



Place and Resources Overview Committee

Date: Thursday, 5 October 2023
Time: 10.00 am
Venue: Council Chamber, County Hall, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ

Members (Quorum: 3)

Carole Jones (Chairman), Les Fry (Vice-Chairman), Tony Alford, Toni Coombs, Ryan Hope, Sherry Jespersen, Val Potheary, Maria Roe, Andrew Starr and Roland Tarr

Chief Executive: Matt Prosser, County Hall, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1XJ

For more information about this agenda please contact Democratic Services Meeting Contact 01305 252209 / lindsey.watson@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting, apart from any items listed in the exempt part of this agenda.

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Agenda

Item		Pages
1.	APOLOGIES	
	To receive any apologies for absence.	
2.	MINUTES	5 - 8
	To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 27 July 2023.	
3.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
	To disclose any pecuniary, other registrable or non-registrable interests as set out in the adopted Code of Conduct. In making their disclosure councillors are asked to state the agenda item, the nature of the interest and any action they propose to take as part of their declaration.	

If required, further advice should be sought from the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting.

4. CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

To receive any updates from the Chairman of the Place and Resources Overview Committee.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Representatives of town or parish councils and members of the public who live, work, or represent an organisation within the Dorset Council area are welcome to submit either 1 question or 1 statement for each meeting. You are welcome to attend the meeting in person or via MS Teams to read out your question and to receive the response. If you submit a statement for the committee this will be circulated to all members of the committee in advance of the meeting as a supplement to the agenda and appended to the minutes for the formal record but will not be read out at the meeting. **The first 8 questions and the first 8 statements received from members of the public or organisations for each meeting will be accepted on a first come first served basis in accordance with the deadline set out below.** For further information read [Public Participation - Dorset Council](#)

All submissions must be emailed in full to lindsey.watson@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk by 8.30am on 2 October 2023.

When submitting your question or statement please note that:

- You can submit 1 question or 1 statement.
- a question may include a short pre-ambule to set the context.
- It must be a single question and any sub-divided questions will not be permitted.
- Each question will consist of no more than 450 words, and you will be given up to 3 minutes to present your question.
- when submitting a question please indicate who the question is for (e.g., the name of the committee or Portfolio Holder)
- Include your name, address, and contact details. Only your name will be published but we may need your other details to contact you about your question or statement in advance of the meeting.
- questions and statements received in line with the council's rules for public participation will be published as a supplement to the agenda.
- all questions, statements and responses will be published in full within the minutes of the meeting.

6. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

To receive questions submitted by councillors.

Councillors can submit up to two valid questions at each meeting and

sub divided questions count towards this total. Questions and statements received will be published as a supplement to the agenda and all questions, statements and responses will be published in full within the minutes of the meeting.

The submissions must be emailed in full to lindsey.watson@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk by 8.30am on 2 October 2023.

[Dorset Council Constitution](#) – Procedure Rule 13

7. REPORT ON THE FINDINGS FROM THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION FOR THE DOG RELATED PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER AND DRAFT ORDER 9 - 126

To consider a report of the Service Manager Environmental Protection.

8. PLACE AND RESOURCES OVERVIEW COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 127 - 138

To review the Place and Resources Overview Committee Work Programme.

To review the Cabinet Forward Plan.

9. URGENT ITEMS

To consider any items of business which the Chairman has had prior notification and considers to be urgent pursuant to section 100B (4) b) of the Local Government Act 1972. The reason for the urgency shall be recorded in the minutes.

10. EXEMPT BUSINESS

To move the exclusion of the press and the public for the following item in view of the likely disclosure of exempt information within the meaning of paragraph x of schedule 12 A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended). The public and the press will be asked to leave the meeting whilst the item of business is considered.

There are no exempt items scheduled for this meeting.

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PLACE AND RESOURCES OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 27 JULY 2023

Present: Cllrs Carole Jones (Chairman), Les Fry (Vice-Chairman), Tony Alford, Ryan Hope, Sherry Jespersen, Val Potheary, Maria Roe and Andrew Starr

Apologies: Cllrs Toni Coombs and Roland Tarr

Also present: Cllr Nocturin Lacey-Clarke

Also present remotely: Cllr Laura Beddow and Cllr Ray Bryan

Officers present (for all or part of the meeting):

John Sellgren (Executive Director of Place), Jonathan Mair (Director of Legal and Democratic and Monitoring Officer), Kate Tunks (Service Manager for Infrastructure and Assets), Owen Clark (Strategic and Policy Team Manager), Gemma Smith (Transport Planner), Lindsey Watson (Senior Democratic Services Officer) and Joshua Kennedy (Apprentice Democratic Services Officer)

18. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meetings held on 6 June and 28 June 2023 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

19. **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

20. **Chairman's Update**

The Chairman reminded councillors present to introduce themselves and state the ward they represented, when they spoke at the meeting. In addition, she noted that the recommendation for the item would be read out for clarity at the appropriate time.

21. **Public Participation**

There were no questions or statements from members of the public or local organisations.

22. **Questions from Councillors**

There were no questions from councillors.

23. Dorset and BCP joint Local Transport Plan 4 development

The committee received and considered a report of the Strategic and Policy Team Manager which provided an overview of the preparations for the new joint Dorset Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4) with Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council (BCP Council) and set out the joint approach to developing the new plan and the key milestones through to planned adoption in spring 2025. The committee was invited to consider the report and provide comments on the planned approach.

The Strategic and Policy Team Manager gave a presentation to provide an overview of the key issues. He also noted wording to be added to the end of recommendation 2 as set out in the report as follows: "...and Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Environment."

Councillors considered the issues arising from the report and during discussion, points were raised in the following areas:

- Support was expressed across the committee for the plans for the new Local Transport Plan including the move to vision-led planning to improve the lives of people and close links and alignment with the emerging local plan
- The importance of considering where development including housing was put, was noted
- A suggestion was made that meetings of the Joint Governance Board be conducted openly and that councillors were able to attend to listen to discussion and ask questions. It was noted that this could be considered
- The importance of communication and engagement was considered in terms of addressing the challenges faced and changing behaviours. A communications and engagement strategy was to be developed and these issues discussed with the public and stakeholders
- The Climate Executive Advisory Panel was to be convened to include discussion in these areas
- The timescale for receiving awaited guidance from government in this area, was discussed and the potential impact this could have on the timetable for the adoption of the plan. In the meantime, work was being undertaken including data gathering to assess priorities
- Issues around the Bus Service Improvement Plan were considered, including discussions taking place with local MPs, and work in this area continued, although it was noted this was separate to the LTP process. A bus user and stakeholders' group was in place which councillors could feed comments into
- The alignment of public transport timetables was being considered
- The need to work closely with planning and housing was recognised in terms of transport planning and the need to consider the promotion of schemes such as community car schemes to get people to essential services. It was acknowledged that the emerging local plan and LTP needed to be fully integrated
- The different needs and challenges of the Dorset Council and BCP Council areas were recognised and it was noted that there would be two separate implementation plans

- A point was noted that safe transport for women and girls was a principle that should run through development of the plan
- The approach to collecting evidence and data in the development of the plan was discussed
- The engagement list would be reviewed and developed.

..... The Chairman read out the recommendation including the addition of the wording “...and Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Environment’ to the end of recommendation 2. In addition, the Chairman noted that a recommendation would be included that meetings of the Joint Governance Board be conducted openly and that councillors were able to attend meetings to listen to the discussion and ask questions.

It was proposed by S Jespersen seconded by V Potheary.

Recommendation to Cabinet

1. That Cabinet considers the report and notes the comments of the Place and Resources Overview Committee on the approach for the development of the new joint LTP4 as set out in the minute extract of the meeting.
2. That responsibility for the development of the new joint LTP4 is delegated to the Corporate Director Economic Growth and Infrastructure and Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Environment.
3. That the meetings of the Joint Governance Board be conducted openly and that councillors are able to attend meetings to listen to the discussion and ask questions.

24. Place and Resources Overview Committee Work Programme

Councillors noted the committee’s work programme and item scheduled for the next meeting. In addition, councillors noted the Cabinet Forward Plan.

A review of policies was to be undertaken and prioritised for review by the committee.

25. Urgent items

There were no urgent items.

26. Exempt Business

There was no exempt business.

Duration of meeting: 10.00 - 10.50 am

Chairman

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Place and Resources Overview Committee 5 October 2023

Report on the findings from the Public Consultation for the Dog Related Public Spaces Protection Order and draft Order

For Recommendation to Cabinet

Portfolio Holder: Cllr L Beddow, Culture and Communities

Local Councillor(s): Impact on all wards

Executive Director: J Sellgren, Executive Director of Place

Report Author: Janet Moore

Job Title: Service Manager Environmental Protection

Tel: 01305 838413

Email: janet.moore@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Report Status: Public

Brief Summary:

This report summarises the findings from a Dog-related Public Spaces Protection Order public consultation undertaken between June and August 2023. Informed by the consultation, it proposes the new draft Dog-related Public Spaces Protection Order 2024 (PSPO) which will replace the existing Public Spaces Protection Order. The report outlines the provisions for the Council area for a period of 3 years from 1 January 2024 until the 31 December 2026.

The recommendations from your Committee will be considered by Cabinet at their meeting on 7 November 2023.

Recommendations:

Members of the Committee consider and comment on the outcome of

1. the Public Consultation Report, Appendix A,
2. the draft PSPO 2024, Appendix B,
3. the Equality Impact Assessment, Appendix C, and
4. that the draft PSPO, or as amended, be recommended to Cabinet.

Reason for Recommendations:

To protect public health, safety and animal welfare.

To provide a new PSPO as required by the Anti-social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014.

To assist with the efficient use of enforcement resources.

To recognise the public's support, through the consultation responses, for certain restrictions required for public safety.

To recognise and implement the requirements of the Equality legislation.

1. Report

- 1.1.1 For a PSPO to be made, the elements within it must meet the following two conditions which are prescribed in the legislation.

Condition 1

Activities carried out in a public place within the authority's area have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those living in the locality, or

It is likely that the activities will be carried out in a public place within that area and they will have such an effect.

Condition 2

The effect or likely effect of the activities:

Is or is likely to be of a persistent or continuing nature;

Is or is likely to be, such as to make the activities unreasonable; and

Justifies the restrictions imposed by the order.

Both conditions must be satisfied but Members are asked to be particularly mindful of condition 2 when including any proposed land that is to have a dog restriction placed on it. The inclusion of any restriction should be proportional to need.

- 1.1.2 An Order, as well as meeting the above tests, must be fair, proportionate, and consistent with the principles related to public safety and public health

- to enable dog owners and non-dog owners to enjoy public open spaces. It must be able to be enforceable without having detrimental impact on those that are vulnerable or reliant on assistance from dogs.
- 1.1.3 The issue of dog restrictions in public places can be polarising and the Council should seek to achieve a balance between public health, public safety, human and animal welfare.
 - 1.1.4 A small team of Animal Welfare & Dog Control Officers are responsible for raising awareness around dog issues, education and enforcement. They also undertake a range of other animal welfare duties such as the licensing of premises used for boarding and sale. Their work is essential in helping keep Dorset a great place for people and dogs alike and can be helped by responsible dog ownership.
 - 1.1.5 Authorised officers enforce the provisions of the PSPO by patrolling and investigating complaints. They can require owners to control their dogs where for example the dog is not under control, shows aggressive tendencies or is causing antisocial behaviour. Fixed Penalty Notices can be issued for non-compliance and/or prosecution for certain offences at a Magistrates Court. An important role of the officers is to raise awareness of the provisions of an Order. Officers take a proportionate approach to enforcement, seeking to raise awareness and educate in the first instance.
 - 1.1.6 Only suggested provisions in the public consultation can be considered for inclusion in the Order. These were drawn from the current Order and good practice information. Any suggested provisions outside the scope of the consultation would require a further consultation exercise. However, a PSPO has to be reviewed and re-made within 3 years and other provisions can be considered at that time.
 - 1.1.7 Where a restriction applies, the landowner can apply to Dorset Council for a consent to ensure that we do not undertake enforcement on that land. The PSPO takes precedent over any other legal provision (e.g. byelaws).
 - 1.1.8 The draft Order looks to maintain most of the restrictions that are currently in place, confirmed by majority public support in the consultation.
 - 1.1.9 The consultation had a high level of participation with 4221 responses and included good representation of respondent ages, dog owners and non-dog owners.

1.1.10 Consultation information was sent to all Parish and Town Councils, alongside Dorset Police and the Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner who are statutory consultees. Other consultees included community representatives, organisations representing dog ownership or equality diversity and inclusion and all relevant landowners. Any significant additional commentary from these organisations is summarised in Appendix A. No responses have been received from Dorset Police or the Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner.

1.1.11 We wish to thank participants for their contributions.

1.1.12 In terms of representative responses, over 80% were from local residents. The majority of responses were from White British (80%), female (65%) and over 65 (33%), which is typical of the Dorset population. The response rate of people recognising themselves having a disability was 9.5%, a higher level than that of the 2020 public consultation which was 6.6% This reflects the comparative levels in the 2011 and 2021 Census.

1.1.13 Approximately 2/3rd of respondents were from dog owners. This is similar to the 2020 response rate.

1.1.14 The recommended provisions below follow the order of the Consultation Report with an officer recommendation given in each case. The first bracketed figure is the % response from the 2023 consultation. A second bracketed figure gives a comparative response rate from the 2020 public consultation. In some provisions the comparator hasn't been included because the 2020 question was worded or framed differently.

1.2 Proposed Provisions - generic provisions

1.2.1 Clearance of dog fouling and appropriate disposal from public open spaces. Page 7 of the consultation report and the proposed open spaces listed in Schedule 1 of the draft Order. This received almost universal support (99% 2023), (97% 2020).

Recommended for inclusion.

1.2.2 Maximum lead length of 2m where required, page 7 and the areas are listed in Schedule 3 of the draft Order. This received significant support (82% 2023), (75% 2020). There was some commentary suggesting that it should be considered on a site-by-site basis. A consistent approach is recommended as variations could be considerable and confusing to the public.

Recommended for inclusion.

- 1.2.3 Dogs on lead as directed by an authorised officer, maximum lead length 2m, page 8. This received almost universal support (96% 2023), (92% 2020).

Recommended for inclusion.

1.3 Proposed Provisions - dogs on leads, generic locations

- 1.3.1 Municipal cemeteries, church and graveyards, where dogs are permitted, page 9. Received almost universal support (91% 2023), (85% 2020)

Recommended for inclusion.

- 1.3.2 Public formal gardens, page 10. Received significant support (80% 2023), (65% 2020). Some commentary was received on providing zoned areas and allowing off lead in part, however given the number of locations, this was considered a potentially confusing measure for the public and would require significant additional signage.

Recommended for inclusion.

- 1.3.3 Council owned allotments where permitted, page 11. Received significant support (75% 2023), (65% 2020).

Recommended for inclusion.

- 1.3.4 Council owned car parks, page 12. Received significant support (92% 2023), (85% 2020)

Recommended for inclusion.

- 1.3.5 Within 5m of marked sports pitches, page 13. Received significant support (80% 2023), (70% 2020). There was some commentary about adopting a non-blanket approach - considering the restriction only when the pitch is being used for sport. However, the risk of residual dog fouling near to the pitch remains a concern.

Recommended for inclusion.

- 1.4 **Proposed Provisions - dogs on leads, specific locations.** Page 14 of the consultation report.

- 1.4.1 Rodwell Trail, Weymouth. A well-used urban cycle and footway connecting the outlying wards to Weymouth town. The responses were

divided, 48% were in favour, 24% favoured no restriction and 28% didn't know. The majority were in favour of continuing the restriction. Dog owners were less supportive of dogs being on a lead but 52% of residents responding were in favour of retention. DCN, Cycling UK and West Dorset commented on a cleaner and safer space since the introduction of the requirement to keep dogs on lead. This is a very popular location, and the Order should reflect the necessity to reduce the risk of fouling to as low as possible.

Recommended for inclusion.

- 1.4.2 West Bay Harbour side and Esplanades. Received majority support (61% 2023), (67% 2020). No significant theme identified in open text commentary.

Recommended for inclusion.

- 1.4.3 Lyme Regis pathways etc. adjacent to the Front/Town Beach. Received majority support (63% 2023), (68% 2020). No significant theme identified in open text commentary.

Recommended for inclusion.

- 1.4.4 Weymouth Esplanade. Received majority support (67% 2023), (77% 2020). No significant theme identified in open text commentary.

Recommended for inclusion.

- 1.4.5 Swanage. The Parade and adjacent roads leading to the Beach. Received majority support (60% 2023), (75% 2020). No significant theme identified in open text commentary.

Recommended for inclusion.

- 1.4.6 Studland. Access to Knoll Beach and Middle Beach from the car park, including the car park and staircases. Received majority support (57% 2023), (60% 2020). No responses were received from Studland Town Council.

Recommended for inclusion.

- 1.4.7 Studland beaches are managed by the National Trust on behalf of Natural England. As agents of the land, they have requested that all of the Studland beaches are dogs on lead restricted. The consultation restricted

the questions to just Shell Bay beach and Knoll Beach, to enable an area of these beaches to be restriction free in the summer months.

For Shell Bay beach (1st May to 30th September) the responses were divided, 49% in favour, in favour of no restriction 33% and 18% don't know. The majority was therefore in favour the retain the restriction. The opinion of dog-owners vs non-dog owners was stark. An overwhelming 84% of non-dog owners and only 30% of dog owners wanted the restriction retained.

Recommended for inclusion.

- 1.4.8 Studland Beach known as Knoll Beach (not including Middle Beach), (1st May to 30th September) The responses were the same as Studland Shell Beach above. This enables enforcement of the restricted beaches in the summer months to run from the entrance on Knoll beach by the National Trust Centre up to the ferry.

Recommended for inclusion.

- 1.4.9 Studland – Ferry Road, from Studland Beach car park to South Coast end marker, Shell beach National Trust Car Park and access routes to Shell Beach. Received majority support (57% 2023).

Recommended for inclusion.

- 1.4.10 Charmouth, Lower Sea Lane Car Parks and surrounding areas leading to the Beach. Received majority support (56% 2023), (64% 2020).

Recommended for inclusion.

1.5 Proposed Provisions - dog exclusion areas, generic. Page 24 of the consultation report.

- 1.5.1 Recreation areas, including skateboard parks, tennis and basketball courts, bowling and putting greens, enclosed play parks, sporting or recreational facilities and athletics tracks. Received majority support (64% 2023), (55% 2020)

Recommended for inclusion.

- 1.5.2 Marked Sports Pitches. Received majority support (60% 2023). Restrictions to apply only when in use or during the playing season received only limited support.

Recommended for inclusion.

1.6 Proposed Provisions – generic beach restrictions – Page 27 of the consultation document. (Maps are produced to support the Order by clearly delineating areas where restrictions apply).

- 1.6.1 Fixed time period for summer restriction. Continuing the fixed period of 1 May to 30 September for relevant Beach restrictions received majority support (51%).

Of those that did not support this time period (32%), 71% wanted the beaches without restriction between 19:00 and 08:00. BCP Council do not allow dogs on beaches at any time during the exclusion period so in retaining our restriction we have consistency across Dorset. There is potential for increased incidence of residual fouling and encroachment into the exclusion period.

Recommended for inclusion.

1.7 Proposed Provisions - specific beach locations

- 1.7.1 Swanage, Central Beach. Received majority support (76% 2023), (60% 2020). No significant theme identified in open text commentary. Swanage Town Council had general concerns about dog fouling within the Town.

Recommended for inclusion.

- 1.7.2 Lyme Regis, Front/Town Beach, summer restriction. Received majority support (53% 2023), (47% 2020).

Recommended for inclusion.

- 1.7.3 Lyme Regis, Front Town Beach winter restriction (1 October to the 30 April) requirement to keep dogs on lead. Did not receive majority support with 46% in favour of maintaining the restriction and 54% in favour of no restriction. (40% and 58% respectively 2020). Lyme Regis Town Council wanted an option for an extended exclusion period. In setting the parameters for the consultation, this was not seen as a proportionate choice.

Officers are concerned that there is limited suitable alternative space to exercise a dog off lead during the winter months. Officers have considered adjacent beaches and found them unsuitable as they are either slippery or unstable underfoot for those with mobility issues. No open green spaces are available without climbing a gradient.

There is no evidence of significant use of this beach area by families and children compared with other beaches in Dorset without restrictions, nor increased level of subsequent risk from dog attacks or fouling contamination.

Not recommended for inclusion.

- 1.7.4 Chideock, Seatown Beach. No overall majority with 50% for and 50% against, the same as 2020. No representation made from the Wraxall Estate, the landowner. This is a long stretch of beach and zoning was suggested by a limited amount of people.

Recommended for inclusion.

- 1.7.5 West Bay - East Beach and West Beach. Received majority support (59% 2023). No significant theme identified in open text commentary.

Recommended for Inclusion.

- 1.7.6 Charmouth, West beach. The responses were divided with 51% in favour of the restriction and 49% wanting no restriction. The commentary was also divided in terms of support.

Recommended for inclusion.

- 1.7.7 Weymouth, Central (except exercise area at the Pavilion end) and Greenhill Beaches. Received Majority support (67% 2023), (59% 2020). Some limited commentary on the current location of the beach exercise area and relocating to the Greenhill end.

Recommended for Inclusion.

2 Financial Implications

The new PSPO may require changes to existing signage. The cost of changes and replacement of routine signage will be met from the existing budget.

3 Natural Environment, Climate & Ecology Implications

The provisions are specifically related to human public health and dog welfare. The protection of the environment in terms of ecology is not a purpose of the Order.

Some restrictions on open spaces may cause dog owners to travel further by car to exercise their dogs which would add to the carbon load.

4 Well-being and Health Implications

Keeping public open spaces free from dog fouling is a high priority for our residents as is the safe use of parks and open spaces by all. Dog fouling is unpleasant and can spread disease. Having adequate control over a dog by placing it on a lead helps ensure that the owner can see if the dog fouls and ensures the dog is under the owner's control.

Dogs not under the owner's control can cause injury to people and other animals and be a public hazard.

5 Other Implications

For animal welfare reasons and the well-being of dog owners it is also important to have appropriate areas to exercise dogs off-lead when there is reduced risk to others.

6 Risk Assessment

HAVING CONSIDERED: the risks associated with this decision; the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk: Medium

Residual Risk: Low

7 Equalities Impact Assessment

An EqIA for the proposed Order is given at Appendix C.

Assistance dogs was considered by the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Reference Group at their meeting in July 2023 and their comments have

further shaped the assessment. The EqIA will continue to be updated as the Order is implemented.

Exemptions to compliance and enforcement practices have been informed by the EqIA and in line with guidance issued by the ECHR addressing issues such as assistance dogs, reduced mobility of some dog owners and the understanding of signage.

8 Appendices

Appendix A – Dog-related PSPO Public Consultation Response Report 2024

Appendix B - Dog-related Public Spaces Protection Order 2024 (draft)

Appendix C – EqIA Dog-related Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) 2024

Appendix D - Public Consultation Findings Infographic 2024

9 Background Papers

[Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, Chapter 2](#)

[Anti-social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014, Anti-social Behaviours Powers, Statutory Guidance for Frontline Professionals, Revised March 2023](#)

[The Local Government Association, Public Spaces Protection Order, Guidance for Councils, 2018](#)

[Equality Act 2010: Guidance](#)

[EHRC, Assistance Dogs: a guide for all businesses](#)

[Dorset Council, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy 2021-2024](#)

[Dealing with irresponsible dog ownership: Practitioners Guide, DEFRA, 2017](#)

[Dorset Council Website, Dog related PSPO](#)

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Proposed Dog - Related Public Spaces Protection Order **Consultation Response Report**

Produced by Consultation and Engagement Team
for Dorset Council

September 2023

Consultation Response Report

<p>What was the consultation about?</p>	<p>The existing Dog Related Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) will expire on the 31 December 2023.</p> <p>Dorset Council is required to consult with the public and other stakeholders on the content of a new or revised PSPO.</p> <p>The PSPO clarifies the controls for dog owners and non-owners on public spaces across the Dorset Council area.</p> <p>The Order is restrictive in nature so, it is important to make sure any restrictions are proportionate and consistent across the Dorset Council area.</p> <p>The new PSPO may see changes to the previous Order dependent upon the views expressed.</p>
<p>Over what period did the consultation run?</p>	<p>The consultation originally ran for 10 weeks finishing on Friday 25 August 2023.</p>
<p>What consultation methods were used?</p>	<p>The consultation was available both electronically online and in paper form from local libraries and via post upon request.</p> <p>The consultation was promoted widely through both the local press and social media. The consultation had a separate communications plan and consultation plan prepared beforehand.</p>
<p>How many responses were received overall?</p>	<p>4,221 overall responses were received.</p> <p>Although roughly half of the responses received compared with the 2020 consultation, this still demonstrates the strong feeling over this issue.</p> <p>Moreover, with one in four households in the UK owning a dog and around a 5% increase in ownership over the last few years this high response was anticipated.</p>
<p>How representative is the response to the wider population?</p>	<p>80.8% of responses were from local residents, 16.4% from visitors, 0.9% from councillors, 1.1% from businesses and 0.8% from representatives of organisations.</p> <p>There were more female respondents than male (a much higher percentage than the Dorset population generally), older age groups did not dominate the responses, but the younger ones were lower than expected.</p> <p>With 88.1% of the respondents saying their ethnic group was White British this is typical of the wider Dorset population.</p>

	Responses from disabled people were quite high at 9.6% compared to an approximate Dorset figure of 4.6% based on those claiming either Disability Living Allowance, Personal Independence Payments or Attendance Allowance
Where will the results be published?	Results will be published on the council's website www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk
How will the results be used?	Any changes that we make to the previous order will depend upon the views expressed. Councillors will make the final decision on the controls included in the new Order, having reviewed the feedback received during the consultation.
Who has produced this report?	Chantel Ingarfield, Senior Consultation Officer, Dorset Council September 2023

Background

The intention of the PSPO is to tackle irresponsible dog ownership which is detrimental to the local community's quality of life so that everyone can use and enjoy public spaces safely. The broad aim is to reduce the risk of fouling, dog bites or other aggressive behaviours, whilst recognising the welfare needs of dogs and the positive contribution they bring to society.

The PSPO incorporates restrictions at specific beaches and land used for certain activities such as enclosed children's play areas and parks. The current PSPO will expire on the 31 December 2023 and Dorset Council is seeking the views of the public on the contents of the next PSPO which will run from 1 January 2024 until the 31 December 2026.

Whilst the consultation is an opportunity for people – residents, business owners, organisations and visitors - to have their say on the current restrictions and whether they would like to retain them or make any changes, the Council will continue to prioritise proportionality and consistency in any restriction when drafting the new Order. Rules must be unambiguous and easy to follow, helping residents and visitors understand and comply with the requirements.

The Consultation

This consultation survey was directed at both dog owners and non-dog owners, businesses and organisations. It covered a wide range of issues from fouling, lead length, taking dogs out in public places like playing fields. It also specifically looked at a range of beaches and asked about what controls people felt were appropriate on those beaches. It asked about bringing in standard controls over a set period of time for all beaches where controls are being considered. As the consultation was about creating legal orders the questions were quite specific, quite numerous and comprehensive. Very few questions were compulsory. A copy of all comments is available in spreadsheet form.

Analysis Method

Questions were considered on an individual basis. Overall responses were examined - and also specific responses of respondents who responded with a disability. The official organisational responses were looked at separately as were the responses from dog owners and non-dog owners. The main method of analysis was looking at the percentage of respondents who expressed a view on each question. For open question the text comments have been studied and coded depending on what issues were raised. The coded comments are then reported on based on the number of times those individual issues have been raised. Note: some figures may not sum due to rounding.

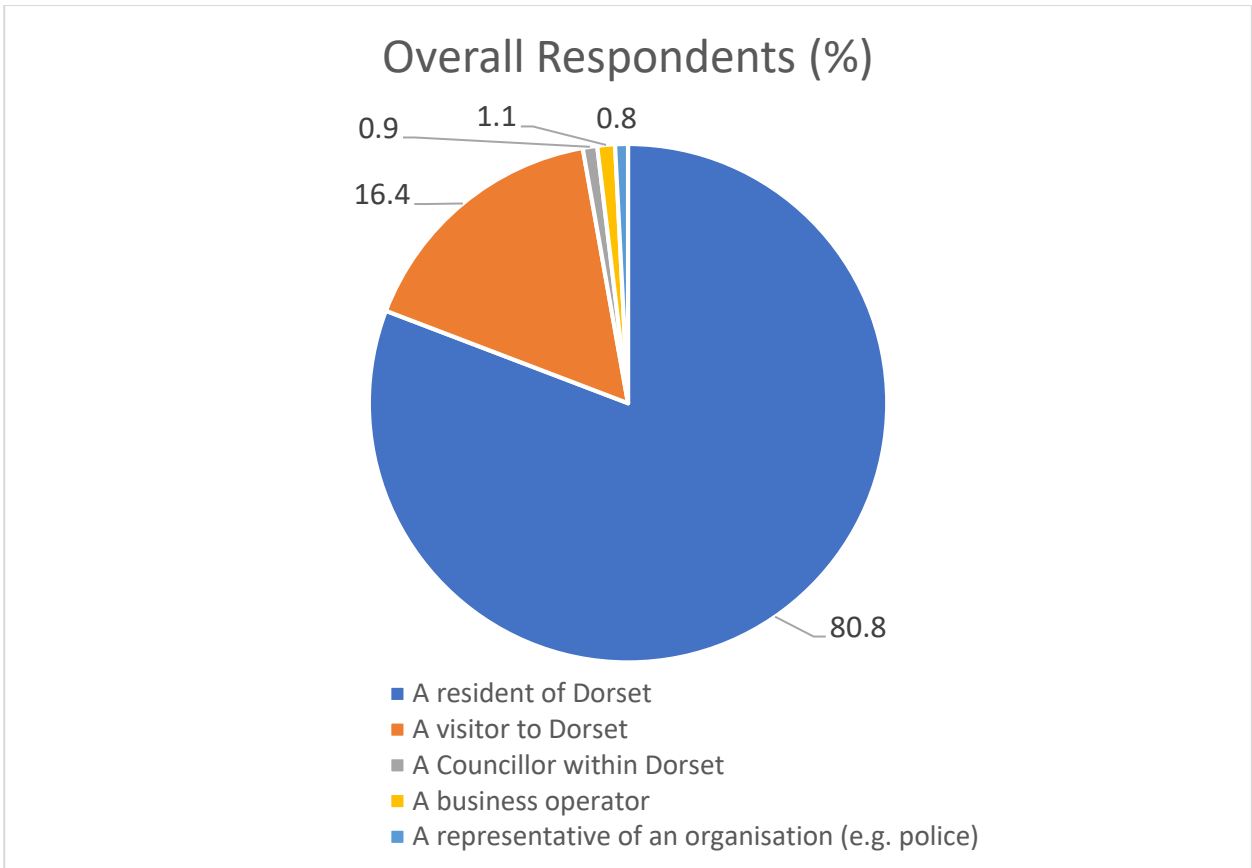
About respondents

4,221 overall responses were received.

