

‘BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND CULTURE’ BOARD MEETING

Date: Tuesday 18th March 2010
Time: 2.00pm
Venue: The Zone, Northwich Railway Station, Northwich.

Attending:

Representing:

Sara Mogel (Chair)	West Cheshire College
Charlie Seward	Cheshire West and Chester Council
Iain Paton	Cheshire West and Chester Council
Ricardo Gomez	Visit Chester and Cheshire
Andrew Donaldson	BIG Storage
Mike Jones	West Cheshire and North Wales Chamber of Commerce
Clive Roberts	Cheshire West and Chester Council

Apologies: Janet Casement (Jobcentre Plus), Annette Moor (Chester Cathedral) and David Horstead (Prosperity Commission and CWEA). Colin Billingsley (Job Centre Plus). Lisa Conway (West Cheshire Employability Partnership and Cheshire West and Chester Council)

Visitors : Andrea Mageean

Support: Fil Prevc ,Gill Rogerson, (Cheshire West and Chester Council).

Item No.1	<p>Welcome, introductions and apologies</p> <p>It was reported that Robbie Taylor would no longer provide support to the Board. Fil Prevc would now provide interim support to the Board.</p>
Action - Decision	None required
Item No.2	<p>Minutes of last meeting and matters arising:</p> <p>Iain Paton provided details of the Future Jobs Fund (FJF). The Board noted the need to identify additional vacancies across the partnership, with gaps being particularly visible within the private sector.</p> <p>Partners considered progress with the Future Jobs Fund, which seeks to place individuals into new employment opportunities. Good progress was reported, some concern was expressed that jobs have been mainly in the Third and public sectors. There are plans to re-launch the programme, and to target geographic areas of need, it was suggested that this might be an opportunity for partners to look at joining up initiatives.</p>
Action - Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iain Paton to prepare for the next meeting of the Board a Dossier of funding and support to employers for training and job creation.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NI 153 Matching jobs in most disadvantaged communities – to be mapped and activity in these areas to be reported back to the Board.
Item No.3	<p>Weaver Valley Regeneration Board</p> <p>Charlie Seward reported that a non executive Chairman had been appointed to the Weaver Valley Regeneration Board. The new Chairman is Geoff Hope-Terry, who has had extensive experience in areas of education and health. A draft business plan is now emerging which members suggested should also look at the role of tourism.</p>
Action - Decision	None
Item No.4	<p>Recession Action Plan</p> <p>It was reported that the Recession Action Plan had moved on since its launch last year. It was now much broader in its remit and involved a larger number of partners. Key speakers are invited to attend the Committee and to report on the actions that have responsibility for delivering. An invitation had been extended from the Chairman of the committee for Sara Mogel to attend.</p> <p>It was noted that the partnership Board needed to take greater control of the recession activities and coral activity where possible.</p>
Action – Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recession Action Plan – progress and update to be placed as a key item on the next Agenda for the board in may.
Item No.5	<p>Total Place Project</p> <p>The project was considered as being very broad in its remit; it was suggested that more needed to be found out about the opportunities offered to business and enterprise.</p>
Action – Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Board to be given a better understanding of the Total Place Project at a future meeting.
Item No.6	<p>Cathedral Quarter developments</p> <p>Good progress was reported by Charlie Seward. It was suggested that more discussion could be undertaken between partners on how they might assist in the delivery of the project. Some opportunities highlighted on the development of skills via heritage apprentices. The Board suggested these benefits had be identified more widely across the Borough</p>
Action –	To report at the next Board meeting the opportunities on offer to

Decision	wider area of Cheshire from the proposals.
Item No.7	<p>Progress on Enterprise Committee</p> <p>A new Enterprise Committee has been established as a sub-group of Business, Enterprise and Culture Board. It met for the first in March. The group aims to look at ways of supporting existing and new enterprises, and at its first meeting considered a range of issues including opportunities to introduce new Business Improvement Districts, the need for an Enterprise Champion in Ellesmere Port, and what CWaC Council needs to be doing to support enterprise. There was very positive support from the membership of the group for Business Enterprise Centres.</p>
Action – decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To investigate the merits of having an Enterprise Champion for Ellesmere Port. • Short and concise business briefing from the Enterprise Committee to be considered to go out to the Business community – but must be punchy and relevant.
Item No.8	<p>Links with the Olympic Games</p> <p>Clive Roberts gave a presentation on the potential opportunities that might be offered by the staging of the 2012 olympics in London to the Region and our sub-region. The Chester race-course is identified as having some potential. Training camps are currently being identified.</p>
Action - Decision	None
Item No.9	<p>AoB</p> <p>An approach had been made from the Fire Service to join the Board. It was suggested that new members would be welcomed if they could make a positive contribution.</p> <p>The approach to refreshing and reviewing the LAA delivery plans was discussed and agreed that further action could now be taken and co-ordinated by Gill Rogerson.</p>
Action - Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire Brigade Service to be invited to attend the next meeting to help identify ways in which the organisation might assist the partnership Board. • Gill Rogerson to contact Board members to discuss the delivery plan to undertake an internal challenge.
Tenders for	Tenders for the Research and Delivery project around Hospitality and Care sectors and pre-recruitment needs were processed through

Hospitality and care sectors	Cheshire West and Chester's Adult Learning commissioning model. BEC partners without an interest in any of the tenders were asked to score and comment on all of the tenders received. West Cheshire College scored highest for both projects and will be offered these opportunities. All tenderers, including West Cheshire College, will receive feedback comments to enable them to understand the outcome.
Action Decision	Lisa Conway to inform all applicants of the outcome. Specifying that all the tenders received were independently scored by three organisations that belong to the Cheshire West and Chester 'Business Enterprise and Culture' partnership group.

Details of next meeting: 13th May 2010 - Chester

Signed (Chair): Date: