



Place and Resources Overview Committee

Date: Thursday, 1 October 2026
Time: 3.00 pm
Venue: Council Chamber, County Hall, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ

Members (Quorum: 3)

Ryan Hope (Chair), Andrew Starr (Vice-Chair), Piers Brown, Richard Crabb, Simon Gibson, Sherry Jespersen, David Northam, Roland Tarr, David Taylor and Val Potheary

Chief Executive: Catherine Howe, County Hall, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1XJ

For more information about this agenda please contact Democratic & Governance Services Meeting Contact 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. If you would like to attend this meeting and have any specific requirements please contact the Democratic Services Officer named above.

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Agenda

Item	Pages
1. APOLOGIES	
To receive any apologies for absence.	
2. MINUTES	5 - 12
To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2026.	
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. 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.** Further information read [Public Participation - Dorset Council](#)

All submissions must be emailed in full to lindsey.watson@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk by 8.30am on 28 September 2026.

When submitting your question or statement please note that:

- You can submit 1 question or 1 statement.
- a question may include a short pre-amble 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.

5. 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 28 September 2026.

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

6. DOG RELATED PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER 2027 13 - 122

To receive the report from the Service Manager Environmental Protection.

7. PLACE AND RESOURCES OVERVIEW COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 123 - 134

To review the Place and Resources Overview Committee Work Programme.

To review the Cabinet Forward Plan.

8. URGENT ITEMS

To consider any items of business which the Chair 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.

9. 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 9 JULY 2026

Present: Cllrs Ryan Hope (Chair), Andrew Starr (Vice-Chair), Piers Brown, Richard Crabb, Simon Gibson, David Northam, Roland Tarr and David Taylor

Present remotely: Cllrs Sherry Jespersen

Also present: Cllr Jon Andrews, Cllr Shane Bartlett and Cllr Belinda Bawden

Also present remotely: Cllr Alex Brenton and Cllr Jane Somper

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

Jan Britton (Executive Director - Economy and Environment), Antony Nash (Senior Democratic & Governance Services Officer), Jon Bird (Service Manager for Economic Development and Skills), Owen Clark (Strategic and Policy Team Manager) and Michael Westwood (Service Manager for Parking Services)

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

Jonathan Mair (Director - Assurance (Monitoring Officer)), Sue McGowan (Head of Dorset Travel) and David Rosselli (Transport & Parking Strategy Lead)

10. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting 4 June 2026 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

11. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

12. Public Participation

Question from Nick Hurrell, Chair of WATAG

What is the timetable for Public Engagement with these two items?

WATAG represent passenger transport interests within the Bridport, Beaminster, Lyme Regis and surrounding areas, where both Public and Community Transport is particularly sparse. We would be delighted to meet with Council Representatives at the appropriate time to discuss passenger needs in this area. We are currently running a public survey to assess demand for an hourly service between Bridport and Dorchester (currently approximately every 2 hours) and would be happy to share the results with you at the appropriate time. Of course, an increase in bus services would likely reduce private car traffic and likely influence Dorset Council's future car parking strategy.

Response

Thank you for your question and for the valuable contribution of West Dorset TAG in representing transport users across West Dorset.

Taking the Bus and Community Transport report first, no decisions have yet been taken on any specific proposals to change how travel and transport might be reconfigured for the future. We recognise the importance of ongoing dialogue with stakeholder groups. Following Overview Committee's consideration of this report, officers would be pleased to meet with West Dorset TAG and other Transport Action Group representatives to discuss the emerging work, hear your views on local priorities and review the findings of your survey regarding the Bridport–Dorchester corridor. During the Full Business Case stage, we will engage informally with a range of internal and external stakeholders, including West Dorset TAG.

Formal public consultation is a different process. Plans for future further engagement and formal consultation are being developed as part of the Full Business Case and will be set out in more detail when Cabinet considers that report later this year. Any engagement on specific proposals would take place after Cabinet has considered the Full Business Case.

Regarding the Parking Review, after the Overview Committee meeting, during July and August we will hold online listening meetings, as a place where local voices will be heard. This will not be a formal consultation exercise, because we will have to wait until after the Oct 2026 Cabinet meeting before we have specific proposals to consult the public about. After the Oct Cabinet there will be a formal consultation exercise, as is our statutory requirement any time the Council proposes to amend any parking charges or arrangements.

Thank you for your continued interest and support in helping improve travel and transport services across Dorset

13. Questions from Councillors

No questions from councillors.