Q Are you responding as:

Respondents:

	Total	Percent
A resident of Dorset	3410	80.8%
A visitor to Dorset	692	16.4%
A councillor within Dorset	37	0.9%
A business operator	48	1.1%
A representative of an organisation (e.g. police)	34	0.8%

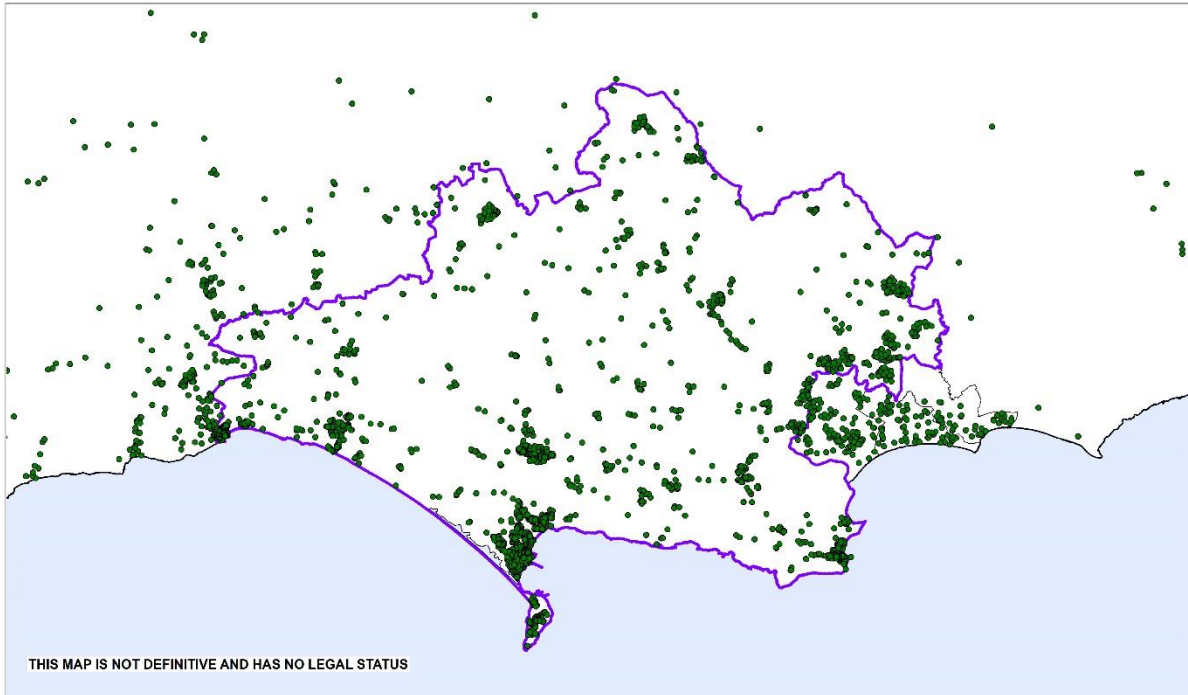


80.8% of responses came from Dorset residents and a further 16.4% from visitors to the county. 1.1% of respondents were from business operators. Further responses came from councillors and organisations. 398 disabled people responded and these will be considered separately.

Map of responses to the consultation

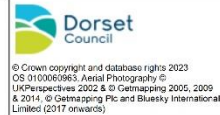
The map shows the distribution of overall responses to the consultation demonstrating a good spread across the geographical area. Promotion of the consultation appears to have been successful across all areas.

Of the 4.201 responses that could be geocoded, analysis of the postcodes of people responding from within the wider Dorset area shows 75.4% of responses come from the Dorset Council area and 24.6% from the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) and other areas outside Dorset Council.



Responses to Consultation on Dog Related Public Space Protection Order
by home postcode

Ref:
Date: 06/09/2023
Cent X: 375,806
Cent Y: 101,591



Official Organisational Responses

25 organisations provided an official response.

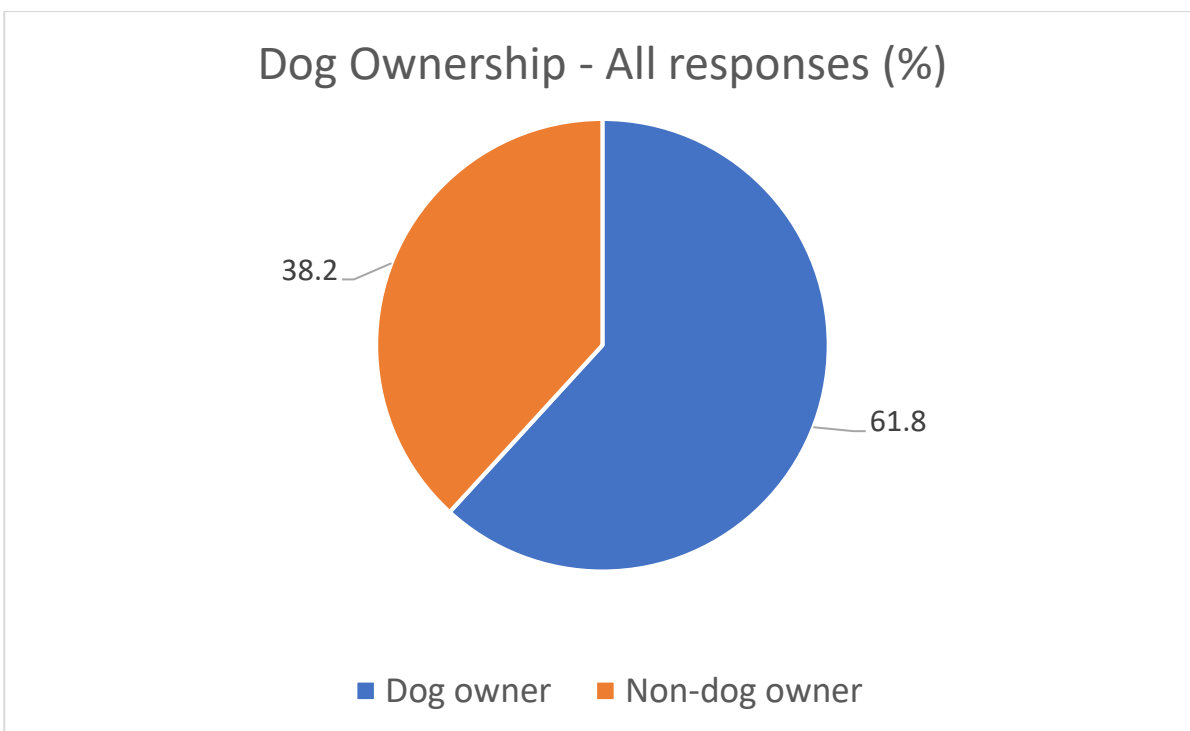
Organisational Responses
Axe Vale Dog Training Club
Silton Parish Council
Fontmell Magna Parish Council
Town Council
Allsort'd C.I.C
Weymouth Portland Marine Litter Project CIC
Charlton Marshall Parish Council Clerk
Verwood Town Council
Broadmayne Parish Council
National Trust
Chickerell Town Council
Wareham St Martin Parish Council
Wimborne Minster Town Council
Dorchester Town Council
Swanage Town Council
Harbour Authority
Support Chris Packham (Facebook, Reddit, Twitter & Instagram group and page with a reach of 10 million people+)
Weymouth Town Council

Ranger Dorset Council
Lyme Regis Town Council
Open spaces society
Friends of the Rodwell Trail and Sandsfoot Castle Gardens
DCN, Cycling UK and West Dorset Cycling
Doggone Shame Lyme Regis and Lyme Regis Loving Dog Owners, Visitors & Friends
Dog Friendly Weymouth & Portland

Dog Ownership

Q. Do you own a dog?

	Total	Percent
Yes	2610	61.8%
No	1611	38.2%



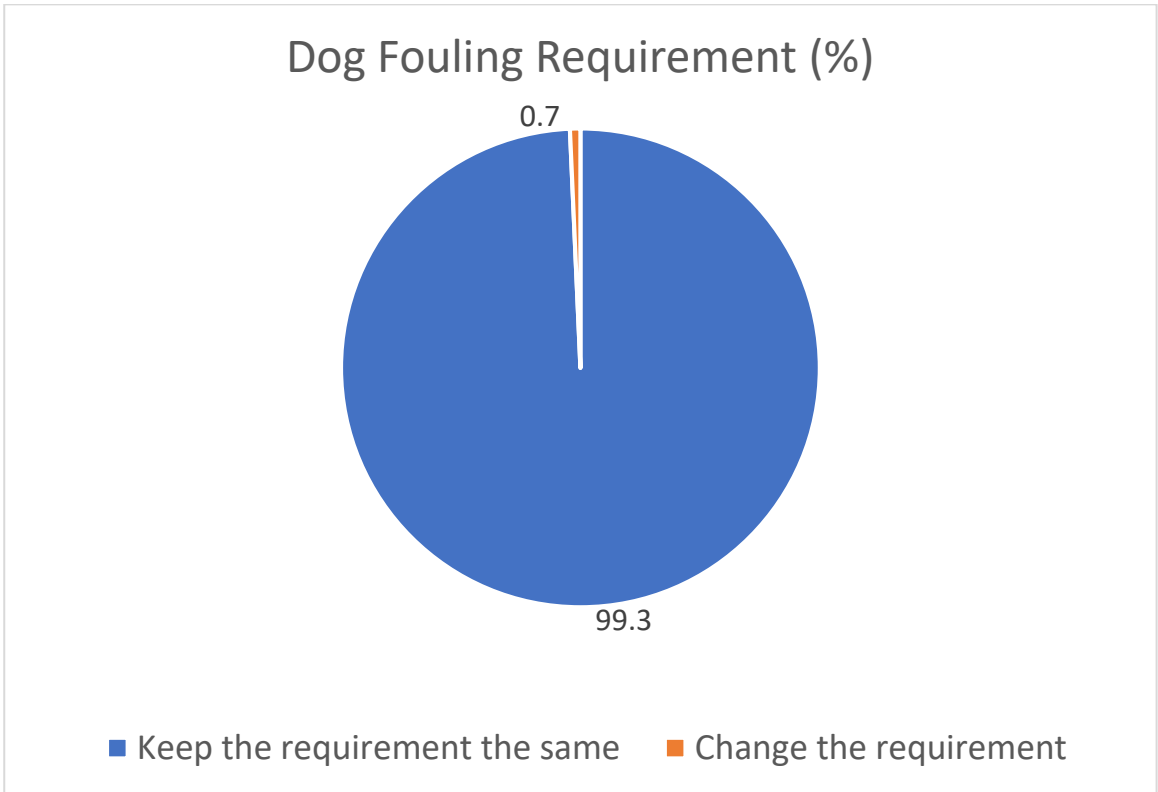
Overall, 61.8% (2,610) responses came from dog owners, a slight dip compared to 64% (5,403) in the 2020 survey and 38.2% (1,611) from non-dog owners a slight rise from the 2020 which was 36% (3,036). Of the residents responding 58.8% owned a dog and 41.2% didn't. However, 78% of the visitors responding were dog owners.

Dog Fouling

The current PSPO requires the clearing up and appropriate disposal of dog fouling in public spaces.

Q. Do you think this should be retained?

	Total	Percent
Yes	4187	99.3%
No	30	0.7%



The majority of responses regarding clearing up after your dog in public were in favour of retaining the requirement at 99.3%. Only 0.7% of respondents saw the need for any change.

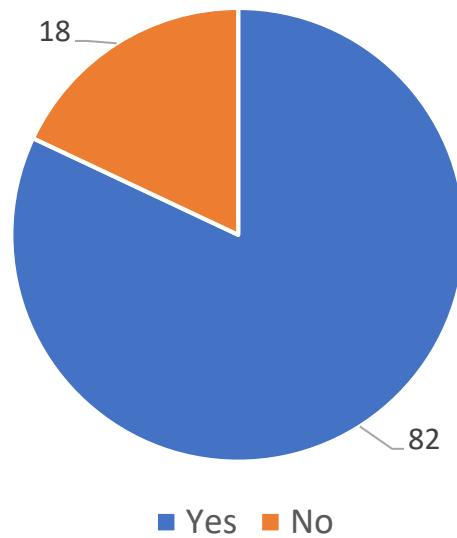
Maximum lead length

The current PSPO requires a dog to be on a lead, either by direction or when in a specific area. In these situations, and locations, the maximum lead length is two meters (six feet, six inches) to ensure control of a dog and to protect pedestrians, other dogs, and cyclists.

Q. Would you like to see the retention of a maximum lead length as part of the 'on lead' requirement?

	Total	Percent
Yes	3458	82%
No	760	18%

Retain maximum lead length of 2 meters (%)



There is considerable support for a lead length limited to 2m with **82%** from overall respondents. The support for this lead length has grown overall from to **75.2%** for responses made after the correction in 2020. The difference from 2023 compared to 2020 survey for retention of maximum length is **significant at 95% confidence**.

Looking specifically at the overall responses from dog owners and non - dog owners. 73.2% of dog owners support the 2m lead whilst 96.3% of non-dog owners support the retention of the restricted lead length. However, in summary, over eight out of every ten dog owners support the lead restriction. In addition, 98.7% of disabled people agreed that that the 2m lead length should be retained.

Dogs on lead ‘by direction’

The dogs on lead ‘by direction’ requirement allows certain authorised officers, such as Dorset Council Animal Welfare and Dog Control officers, to require a dog be put on a lead in any public open space if there is a safety risk to another animal or people nearby.

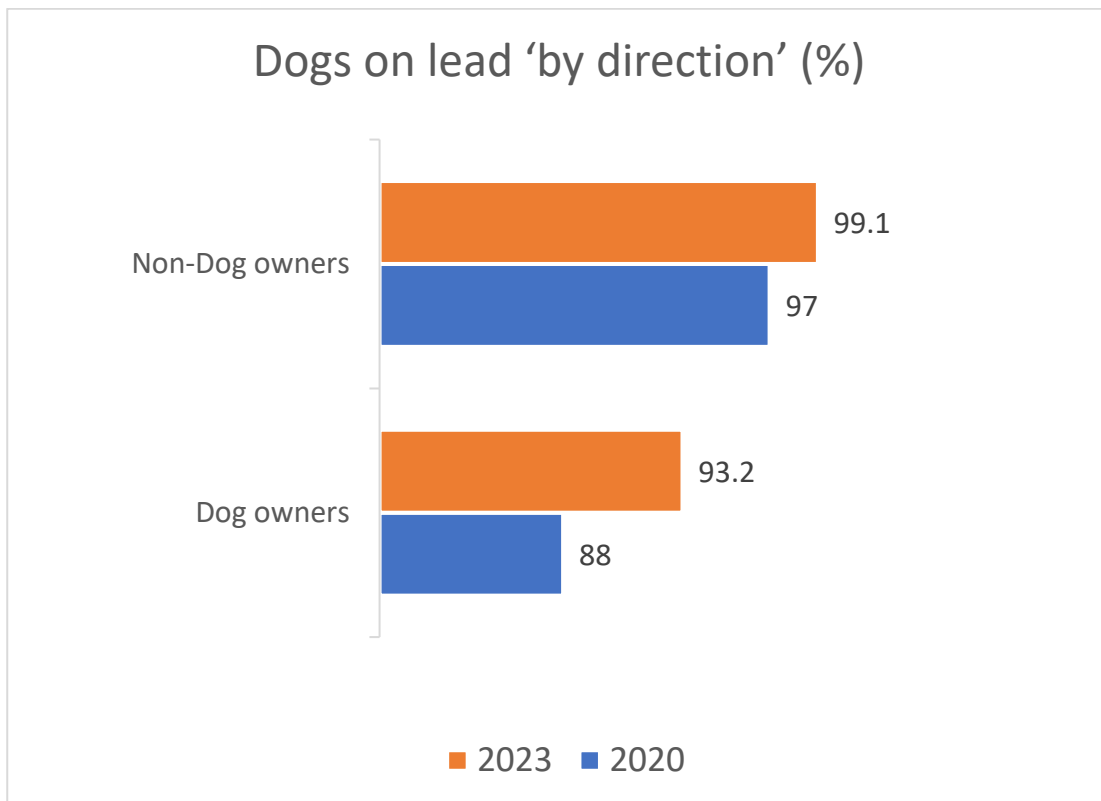
Q. Should this requirement be retained?

	Total	Percent
Yes	4026	95.5%
No	192	4.6%

An overwhelming amount of **95.5% support the proposal** to allow authorised officers to require a dog to be put on a lead. Only than 4.6% opposed this proposal. In 2020, **91.8% (7,866)** responded they ‘would prefer that dogs must be put on a lead if directed to do so by an authorised officer’. Compared to the current results, this was **significantly lower at 95% confidence**.

In terms of dog ownerships, both groups have largely supported this requirement to be retained with 93.2% from dog owners, 99.1% from non-dog owners. There has been a slight increase in support from both groups since the consultation proposal in 2020 as seen in the chart below. Additionally, 89.9% of those who identified themselves as visitors and 95.6% of our residents supported the dogs on lead 'by direction' requirement to be retained.

94.7% of those with disability who responded to the survey also agreed the requirement should be retained. Overall, this suggests the requirement has been a positively received and the public are keen for it to remain in place.



Dogs on lead

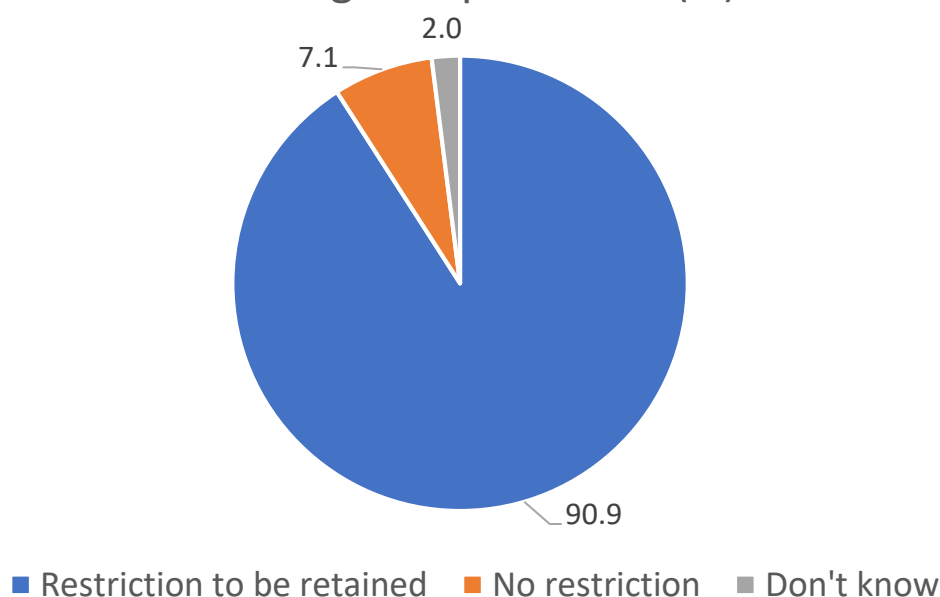
The current PSPO names areas where dogs are required to be kept on a lead at all times. These include specific roads, parks, gardens and other open spaces.

Q. Should a 'dogs on lead' restriction be retained in the following areas?

Municipal cemeteries and graveyards, where dogs are permitted.

	Total	Percent
Restriction to be retained	3820	90.9%
No restriction	298	7.1%
Don't know	84	2%

Municipal cemeteries and graveyards, where dogs are permitted (%)



90.9% of overall responses clearly support including a ‘dogs on leads’ requirement in all municipal cemeteries & graveyards, where dogs are permitted. Comparing it with the 2020 results of **85.4% (7,303)**, shows that this year’s support is **significantly higher at 95% confidence**.

Amongst the dog owners and non-dog owners’ responses there is still 87.1% support from dog owners and a higher 97.1% support from non-dog owners. Responses from visitors in support of the restriction being retained was 86.3%.

92% of Councillors within Dorset responding supported this proposal, unsurprising as some councils own municipal cemeteries. 77.1% of business operators also supported the retention of this restriction. Of those respondents who stated they were representative of an organisation 94.1% supported the restriction.

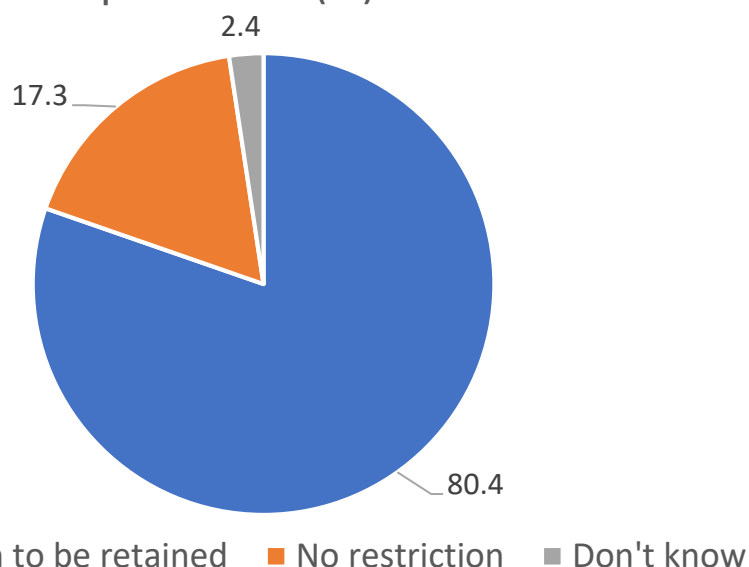
86.4%% of disabled respondents would like to retain a ‘dogs on leads’ restriction.

* The groups, councillors within Dorset, business operators and representatives of organisations had small base sizes of circa 34 respondents.

Public/formal gardens where dogs are permitted.

	Total	Percent
Restriction to be retained	3369	80.4%
No restriction	724	17.3%
Don't know	100	2.4%

Public/formal gardens where dogs are permitted (%)



At **80.4%** from overall responses there is support for including a 'dogs on leads' requirement in public/formal gardens, where dogs are permitted. In comparison, the results from 2020 where only 65.3% (5,566) supported the proposed restriction, is **significantly lower than the current response at 95% confidence**.

Comparing dog owners and non-dog owners' responses there is still 70.5% support from dog owners and a higher 96.3% support from non-dog owners. Interestingly, responses from visitors were slightly higher than the overall figure, with 86.3% supporting the retention of the restriction, a vast difference from the 2020 results where only 56% had supported the proposal.

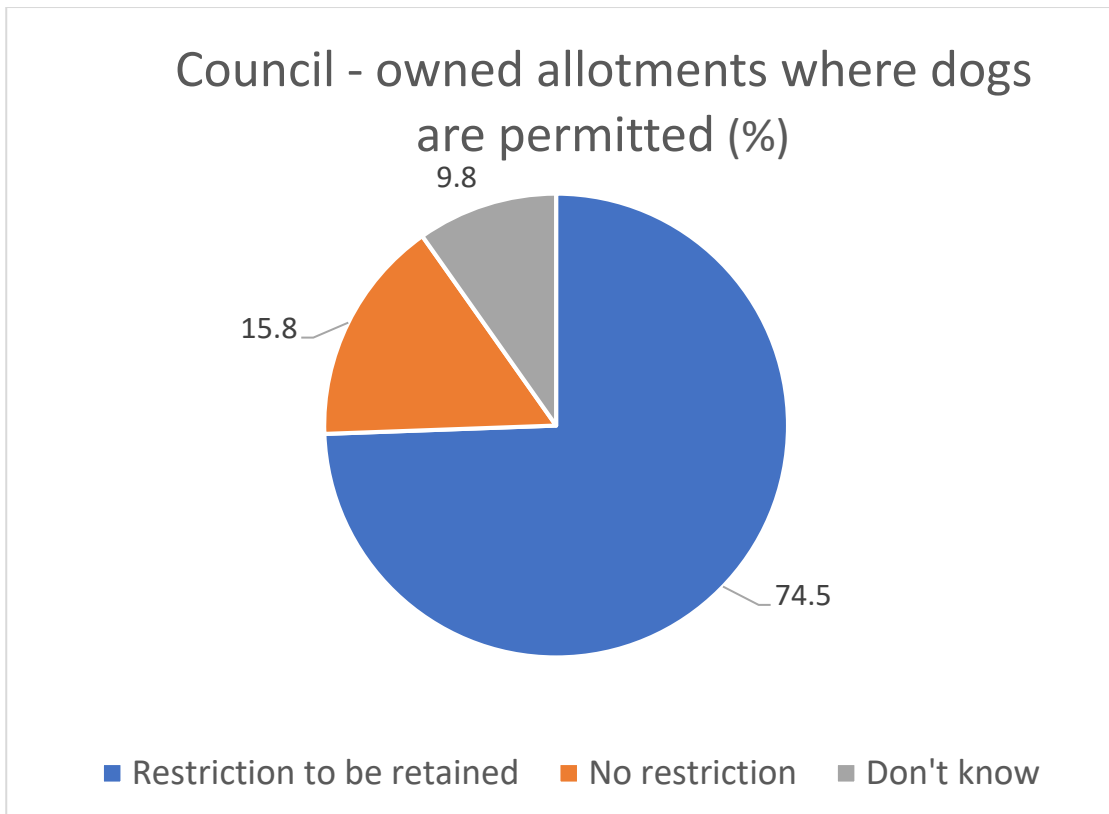
91.9% of councillors and 72.9% of business operators responding supported this retainment of this restriction. 94.1% of those representing an organisation also supported the restriction.

74% of disabled respondents would like a 'dogs on leads' restriction.

* The groups, councillors within Dorset, business operators and representatives of organisations had small base sizes of circa 36 respondents.

Council - owned allotments where dogs are permitted.

	Total	Percent
Restriction to be retained	3119	74.5%
No restriction	660	15.8%
Don't know	409	9.8%



At **74.5%** from overall responses there is some support for including a ‘dogs on leads’ requirement in council owned allotments, where dogs are permitted. Compared to the current results, the 2020 figure of **65.3% (5,566)** is **significantly lower than the at 95% confidence**. Though, the current figures have increased from the previous consultation in 2020, this is the least supported ‘dogs on lead’ restrictions.

Comparing dog owners and non-dog owners’ responses there is still 66.1% support from dog owners and a higher 88% support from non-dog owners. 62.4% of visitors supported the retainment of this restriction.

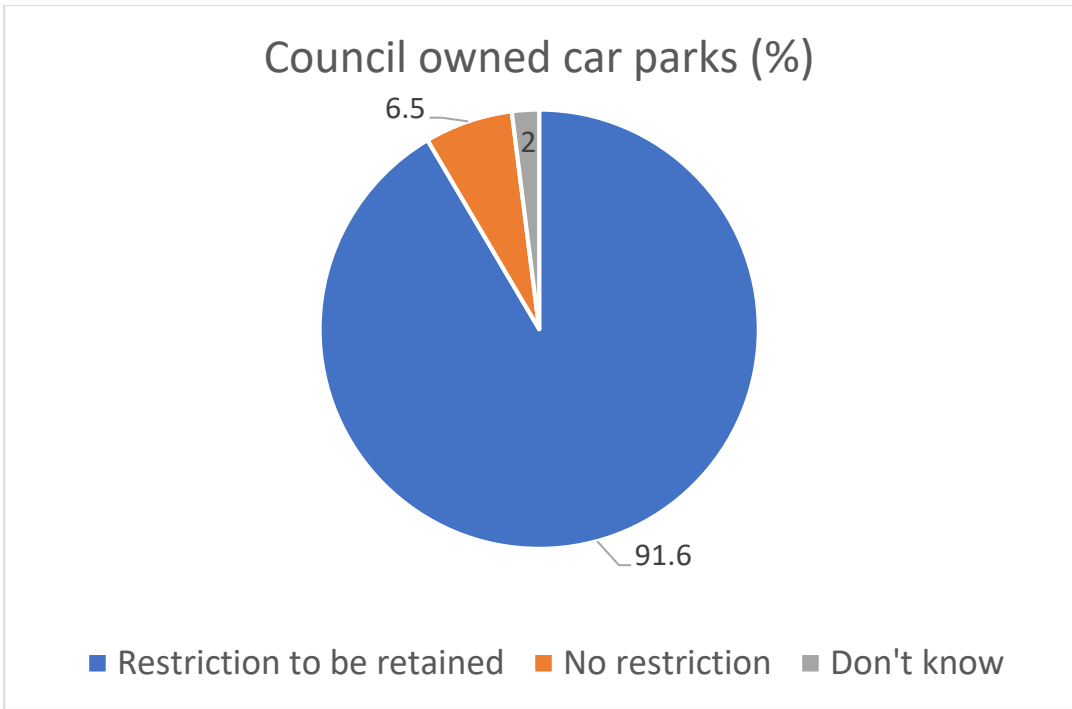
76.5% of those representing organisations responding supported this restriction. 86.5% of councillors responding supported also supported this restriction. 74.5% business operators also support this restriction.

63.2% of disabled respondents would like a ‘dogs on leads’ restriction which is a slight decrease in figures compared to the 2020 consultation.

* The groups, councillors within Dorset, business operators and representatives of organisations had small base sizes of circa 34 respondents.

Council owned car parks

	Total	Percent
Restriction to be retained	3837	91.6%
No restriction	270	6.5%
Don't know	82	2%



At 91.6% from overall responses there is considerable support for a ‘dogs on leads’ requirement in council owned car parks. This was the highest supported of these dogs on leads proposals. In comparison, the results from 2020 where only 84.7% (7,200) supported the proposed restriction, is **significantly lower than the current response at 95% confidence.**

Comparing dog owners and non-dog owners’ responses there is still 88.4% support from dog owners and a higher 96.7% support from non-dog owners. 88% of visitors supported this restriction. 94.1% of those representing an organisation responding supported this restriction. 86.5% of councillors responding supported this restriction. 83.3% of business operators also supported the retainment of this restriction.

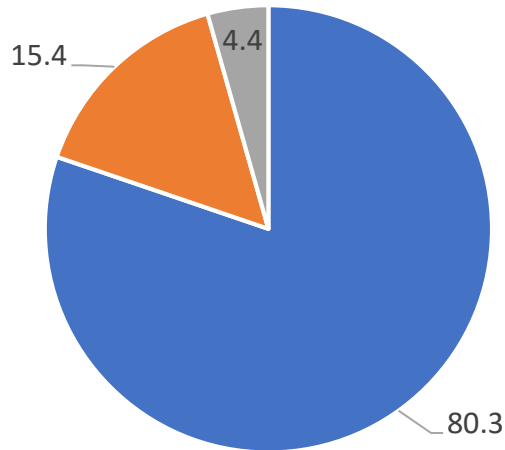
90.8% of disabled respondents would like a ‘dogs on leads’ restriction.

* The groups, councillors within Dorset, business operators and representatives of organisations had small base sizes of circa 34 respondents.

Within 5m of marked sports pitches

	Total	Percent
Restriction to be retained	3364	80.3%
No restriction	644	15.4%
Don't know	183	4.4%

Within 5m of marked sports pitches (%)



■ Restriction to be retained ■ No restriction ■ Don't know

At 80.3% from overall responses there is clear support for retaining a 'dogs on leads' requirement in within 5m of marked sports pitches. Compared to the current results, the 2020 figure of **70.1% (5,959)** is **significantly lower than the at 95% confidence**.

Comparing dog owners and non-dog owners' responses there is still 70.5% support from dog owners and a higher 96.1% support from non-dog owners. 73.9% of visitors supported this restriction to be retained. 88.2% of those representing an organisation responding supported this restriction. 91.9% of councillors responding supported this restriction. 75% of business operators also supported the retainment of this restriction.

76% of disabled respondents would like a 'dogs on leads' restriction.

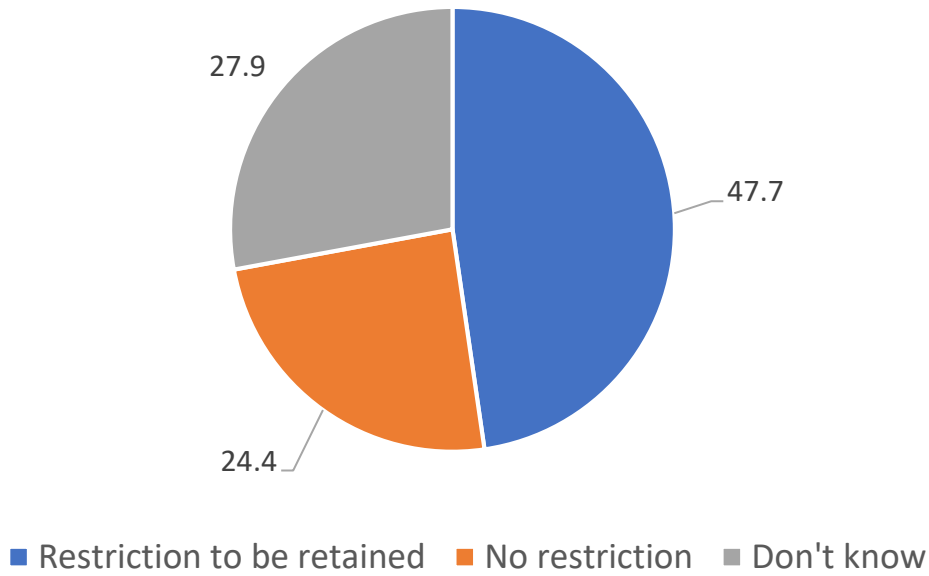
* The groups, councillors within Dorset, business operators and representatives of organisations had small base sizes of circa 34 respondents.

