



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Held at:	Council Chamber - Civic Centre, Folkestone
Date	Tuesday, 23 May 2017
Present	Councillors Peter Gane, Ms Janet Holben, Mrs Claire Jeffrey, Michael Lyons, Frank McKenna, Ian Meyers, Peter Simmons and Mrs Rodica Wheeler
Apologies for Absence	Councillor Clive Goddard
Officers Present:	Katharine Harvey (Head of Economic Development), Andy Jarrett (Head of Strategic Development Project), Sue Lewis (Committee Services Officer), Tim Madden (Corporate Director - Organisational Change), Brendan McGowan (Project Manager), Shaun Taylor (Anti-Social Behaviour Manager) and Suzy Tigwell (Leadership Support Manager)
Others Present:	Rebekah Button, Integrated Family Service Manager, Ivan Rudd, Public Health Specialist and Inspector Kevin Stephens, Kent Police Councillor John Collier, Cabinet Member for District Economy

1. Election of Chairman

Proposed by Councillor Michael Lyons
Seconded by Councillor Mrs Rodica Wheeler and

Resolved: To appoint Councillor Peter Gane as Chairman of this Committee for 2017/18.

2. Election of Vice-Chairman

Proposed by Councillor Peter Gane
Seconded by Councillor Michael Lyons and

Resolved: To appoint Councillor Mrs Claire Jeffrey as Vice-Chairman of this Committee for 2017/18.

3. **Declaration of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

4. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 April 2017 were submitted, approved and signed by the Chairman.

5. **Community Safety**

Members received a copy of the Shepway Community Safety Partnership Plan with the agenda and Shaun Taylor, Communities Team Leader informed that officers and partners were in attendance to update members on their work over the past year.

Mr Taylor gave a short introduction to the partnership, providing further details in the presentation papers attached to these minutes. He explained that the Chair of the group was chosen on rotation from the four sub groups.

He updated members on a number of issues surrounding the Clean, Green and Safe priority and confirmed that work, alongside the private housing sector team to work with landlords to improve standards is on-going. He also confirmed that the urban pastor scheme is still going and work with Giles Barnard, Community Safety Officer is continuing.

There have been a number of issues relating to illegal encampments which have been dealt with swiftly working across teams including environmental and legal. PSPO work is leading to more court orders being placed and in turn with a more robust action plan in place will continue to be monitored.

It was also reported that there is more action being taken in respect of fly tipping but it is noted that some areas are being targeted by business waste. Work will continue to make residents aware of the enforcement action that will be taken by enforcement officers if it continues and if people are caught.

The members approved the pink lighting project of Sandgate Road car park and acknowledged it had been a success in reducing ASB after years of complaints.

Rebekah Button, Integrated Family Service Manager, spoke in respect of Safeguarding paying particular attention to the following:

- Domestic Abuse – there has been an increase in visitors being assisted and work is being done to raise awareness through agencies. A domestic abuse conference in September was a huge success, bringing together agencies, school children and a previously abused woman.

- Child Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking – a variety of agencies have been working hard to educate children by going into schools, teaching them and training them on how to become mentors for the younger generation. To deliver awareness and provide an online tool for schools around community safety.
- Taxi drivers – receive training and awareness around community safety and some elements of this training will be built into their knowledge tests.

A number of initiatives have already taken place with more work being done by multi-agencies to get awareness across. A youth conference attracted 700 year 9 pupils aimed at safeguarding the next generation.

Schools are being targeted to help young adults learn about community safety and safety action week looking at road safety, policing and peer relationships. Universities are involved in the development of some of these programmes. This is something that can be replicated across the country.

Further work now needs to be done to highlight the dangers and encourage parents to get more involved with their children, raising awareness in the local community, working with agencies.

Ivan Rudd, Public Health Specialist, stated that Shaun's team had been proactive in their work and continuing support of the multi-agency approach.

Mr Rudd highlighted a number of issues and these are listed below:

Alcohol abuse - £15m is spent managing the fall out of alcohol abuse and that working with children and young people across the district will help them to understand the need for awareness. He informed that the 'Mind and Body' programme, together with positive intervention would give them awareness and knowledge to help themselves and others.

Doctor Surgeries - concern that with an ever growing population and increasing strains on the health service cutting doctors surgeries is not the way forward. It is an understanding that people are living longer which leads to an impact on care.

Gambling – this is an issue but not as high as alcohol abuse, work will continue in this area through agencies.

Underage drinking – if premises are selling to underage drinkers then enforcement action will be taken, this is difficult to manage but if reported action will be taken.

Dementia awareness – this is still a high priority and training and awareness in the community will be continued.

Inspector Kevin Stephens, Kent Police, updated the work he and his colleagues, together with multi-agencies are doing throughout the district. He

informed that due to a reduction in police officers and administration staff it is more difficult to cover the district and therefore the police take the view that they must look after people most vulnerable in the community.

He explained that a number of key outcomes have been highlighted and the full list is in the partnership plan with some discussion on the items listed below:

Re-offenders – the police are not able to work with those already in the system but can help those that have just left prison. The probation service has the main resources in this field.

Positive Choices programme – 5 schools in challenging areas of the district have been selected and if students are being disruptive or a danger to others then they can be referred to the police who will work with the school and the child, together with families to help try and resolve any problems they may have.

Vulnerable victims – the police have investigation teams who go to calls, make arrests and deal with crimes and if they feel that victims are vulnerable then more work is done with multi agencies. There are 13 different strands of vulnerability including prostitution and homelessness. If any of the strands are identified by the police then more work will be done to get a positive result.

Gangs – operation in place at the moment working with partners to identify gangs, working with trading standards, immigration and other agencies to reduce the impact of gang activity within shepway.

More detail on all of the above can be found in the partnership plan circulated with the agenda.

6. **Corporate Risk Register update**

Report C/17/02 The Council is committed to report on its changes to the Corporate Risk Register and this report outlines updates since April 2016 based on the corporate objectives outlined in the Corporate Plan 2013-2018.

Proposed by Councillor Peter Simmons
Seconded by Councillor Michael Lyons and

Resolved:

- 1. To receive and note report C/17/02.**

(Voting: For 8; Against 0; Abstentions 0)

7. **Bigginwood Development**

Report C/17/06 provides an update on progress delivering new homes and jobs on a council-owned brownfield site known as Bigginwood in Folkestone. The

report outlines the proposed preliminary work and budget necessary to establish a delivery route and associated programme.

A presentation given by Andy Jarrett, Head of Strategic Development Projects is attached for information.

Mr Jarrett informed members that the site had been vacant for a number of years and the Council acquired it in December 2016 for £1.5m. The land has planning permission for 77 homes and employment use and it is for this reason that the Council wants to invest for the next generation, delivering more jobs, more homes and building on the appearance with value for money and meeting corporate objectives.

There are a number of constraints within the site as shown in the presentation papers and officers will now work to determine the most effective way to move forward, a number of options are available to the Council listed below:

1. The Council becomes the developer and then selling it themselves once the development is complete.
2. Sell to a developer with agreement to purchase proportion of homes and serviced land allowing the Council to hold homes for affordable housing.
3. De-risk site by remediating land by clearing and replacing the site with clean soil which would cap the land and make it safe before going to market.

Members were informed that an environmental study had been done with further tests to take place. A copy of the study is available on request. They were also informed that there was no indication that the site has been identified as having air quality issues.

Proposed by Councillor Peter Gane
Seconded by Councillor Mrs Claire Jeffrey and

Resolved:

1. **To receive and note report C/17/06.**
2. **To receive a further report before Cabinet when a delivery decision needs to be made.**

(Voting: For 6; Against 0; Abstentions 2)

8. Investing Shepway's share of the Kent Business Rates Growth Pool

Report C/17/05 seeks agreement for investing Shepway District Council's share of the Kent Business Rates Growth Pool in two key employment related projects in the district: (1) Bigginwood; and (2) the refurbishment of floors 3 and 4 of the Civic Centre.

Katharine Harvey, Head of Economic Development, informed members that since the Council joined the Kent Growth Pool they had acquired approximately £500,000 over the 2 year period.

After considering all the options for how to use these funds to promote future economic growth in the district, which is a requirement for how these funds are used, it is proposed to directly invest in two Shepway District Council schemes to bring forward high quality business accommodation:

- Civic Centre floors 3 and 4 - officers have tried and failed to secure tenants for all of these two floors and so it is proposed to use these funds to improve the quality of the accommodation.
- Bigginswood – this scheme is identified in the report previously discussed and it is proposed to use the funds to bring forward the employment space component.

Proposed by Councillor Peter Gane
Seconded by Councillor Michael Lyons and

1. To receive and note report C/17/05.

(Voting: For 8; Against 0; Abstentions 0)

9. Updated Medium Term Financial Position

Report C/17/03 The medium term financial position updates the latest forecast for the Council's financial projections. It seeks to take a view over the medium term so that the Council can undertake its financial planning in good time and carry out any required actions in a planned and timely manner.

Tim Madden, Corporate Director for Organisational Change, informed members that this report updates on the latest forecast for the Council's financial projections, anticipating the future. Preparatory work is being done looking at the future financial strategy.

Members paid attention to the projected forecast and the key impacts and assumptions in particular the following issues:

- Changes to New Homes Bonus which has had a significant impact upon the financial forecasting, which has led to a lack of clarity and uncertainty
- Re-tendering of the waste contract with indications showing significant financial pressures within the current contract. The forecast assumes a growth impact of £1.5M per annum. Work has now started in respect of the tendering process with results in due course. Officers expect a significant cost to continue the service at current levels.

Mr Madden informed members that it is clear that the Council has significant pressures ahead and work will need to be undertaken now to help to alleviate those pressures in the future.

Members asked if the waste contract could come back in-house and were informed that officers have a major piece of work to do before any decisions can be made.

Members were also informed that government consultations were taking place on business rates and how the new system would operate in practice but this had been postponed pending the outcome of the General Election.

Proposed by Councillor Peter Simmons
Seconded by Councillor Michael Lyons and

Resolved:

- 1. To receive and note report C/17/03.**

(Voting: For 8; Against 0; Abstentions 0)

10. **Annual Scrutiny Programme 2017-18**

Report OS/17/01 presents recommendations for the work programme for the overview and scrutiny committee for 2017/18.

Proposed by Councillor Peter Gane
Seconded by Councillor Michael Lyons and

Resolved:

- 1. To receive and note report OS/17/01.**
- 2. To approve the annual scrutiny work programme for 2017-18 attached to this report.**
- 3. That FlyTipping is added to the scrutiny work programme for 2017-18.**

(Voting: For 8; Against 0; Abstentions 0)

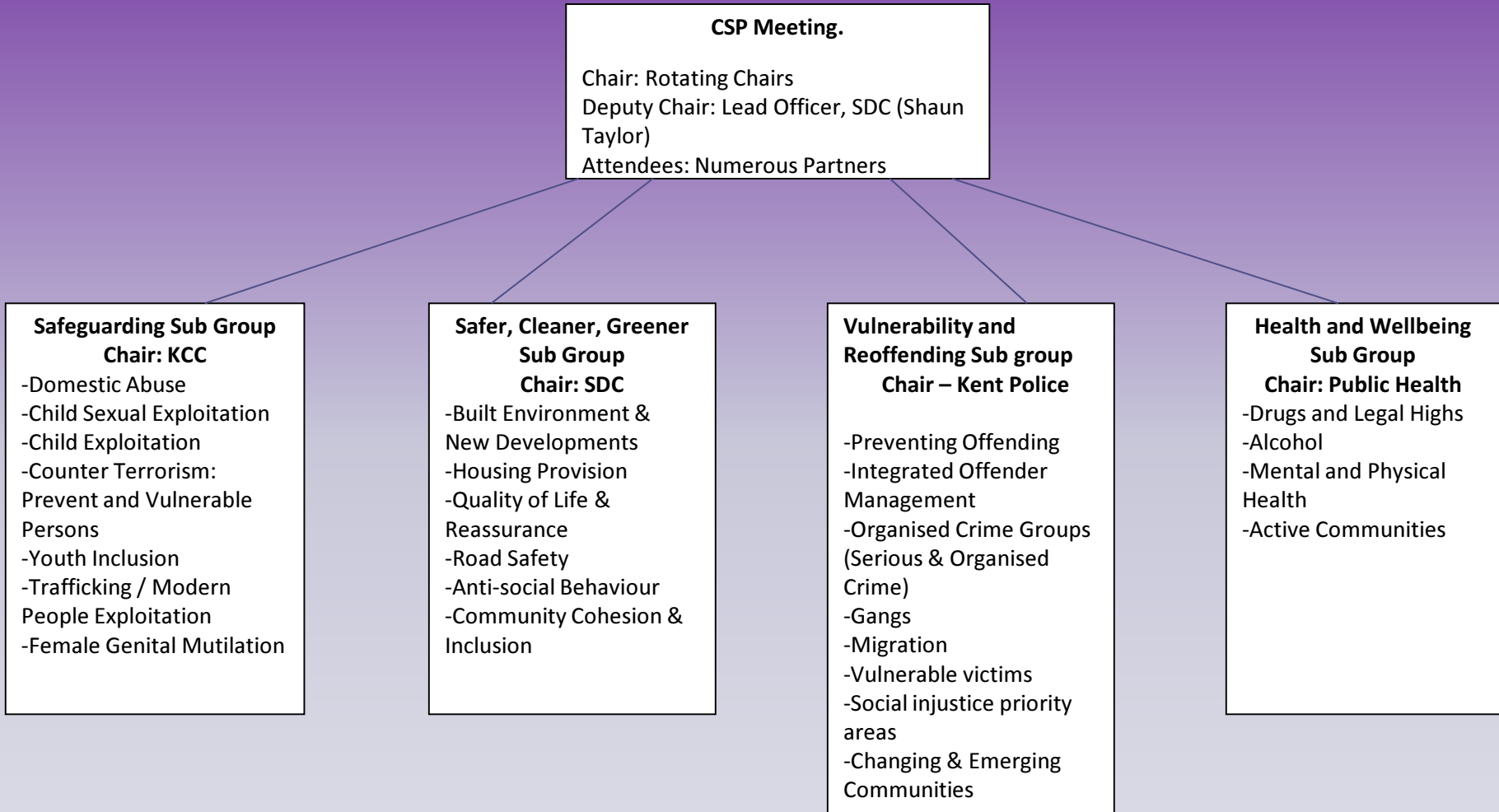
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Shepway Community Safety Partnership Plan 2017-18

- Overview of the Partnership
- Priority 1 – Safeguarding
- Priority 2 – Clean, Green and Safe (including ASB)
- Priority 3 – Vulnerability and Reoffending
- Priority 4 – Health & Wellbeing
- Summary and Questions



Community Safety Partnership Structure



Introduction

- Shepway Community Safety Partnership (CSP) meets quarterly.
- Sub groups meet bi-monthly.
- Clean, Green and Safe (including High Risk ASB meetings are every Tuesday in Council Chamber)
- Funding through the Police Crime Commissioner – currently £28,858 and agreed at present for this financial year only. This is given in two payments after a report to the PCC has been submitted on how the money has been spent. The CSU applies for additional match funding for projects.
- Sub groups defined on new emerging themes for the district taking into account partners priorities.
- Each sub group receives equal share of the PCC funding.



Priority 1 – Safeguarding – Rebekah Button

- **Domestic Abuse** – One Stop Shop multi-agency weekly Drop In for Domestic Abuse over the last year has seen visitors increase by 10.9% (183 people assisted).
- **Child Exploitation and Trafficking** – Four officers from the Council have been trained to deliver awareness. Also CSU paid for online educational tool for schools around CSE.
- **Taxi drivers** receiving training and awareness around CSE and trafficking, elements will be built into their knowledge test.
- **Preventing violent extremism** – Four officers from the Council have been trained to deliver awareness.



Priority 1 - Safeguarding (cont'd)

- **DA conference** organised for practitioners and sixth form pupils across the district- was successful.
- **Safety in Action Week** – For year 6 pupils, took place in January/February engaged with 513 students from 17 Shepway primary schools.
- **Youth conference** – 700 Shepway Year group 9 and 20 Sixth Form pupils from all secondary schools attending – “Safeguarding The Next Generation”. Disclosures made and schools and practitioners have called for a regular event. Had a massive impact on the students involved and has led to a number of other initiatives. KCC/Kent Police have asked Shepway to help plan for a countywide youth conference modelled on this.



Priority 2 – Safe, Clean, Greener & ASB – Shaun Taylor

- **Improve living standards for those within rented accommodation** – April – Dec 2016 - 118 includes housing condition complaints, fire safety checks, rent deposit schemes inspections & B & B inspections, properties improved by home safe loans – 9, properties improved for disabled persons 44, energy efficiency 3
- **Support to the Urban Pastors scheme** – 32 volunteers aged 18 - 83
- **Improve appearance of the district** – Green Gym, Clean for the Queen, PSPO dog fouling in New Romney, CPNs and CPNW work – joint ticketing approach
- **Multi-agency action days** – East Folkestone, Payers Park, Sellindge, Lydd, Densole, Brenzett
- **Crime reduction initiatives** – Cheriton Rec lighting, outreach work in Hawkinge, Leas' Residents lighting and mosquitos, Bayle cameras.



Priority 2 – Safe, Clean, Greener and ASB (cont'd)

- **PSPO** for street begging, street drinking, the taking of new emerging drugs (legal highs), sleeping in a public place – 3 cases pending prosecution, 2 community triggers resolved, Missenden Court closure order, 7 CBOs including 3 pending court (highest number in the County).
- **PSPO** – new dog orders about to go live.
- **Illegal encampments** – new robust no-nonsense hard line approach.
- **Diversionsary activities** – SHAPE Gillingham FC and Folkestone Sports Centre – 140 young people engaged in the last year.
- **Sports based projects** accessible to all – 180 engaged up to Dec 2016.
- **Develop Independent Advisory Group** to review all partner activity with minority groups – chaired by member of CSU, SDC.



Priority 3 – Vulnerability and Reoffending

- Complete a profile of the gangs in Shepway – “feet on the street” multi-agency event
- Develop community interventions to aid intelligence and disrupt gang activity – intelligence gathering, search warrants, stop checks, covert observations.
- Develop multi-agency risk assessment and referral process for those vulnerable to being recruited into gangs using county lines data and Kent Connect portal intelligence.
- Develop and understanding of bespoke communities within Shepway and develop regular engagement.



Priority 3 – (cont'd)

- Understand the drivers of migration in and out of the district.
- Understand the **needs of migrants** and the wider communities and support their integration.
- Travellers – understand the legal requirements in respect of travellers.
- Develop accessible **community services hub** to facilitate engagement and participation with partners – Community Hub in Dover Road was developed and has had successful outcomes.
- **Positive Choices programme** – Multi agency programme working to prevent youths (ages 9-12) from being associated with ASB through family mentoring and early interventions.

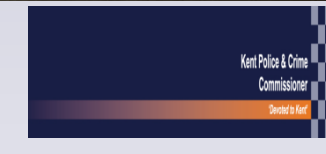
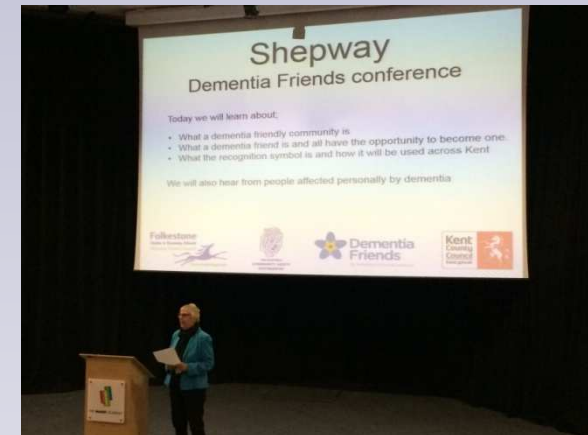


Priority 4 – Health and Wellbeing – Ivan Rudd/Hilary Knight

- Know Your score – www.kent.gov.uk/knowyourscore
- Support County health campaigns
 - Alcohol
 - Stay well this winter
 - Keep warm
 - Get flu jab
 - Healthy Eating – with smoothie bikes
- **Promote Kent Alcohol Care pathway** – identification of high risk groups, training for identification and referral pathways.
- Linking in with the schools in deprived areas to the Folkestone Sports Centre to develop taster sessions for families.
- **Dementia Friends Conference** – Promoting the support available for those with dementia and how we can all help.

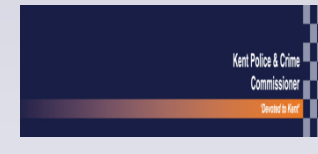


Men & Women



Priority 4 – Health and Wellbeing (cont'd)

- Increase health and wellbeing in the workplace – organisations to invite their HR team to discuss.
- Delivery of the Mind and Body programme by Kent Addaction supporting young people in relation to self harm.
- Street Cheer programme the Folkestone Sports Centre
- Funding for the SHAPE Programme linking into Gillingham FC and the Folkestone Sports Centre (180 yp's per year now in 4th year)



Summary and Questions

- 4 sub groups with a working Tactical Delivery Plan.
- Accountable to the PCC office on how funds are spent and they attend CSP meetings and receive regular updates.
- Work of the Partnership is in conjunction with priorities for the Council and strategies of partners, particularly the Kent Control Strategy, Kent Police, PCC Police and Crime Plan and the KCC Kent Alcohol Strategy.



Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 23rd May 2017

Bigginswood, Cheriton

Bigginswood - Overview

- Former brickworks site
- Vacant for several decades
- 4.43 hectares(10.75 acres)
- Employment Land Allocation
- Planning permission 77 homes and employment use
- Acquired December 2016 £1.5m

Meeting Corporate Objectives

Investing for the next generation – delivering more of what matters

Key objectives of the Council's Corporate Plan 2017-2020 particularly:

- **More Jobs** - *to boost the local economy and increase job opportunities through the development of a major new flexible and quality employment offer;*
- **More Homes** – *to enable the construction of 77 new homes including 23 affordable homes;*
- **Appearance Matters** - *support an attractive and vibrant place to live by ridding the area of a derelict and contaminated site and by creating new public open space.*
- **Financial Stability** – *to deliver value for money.*



RDA architects –illustrative masterplan

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Bigginswood - potential

- Good size urban freehold site
- Planning permission 77 homes and employment use
 - **New Homes** 39 (No.) 2 bed + 38 (No.) 3 bed (of which 23 HRA inc. shared equity homes)
 - **Employment use:**
 - 54 light ind. units 52 x 96 sq.m. + 2 x 75 sq.m.
 - Office 660 sq.m (divisible)

Bigginswood - constraints

- Contamination and ground conditions;
- Access - shared
- Proximity to M20 Motorway (environment)
- Employment use allocation

Next step – procurement preparation;

- Options appraisal

Determine the most cost efficient way to procure – options include:

- Council act as developer
- Sell to developer with agreement to purchase proportion of homes and serviced land
- De-risk site by remediating land.

Bigginswood - Budget

£130k budget to progress to procurement.

- 70% (£91.7k) to the General Fund and 30% (£39.3k) to the HRA
- Relevant HRA budget already exists
- General Fund element can be met from the Corporate Property Developments Projects budget contained within the approved capital programme

Recommendations to Cabinet

1. To receive and note report C/17/06.
2. To note the necessary preliminary work required to undertake detailed delivery planning through to a procurement decision.
3. To note that a further report is brought back to Cabinet when a delivery decision needs to be made. That report will:
 - Detail the issues around finance, risk profile and timelines of each option; and
 - recommend a procurement route.