

**Chester Renaissance Board - Minutes**  
**24 September 2015 8.00am – 10.00am**  
**Board Room, 9 Abbey Square, Chester, CH1 2HU**

**Attendees**

Andy Foster (AF)	Andy Foster Architects
Ed Oliver (EO)	CH1 Chester BID
Guy Butler (GB)	Chair Chester Renaissance
Alison Knight (AK)	Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC)
Jane Makin (JM)	Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC)
Peter Cocker (PC)	Chester Civic Trust
Roger Croston (RC)	Croston Engineering
Katrina Michel (KM)	Marketing Cheshire
Phil Mayall (PM)	Muse Developments
Nigel Bruce (NB)	Property Development Consultant
Phil Harris (PH)	University of Chester
Chris Capes (CC)	Chester Renaissance
Beth Skinner	Chester Renaissance

**Apologies**

Councillor Samantha Dixon	Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC)
Councillor Brian Crowe	Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC)
Gemma Davies	Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC)
Charlie Seward	Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC)
Nigel Davies	West Cheshire College
Peter Carstensen	

1.	<p><b>Welcome and Introductions</b></p> <p>GB welcomed the board and introductions were made.</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting held on 23 July 2015 were agreed as accurate with the following review of action points made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An email was sent out to board members to discuss working groups, and ideas of names and definitions.</li> <li>• A board walkabout tour through the city has been organised for 30<sup>th</sup> September.</li> </ul>	<b>GB</b>
2.	<p><b>Chairman's Report – Guy Butler</b></p> <p>GB thanked the board for the feedback received at the last meeting which has been taken into consideration, with an Infrastructure working group being added into the working streams.</p> <p>An email was circulated with the draft structure for the work streams and requesting ideas on the definition/name. Leaders will be matched to the groups to get them going, with a change in direction by the next board meeting where there will be an update from each group.</p>	<b>GB</b>

3.	<p><b>Feedback from The Provocation – Guy Butler</b></p> <p>GB summarised how an email provocation was sent out to board members for feedback on what the definition of Chester Renaissance should be, and for further thoughts on a new name.</p> <p>GB - the OCP ‘red line’ defines the boundary of the city centre but do we consider Renaissance as wider than that, with the inclusion of Chester Zoo, University of Chester and the Business Parks etc?</p> <p>PH - agreed stating that we should look at the wider area with the likes of Airbus, Urenco, and MBNA all attracting international business.</p> <p>GB – highlighted that the Dwell, Engage and Housing working groups will focus on the city centre whereas Investment will also focus internationally</p> <p>NB – suggested that the One City Plan ‘red line’ boundary of the city centre is the major focus, and another line could be created with ‘areas of influence’</p> <p>AK – agreed stating it would be helpful to think of it in a wider geography as there will be more opportunities</p> <p>A discussion took place on the significance of heritage and whether it should be picked up in a working group, however concerns were raised whether the resources are available to consider heritage as it’s not core business. Board members agreed that Heritage is important and can be reflected in the outcomes of the working streams already in place.</p> <p>GB - highlighted that although the board has no power or money, it isn’t needed at the moment, and as the working groups engage with the council they will create their own influence.</p> <p>EO – raised the issue of where the groups fit in with the council agenda</p> <p>AK – informed that the Chester Renaissance team are council employees who are the resource to take priorities forward as Chester is a key priority for the Council.</p> <p>Definition – Chester Renaissance is a partnership for the City of Chester which promotes, assists and delivers investment and development to allow the sustainable growth of the city.</p> <p>GB mentioned the rebranding of Chester Renaissance and the need for a new name to signify this new phase. A list of options were circulated prior to the board meeting requesting board members to indicate their preference. Chester Growth Company was favoured by some board members however the term ‘Company’ wasn’t seen as appropriate.</p> <p><b>Action Point</b> – GB, PH, KM to take on board the discussions and finalise a new name for Chester Renaissance by the following week i.e. Chester Growth _____</p> <p><b>Action Point</b> – Logo and branding options to be presented at next Board meeting for final decision.</p>	<b>GB</b>
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4.	<p><b>Board Work Streams – Guy Butler</b></p> <p>GB discussed the new Board Working Groups with the following points highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investment – this working group will have two leads specialising in investment and skills. There will be 4/5 main aims which include bringing awareness to opportunities, defining and addressing skills weaknesses and creating an open source hosted presentation of data.</li> <li>• Housing – this working group will have two leads specialising in delivery and quality. The focus will be on city centre housing and the aims include developing a clear picture of housing demand and understanding the demand from occupiers and finance available.</li> <li>• Dwell – this working group will have one lead specialising in tourism. The aims include developing a package of activity that will ensure Chester and its attractions enable people to dwell in the city longer, and working with local organisations to understand trends.</li> <li>• Engage – this working group will have one lead specialising in communications. The aims include engaging with new opportunities, investors and entrepreneurs to create a buzz about the city, and to share and communicate with other parties.</li> <li>• Infrastructure – this working group will have two leads specialising in lobby and assess. The aims include lobbying on rail connectivity, identifying the role and benefit to the Northern Powerhouse and enhancing accessibility and communication on rail.</li> <li>• Report – this working group will have two leads specialising in define and admin. The aims include identifying the goals of the working groups, identifying a reporting process and monitoring progress.</li> </ul> <p>A discussion took place on a new city centre governance structure created in CWaC which will hope to complement the board working groups and not to overlap. The difference being focussing on the 'here and now' rather than strategically in five years' time etc.  KM – highlighted the importance of not duplicating within the council things that are happening on this private sector led board</p> <p><b>Action Point</b> – GB to pick up city centre governance structure with CC, JM and AK</p> <p>GB informed that the leaders and members of the groups will be populated and volunteers amongst the board are welcome.</p>	<b>GB</b>
5.	<p><b>Board Membership – Guy Butler</b></p> <p>GB referred to the paper that was circulated prior to the meeting regarding Board Membership. Within the context of the new working streams, membership will be reviewed to consider what skills are missing and required for the board to function correctly.</p>	<b>GB</b>