Specific locations

The Rodwell Trail, Weymouth

	Total	Percent
Restriction to be retained	1524	47.7%
No restrictions	779	24.4%
Don't know	889	27.9%

The Rodwell Trail, Weymouth (%)



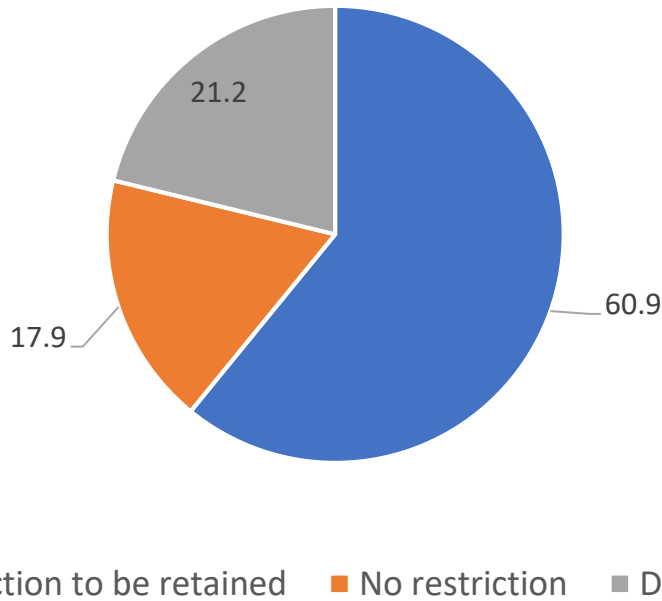
In this location the overall responses show just under half, 47.7% of responses were in favour of retaining the restriction at the Rodwell trail and just under a quarter 24.4% were against retaining the restriction. Over a quarter at 27.9% responded that they don't know.

Only 31.1% of dog owners felt a restriction was necessary whilst 78.1% of non-dog owners felt there should be one. 52% of residents felt that the restriction should be retained whilst only 28.1% of visitors who responded were for the restriction. 36% of visitors were against the restriction. Just under half, 47.1% of those who are disabled want the restriction to be retained and 30.5% who are against the restriction.

West Bay Harbour Walk and promenade

	Total	Percent
Restriction to be retained	1994	60.9%
No restrictions	586	17.9%
Don't know	693	21.2%

West Bay Harbour Walk and promenade (%)



In this location the overall responses show a majority in favour of having a “dogs on lead” restriction in this area by a significant margin with **60.9%** supporting the retainment of the restriction. However, in 2020 consultation, **67% (4,384)** were in favour of this restriction which is **significant at 95% confidence**.

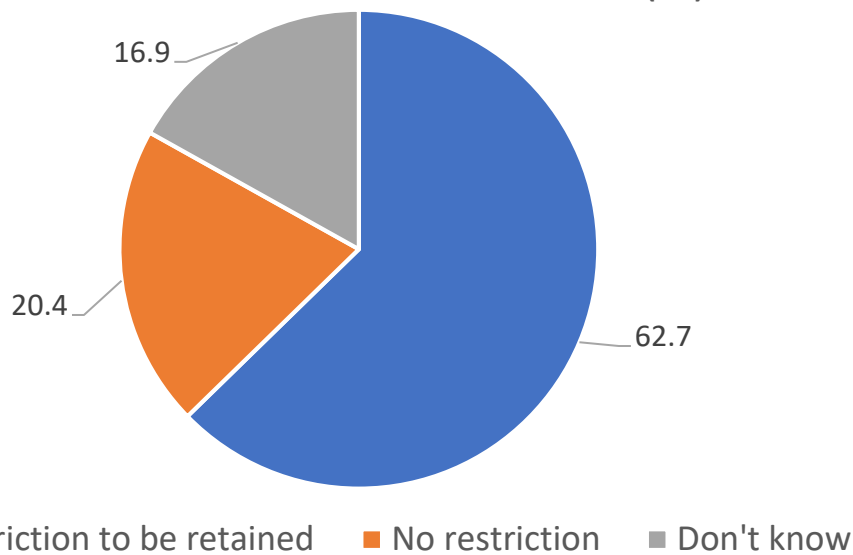
46.9% of dog owners themselves felt a restriction was acceptable whilst 86.2% of non-dog owners felt there should be one. Visitors who responded were in support of a restriction with 28.1% in favour, however a much higher figure 52% of Dorset’s residents supported the restriction.

57.1% of disabled responds thought a dogs on lead restriction should apply.

Lyme Regis - Marine Parade and Cart Road, and stair/footpath leading from Charmouth Road Car Park to Church Beach and the associated Sea Wall, Lyme Regis

	Total	Percent
Restriction to be retained	2199	62.7%
No restrictions	716	20.4%
Don't know	592	16.9%

Lyme Regis - Marine Parade and Cart Road,
footpath from Charmouth Road Car Park to
Church Beach and the Sea Wall (%)



In this location the overall responses show a majority in favour of having a “dogs on lead” restriction in this area by a fair margin with **62.7%** supporting the suggestion. However, in 2020 consultation, **68% (4,261)** were in favour of this restriction which is **significant at 95% confidence**.

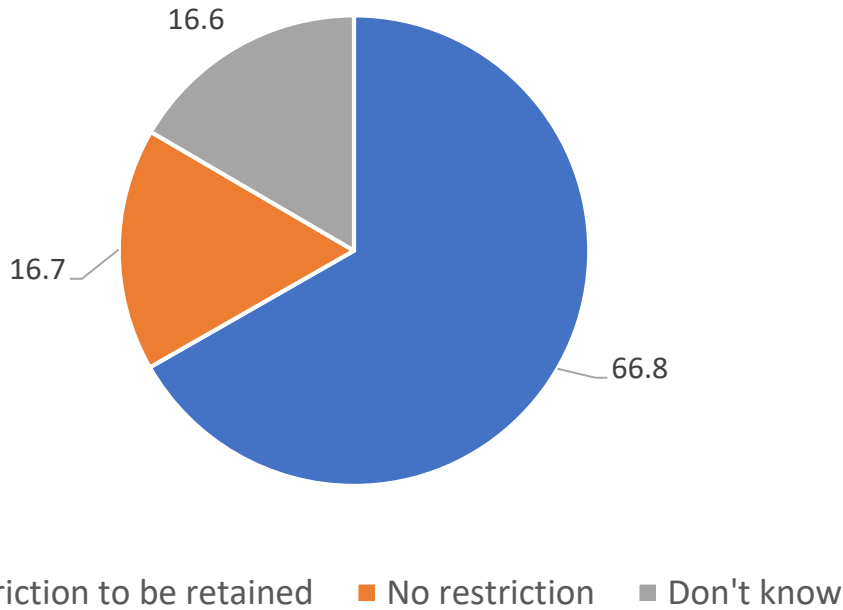
49.1% of dog owners themselves felt a restriction was acceptable whilst 86.5% of non-dog owners felt there should be one. Over half of visitors who responded were in support of a restriction with 54.5% in favour, however, 64.8% of Dorset’s residents supported the restriction.

57.9% of disabled respondents thought a dogs on lead restriction should apply.

The Esplanade, Weymouth

	Total	Percent
Restriction to be retained	2209	66.8%
No restrictions	552	16.7%
Don't know	548	16.6%

The Esplanade, Weymouth (%)



In this location the overall responses show a majority in favour of having a “dogs on lead” restriction in this area by a fair margin with **66.8%** supporting the suggestion. However, in 2020 consultation, **77% (5,320)** were in favour of this restriction which is **significant at 95% confidence**.

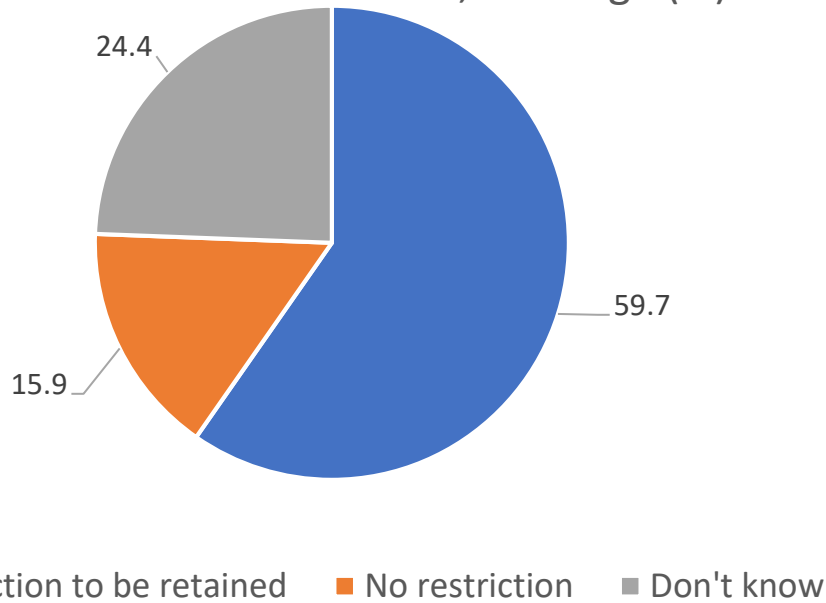
54.8% of dog owners themselves felt a restriction was acceptable whilst 88% of non-dog owners felt there should be one. Just under half of visitors who responded were in support of a restriction with 48.8% in favour, however, 71% of Dorset’s residents supported the restriction.

67% of disabled responds thought a dogs on lead restriction should apply.

The Parade, and associated roads leading to The Parade and the beach, Swanage

	Total	Percent
Restriction to be retained	1922	59.7%
No restrictions	512	15.9%
Don't know	786	24.4%

The Parade, and associated roads leading to The Parade and the beach, Swanage (%)



In this location the overall responses in favour of having a “dogs on lead” restriction in this area with **59.7%** supporting the suggestion. In 2020 consultation, **75% (4,801)** were in favour of this restriction which is **significant at 95% confidence**.

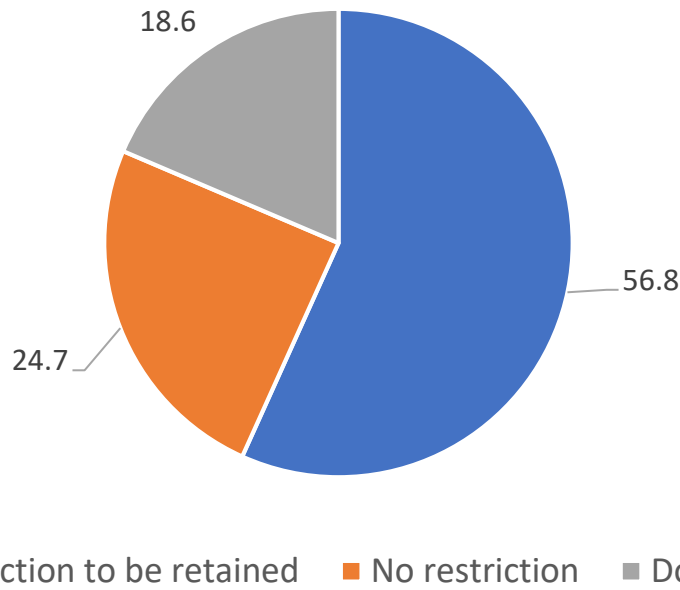
46.1% of dog owners themselves felt a restriction was acceptable whilst 83.9% of non-dog owners felt there should be one. Under half of visitors who responded were in support of a restriction with 45.8% in favour and 63% of Dorset’s residents supported the restriction.

56.5% of disabled respondents thought a dogs on lead restriction should apply.

Studland – Access to Knoll Beach and Middle Beach from the car park, including the car park and staircases leading on to the beaches

	Total	Percent
Restriction to be retained	1900	56.8%
No restrictions	826	24.7%
Don't know	621	18.6%

Studland – Access to Knoll Beach and Middle Beach from the car park (%)



In this location the overall responses in favour of having a “dogs on lead” restriction in this area with **56.8%** supporting the suggestion. In 2020 consultation, **60% (4,262)** were in favour of this restriction which is **significant at 95% confidence**.

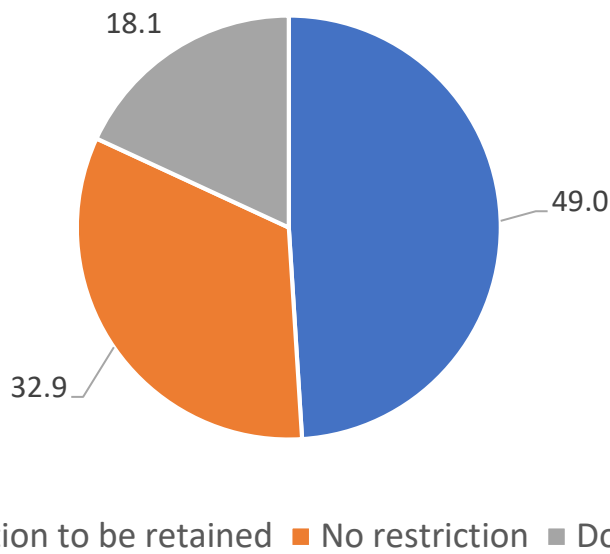
41.1% of dog owners themselves felt a restriction was acceptable whilst 84.6% of non-dog owners felt there should be one. Visitors who responded were in support of a restriction with 40.7% in favour and 60.5% of Dorset’s residents supported the restriction.

51.9% of disabled respondents thought a dogs on lead restriction should apply.

Studland - Shell Bay Beach during 1st May to 30th September

	Total	Percent
Restriction to be retained	1640	49%
No restrictions	1101	32.9%
Don't know	606	18.1%

Studland - Shell Bay Beach during 1st May to 30th September (%)



In this location the overall responses were primarily in favour of having a “dogs on lead” restriction in this area with 49% supporting the suggestion.

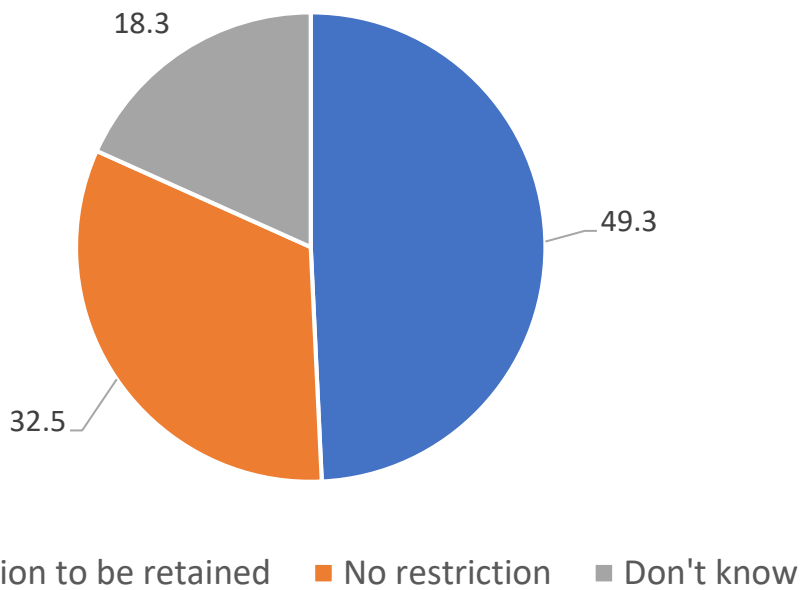
Only 29.4% of dog owners themselves felt a restriction was acceptable whilst an overwhelming 84% of non-dog owners felt there should be one. Visitors who responded were in support of a restriction with 31.7% in favour and 52.8% of Dorset’s residents supported the restriction.

43.9% of disabled responds thought a dogs on lead restriction should apply.

Studland Beach known as Knoll Beach (not including Middle Beach) during 1st May to 30th September

	Total	Percent
Restriction to be retained	1649	49.3%
No restrictions	1088	32.5%
Don't know	611	18.3%

Studland Beach known as Knoll Beach during
1st May to 30th September (%)



In this location the overall responses were just under half were in favour of having a “dogs on lead” restriction in this area with 49.3% supporting the suggestion.

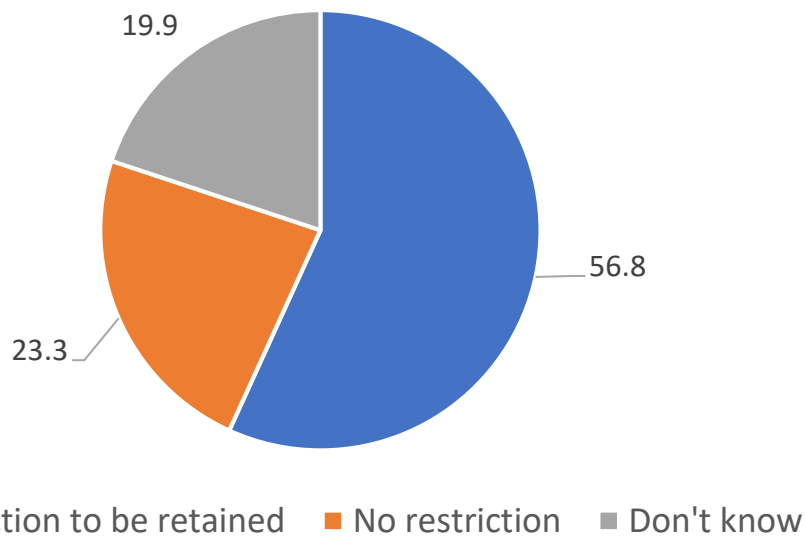
Only 29.8% of dog owners themselves felt a restriction was acceptable whilst an overwhelming 84.1% of non-dog owners felt there should be one. Just under half 47.7% of visitors who responded were **not** in support of a restriction. However, 53.5% of Dorset’s residents supported the restriction.

43.1% of disabled responds thought a dogs on lead restriction should apply.

Studland – Ferry Road, from Studland Beach car park to South Coast end marker, Shell beach National Trust car park and access routes to Shell Beach

	Total	Percent
Restriction to be retained	1890	56.8%
No restrictions	777	23.3%
Don't know	662	19.9%

Studland – Ferry Road (%)



In this location the overall responses were over half were in favour of having a “dogs on lead” restriction in this area with 56.8% supporting the suggestion.

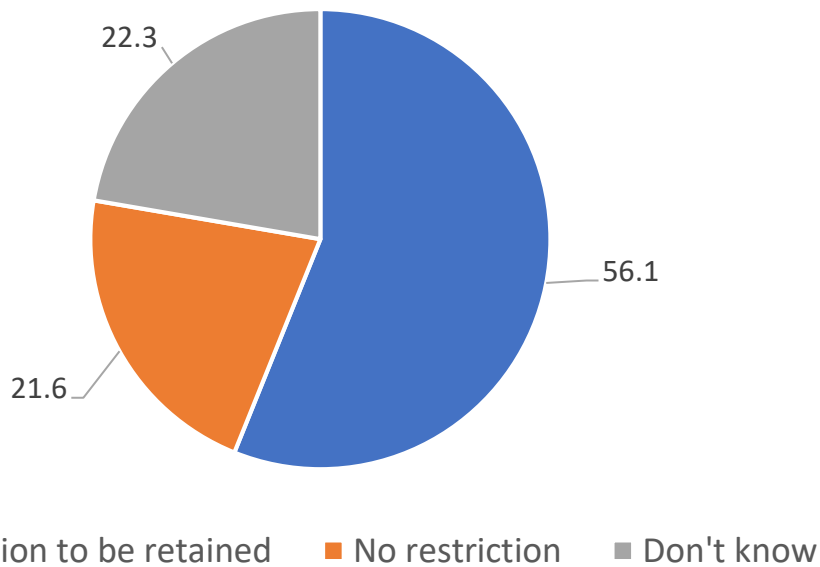
Only 41.1% of dog owners themselves felt a restriction was acceptable whilst an overwhelming 84.6% of non-dog owners felt there should be one. 40.5% of visitors who responded were in support of a restriction. However, 60.4% of Dorset’s residents supported the restriction.

Over half, with 54.5% of disabled responds thought a dogs on lead restriction should apply.

At Charmouth, Lower Sea Lane from the car park access, including the three car parks, the footpath leading to the beach including the bridge and paths adjacent to the heritage centre

	Total	Percent
Restriction to be retained	1825	56.1%
No restrictions	704	21.6%
Don't know	727	22.3%

Charmouth, Lower Sea Lane (%)



In this location the overall responses in favour of having a “dogs on lead” restriction in this area with **56.1%** supporting the suggestion. In the 2020 consultation, **64% (3,926)** were in favour of this restriction which is **significant at 95% confidence**.

41% of dog owners themselves felt a restriction was acceptable whilst 84.1% of non-dog owners felt there should be one. Visitors who responded were in support of a restriction with 47.4% in favour and 58.1% of Dorset’s residents supported the restriction.

49.8% of disabled responds thought a dogs on lead restriction should apply.

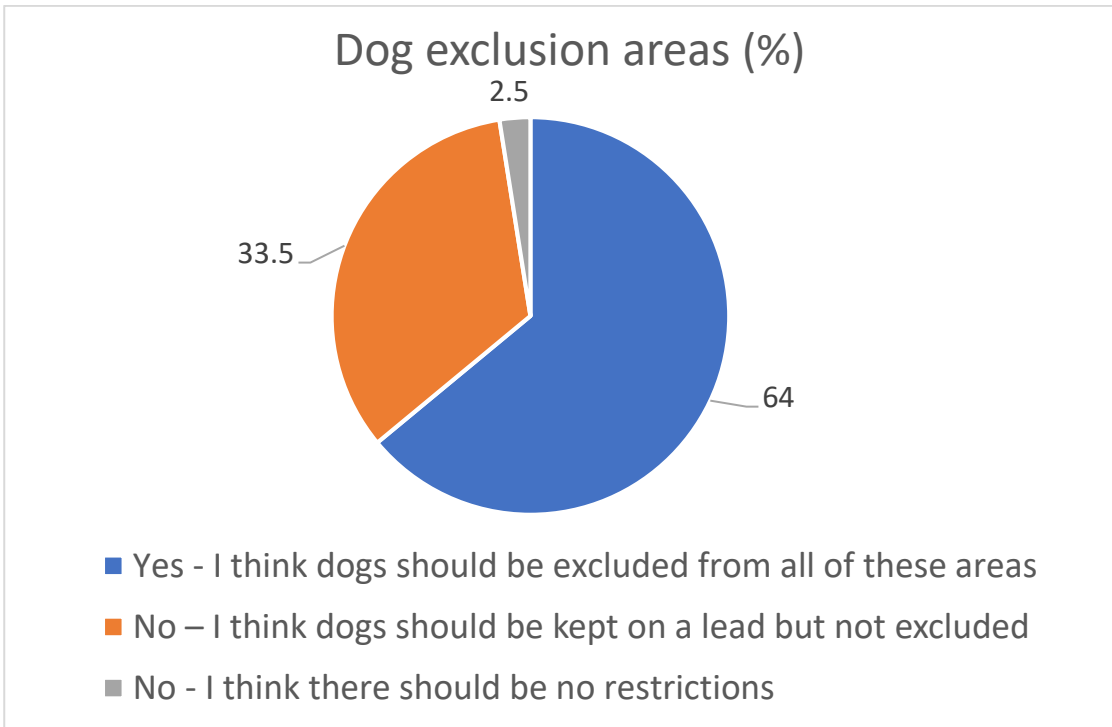
Dog exclusion areas

Recreation areas and Marked Sports Pitches

The current PSPO excludes dogs from public areas which are clearly marked ‘No dogs’ (or words/symbols to that effect). These areas are skateboard parks, tennis and basketball courts, bowling and putting greens, enclosed play parks, sporting or recreational facilities and athletics tracks.

Q. would you like to see this continued?

	Total	Percent
Yes - I think dogs should be excluded from all of these areas	2693	64%
No – I think dogs should be kept on a lead but not excluded	1409	33.5%
No - I think there should be no restrictions	105	2.5%



Overall, the majority of responses in favour of having of dogs being excluded from these areas with **64%** supporting the restriction. In the 2020 consultation, **55.2% (4,737)** were in favour of this restriction which is **significant at 95% confidence**.

About a third, 33.5% of the responses felt that dogs should be kept on lead but excluded and a minority at 2.5% think there should be any restrictions at all.

Under half, 47.1% of dog owners themselves felt a restriction was acceptable, 49.3% felt that dogs should be kept on lead but excluded and 3.6% felt there should be no restrictions. Compared to dog owners, the majority, 91.4% of non-dog owners are extremely keen for the restriction, only 7.9% felt they should be kept on a lead but not excluder and under 1% felt there should be no restrictions.

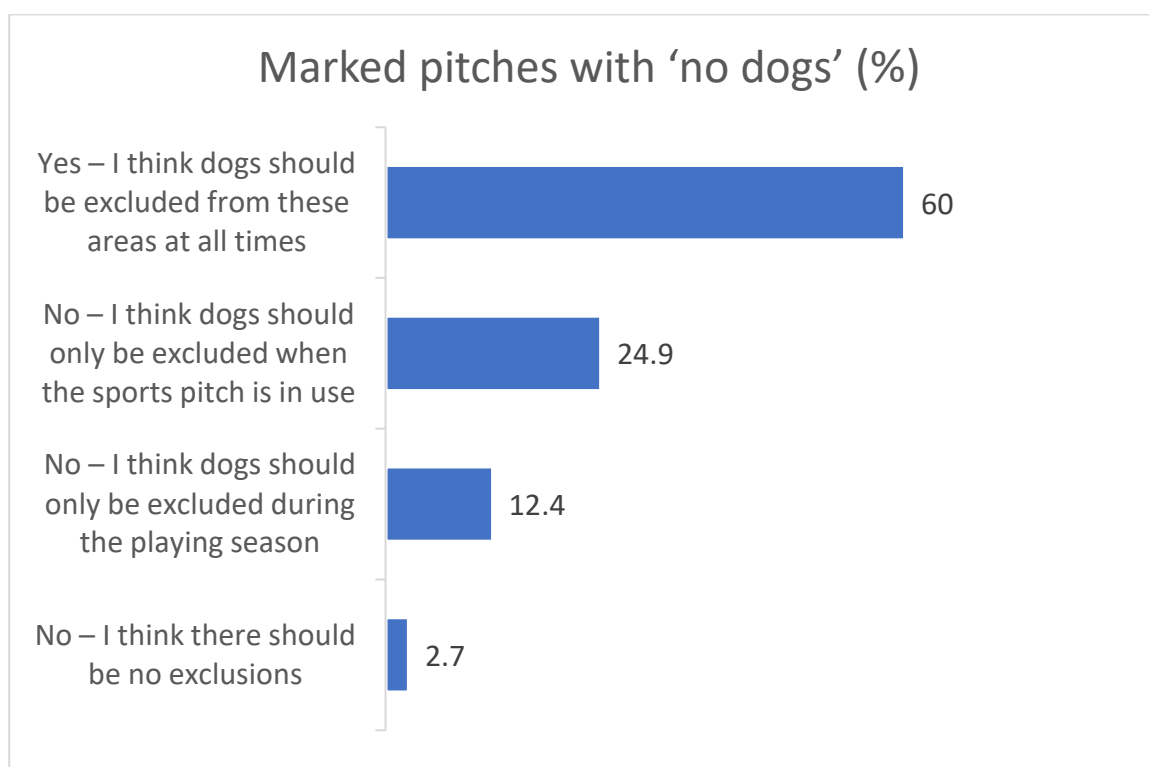
Looking at figures from visitors who responded, over half 51.1% were in support of a restriction, 43.2% thought they should be kept on lead but not excluded and 5.5% felt there should be no restrictions.

Two thirds of Dorset’s residents, 66.4% were in support of a restriction, under a third, 31.7% thought they should be kept on lead but not excluded and under 2% felt there should be no restrictions.

Over half, 51.8% of disabled responds thought dogs should be excluded from the area, 43.7% felt they should be kept on lead but not excluded and 4.6% felt there should be no exclusions at all.

Q. The current PSPO excludes dogs from marked sports pitches which are clearly marked with 'No dogs' (or words/symbols to that effect). Would you like to see this retained?

	Total	Percent
Yes – I think dogs should be excluded from these areas at all times	2523	60%
No – I think dogs should only be excluded when the sports pitch is in use	1045	24.9%
No – I think dogs should only be excluded during the playing season	523	12.4%
No – I think there should be no exclusions	114	2.7%



The majority of responses in favour of having of dogs being excluded from these areas at all times with 60% supporting the restriction. About a quarter thought dogs should be excluded when the sports pitch is in use. An eighth, 12.4% felt dogs should be excluded during the playing season There is very little support for no restrictions at all with only 2.7% supporting no exclusions.

Dog owners' responses show there is some support, 41.3% for excluding dogs at all times. Non-dog owners have a much higher response of (90.4%) and were keener on dogs being excluded at all times.

47.9% of visitors supported the exclusion of dogs from marked pitches. 66.7% of those representing organisations support the exclusion of dogs at all times. Most councillors

who responded, 78.4% agreed that dogs should be excluded at all times. 68.8% of business operators also agreed that dogs should be excluded at all times.

Disabled respondents, 52.4% supported excluding dogs marked sports pitches.

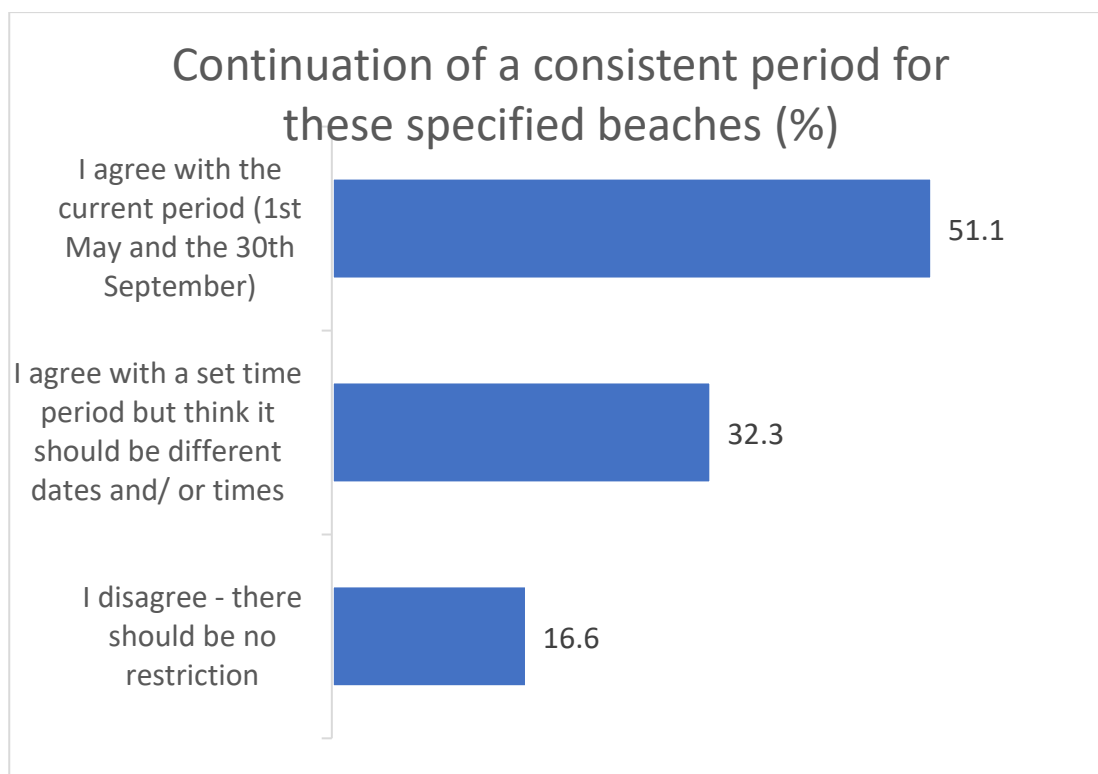
Beaches in areas of Dorset Council

The current PSPO applies a consistent period of a start and end date for the exclusion of dogs on specified beaches. This period is between the 1st May and the 30th September. If we retain a restriction, it is preferred we keep a consistent period across the specified beaches.

The list of affected beaches: Central Beach, Swanage; Front Town Beach, Lyme Regis; Seatown Beach, Chideock; West Bay Beaches; Charmouth West Beach and Weymouth (Central) Beach.

Q. Do you agree with the continuation of a consistent period for these specified beaches?

	Total	Percent
I agree with the current period (1st May and the 30th September)	2144	51.1%
I agree with a set time period but think it should be different dates and/ or times	1356	32.3%
I disagree - there should be no restriction	697	16.6%



Over half of those who responded supported with the continuation of the current period. Under a third, however felt there should be a set period but with different dates/times. There was a small amount of support against any restrictions (16.6%).

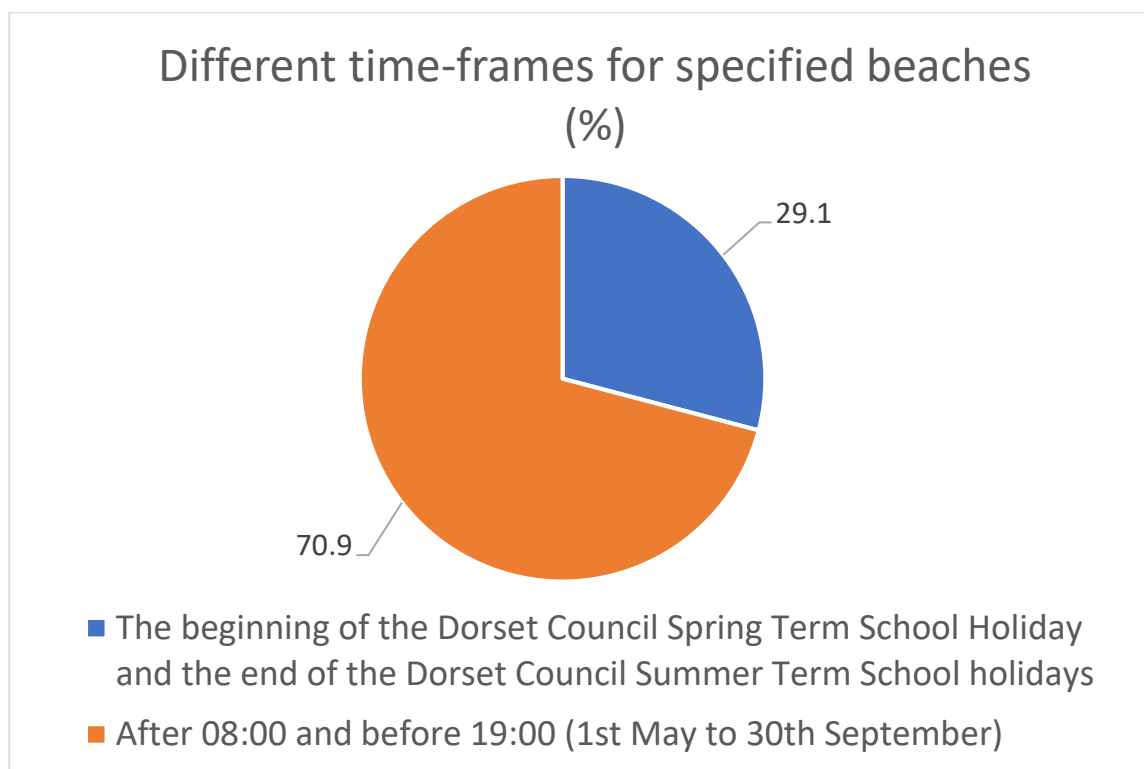
There was some support with 32.6% of dog owners agreeing with the current period. However, 42.3% of dog owners were a bit keener to agree with a set time period but with different dates/times. In comparison, there was an overwhelming amount of support for non-dog owners, with 81.2% who agreed with the current period.

46.2% of disabled respondents supported the current period.

Those who agreed it should be a different time.

Q. As you think it should be a different period, please select a different time-frame. Restrictions should apply to:

	Total	Percent
The beginning of the Dorset Council Spring Term School Holiday and the end of the Dorset Council Summer Term School holidays	361	29.1%
After 08:00 and before 19:00 (1st May to 30th September)	880	70.9%



For those who agreed it should be a different time, the most popular choice was ‘after 08.00 and before 19.00’ with 70.9% of respondents supporting this option.

Similarly, dog owners also preferred the ‘after 08.00 and before 19.00’ with 76.7% favouring this time period. However, the majority of non-dog were slightly more inclined

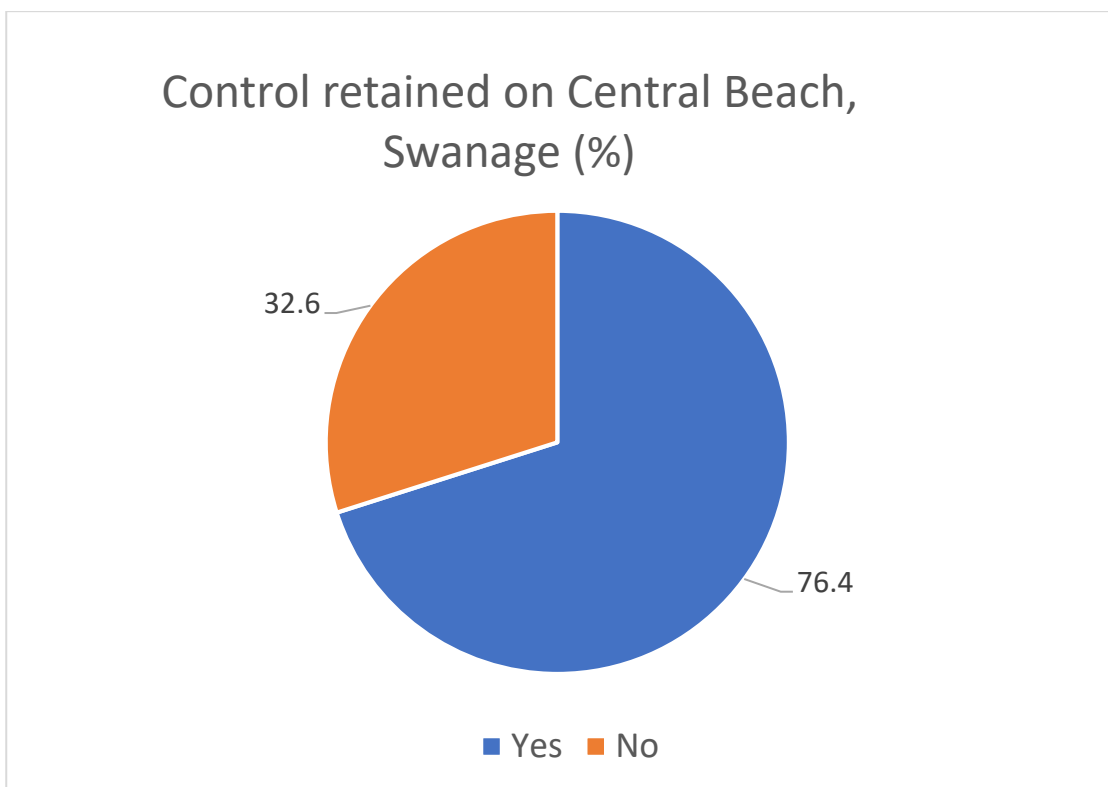
towards the 'The beginning of the Dorset Council Spring Term School Holiday and the end of the Dorset Council Summer Term School holidays' option.

Those who are disable who responded to the question, like dog owners, favoured 'after 08.00 and before 19.00' with 70.9% selecting this option.

Central Beach, Swanage

Q. The current Order prohibits dogs from Central Beach during a specified summer period. Would you like this control retained?

	Total	Percent
Yes	626	76.4%
No	303	32.6%



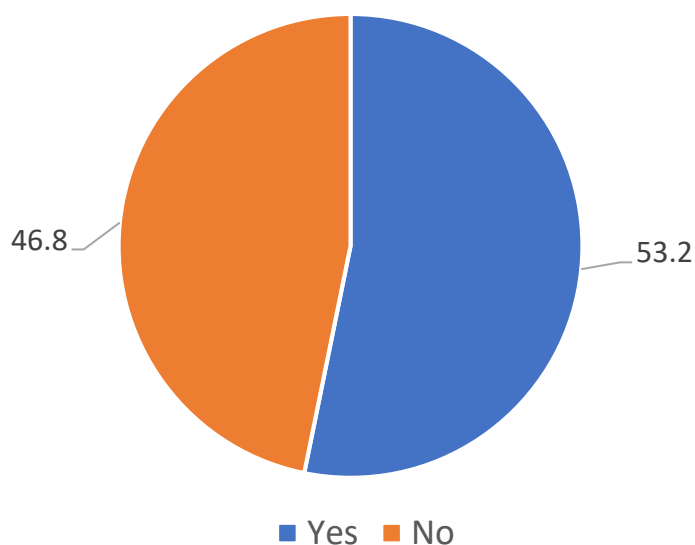
The majority of support, 76.4% was for the control to be retained with under a third, 32.6% was against the control being retained.

Front Town Beach, Lyme Regis

Q. The current Order prohibits dogs from Front Town Beach during specified summer months. Would you like this control retained?

	Total	Percent
Yes	776	53.2%
No	683	46.8%

Control retained on Front Town Beach, Lyme Regis (%)

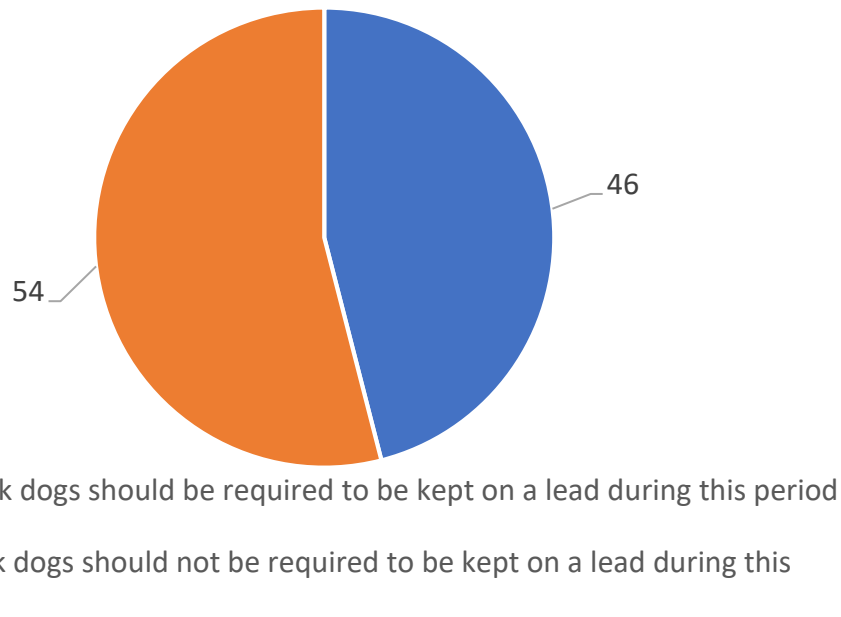


For Front Town Beach, there was more of a split, with 53.2% in favour of the control being retained and 46.8% against control being retained.

Q. Dogs must be on lead from the 1st October to the 30th April in this area of the beach. Do you agree?

	Total	Percent
Yes - I think dogs should be required to be kept on a lead during this period	669	46%
No - I think dogs should not be required to be kept on a lead during this period	786	54%

Dogs on lead from 1st October to the 30th April from area Front Town Beach, Lyme Regis (%)



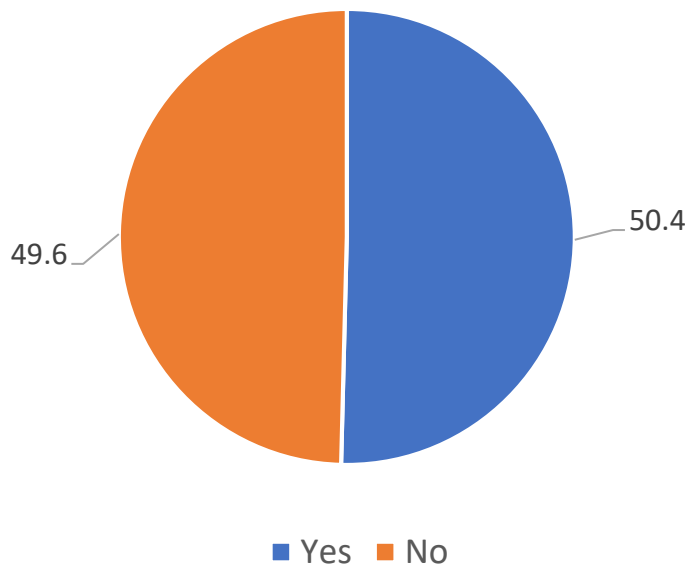
There was also more of a split for Dogs being on lead from the 1st October to the 30th April. Just under half, 46% of those who responded supported dogs being required to be kept on a lead during this period. Just over half, 54% was not in favour of dogs being required to be kept on lead during this period.

Seatown Beach, Chideock

Q. The current Order prohibits dogs from Seatown Beach during specified summer period. Would you like this control retained?

	Total	Percent
Yes	136	50.4%
No	134	49.6%

Control retained on Seatown Beach, Chideock (%)



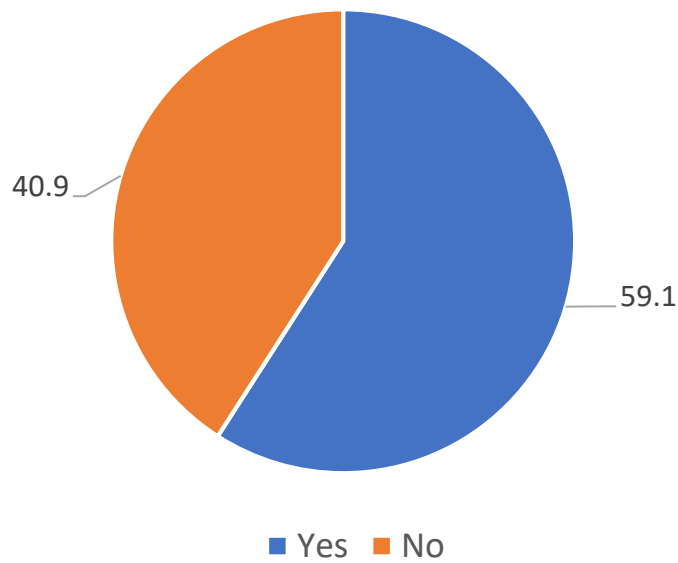
Similar to Lyme Regis, there was a split for the Seatown beach in Chideock, with 50.4% supporting control being retained and 49.6% of those who were not in favour of the control being retained.

West Bay Beaches, (East and West)

Q. The current Order prohibits dogs from East and West Bay Beaches during specified summer period. Would you like this control retained?

	Total	Percent
Yes	415	59.1%
No	287	40.9%

Control retained on East and West Bay Beaches (%)



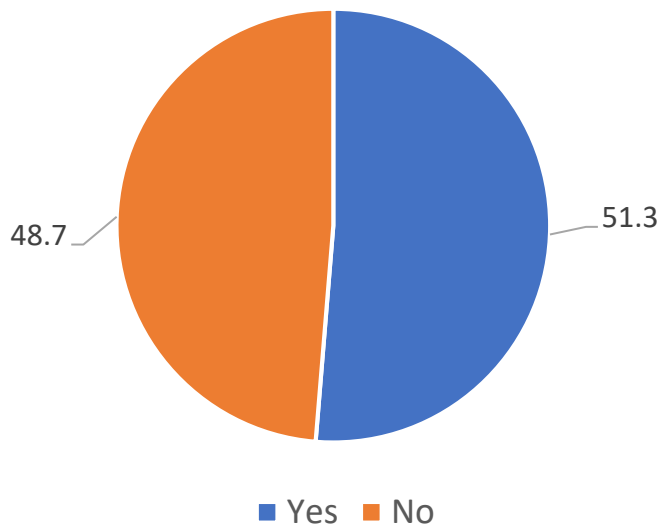
For the East and West Bay beaches, with 59.1% supporting control being retained and 40.9% of those who were not in favour of the control being retained.

Charmouth Beaches

Q. The current Order stipulates dogs are prohibited from West Beach during specified summer months. Would you like this control retained?

	Total	Percent
Yes	230	51.3%
No	218	48.7%

Control retained on Charmouth Beaches (%)



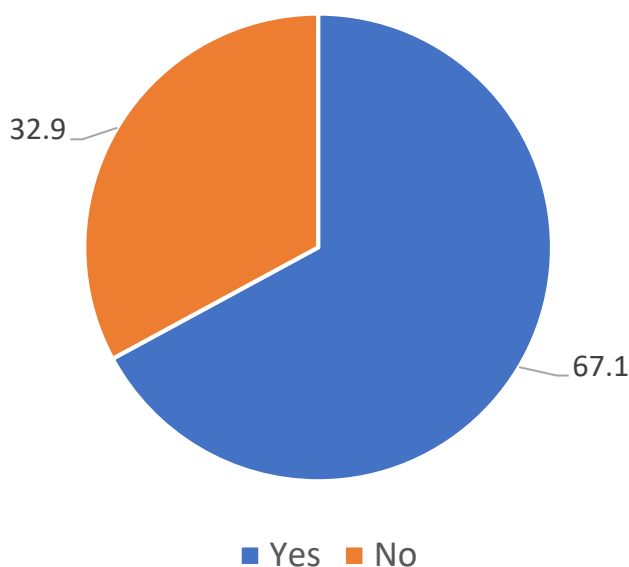
There was also a split for the Charmouth beaches, with 51.3% supporting control being retained and 48.7% of those who were not in favour of the control being retained.

Weymouth (Central) Beach

Q. The current Order has a permanent dog exercise area at the Pavilion end where dogs are permitted all year round. This will be retained. Dogs are excluded from the area between the marked exercise area (Pavilion end of the beach) and Greenhill Groyne during specified summer period. Would you like this control retained?

	Total	Percent
Yes	1138	67.1%
No	557	32.9%

Control retained on Weymouth (Central) Beach (%)



With Central beach in Weymouth, two thirds of responses 67.1% supporting control being retained and a third, 32.9% of those who were not in favour of the control being retained.

General Comments

	Comment/Theme	Total
General	Devon / Cornwall / Wales is much more Dog friendly / better access to beach - follow their example	27
	People make more mess than dogs / Dog owners pick up litter	34
	Blue flag awards are not affected by dogs being allowed on beach year-round (see Devon and Cornwall)	1
	Too many dogs now	9
	Dog owners encouraged to show respect to others/owners dismissive when rules pointed out	16
	Benefits of owning a dog widely shared	7
	Disappointing to see DC becoming so anti-dog friendly/councils unnecessarily cautious about dogs	3
	Locals with dogs put off from visiting area, using cafes in winter when town is quiet and business need help/used to meet others on the town beach, now feel very isolated and other areas not safe/current rules unwelcoming to dog owners	22

	Dogs should have access to open spaces/more larger dog friendly spaces adjacent to restricted areas/can't exercise properly on a lead/dog training areas/retain access for locals to exercise their dogs off lead within walking distance of their homes/dog parks, areas	38
	Better signage needed to ensure dog owners aware of restrictions near sports pitches/not permitted on sports pitches at any time	7
	Increase in ownership since covid/increased number of dogs	18
	When sports fields are not used, should be free for dogs to use	5
	Please consider people with disabilities when making change/more accessibility for disabled people/no sufficient disabled access	7
	Limit number of dogs that can be walked at by any one person at a time	8
	Should be dog licenses/ban dogs until they have completed compulsory training/licenses to pay for wardens	18
	Dogs banned from cafes/any premises that sells food and drink	7
	Present ban discriminates against elderly and disabled who cannot walk their dogs on accessible beaches/cannot access them/the countryside. Town open spaces to be open to all	4
	Responsible owners get penalised due to less responsible owners	28
	Beach split so you have both caters to both parties	7
	Some people do not like dogs/they are intimidating/ignorant to trouble dogs cause/rise in dog attacks/children scared of dogs/allergies	46
	Having a blanket rule doesn't make sense. We should accommodate both needs	4
Timings	Current restrictions should remain / tightened	18
	Extend restrictions 30 May - Sept	2
	Dog free Easter holidays until end of Sept October	3
	Dogs on beaches before 10am and after 6pm / similar hours during restricted months (off lead/under control), as hardly anyone on there, otherwise no restrictions	99
	Dogs should be allowed off lead on the beach from 1st October to 30th April.	6
	Dogs banned on beach during summer months only (summer holidays) otherwise no restrictions	21
	Dogs should be banned from beach year round	52

	Dog free from 10am - 6pm only	5
	Dogs should be allowed on the beach during certain times/in favour of time restrictions during summer/between dates not permitted on beach, should be allowed on during set times/Cornwall do it well	121
	Dogs banned on beach during summer months/banned at all times except Winter/longer restriction times	20
Leads	Allow dogs off lead year round - on leads in summer holidays (beaches)	10
	On leads at all times, ban during summer (beaches)	2
	Dogs on lead all year round when busy	12
	6ft lead is too long/extendable leads often let out over 2m/max lead length 6 foot 6 inches/dangerous for people mobility issues and eyesight problems/short leads, 1 meter max on roads, pavements	32
	Should be on the lead between June, July, August/able to go on beaches all year round on a lead/greater move from no dogs to dogs on a lead	24
	Dog always on extended lead so should be allowed on beach	1
	Dogs to be kept on a non-extendable lead in all public areas/dogs off lead cause issues/make it more simple. In a public area, dogs should be on a lead, except designated areas/if any livestock is present/Better signage about keeping dogs on leads around cattle and sheep/better signage in general around no dog areas	116
	Short leads need to be specified especially on cycle ways / busy areas / parks	15
	Dogs to be off lead during time restricted times/in the winter months	35
	Should be muzzled if aggressive/only safe way is to be on the lead and wearing a muzzle	3
	Off lead dogs urinate on blankets / children / food / steal food	7
	Extendable leads should be allowed as long as the dog and owner are under control/leads under 6ft too short for environments other than pavement	5
	Playing fields should only permit dogs on leads/dogs on leads to be allowed on playing fields	3
Common sense to be used. No need for a lead when no-one else present/dogs allowed on nature trails if on a lead	5	

Fouling & Enforcement	Heavier fines / better enforcement of dog fouling & PSCO/ use CCTV / not monitored / PSPO useless unless enforced//wardens to patrol/no-one follows the rules	301
	Dog poo/waste is a public health hazard/urine not cleared/can't always be picked up cleanly/should carry water to wash contaminated area	71
	More dog poo litter bins / poo bags left in bushes/ provide free bags - empty regularly	23
	Dog poo is easy to pick up from sand	1
	Dog owners ignore restrictions / don't pick up dog mess	110
	Need to promote responsible dog ownership not penalise good owners / more training for owners / dog control	34
	Need more signage / bigger signage	14
	Dog owners aggressive (e.g. when restrictions pointed out, dogs jump up etc)	8
	Dogs & dog fouling impact negatively on children / frightened etc - beaches should be safe places / Fouling is health hazard for children	19
	Explain dangers of Toxocariasis in publicity/education on dangers of dog waste on humans and livestock	2
	Had accident involving dogs off lead (knocked over etc)	11
	Dogs on long leads are a hazard in busy places	6
	Zero tolerance to not cleaning up after dog/prosecute those that leave their mess (general and dog related/countryside and beaches)/including those that bag and drop/people leaving rubbish on the beach	74
	Owners more likely to pick up when dog is on a lead	3
	Many dog walkers pick up litter and keep the areas clean	5
In hot weather no responsible dog owner would / should take dog to beach	9	
Access to beach	Access for assistance dogs / better access for disabled people onto beach / no restrictions for disabled dog owners/beach not suitable for disabled people	18
	Feel have as much right to use beach as non dog owners	2
	Beach access to allow owners to swim with their dogs	1
	Dog friendly beaches good for tourism	4
	Beaches often empty during restricted times	1

	Outside of summer, walking a dog on the beach is an important activity for both social and mental health reasons	5
	More suitable places for dogs to be walked than beaches	16
	Clearer signage noting assistance dogs are allowed to be on the beach/assistance dogs allowed on beaches	5
	More dog friendly policy to beaches would be welcome to locals	3
	Beach always looks empty not dog walkers have been banned/time restrictions too long/for summer holidays only/walking outside tourist busy times should be the norm	41
Children & families	Unfair to restrict for beach activities e.g., volleyball - move events or temporary lift restrictions	2
	Unfair for dog owning families	14
	Dog owner shouted at for walking dog on beach during permitted times	3
	Dogs should be banned from children's play areas (e.g., Poundbury) / sports pitches/Lovely to have an area where children can play free of dogs/important to have areas free of dogs/balance for all/playparks out of bounds to dogs	43
	Dogs are not children / dog owners are selfish / too many dogs now	7
	Feel harassed by dogs on beaches, often frightened by out-of-control dogs when go to beach, Dogs off leash are dangerous for people with mobility issues /allergies to dogs / families with young children / avoid areas due to dogs	27
	Younger children can be frightened of dogs and need dog free beach / Beaches should be safe places for children to play / health implications	9
	Many families have dogs. Children who want to go in the water don't have access to safe beaches and lifeguards due to having a pet. Makes it unsafe/families have dogs and want to share spaces with both/dogs' part of the family	19
Tourism	Would/ do avoid if not friendly access to beaches	12
	Negative impact on local businesses / Dog owners good for business	23
	Areas around caravan parks should be off lead - are these open private land or public right of way?	1

	Putting off holidaymakers with dogs visiting the area/to attract tourists need to be sensible/dog owning tourists may be put off if controls become more restrictive	28
PSPO comments	Dates and times of access asked about are very limited / not allow to suggest alternative / biased consultation	3
	Current control environment too harsh	6
	No guidance on how / if current PSPO has been successful / still required	1
	Council making this a divisive issue / biased survey	2
	Need common approach across Dorset	1
	PSPO should also apply to horses / if ok for horses should be ok for dogs	5
	Agree with controls on the whole/if it's not broke, don't fix it/should be maintained/strikes the right balance	32
	Agree restrictions should be restricted in certain places	4
	Restrictions should be increased/more restrictions make sense	11
Other	Concern about dogs affecting wildlife, either through lack of control or dog fouling/dogs to be banned from nature reserves, including anywhere birds breed on the ground/add all heathlands to the list of areas dogs must be restricted/PSPO should be extended to include ground nesting bird season/PSPO cover DC Nature Reserves?	25
	Comment on how restrictive consultation was/couldn't say what they wanted to say/biased/don't listen/survey prejudiced towards outcome of the mayor and fellow councillors' opinions	15

General Comments – specific locations

Lyme Regis

Comment/Theme – Lyme Regis	Total
Dogs off lead from Oct to April	6
Dogs be allowed on front / sandy beaches restricted times (e.g. before 9am or after 7pm / 10 - 6 or similar variations) May - Sept and off lead for rest of year	27
Ban dogs on Front Beach year-round	5
Dog free on Front beach from Easter until end of Oct	2
Allow on East beach except 10 - 6	1
Dogs should be allowed off leads on the Sandy Front Beach in Lyme Regis anytime in the winter months (as other beaches in Dorset)	10

Dogs should also be allowed off leads in the summer months between 10am to 6pm	6
Dogs should be banned except from Monmouth / Church beach	2
Keep current beach restrictions	2
Bad experience with out-of-control dogs in Lyme Regis	1
Dogs need to be under control if off lead, good dog owners impacted by poor owners	1
Better access for disabled dog owners / push chairs etc	9
Would enable dog owning families to enjoy beach	3
Agree with current restrictions	1
Feel restrictions discriminate against dog owners / Dog owners have as much right to use beach as non-dog owners	5
Avoid Lyme Regis now because of restrictions` / Stop visiting as not dog friendly / travel to other dog friendly beaches	17
Current beach access not suitable for less abled bodied, have mobility issues or disabilities. Pushchairs	9
No blanket ban in summer months	2
impacts tourism / use of cafes and restaurants	17
Need heavier penalties for dog fouling / better enforcement	7
Current restrictions draconian	3
Survey is biased	1
Do not ban dogs from Lyme Regis beach. Keep current restrictions/agree with current restrictions	2
Entire weeks and longer where the beaches are not used	2
Only restricted during busy periods, no need for restrictions otherwise/not allowed during peak times/outside of summer holidays/quiet in winter months	11
Time restrictions in the summer (can access mornings and/or evenings)	21
Shorter window of restriction	1
Before or after restricted times, dogs to be allowed off-lead	10
Dog owners are fair and responsible, not fair to penalise all on basis of small minority	2
Benefits of allowing dogs on beaches far-reaching	1
Lyme Regis should be in line with the rest of Dorset	2
No-one is suggesting banning alcohol because of a few empty bottles, same principle/Monmouth Beach during summer months is littered with food/glass	5
Don't understand why town of Lyme Regis is dog friendly but beaches are not/restrictions should be dropped to be inclusive for all	12
Only visit Lyme Regis as it has a ban on the beach so families can enjoy without dogs/dog free zones for those that want it	24
Sufficient beaches where dogs can be let off a leash without allowing access to front beaches	9
Dogs prohibited from the front beach completely/all year ban as proposed by LRTC/banned from sandy beach	41
Set period should be extended to between March to the end of October	3
Dog free from 1 May - end of September	1
Allow dogs on beaches from 1st October to 1st May	1
Dogs scaring/intimidating children	11
Children should be priority, not dogs	8

Owners not picking up/fines for those that don't	20
Dog waste and then children pick up sand and stones afterwards/health risk/smells/stains	19
Having designated times for dogs on the beach won't work	2
Dog owners dismissive when restrictions pointed out	2
Many owners do not keep dogs under control	3
Maintain or extend current restrictions	9
Support increasing dog restrictions	1
Increase in ownership since lockdown	6
Dogs on lead causes congestion for people in motorised wheelchairs and scooters/multiple dogs causing congestion	2
Dogs to be on short leads/non-extendable leads	4
Gutted not able to bring dogs to experience the beach until winter/locals go elsewhere due to miserable no dogs/dogs on leads rule/allow dog to run free before 10am, only beach I can use/since changes I don't see many people anymore	5
Restrictions on waste should stay in place/bins to maintain this	1
Monmouth beach covered in dog mess	2
Policy is anti-business and anti-trade/damaging to local businesses/banning dogs makes tourists trips less attractive	15
Reducing restrictions detrimental impact on tourism	3
Owners do not follow the rules now, will just bend them further/better policing/warden patrolling	13
Monmouth beach is a pebble beach so harder on dogs' paws and joints	1
Dogs to be allowed on main town sandy beach, even if on the lead	1
More suitable places for people to walk their dogs	13
Dog friendly beaches not user friendly with rocks and uneven surfaces. Cannot safely negotiate this/alternative beaches not inclusive/dangerous/elderly to be allowed on town beach before 10am	14
Have to legislate for the worst owners	1
Parking in the lower car park next to the beach needs to be addressed. Mobility vehicles are over this length and unable to park near the beach for access	1
Disagree with need for dogs on leads between sea wall and Charmouth Car Park	1
Better signage	2
Please can a restriction be made to prohibit dogs on the path used by the junior Cobb Gate children's run every Sunday morning while the 2km run takes place please?	1
Dogs should be banned from entering areas where loading and unloading of catch from Fisherman at the harbours/Marine Aquarium on the Cobb to the end of Victoria Pier	4
Please spend your resources on stopping motorbikes parking across the pedestrian areas near the Cobb and near the Museum (sea-side)	1
Ban all dogs from Marine Parade	1
Promotion of Lyme as dog-friendly by some businesses is detrimental to the quality of life for residents	1
Front town beach restricted to sandy area only. Pebble section should be relaxed	2

