

Chester Renaissance Board - Minutes
28 May 2015 8.00am – 10.00am
Board Room, 9 Abbey Square, Chester, CH1 2HU

Attendees

Peter Cocker (PCo)	Chester Civic Trust
Roger Croston (RC)	Croston Engineering
Councillor Samantha Dixon (SD)	Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC)
Gemma Davies (GD)	Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC)
Nigel Bruce (NB)	Property Development Consultant
Katrina Michel (KM)	Marketing Cheshire
Phil Mayall (PM)	Muse
Peter Carstensen (PCa)	
Beth Skinner (BS)	Chester Renaissance

Presenter's

Jamie Matthews (JM)	Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC)
Iain Paton (IP)	Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC)
Helen Crampton (HC)	Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC)
Andy Foster (AF)	Andy Foster Architects
Chris Capes (CC)	Chester Renaissance

Apologies

Nigel Davies	West Cheshire College
Charlie Seward	Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC)
Alison Knight	Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC)
Phil Harris	University of Chester

1.	<p>Welcome and introductions</p> <p>The meeting proceeded with introductions and a welcome from KM who agreed to chair the meeting.</p> <p>KM began by congratulating SD on becoming the first woman leader of CWaC following the elections.</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as accurate with the following review of action points made:</p> <p>CC – access officer report will be circulated to board shortly</p> <p>NB – updated on the meeting with DA to discuss holding a 2/3hr Northgate workshop with the public and the issue of timings</p> <p>KM – confirmed that correspondence did take place regarding the publicity of King Harold and the anchorite cell</p>	KM
2.	<p>Chairman's Report</p> <p>The following items were discussed:</p> <p>Chester Performs have hired a new artistic director for the new Theatre, Alex Clifton. Last month an 'Open Doors Weekend' took place in which members of the public were taken behind the scenes of the construction</p>	KM/ CC

	<p>site with Kier Construction.</p> <p>Delamere Street Health Centre is now open, as well as the new car park which has received positive feedback.</p> <p>CC updated on the Rows project informing of current surveys taking place with businesses on the Rows and agents in Chester. The surveys will support the THI bid by speaking with key property owners about the types of work to be done on the rows.</p> <p>KM – informed of a recent BID consultation event which may be useful to compare the results of this with the survey to look for any common themes</p> <p>CC – also updated on the Heritage Brief which has been shared with Sara Hilton from HLF and is due to go out soon</p> <p>KM – welcomed the work and stated that a good piece of audience objective has been needed for some time and will be useful for everybody</p> <p>The brief for Dee House is ready to go out and more interest has been received since CT presented to the board in March. The board will be updated when it goes out to market.</p> <p>Action Point – Update board when Dee House goes out to market</p>	
3.	<p>Transport Infrastructure Development – Jamie Matthews</p> <p>JM updated the board on the progress of the Chester Transport Strategy and Sub Regional Transport Strategy. The following points were highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chester Transport Strategy was developed to underpin the One City Plan and wider developments in the city, and was approved by council in February 2014 • Phase 2 priorities include: pedestrianisation, addressing congestion pinch points, reviewing need for 5th Park and Ride site, coach strategy and additional work to support the new bus interchange • Phase 2 will report by Autumn 2015 and will involve both sides of the border (airbus etc.) • A Sub Regional Transport strategy was commissioned by Cheshire and Warrington LEP who are seeking to deliver a £15bn increase in Gross Value Added per annum by 2030, 30% GVA advantage over any other economy in North of England • Seeking to identify and establish transport network improvements and infrastructure to meet this ambition • Opportunities to link with possible HS2 Crewe hub and Warrington HS3 ‘powerhouse’ • Strategic highways aspiration map: m53 to be developed into a smart motorway, a55/a483 capacity improvements • SRTS draft stage was presented in Spring 2015 – stage 2 is underway to examine and prioritise future potential transport investment. Initial outcomes to be shared with LEP in Autumn 2015 	JM

