A Guide to Busking in York

Information for city centre businesses

Busking is an important part of creating a vibrant, exciting and cosmopolitan atmosphere for residents, visitors and businesses in York.

This leaflet summarises best practices for businesses and is a helpful document which promotes good relationships between buskers and the local community.

New busking guidelines have been agreed by representatives of the local business community, Equity and the Musicians' Union, the Keep Streets Live Campaign, the busking community and City of York Council.

Why do we need guidelines?

Buskers share streets and open spaces with everyone else who lives, works, trades and visits York city centre. The new guidelines aim to support a culture of consideration for others and negotiation to reduce potential conflicts of interests.

How will they work?

The guidance is based on the principles of mutual respect, compromise and cooperation. If an issue exists, then buskers and businesses are encouraged to talk it over together and resolve it amongst themselves.

What are the guidelines for buskers?

The new guidelines encourage buskers to exercise care, consideration and good judgement when busking in York. They encourage dialogue between buskers and yourselves as city centre businesses. They ask buskers to be mindful of noise levels, repetition of content, potential obstruction of thoroughfares and sensitive pitches. Buskers are encouraged to consider regular breaks and sharing pitches with others and should exercise courtesy in resolving any issues which may arise.
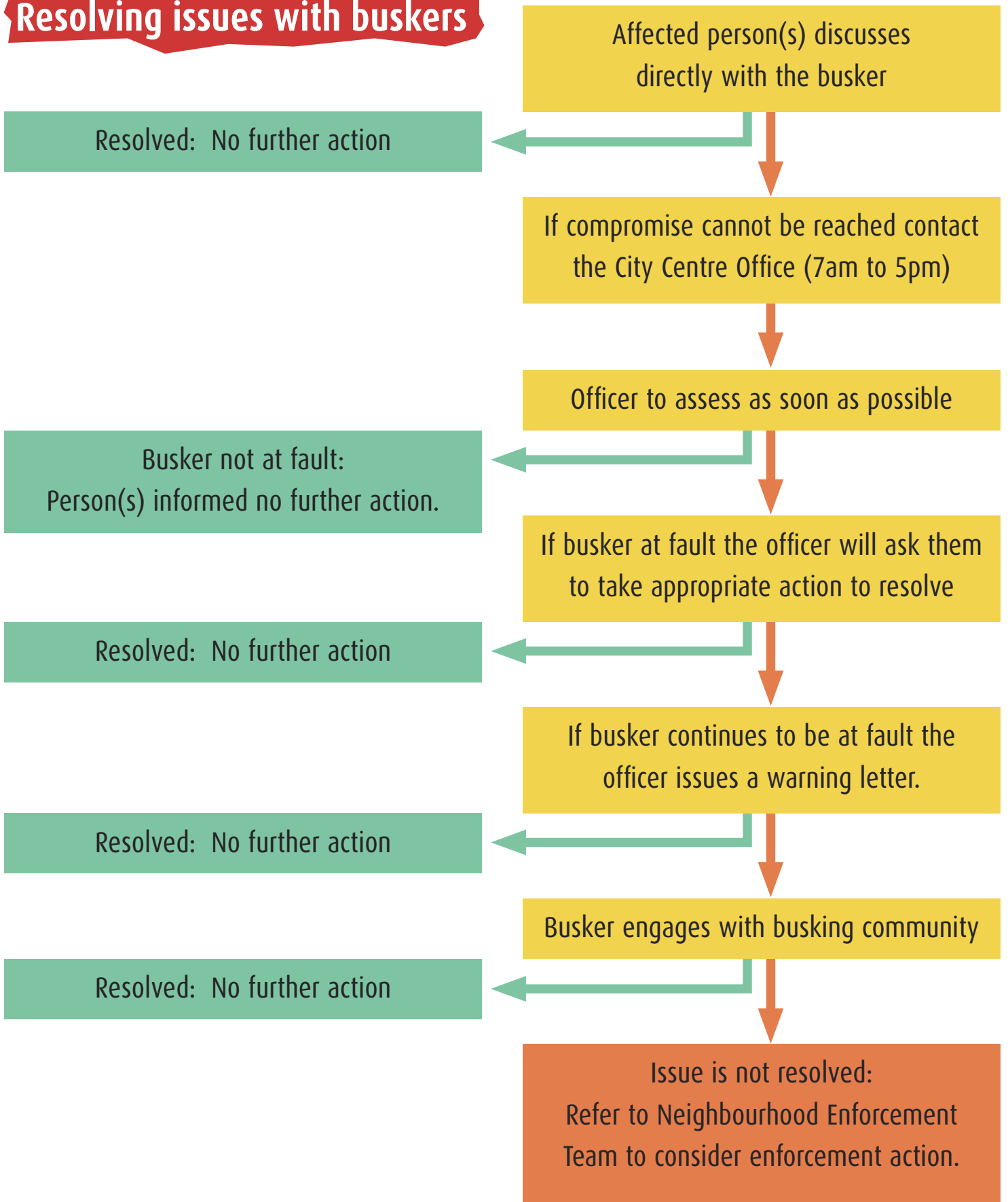
What are the guidelines for businesses?

