

**Chester Renaissance Board - Minutes**  
**8 November 2013 9.30am – 11.30am**  
**Boardroom, 9 Abbey Square, Chester**

Attendees

Steven Broomhead (SB)	Chair Chester Renaissance
Rita Waters (RW)	Chester Renaissance (CR)
Tim Kenney (TK)	Chester Business Club
Steve Robinson (SR)	Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC)
Councillor Mike Jones (MJ)	Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC)
Nicola Said (NS)	Marketing Cheshire (MC)
Roger Croston (RC)	Croston Engineering
Charlie Seward (CS)	Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC)
Gemma Davies (GD)	Chester Renaissance
Alison Knight (AK)	Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC)
Councillor Stuart Parker (SP)	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 (PC)	
Stephen Langtree (SL)	Chester Civic Trust

Apologies

Nigel Davies (ND)	West Cheshire College
-------------------	-----------------------

1.	<p><b>Welcome</b>  SB welcomed the Board and thanked everyone for attending. Apologies noted.</p> <p>SR confirmed that funding from CWaC for the operations of Renaissance has been agreed until May 2015. Suggested the Board undertake a piece of work about what added value the partnership brings. The financial context for the Council is a need to save £50m over next 3-4 years. Everything will be looked at. Case for Board will need to be made clear over next 12 months.</p> <p>Minutes from Board meeting 27 June 2013 recorded as accurate.</p>	<b>SB</b>
2.	<p><b>One City Plan</b>  GD/CS gave the Board a progress update of OCP.</p> <p>A number of transformational major development schemes are in progress and funds are committed to a number of them, including significant Capital Programme amounts. Fundamental to Growth Strategy delivery and Chester's proposition at the LEP level.</p>	<b>All</b>

	<p>The Council were asked about the commitments for the Walls long term investment and maintenance. It was explained there is an allocated budget for maintenance of this key asset, and this sits within the Highways (Bridges) department.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Business Improvement District (BID) Update</b>  RW updated Board on latest with CH1 Chester BID.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chief Inspector Cheshire Police joining BID Board.</li> <li>- Strong Board and project is gathering momentum. Small working groups looking at projects i.e. communications and website. <a href="http://www.ch1chesterbid.co.uk">www.ch1chesterbid.co.uk</a> is now live and will be updated. Communications brief is out to tender. Branding will be worked on.</li> <li>- Dedicated office accommodation at 9 Lower Bridge Street donated by Bride Hall.</li> <li>- Funding for City Centre Manager in place (from Bride Hall and Grosvenor Estate) interviewing four candidates later this month.</li> <li>- Linking with Localities team within the Council.</li> <li>- Board are working on a series of quick wins based on original consultation and last month's drop-in – visitor welcome, coach drop-off, roman soldier welcome, social media campaign, working with Marketing Cheshire, funding street pastors, .</li> <li>- Agreed levy at 1% 18,000 rateable value, £500k per year.</li> <li>- BID vote 30 June 2014.</li> <li>- Jan/Feb 2014 draft business plan and ongoing consultation from now on.</li> <li>- Liz Snead seconded to BID from CWaC planning department.</li> </ul>	RW
4.	<p><b>Board Member update</b>  Christmas in Chester – markets open 21 November and Christmas light parade. Working with all partners delivering coordinated Christmas campaign 'nothing like Christmas in Chester' with shared objective of enhanced participation and footfall. Features in local press and radio campaigns starting, reaching local audience as well as visitors. Late night shopping begins. Christmas campaign is a five year programme so retailers can see consistency.</p> <p>Chester Branding – on site developments. Specific Chester website <a href="http://www.visitchester.com">www.visitchester.com</a> will be online in January. TV advert on air currently.</p> <p>Business event 15 January 2014 – hosted by Chester Business Club, support from Cathedral, venue is Refectory 5.45pm start. Four presentations on the evening: Northgate &amp; Theatre; Chester Renaissance; Cathedral at Height; CH1 Chester BID. Save the date now for this open event, more details will be circulated in early December by EventBrite / Marketing Cheshire.</p> <p>RC raised events planned for World War I commemoration – rolling programme over next four years.</p>	

<p>Heritage Open Days in Sept 2013 greater response than ever before. Can do even more to market these events in future, particularly as part of a weekend package.</p> <p>SL raised issue of architectural lighting strategy only implemented so far on the Rows. Want to develop plan to implement lighting strategy across other parts of the city. GD to explore and discuss with SL.</p> <p>SD mentioned Cumulative Impact Policy consultation. Believes will make a big impact in city centre. Has support of Chester Pubwatch. Focus of November One City Plan – drop-in.</p> <p>CS – LEPs gaining momentum in light of Heseltine Report on Growth. National devolution of pots of money. European structural funds - ESF/ERDF 2014-2020. Sub-region £143m nominal allocation. Single Pot fund £2billion per year for 39 LEPs nationally. Strategic Economic Plan growth targets £30billion GVA and 40,000 net additional jobs. Key priority areas LEP is focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Growth Sectors (where we are well positioned nationally/globally),</li><li>• Infrastructure – connectivity (globally),</li><li>• Skills – matching needs of businesses</li><li>• Accelerate Housing development</li><li>• Quality of Environment.</li></ul> <p>Sound evidence to support our proposition. Chester, Warrington, Crewe, Ellesmere Port, seen as key economic drivers. Hub for core service activity - Chester at centre of arc of Advanced Manufacturing, strong Service Sector, particularly Financial Services and with strong potential for innovation. Next generation of major transformational projects. Infrastructure investment required. Current work, getting a handle of total value and what is required. Really important we position Chester in the LEP. Need the Board to champion and engage with the LEP and the Strategy. Draft Strategic Economic Plan will be ready in December and formally signed off next Summer. Single Pot Money will flow from 2015 onwards.</p> <p>Board and the team role to develop strong and credible practical proposals, work together to focus on priorities, advocates and championing – it is key that the proposition is supported by Private Sector.</p> <p>EL attended MBNA Global Technology Centre launch last week. Chester promoted for quality of labour and quality of life.</p> <p>SL Transport Strategy should include Saltney Station for rail.</p> <p>NB – economic potential of small businesses in villages and small towns. Want to see opportunity spread across economic area. CS advised that Rural Regeneration Board successful at business projects and raising</p>	
--	--

	<p>this at LEP level, Rural Growth Hub. SD asked if Board had commented on Local Plan during consultation – no, not as a Board.</p> <p>NB ideas to promote discussion with University on Retail.</p> <p>MJ asked Cllr Stuart Parker to present one page summary of economic impact of marathons and events.</p>	
5.	<p><b>Chairman Selection/handover</b>  SB thanked members for opportunity to Chair this Board and key achievement with the One City Plan.</p> <p>Recommendation to move for Eric Langton to Chair. Eric voted in after discussion.</p> <p>Significant piece of work early 2014 – governance, work areas, justification of value.</p> <p>EL wants to ambassador private sector involvement.</p>	<b>SB</b>
6.	<p><b>AOB / date of next meeting</b>  TK resigned from Board to focus his energy on CH1 Chester BID Board. Thanks on behalf of the Board for support and input.</p> <p><b>Date of next meeting</b>  Future meeting dates to be circulated.</p>	<b>ALL</b>