	<p>The length of time to be served on the board is 3 years at which point members would be asked to reapply. Conversations will take place with Board Members separately if they have been a member for more than three years. New members will be joining the board and names will be matched to the relevant working groups.</p> <p><b>Action Point</b> – GB to email board regarding new membership before the next meeting.</p>	
5.	<p><b>Heritage, Museums and Visual Arts Strategy – Chris Capes</b>  CC gave an update on the Heritage, Museums and Visual Arts Strategy work that is currently underway with the following points made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The work is related to the Rows project to obtain a clear strategy for investment and a better audience understanding.</li> <li>• Amion and Morris Hargreaves McIntyre have been commissioned to deliver the work.</li> <li>• An inception meeting will be taking place on 1<sup>st</sup> October to agree the process of how the work will commence, which will include consultation events.</li> <li>• The work is likely to complete in March/April 2016</li> </ul> <p>GB questioned how the board can get engaged with the consultants and suggested involvement from a working group. AF highlighted the importance of promoting the consultation event to ensure something comes out of it and CC welcomed event ideas.</p>	CC
6.	<p><b>AOB</b>  The walking tour will be taking place on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September starting at 5.30pm at the train station, and will include the Cathedral Quarter, Northgate area, Commonhall Street and Castle etc.</p> <p><b>Action Point</b> – BS to send out a reminder email for walking tour to finalise attendance.</p> <p>AF gave an update on ‘The Future for Business in Chester’ event taking place after the board meeting. 110 people are registered for the event with a good cross section of younger/older professionals.</p> <p>CC mentioned the recent Northgate press release that was circulated and informed that Northgate could present to the board when more details become available. GB suggested that the Investment Working Group could present to the Northgate team.</p> <p>CC informed that CWaC have commissioned a review of all the place board strategies which will look broader than the One City Plan, unlike the OCP Review which was presented to board in May which looked at what had been practically delivered and the future opportunities.</p>	ALL

7.	<p><b>Dates of Meetings 2015</b>  26 November  Room CCU102, Churchill Building, Queens Park Campus, University of Chester, Queens Park Road, CH4 7AD  8am-10am</p>	<b>ALL</b>
	<p><b>Action Points</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GB, PH, KM to take on board the discussions and finalise a new name for Chester Renaissance by the following week i.e. Chester Growth _____</li> <li>• Logo and branding options to be presented at next Board meeting for final decision.</li> <li>• GB to pick up city centre governance structure with CC, JM and AK</li> <li>• GB to email board regarding new membership before the next meeting.</li> <li>• BS to send out a reminder email for walking tour to finalise attendance.</li> </ul>	