

Friday 21st June 2019 8.30am-10.30am
Palatine Room, Chester Town Hall

CHESTER GROWTH PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS

Peter Carstensen, Harry Bolton, Chris Matheson MP, Andrew Bentley, Cllr Adam Langan, Cllr Stuart Parker, Andrew Lewis, Peter Cocker, Carl Critchlow, Tim Stratford, Annabel Farbon, Phil Harris

OTHER ATTENDEES

Una Meehan, Chris Clayton, Clare Huber, Lisa Harris, Ruth Wojtan, Caroline Thomas, Roz Munslow, Beth Skinner, Denise Heayns

APOLOGIES

Kate Howe, Nicholas Dobbs, Mark Livesey, Andy Foster, Richard Grove, Ed Oliver

	<p>Action Points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add City Centre Parking to the November board meeting agenda • Amend the Chester Racecourse letter of support from the board to clearly state it is without prejudice of the local authority representatives of the board and the letter is to be submitted in support of the new planning application • Letters will be sent from PC to all current board members to indicate an expression of interest in continuing membership on the board and areas of interest for future work • Add Transport/Parking/Coaches to November board meeting agenda
1.	<p>Welcome and Introductions - Peter Carstensen PC welcomed everyone to the meeting. The minutes of the last meeting on 15th February were approved.</p> <p>PC gave thanks to previous Cabinet Member for Economic Development Cllr Brian Clarke for supporting the work of the group. PC also welcomed new members Cllr Adam Langan and Cllr Stuart Parker to the board.</p>
2.	<p>Chester Racecourse Revised Planning Application - Chris Clayton CC gave a presentation update on the Chester Racecourse revised planning application with the following highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Racecourse are submitting a new application and not appealing the decision of the original application which was rejected despite support • Highlighted that Racecourse conference centre is a key deliverable in the One City Plan • Team have been working to take on objections and find solutions, and believe the new scheme reflects those concerns of Chester and will improve the development significantly • The new grandstand and conference centre have been combined into one flagship building and create a new green space with views from the city walls

	<p>PC informed that a group from the CGP board met with the Racecourse for a detailed look at the new application. Following the meeting a letter of support has been drafted from PC on behalf of the board and circulated with the papers. Overall board agreement is needed for the letter to be issued, with PC looking to speak in support of the application at planning committee.</p> <p>AB raised concerns of parking in the city with peak times being difficult for Storyhouse. A net loss of 100 spaces in the new scheme is of concern for the city centre, especially with the likelihood of plans for Linenhall car park in the future and the net loss of parking spaces in Northgate.</p> <p>PC agreed with the concerns but reminded that Chester is well provided with parking and the issue may be the ability to get to and from the car parks, and a balance needs to be found.</p> <p>AL thanked the racecourse team for their response and for working with the local authority in a productive and open way. The solutions have been positive and the economic impact of a convention centre in Chester is important for the city. AL welcomed the idea of bringing back a wider discussion on overall city parking to a future board meeting.</p> <p>CC highlighted the need for a communications piece for the public as many don't know what is available and a coordinated approach would benefit racedays, Storyhouse, businesses, events etc.</p> <p>ACTION: Add City Centre Parking to the November board meeting agenda</p> <p>It was acknowledged that as public members of the local authority sit on the board the letter of support needs to clearly state it is representative of the board without prejudice. Pending an amendment the letter of support on behalf of the board was agreed.</p> <p>ACTION: Amend the Chester Racecourse letter of support from the board to clearly state it is without prejudice of the local authority representatives of the board and the letter is to be submitted in support of the new planning application</p>
3.	<p>Youth Engagement - Una Meehan</p> <p>UM gave an overview presentation on youth engagement with the following highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Studies have shown that the fastest moving cities are those with young people moving to them • Things are going on in Chester - e.g. Good for Nothing, Murmurations, Supertrees • A recent BBC newsbeat survey found that 4g coverage ranked highest with under 26s when asked what important factors they look for in local areas/where to live - CWAC overall score is 4 out of 10 • What is missing for young people? Transport links to Cheshire Oaks and a sense of ownership - meaningful engagement with what is happening in the city • CWAC Museums working with the Arts Council have a programme on engaging young people with heritage • Priorities for young people - spaces, socially aware, leisure activities and career/job opportunities • Think about how as a business community can we enable young people?

