

**TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**PLANNING and TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD**

**27 July 2011**

**Report of the Director of Planning Transport and Leisure**

**Part 1- Public**

**Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet - Non-Key Decision (Decision may be taken by the Cabinet Member)**

**1 MANAGING LAND FOR HORSES: A GUIDE TO GOOD PRACTICE**

**The Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Unit has produced Managing Land for Horses: A Guide to Good Practice. This report sets out the background to this document and recommends its approval as a material consideration for Development Control purposes across the borough.**

**1.1 Introduction**

- 1.1.1 Today there are nearly a million and a half horses in the UK being kept essentially for leisure purposes. These numbers, along with changes to agricultural practices and lifestyles mean that horses are now often kept more intensively than in the past. Horses can have a positive impact, however, without due care they can affect the quality and character of the landscape and impact on wildlife and the environment. The adoption of good practices can bring advantages for economics and the environment, as well as animal health and welfare.
- 1.1.2 The Guide to Good Practice provides information and advice on a range of issues, including grassland management, fencing and buildings and waste management, to help ensure that the positive impacts of horse keeping are maximised. It amplifies Policy DC4 in the MDE DPD. It can be viewed at the following link <http://www.kentdowns.org.uk/PDF/ManagingLandforHorses.pdf> . A copy will be available for inspection at the meeting or, on request, in advance of the meeting.
- 1.1.3 Although this document has been produced by the Kent Downs AONB Unit for application in the AONB, it is based on national guidance produced by the SEEDA Rural Sector Champion programme and as such sets out practices that can beneficially be applied borough-wide. It is envisaged that the Guide can be used to inform and help applicants for planning permission and assist the Council in helping to shape successful approaches to the management of land holdings in rural areas.

## 1.2 Legal Implications

1.2.1 Paragraph 6.3 of Planning Policy Statement 12 (PPS12) allows for supplementary guidance to be produced by other bodies including AONB committee. The Guide to Good Practice has already been approved by the Kent Downs AONB Joint Advisory Committee for use within the Kent Downs area and is commended to district councils for adoption for development control purposes. Its has been subject to wide consultation by the AONB unit.

## 1.3 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.3.1 This Guide is based on a SEEDA funded study and has been prepared and funded by the Kent Downs AONB Unit. There has been no additional financial contribution from Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council.

## 1.4 Risk Assessment

1.4.1 There are no risks directly arising from this document.

## 1.5 Equality Impact Assessment

1.5.1 See 'Screening for equality impacts' table at end of report

## 1.6 Recommendations

1.6.1 That the Managing Land for Horses: A Guide to Good Practice be adopted as a material consideration for development control throughout the Borough.

The Director of Planning Transport and Leisure confirms that the proposals contained in the recommendation(s), if approved, will fall within the Council's Budget and Policy Framework.

Background papers: Managing Land for Horses: A  
Guide to Good Practice  
Nil

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<b>Screening for equality impacts:</b>		
<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer</b>	<b>Explanation of impacts</b>
a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against different groups in the community?	No	The Guide provides guidance on the keeping and managing of horses and associated development. It is but one material consideration. Matters relating to equality are addressed by other council policies.

<b>Screening for equality impacts:</b>		
<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer</b>	<b>Explanation of impacts</b>
b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality?	No	The Guide provides guidance on the keeping and managing of horses and associated development. It is but one material consideration. Matters relating to equality are addressed by other council policies.
c. What steps are you taking to mitigate, reduce, avoid or minimise the impacts identified above?		

*In submitting this report, the Chief Officer doing so is confirming that they have given due regard to the equality impacts of the decision being considered, as noted in the table above.*