14. Public Bus and Community Transport Transformation Outline Business Case

The Committee considered the outline business case for a more integrated transport system across Dorset. Discussion focused on the long-term sustainability of the current transport model and the challenges created by rising demand, fragmented services and increasing financial pressures. Members recognised the importance of developing a transport system that was easier to access, more coordinated and better able to meet the needs of residents across Dorset.

A significant theme throughout the discussion was the impact of poor transport connectivity in rural areas. Members highlighted the difficulties many residents faced when accessing healthcare, education, employment, shopping and social activities. There was discussion about the decline in community transport services,

the challenges of recruiting volunteer drivers and the need to reduce social isolation, especially for older residents.

The Committee discussed the benefits of moving towards a more integrated approach that brought together public transport, community transport, special educational needs transport, adult social care transport and other transport services within a single system. Members generally supported the ambition of designing services around journeys and user needs rather than around separate service areas or budgets.

Funding was a recurring topic throughout the debate. Members recognised that Dorset continued to receive comparatively low levels of public transport funding and considered how a stronger, more ambitious strategy could help secure additional government investment. At the same time, discussion acknowledged the importance of balancing ambition with deliverability and ensuring that future proposals remained realistic and affordable.

Considerable discussion focused on the role of community transport, volunteer schemes and community-led solutions. The Committee recognised the valuable contribution these services made in rural communities and emphasised the need to support and strengthen local transport initiatives as part of any future integrated system.

Members also discussed the importance of transport hubs and connectivity. There was broad agreement that future transport planning should better connect different forms of travel, including railway stations, coach services, cycling routes and local bus networks. The Committee considered that successful integration depended on making journeys as seamless as possible between different modes of transport.

Discussion highlighted the potential benefits of improved transport for town centres, economic growth, tourism, employment and social inclusion. Members considered that improved public transport could help support local economies, increase access to services and reduce reliance on more expensive and fragmented transport arrangements.

The Committee also recognised the financial pressures associated with special educational needs and disability transport and considered the opportunity for a more integrated transport system to make better use of shared journeys and available vehicle capacity. The support for the paper was

Recommendations

The Place and Resources overview Committee supported recommendations (a) and (b) within the report and requested that the Full Business Case should include both options.

The recommendations were proposed by Cllr David Taylor, seconded by Cllr Simon Gibson and unanimously agreed.

15. **Parking Review and Strategy**

The Committee considered Dorset Council's comprehensive, data-led review of parking across Dorset. Discussion focused on how improved data collection and technology could support better management of parking assets, improve the customer experience and strengthen the contribution parking made towards wider transport, economic and environmental objectives. Members welcomed the detailed analysis of parking usage and recognised the value of using evidence gathered from payment systems to better understand demand patterns, parking behaviour and car park performance across Dorset. The Committee supported the principle of using data to inform future decisions rather than relying solely on anecdotal evidence.

The proposed upgrade of parking machines received broad support. Discussion focused on the benefits of improved technology, including greater flexibility for users, improved data collection, digital payment options and the potential to simplify parking arrangements for residents and visitors. The Committee also considered how future systems could create opportunities for more innovative charging models and improved customer convenience.

A significant theme within the discussion was the role of parking in supporting town centres and local economies. Members considered how parking could be used to encourage longer visits, increase spending within local businesses and strengthen the vitality of Dorset's market towns and coastal communities. The importance of ensuring that parking remained accessible and affordable for local residents was emphasised throughout.

The Committee discussed ways to improve the experience of using Dorset's car parks. Topics included clearer signage, better wayfinding, directing visitors towards appropriate parking locations, improving the condition of car parks and making long-stay options easier to identify. Members considered these improvements particularly important in supporting tourism and reducing congestion in town centres.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding proposals to introduce parking incentives linked to vehicle emissions. Concerns were raised that such an approach could disproportionately affect residents on lower incomes who may not have the means to purchase lower-emission vehicles. Members discussed alternative ways of supporting climate objectives, including encouraging local travel, supporting public transport and reducing unnecessary vehicle journeys.

The Committee also explored opportunities to use technology to support more flexible parking arrangements, including aspirations towards pay-on-exit style systems and more integrated digital services. Members viewed these developments as potentially beneficial to residents, visitors and local businesses.

Further discussion considered resident parking permits, affordability, payment options, reinforcement of parking enforcement, alternative uses for car parks during quieter periods and opportunities for wider income generation from parking assets.

