**Business Growth Committee**

**Agenda**

**Tuesday 12th October 2021, 10am**

**Venue:**

**Microsoft Teams**

**Attendees Apologies**

Alice Choi Kate Cousens

Andy Devaney Peter Skates

Nigel Schofield

Debbie Baker

Denise Proctor

Stephen Fitzsimons

Jane Gaston

Iain Paton

* Introduction from Chair– 5 minutes
* Economic update – Andy gave a snapshot of the current economic conditions in Cheshire and Warrington followed by a discussion on the data and what can be presented in the future.
  + Could go into more detail on energy, current CO2 arrangement with CF only runs until January 2022. Huge downstream issues if this is not solved quickly. Propose way forward to main board on how to better utilise data to influence government
  + Manufacturing sector has some issues due to increased costs and profits being eaten into. It is likely that some businesses will struggle and could end up closing.
  + Government do not perceive Cheshire to have these issues and see it as affluent and this could be a disadvantage to recovery.
  + A comprehensive risk register for economic issues that may impact Cheshire and Warrington which is easily accessible would provide a clear overview of issues and mitigations.
  + Groups such as Cheshire Business Leaders have direct access to business and decision makers, these groups could be better utilised.

***Action - Risk matrix positioning the strength of CW sectors and the risks associated with them to be developed. Ian to send through information to Andy on previous iterations.***

***Andy to catch up with Debbie and discuss with Philip and Joe before reporting back to Alice.***

* Digital update (Denise)
  + Denise circulated an update and elaborated at the meeting.
  + Games sector is going well with one company in Warrington receiving £25 million investment from the US. Investment in digital investments increasing in large broadcast companies.
  + Groundswell of innovative digital broadcasting outside of main commercial avenues. Increased collaboration with employers skills board to challenge some of this work.
  + Creative and digital sector continues to thrive in CW but still requires some nurturing with avenues of study and careers within the sector

***Action – Denise and Andy to discuss a ‘stocktake’ of creative sector and develop some ideas to better engage the sector***

* Investment update

Further to previous discussions a candidate has now been appointed to lead the work in developing the Cheshire and Warrington offer. Michelle Lowes will join the team on a contract basis in mid October and this committee will own the work. Michelle will attend an upcoming meeting to further the work.

***Action – Michelle to attend future meeting and regular updates to be given leading up to sign off of work in March/April 2022***

* AOB
* Stephen – Warrington business conference on 12th November. The Business Secretary is due to attend and give a speech and there is a variety of speakers and workshops
* Alice - Could next meeting be face to face to focus on terms of reference and focus of group culminating in purpose pyramid and personal objectives.
* Main board has requested all committee members complete a profile slide. Andy to circulate examples created by Clare and Alice
* Purpose pyramid detailing aims and objectives of each committee to be completed, initial details to be circulated.
* Board is a member light due to Kathryn Eade joining digital board, Andy and Alice to look into adding new member. Can committee members suggest some suitable members ideally from an SME

Next meeting

Tuesday 9th November 10am

Venue TBD