Charmouth

Comment/Theme - Charmouth	Total
The dog-lead restrictions should be extended to beaches on both sides of Charmouth and also to areas adjoining restricted areas along the South Coast Path.	1
Consideration should be given to extending dog lead restrictions from January 1st to limit the incidents of sheep worrying during the lambing season by uncontrolled dogs	1
Good to use as per parking regulations before 9am. Would enable people with mobility issues to use when beach empty at low tide	1
Charmouth East used to work well with time restrictions in the summer months	1
Needs to be further restrictions/not adhered to well/more policing	4
Dogs to be banned all year round	1
East Beach dog free between 1 May - end of September	1
Dogs to be kept on leads	2
Time restrictions during summer months (Morning and/or evenings)	3
Dogs urinating on clothing, eating picnics	1
Charmouth is a beach you walk along, so why can't you walk a dog off the lead?	1
Dog poo a health concern	1
People wan to visit and live in Charmouth because it is dog friendly	2
No restrictions outside set restricted months	1
Dogs should be allowed on Charmouth Beach East by the river but not past the café	1

Weymouth

Comment/Theme - Weymouth	Total
Dog area often used for events with no advance warning / smaller area available	3
Dog area should be between clock and pier bandstand	1
Access all year round except school holidays	3
other area of beach to be dog friendly - e.g. Greenhill rocks to pier bandstand or pier to clock	6
dogs be allowed up to say 11am and after 5pm may / June time .	1
ban for the 6 week summer holidays or the period the rafts are out.	1
Long stretch of beach empty that dogs can't go on - stops walks to town	1
Peak season (June - august) allow except 10-6 pm - make more of the beach dog friendly for locals	10
Need more dog poo bins (esp Lodmoor / Preston) to stop being thrown in bushes	1
Irresponsible dog owners spoil for the many - should be penalised when don't clear up	3
Children frightened by out-of-control dogs	2

Access before and after certain time year-round rather than blanket ban	2
More dog poo bins / empty more frequently / dog wardens should regulate this	3
PSPO should also apply to horses - raced in dog area / no signage about horses / not picking up poo	1
Signage should be amended to allow for assistance dogs on all areas of beach / formal gardens and playgrounds	2
Need better wheelchair access to the beach	1
Clearer signage re restricted areas	2
Pier end of Weymouth poor parking options	1
Dog friendly from Bowleaze to Greenhill Groyne	1
Short leads, important for children and cyclists	2
Dogs off leads in Nothe Gardens	1
Dogs should be banned from sandy area of beach	2
Dog fouling not monitored	8
Need restrictions at Overcombe beach	2
Dogs should be banned completely	1
Support current / tighter restrictions	2
Rodwell trail / Newtons Cove / the Marsh - dog fouling is terrible	3
Large amount of dog fouling on Overcombe/Preston beaches	3
Dog owners good for tourist trade	1
Restrictions May - Oct should also apply to Portland beaches - black barge and Chesil cove to Shell garage area	1
Need to enforce orders at Redland Sports Pitch	1
Dogs out of control unsafe for pedestrians and cyclists	1
Need more dog parks	2
All year round access	1
Restrictions needed at Greenhill Groyne	1
Restrictions 31 March - 31 Oct	1
Allowing dogs onto end of the sandy beach at the Pavilion end of Weymouth is unbelievable/Pavilion end better suited to non-dog owners/control area moved to pavilion restriction end and the groyne/area should be moved/move to Greenhill end	30
Weymouth beach attracts families with young children. Risk of safety with dog poo/waste	8
Tourists bring business into this resort [sandy beach] and we don't want to lose them. They should be given the best we have/no dogs on beaches in summer time/restriction period to be extended	5
Shorter time frame dogs are prohibited. During July and August/July-Sept	4
Dog owners create less mess than holiday makers	3
Cyclists on the prom greater risk	2
Designated times dogs can be on the beach in the summer/no restrictions rest of year	15
During 5 months of 'no dogs' the beach is very quiet most of the time. It could have dog walkers/helps businesses/encourages people into town/shorter restriction months	3

Dog owners beginning to be discriminated against in Weymouth	2
Extend area - dogs should be allowed on pebbled area of Weymouth beach/between Oliveto restaurant through to Greenhill Groyne/walk from Overcombe beach, Preston all the way along to the pier before restrictions to main beach exclusions start	5
Only be pavilion between 6am-8am and 8pm-10pm/restrictions to be longer	2
No point having rules if they aren't enforced/heavy fines/more enforcement	27
Signs are not prominent enough/more clear delineation of space/exemption of assistance dogs needs more signage	12
Dogs exercise area not in a good position. Would be better further around the beach, towards the clock/pier bandstand area/ dog training area too small/gets occupied by sporting events/extended to Bandstand area/occupied by families	28
Much of the money comes in from tourism, many holidaymakers bring their dogs with them	7
Kept on a lead at all times in Weymouth and Portland	5
Dogs not under control/dogs are intimidating, scary for children/adults/responsibility of owners to control dog and clean up after them	11
Whole beach to be allowed for dogs/in mornings and evening/all year round	12
Dogs should not be on the beach	5
No mention of Nothe Gardens. Should be changed to match Weymouth beach/please include the garden and Newton's cove	4
Nothe gardens lead only during restricted months, off lead otherwise/is all year round leads going to be reviewed?/should not have restrictions	4
Portland could do with more litter bins on cliff top walks/more bins Rodwell Trail/east end of Bowleaze Cove	3
Dogs on lead on Rodwell Trail should be retained/should be on leads at all times/long leads should be banned	3
Rodwell Trail noticeably cleaner since restrictions added in 2020	2
Restrictions at Chesil beach at the Portland end by the Cove House Inn	2

Swanage

Comment/Theme - Swanage	Total
Restrictions 31 March - 31 Oct	1
More dog bins/litter bins needed - especially North Beach end	1
Dogs should be allowed off lead from 1 May until 30 September during set times	1
Restrict times dogs can access rather than blanket summer ban	7
Allow dogs on leads in public parks in Swanage. Losing business for cafes/dogs on leads, rather than flat out restrictions	2
Dogs banned on the downs	1
People not adhering to restrictions/no enforcement/enforcement to be increased	4
Increase in issues - not clear how to report them	1
Owners do not pick up/increased amounts of dog waste recorded	5
Owners held responsible for their dogs/poor dog ownership	2

Dogs prohibited from Swanage beach all year	3
Section away from centre of Swanage could be opened up all year	1
Long beach to the north of the main beach, accessed mostly via Sheps Hollow. Should be controlled by PSPO	1
All beaches should be consistent to avoid confusion - Burlington Chine starts 1st April	1
Not enough bins	2
Current restrictions work well	4
Made clearer where holiday makers can take their dogs onto the beach	1
Did not realise North Beach had no restrictions	1
Exclusion should be shorter	1
Wider beaches like Weymouth should have separate rules. Dog beach at Swanage is tiny	1
Section beyond the banjo pier should allow dogs on leads during the summer	1
Leads to be shorter on walkways	1
More clear notices about dogs not being allowed on the beach	1
People make more mess than dogs	1
Dog parks	1
Shell bay a large enough beach to allow responsible dog owners all year round	1
During September holiday makers would appreciate being able to use the town beach/restrictions end on 1st September	2

West Bay

Comment/Theme – West Bay	Total
Should have some signage at Westcliff Beach (the second half of West Beach at West Bay) informing the public that it is the dog friendly beach.	1
Get complaints from tourists without dogs when using West Beach who complain as don't realise dogs can go on beach.	1
Lead restriction unnecessary on the section of promenade under Westcliff, leading from the foot of the estate, since this is only leads to the dog beach.	1
Restriction order for West Bay East needs to be extended to whole of East Beach	1
Signage needs to be clearer	
Consider total ban for West Beach	1
Need more dog poo bins	1
Beach with disabled access is a no dog beach. Many disabled people require assistance dogs. Needs reconsidering	1
Dogs permitted along path under the cliffs which is unsafe due to cliff falls	1
I think Hive Beach should be included in all of this	1
Dogs should be allowed on West Bay west beach but not east beach	1

Studland

Comment/theme - Studland	Total
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Time restrictions during summer	3
Lead restrictions during summer during set times in summer. Off lead outside of this	3
Provide space for both dog lovers and those not as comfortable	1
Restrictions come in too early and continue for too long	1
On lead at all times - cause disturbance to wildlife	1
Restrictions on the number of dogs a person can have	1
Current restrictions work well	1
Restrictions should finish early September/shorter restrictions	2
Should be wardens patrolling the beach	1
Should allow dogs all year off lead during early morning and late afternoon	1
More rubbish bins around	1
Less reason for dogs not to run free [as a remote beach]	1
Dogs to be kept on leads signage at beaches, closing an area of 100m in either direction from point of entry to beaches, or anywhere where there is a safe swimming zone	1
Humans leave more mess than dogs	1

Poundbury

Comment/Theme - Poundbury	Total
Extended to cover Great Field/has no restrictions	3
Allow northern half for dog exercising	1
Restrictions in place in area south of the Pavilion in the Park Café	1
Consideration given to ensure dogs are required to be on a lead at all times when walking on the established paths	1
Owners do not pick up	2
On leads at all times	4
Great Field should be dog free	1
Owners too lazy to exercise their dogs other than these areas. Children play on these areas [Great Field and Pavilion Green]/encourage walking in other areas	2
Hayward Square has increasing number of noisy dogs/owners do not have to keep dogs in check	1
Dog licenses to be introduced/enforcement/fines needed	2
Take no notice of signs	1

Official Responses

Official Organisation	Additional comments
Allsort'd C.I.C	I would like to see exemption for therapy and emotional support and assistance dogs because without these support dogs many of our clients would not be able to access the beach at all.

Axe Vale Dog Training Club	I am in favour of restrictions on Charmouth West Beach provided that dogs are allowed on the East beach without restrictions. This gives dog owners a fair share of the beach and allows no dog lovers to avoid them if they so wish.
Broadmayne Parish Council	As this is a response on behalf of a Parish Council, some of the questions are not appropriate e.g. do you have a dog? I have answered 'Don't know' to the question about specific locations for dogs on leads as it is more appropriate for the parish and town councils in those places to decide this. For the same reason, I have not commented on specific beaches.
Chickerell Town Council	At a recent Monthly Meeting of Chickerell Town Council, members resolved a request be submitted to this consultation that Dorset Council exclude dogs completely from the sports field located at Lower Way/School Hill/East Street, Chickerell. Dogs are currently permitted within 5 meters of the pitch when marked for football, but this area is a sports provision not just a football pitch that is marked during the season. This has been considered for some time and discussed with dog wardens previously - copies of council minutes can be provided in order to confirm the request if required.
DCN, Cycling UK and West Dorset Cycling	I am the Dorset Cyclists' Network Co-Ordinator for Weymouth and Portland, and a Cycling UK Cycling Advocacy Network representative for Weymouth and Portland. I also represent West Dorset Cycling and I am a local resident who uses the Rodwell Trail almost every day. It is our view that dogs should be on leads at all times on the Rodwell Trail. This has been the case since the Dog Related Public Spaces Protection Order of August 2020. Since then the trail has been a more pleasant and safer place and not just for cyclists but all Trail users. It is also noticeably cleaner with the majority of dog owners picking up their dog mess. The Trail is not a suitable place for dogs to be exercised off leads. It is a heavily used shared urban pedestrian and cycle path rather than an open space. It is part of the National Cycle Network. It is used by schoolchildren, commuters and shoppers plus residents and visitors who are walking or cycling for pleasure. Many families with small children use the trail. The daily incidents when out of control dogs cause danger and inconvenience to those of us cycling and walking on the trail have reduced since dogs are required to be on leads in August 2020. But they do still occur and are now usually caused by dogs illegally off leads or on long extending leads. The cyclists, however careful, come off worse, and are injured and their bicycles damaged. As a trail user it is impossible to know whether a dog off the lead is under control or not. Sadly even now there is a minority of dog owners who have out of control dogs off leads. I often see these irresponsible

owners throwing balls along the trail for the dogs to chase, It is impossible to claim that these dogs are under control. If dogs are allowed off leads they run up and jump up onto people, including children, who are often frightened.

When dogs were allowed off leads unrecovered fouling on the trail was significant. Owners also did not pick up the mess from the green edges of the tarmac trail. It reached the point where our members could not allow their children to play on the green parts of the trail. There is still a health danger to the many children on the trail now but it is reduced. Dogs must be on leads on many of the borough's open spaces and it has never made sense that the trail should be treated differently.

Dog Friendly
Weymouth &
Portland

Having discussed this with 3500 members of Weymouth and Portland Group, here are their comments, I picked up a paper copy from Weymouth Library which on discussion we came to the conclusion due to it being printed in black and white map references were pointless text explaining the map areas couldn't be read. The Consultation is difficult to follow, a choice of times and dates should have been offered, due to the area being a holiday town, where hundreds of dog owners live with visitor numbers in there thousands, from May 1st till July School Holidays the beach is unused due to term time and weather conditions, and again when schools return after Summer Holiday the beach is empty, until October 1st when dog restrictions end. We feel this has not been assessed by visits from your department. to reach gain insight from local businesses.

In Cornwall they have a compromise they have the same status Blue Flag/ Seaside Awarded Beaches we feel a compromise should be considered

Restricted 15th May - 30th September 10am -6pm
St Ives - Carbis Bay, Porthmeor, Portminister,
Bude - Crakiington Haven, Crooklets Beach Widemouth
Falmouth - Gyllyngvase Beach,
Polzeath
Sennen
Porthtowan
Padstow - Trevone

Cornwall Council agreed this compromise for the second time has proven successful not only for dog owners who live, visit, businesses who provide accommodation, shops, visitor attractions have all seen an increase in their local economy. Working with local groups to maintain times and dates are observed, Local groups informing visitors and ensuring they pick up and use appropriate bins. We have a regularly active litter picking group of dog owners who ensure the unrestricted areas and safe to use. Comments are made regarding poor and misleading signage, text on signs are in small fonts, are set to high for some people, are placed in positions where people miss them as they access the beach do not show a visual sign for assistance dogs, access ramps onto the unrestricted beaches are non-existent, leaving dog owners separated from family and friends at the beach wall, on occasions when reshaping the sand, they cannot see the sea or those enjoying the beach. This should all have been addressed during the previous consultations where this has been raised, since January 2017.

The main concern expressed by our group is the lack by the Dog Warden, Officers, and council employes to issue fines to those who allow their dogs to foul, since the very first PSPO in 2016 under a FOIA asking for any fines issued

Any FPN 10 in total

Any FPN not paid in total 9

Any FPN Challenged 1

Any Dismissed 9

We feel the signs threatening FPN serve no purpose and are not a deterrent to those few people who fail to pick up

PSPO which mentions FPN dog off lead in restricted area, have no purpose due to failure again of Dog Warden Department.

The group expressed they dislike seeing dog fouling and approach people but feel with a FPN issued this would send a proactive message. Also, the same applies to dogs off lead in restricted areas. We feel once a year a meeting with members of the Dog Warden Department should be arranged with local's dog groups who are unheard.

I have waited until 3pm Friday 25th August 2023 to complete this, this morning I walked on Weymouth Beach where many dog owning families where enjoy a day at the beach. not one family I approached had seen public notices, on the internet, in Newspapers this consultation would be ending today, the reply I gained from everyone was thank you, we feel any future consultations of any types, should be announced on Public Notice Boards, council should place information in local parks gardens and open spaces to receive feedback from residents. We feel this consultation fails to meet the requirements to be fair full consultation to gain public opinions give them the opportunity to Have Their Say

I have been conducting a study in Lyme Regis on behalf of Doggone Shame Lyme Regis and Lyme Regis Loving Dog Owners, Visitors & Friends Group that I would like Dorset Council to consider when reviewing the restrictions for the PSPO for dogs on beaches in Lyme Regis.

The study comprises of 2 and a half years of photographs taken daily of Lyme Regis Town Beach. The reason behind this was to show exactly how and when the beaches are used which demonstrates that the dogs on leads restrictions has driven most responsible dog owners to neighbouring beach towns and that the dog ban starts way to early when the Lyme Regis Beach is empty for many months during the ban until the holiday season starts.

I have documented the photographs on Twitter aka X (@DoggoneLyme), Instagram (@doggoneshamelymeregis), Facebook Page (@Doggone Shame - Lyme Regis Empty Beaches) and on <https://doggoneshamelymeregis.co.uk/>. I have also collated the images in to a short 1 min 15 second video for each month of each year which I would like to send to Dorset Council as evidence of the effects the current restrictions her in Lyme Regis. I would encourage Dorset Council to view the photograph evidence on the various social media channels, website or I can send the collated monthly photograph videos direct to Dorset Council, on furnish of an email address, for easier viewing.

Our YouTube Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKDmtuvoAsIHJS3vzbirS0A> is further evidence of a vibrant and proactive community of dog owners who would meet up on the Lyme Regis Town Beach and litter pick whilst their dogs played off lead prior to the dogs on leads restrictions that came into force on 1 January 2021. The 2021 videos clearly highlight that the dogs on leads restrictions destroyed the proactive dog community with many resident dog owners taking to driving to alternative beaches of Seaton, Charmouth, Weymouth to name a few.

Based on this evidence I am proposing that the following points are delivered as part of the new PSPO. I believe the suggestions below provide a balanced solution for everyone keeping all members of the community and visitors to Lyme Regis happy. I would also please urge you, as part of the review and approval process, to address the access issues to the dog friendly beaches in Lyme Regis which currently discriminate against those dog owners with young families, the elderly and those with mobility issues and disabilities.

I fully support a ban of dogs from the Lyme Regis Town Beach from 10am to 6pm in the true peak holiday times of July and August. This would welcome dog owners for more time out of high season and therefore created more business for the town and Dorset in general.

Suggested solutions for Lyme Regis Town Beach (details of my findings are show below the key points)

Doggone
Shame Lyme
Regis and
Lyme Regis
Loving Dog
Owners,
Visitors &
Friends

- Dogs off leads from 1st October to 30th April
- Harmonise restrictions to begin 31st May and end 30 September
- Allow dogs off leads access to the Lyme Regis Town Beach during the summer restrictions before 10am and after 6pm
- Improve access to the dog friendly beaches of Monmonth, Church Cliff and East Beaches in Lyme Regis
- Clear consistent signage on all entrances to Lyme Regis Town Beaches

Lyme Regis Summer Season:

Two and a half years of photographic evidence shows that the beaches are generally empty until late June, ramping up to the high season in July and August, tailing off sharply at the beginning of September when the beaches become empty again. The visitors and residents outside of the dog ban are dog owners who are unable to use the only safe and accessible Lyme Regis Town Beach due to the ban. The Easter and October Half Term Holidays show that dog owners and families with or without dogs can use the beaches in harmony (as documented in our YouTube Channel pre 2021 restrictions).

Fouling:

This is not in the remit of a PSPO - there are Government Laws and management for fouling. Under the Freedom of Information Act I have been informed there have been no fines issued for fouling in Dorset since 2021. Fouling, where encountered, is not restricted to beaches and I do believe bins that dispense dog bags would help address the issue of fouling countrywide. This was rolled out in Australia and proved a great success.

Toxocariasis:

Toxocariasis is not limited to dogs, other wildlife using the beach who are not wormed are more likely to carry the parasite. However the ban does not eliminated the incredibly rare risk of this as eggs lay active in soil and sand for many months. To date there have been no cases of toxocariasis contracted from any Dorset Beach.

Children:

Children are not an excuse to ban dogs from the beaches, especially when you consider all the other Dorset Beaches who welcome dogs off leads with their families. Many families own dogs, so by banning dogs from the beaches you are also inadvertently banning children by not providing suitable access to the dog friendly beaches.

Local Businesses who rely on Dog Owners:

All beach eateries in Lyme Regis are dog friendly, many provide fresh bowls of water, dog treats and dog icecreams. Many businesses display the "Dogs Welcome" Sticker Scheme so adequate space must be made available to exercise dogs off leads to encourage dog owners to keep using the town and the services provided. The current dogs on leads restrictions and summer ban encourages dog owners to look to other counties or areas to seek safe off lead exercise for their dogs, therefore taking away the trade from Lyme

Regis.

Beach Access:

The three dog friendly beaches allocated in Lyme Regis discriminates against those dog owners with young families, the elderly and those with mobility issues and disabilities due to completely unsuitable access via steep steps, slippery slopes, huge rocks, uneven ground and being underwater for a large proportion of the day. Along with shifting sand, mud slides, cliff falls and fast incoming tides the allocated isolated dog beaches have very limited access. The laying of an accessibility matting has not resolved the issue of access to Monmouth beach, as the camber of the matting is too high, the matting is uneven and a trip hazard and is very steep for wheelchairs or those using mobility aids. The issue of access has been highlighted by many people and acknowledged by Dorset Council, therefore it is imperative this issue is properly addressed as part of the order review or another suitable beach (for example Lyme Regis Town Beach) is allocated, especially given the photographic evidence of the two and a half years of empty beaches at Lyme Regis. Allowing assistance dogs on prohibited beaches does not take into consideration dog owners elderly residents or those with mobility issues or disabilities who do not meet this threshold. Walking dogs on open beaches, off lead, in the clean air is proven to help improve the health and well-being of many local residents reducing the reliance on local services such as the NHS and social care.

Enforcement:

I fully welcome enforcement of the Government Laws and wish to reiterate that fouling and management should not be part of the PSPO.

Isolation:

Given that the alternative isolated dog friendly beaches are not suitable for those with mobility issues or disabilities many elderly dog owners do not feel safe using these beaches. Being a lone person, male or female, and the risk of injury from falling has stopped many dog owners using the alternative beaches. A suggestion is to support the older generation by harmonising the restrictions and allow dogs off leads in the winter months and before 10am and after 6pm from May to September on the Lyme Regis Town Beach. This helps offset isolation for those who live alone and who, prior to the dogs on leads restrictions in 2021, would meet up on the Lyme Regis Town Beach to socialise and feel part of the community with their dog.

Feedback Poll:

An evidence gathering poll was run in which a huge 49% of dog owners stated that due to the dogs on leads restrictions they have stopped using or visiting the Lyme Regis Town Beach. Speaking to various business owners this has had a huge and noticeable negative impact on local business as dog owners are taking their dogs, and spending money, elsewhere. To help support local business and dog owners a harmonisation of restrictions on the Town Beach from Oct to April and dogs off leads before 10am and after 6pm May to September would bring dog owners, and their spending money, back to the town supporting local businesses.

Please consider all these points when making your decision. I have

tried to take a reasoned approach in highlighting the issues dog owners face in Lyme Regis. I'm hoping for change whilst still considering the non dog owners community and I strongly believe there is a better compromise that would encourage a more inclusive community instead of creating a divide as the current restrictions do.

Doggone Shame Lyme Regis
Lyme Regis Loving Dog Owners, Visitors & Friends
Shareholder for Dog Related Public Spaces Protection order

Dorset Dogs

This response adheres to the question format of the online public consultation but is being provided as a separate document rather than being submitted online in order to provide a sufficiently relevant and nuanced answer on behalf of Dorset Dogs within the online answer template.

Many of the responses from the initial consultation in 2020 remain the same and as such have been resubmitted.

Where there are clear reasons for a restriction at a specified time and location those restrictions are supported.

Alongside formal restrictions other methods, including effective public engagement, should be used to manage access for the benefit of people, the environment and wildlife. Ideally this will take many forms to reach a wide variety of people and organisations. Dorset Dogs uses a variety of methods to promote responsible access by people with dogs and champion positive access management.

Wherever possible there should always be good alternative provision where restriction is being applied, this will also make enforcement easier and more effective and avoid displacing problems from one area to another.

Survey Response

- Do you own a dog? Yes
- Are you answering this survey as?

I am responding as a representative of an organisation.
Dorset Dogs promotes responsible ownership and best practice methods for effective canine access management. Dorset Dogs, founded in 2009, comes under the umbrella of Urban Heaths Partnership.

- • What is the postcode for where you live? BH21 3RX (Office)
- • Dog fouling

The current PSPO requires the clearing up and appropriate disposal of dog fouling in public spaces.

Do you think this should be retained? Yes / No

NB: You may wish to note that appropriate disposal includes deposit into a suitable receptacle (litter bin or dog waste bin) or take home for disposal.

Yes - it should be retained, requiring the person in control of a dog to clear up and appropriately dispose of dog fouling, in public spaces.

- • Maximum lead length

The current PSPO requires a dog to be on lead, either by direction or when in a specific area. In these situations, and locations, the maximum lead length is two metres (six feet, six inches) to ensure control of a dog and to protect pedestrians, other dogs, and cyclists. Would you like to see retention of a maximum lead length as part of the 'on lead' requirement? Yes / No

Although a maximum lead length of 2m may be appropriate for some areas, the proposed PSPO covers a wide range of areas, and we would suggest this is considered on a site by site basis. A blanket lead length restriction of 2m limits the potential for dog and owner to enjoy their walk and may lull them into being less aware than they should be when a shorter lead length is appropriate. In most cases the visual information onsite or on the route is likely to be 'dogs on lead' and that is likely to be understood by most people. Where this is abused, it may be more likely that it is those people who would be subject to 'leads on direction' who are causing nuisance.

A 2m length may be useful as a broad guideline but the most appropriate lead length is likely to be highly variable depending on the circumstances, *so that for example on a path at a busy time or on a blind corner a lead length of less than 2m may be more appropriate, whilst if there is a clear view and no-one in sight a far longer lead may be appropriate. Similarly, if a dog is required to be on lead on a beach, then at a busy time the dog may need to be close by and alongside their owner, whilst when the beach is empty a longer lead length will be appropriate.* A 2m lead length across the board may be unnecessarily restrictive in various circumstances and limit the potential for dog and owner to take sufficient exercise and enjoy their walk. *For example, for elderly dogs, dogs with restricted mobility or visual impairment, being able to wander and sniff around on a verge can be more important than the distance travelled on a linear walk. This is particularly important for people who may only be able to*

access local areas, unless there is good provision of safe, suitable and unrestricted areas for exercise in that same local area.

It is important that people are well-informed and aware of principles of responsible dog walking. This includes respecting other visitors safe and enjoyable access, including multi-user/shared use of sites and routes so that everyone can enjoy access safely and responsibly. This may include a suggested maximum lead length at various specific locations, where the reason for that suggestion is specified and can be clearly explained (e.g., where a narrow path is shared by cyclists and walkers, or simply where busy paths are adjacent to traffic). This is then likely to be better understood and received and consequently more effective and more enforceable where it is necessary. If people understand why their dog is requested to be on-lead at a specific location then it is more likely the lead length they will use will take this reason into account and be appropriate.

- Dogs on lead by direction

The dogs on lead 'by direction' requirement allows certain authorised officers, such as Dorset Council Animal Welfare and Dog Control officers, to require a dog be put on a lead in any public open space if there is a safety risk to another animal or people nearby.

Should this requirement be retained? Yes / No

Yes – it is reasonable that dogs must be put on a lead if directed to do so by an authorised Officer, and they should have discretion to be able to specify maximum lead length. It would be particularly effective if there were sufficient staff to enforce this and also address those who need to be given a Community Protection Notice. There should also be staff using public engagement methods to raise awareness of responsible dog walking and thereby increasing the role of social influence as well as ensuring people have a good understanding of the positive or negative impacts their behaviours have, providing opportunities and enabling them to do the right thing.

- Dogs on lead

The current PSPO names areas where dogs are required to be kept on a lead at all times. These include specific roads, parks, gardens and other open spaces.

Should a 'dogs on lead' restriction be retained in the following areas?

Restriction to be retained / No restriction / Don't know

- Municipal cemeteries and graveyards, where dogs are permitted
- Public / formal gardens where dogs are permitted
- Council – owned allotments where dogs are permitted
- Council owned car parks
- Within 5m of marked sports pitches

And at these specific locations

- The Rodwell Trail, Weymouth
- West Bay Harbour Walk and promenade
- Lyme Regis – Marine Parade and Cart Road, and stair / footpath leading from Charmouth Road Car Park to Church Beach and the associated Sea Wall, Lyme Regis
- The Esplanade, Weymouth

- The Parade, and associated roads leading to The Parade and the beach, Swanage
- Studland – Access to Knoll Beach and Middle Beach from the car park, including the car park and staircases leading on to the beaches
- Studland – Shell Beach during 1 May to 30 September
- Studland Beach known as Knoll Beach (not including Middle Beach) during 1 May to 30 September
- Studland – Ferry Road, from Studland Beach car park to South Coast end marker, Shell Beach National Trust car park and access to routes to Shell Beach
- At Charmouth, Lower Sea Lane from the car park access, including the three car parks, the footpath leading to the beach including the bridge and paths adjacent to the heritage centre

Municipal cemeteries and graveyards, where dogs are permitted:

This is a very specific area and in these areas dogs may be a great comfort to some, so it would be helpful to permit dogs into such areas, on-lead. There should be some discretion applied however in circumstances such as where a person with mobility impairment has their dog under

effective control (and that dog is not causing nuisance to any other person), but is not easily able to have them on a lead.

Public/formal gardens where dogs are permitted: This is potentially a very broad range of public spaces and would amount to blanket restriction if placed across the board and is therefore not supported in a form where it is applied to all public / formal gardens. If there are particular reasons to put in place a dogs on lead restriction at a specific public or formal gardens then this should be assessed on an individual basis and with heed to whether this will cause undue restriction on local people particularly if there is little alternative off-lead provision or where the local population has been used to accessing the gardens and exercising dogs responsibly off-lead has been the norm. As boundaries of public or formal gardens are normally delineated in some reasonably clear way or accessed via clear access points it is relatively straightforward to inform people that one such area may be restricted whilst another not, given the wide variety of such spaces. Ideally, and depending on size, if a public or formal garden does have an on-lead restriction, zoning should be used to provide an off-lead area (where dogs must be under effective control instead) and failing this there should be good alternative off-lead space nearby and people in the locality should be informed about this, whether that is through local promotion onsite, online, through events to highlight that provision or similar means.

Council-owned allotments where dogs are permitted: Dogs should be able to be off-lead within the boundaries of the individual allotment of the owner under effective control, and be required to stay on the path under the effective control of the owner on lead whilst elsewhere on the allotment site.

Council-owned car parks Yes there is a strong safety reason for dogs to be on-lead in car parks although assistance dogs should be treated as a different case as appropriate.

Within 5 metres of marked sports pitches: There are many sites across Dorset where people walk around the boundary of sports pitches and where there are no good alternative greenspaces, a 5m boundary is a wide area that is useful exercise space for people who may otherwise be limited to pavements, so it would be more practical and reasonable to consider sport pitches on an individual basis. The actual use of those sites and the times, days or seasons in which the pitches are in use should be considered to achieve a practical restriction that ensures that it is a safe space for sports at those, whilst offering the local community continued fair access at other times. The restriction relating to fouling is of primary importance. This individual assessment is more time-consuming but may be more supported by the local community, and more effective and enforceable in the longer-term.

Dogs On leads at specific locations

Currently Dorset Dogs work is limited to specific locations as dictated by funding and there is currently not the capacity to do site visits in order to respond to the PSPO, it is therefore difficult to comment on specific sites in detail. Where sites are known previous knowledge has been applied or we have resubmitted our original response (where unknown a combination of maps and satellite images was used).

It is important that if dogs on lead restriction is applied at any of the areas cited below then the time / season when that is applied is appropriate, in some cases this may only be in the busy summer months.

