

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019 8.30am-10.30am  
Storyhouse, Chester**

### **CHESTER GROWTH PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS**

Peter Carstensen, Harry Bolton, Kate Howe, Andrew Bentley, Andrew Lewis, Alex Siddell, Phil Harris, Peter Cocker, Andy Foster, Carl Critchlow, Tim Stratford

### **OTHER ATTENDEES**

Philip Cox, Ruth Wojtan, Caroline Thomas, Beth Skinner, Kate Cousens

### **APOLOGIES**

Chris Matheson MP, Mark Livesey, Cllr Ben Powell, Cllr Brian Crowe, Richard Grove, Lisa Harris, Roz Munslow

	<p><b>Action Points</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Draft Chester Dashboard to be confidentially circulated to board members on Tuesday 19th February for testing and feedback to be provided by Wednesday 27th February</b></li> <li>• <b>Contacts to be added to Connected Growth Showcase event invitation list to be forwarded to CGP team</b></li> <li>• <b>Produce a proposal for a shadow youth board to discuss at the next board meeting</b></li> </ul>
1.	<p><b>Welcome and Introductions</b></p> <p>Everyone was welcomed to the meeting and Storyhouse were thanked for hosting the meeting. Notification of the appointment of Dr Tim Stratford, Dean of Chester Cathedral and welcomed to the first board meeting.</p> <p>An action point from the minutes of the last meeting was raised on digital signage. Board informed that a team in the council are currently looking at the digital agenda and will be able to report on the progress at a future meeting.</p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> November were approved.</p>
2.	<p><b>Presentation on City Place Next Phases</b></p> <p>A presentation overview on the next phases of City Place was given with the following highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Office space in city centre is a gap in Chester and One City Place received strong Council and ERDF support</li> <li>• Carriage Shed has been huge success and events are gaining momentum</li> <li>• An indicative masterplan proposal was presented for the future phases of City Place</li> <li>• Over the next 2/3 years the area will become a vibrant working business district for Chester</li> </ul>

	<p>City Place is a fantastic case study for the city especially in the context of HS2 and opening up the station and city place is part of the solution.</p> <p>The long term relationship and public/private sector partnership in achieving this and the difference it has made is very positive, and leading to great conversations on connecting to rail hubs and the development around them.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p><b>Local Industrial Strategy</b></p> <p>An overview presentation update was given on the Local Industrial Strategy with the following highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initial target was to complete by July however may not be published by then - have completed evidence gathering stage and are now starting a series of large stakeholder engagements. A progress report will be published shortly.</li> <li>• LIS has to be seen in context alongside the Strategic Economic Plan, Growth Prospectus, Transport Strategy etc. Quality of Place Strategy is near completion.</li> <li>• Each local authority within Cheshire and Warrington will be producing 'local' Local Industrial Strategies</li> <li>• Cheshire and Warrington - £30bn economy and is ahead of schedule to become a £50bn economy by 2040. Our average annual GVA growth is 2.5% compared to 2.1% in the UK.</li> <li>• Manufacturing - Makes up 44,500 jobs, £7.7bn of economy with average annual growth of 4.6%</li> <li>• Environment - Makes up 26,605 jobs and have 2,390 VAT registered businesses</li> <li>• Life Sciences - Makes up 6000 jobs and have 150 VAT registered businesses</li> <li>• Finance and Business - Makes up 69.125 jobs, £3.9bn of economy with 19.4% growth</li> <li>• Logistics - Makes up 29,000 jobs with 45% employment growth</li> <li>• People and Place - 21% of residents are aged 65+ and 22.4% of workers are earning below the living wage</li> <li>• The Clean Growth Grand Challenge - will establish the world's first net-zero carbon industrial cluster by 2040 and at least 1 low carbon cluster by 2030</li> </ul> <p>A point was raised as to where Chester fits into the framework and the challenges. Chester as a place has a huge amount to offer and is an attractive place that brings people in with great transport links, and this can be built on.</p> <p>A 'young creatives' group set up in the city was highlighted and feedback received shows a want for more city living and a vibrant evening economy - a good tool to give a voice to a younger vibrant community.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p><b>Chester Dashboard and Connected Growth Event</b></p> <p>An update was given on the One City Plan progress and a position review will be developed.</p> <p>The Chester Interactive Dashboard is near completion and will be sent to board members in confidence on Tuesday for testing and feedback. The dashboard will be released as a Beta version and will be a tool under development. Following feedback from the last board meeting a 'Skills' section has been added. A feedback form will be sent in the email for board members to fill in and respond.</p>

