

**Friday 20th November 2020 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, Nicola Said, Katrina Kerr, Andrew Bentley, Peter Cocker, Phil Harris, Chris Matheson MP, Tim Stratford

OTHER ATTENDEES

Una Meehan, Mike Hogg, Vanessa Bond, Mike Barclay, Ben Tawil, Holly Nelson, Robert Gatensbury, Beth Skinner, Roz Munslow, Denise Heayns, Luke Arnold, Andy Seddon

APOLOGIES

Cllr Stuart Parker, Richard Grove, Cllr Richard Beacham, Andrew Lewis

1.	<p>Welcome and Introductions – Peter Carstensen PC welcomed board members to the meeting and highlighted the current national lockdown measures in place. A positive response has been seen from Chester with Marketing Cheshire and BID campaigns to deal with the pandemic.</p> <p>The Glasgow City Centre Living Strategy was circulated in advance of the meeting in relation to discussions on the future shape of the One City Plan.</p> <p>Minutes of the last meeting on 18th September 2020 were approved.</p>
2.	<p>Business Support during Lockdown 2 – Robert Gatensbury RG gave an update on the support CW&C is currently providing for businesses with the following highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CW&C are managing four business support grants with applications running until March 2022. A single application form has been set up on the Council website for businesses to apply • As of 19th November, 2138 businesses have applied, 859 applications have been approved and £1.5m has been paid out <p>GD informed there are potentially 4000 eligible businesses, with PC encouraging board members to notify any eligible business contacts.</p>
3.	<p>Quicks Garage – Robert Gatensbury RG gave an overview of the current plans for the Quicks Garage site on Lower Bridge Street with the following highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is an existing planning application for 43 apartments, 5 townhouse and commercial use at ground floor

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project is still in the plans to deliver and the scheme is being pushed along with active dialogue between parties
<p>4.</p>	<p>Priority projects to deliver in 2021 – Robert Gatensbury RG have an update presentation on the priority projects for the next year with the following highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage Action Zone – project is moving into delivery stage with capital improvement works going out to tender • City Gateway – currently at stage 2 of master planning with further plans emerging in 2021 • Dee House – working group has been re-established and a visual inspection of the building has been undertaken • Northgate – on site and underway, Clockwise scheme has just launched with future phases being considered • One City Plan Review – working with Good for Nothing Chester, UM to follow later in the agenda <p>KK commented the need to achieve what we haven’t done yet in 2021 and make it a year for ambition and to overachieve.</p> <p>HB highlighted the need for a firm idea of viability for Dee House to move the project along.</p> <p>CC updated on the key themes for the BID in 2021:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Year of the Independents – continue to attract and facilitate 2. Transport and Access – inform and influence <p>UM mentioned a ‘Hack’ that took place a few years ago supporting independents, with CC happy to have a conversation outside of the meeting to potentially roll out wider.</p> <p>AF mentioned his membership of the Sustainable Travel Taskforce which is looking at transport across the Borough, and highlighted the link to the OCP Review.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Introduction to the Shrewsbury Big Town Plan – Gemma Davies GD gave a presentation on the Shrewsbury Big Town Plan with the following highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear similarities between Shrewsbury and Chester – doesn’t make enough of its river, historic assets, listed buildings, has a BID • Challenges include a low skilled economy, lack of jobs for younger people, lack of affordable housing, underutilised space in the town centre, lack of affordable/flexible workspace • A collective vision and partnership were formed by the Council, BID and Town Council and have collective responsibility of the plan • Began in 2016 with engagement and visioning workshops which included 2500 visitors to a dedicated shop unit in 3 weeks – What was Shrewsbury to them? • Vision and themes were developed, and master planning took place with stakeholders, followed by another public consultation • Vision was agreed by the end of 2018 • The plan is a live document which is flexible/can be adapted – comments on parts of the town/projects can still be submitted to the website

	<p>PC thanked GD for the presentation stating the 2-year timeframe very impressive, with a few lessons to be learnt; importance of homework at the beginning, best practice around projects, partnership and cofounding binds delivery, continued feedback through the website.</p> <p>PCo highlighted the difference for Chester being no Town Council, therefore falling to CGP and CRAG to fill that gap.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>One City Plan – CRAG Position Paper – Mike Hogg</p> <p>MH gave an overview of the Chester Residents Association Group and position on the One City Plan with the following highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CRAG was formed in 2019 and is made up of 24 residents associations • What would good look like? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Must see EU destination by 2025 and USP of culture, cuisine and history ○ Public realm improvements linking to infrastructure and connectivity ○ Independent retail offering • Current issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Retail decline in the city centre and combat declining footfall ○ Decline in maintenance of built environment and public realm ○ Capacity to absorb new hotels ○ City centre residential • CRAG can be used as a sounding board for ideas to help Chester with a clear and realistic vision • Work to develop a team of ambassadors and become a channel between the community and CGP <p>PC forwarded the motion to formalise the membership of CRAG as official board members. Board members agreed.</p> <p>ACTION: Formalise CRAG as a board member of CGP</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>One City Plan Review – A Chester Good for Nothing perspective – Una Meehan</p> <p>UM gave a presentation on the One City Plan consultation Good for Nothing will be undertaking with the following highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • #makechester will hear views about the city that people want Chester to be • User groups will be engaged with on how they currently use the city, what they would like, challenges and what the city needs to bridge gaps • Recent changes in the city will be acknowledged, the consultation will be community driven, empowering and collaborative • Over the next 3 months focus groups will be arranged with those who may not typically engage • Timescales has been pushed back due to Covid: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Approach 1 – user group survey (mid Dec to Feb) ○ Approach 2 – online focus groups (Jan to Feb) ○ Approach 3 – creative mapping (Feb) ○ Approach 4 – expert panel (Jan/Feb-Mar) • A short film is being created to aid the user group online survey so any volunteers to take part would be appreciated.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creative mapping will take place, facilitated by Ludicology, with young people/families whose thoughts are rarely consulted on, therefore catering to the current and future users of the city • A written report and evocative film will be completed towards the end of March <p>PC highlighted the need to ensure those who do not engage online are not excluded from the conversations, with UM confirming that community leaders will be contacted to ensure the data is captured across a cross section of city user groups, finding different ways to reach everyone.</p> <p>ACTION: UM to update on the progress of the OCP Review at the next meeting</p> <p>NS mentioned Marketing Cheshire will be undertaking consultation engagement in the new year for place marketing, therefore a good idea to discuss ways to align.</p>
8.	<p>Feedback of Action Plan being developed with Police and Crime Commissioner regarding ASB issues – Carl Critchlow</p> <p>CC gave feedback on the ongoing ASB issues with the following highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PCC agreed to set up an action plan with reporting being the main challenge • The BID is going to the CSP to provide all businesses with a radio to directly report incidents • Establishing a governance structure and a clear terms of reference, with a joint comms strategy
9.	<p>AOB</p> <p>RG informed of the proposed agenda items for the next meeting, including an update on the OCP review and presentation from the University of Chester.</p> <p>ACTION: BS to contact AL to arrange attendance and presentation from Chester Football Club</p>
10.	<p>Proposed Dates of 2021 Meetings</p> <p>Friday 12th February 2021 – 8.30am Friday 7th May 2021 – 8.30am Friday 10th September 2021 – 8.30am Friday 19th November 2021 – 8.30am</p>