

**Chester Renaissance Board - Minutes**  
**30 January 2014 8.00am – 10.30am**  
**Boardroom, 9 Abbey Square, Chester**

**Attendees**

Eric Langton (EL)	Chair Chester Renaissance
Steve Robinson (SR)	Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC)
Councillor Mike Jones (MJ)	Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC)
Roger Croston (RC)	Croston Engineering
Charlie Seward (CS)	Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC)
Gemma Davies (GD)	Chester Renaissance
Katrina Michel (KM)	Marketing Cheshire
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
Nigel Davies (ND)	West Cheshire College
Peter Cocker (PC)	Chester Civic Trust
Sally Williamson (SW)	Chester Renaissance

**Apologies**

Peter Carstensen (PC)	
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1.	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p>EL welcomed the Board and thanked everyone for attending. Apologies noted.</p> <p>Minutes from Board meeting 8 November 2013 recorded as accurate.</p> <p>Focus of this meeting will be the role of Chester Renaissance and the role of the Board. Opportunity to strengthen Board with five current vacancies. Key projects underway (i.e. Central Business Quarter, Northgate, Theatre) - Chester Renaissance can take a strategic role in the city, whilst not discouraging Board members from raising individual issues.</p>	<b>EL</b>
2.	<p><b>One City Plan Programme update</b></p> <p>Northgate – Council approval to progress scheme to next phase (planning) and continued discussion with landowners. Acquired ING assets on 21 December and the Council now owns 85% of the scheme area and also took on sites behind Commerce House. Key priority is to take scheme to planning. Other related projects include bus station, theatre/library, market. Hybrid planning application late '14 / early '15 Phase 1 detailed and outline Phase 2. Transport Strategy at Executive late February will set framework for bus station location. Preferred option is Gorse Stacks. Commissioning ACME to look at market design with consultations in coming months. May/June should have a clear vision of where market will be and should inform design brief. SD noted it will be difficult to separate current problems with vision for future.</p>	<b>All</b>

	<p>19 February Sir Peter Bazalgette (Chair Arts Council) speaking at Business Club - would be good to have full attendance. SD asked how does the Business Club decide on speakers. EL commented that it is usually based on availability of speakers who are approached.</p> <p>Central Business Quarter – Funding package in place for new rail car park and gateway public realm including ERDF grant. Phase 1 rail car park Eric Wright Civic Engineering start on in February for a 12 week programme. Muse then start building first Grade A office building. Once that is complete public realm will begin and needs to be complete by October 2015. Waitrose on site with food store. Shot Tower developer is having ongoing discussions with housing provider Sanctuary. Regular meetings with three developers (CBQ, Waitrose and Shot Tower).</p> <p>Housing – EL will add this to next Board agenda. Housing Strategy being worked up and there is a member working group looking at student accommodation.</p> <p>Rows – short term maintenance / repair Rows Task Group set up. Long term economic development potential for rows – gathering information, property ownership, looking at HLF bid. CWAC has prepared a HLF framework for whole Borough.</p> <p>Commonhall Quarter – Design Review workshop with Places Matter!, good attendance from residents and businesses. Looked at short-term ideas and long term future. Lots of ideas and positive engagement.</p> <p>Dee House – AK meeting soon will feedback at next Board meeting.</p> <p>KM noted property finders find it difficult to place people in three-bed city apartments / houses.</p> <p>Understand M&amp;S have a tenant lined up for soon to be empty men’s store.</p> <p>Waterways Strategy – drafted and action plan being worked on. Launch April / May, Waterways Festival in June at Tower Wharf. RC asked for confirmation that collapsed lock is in the strategy. PC noted that the action plan should be more action orientated. Hydro-electric scheme at weir – ongoing detailed report from Environment Agency. Building available until late 2015.</p> <p>Local Development Plan – submitted to Secretary of State, inspector has been appointed (Kevin Ward), enquiry for Part 1 hopefully in Spring. Part 2 will follow from that.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Board Membership and Roles</b>  Terms of Reference circulated to Board. Discussion held around purpose and role. Board is to help secure development and investment</p>	All

	<p>in the city. It will play an important role in Chester working with the LEP. Challenge is to address gap between LEP and place teams in the Borough, secure investment for Chester through funding streams and also through private sector investment.</p> <p>The One City Plan is an independent study of Chester and need representatives for the five themes on Board to promote Chester. Board can use influence and focus on priorities – current projects (i.e. Northgate, Central Business Quarter) and next generation projects listed in the One City Plan.</p> <p>It was noted that the Local Authority wears several hats with this Board.</p> <p>EL to send regular briefing note to members on important issues / projects.</p> <p>EL updated on latest recruitment drive for Board members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chester Zoo has declined at this time due to other commitments and forthcoming Islands project.</li> <li>• Recommendation for Chester University nominated rep Phil Harris unanimously agreed.</li> <li>• Recommendation for Andy Foster to join and unanimously agreed.</li> <li>• Recommendation for CH1 Chair to join and unanimously agreed.</li> <li>• Marketing Cheshire to join Board as full member.</li> </ul> <p>SR reiterated that Board should have a view on planning applications that affect the One City Plan.</p> <p>KM to organise regular Chair dinner with LEP Chair included which EL will be invited to.</p> <p>Board to produce Chester prospectus and host events when appropriate to show people around Northgate, CBD for example.</p>	
4.	<p><b>Priorities and Funding</b> CS working on draft Strategic Economic Plan submitted to Government in December, feedback this week and more work between now and end of March. Will be innovative and deliverable and game changing for the way we work.</p>	
5.	<p><b>Chairman update</b> Board recruitment, encouraged by attendance at recent ‘Our City Our Future’ Business Club Event, to present at forthcoming Chester Blue Badge Guide meeting.</p>	<b>EL</b>
6.	<p><b>AOB / date of next meeting</b> Board agreed to start meetings at 8am for near future. Next meeting at DoubleTree by Hilton – KM kindly to organise meeting room. Board members who wish to attend Visitor Economy conference on</p>	<b>ALL</b>

	<p>same day to let Sally know.</p> <p>SR will nominate two CWAC reps to attend this Board meeting.</p> <p><b>Date of next meetings</b> Times to be agreed 27 March (note venue Doubletree Hilton), 22 May, 24 July, 25 September, 27 November</p>	
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