



**Friday 7th May 2021 8.30am-10.30am
Online Meeting**

CHESTER GROWTH PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS

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

OTHER ATTENDEES

Jim Green, Una Meehan, Holly Nelson, Julie Derbyshire, David Taylor, Catherine Walker, Robert Gatensbury, Beth Skinner, Roz Munslow, Luke Arnold, Andy Seddon

APOLOGIES

Andrew Lewis, Andrew Bentley, Vanessa Bond, Andy Foster, Cllr Richard Beacham

1.	<p>Welcome and Introductions – Peter Carstensen PC welcomed everybody to the online meeting and thanked members for their ongoing commitment over the past year that the digital meetings have taken place.</p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting on 12th February 2021 were approved.</p>
2.	<p>One City Plan Review Update – Una Meehan/Holly Nelson GFN gave an update on the One City Plan Review consultation with the following highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 27,000 views of the #makechester campaign and received 26 organisational responses - reach for the consultation has ranged from 3 years old - 70 years old, entrepreneurs, families, teenagers, and small business owners • 450 comments have been received in mapping tasks and 63,000 comments have been submitted from over 1000 individuals • In the next steps would like to take up a space/unit in the city to display quotes/mapping and run a workshop with board members • Important how we review the plan and build on it moving forward • Next steps include arranging expert panels to review the findings of the consultation in a face to face setting. <p>CC questioned the level of engagement with national retailers with their input crucial, with GFN confirming that some of these were invited to workshops however need to be addressed in a separate way forward.</p> <p>MH highlighted the opportunity to map this work onto other things such as sustainable travel, city centre living etc. for a collective view with the overlapping themes.</p>

	ACTION: GFN to meet with TS to discuss the Cathedral
3.	<p>Reimagining Chester City Centre – Harry Bolton</p> <p>HB provided an update on the Reimagining Chester City Centre work with the following highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work commenced in early April and is expected to conclude at the end of May • Initial focus looked at the retail core however this is very difficult to consider in isolation without the eco system that supports it • Areas of focus include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Halting and responding to retail decline ○ Providing a good visitor experience – linking together ○ Size of the high street ○ Wayfinding and branding ○ Bringing occupiers back into the city – different uses ○ Lease and rental structures – how do they compare to other cities ○ Inward investment <p>A discussion took place on the need to be having conversations with larger retailers in the city to engage at a senior level, perhaps through a structured engagement plan for CW&C and BID to come together. With the loss of Debenhams, it is important to retain critical retail mass in the city.</p> <p>Points were raised that with tourists coming into the City from 17th May onwards, the way footfall moves around the city will change and it may be worth investing in some directional signage/wayfinding to help people find their way around.</p>
4.	<p>Cityfibre Investment Programme – Julie Derbyshire</p> <p>JD gave a presentation on the Cityfibre Investment Programme with the following highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government have set a target of 85% full fibre coverage by 2025 • Cityfibre plan to invest £23m in Chester over the next 3 years • Planning 285 install locations over the next 5 years with 51 already in build • Mobilisation started in March in Upton and will complete in May with the first homes being connected by July/August • Expect to create over 250 new jobs, including an apprenticeship scheme • Install locations include Upton, Boughton, Hoole, Handbridge, City Centre, Westminster Park and Blacon • Wrexham Road and Chester Business Park are being considered for future phases of the programme
5.	<p>Chester FC Community Trust Grant Update – Jim Green</p> <p>JG provided an update on the Chester FC Community Trust Grant with the following highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ambition to address the poor-quality sports facilities in Blacon with the playing field in poor condition due to lack of investment • Chester FC Community Trust collaborated with partners to create a sports hub vision • £1m grant has been awarded from the Footfall Foundation and Cheshire FA with the project totalling £2m • Work is due to commence at the end of June with an 18 week build programme and December hand over target

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Huge opportunity for Chester and Cheshire West to benefit and use sport to engage people <p>PC congratulated on the grant funding and highlighted the OCP in relation to sports and this demonstration of how a grass roots organization can bring an opportunity with huge benefits for the community.</p>
6.	<p>Northgate Future Phases – Gemma Davies</p> <p>GD gave an update on the latest position for work on the future phases of Northgate with the following highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economy is changing and we are still at the beginning of the Northgate future phases work – there is no current masterplan • Want to develop a development framework for the area, undertaking the same approach as the Central Business Quarter • Will work as a collective to outline a brief containing several strands • Expect further details and results from this development stage in mid-end of Autumn 2021
7.	<p>Digital Signage Strategy in Chester – David Taylor</p> <p>DT gave an update on the progress of the Digital Signage Strategy for Chester with the following highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endorsement was received from Cabinet in March to proceed with the phased work programme • Suitable and appropriate locations for advertising were developed and identified • Funding has been secured for public health messaging via 6 portable digital screens • A fixed digital screen will be installed outside Chester Town Hall/VIC • A network of screens have already been installed at the Bus Interchange • Public health messaging will be displayed for the first 6 months, and they will then move onto displaying advertising/business information - suggestions and ideas are welcomed for the future of the screens <p>ACTION: Revisit next year once initial digital screen trial has completed</p>
8.	<p>Place North West Development Conference – Katrina Kerr</p> <p>KK updated on the upcoming ‘Cheshire Update’ event on 24th June which will be the first in person event for Place North West since the pandemic. CGP and CH1BID are sponsoring the event and will be a positive opportunity for the city.</p> <p>Any ideas are welcomed for extra coverage with potential for guided tours. CGP will also need a speaker to present.</p>
9.	<p>AOB</p> <p>ACTION: Schedule in an additional board meeting for early July</p>
10.	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>Friday 10th September 2021 – 8.30am</p>