

Chester Renaissance Board - Minutes
27 March 2014 8.00am – 10.00am
DoubleTree by Hilton Chester, Warrington Rd, Chester CH2 3PD

Attendees

Eric Langton (EL)	Chair Chester Renaissance
Phil Harris (PH)	University of Chester
Councillor Mike Jones (MJ)	Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC)
Roger Croston (RC)	Croston Engineering
Andy Foster (AF)	Andy Foster Architects
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
Peter Carstensen (PC)	
Stephen Langtree (SL)	Chester Civic Trust
Sally Williamson (SW)	Chester Renaissance
Iain Paton (IP)	Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC)
Lesley Barratt (LB)	Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC)
Helen Weaver (HW)	Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC)

Apologies

Steve Robinson (SR)	Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC)
Charlie Seward (CS)	Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC)
Nigel Davies (ND)	West Cheshire College
Peter Cocker (PC)	Chester Civic Trust

1.	<p>Welcome and introductions</p> <p>Chairman extended a big welcome to new Board members Phil Harris, Andy Foster and Katrina Michel, and also to Paul Daniels who sent apologies to this meeting.</p> <p>Regarding Board vacancies Chairman is in discussion with Grosvenor and will report back to Board with any news.</p> <p><u>Previous minutes</u></p> <p>Arts Council Chair dinner has moved to October (note Chair's name is Peter Bazalgette).</p> <p>AK reported that the developer's partner on Dee House have changed their business focus to a different offer and are no longer appropriate as a partner so the Council is now looking at other options.</p> <p>M&S vacant unit on Foregate Street, understand there is a new tenant but not known who at this point.</p>	EL
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	<p>Board Briefing Note is drafted and will be circulated to members when have information to share.</p> <p>Waterways Strategy, note reference in last minutes should have read building 'not' available until 2015.</p> <p>Action: will recirculate the Planning template.</p>	
2.	<p>Chairman's Report Lions Fireworks working with MBNA for next two years to help with funding gap after an introduction by CR.</p> <p>Board agreed new Programme Update format.</p>  <p>Programme Update March 2014.docx</p> <p>15 May 2014 - Place North West Business Breakfast EL unable to attend would like representative in his place. <i>Post meeting note</i> - AF has kindly volunteered to attend.</p> <p>Board meeting forward plan document circulated - open to suggestions as we move through the year.</p>  <p>Forward plan for Renaissance Board It</p>	EL
3.	<p>Business Growth and Investment</p>    <p>Growth Presentation for Chester Renaissa Item 3 ppt.ppt Growth Plan Now.doc</p> <p>Economic growth is good for the area in terms of employment and reduces pressures. West Cheshire borders on other key employment sites i.e. Wirral, North Wales, and involves local authorities including LEP, Halton, Mersey Dee Alliance etc.</p> <p>PH commented it would be good to get entrepreneurs into the city, perhaps a conference to bring oomph into the city now and next generation.</p> <p>EL commends new One City Plan diagram.</p>  <p>OCP diagram v2.doc</p> <p>Action: KM to share film of Bank of America saying based here because of skills and lifestyle.</p>	AK IP