	<p>JM informed how the Welsh National Transport Plan has been fed into the strategy as job creation in wales benefits both sides of the border and is important to combine aspirations</p> <p>NB – highlighted freight capacity on Manchester Ship Canal and questioned the possibility of the River Dee having the same role JM – informed that the Mersey, Warrington developments and Airbus have been taken into account and the use of the River Dee for freight is an opportunity to be looked at</p> <p>JM spoke about the electrification of the Mid Cheshire Line which will be looking at passenger potential, the connection with Manchester and working with key partners such as C&W LEP and Network Rail.</p> <p>A discussion took place around funding highlighting that 4/5 year spending periods are set out, with the next round of funding for improvements available in 2021. JM informed that phase 3 will involve working with the highways agency and working up business plans to prepare for the next period.</p> <p>PCo - highlighted the problems from Chester to Manchester Airport and how the issue can be addressed JM – informed that they will be working with Cheshire East to improve the Mid Cheshire Line with a longer term aspiration of freight on the railway to free capacity on the West Coast Main Line</p> <p>Action Point – Circulate JM presentation to board</p>	
4.	<p>Economic Development Findit/UKTI – Iain Paton & Helen Crampton IP gave an update on the Business Growth Service and the following points were highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Growth Service team is based at the Riverside Innovation Centre and deals with 3 areas of work; start-up/enterprise, account management and inward investment • Findit is a sub-regional web portal for business support with currently around 850 businesses registered on the site. Low value procurement opportunities for contracts under 10k are available on the site for the local area. • BGS currently work with partner organisations and are reviewing how to proactively work with them with a need through the board to link with further organisations and to join initiatives. • Account management for the BGS involves regular contact with businesses and talking to them about their issues. For example; roadworks impact their business and are keen to know what is going on and to be kept informed • Inward investment has become increasingly prominent and is a competitive market with Chester having to compete with the larger city regions and the need for a unique selling point. <p>KM – informed of a piece of work the LEP are commissioning to identify</p>	IP/ HC

	<p>the unique selling point of Chester and highlighted that BGS should be involved in this</p> <p>HC informed the board of the current UKTI value proposition work for Chester and the following points were highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A UKTI value proposition will be created for Chester to detail specific opportunities within the area with Northgate and City Place to be included. • The North West Financial Sector of Excellence is also an opportunity for Chester and the board to get involved with • The partnership is between Chester, Manchester and Liverpool and will define the financial offer in the area to sell the strengths of the region/sub-region. • A launch event will take place in Liverpool or Manchester and will target financial companies • HC welcomes the boards involvement with any contacts for financial services/businesses <p>IP – highlighted that these specific propositions will set Chester apart and would like to find a way to involve the board to move it forward NB – stated that 90% of businesses in the UK employ 1-9 people and closer working with developers is needed to ensure we have the correct facilities PCa – suggested that there needs to be a very clear message about Chester as we are struggling to compete with Manchester in attracting new people and services PM – spoke about Media City in Salford and the relocation of students in which the University course didn't change to allow integration, and how involving the University will be something that other areas such as Manchester may not be thinking about</p> <p>A discussion took place about how to bring together partners such as Chester Business Club, Chamber of Commerce, Chester BID etc. to ensure everyone is working towards the same objectives. IP – suggested bringing together all the chairs/leads for an informal discussion about how to work together for the benefit of the city GD – agreed suggesting it would be a good follow up from a recent Chester Forum event to bring together these different groups to discuss specific topics and key issues.</p>	
5.	<p>Business Community in Chester – Andy Foster</p> <p>AF presented to the board issues around the business community in Chester. The following points were highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are many different business sectors in Chester that don't communicate and young professionals/entrepreneurs have no crossover with the wider business community • The natural progression for a business is to grow and move out but an issue is that there are no particularly high quality office buildings in Chester, with many town house offices being converted back into housing 	AF

