

**MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**COMMUNITIES, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**  
**2 FEBRUARY 2021**  
**REPORT OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE HELD ON 14 JANUARY 2021**  
**BUSKING GUIDELINES CONSULTATION RESULTS**

**Issue for Decision**

The proposed draft Busking Guidelines were subject to a public consultation process between 9 September 2020 to 1 November 2020. The consultation results were presented to the Licensing Committee on 14 January 2021.

The Licensing Committee recommended that the Communities, Housing and Environment Committee approve the draft Busking Guidelines.

**Recommendation Made**

That the proposed Draft Maidstone Busking Guidelines as attached at Appendix 2 to the report be approved.

**Reasons for Recommendation**

On 18th June 2020, the Licensing Committee heard the Council's proposal to adopt new Busking Guidelines which are intended to encourage good community practice in shared spaces for performers, business and residents alike. The draft Busking Guidelines were subject to a public consultation from the 9 September to the 1 November 2020.

The consultation sought feedback on the whether they were in favour of the introduction of Busking Guidelines, out of a total 93 responses, 79 (84.9%) answered yes. They were also asked if the proposed Guidelines were proportionate, again out of 93 responses, 67 (72.0%) answered yes.

The Council does not take the introduction of regulating busking and street entertainment lightly, but considers it necessary due to complaints received about some buskers and the detrimental impact it can have on the daily lives of our residents and workers. Our current lack of licensing enforcement powers over buskers and not having a dedicated resource to respond to any impact effectively needs to be considered if we make the Guidelines too prescriptive.

Currently there is nothing in place to regulate street entertainment in Maidstone and the Guidelines are considered the starting point and will be kept under review. Given the lack of enforcement powers the Licensing Department have over street entertainers the Guidelines stipulate what actions can be taken by other departments/parties.

## **Alternatives Considered and Why Not Recommended**

An alternative is not to adopt the guidelines; however this is not advised as the Licensing Committee has approved the document and it will help to encourage good community practice in shared spaces. The voluntary document will be implemented as the starting point which will be kept under review and replaced with a more prescriptive version if future circumstance determine it should be.

## **Background Documents**

None

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Consultation response summary

Appendix 2 – Draft Busking Guidelines