The Rodwell Trail: Where there are pinch points, narrow sections, areas with limited visibility of what's ahead and junctions a restriction for dogs on lead may be necessary if a request is not sufficient for safety purposes, but provided people have their dog under effective control a dogs on lead restriction should not be applied to the entire length of multi-

use trails such as the Rodwell Trail without consideration for areas where off lead and under effective control is a reasonable alternative. It is important that people are made aware of multi-user/shared use responsible access so that everyone can enjoy access safely, this may include a suggested maximum lead length at various specific locations, where the reason for that suggestion is specified and can be clearly explained if queried (e.g. where a narrow path is shared by cyclists and walkers). This is then likely to be better understood and received and consequently more effective and more enforceable where it is necessary. Some areas of the Rodwell Trail are wide with broad verges and good visibility. Simple roundels, flags or signs that can denote on and off lead areas on such routes are available, to back up more detailed signage that may be available at key points.

West Harbour Walk and promenade: Much of the area in yellow appears to be parking areas, where dogs should be on lead, so the restriction is supported for those areas.

We are not familiar with this area so do not feel able to comment - for the promenade backing the area of shore / beach where dogs are permitted a formal dogs on lead restriction should only be applied if there is a specific reason to do so. At many beaches where there is an area open to dogs all year round it is the area with no prom

backing it that is available to all. This excludes some people from being able to make use of dog-friendly beaches, including those with mobility impairments.

Lyme Regis – Marine Parade and Cart Road, and stair / footpath leading from Charmouth Road Car Park to Church Beach and the associated Sea Wall, Lyme Regis: The same rationale applies as for the previous response, at parking areas dogs should be on lead, elsewhere there should be a sound reason to apply a dogs on lead restriction across the entire extent of all these areas; regardless of this dogs should be under effective control at all times. Where a dog-free zone on a beach applies it seems reasonable to apply a dogs on lead restriction on the prom backing it but at others areas of beach with no restriction dogs under effective control should be sufficient.

The Esplanade, Weymouth: This is an extensive area, dogs on lead restriction would be appropriate by busy traffic and parking areas or where and when there is heavy use, which may be the case here?

The Parade, and associated roads leading to The Parade and the beach, Swanage: This is an extensive area, dogs on lead restriction would be appropriate by busy traffic and parking areas but may be unnecessarily restrictive away from such areas apart from at the busiest times of year.

Studland – Access to Knoll Beach and Middle Beach from the car park, including the car park and staircases leading on to the beaches: Dogs on leads in the car park area is supported.

Studland – Shell Beach during 1 May to 30 September: To see this in the wider context –ideally a dog-friendly all year round off-lead beach should be available at Studland somewhere to take pressure off nearby heathland with vulnerable rare wildlife and grazing animals and allow both local people and holidaymakers the opportunity to enjoy the beach with their dogs and make enforcement easier in other zones. This would not necessarily need to be at Shell Beach, and from our understanding of the PSPO, it appears that Middle Beach is off lead during this period of time? For Shell Beach it's worth mentioning that the area shown does have vulnerable bird populations at migration and overwintering times.

Studland Beach known as Knoll Beach (not including Middle Beach) during 1 May to 30 September: See response above. A dog-friendly off-lead beach,would give a fairer balance and make enforcement on the rest of the beach easier and give better protection to the adjacent designated conservation areas such as the local heaths.

Studland – Ferry Road, from Studland Beach car park to South Coast end marker, Shell Beach National Trust car park and access to routes to Shell Beach: Dogs on leads in the car park area is supported.

At Charmouth, Lower Sea Lane from the car park access, including the three car parks, the footpath leading to the beach including the bridge and paths adjacent to the heritage centre: Dogs on lead supported in the car park areas

- Dog Exclusion Areas

Recreation areas and Marked Sports Pitches:

The current PSPO excludes dogs from public areas which are clearly marked 'No dogs' (or words / symbols to that effect). These are skateboard parks, tennis and basketball courts, bowling and putting greens, enclosed play parks, sporting or recreational facilities and athletics tracks. Would you like to see this continued?

Yes – I think dogs should be excluded from all of these areas

No – I think dogs should be kept on a lead but not excluded

No – I think there should be no restrictions

Please note that some land owners have exempted their land from the previous Order and may choose to extend this to the proposed Order.

The current PSPO excludes dogs from marked sports pitches which are clearly marked with 'No dogs' (or words / symbols to that effect).

Would you like to see this retained?

Yes – I think dogs should be excluded from these areas at all times

No – I think dogs should only be excluded when the sports pitch is in use

No – I think dogs should only be excluded during the playing season

No – I think there should be no exclusions

Exclusion from some facilities described by this inclusion may be appropriate but is open to very wide interpretation, more detail is necessary to be able to comment, it may be exclusion is appropriate at some areas of this type but not others, or at some times but not at others. It's important that if exclusion is applied, there should always be a clear reason for restriction that can be explained, and there is suitable alternative provision in the locality, either existing or newly provided by the time any exclusion is brought in, especially if new exclusion is being brought in at places where local people have been able to have access previously and this is now being denied.

Enclosed play parks where dogs are not permitted should be available to ensure children can run around loudly and safely and clear signage should be in place to show this, although additional alternative options of unfenced play equipment where families can also go, with their dogs on lead, would be good, as many families do have dogs and limited time. Dog-proof fencing is the obvious way to show the distinction combined with signs that show clearly 'no dogs' or 'dogs allowed on lead' for unfenced equipment; the latter is important as well as the former. Making clear where dogs can go is as important as making clear where they can not and should be provided alongside information about restrictions wherever practicable and will aid enforcement.

As with the dogs on lead restriction within 5m of marked sports pitches, there are many sites across Dorset where people walk on marked sports pitches and where there are no good alternative greenspaces. They are a useful exercise space for people who may otherwise be limited to pavements, so it would be more practical and reasonable to consider sport pitches on an individual basis. The actual use of those sites and the times, days or seasons in which the pitches are in use should be considered to achieve a practical restriction that ensures that it is a safe space for sports at those, whilst offering the local community continued fair access at other times. The restriction relating to fouling is of primary importance. This individual assessment is more time-consuming but may be more supported by the local community, and more effective and

enforceable in the longer-term. Exclusion during times when the sports pitch is in use or during the playing season would be more proportionate.

- Beaches in the area of Dorset Council

The current PSPO applies a consistent period of a start and end date for the exclusion of dogs on specified beaches. This period is between the 1st May and the 30th September. If we retain a restriction, it is preferred we keep a consistent period across the specified beaches. The list of affected beaches: Central Beach, Swanage; Front Town Beach, Lyme Regis; Seatown Beach, Chideock; West Bay Beaches; Charmouth West Beach and Weymouth (Central) Beach. Do you agree with the continuation of a consistent period for these specified beaches?

- I agree with the current period (1 May and the 30 September)
- I agree with a set time period but think it should be different dates
- I disagree – there should be no restriction

As you think it should be a different period, please select a different time frame. Restrictions should apply to:

- The beginning of the Dorset Council Spring Term School Holiday and the end of the Dorset Council Summer Term School Holidays
- After 8.00 and before 19.00 (1st May to 30th September)

If the continuation of a consistent period of exclusion is applied then it should be that the restrictions are reasonable, in that there is a clear reason for restriction being in place at that time at that location, and that the reason can be explained, with clear information given on site so that people can respect, understand and follow it.

If the continuation of a consistent period of exclusion is used to mean that a broad range of locations, types of area and times are put together this can result in inappropriate and unnecessary restrictions being in place. This then means that there are negative impacts on the local community, less respect for restrictions in places and at times when they are

justified and also displacement of issues to other sites, which may include sites for example where there are vulnerable wildlife or grazing animals.

Beach zoning restrictions should apply during the time when pressures are most likely to cause conflict, if this is in fact the same period for all the beaches then there is no reason for them not to be the same. This may be during the summer holiday period, with an influx of holiday makers; recognising this is variable in different parts of the country, it should cover a period from mid-July to the first week of September (there does not seem to be a good reason to take it through to the end of September or beyond). Alternatively, beach restrictions elsewhere in Dorset often started historically from 1 May, if this is in fact the period during which these beaches get busy then this may be more appropriate. The key principle is that timing should be linked to reason, to ensure restriction is understood, respected and easier to enforce.

If a period of exclusion is to be applied during a period of time on the basis of when the beaches are most busy, and these beaches are

busy mainly during 08.00 and 19.00 it would be reasonable and proportionate to allow access to dog walkers outside of this time frame. As with sports pitches the restriction relating to fouling is of importance.

The easiest way for residents to understand restrictions and make it simpler to enforce is if there are clear reasons that can be explained for the restrictions at that locality at that time. If the proposal were to mean that a longer time period for restrictions were to be applied across the board because there is a reason for it at one location that would be counterproductive.

As other beaches such as those in the BCP area and private ownership will have different restrictions there isn't necessarily a strong argument for making all of the beaches adhere to the same restrictions regardless of the circumstances or reasons. Local people will soon get to know the dates if these are made clearly available and visitors on holiday or day tripping are likely to check online before their visits, or using site signs on the day, and these beaches are on quite distinct parts of the coastline and do not run from one to the next geographically. Restriction should again link clearly to a reason.

However, if all of these beaches are busy in the summer holidays that would provide a clear reason to provide some dog-free zones and on-lead areas as well as dog-friendly areas during that period at all of these beaches, ensuring people who wish to can enjoy the beach without dogs whilst others can enjoy dog-friendly beach areas.

Ensuring a sufficient quantity and quality of dog-friendly beach is available will make it easier to enforce; importantly this should include accessible beach with prom and facilities not just the 'wilder' areas of beach which are difficult for families using pushchairs or people with wheelchairs or mobility limitations. It's currently very noticeable that the areas of dog-friendly beach that are available all year round for dog owners are often those with the least facilities and no prom or similar access backing them, whilst many families with young children or elders have dogs and would benefit from dog-friendly beaches with hard surfacing and facilities in the vicinity.

- Beaches in the area of Dorset Council – Please ONLY select beaches you want to comment on.

No other beaches are affected by this PSPO

Please select the beach most important to you.

You will be asked this question again at the end of the section.

- Swanage (Central Beach)

- Lyme Regis (Front Town Beach)

- Seatown Beach, Chideock

- West Bay Beaches

- West Beach, Charmouth

- Weymouth (Central) Beach

The current Order prohibits dogs from the above beaches during a specified summer period. Would you like this control retained? Yes / No

As previously outlined Dorset Dogs work is limited to specific locations as dictated by funding and therefore it is difficult to comment on specific sites in detail. Where sites are known previous knowledge has been applied or we have resubmitted our original response, where unknown a combination of maps and satellite images have been used.

- Swanage (Central Beach)

The current Order prohibits dogs from Central Beach during specified summer months. Would you like this control retained? Yes / No

No - whilst it is good to provide dog-free areas too this is a long stretch of beach and beyond it there is quite a mish-mash of private ownership and consequently very variable dog restrictions, until you reach the 'wild' end of the beach where there is no prom or facilities and where it is subject to landslips and the risk of being cut off by the tides so is not a good alternative. An area of perhaps one or preferably 2 groynes width where dogs are allowed would be really useful to enhance Dorset's dog-friendly reputation whilst still allowing a significant area of dog-free beach.

- Lyme Regis (Front Town Beach)

The current Order prohibits dogs from Front Town Beach during specified summer months. Would you like this control retained? Yes / No

Dogs must be on lead from the 1 October to the 30 April in this area of the beach. Do you agree?

- Yes – I think dogs should be required to be kept on lead during this period

- No – I think dogs should not be required to be kept on lead during this period

Providing that there is alternative beach in that area it is reasonable to have a dog-free zone.

We are aware that concerns have been raised from the dog community that the order means using neighbouring beaches for off lead exercise which are unsuitable due to being tidal, with poor accessibility due to steep steps and warnings of deep shelves, mudslides and cliff falls.

We don't believe dogs should be required to be kept on lead during the remainder of the year (from 1 October to 30 April) unless there is a valid reason to do so. Community Protection Notices should be used to address irresponsible use rather than penalising all, alongside other methods to promote responsible access (such as those suggested in the general comments section at the end of this document).

An area where dogs are allowed would be really useful to enhance Dorset's dog-friendly reputation whilst still allowing a significant area of dog-free beach.

Beach zoning restrictions should apply during the time when pressures are most likely to cause conflict, if this is in fact the same period for all the beaches then there is no reason for them not to be the same. This may be during the summer holiday period, with an influx of holiday makers; recognising this is variable in different parts of the country, it should cover a period from mid-July to the first week of September (there does not seem to be a good reason to take it through to the end of September or beyond). Alternatively, beach restrictions elsewhere in Dorset often started historically from 1 May, if this is in fact the period during which these beaches get busy then this may be more appropriate. The key principle is that timing should be linked to reason, to ensure restriction is understood, respected and easier to enforce.

- Seatown Beach, Chideock

The current Order prohibits dogs from Seatown Beach during specified summer period. Would you like this control retained? Yes / No

No - This is a long length of beach and there should be a dog-friendly zone.

Beach zoning restrictions should apply during the time when pressures are most likely to cause conflict, if this is in fact the same period for all the beaches then there is no reason for them not to be the same. This may be during the summer holiday period, with an influx of holiday makers; recognising this is variable in different parts of the country, it should cover a period from mid-July to the first week of September (there does not seem to be a good reason to take it through to the end of September or beyond). Alternatively, beach restrictions elsewhere in Dorset often started historically from 1 May, if this is in fact the period during which these beaches get busy then this may be more appropriate. The key principle is that timing should be linked to reason, to ensure restriction is understood, respected and easier to enforce.

- West Bay Beaches

The current Order prohibits dogs from East and West Bay Beaches during specified summer period. Would you like this control retained? Yes / No

We're not sufficiently familiar with this area of beach to comment on whether the dog-free and dog-friendly zone is balanced. If there is still a reasonable area of beach that is dog-friendly available it may be reasonable to have both these areas as dog-free, but otherwise consideration should be given to making one of them available for dog owners.

Previously there was a consideration as to whether dogs should be prohibited from East Beach only, as the cliffs west of West Beach are hazardous and subject to frequent rock falls. This would have opened up West Beach for unrestricted exercise. We stated in our reply to the consultation at this time that it sounded reasonable. With clear, effective signage in place so that people are aware of the limits of the 'safe' area; as much of Dorset's cliffed coast is subject to landslip or rockfall every effort should be made to make this clear to people along

the Dorset coast, i.e. that when on the beaches they should in any case be keeping away from the cliffs for those reasons. Beach zoning restrictions should apply during the time when pressures are most likely to cause conflict, if this is in fact the same period for all the beaches then there is no reason for them not to be the same. This may be during the summer holiday period, with an influx of holiday makers; recognising this is variable in different parts of the country, it should cover a period from mid-July to the first week of September (there does not seem to be a good reason to take it through to the end of September or beyond). Alternatively, beach restrictions elsewhere in Dorset often started historically from 1 May, if this is in fact the period during which these beaches get busy then this may be more appropriate. The key principle is that timing should be linked to reason, to ensure restriction is understood, respected and easier to enforce.

- West Beach, Charmouth

The current Order stipulates dogs are prohibited from West Beach during specified summer months. Would you like this control retained?
Yes / No

We're not sufficiently familiar with this area of beach to comment on whether the dog-free and dog-friendly zone is balanced. If there is still a reasonable area of beach that is dog-friendly available it may be reasonable to have this area as dog-free, but otherwise consideration should be given to making zones available for dog owners. It appears from the map that there are not restrictions at East Beach?

It will normally always be preferable to have areas that are available for the many dog owners to use off-lead areas alongside those areas where dogs can not run free, and this will be more effective as people will be more likely to feel this is a fair and balanced management, making enforcement easier and reducing the likelihood of concentrating pressure onto a small number of dog-friendly beaches or of people ignoring the restrictions.

Beach zoning restrictions should apply during the time when pressures are most likely to cause conflict, if this is in fact the same period for all the beaches then there is no reason for them not to be the same. This may be during the summer holiday period, with an influx of holiday makers; recognising this is variable in different parts of the country, it should cover a period from mid-July to the first week of September (there does not seem to be a good reason to take it through to the end of September or beyond). Alternatively, beach restrictions elsewhere in Dorset often started historically from 1 May, if this is in fact the period during which these beaches get busy then this may be more appropriate. The key principle is that timing should be linked to reason, to ensure restriction is understood, respected and easier to enforce.

- Weymouth (Central) Beach

The current Order has a permanent dog exercise area at the Pavilion end where dogs are permitted all year round. This will be retained. Dogs are excluded from the area between the marked exercise area

	<p>(Pavilion end of the beach) and Greenhill Groyne during specified summer period. Would you like this control retained? Yes / No Yes - It may be worth trialling having a larger area available for dogs (adjacent to either the existing Preston or Pier dog-friendly beach areas) whilst maintaining a sizeable dog-free zone, as this is a long beach.</p> <p>Beach zoning restrictions should apply during the time when pressures are most likely to cause conflict, if this is in fact the same period for all the beaches then there is no reason for them not to be the same. This may be during the summer holiday period, with an influx of holiday makers; recognising this is variable in different parts of the country, it should cover a period from mid-July to the first week of September (there does not seem to be a good reason to take it through to the end of September or beyond). Alternatively, beach restrictions elsewhere in Dorset often started historically from 1 May, if this is in fact the period during which these beaches get busy then this may be more appropriate. The key principle is that timing should be linked to reason, to ensure restriction is understood, respected and easier to enforce. General Comments If you have any additional comments about the proposed PSPO that are not addressed in this survey, please comment.</p>
<p>Friends of the Rodwell Trail and Sandsfoot Castle Gardens</p>	<p>The trail has become safer for all users since the introduction of the dogs on leads byelaw in 2016. It is a major transport link for pedestrians and cyclists, used by commuters, schoolchildren, shoppers, residents and tourists, including families with small children.</p> <p>Dogs off leads often cause a danger to pedestrians and cyclists by running loose on the trail, some being completely out of control.</p> <p>The cleanliness of the trail has improved with dogs required to be on leads It has been proven that the owners whose dogs are on leads are more likely to pick up after them than if the dogs are running free.</p>
<p>Harbour Authority</p>	<p>The areas that are used for the loading and unloading of catch from Fishermen at the harbours of Lyme Regis and Bridport, dogs should be banned from entering, this will stop the catch being spoiled by dogs using the area as a toilet on a regular basis and owners not clearing up in a food working area.</p>
<p>The Kennel Club</p>	<p>Exclusions We do not normally oppose Orders to exclude dogs from playgrounds or enclosed recreational facilities such as tennis courts or skate parks. It is important that alternative provisions are made for dog walkers in the vicinity to avoid displacement or the intensification of problems in nearby areas. However, we will oppose PSPOs which introduce blanket restrictions on dog walkers accessing public open spaces without specific and reasonable justification. Dog owners are required to provide their dogs with appropriate daily exercise, including “regular opportunities to walk and run” – in most cases, this will be off the lead while still under control.</p> <p>Seasonal/time restrictions</p>

Where a seasonal restriction is proposed, we encourage the local authorities to consider whether a time restriction would be an appropriate addition. For example, many playing fields and beaches are empty in the early mornings and late evenings, making this a key time for many dog owners to exercise their dogs. These are important local resources for owners to make sure their dogs get the required daily off-lead exercise and we see little reason why it should be restricted during times of the day when the field or beach is little used, even in the busy season. **Displacement**

A common unintended consequence of restrictions is displacement onto other pieces of land, resulting in new conflicts being created. It can be difficult to predict the effects of displacement, and so the council should consider whether alternative sites for dog walkers are suitable and can support an increase in the number of dog walkers using them.

Appropriate signage

It is important to note that in relation to PSPOs, The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (Publication of Public Spaces Protection Orders) Regulations 2014 makes it a legal requirement for local authorities to –

“cause to be erected on or adjacent to the public place to which the order relates such notice (or notices) as it considers sufficient to draw the attention of any member of the public using that place to -
(i) the fact that the order has been made, extended or varied (as the case may be); and
(ii) the effect of that order being made, extended or varied (as the case may be).”

Regarding dog access restrictions, such as a ‘Dogs on Lead’ Order, on-site signage should clearly state where such restrictions begin and end. This can be achieved with signs that say
kcdog@thekennelclub.org.uk

on one side, for example, ‘You are entering [type of area]’ and ‘You are leaving [type of area]’ on the reverse.

While all dog walkers should be aware of their requirement to pick up after their dog, signage must be erected for the PSPO to be compliant with the legislation.

Assistance dogs

We urge the Council to review the Equality and Human Rights Commission’s guidance for businesses and service providers when providing any exemptions for those who rely on assistance dogs. The guidance can be viewed here:

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/assistance-dogs-a-guide-for-all-businesses.pdf> We would therefore encourage the Council to allow for some flexibility when considering whether a disabled person’s dog is acting as an assistance dog. The Council could consider adopting the definitions of assistance dogs used by Mole Valley District Council, which can be found below from their 2020 PSPO which included the following exemption provisions on dog control:

Nothing in this Order shall apply to a person who –

a) is registered as a blind person on a register compiled under section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948; or

	<p><i>b) is deaf, in respect of a dog trained by Hearing Dogs for Deaf People (registered charity number 293358) and upon which he relies for assistance; or</i></p> <p><i>c) has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on the ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities, in respect of a dog trained by any current or future members of Assistance Dogs UK or any other charity registered in the UK with a purpose of training assistance dogs and upon which he relies for assistance</i></p> <p><i>d) has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on the ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities and in the reasonable opinion of the Council that person relies upon the assistance of the dog in connection with their disability. or that of Northumberland County Council:</i></p> <p><i>“(4) The term “Assistance Dog” shall mean a dog which has been trained to assist a person with a disability.</i></p> <p><i>(5) The expression “disability” shall have the meaning prescribed in section 6 of the Equality Act 2010 or as may be defined in any subsequent amendment or re-enactment of that legislation”.</i></p>
Lyme Regis Town Council	<p>The default position on the relevant survey questions is the retention of the status quo, it doesn't allow the respondent the option to extend dog bans. This forces the respondent, and this includes Lyme Regis Town Council, to choose a 'best fit response', which is not necessarily a preferred option and. as a result, skews the survey results.</p>
National Trust	<p>I would like to comment on the PSPO for Studland Beaches that there seems to be a proposed inconsistency. The current Dogs PSPO covers from South beach to half of Knoll beach as well as Ferry rd. On the consultation questions South Beach and Middle Beach seem to be excluded and Shell Bay included. The National Trust feel that there should be consistency and that the PSPO should cover all 4 beaches, Shell bay, Knoll Beach, Middle Beach and South beach with the same order of dogs on leads from 1st May to end of September, as well as dog fouling. That allows for clear consistent messaging for visitors. The beaches all run into each other so it is difficult to see where the different areas stop and start for visitors. We would also like to explore options for protection of breeding birds in sensitive areas of the dunes and to be able to look at the proposed area mapping in more detail.</p>
Silton Parish council , dog walking field warden	<p>I believe more dog poo bins should be in place.</p>

Swanage Town Council	<p>Concerns are raised regarding Section 2 of the existing Order, 'Removal and disposal of dog faeces', and comments are made that no enforcement of the Order by Dorset Council's (DC's) dog wardens has been evident in Swanage. Questions are raised regarding DC's resources for enforcement, what presence there will be in Swanage in the future, and whether enhanced enforcement measures could be considered/included in the new PSPO.</p> <p>Disappointingly the town has experienced an increase in the amount of dog mess on its footpaths and green spaces, and the Town Council's Operations Team has recorded a sizeable number of incidents of hitting/being covered in dog mess whilst undertaking grass strimming duties, and have had to stop work to shower, and wash their clothes and equipment. Not only is this extremely unpleasant, it is also a health hazard. The Town Council is now in the process of procuring full face visors/shields for its grounds staff, which are expensive. It must be noted that the Town Council provides over 60 bins for this type of waste in the town, which are in addition to the bins provided by DC).</p> <p>Your comments regarding these concerns would be appreciated. Thank you.</p>
Town Council	<p>All dogs should be under control by lead on all public amenity spaces unless in a designated dog area.</p> <p>Recreation grounds such as Ricketts lane DT10 1BY. These areas are used by local primary schools as sport pitches and also local sport clubs. We have a huge issue with dogs off the lead and excrement left on these pitches although signage is present. staff regularly speak with the dog owners informing them of the rules and are often met with abusive behaviour.</p>
Verwood Town Council	<p>The Town Council would be interested in knowing when any of the PSPO was enforced in Verwood or Three Legged Cross, if data is available.</p> <p>It was felt that new, better signage was needed to ensure that dog owners were aware of the restrictions near sports pitches.</p>
Wareham St Martin Parish Council	<p>Wareham St Martin Parish Council would like to see more dog wardens patrolling the public spaces and land owned by National Trust. Members feel there should be stronger enforcement powers against dog owners who allow their dog to act anti-socially.</p>

Weymouth Portland Marine Litter Project CIC	<p>There is no evidence that dog owners foul the beach and many dog owners pick up litter so having access outside peak hours would be beneficial.</p> <p>The designated dog area is used most of the summer for sports activities with much of it cordoned off so it's not in fact a designated area, it's a designated area on days that suit WTC. Many visitors walk all the way to the dog area only to find it occupied by marquees, sports pitches etc.</p> <p>Either move the sports or move the dog area the current arrangement is ridiculous.</p>
Wimborne Minster Town Council	<p>Wimborne Minster Town Council resolved on 25 July 2023 (minute reference FC/2023/041) that the current Order should remain in place without any changes so that the Town Council can either remain or opt out.</p> <p>Wimborne Minster Town Council should also be consulted as the landowner for two areas within the Town subject to any amendments to the Order (Redcotts Recreation Ground and Leigh Park grounds), as per the requirements of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 which Dorset Council previously failed to do prior to implementation.</p>
Wranger Dorset Council	<p>Can we look into these orders going on Dorset Council owned heathlands areas to lead the way for other organisations to get them for theirs.</p>

About You

Age

	Total	Percent
Under 18	7	0.2%
19 - 24	42	1%
25 - 34	204	4.9%
35 - 44	379	9.1%
45 - 54	743	17.8%
55 - 64	1097	26.3%
65 or over	1392	33.3%
Prefer not to say	313	7.5%

The consultation has attracted residents covering good spread of responses across the age groups, however, it is not dominated by those aged in the older age groups with those aged 65+making up 33.3% of respondents compared to 29% of the Dorset population. 7.5% of respondents preferred not to disclose their age group

Gender

	Total	Percent
Male	1196	28.9%
Female	2688	64.9%
Prefer not to say	261	6.3%

The current profile of the residents of Dorset shows 28.9% male and 64.9% female. As the table below shows the responses from females, does skew considerably from the Dorset profile but this is not unusual in this type of survey.

Disability

Disability Declaration

	Total	Percent
Yes	398	9.6%
No	3315	80.1%
Prefer not to say	426	10.3%

9.6% of respondents considered they had a disability. This equates to 398 people. This is higher than many other surveys. There is no overall figure for Dorset. The data has been used when analysing the responses to all the questions to see if people who have a disability had a different view to the majority on the key questions in the consultation.

Types of disability

	Total	Percent
Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD)	5	1.3%
Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)	15	4%
Autistic Spectrum Conditions	26	6.9%
Blind	2	0.5%
Dyscalculia	2	0.5%
Dyslexia	27	7.2%
Dyspraxia	12	3.2%
Deaf	14	3.7%
Hearing loss	44	11.7%
Long term health condition	198	52.5%
Mental health issues	79	21%
Physical impairment	91	24.1%
Sign Language User	2	0.5%
Visually impaired	12	3.2%
Medical conditions	128	34%
Mobility issues	179	47.5%
Learning disability	7	1.9%
Wheelchair user	26	6.9%

When looking at the specific disabilities the 377 people responding. 198 said they had a long-term health condition, 179 had mobility issues, 128 had a (non-specified) medical condition, and 91 with a physical impairment.

Ethnicity

	Total	Percent
White: British	3662	88.2%
White: Irish	19	0.5%
White: Gypsy	0	0.00%
White: Irish Traveller	1	0.02%
White: Other	60	1.4%
Mixed: White and Black Caribbean	2	0.05%
Mixed: White and Black African	1	0.02%
Mixed: White and Asian	14	0.3%
Mixed: Other	9	0.2%
Asian or Asian British: Indian	2	0.05%
Asian or Asian British: Pakistani	2	0.05%
Asian or Asian British: Chinese	1	0.02%
Asian or Asian British: Other	0	0.00%
Black or Black British:	3	0.1%
Arab	0	0.00%
Other ethnic group	8	0.2%
Prefer not to say	370	8.9%

The profile of residents in Dorset overall show 3662 are White British and 42 Black and Minority Ethnic (BME). 370 chose not to answer this question.

Appendix B

Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014

The Dorset Council Dog Related Public Spaces Protection Order 2024

Dorset Council (“the Council”) hereby makes the following Order:

This Order shall be known as The Dorset Council Dog Related Public Spaces Protection Order 2024 and shall come into force on 1st January 2024 for a period of three years.

When in force this Order supersedes the following:

The Dorset Council Dog Related Public Spaces Protection Order 2020.

This Order has 6 sections and should be read in conjunction with the related Schedules.

Contents

1. General provisions
2. Removal and disposal of dog faeces
3. Dogs to be excluded from identified areas
4. Dogs to be kept on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised officer
5. Dogs to be kept on lead in identified areas
6. Penalty

Schedule 1 – General land provision

Schedule 2 – Exclusion of dogs

Schedule 3 – Dogs to be kept on leads

Section 1 - General provisions

1.1 Where specified in this Order 'the Council' means Dorset Council

1.2 A person who habitually has a dog in their possession shall be taken to be in charge of the dog at any time unless at that time some other person is in charge of the dog.

1.3 This Order shall NOT apply with regard to **disposal of faeces** where a person in charge of a dog;

1.3.1 has hidden or visible disabilities for which an assistance dog is needed to carry out normal day-to-day activities and the dog is working; or

1.3.2 has hidden or visible disabilities which have a substantial effect on their ability to collect faeces from where it is deposited and on the judgement of the authorised officer, in following the Dorset Council protocol on enforcement of the PSPO, agrees that the circumstances for exemption exist.

[i.e. a FPN may be served but written mitigation may be supplied for consideration to seek its withdrawal]

1.4 This Order shall NOT apply with regard to complying with a **direction by an authorised officer to put their dog on a lead**, where a person in charge of a dog

1.4.1 is deaf, in respect of a dog trained by Hearing Dogs for Deaf People (registered charity number 23358) and upon which they rely for assistance.

1.5 This Order shall NOT apply with regard to complying **with exclusion of dogs from identified land**, where a person in charge of a dog

1.5.1 has hidden or visible disabilities for which an assistance dog is needed to carry out normal day-to-day activities and the dog is working

1.6 In this Order the following definitions apply:

'an authorised person' means a person authorised for the purpose of this Order by the Council, including the purpose of giving directions under section 4 of this Order.

'working,' in the context of this Order, means the dog is operating in a manner expected of an assistance dog and in line with guidance from the EHRC:

Assistance dogs are highly trained which means they:

- will not wander freely around the premises,
- will sit or lie quietly on the floor next to their owner,
- are unlikely to foul in a public place.

Section 2 - Removal and disposal of dog faeces

- 2.1 This Section applies to the land specified in Schedule 1.
- 2.2 If a dog defecates at any time on land to which this Order applies and a person who is in charge of the dog at that time fails to remove the faeces from the land forthwith, that person shall be guilty of an offence unless
- 2.2.1 They have reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or
- 2.2.2 The owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to this failing to do so.
- 2.3 For the purposes of this Section –
- 2.3.1 Placing the wrapped faeces in a receptacle on the land which is provided for this purpose, or for the disposal of waste, shall be sufficient removal from the land
- 2.3.2 Being unaware of the defecation (whether by reason of not being in the vicinity or otherwise), or not having a device for, or suitable means of removing it, shall not be a reasonable excuse for failing to remove the faeces.

Section 3 - Dogs to be excluded from identified areas

- 3.2 This Section applies to the land specified and at the times specified in Schedule 2.
- 3.3 A person in charge of a dog shall be guilty of an offence if, during the periods specified in Schedule 2, they take the dog onto, or permit the dog to enter or to remain on, any land to which this section applies unless –
- 3.3.1 They have a reasonable excuse to do so; or
- 3.3.2 The owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to the dog entering or remaining on such land.

