

‘BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND CULTURE’ BOARD MEETING

Date: Tuesday 12th January 2010
Time: 2.00pm
Venue: Visit and Chester and Cheshire, Chester Railway Station,
 Chester.

Attending:

Representing:

Sara Mogel (Chair)	West Cheshire College
Colin Billingsley	Job Centre Plus
Rita Waters	Chester Renaissance
Carolyn Bruce	Chester Cathedral
Ricardo Gomez	Visit Chester and Cheshire
Andrew Donaldson	BIG Storage
Lisa Conway	West Cheshire Employability Partnership and Cheshire West and Chester Council
Mike Jones	West Cheshire and North Wales Chamber of Commerce
Chris Cook	Cheshire West and Chester Council

Apologies: Charlie Seward (Cheshire West and Chester Council), Janet Casement (Jobcentre Plus), Annette Moor (Chester Cathedral) and David Horstead (Prosperity Commission and CWEA).

Visitors: Jon Amos (Cheshire West and Chester Council).

Support: Robbie Taylor and Gill Rogerson (Cheshire West and Chester Council).

Item No.1	<p>Welcome, introductions and apologies</p> <p>Mike Jones and Lisa Conway were formally welcomed on to the Board by the Chair and apologies noted and recorded.</p>
Action - Decision	None required
Item No.2	<p>Minutes of last meeting and matters arising:</p> <p>The Board has not received an update on the piece of work Iain agreed to draw together all the points of information, advice and funding concerning job creation and skills available in the Borough to support the understanding of the Board on available resources and support. Noted under agenda item 3 (BEC Board minutes 27/11/2009).</p> <p>Andrew update the Board on the previous action to develop a ‘Business Enterprise Board’ to engage with the BEC Board: eight of the twelve representatives had been confirmed (Chester Business Club, Chambers of Commerce, Best of Chester, Chester and Ellesmere Port Forum, VCC,</p>

	Winsford BID, CWEA and Chester Business School). It is hoped the new Board will have representatives of the rural areas and Northwich and Winsford business communities, as the area is currently under-represented on the BEC Board.
Action - Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lisa to contact Iain Paton and seek and update on the information sharing project. • Andrew to meet with Charlie to discuss and revise the 'terms of reference' and remit concerning the Business and Enterprise Board and its links to the BEC Board and the Council Committee. • Mike to forward contact details for the business 'after hours' club to Andrew. • Council reports on the progress of implementing the Economic Recession Action Plan to be reported regularly to the BEC Board.
Item No.3	<p>LAA performance progress, CAA update and LAA annual review</p> <p>Partners were provided with a report on the Three Quarter LAA Performance, combined with commentary on the first West Cheshire CAA results and asked for their comments on current performance and the assessment process. Results for all areas across the country are now available through the One Place website:</p> <p>http://oneplace.direct.gov.uk/pages/default.aspx</p> <p>Much concern was expressed at the accuracy of the data and alleged up-to-date information contained in the earlier Audit Commission report ahead of the first local self assessment, especially during the backdrop of LGR in Cheshire. Others commented upon the 'mixed' messages being sent on tourism and the visitor economy and the identification and usefulness of 'worklessness' (NI 153) as a risk during an economic recession. Colleagues will be provided with a hyperlink to examples of 'green flags' in other parts of the country, so the standard of high achievement can be understood and any lessons learnt. Large concerns concerning the actual position of the LAA performance indicators was expressed, as effectively we are working with data which is significantly older than some of the impacts of the economic recession. Where some outcomes are recorded as green or amber, their true position will be different than current expectations. The green and amber LAA outcomes relate to implementation of the delivery plans and not current performance status. (NI 163 and 164 (NVQ Levels 2 and 3 attainment) relate to numbers of work based learners and not the area where they live).</p> <p>(Those officers and partners responsible for the ownership of individual LAA outcomes had been contacted earlier by Robbie concerning the annual LAA review process and asked already to consider the review criteria and any changes they may wish to re-negotiate. Partners were asked to consider the introduction and use of alternative performance measures if there were</p>

	<p>others that were more meaningful and appropriate. It would be extremely unlikely that any targets will be amended subject to the recession).</p> <p>With regard to apparent under-performance of the LAA local indicator on social enterprise sustainability: it was agreed to add the indicator to the Economic Recession Action Plan to raise the profile of the outcome. Following discussions, a number of actions could be implemented fairly easily: for example promoting access to empty storage units at local enterprise centres and accessing information and advice services.</p>
Action - Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance officers to produce a report on how each performance indicator is compiled, how the data is counted, up to date performance data: to enable the BEC Board to better understand how it may affect future performance at its next meeting (Gill Rogerson): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. “NI 153 Working age people claiming out of work benefits in the worst performing neighbourhoods” – confirm the definition of the ‘worst performing’ (top quintile or quartile in the IMD) and where are those neighbourhoods exactly (LLSOAs). <p>What is the current service provision from JCP in these neighbourhoods? (Colin Billingsley)</p> 2. “NI 171 New business registration rate” – invite Maria O’Brien to next BEC Board meeting to receive overview on ‘Total Place’ project (Robbie). 3. “NI 163 and 164 Proportion of population aged 19-64 for males and 19-59 for females qualified to Level 2 and Level 3, or higher” – latest performance position is needed (2008/09 ?) to evaluate how many adults still need supporting in West Cheshire to achieve pass results (Gill Rogerson). <p>Is there a geographical breakdown of data available to help target under achieving localities? (Gill Rogerson).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Economic Recession Action Plan to include advice and information concerning the new Council business rates for 2010/11 (Iain Paton). • The latest position on delivery of the Economic Recession Action Plan to be circulated to the BEC ‘Virtual Network’ (Robbie). • The BEC Board to receive an update on items 8, 9 and 10 in the Economic Recession Action Plan and enquired about the actual numbers of businesses receiving support and funding? (Iain Paton/Gill Rogerson to report at next meeting).
Item No.4	<p>Progress and Development of the ‘Culture’ sector and theme</p> <p>Chris Cook (Head of Culture and Recreation) provided a presentation on</p>