	<p><b>ACTION: Draft Chester Dashboard to be confidentially circulated to board members on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> February for testing and feedback to be provided by Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February.</b></p> <p>The dashboard will be launched at the Connected Growth Showcase taking place on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March from 5.30pm - 7.30am at Storyhouse. The event is a networking reception with a series of speeches, including the launch of the TfN strategy, a speech from Ken Skates, updates on the Cheshire West Growth Programmes and a Chester perspective.</p> <p>Board members are encouraged to send any contacts to be added to the invitation list.</p> <p><b>ACTION: Contacts to be added to Connected Growth Showcase event invitation list to be forwarded to CGP team</b></p>
5.	<p><b>Working Group Updates</b></p> <p>An update was given on the activity of the Dee House/Amphitheatre working group which comprises of around 15 stakeholder representations including labour and conservative councillors. The group acts as a committee and in previous meetings have invited speakers to present and inform of the facts to enable to make better decisions of the available options.</p> <p>The group has a clear work programme and communications strategy which is working well.</p> <p>An update was given on the activity of the Northgate working groups. ‘How’ is looking at the legal and financial framework whereas ‘What’ is focused on what Northgate should be.</p> <p>Phase 1 is going ahead and the curation of space between the new market, market square, Storyhouse, Town Hall and connectivity to the Cathedral will be important. The new market is going to be a great asset for the city as a new public open space available to use for events.</p> <p>A timetable of exhibitions and public consultations will be circulated in a press release shortly and will be inviting members of the public to provide input on the designs. The CGP need to become ambassadors for the scheme and spread the message it is no longer retail led and is now a mixed use scheme, and the residential offer will increase vibrancy in the city centre.</p>
6.	<p><b>Growth Track 360</b></p> <p>An overview of Growth Track 360 was provided with the following highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Latest taskforce meeting took place in January with senior leadership and support</li> <li>• Wales &amp; Borders refranchising success - £7.5m earmarked for Chester Station improvements</li> <li>• Growth Track aspirations have been recognised in the new Transport for the North Strategy</li> <li>• Business case is ongoing for capacity at Chester Station</li> </ul> <p>It was highlighted the good news story that Chester hosted large Transport for the North</p>

	<p>meetings last week and the importance of being at the heart of it, where they signed off the new strategy.</p> <p>A point was raised on the cleanliness of Chester Station and whether a further 9 years of deprivation will occur until funding is next available. Work will need to be encouraged to ensure the inside of the station is as inviting as the outside.</p>
7.	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>A discussion took place on how we should be concentrating on innovation and young people to create positive discussions about the future of the city. Things that are missing for Chester are the evening economy, city centre living and marketing to attract younger people.</p> <p>A suggestion was made to the group that after summer a shadow youth board be created, initially working with the Northgate 'What' group as a test-run, which will bring younger views on board and encourage ways of working further.</p> <p><b>ACTION: Produce a proposal for a shadow youth board to discuss at the next board meeting</b></p> <p>Positive news that 3x as many entries were submitted this year than 2018 for the High Sherriff awards.</p>
8.	<p><b>Date of Next Meetings</b></p> <p>Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2019, 8.30am  Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2019, 8.30am  Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2019, 8.30am</p>