

THURSDAY, 27 APRIL 2017

REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ENVIRONMENT & CULTURE**FRAMEWORK FOR BUSKING WITHIN TAMWORTH****EXEMPT INFORMATION****PURPOSE**

To provide a working framework to enable busking to be encouraged and regulated within the town centre and public places within Tamworth.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet approve the framework for the effective regulation of busking.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Members will recall the previous report on the 1st October 2015 where cabinet approved the Arts in Unusual Spaces programme. One of the recommendations was to endorse the Arts Council England Bid and programme of work associated with it. Part of that programme of work detailed the Music Outside programme and how the council could encourage and support more music and live performance in our outdoor spaces. A key element of this is how the authority deals with busking in public areas and the approved funding bid detailed that the authority would develop and adopt a busking framework approved by members.

The Council is committed to creating a vibrant Town centre and wants to add live performance to that offer. However we are also keen to ensure the quality of the experience for those visiting and working in the town centre. The framework will aim to encourage live performances but will also ensure potential issues can be managed. With identified busking locations and a clear code of practice it enables the authority to strike the right balance between encouraging these added extras to the town centre whilst ensuring they are conducted in an appropriate manner; for example we have had previous issues with the type and quality of performance. The framework will allow us to reduce this impact.

Creating a framework for busking is something the authority has explored for a number of years and we are now at the stage of formalising our approach. To ensure good practice the Arts and Events team have liaised with the Local Authority Outdoor Events Group and followed the approaches of other authorities that have proved successful. In addition we have appraised the work of colleagues in Environmental Health and Community Safety. The framework aims to be the first port of call for those wishing to perform in the town centre on an informal basis and for those who have concerns over performances taking place. There are a range of existing statutory powers relating to noise nuisance, public order and obstruction. These formal powers will only be used as a last resort if there are persistent issues and this guidance is not being observed.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are none arising directly from this report.

Compliance to the framework will be monitored by officers as part of their normal duties.

LEGAL/RISK IMPLICATIONS BACKGROUND

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

There is currently no formal approach for busking in the town centre often making it difficult for the authority to manage and making performers unsure of what they can and can't do.

This can result in residents and visitors experiencing a negative impact when visiting or otherwise trying to enjoy the town centre experience.

REPORT AUTHOR

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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Cabinet Report- October 1st 2015- Arts and Events Programme 2016-17

APPENDICES

Appendix 1- Busking Framework