



**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021 8.30am-10.30am  
Online Meeting**

**CHESTER GROWTH PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS**

Peter Carstensen, Harry Bolton, Cllr Adam Langan, Carl Critchlow, Andy Foster, Andy Farrall, Nicholas Dobbs, Gemma Davies, Katrina Kerr, Andrew Bentley, Peter Cocker, Chris Matheson MP, Tim Stratford, Cllr Stuart Parker, Cllr Richard Beacham, Mike Hogg, Vanessa Bond, Joe Manning

**OTHER ATTENDEES**

Professor Eunice Simmons, Andrew Morris, Una Meehan, Holly Nelson, Kurt Allman, Steph Ramsden, Robert Gatensbury, Beth Skinner, Roz Munslow, Denise Heayns, Luke Arnold, Andy Seddon

**APOLOGIES**

Andrew Lewis, Richard Grove

1.	<p><b>Welcome and Introductions – Peter Carstensen</b>  PC welcomed board members to the first meeting of 2021, highlighting the challenges we currently face in national lockdown.</p> <p>With Debenhams in administration and the loss of a critical mass of retail in the city, significant opportunities are available and a CGP working party ‘Retail Core’ has been established to try find a solution, as well as looking at the wider retail context for Chester.</p> <p>PC informed Phil Harris has stepped down from his role on the board and his work for CGP as one of the longest serving members is very much appreciated.</p> <p>The minutes of the last board meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020 were approved.</p>
2.	<p><b>Chester Football Club – Andrew Morris</b>  AM gave an update on the work of Chester Football Club with the following highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Founded in 2010 Chester FC is a volunteer supporter owned club with over 3000 average attendance per match pre-Covid</li> <li>• Elite sport has continued in lockdown with the club launching a streaming service with great viewing numbers, and a social media boost with over 5.4m twitter engagements</li> <li>• Club is partnered with MBNA bringing a link to large local employers and media exposure</li> <li>• Community involvement includes working with under privileged families, increased work with the NHS and hard to reach people – What can Chester FC be as a tool for the community?</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Last year partnered with Storyhouse to run an outdoor cinema in the large car park</li> <li>• Community trust is a separate organisation who engage in youth sport and have recently secured funding for the King George Playing Field in Blacon, a community facility</li> <li>• Want to become more embedded in Chester so would welcome any opportunities to work collaboratively</li> </ul> <p>PC gave thanks for the presentation and questioned whether CGP could assist in removing any obstacles. AM suggested a framework for conversations and discussions would be useful to develop a culture of how the club can expand and develop.</p>
3.	<p><b>University of Chester Strategic Plan – Professor Eunice Simmons</b></p> <p>ES gave a presentation update on the University of Chester’s strategic plan with the following highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategy based on three key themes - Building social capital, Holistic student experience and Lifelong learning</li> <li>• Thousands of students on key worker placements undertaking lateral flow testing</li> <li>• Aim to establish University Centres in business, teaching, nursing, policing, and social and youth work</li> <li>• New University Centre investment in Warrington Town Centre</li> </ul> <p>A discussion took place on graduate retention in the city with PC offering an open discussion on what can be done to help the University bring life into the city centre. Dialogue is ongoing between CWAC and the University on how to move forward following planning committee.</p>
4.	<p><b>Strategic Funding Programmes – Joe Manning/Gemma Davies</b></p> <p>JM and GD gave an overview of recent and upcoming strategic funding opportunities with the following highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently delivering against schemes for the Local Growth Fund which is coming to an end</li> <li>• Levelling Up Fund announced in Autumn 2020 will be a £4bn pot – still waiting for information however bids will be sought across the country for projects up to £20m</li> <li>• Government will be setting out more detail this year on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund</li> <li>• LEP funding is set aside for business case development – calls again later in the year</li> <li>• CWAC have submitted a number of business cases to the LEP including a Chester City Centre package and Chester City Gateway</li> <li>• Mersey Dee Alliance are putting together a Fiscal Stimulus Package which includes three strategic themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Supporting cleaner growth</li> <li>○ Connecting places, people and business</li> <li>○ Ensuring sustainable and inclusive growth</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>A discussion took place on the potential opportunities for the Levelling Up Fund and need for a new cultural destination in the city, linking back to the need for Chester to have a clear vision on what it wants to be.</p>

	<p><b>ACTION: Smaller group to meet up to discuss potential options for Levelling Up Fund</b></p>
5.	<p><b>Chester Smart Mobility Pilot – Andy Farrall</b>  AF gave a presentation on the Chester Smart Mobility Pilot with the following highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The partners for the project include CGP, CH1 BID, Marketing Cheshire and Chester Residents’ Associations Group</li> <li>• Explores using alternative transport modes alongside or even instead of owning a fossil fuel powered vehicle</li> <li>• The 3 key components of the pilot include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mobility hubs</li> <li>○ Connected smart corridors</li> <li>○ Mobility marketplace</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 3 month programme that will feed into the One City Plan Review</li> </ul>
6.	<p><b>Dee House Update – Andy Foster</b>  Due to timings of the agenda, AF agreed to circulate a briefing note on Dee House via email to update board members on the latest position of the project.</p> <p><b>ACTION: Update on Dee House to be circulated via email to board members</b></p>
7.	<p><b>One City Plan Review Good for Nothing Update – Una Meehan/Holly Nelson</b>  UM and HN gave an update on the One City Plan Consultation with the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Due to Covid and lockdown changes things have shifted to online engagement</li> <li>• A survey was created and launched in early January and designed to reach as many users as possible - over 2000 comments have already been recorded so far</li> <li>• GfN have attended community events/meetings and held a planning session on how to use zoom to deliver interactive and meaningful workshops</li> <li>• Expert panels will be arranged with leaders of Chester organisations to review and consider the findings</li> </ul> <p>PC suggested involving the community on the Chester Business Park to ensure full representation.</p>
8.	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p><b>ACTION: JM to try find more information on the HS2 for bikes scheme and report back</b></p> <p>JM updated on the Destination Chester network agreeing for Jamie Christon from Chester Zoo to chair the group. Work is ongoing to look at the reopening of Chester with the wider hospitality and retail offer.</p>
9.	<p><b>Date of next meeting</b>  Friday 7th May 2021 – 8.30am</p>