Section 4 - Dogs to be kept on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised person

- 4.1 This section applies to land specified in Schedule 1.
- 4.2 A person in charge of a dog shall be guilty of an offence if, at any time, on any land to which this Order applies, they do not comply with a direction given by an authorised person to put and keep the dog on a lead of not more than 2 metres (6 foot, 6 inches) in length unless –
- 4.2.1 They have reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or

4.2.2 the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to this failing to do so.

4.3 An authorised person may give a direction to put and keep a dog on a lead if such restraint is reasonably necessary to prevent a nuisance or disturbance to any other person (on land to which this section applies) or the worrying or disturbance of any animal or bird.

4.4 The dog's lead shall not exceed 2 metres (6 foot, 6 inches) in length from handle to dog collar.

Section 5 - Dogs to be kept on lead in identified areas

5.1 This Section applies to the land specified and at the times specified in Schedule 3

5.2. A person in charge of a dog shall be guilty of an offence if, during the periods specified in Schedule 3, on any land to which this Section applies he does not keep the dog on a lead unless –

5.2.1. He has reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or

5.2.2. the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to this failing to do so.

5.3. The dog's lead shall not exceed 2 metres (6 foot, 6 inches) in length from handle to dog collar.

Section 6 – Penalty

6.1 A person who fails to comply with this Order without reasonable excuse is guilty of an offence under Section 67 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.

6.2 In accordance with Section 68 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, an authorised person may issue a fixed penalty notice to anyone they have reason to believe has committed an offence under this Order. Such notice offers the person to whom it is issued the opportunity to discharge their liability to conviction for the offence by payment of a fixed penalty. The penalty is set at £100.00 to be paid within 28 days but is reduced to £75.00 if paid within 14 days.

Date: x 2023

THE COMMON SEAL OF DORSET
COUNCIL

Was hereto affixed in the presence of:-



Authorised Officer

SCHEDULE 1 – General land provision

Land to which removal and disposal of dog faeces applies (Section 2), and dogs on lead by direction by an authorised officer (Section 4):

1. Subject to the exception in Paragraph 2 below, all land which is in the administrative area of the Council and
 - (i) which is open to the air (which includes land that is covered but open to the air on at least one side) and
 - (ii) to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access (with or without payment).
2. Excepted from the description in Paragraph 1 above is land that is placed at the disposal of the Forestry Commissioners under Section 39(1) of the Forestry Act 1967.

SCHEDULE 2 - Exclusion of dogs

Land to which dogs are excluded at all times unless otherwise specified;

1. All land within the administrative area of the Council which comprises any fenced (and/or hedged and /or walled) children's play area, children's pool and/or sandpit, skateboard park, tennis court, basketball court, bowling green or putting green or any other fenced (and/or hedged and /or walled) park, with a marked sporting or recreational facility signed at its entrance(s) as 'No Dogs' (where the sign uses those particular words or uses words and/or symbols having a like effect); and
2. All marked sports pitch playing surfaces or athletics tracks within the administrative area of the Council. – see also Schedule 3 for perimeter control; and
3. Between 1st May and 30th September the following beaches (maps for each are attached and these restrictions are marked in red):
 - a. West Beach, Charmouth (map 1); and
 - b. East & West Beach, West Bay (map 2); and
 - c. Front (Town) Beach, Lyme Regis (map 3); and
 - d. Front Beach, Swanage (map 4); and
 - e. Seatown Beach, Chideock (map 5); and

- f. Weymouth Central Beach extending from the northern boundary of the designated Dog Exercise Area at the Pavilion end to the groyne at Greenhill and including Greenhill Beaches, Weymouth, (map 6).

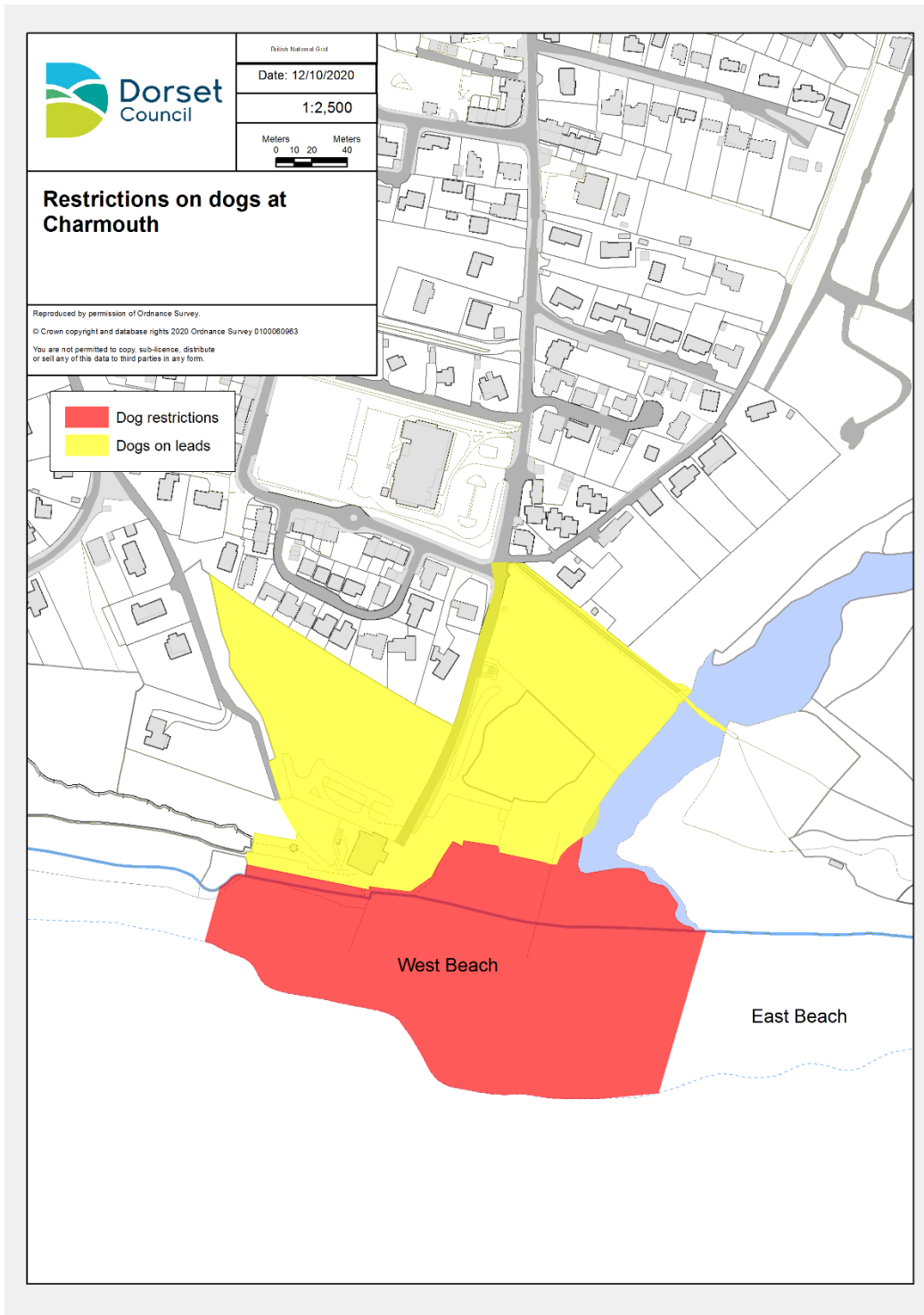
SCHEDULE 3 – Dogs to be kept on lead – land and times.

Land on which dogs shall be kept on a lead at all times unless otherwise specified (these restrictions are marked in yellow);

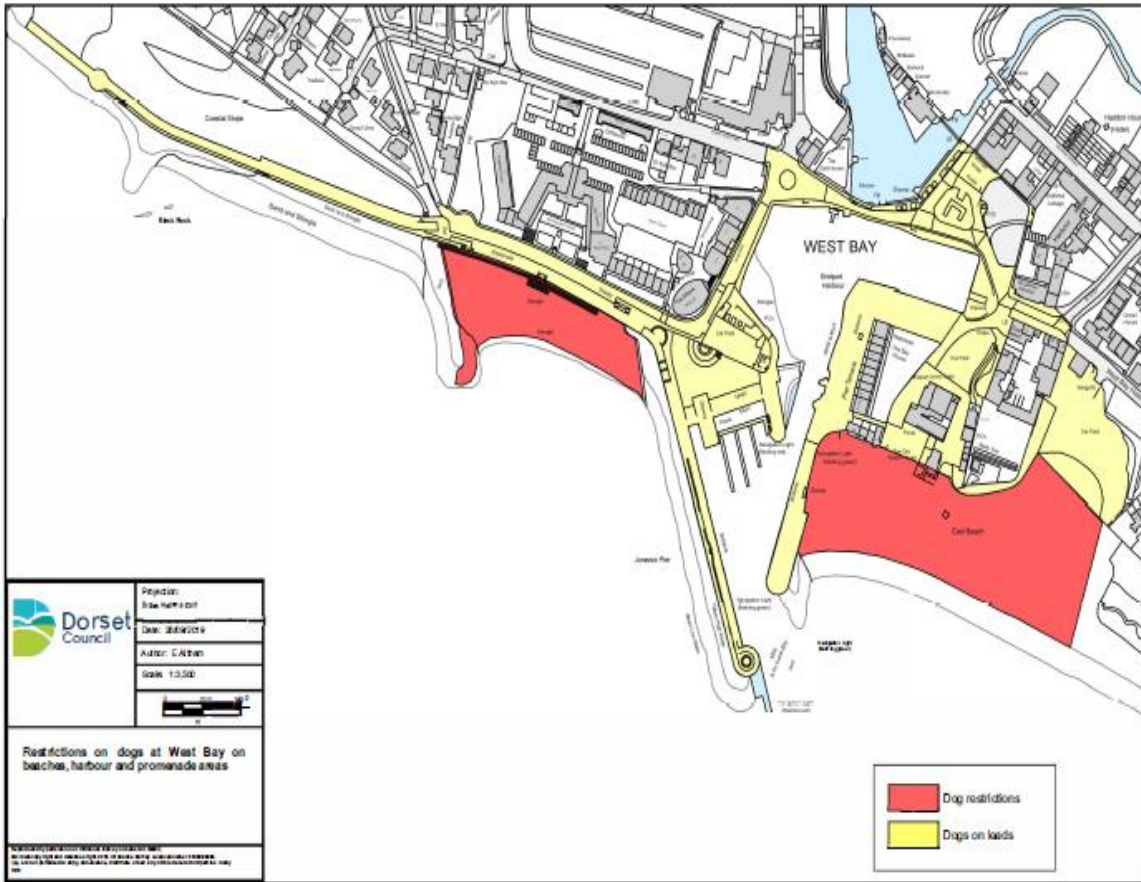
1. Municipal Cemeteries, churchyards and graveyards; and
2. Council owned Allotments where dogs are permitted; and
3. Formal Public Gardens where dogs are permitted; and
4. Within 5 metres of the marked perimeter of sports pitch playing surfaces and athletics tracks; and
5. Council owned car parks; and
6. On the Rodwell Trail, Weymouth; and
7. On the roads and walkways close to the beaches namely (and shown as yellow on the enclosed maps):
 - a. At Charmouth, Lower Sea Lane from the car park access, including the 3 car parks off Lower Sea Lane close to the beach, the footpath leading to the beach including the bridge and paths adjacent to the heritage centre (Map 1); and
 - b. At West Bay on the Esplanade, Quay, Quayside, road, pavements, grassed area and paved island in front of the George Hotel, slipway piers, the car parks and main Pier (Map 2); and
 - c. At Lyme Regis on the Marine Parade, Cart Road, Bell Cliff, the harbour, slipway and sea walls, the entrance to Cobb Road, Ozone Terrace, the entrance to the public car park and boat park, and the harbour wall, Cobb Gate car park and the esplanade extending from it eastwards up to its junction with Long Entry and known as Gunn Cliff Walk, to extend along the sea wall above Church Beach, and up to the Charmouth Road car park via the provided steps (Map 3); and
 - d. At Swanage, The Parade, and associated roads leading to The Parade and the beach, (Map 4); and
 - e. At Weymouth, The Promenade from the Pleasure Pier to Bowleaze, Weymouth (Map 6, highlighted in yellow), extending when the road is pedestrianised and including the path on the opposite side of the road for the duration of road closure; and
 - f. At Studland, access to Knoll beach from the car park, including the car park and staircases leading on to the beach (Map 7), and

- g. Ferry Road, from Studland beach car park to the South Coast Path End Marker, Shell Beach National Trust Car Park and all access routes Shell beach (Map 8), and
- 8. Studland beaches also known as Knoll Beach and Shell Bay Beach from the 1st May to 30th September (Map 9).

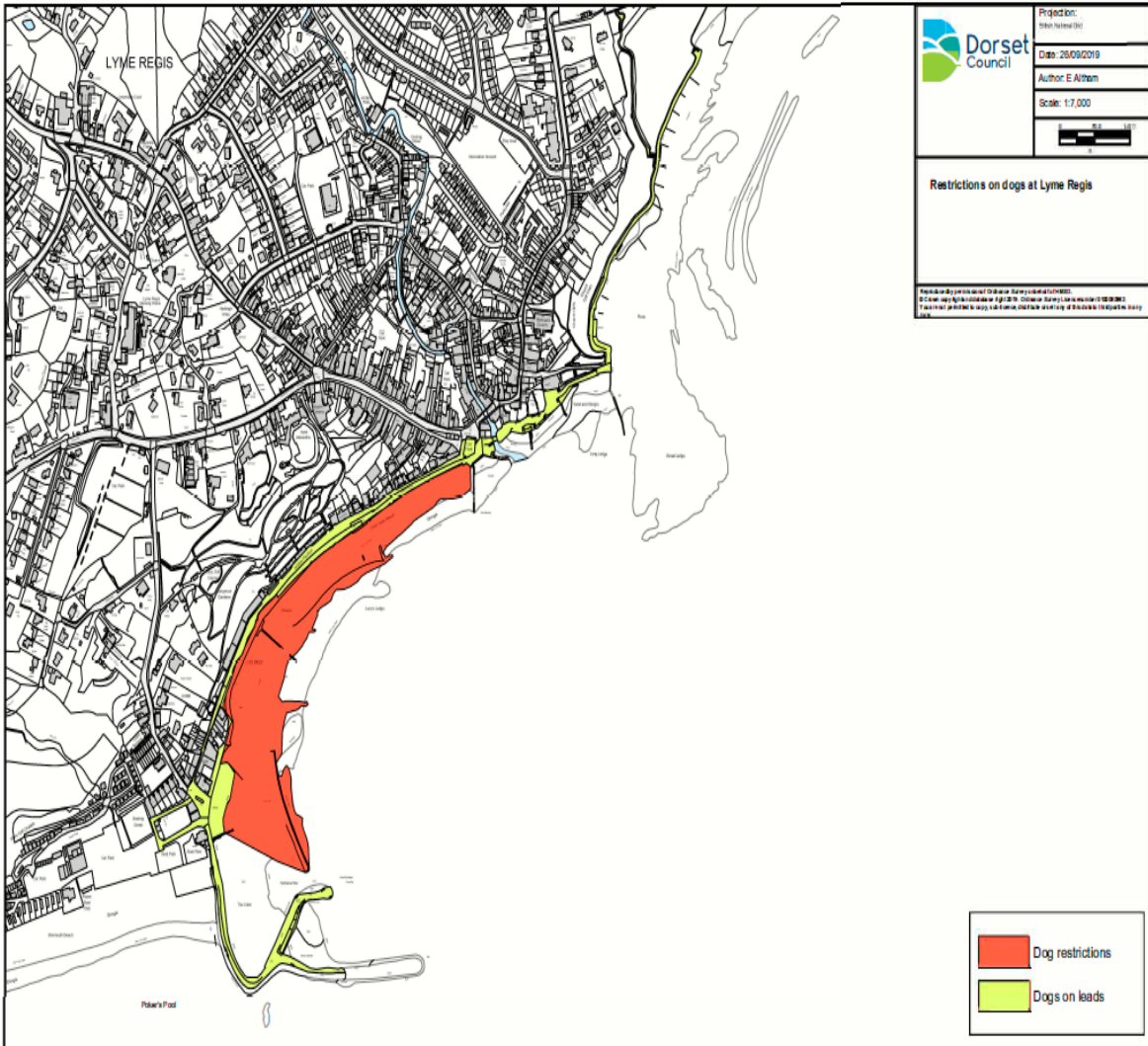
Map 1 - Charmouth Beaches



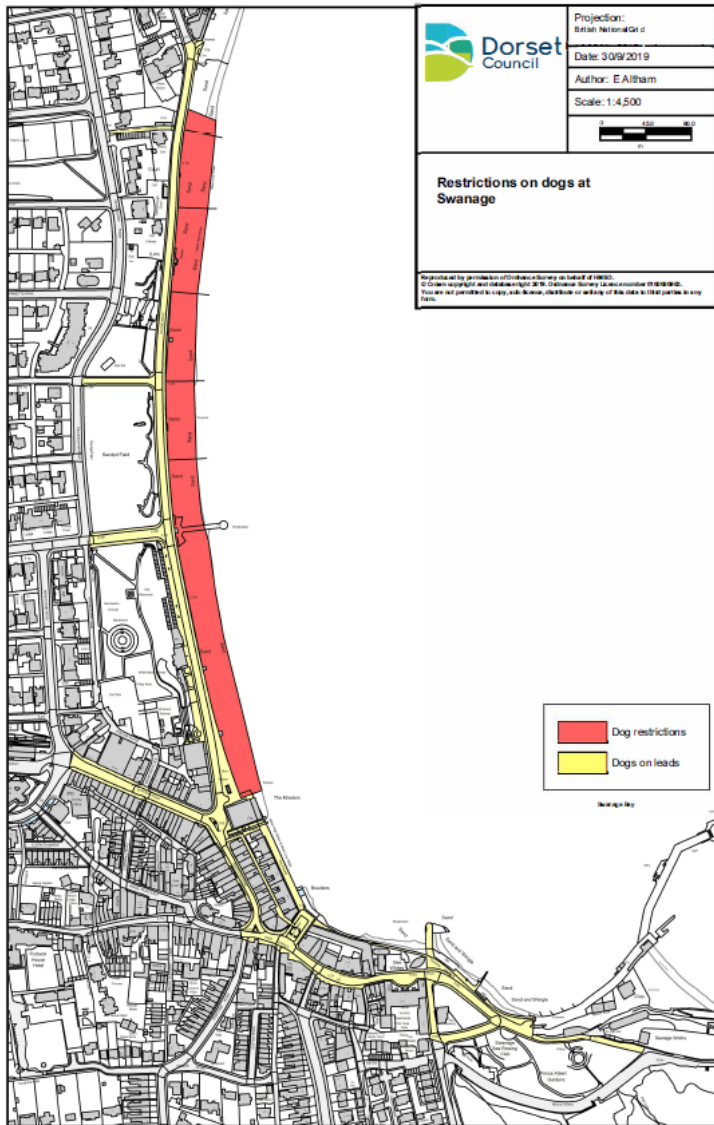
Map 2 – West Bay - East and West Beach



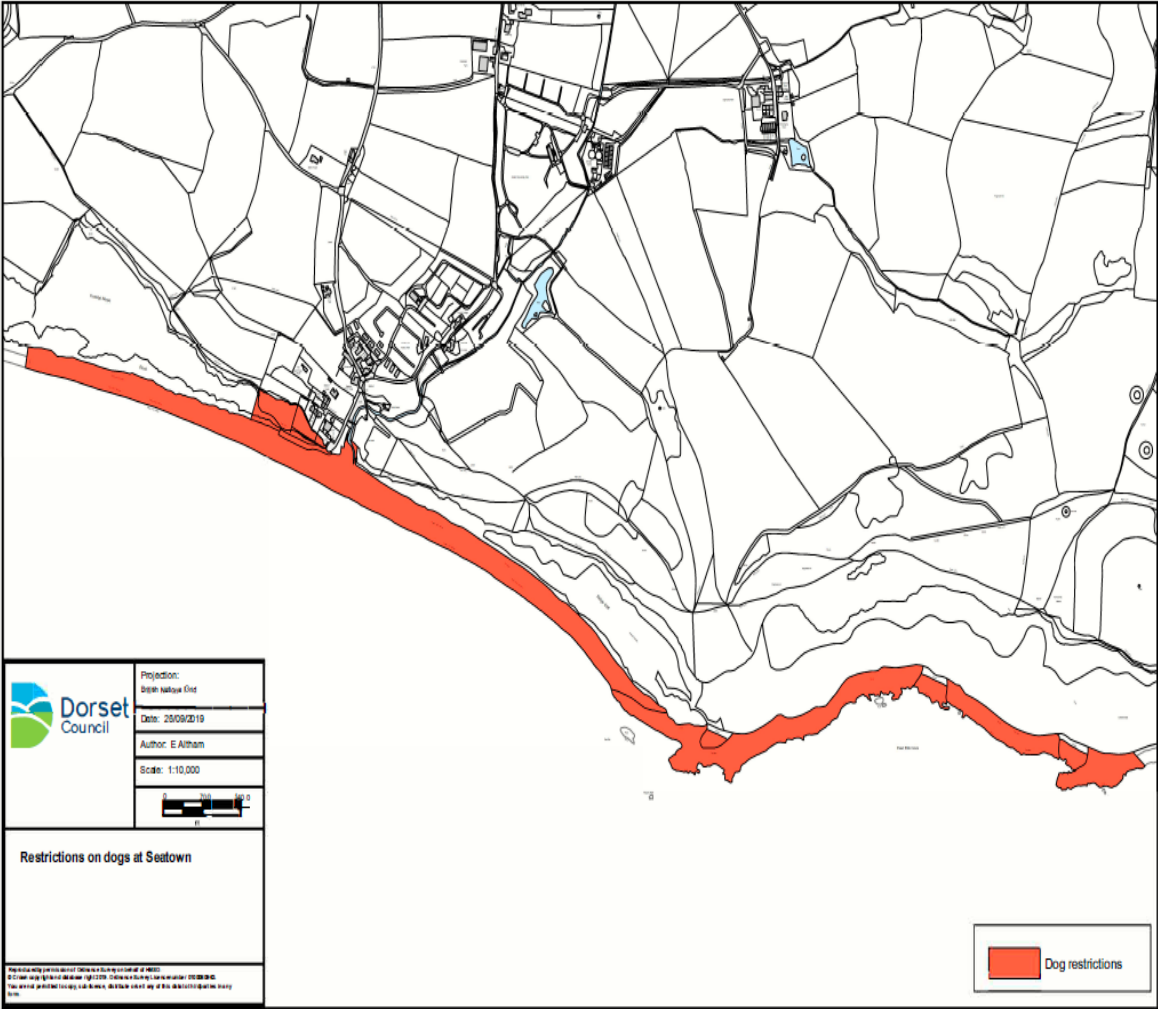
Map 3 Front Town Beach Lyme Regis



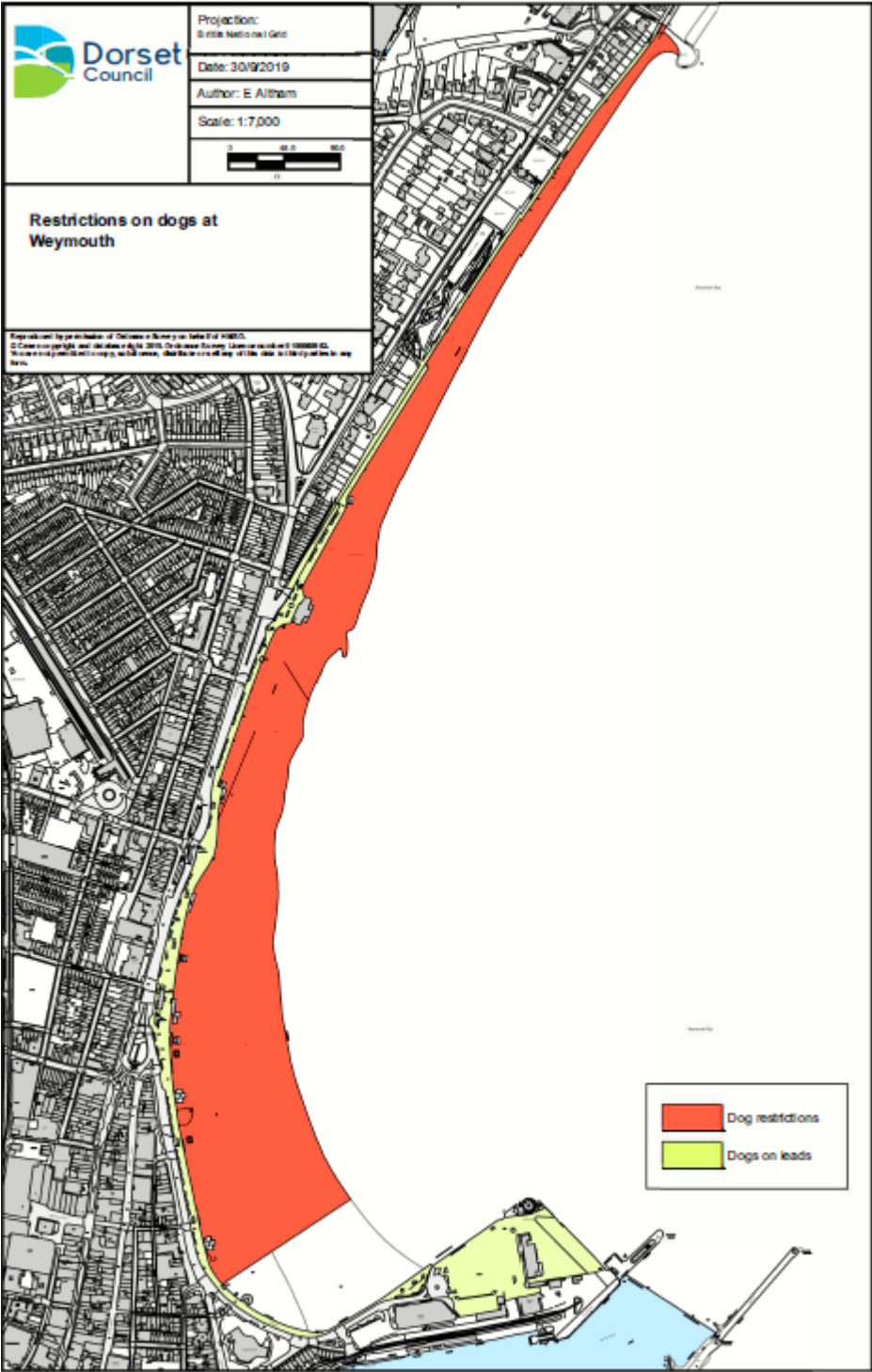
Map 4 - The Front Beach Swanage



Map 5 - Seatown Beach, Chideock



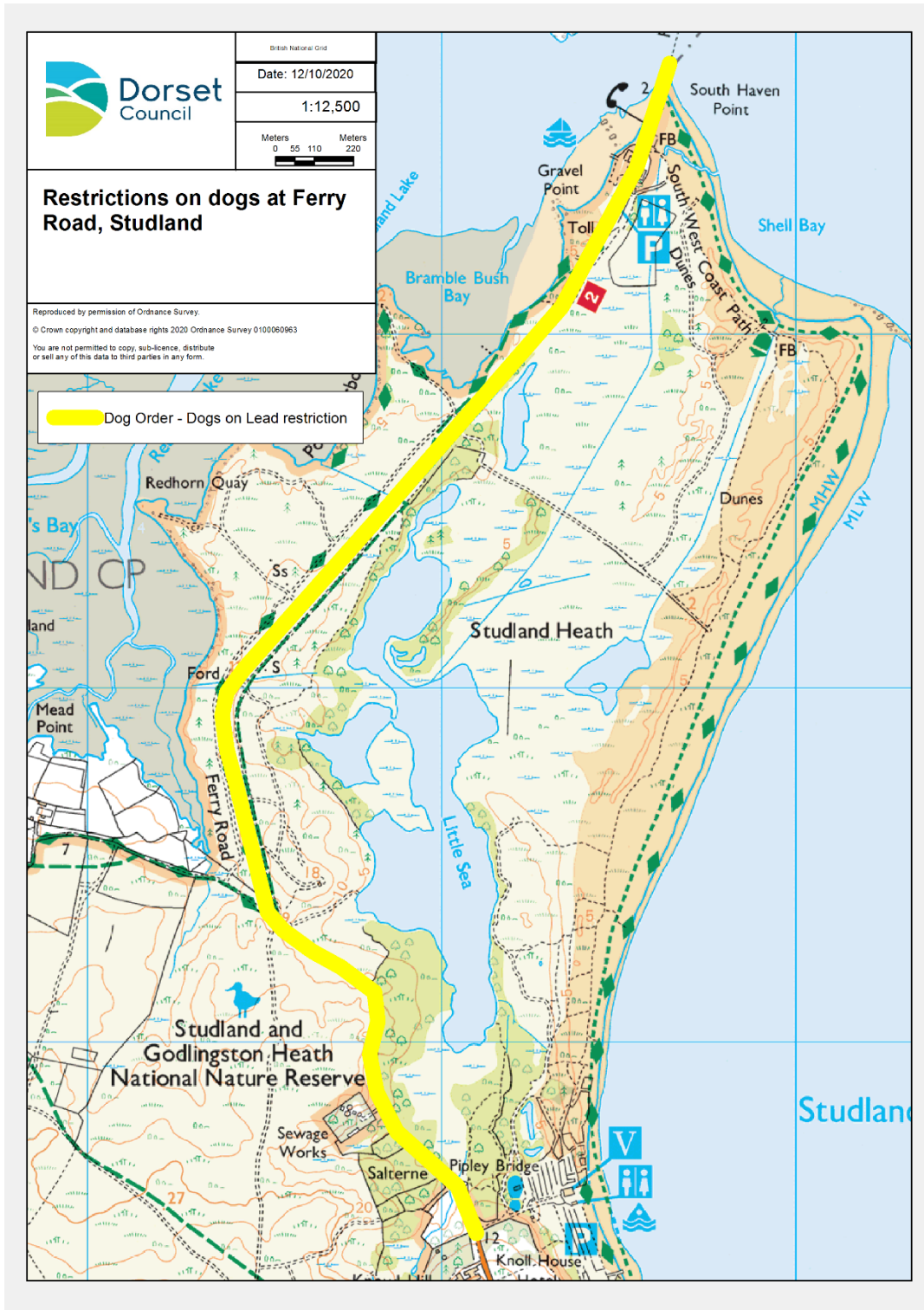
Map 6 - Weymouth Central Beach



Map 7 Access to Knoll Beach including car park and staircases



8 Ferry Road and access points to beach



Map 9 Knoll Beach to Shell Bay Beach, Studland



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Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)

Dog-related Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) 2024, made under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014

This is a revised and updated EQIA from the original 2020 document. It is for external stakeholders.

Brief overview of aims and objectives.

- To protect public health and public safety from the adverse actions of dogs and less responsible dog owners.
- To protect the welfare of animals including dogs.
- To support the welfare of people through responsible dog ownership.
- To recognise and implement the requirements of the Equality Act 2010, Dorset Council's Equality Strategy and guidance published by the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

Background to the proposal

The existing Dog Related Public Spaces Protection Order ceases to exist from 1st January 2024. A new Order is required to provide controls over;

- Removal of dog fouling
- Exclusion of dogs from certain public spaces either permanently or during specified periods
- Requirement for dogs to be kept on-lead permanently or during specified periods.
- Requirement for dogs to be on-lead when required by an Authorised Officer of the council.
- Specifying the maximum lead length where on-lead controls exist
- Specifying the number of dogs to be walked at any one time (usually used for commercial walkers where large numbers exists – usually in urban parks)
- Any other dog related restriction that meets the legal test and ensures the control of a dog in a specified area or controls antisocial behaviour from dogs and less responsible owners.

