

## HACK RIDING MAP

**Head of Service/Contact:** Amardip Healy, Chief Legal Officer

**Annexes/Appendices (attached):** **Annex 1** – Hack Riding Map

**Other available papers (not attached):**

### Report summary

To review and approve the new Hack Riding Map which will be used to educate horse riders on where to ride on Epsom and Walton Downs.

### Recommendation (s)

- (1) That the Conservators review and approve the new Hack Riding Map
- (2) That once approved, permission is granted to publish the map on the website and for the map to be used to produce a hack riding leaflet, in consultation with the Downskeepers, Gallops staff and Hack Riding representatives.

## 1 Background

- 1.1 Hack riding is one of the most popular activities enjoyed on the Downs. Whilst many hack riders are familiar with the area and rules governing where they are allowed to ride, a number of riders appear to be unclear and tend to stray into areas or tracks that are designated for racehorses or that cannot be used before midday.
- 1.2 Although maps are currently displayed on large signs the Downs and on the Council's website, the Conservators have previously agreed that that it would be helpful to have a map which was tailored specifically for hack riders.
- 1.3 Working in conjunction with Downskeepers, Gallops staff and the Hack Riders representatives to the Epsom and Walton Downs Consultative Committee, a map has now been produced that will make hack riding on the Downs easier to navigate. This is attached as **Annex 1**.
- 1.4 Whilst the new map is based on the signed map which accompanies the Epsom and Walton Downs Regulation Act 1984, the hack riding map has been slightly simplified and is more graphical.

# Epsom and Walton Downs Conservators

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### 2 Proposals

- 2.1 The map is now at a final draft stage and officers seek permission from the Conservators to approve this draft before the map is published on the website and made into a leaflet, which will be distributed to local livery stables and made available at the Downskeeper's Hut and Town Hall.
- 2.2 The Downskeepers will also keep copies of the leaflet in their patrol vehicle to give out to horse riders whilst patrolling the Downs. The leaflets will be particularly helpful when the Downskeepers witness encroachment of the gallops areas and other breaches of the byelaws as they can be used to initiate a conversation and educate horse riders of the regulations, which govern this unique area.

### 3 Financial and Manpower Implications

- 3.1 There will be some further officer time required to produce the final leaflet, which will be completed in conjunctions with the Downskeepers, Gallops staff and the Hack Riders representatives.
- 3.2 There will be some costs involved in the production of the leaflet, which will be absorbed from existing budgets.
- 3.3 There will be some labour required in delivering the leaflets to local livery yards.
- 3.4 **Chief Finance Officer's comments:** The costs of producing and distributing the leaflets will be monitored as part of our regular monthly reviews. The next mid-year budget monitoring report is due in October 2018.

### 4 Legal Implications (including implications for matters relating to equality)

- 4.1 Whilst based on the signed map, which accompanies the Epsom & Walton Downs Regulation Act 1984, this map has been simplified and shows recommended routes for hack riders, which may slightly deviate from the signed map for reasons of safety or practicality.
- 4.2 **Monitoring Officer's comments:** The new map provides clear information for hack riders and takes into account the necessary deviations from the signed map

### 5 Sustainability Policy and Community Safety Implications

- 5.1 This map has been designed to ensure safety of all users of the Downs and to ensure sustainability of horse racing industry, which could be compromised if unauthorised encroachment of the designated training areas and tracks is permitted.

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### **6 Partnerships**

- 6.1 This is a partnership project involving consultation with the Downskeepers, Gallops staff and Hack Riding representatives.

### **7 Risk Assessment**

- 7.1 Failure to educate hack riders on the correct use of the Downs carries a risk to both the safety and sustainability of the area as one of the largest centres for racehorse training in the country.

### **8 Conclusion and Recommendations**

- 8.1 It is recommended that the Conservators review and approve the new hack riding map.
- 8.2 That once approved, permission is granted to publish the map on the website and for the map to be used to produce a hack riding leaflet, in consultation with the Downskeepers, Gallops staff and Hack Riding representatives.

**Ward(s) Affected:** College Ward; Woodcote Ward;