Most issues can be resolved amicably if they are dealt with before they escalate and in most cases a formal complaint will not be needed. Legal enforcement powers will only be used as a last resort if there are persistent issues. The flow chart explains the actions you should take to resolve any issues with buskers, in the spirit of resolving your differences together.

- Wait for a suitable interval in the busker's performance before you approach
- Explain your issue calmly and politely. Buskers may not be aware of an issue
- Try to reach a compromise (and feel free to draw a busker's attention to this guidance)
- Contact the City Centre Office on 07983 956500 if a compromise cannot be reached and the issue remains. An officer will try to help resolve the issue.

If an officer is called they will assess the situation as soon as they are able. They will either ask the busker to change the performance or, if appropriate, let you know that they don't feel that there is an issue.

Resolving issues with buskers

Affected person(s) discusses directly with the busker

Resolved: No further action

If compromise cannot be reached contact the City Centre Office (7am to 5pm)

Officer to assess as soon as possible

Busker not at fault:
Person(s) informed no further action.

If busker at fault the officer will ask them to take appropriate action to resolve

Resolved: No further action

If busker continues to be at fault the officer issues a warning letter.

Resolved: No further action

Busker engages with busking community

Resolved: No further action

**Issue is not resolved:
Refer to Neighbourhood Enforcement Team to consider enforcement action.**

Enforcement as a last resort

In the event of a complaint that cannot be resolved between a complainant and a busker, following attendance by a City Centre Officer, an officer from the Neighbourhood Enforcement Team may attend to assess the situation. A warning letter may be issued. Ultimately enforcement action will be taken where necessary.

Further Details

You can pick up a copy of the full guidelines from the City Centre Office at 5 Silver Street or visit www.york.gov.uk/arts

Reviewing the guidance

All parties responsible for these guidelines will remain in discussion and will review the guidelines regularly and address any issues that arise.

If you have any enquiries please contact the City Centre Manager at **york-markets@york.gov.uk** or **01904 551355**.

Visit York
visityork.org

Musicians' Union mu

Equity

KEEP STREETS LIVE

CITY OF YORK COUNCIL

This information is available in your language

Polish
To jest roczny raport z działu usług mieszkaniowych ukazujący osiągnięte rzez nas wyniki oraz plany wdrożenia udoskonaleń. Niniejsze informacje mogą zostać dostarczone w Państwa własnym języku.

Turkish
Bu, konut hizmetlerinin performansımızı ve iyileştirme planlarımızı gösteren yıllık raporudur. Bu bilgiler sizin kendi lisanınızda sağlanabilir.

Cantonese
這是住房處年度報告，呈現有我們的績效和改善計畫。該資訊能以您的母語提供。

Please let us know if it would help to have this information in a different format. For example we can offer it by email, in large print, braille, as a spoken word CD or in another language.

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