The Order will be in force for a period of 3-years from the 1 January 2023 – 31 December 2025, after which there will be a further statutory review.

The enforcement of this is Order is via fixed penalty notice, the fine of which is currently set by central government at £100 to be paid within 28 days, reduced to £75.00 if paid within 14.

Evidence gathering and engagement used in drafting the EQIA.

We have collected data from the following sources:

- [Census 21](#)
- [State of Dorset 2021 see Appendix A](#)

Consultation has also taken place with the following organisations;

- Public consultation with 4221 responses
- Statutory Consultees – Dorset Police; Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner; Landowners and Town and Parish Councils.
- Various organisations associated with dog ownership and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI), e.g.
 - The Kennel Club
 - RSPCA
 - Dogs Trust and Dorset Dogs
 - Dorset Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner
 - Dorset Blind
 - MS Society
 - Dorset Stroke Organisation
 - Diverse Abilities
 - Access Dorset

What did this tell us?

Compared to the census of 2011, the 2021 census shows that the population aged over 65 years has increased by 25% and specifically those over 80 years has increased by 17.5%.

As the overall population figure remains roughly the same, this aging population is likely to mean a greater reduction in our resident's physical mobility and sensory awareness.

There has also been an increase in the take up of disability related benefits from 4.4 (2011) to 15% (2021). Due regard should be given for dog owners to be able to access a suitable, level environment where their dogs can be exercised off lead.

Dogs are used to assist owners with various disabilities by guiding and/or performing tasks. There is no data on numbers of dog owners or assistance dogs, but it is appreciated that their needs must be considered as part of this process. This is a requirement under Equality legislation. The Equality & Human Rights Commission (EHRC) define an assistance dog as dogs that are trained to help people with hearing difficulties, epilepsy, diabetes, physical mobility problems and more. Assistance dogs carry out a variety of practical tasks for people as well as supporting their independence and confidence.

Assistance dogs are not pets and are treated as 'auxiliary aids'. Assistance dogs are highly trained which means they:

- will not wander freely around the premises,
- will sit or lie quietly on the floor next to their owner,
- are unlikely to foul in a public place.

Most are instantly recognisable by a harness or jacket. However, the law does not require the dog to wear a harness or jacket to identify it as an assistance dog, nor for owners to carry paperwork for such purposes.

Some, but not all assistance dog users, will carry an ID book giving information about the assistance dog and the training organisation together with other useful information.

(Source: Assistance Dogs: a guide for all businesses, EHRC; 2018)

The exemption provisions for assistance dogs in the current PSPO does not comply with the requirements in Equality law nor reflect the above guidance. The new Order will contain a revised definition for an assistance dog and wording on exemption provisions, see appendix B.

The revised training plan for officers will include our new approach to enforcement when dealing with assistance dogs or persons claiming exemption due to mobility issues or other impairments.

Who have we engaged with and consulted with as part of this assessment?

Consultation has taken place with the

- Equality & Human Rights Commission requesting guidance on assistance dogs.
- Dorset Council's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Reference Group. A presentation given and advice sought on definition and content of the order.
- Dorset Council Legal Services requesting guidance on assistance dogs.

Further Information needed.

Yes, a response to our approach to enforcement has not been received from the EHRC.

Is and EQIA required?

Yes

For each of the protected characteristics groups below, please explain whether your proposal could have a positive, negative, unclear or no impact. Where an impact has been identified, please explain what it is and if unclear or negative please explain what mitigating actions will be taken.

- use the evidence you have gathered to inform your decision making.
- consider impacts on residents, service users and employees separately.
- if your strategy, policy, project or service contains options you may wish to consider providing an assessment for each option.
- see guidance for more information about the different [protected characteristics](#).

Key to impacts

Positive Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the proposal eliminates discrimination, advances equality of opportunity and/or fosters good relations with protected groups.
Negative Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protected characteristic group(s) could be disadvantaged or discriminated against
Neutral Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no change/ no assessed significant impact of protected characteristic groups
Unclear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • not enough data/evidence has been collected to make an informed decision.

Impacts on who or what?	Choose impact	How
Age	Negative Impact	<p>As our population for Dorset is getting older there is a likelihood of reduced mobility and agility. Difficulties with removing dog fouling and keeping a dog on lead is more prevalent.</p> <p>Difficulty with access on to land which is unlevel.</p>

	Positive	<p>People (in particular under 5) will have less potential to be harmed by un-cleared faeces or distressed by coming into contact with it.</p> <p>Accidental trips from uncontrolled dogs may be reduced</p>
Disability	Negative	<p>Those with hidden and visible disabilities.</p> <p>Inability to remove dog fouling (physical impairment).</p> <p>Having to travel further to exercise their dog.</p> <p>Reduced ability to restrain a dog on lead.</p> <p>Ability to know about the restrictions (sensory and cognitive impairment). Reduced ability to communicate (i.e. hearing impairment, speech impairment).</p> <p>Ability to understand the restrictions (mental impairment). Difficulty with access on to land where exercise can be undertaken (mobility impairment), this may be due to steps, rough or soft ground, camber or gradient.</p>

	Positive	<p>The PSPO exempts assistance dogs in certain circumstances.</p> <p>Prevents working assistance dogs from being distracted by other dogs wishing to interact.</p>
Gender reassignment and Gender Identity	Neutral Impact	Not anticipated at this stage that there are any impacts on this group.
Marriage or civil partnership	Neutral Impact	No impacts have been identified.
Pregnancy and maternity	Unclear	Any heavily pregnant individuals may be less able to remove dog fouling and to travel further to exercise their dogs.
Race and Ethnicity	Negative Impact	<p>Understanding of written English used on signage to mitigate this Dorset Council uses symbols and translation software can be put on mobile telephones.</p> <p>Understanding Animal Welfare & Dog Control Officers or authorised officers (Enforcement Officers) in conversation. Where a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) is served, understanding the content of such a penalty.</p>
Religion and belief	Neutral Impact	Not anticipated at this stage that there are any impacts on this group.

Sex (consider men and women)	Neutral Impact	Not anticipated at this stage that there are any impacts on this group.
Sexual orientation	Neutral Impact	Not anticipated at this stage that there are any impacts on this group.
People with caring responsibilities	Neutral Impact	Not anticipated at this stage that there are any impacts on this group.
Rural isolation	Neutral Impact	Likely that in rural areas there will be more places to exercise dogs and this can be a social activity.
Socio-economic deprivation	Unclear Impact	No access to private transport may restrict the ability to travel further to exercise a dog. Ability to provide a suitable lead.
Single parents	Neutral Impact	Not anticipated at this stage that there are any impacts on this group
Armed forces communities	Neutral Impact	Not anticipated at this stage that there are any impacts on this group

Part 5: Action Plan

Provide actions for **positive**, **negative** and **unclear** impacts.

If you have identified any **negative** or **unclear** impacts, describe what adjustments will be made to remove or reduce the impacts, or if this is not possible provide justification for continuing with the proposal.

Issue	Action to be taken	Person(s) responsible	Date to be completed by end of
Dog owner has protected characteristics requiring an assistance dog.	The Order will exempt people with certain characteristics who require a dog to provide assistance. The definition of an assistance dog has been reviewed and updated following guidance from our legal team.	Janet Moore	September 2023
	The approach to enforcement has been revised and is included as part of the Officer training programme.	Janet Moore	December 2023
Dog owner due to age/mobility/latter stages of pregnancy is unable to clear fouling or comply with any other restriction.	Officers to receive ongoing training about this aspect of enforcement including the provision to provide a letter to the dog owner to carry and present if approached again by an officer. Training plan to be agreed and documented.	Janet Moore/ Michelle Jones	December 2023
Dog owner with limited understanding of written English	In line with Government accessibility guidelines. Clear unambiguous signage is used, suitably located and in adequate numbers using internationally recognised	Janet Moore/ Michelle Jones	September 2023

Issue	Action to be taken	Person(s) responsible	Date to be completed by end of
	<p>symbols. Simple clear font of a suitable and appropriate size will be used.</p> <p>Provision of information on website and leaflets which are easy to understand. Website also has Read Speak facility.</p>		
Approaching Dog Owners with limited understanding of English (where English may not be their first language)	Authorised Officers have mobile phones with translation abilities.	Janet Moore/ Michelle Jones	September 2023
Achieving consistent enforcement	All officers are subject to a training programme that includes the consistency of enforcement. This covers how to deal with vulnerable people and/or those with disabilities and understanding when discretion should be applied in order to achieve fair and consistent outcomes.	Jane Williams/ Michelle Jones	December 2023
	Team leader to review enforcement activities on a regular basis (6 months).	Michelle Jones	Ongoing
Use of bins, their location, height and emptying	To date officers have been working with Dorset Council Waste to place appropriate signage on litter bins advising that they can be used as a depository for wrapped dog fouling.	Janet Moore/ Michelle Jones	
	The necessity for this will be reviewed.		December 2023

Issue	Action to be taken	Person(s) responsible	Date to be completed by end of
	Information on how to pick up and properly dispose of dog fouling will be reviewed and provided on the council's website.		September 2023

EqIA Sign Off

Officer completing this EqIA:	Janet Moore	Date:	11/09/2023
Animal Welfare and Dog Control Team Leader:	Michelle Jones	Date	19/09/2023
Equality Lead:	James Palfreman-Kay	Date:	19/09/2023
Legal Services Lead:	Rebecca Buck	Date:	18/09/2023

Census data – Dorset Council area

Population figures

	Dorset Council area		
	Total population	% 2011	% 2021
All males		48.9	48.6
All females		51.1	51.4
0-15 years		15.9	15.2
16-64 years		55.4	55.2
65+ years		28.6	29.6
	379, 584		

Source: 2021 Census, Office for national Statistics

15% of the population based on those claiming Disability Living Allowance, Personal Independence Payments or Attendance Allowance in the Dorset Council area.

Additionally,

20% of Dorset residents have long term health problem or disability.

Source: State of Dorset 2021

Appendix B

Definition to be used in the PSPO with regard to hidden or visible disability and assistance dogs.

- A. This Order shall NOT apply with regard to **disposal of faeces** where a person;
- a) has hidden or visible disabilities for which an assistance dog is needed to carry out normal day-to-day activities **and** the dog is working; or
 - b) has hidden or visible disabilities which have a substantial effect on their ability to collect faeces from where it is deposited and on the judgement of the authorised officer, in following the Dorset Council protocol on enforcement of the PSPO, agrees that the circumstances for exemption exist.

[i.e. a FPN may be served but written mitigation may be supplied for consideration to seek its withdrawal]

- B. This Order shall NOT apply with regard to complying to a **direction by an authorised officer to put their dog on a lead**, where a person

is deaf, in respect of a dog trained by Hearing Dogs for Deaf People (registered charity number 293358) and upon which they rely for assistance.

- C. This Order shall NOT apply with regard to complying **with exclusion of dogs from identified land**, where a person

has hidden or visible disabilities for which an assistance dog is needed to carry out normal day-to-day activities and the dog is working.

Definitions:

‘working,’ in the context of this Order, means the dog is operating in a manner expected of an assistance dog and in line with the guidance from the EHRC

Assistance dogs are highly trained which means they:

- *will not wander freely around the premises,*
- *will sit or lie quietly on the floor next to their owner,*
- *are unlikely to foul in a public place.*

4221 responses

80 % Local Residents
 16.4 % Visitors
 2.8 % Other

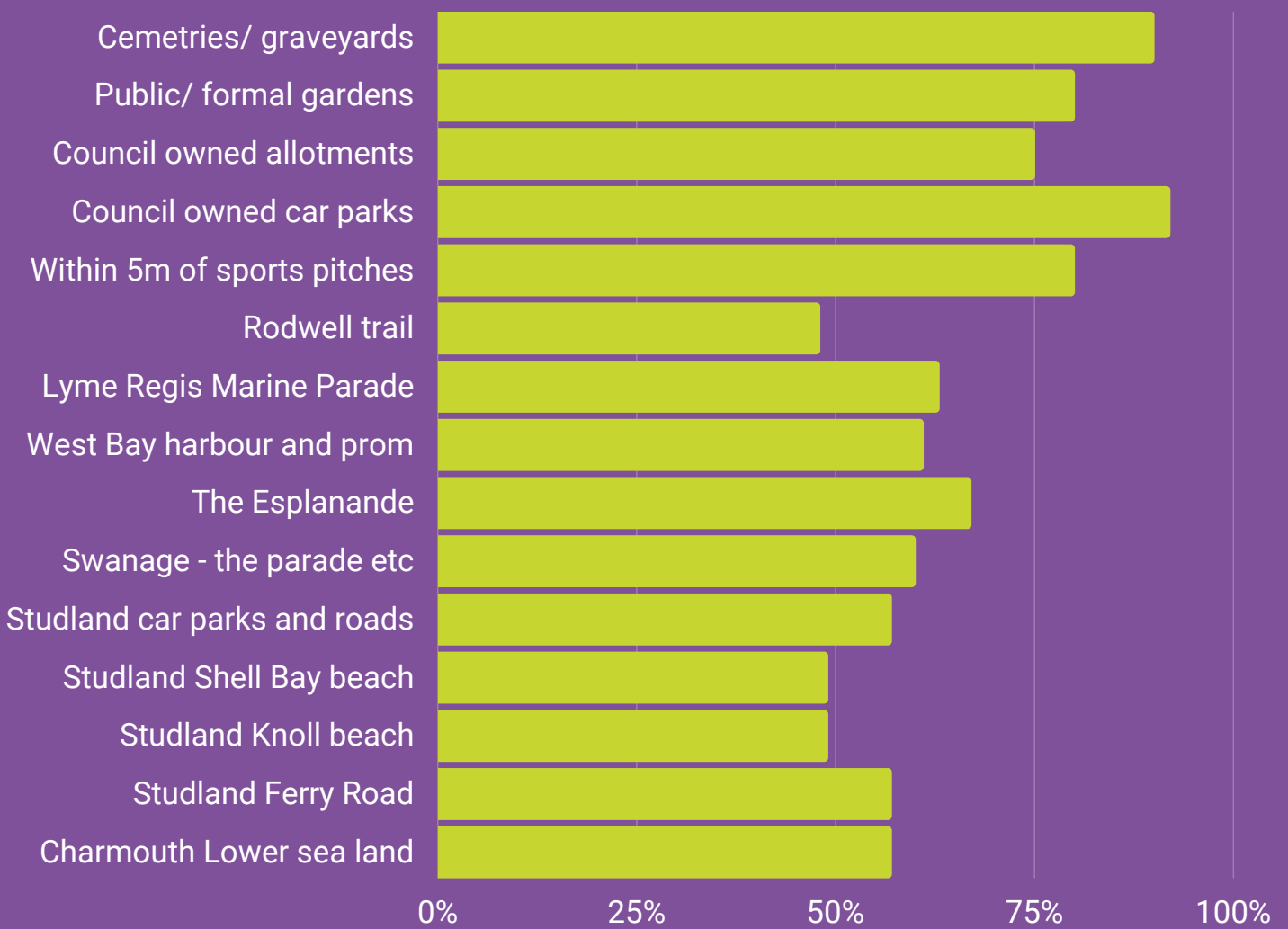


62 % were dog owners

In favour
 Removal & disposal dog feaces 99 %
 Max lead length 82 %
 Dog on lead by direction 85 %

In favour beaches restriction
 1 May - 30 Sept 51 %
 Different time 33%
 Of that 33% ~ 71 % wanted a restriction 8am - 7pm

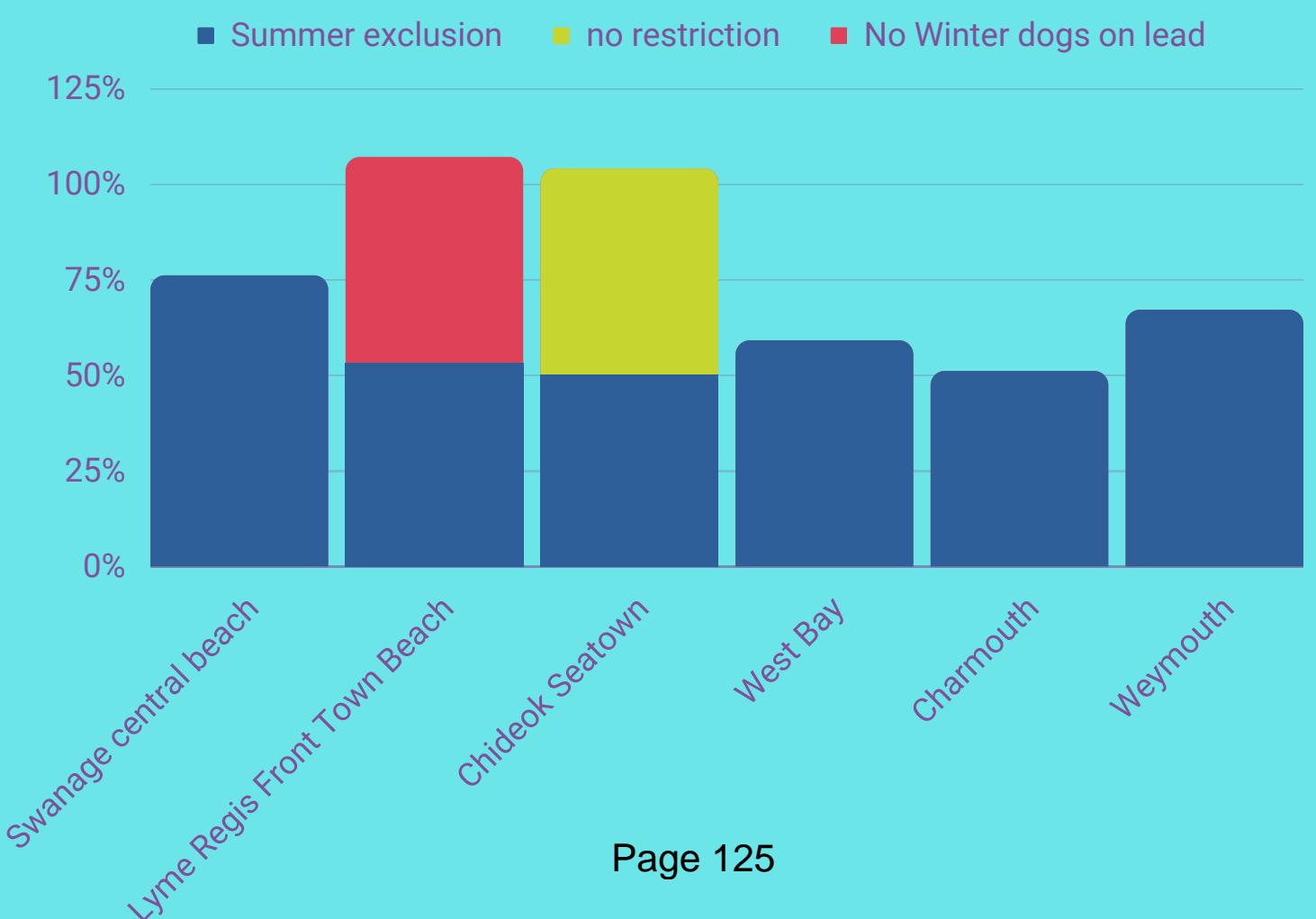
In favour of dogs on lead at all times



In favour of dog exclusion areas

Recreation areas 64 %
 Marked sports pitches 60 %

In favour of:



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Place and Resources Overview Committee Work Programme

Meeting Date: 5 October 2023

Report Title	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officers / Members	Other Information
Report on the findings from the Public Consultation for the Dog Related Public Spaces Protection Order and draft Order	To discuss the findings of the public consultation and recommend the agreement of the draft order by Cabinet.	Janet Moore – Service Manager Environmental Protection Cllr Laura Beddow – Portfolio Holder for Culture & Communities	Committee to make a recommendation to Cabinet on 7 November 2023

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Meeting Date: 23 November 2023

Report Title	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officers / Members	Other Information
<i>Review of policies to be undertaken and prioritised for review by the committee</i>			

Continued over...

Agenda Item 8

Meeting Date: 23 January 2024

Report Title	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officers / Members	Other Information
New maximum Fixed Penalty Notice amounts available for environmental crimes	To consider Fixed Penalty Notice amounts for environmental crimes	John Newcombe – Service Manager Licensing & Community Safety Cllr Laura Beddow – Portfolio Holder for Culture & Communities	Recommendation to Cabinet date tbc
<i>Review of policies to be undertaken and prioritised for review by the committee</i>			

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Meeting Date: 21 March 2024

Report Title	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officers / Members	Other Information
<i>Review of policies to be undertaken and prioritised for review by the committee</i>			



**The Cabinet Forward Plan - October 2023 to January 2024
For the period 1 SEPTEMBER 2023 to 31 DECEMBER 2023
(Publication date – 4 SEPTEMBER 2023)**

Explanatory Note:

This Forward Plan contains future items to be considered by the Cabinet and Council. It is published 28 days before the next meeting of the Committee. The plan includes items for the meeting including key decisions. Each item shows if it is 'open' to the public or to be considered in a private part of the meeting.

Definition of Key Decisions

Key decisions are defined in Dorset Council's Constitution as decisions of the Cabinet which are likely to -

- (a) to result in the relevant local authority incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the relevant local authority's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates (**Thresholds - £500k**); or
- (b) to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards or electoral divisions in the area of the relevant local authority."

In determining the meaning of "*significant*" for these purposes the Council will have regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State in accordance with section 9Q of the Local Government Act 2000 Act. Officers will consult with lead members to determine significance and sensitivity.

Cabinet Portfolio Holders 2023/24

Spencer Flower	Leader / Governance, Performance and Communications
Gary Suttle	Deputy Leader and Finance, Commercial and Capital Strategy
Ray Bryan	Highways, Travel and Environment
Jill Haynes	Corporate Development and Transformation
Laura Beddow	Culture and Communities
Simon Gibson	Economic Growth and Levelling Up
Andrew Parry	Assets and Property
Byron Quayle	People – Children, Education, Skills, and Early Help
Jane Somper	People - Adult Social Care, Health, and Housing
David Walsh	Planning

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
October					

<p>Ofsted Regulation of Supported Accommodation for 16-17 Year Olds</p> <p>Key Decision - No Public Access - Open</p> <p>Report on Ofsted Regulation of Supported Accommodation for 16 to 17 year olds.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 3 Oct 2023</p>	<p>People and Health Overview Committee 14 Sep 2023</p>	<p>Portfolio Holder for People - Children, Education, Skills and Early Help</p>	<p><i>Claire Shiels, Corporate Director - Commissioning & Partnerships</i> <i>claire.shiels@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, People - Children (Theresa Leavy)</i></p>
<p>Blandford + Neighbourhood Plan Review 2011 - 2033</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>Item relating to the making (adoption) of the neighbourhood plan review following an independent examination.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 3 Oct 2023</p>		<p>Portfolio Holder for Planning</p>	<p><i>Ed Gerry, Community Planning Manager</i> <i>ed.gerry@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Place (John Sellgren)</i></p>
<p>Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill: consultation on implementation of plan-making reforms - proposed response to the government consultation</p> <p>Key Decision - No Public Access - Open</p> <p>Response to government consultation on implementation of plan-making reforms.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 3 Oct 2023</p>		<p>Portfolio Holder for Planning</p>	<p><i>Hilary Jordan, Service Manager for Spatial Planning</i> <i>hilary.jordan@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Terry Sneller, Strategic Planning Manager</i> <i>terry.sneller@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Place (John Sellgren)</i></p>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
<p>Discretionary Housing Payment Policy</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>Our Discretionary Housing Payment policy reflects the Department for Works and Pensions formal guidance providing the administration framework associated with the application, criteria, assessment and awarding principles established to provide when applicable, some additional financial support to eligible residents.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 3 Oct 2023</p>		<p>Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance, Commercial and Capital Strategy</p>	<p><i>Katie Hale, Head of Revenues and Benefits katie.hale@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer (Aidan Dunn)</i></p>
<p>Digital Infrastructure & Inclusion Strategy</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>To consider a report on Dorset Councils Digital Infrastructure and Inclusion Strategy.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 3 Oct 2023</p>	<p>Place and Resources Overview Committee 18 Apr 2023</p>	<p>Portfolio Holder for Corporate Development and Transformation</p>	<p><i>Dugald Lockhart, Service Manager Digital Place dugald.lockhart@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Timothy Robertson, ICT Project Manager timothy.robertson@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Place (John Sellgren)</i></p>
<p>Weymouth Regeneration - Levelling Up Funding and Approach</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Part exempt</p> <p>To approve the proposed approach to the delivery of the Levelling Up Fund project and finances and to seek endorsement of the priorities for regeneration</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 3 Oct 2023</p>		<p>Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth and Levelling Up</p>	<p><i>Peter Hopkins, Corporate Director - Assets and Property peter.hopkins@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Julian Wain, Strategic Property Advisor Julian.wain@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Place (John Sellgren)</i></p>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
<p>The Proposed Sale of Clapcotts Farmstead, Spetisbury</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Fully exempt</p> <p>To seek approval to the sale of Clapcotts Farmstead, Spetisbury.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 3 Oct 2023</p>		<p>Portfolio Holder for Assets and Property</p>	<p><i>Tim Hulme, Head of Service Property Management tim.hulme@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Place (John Sellgren)</i></p>
<p>Grant funding from CIL for nitrogen mitigation, Poole Harbour Catchment</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Fully exempt</p> <p>Approval required as to whether mitigation for development already granted permission should continue to be delivered using CIL funds given amendments to the Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 3 Oct 2023</p>		<p>Portfolio Holder for Planning</p>	<p><i>Steve Boyt, Senior Planning Policy Officer steve.boyt@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Lyn Cooch, Senior Nutrient Project Officer lyn.cooch@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Place (John Sellgren)</i></p>
<p>November</p>					
<p>Families First for Children Pathfinder</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>To consider a report regarding the Families First for Children Pathfinder.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 7 Nov 2023</p>	<p>People and Health Overview Committee 17 Oct 2023</p>	<p>Portfolio Holder for People - Children, Education, Skills and Early Help</p>	<p><i>Paul Dempsey, Corporate Director - Care & Protection Tel: 01305 224513 paul.dempsey@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, People - Children (Theresa Leavy)</i></p>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
<p>Report on the Dorset Education Board</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 7 Nov 2023</p>	<p>People and Health Overview Committee 17 Oct 2023</p>	<p>Portfolio Holder for People - Children, Education, Skills and Early Help</p>	<p><i>Amanda Davis, Corporate Director for Education and Learning amanda.davis@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, People - Children (Theresa Leavy)</i></p>
<p>Dog Related Public Spaces Protection Order- Renewal</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>To agree and adopt the draft order.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 7 Nov 2023</p>	<p>Place and Resources Overview Committee 5 Oct 2023</p>	<p>Portfolio Holder for Culture and Communities</p>	<p><i>Janet Moore, Service Manager for Environmental Protection Janet.Moore@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Place (John Sellgren)</i></p>
<p>Quarter 2 Financial Monitoring 2023/24</p> <p>Key Decision - No Public Access - Open</p> <p>To consider the Quarter 2 Financial Monitoring Report 2023/24.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 7 Nov 2023</p>		<p>Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance, Commercial and Capital Strategy</p>	<p><i>Sean Cremer, Corporate Director for Finance and Commercial sean.cremer@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer (Aidan Dunn)</i></p>
<p>Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and Budget Strategy</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>To receive a budget update for 2024/25.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 7 Nov 2023</p>		<p>Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance, Commercial and Capital Strategy</p>	<p><i>Sean Cremer, Corporate Director for Finance and Commercial sean.cremer@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer (Aidan Dunn)</i></p>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
<p>Our Future Council - Business Case</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>Proposals for change set out in an invest to save business case.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 7 Nov 2023</p>		<p>Portfolio Holder for Culture and Communities</p>	<p><i>Lisa Cotton, Corporate Director for Customer and Cultural Services lisa.cotton@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Nina Coakley, Head of Change n.coakley@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer (Aidan Dunn), Matt Prosser</i></p>
<p>Making Care Experience a Protected Characteristic - local Adoption</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>To adopt care experience as a protected characteristic.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 7 Nov 2023</p>	<p>Place and Resources Overview Committee 17 Oct 2023</p>	<p>Portfolio Holder for People - Children, Education, Skills and Early Help</p>	<p><i>Paul Dempsey, Corporate Director - Care & Protection Tel: 01305 224513 paul.dempsey@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, People - Children (Theresa Leavy)</i></p>
<p>Chesil Bank Neighbourhood Plan 2022-2023</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>An item relating to the making (adoption) of the neighbourhood plan following independent examination and a public referendum.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 7 Nov 2023</p>		<p>Portfolio Holder for Planning</p>	<p><i>Ed Gerry, Community Planning Manager ed.gerry@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Place (John Sellgren)</i></p>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
<p>Expansion of funded childcare offer from April 2024</p> <p>Key Decision - No Public Access - Open</p> <p>The intention of this Cabinet paper is to consider the expansion of funded childcare from April 2024 and support our longer term vision of working with Early Years settings to ensure there is sufficient childcare available for children in Dorset for working families and those in education or training.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 5 Sep 2023</p>		<p>Portfolio Holder for People - Children, Education, Skills and Early Help</p>	<p><i>Executive Director, People - Children (Theresa Leavy)</i></p>
<p>Weymouth Waste Management Centre - Update on finance and land acquisition</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Part exempt</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 3 Oct 2023</p>		<p>Portfolio Holder for Culture and Communities</p>	<p><i>Gemma Clinton, Head of Commercial Waste and Strategy gemma.clinton@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Jason Jones, Group Manager (Commissioning) jason.jones@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Place (John Sellgren)</i></p>
<p>December</p>					

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
<p>Housing Strategy</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>To consider and agree the Housing Strategy.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 5 Dec 2023</p>	<p>People and Health Overview Committee 30 Nov 2023</p>	<p>Portfolio Holder for People - Adult Social Care, Health and Housing</p>	<p><i>Sharon Attwater, Service Manager for Housing Strategy and Performance</i> <i>sharon.attwater@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Andrew Billany, Corporate Director for Housing</i> <i>andrew.billany@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Sarah Smith, Housing Strategy Lead</i> <i>sarah.smith@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, People - Adults</i></p>
<p>January 2024</p>					
<p>Quarter 3 Financial Monitoring Report 2023/24</p> <p>Key Decision - No Public Access - Open</p> <p>To consider the Quarter 3 Financial Monitoring Report 2023/24.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 30 Jan 2024</p>		<p>Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance, Commercial and Capital Strategy</p>	<p><i>Sean Cremer, Corporate Director for Finance and Commercial</i> <i>sean.cremer@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer (Aidan Dunn)</i></p>
<p>Budget strategy and medium-term financial plan (MTFP)</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access – Open</p> <p>To consider a report of the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Commercial and Capital Assets.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Dorset Council</p>	<p>Decision Date 13 Feb 2024</p>	<p>Cabinet 30 Jan 2024 Place and Resources Scrutiny Committee 17 Jan 2024 People and Health Scrutiny Committee 12 Jan 2024</p>	<p>Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance, Commercial and Capital Strategy</p>	<p><i>Sean Cremer, Corporate Director for Finance and Commercial</i> <i>sean.cremer@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer (Aidan Dunn)</i></p>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
March					
April					
<p>Quarter 4 Financial Monitoring 2023/24</p> <p>Key Decision - No Public Access - Open</p> <p>to consider the Quarter 4 Financial Monitoring Report 2024/25.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 16 Apr 2024</p>		<p>Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance, Commercial and Capital Strategy</p>	<p><i>Sean Cremer, Corporate Director for Finance and Commercial</i> <i>sean.cremer@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer (Aidan Dunn)</i></p>

Private/Exempt Items for Decision

Each item in the plan above marked as 'private' will refer to one of the following paragraphs.

1. Information relating to any individual.
2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
4. Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority.
5. Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.
6. Information which reveals that the shadow council proposes:-
 - (a) to give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or
 - (b) to make an order or direction under any enactment.
7. Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.