	<p>PH noted tracking businesses and risk management is important.</p> <p>SD noted that health expertise is strong in this area and potential to tap into.</p> <p>IP confirmed high calibre of businesses moving into area (i.e. Next Gear Capital, Urenco, Bank of America Global Technology Centre).</p> <p>New Find It business website for local businesses will hold opportunities under £10k. Board to encourage businesses to register (January launch and already 300 people on it). www.finditincheshireandwarrington.co.uk/</p> <p>NB noted it would be useful to add 'property' link to benefits.</p> <p>CWAC Business Growth Service team working on account management, inward investment and Board could play an ambassadorial role in this. UKTI doing visit in June / July.</p> <p>Must look beyond city centre boundaries. Opportunity to see University as part of whole Chester package – food centre, Thornton, Riverside, Capenhurst. Business Park as well as Central Business Quarter.</p> <p>Business organisations – e.g. Nat West Economic Event last week, how do people interact with businesses in the city i.e. Chester Business Club, Curry Club, BID etc.</p> <p>Raft of support for businesses but key is communicate those messages.</p> <p>AF noted it is difficult for small businesses to get into local authority. Start ups are a different culture, need to do more things to help small businesses. IP responded that procurement is changing i.e. larger projects will be split into lots.</p> <p>SL noted that there were plans for Centre of Excellence for Heritage crafts skills at Taylors Boatyard and that opportunity is still there.</p> <p>PC noted could look at top ten sectors in the economy as well as top 50 companies. Supply chain from large multi nationals to small local businesses is important too.</p>	
4.	<p>Housing Strategy</p>  <p>Item4 ppt.ppt</p> <p>LB presented current Housing Strategy which will be out to consultation April / May. Welcome feedback from Board.</p> <p>Major issue is affordability and viability. Action: HW to circulate</p>	LB

	<p>Chester data.</p> <p>Member working group is considering student accommodation. Board noted it would be good to know conclusions from Member working group. AF noted link with Local Plan. CR Board should contribute to debate on student accommodation. Action: AF, PH, PC, SD to meet to discuss housing priorities for Chester.</p> <p>PH is interested in mapping trends over next few years.</p>	
5.	<p>Heritage Lottery Fund – potential Rows bid</p> <p>Key priority for CR. HLF bid need to decide whether regional or national. SD noted it is important to add something to the paperwork that indicates it is somewhere people live as well as business. Also ownerships are important.</p> <p>Some evidence based work is currently being done to look at ownerships.</p> <p>Competitive tender for this piece of work Turner Townsend are the preferred consultant on this 9-12 month project. Action: Board to feed through thoughts on the Rows to GD.</p> <p>SL noted the Civic Trust fully commend this initiative. Have looked at this before with Rows Management Plan and World Heritage Site bid and lots of opportunities i.e. vacant shop on Watergate Street next to Bishop Lloyd's Palace could be used straight away as an interpretation centre.</p> <p>NB noted the upper levels could be put together by CWAC on a long lease.</p> <p>SD noted she is attending the High Court to oppose the lap dance club on Bridge Street Row.</p> <p>PH recommends Professor Jenny Barratt from York who is a leading archaeologist in Europe.</p>	
6.	<p>Cheshire and Warrington update</p> <p><u>Strategic Economic Plan</u> Final version is due out. Will include cultural economy.</p> <p><u>Cultural Economy</u> Previously circulated confidential presentation. Visitor economy up 5% in this area, possibly because of the good balance of things that work in different weathers.</p> <p>Science Festival 24 May - 1 June lots of involvement from local partners including Zoo and Cathedral and MBNA running a maths day.</p>	<p>AK</p> <p>KM</p>

	<p>Will bid for cultural funding in the future.</p> <p>Summer Campaign involving Zoo, Cheshire Oaks and City.</p> <p>Involved with Place North West for Festival of Business and Cheshire West are too, good that we are all working together.</p> <p>Visitor economy is £1.5b in CWAC (twice that of Cheshire East which is twice that of Warrington).</p>	
7.	<p>AOB</p> <p>PH noted it was good to deal with economic strategy and growth at this meeting as without it everything else would crumble.</p> <p>AF noted the Manifesto for Contemporary Design (an annex to the One City Plan) would be good if it could come alive.</p> <p> cr_ocp_app3[1].pdf</p> <p>Cheshire Society of Architects has been fantastic last 12 months, would like help with this lecture series. Last year the focus was architects this year it will be people from any area that make a big impact in their area. Small business culture could be an opportunity.</p> <p>GD noted Urban Design Review on agenda.</p> <p>SL reported the Architectural Lighting conference was excellent and would be a good future agenda item.</p>	
8.	<p>Dates of meetings 2014</p> <p>22 May, 24 July, 25 September, 27 November</p> <p>Boardroom 9 Abbey Square, Chester 8am – 10am</p>	ALL