	<p>UM highlighted how young people are often spoken to after decisions have already been made and Northgate Phase 2 would be a great opportunity to listen to young people in the city and to get in touch with those already doing it - asking for opinions and to be advocates. Supertrees is a great example of where this has happened with lots of engagement to encourage young people to be motivated to care about their city.</p> <p>PH spoke of the number of startup businesses and entrepreneur clusters in the city that don't get much recognition and the need to develop hubs to support them.</p> <p>AB added the need to be open for business and to let young people take control with positive social engagement, designed and creatively delivered by them. Trying to market the city to the older generation fails to attract young people - should be marketing at 16-25 year olds and the older generation will get on board.</p> <p>PC concluded the importance of kicking off the process, identifying the issues and starting to look at how we can engage, which will continue as a work in progress.</p>
4.	<p>Board Review - Peter Carstensen</p> <p>PC took over as Chair of the board in 2017 and the work of the group refocused with dedicated working groups and clear Terms of References. A paper has been circulated to reflect a new approach for the board which revolves around three key themes; to invest, to visit and to live.</p> <p>The membership of the board has been strengthened to be more representative of the city and as current board members tenure period of 2 years has come to an end they will be reviewed and reappointed, to ensure appointments are formalised.</p> <p>PC will write to all members of the board over the next few weeks with expressions of interest in continuing board membership and to give the opportunity for members to indicate specific interests for future working groups. It is envisaged this reappointment and recruitment process will be complete by the next board meeting in September.</p> <p>ACTION: Letters will be sent from PC to all current board members to indicate an expression of interest in continuing membership on the board and areas of interest for future work</p> <p>PC raised an amendment to the paper to state in 'Key Points' that the MP is officially a board member. A final version of the paper will be shared at the next meeting in September.</p>
5.	<p>Chester Northgate Update - Clare Huber</p> <p>CH gave an update presentation on Chester Northgate with the following highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation has been wide reaching and positive over the last 3 months - discussions with youth groups have taken place to show the city is for all ages • There is a community naming competition to rename Hunters Walk • Decided that the cycle hub was in the wrong place and provisions for cyclists will be put in place for phase 1 with a type of 'hub' in phase 2 • Car park is to be future proofed with a significant amount of EV charging points <p>PC thanked CH and the team for the responsive and collaborative approach with the</p>

	<p>Northgate WHAT working group in which the process has benefited the scheme. The group has concluded its phase 1 work and is now considering the process for phase 2.</p> <p>PC encouraged the board to all become advocates for the scheme during the planning process and the recommendation of the working group is to support the application fully.</p> <p>TS stated the Cathedral are fundamentally supportive of the direction of travel for the scheme however remain concerned about the risks to access from change to traffic flows on Northgate Street, and would like to continue for conversations with the team.</p> <p>AB highlighted the same concerns and traffic calming measures for Hunter Street and the need to be realistic in what can be achieved with the flow. AB also mentioned coaches in the city and a solution is needed for where tourist coached can stay, and not just drop off.</p> <p>ACTION: Add Transport/Parking/Coaches to November board meeting agenda</p>
6.	<p>High Street Heritage Action Zones - Caroline Thomas</p> <p>CT gave an overview presentation on the expression of interest application for a High Street Heritage Action Zone in Chester with the following highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding opportunity has risen in which Chester is well placed and matches all of the essential criteria - deadline is 12th July and funding is for around £1.2m • The bid will be focused around 3 programmes - revival and reuses of the Rows, branding/marketing of the city and a cultural programme • Bid will form one element of a wider High Street Strategy <p>PC highlighted the brand of Chester sets us apart from other cities and the rows should be celebrated as a major asset. CC agreed stating how the Rows is an area for concern and is in agreement with the 3 key areas to look at. PH agreed that the focus is right to promote the rows with wonderful stories available and just new ideas are needed to utilise them. HB suggested using occupiers to drive footfall with active frontages.</p> <p>AB spoke of the cultural programme and how Storyhouse are happy to help to make it work. AB also highlighted the opening hours of the city and lack of evening economy.</p>
7.	<p>AOB</p> <p>PC highlighted the recent planning applications with the most significant being that of Chester Zoo as part of their wider masterplan, and highlighted the need to think about bringing together assets/facilities.</p> <p>RW mentioned the Dee House Public event taking place on 4th July organised from the CGP Dee House Working Group. RW also asked for a board representative to attend the official opening of George Street Pocket Park, a project from the Chester Waterways Strategy, on Monday 8th July. PH also highlighted the Chester Forum is taking place on 7th July and will circulate further information.</p>
8.	<p>Date of Next Meeting Friday 20th September 2019, 8.30am The Cloister Room, Chester Cathedral</p>