects. CWAC is working on Single Investment Plan across Cheshire and Warrington and Chester will feed into this.</p> <p>Board noted that there are two Board vacancies as Kate McClean and John Denny have left the Board, which will be advertised externally shortly.</p> <p>The Civic Trust have agreed to join the Board as an observer.</p>	<b>CS</b>
4.	<p><b>Capital Programme 2013/14 Allocation</b></p> <p>Paper shared with funding allocation for CWAC's capital allocation for Chester Renaissance. SD noted a more detailed outputs would be helpful. <b>Action:</b> RW to review and bring back to June meeting with more details.</p>	<b>RW</b>
5.	<p><b>Board Member items</b></p> <p>Marketing Cheshire - Traffic on the London Chester route has grown 66% in the past 5 years and last year the growth was 6% 400000 passengers in total. Virgin are a key partner for Marketing Cheshire and on the Chester route our objectives are to increase weekend traffic for them, to encourage weekend traffic to trade up to first and to promote train chartering.</p> <p>Hotels are performing relatively well. In Q1 Occupancy 63.9% +4.6% on last year and Average Room Rate £66.65 +7.2 on last year Weekdays are strong and the corporate market is keeping sales healthy. Weekends are softer.</p> <p>Business tourism is good but favours the bigger players, although an increase in capacity on the racecourse in 2014 if it materialises will be good for all.</p> <p>Hoteliers are optimistic about business post closure of the Travelodge but concerned about the possible addition of two further hotels in the 3+*/4* bracket (Ibis and Waitrose) which will decrease occupancy and probably unleash a price war.</p>	<b>All</b>

	<p>Splitting websites to have a dedicated Chester website (the other for Cheshire).</p> <p>Also working on Christmas campaign and branding for the city.</p> <p>Footfall in March higher than national average.</p> <p>Piece in Telegraph about Chester – good advertising.</p> <p>Cheshire Oaks targeting asian market, work in one voice as Chester needs to which is why BID is crucial.</p>	
6.	<p><b>CEO One City Plan update &amp; Chairman report</b> Dee House – Chris Gooch-Butler will be present at the June OCP drop-in, Board members welcome to attend. <b>Action:</b> SD requested a Communications Plan for Dee House.</p> <p>BID – RW continues to meet key stakeholders. Interview panel being convened for Board. First Board meeting in June – private sector led Board with support from Renaissance and CWAC. The Renaissance Board would like to recognise the work done by Paul Daniels with Chester City Management.</p> <p>Waterways Strategy – workshop held for key stakeholders, working on strategy for late summer.</p> <p>Free Wifi – ongoing issues will be looked into.</p>	<b>SB / RW</b>
7.	<p><b>AOB</b> Transport Strategy is being aligned with Local Plan consultations, will happen in the summer.</p> <p>TK questioned whether Renaissance Board should meet more regularly i.e. every 6 weeks. Action: RW to look at this.</p> <p>Waitrose have offered hotel aspect of development to marketplace.</p> <p>Northgate – retail research ongoing, still looking at report to Executive in the summer. Could put Retail Assessment of City on future Board agenda.</p> <p>Theatre – still in discussions with Arts Council about resubmitting a Bid in June or July – looking at design and demolition and working with consultants to look at private sector funding strategy.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> further update on Northgate &amp; Theatre at next Board meeting.</p> <p>City of Culture Phase 1 bid submitted by end of April. If successful it will go onto phase 2 and will require further work. Announcement re shortlisting due in June, final submission November.</p>	<b>All</b>

	<p>SD noted that the Labour Council Budget point raised was rejected.</p> <p><b>Date of next meeting</b> 27 June 2013 8am – 10am, 9 Abbey Square, Chester CH1 2HU.</p>	
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