

PROPOSAL TO INSTALL RUNNING RAIL ALONGSIDE KEY GALLOPS AND HORSEWALKS ON EPSOM AND WALTON DOWNS

Head of Service:	Jackie King, Director of Corporate Services
Wards affected:	College Ward; Town Ward; Woodcote Ward;
Appendices (attached):	Appendix 1: Report of the Jockey Club detailing the proposal to install running rails Appendix 2: Running Rail Map Plan Appendix 3: Poly-track rail visual 1 Appendix 4: Poly-track rail visual 2 Appendix 5: Walton Road from top of poly-track gallop facing South Appendix 6: Looking up Walton Road from Southern end Appendix 7: Coconut matting and grass clippings on Walton Road Crossing (moveable) Appendix 8: Travellers site walkway rail visual Appendix 9: Horse-trap visual Appendix 10: Attwater running rail photo montage 1 Appendix 11: Attwater running rail photo montage 2

Summary

This report accompanies a proposal from the Jockey Club, seeking the approval of the Conservators for the installation of running rails alongside key gallops and horse-walks on Epsom and Walton Downs.

Recommendation (s)

The Conservators are asked to:

- (1) Approve the proposals set out in the attached report of the Jockey Club, subject to the relevant permissions being obtained which may include planning permission and County Council Highways consent**

Epsom and Walton Downs Conservators

8 November 2021

- 1.1 To allow a number of risks, highlighted in a report to the Jockey Club undertaken by a specialist risk consultancy to be addressed, mitigating the level of risks posed to the various users of the Downs: the public; racehorses; their riders; and leisure riders.

2 Background

- 2.1 The Conservators have received a report commissioned by the Jockey Club entitled 'A Report into Access on the Epsom Downs and the Health and Safety Risks Associated with Training Racehorses'.
- 2.2 This report concluded that the conflict that has been arising between the various users of the Downs, the public, racehorses, their riders, and leisure riders, has been exacerbated as a result of the pandemic as more members of the public have begun (and continue) to visit the Downs, and has at times resulted in unsafe situations for all parties.
- 2.3 The consultant's report made a series of recommendations to address the most significant risks.
- 2.4 The attached report of the Jockey Club seeks the approval of the Conservators for the installation of running rails alongside key gallops and horse-walks on Epsom and Walton Downs. The attached report Map and images sets out the detail of the proposal.

3 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

- 3.1 Impact Assessment
 - 3.1.1 None arising from the contents of this report.
- 3.2 Crime & Disorder
 - 3.2.1 None arising from the contents of this report.
- 3.3 Safeguarding
 - 3.3.1 None arising from the contents of this report.
- 3.4 Dependencies
 - 3.4.1 None arising from the contents of this report.
- 3.5 Other
 - 3.5.1 None applicable.

4 Financial Implications

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- 4.1 There are no financial implications resulting from the contents of this report.
- 4.2 **Section 151 Officer's comments:** None for the purposes of this report.

5 Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Jockey Club will need to assure themselves that the relevant consents and permissions have been obtained before implementing the scheme of works proposed, this may include County Council Highways consent and planning permission.
- 5.2 **Legal Officer's comments:** There are no material legal implications in proceeding with recommendation covered by this report. Installing running rails alongside key gallops and horse-walks on Epsom and Walton Downs would lead to the construction of improved and safer facilities for both the public and the horses.

6 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

- 6.1 **Council's Key Priorities:** The following Key Priorities are engaged: not applicable.
- 6.2 **Service Plans:** The matter is not included within the current Service Delivery Plan.
- 6.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:** None arising from this report.
- 6.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:** None arising from this report.
- 6.5 **Partnerships:** None arising from this report.

7 Background papers

- 7.1 The documents referred to in compiling this report are as follows:

Previous reports:

- None-applicable.

Other papers:

- 'A REPORT INTO ACCESS ON THE EPSOM DOWNS AND THE HEALTH AND SAFETY RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH TRAINING RACEHORSES' Jockey Club, November 2020

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