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Riverside Innovation Centre is a business incubator but larger companies such as KPMG are located there • Events and conferences need to be attractive on a national scale to bring businesses/graduates in • There is an opportunity to promote Chester City as a business incubator with an attractive offer • A partnership of business, university and local authority is proposed. The Business Club are keen to get involved and a 1 day conference has been pencilled in for 24th September to frame the partnership and to generate actions with the right people. AF welcomes board members thoughts/support/contacts. <p>IP – welcomed the idea of the conference in September as an ideal opportunity to clarify what other organisations are doing and to bring shared priorities together into an action plan</p> <p>A discussion took place around the lack of low cost, low risk units for start-ups and how empty top floor office spaces could create a reach out loft project for start-ups, young people and entrepreneurs.</p> <p>SD – informed of a business on King Street with poor internet speeds as their box is located in the entrance to the theatre and can't be upgraded, highlighting that the basics need to be right for businesses</p> <p>PM – spoke of a building in Liverpool that is pay per minute and includes 100mb internet and tea/coffee/pastries which is a great facility with vibrancy for entrepreneurs to work in</p> <p>Action Point – KM, AF, CC, IP to meet to discuss September conference and business partnership</p> <p>RC – suggested titling the partnership 'Guild of Business Clubs'</p> <p>Action Point – Circulate AF presentation to board</p>	
6.	<p>One City Plan Review – Chris Capes</p> <p>CC gave a presentation on the One City Plan review. The following points were highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The One City Plan was implemented in 2012 and a 3 year review period was set out to review activity and to identify next steps • Progress of projects have been identified on the OCP map with the estimated amount of public/private sector investment in the following categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Delivered – Waitrose, Grosvenor Park etc. - £52,883,000 ○ On Site – Theatre, 1 City Place etc. - £177,033,000 ○ Planned – Bus Interchange, Public Realm etc. -£14,450,000 ○ In Development – Northgate, Rows etc. - £278,150,000 ○ Next priorities – Castle, CBQ Phase 2 etc. • Total estimated private and public sector investment stands at £522,516,000 • The review isn't finalised and the new chair will be taking it forward with input from board members welcome 	CC

	<p>SD – highlighted that one strength of the One City Plan was the extensive consultation process which received 400 responses and aligned with priorities of people in the city, and should be revisited by consultation with the new chair playing a key role</p> <p>RC – agreed stating that a lot has been achieved and it should be publicised in the local press to get the message across and as a starting point for discussions with the public</p> <p>Board members also agreed that it needs to be made clear that these projects haven't just been delivered by Renaissance, it contains a mix of partnerships and private sector investments.</p> <p>Action Point – Circulate OCP review presentation to board</p>	
7.	<p>AOB</p> <p>CC informed that the advert for the new chair is about to go out and will be circulated to board members, as well as external networks. AW lost his seat in election therefore a new conservative member will be joining the board. Chester BID will also be deciding who will attend on their behalf – they now have new chair Ed Oliver in place.</p> <p>SD stated that following the elections it is important to find common ground politically for projects and is mindful of putting a different labour member on the board. SD would welcome comments to be sent through to CC.</p> <p>RC mentioned signage in the city and CC confirmed that directional signage will be installed, movements from the station etc. RC also suggested that a list of businesses outside transport areas would be useful.</p> <p>KM – informed of a new signage/tourism app launched in Liverpool as something to think about for Chester as it doesn't always need to be physical. KM also mentioned the new 'Warm Chester Welcome' team developed by Marketing Cheshire and CH1 Chester BID.</p> <p>RC - suggested that a 'Board walkabout' around the city would be useful</p>	ALL
7.	<p>Dates of Meetings 2015 23 July, 24 September, 26 November Boardroom, 9 Abbey Square, Chester 8am-10am</p>	ALL
	<p>Action Points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update board when Dee House goes out to market • Circulate JM presentation to board • KM, AF, CC, IP to meet to discuss September conference and business partnership • Circulate AF presentation to board • Circulate OCP review presentation to board 	