	<p>recent developments and progress within the Council and initial partnership activities. The presentation included details concerning the vision that culture can have both strategically, and with local communities, the range and scope of current Council cultural services, the direction of travel for cultural services for the next financial year and the key arising cultural projects, programmes, investments and issues.</p> <p>Colleagues further heard how the new sub-regional Commission for Tourism and Culture will be Chaired by a representative from West Cheshire and some detail about the membership, governance structure and purposes of the new body. (Cheshire West and Chester Council will lead on Culture, VCC on tourism and the Cheshire and Warrington Sports Partnership Trust will lead on sport for the Commission).</p> <p>The Board discussed the need to integrate work on cultural outcomes and outputs to the overall objective of the BEC Partnership, to 'secure future jobs'. The question of how better to link cultural sector businesses and associated training to attract new businesses and employment to the area as a Board. Currently, it is estimated that one in four local jobs are in the culture, hospitality, leisure or tourism sectors, directly or indirectly and the area does have a strong brand identity which may be capitalised on further. There is also evidence to suggest, that when emerging from a recession these sectors are more likely to have vacancies than other sectors of local economies, which place us in a good position to exploit.</p>
Action – Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris to provide a presentation at the next meeting of the BEC Board on local engagement and approaches with the Olympic 2012 programme (from training camp status to beyond). • Chris to confirm with Charlie whether he will become a permanent member of the BEC Board to contribute further from the broad 'cultural' sector.
Item No.5	<p>BEC Board response to 'SCS' consultation exercise</p> <p>The BEC Board agreed at its last meeting to discuss the consultation exercise and areas which the Partnership will be asked to take responsibility for and share its collective experience, knowledge and resources. Members of the Board were asked to focus on key sections of draft consultation paper: unfortunately time did not permit the planned discussion to take place at the meeting. Partners were asked to respond directly and share their responses with Sara, so she may emphasise key issues as a BEC Partnership response. The LSP will meet at the end of January to agree the new SCS and BEC Board members, who are also LSP members, were additionally asked to feed into the LSP meeting on behalf of the BEC Partnership too.</p> <p>A key issue for the BEC Board to take forward are the lack of the resources that the Partnership has in its control to direct funding in-line with agreed priorities.</p>

	<p>(Both Chris and Ricardo had prepared responses to the consultation from the perspectives of cultural infrastructure and the tourist economy, respectively). The section on employment opportunities did not reference the increased need for sustainable employment opportunities for the fifty plus age group, which the local economy will need to supply and support over the coming years as population demographic predictions take shape.</p>
Action – decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As the consultation exercise closes on 13th January, direct responses to be made and copied to Sara and Robbie to collate.
Item No.6	<p>2nd Homes Tax resources and project bids</p> <p>Sara briefed the Board on the allocation of limited funding to provide a breakfast meeting for the Fire and Rescue Service to brief local companies on the risks of arson to businesses and secondly, a secured amount to research the need and gaps in provision of appropriate skills in the hospitality/catering and care sectors – to map the skills gap.</p> <p>Contracts to undertake the work will be provided shortly and partners from VCC and West Employability Partnership will discuss the award of funding and the projects before implementation.</p>
Action - Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lisa, Ricardo and Sara to meet and discuss the next steps involved in the research project, supported by 2nd Homes Taxation revenue.
Item No.7	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Colin Billingsley advised the Board that the FJF programme had resulted in 72 young people accessing jobs so far, with more planned for the new year. Colleagues asked a geographical breakdown of the jobs, so the spread across West Cheshire could be understood. A local celebratory event to mark the programme will be held in the near future and the Board will be advised of the details min due course. (The FJF update is a standing agenda item).</p> <p>BEC Board meeting dates to be established for 2010/11.</p> <p>There were a number of suggestions for future Board meeting agenda items, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> support to local businesses working in global markets; FJF – a detailed report on progress; Economic Recession Action Plan update; Cultural connections within and outside the BEC Partnership, and Chester business exhibition (and connections to Shanghai).
Action - Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Robbie to establish quarterly meeting dates (proposed below). Colin to circulate a more detailed progress report on FJF programme to the BEC Board.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rita to update on external marketing opportunities (and work with Liverpool Vision) at the next meeting.
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Details of next meeting: Thursday, 18th March (2 - 4pm) **Venue to be confirmed.**

Signed (Chair): Date: