

RACE TRAINING & EQUESTRIAN INDUSTRY: LOCAL PLAN BACKGROUND PAPER

Head of Service/Contact:	Ruth Ormella, Head of Planning
Urgent Decision?(yes/no)	No
If yes, reason urgent decision required:	
Annexes/Appendices (attached):	Annexe 1 Scoping Report on the Racecourse & Equestrian Sector in Epsom & Ewell Borough
Other available papers (not attached):	N/A

Report summary

The new Local Plan needs to capture the context, socio-economic benefits and issues that are key for the borough. The racecourse and equestrian sector have long been recognised as being part of the identity of the borough, with Epsom being the home of the Derby.

The Scoping Report on the Racecourse & Equestrian Sector was commissioned to form part of the evidence base for the new Local Plan.

Recommendation (s)

The Committee notes the contents of the Scoping Report on the Racecourse & Equestrian Sector as a technical study that will form part of the evidence base for the emerging new Local Plan.

1 Implications for the Council's Key Priorities, Service Plans and Sustainable Community Strategy

- 1.1 The Scoping Report on the Racecourse & Equestrian Sector (Scoping Report) will form part of the evidence base for the emerging Local Plan policies. The delivery and implementation of the Epsom & Ewell Borough Local Plan will ensure sustainable growth is planned in the Borough to meet the Corporate Vision, priorities and values.

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2 Background

- 2.1 The Core Strategy 2007 and Development Management Policies 2015 recognise that Epsom has long been associated with horse racing. The borough benefits from the racecourse, associated buildings, and facilities for the local racehorse training industry, all contributing to the local identity.
- 2.2 So as to ensure the new Local Plan appropriately captures the context, socio-economic benefits, and issues, and includes the right interventions, the Scoping Report was commissioned to form part of the evidence base.

3 Proposals

- 3.1 The Scoping Report has identified interventions that could form the basis of enabling policies for the new Local Plan.
- 3.2 Interventions include establishing a racing zone, enabling investment into the racecourse, the provision of accommodation for key workers, capital investment through controlled enabling development, inward investment to the sector, growing the visitor economy, supporting the industry, and place recognition that Epsom is the 'Home of the Derby'.
- 3.3 The Scoping Report provides the context and identifies the interventions that could be realised and enabled through policies in the new Local Plan.

4 Financial and Manpower Implications

- 4.1 The Scoping Report has been prepared within agreed budgets by external consultants Matthew's Associates.
- 4.2 The planning policy team have undertaken the commissioning and contract management of the project.
- 4.3 ***Chief Finance Officer's comments:***

5 Legal Implications (including implications for matters relating to equality)

- 5.1 The Local Plan will be examined to assess that it has followed legal and procedural requirements and that it is 'Sound'. For the Plan to be considered Sound, it needs to meet the following tests:
 - Positively prepared
 - Justified
 - Effective
 - Consistent with national policy

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5.2 The Scoping Report will inform the strategies and policies contained within the emerging new Local Plan in order to ensure that they meet the tests of soundness.

5.3 **Monitoring Officer's comments:** none for the purposes of this report.

6 Sustainability Policy and Community Safety Implications

6.1 The new Local Plan will contribute towards delivering the Council's objectives and priorities.

6.2 Proposed policies are subject to a Sustainability Appraisal which is an integral part of the plan making process.

7 Partnerships

7.1 Local Planning Authorities have a duty to cooperate with public bodies on strategic planning issues that cross administrative boundaries.

7.2 Matthew's Associates have engaged with a wide range of partners and commercial interests in preparing the Scoping Report.

8 Risk Assessment

8.1 Insufficient evidence to support the new Local Plan policies may result in the Local Plan not meeting the test of Soundness of being positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy.

9 Conclusion and Recommendations

9.1 The Committee notes the contents of the Scoping Report on the Racecourse and Equestrian Sector as a technical study that will form part of the evidence base for the emerging new Local Plan and be published on the Council's website.

Ward(s) affected: (All Wards);