Recommendations

There was a proposal by Cllr Brown, seconded by Cllr Gibson that the emission-based charging is excluded from the parking strategy and planned actions at the current time and was carried with 7 votes for and 1 against.

The following recommendations from the Place and Resources Overview Committee were summarised by the Chair, proposed by Cllr Taylor and seconded by Cllr Crabb and unanimously agreed.

1. The proposal for emissions-based parking charges or discounts be removed from the actions and future strategic direction of the Parking Review and that alternative approaches be considered at this time.
 2. The upgrade of parking technology be supported to provide the intelligence and functionality needed to develop resident-focused parking discounts and schemes.
 3. Resident parking permits should become more accessible, including exploring opportunities to make permits easier and more affordable to pay for through instalment arrangements and future system improvements.
 4. The Council should continue to explore pay-on-exit style parking arrangements and other technology solutions that make parking more flexible and convenient for customers.
 5. Improved signage and digital information should be introduced to make it easier to identify available parking, long-stay car parks and alternative parking locations, helping to reduce congestion and improve the visitor experience.
 6. Opportunities should be explored to make better use of car parks during quieter periods, including community uses and alternative income-generating activities.
 7. Investment should continue in improving the condition, appearance and maintenance of Dorset's car parks so that they provided a positive first impression for residents and visitors.
16. **Endorsement of Dorset Local Visitor Economy Partnership Destination Management Plan**

The Committee considered the Dorset Local Visitor Economy Partnership Destination Management Plan and welcomed the collaborative approach that had been taken to develop it. Members noted that the plan had been produced through engagement with a wide range of partners and stakeholders from across Dorset's tourism, business and community sectors. The discussion recognised the importance of tourism to Dorset's economy and the role it played in supporting employment, businesses and local communities. Members welcomed the strategic focus on increasing visitor spend, extending the tourism season and improving the overall visitor experience across Dorset.

A recurring theme throughout the discussion was the importance of ensuring that tourism benefits were spread across the whole county. Members highlighted the need to better promote inland Dorset, including its market towns, countryside, heritage assets, cultural attractions, walking routes, wildlife sites and natural landscapes. It was felt that Dorset's tourism offer extended far beyond its coastline and that future promotion should better reflect the diversity of experiences available throughout the county.

Members discussed the challenges facing market towns and the importance of linking tourism activity with broader work to support town centres and local economic development. The Committee recognised the contribution market towns made to the visitor economy and the need to support them as attractive destinations. Members recognised growing public interest in sustainable tourism, ecotourism and environmentally responsible travel. There was support for ensuring that sustainability remained a strong feature within future action plans and that Dorset's environmental strengths were promoted more actively.

The Committee considered opportunities to grow tourism outside the traditional summer season and highlighted the role that events, culture, heritage, nature-based activities and improved all-weather attractions could play in increasing year-round visitor activity and supporting local businesses beyond peak tourism periods. Discussion identified the importance of supporting small businesses and micro-businesses, particularly in rural areas, and recognised the challenges these businesses often faced in accessing resources, support and marketing opportunities.

The Committee agreed that whilst the Destination Management Plan provided a strong strategic framework, much of the future success of the initiative would depend on the development and delivery of a detailed action plan

Recommendation

The Place and Resources Overview Committee recommend that Cabinet adopts the Dorset local Visitor Economy Partnership Destination Management Plan (DLVEPDM), and consider the following additional recommendations;

That:

- (a) additional funding be added to the 2027/2028 budget to meet the aspirations within the plan
- (b) the local offerings be recognised in the wording of the DLVEPDM action plan.

17. Place and Resources Overview Committee Work Programme

The Place and Resources Overview Committee work programme was reviewed and an additional item around the Market Town strategy was suggested to be scoped.

18. Urgent items

There were no urgent items.

19. **Exempt Business**

There was no exempt business.

Duration of meeting: 10.01 am - 1.07 pm

Chairman

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Place and Resources Overview Committee

1 October 2026

Draft Dog Related Public Spaces Order 2027 and associated Consultation Report For Recommendation to Cabinet

Cabinet Member:

Cllr M Bell, Public Health, Prevention & Communities

Local Councillor(s): All wards

Senior Leadership Team:

S Crowe - Executive Director, Housing, Prevention and Communities

Report author and job title: Janet Moore Service Manager Environmental Protection - Email: janet.moore@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Statutory Authority: Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014

Report status: Public

1.0 Executive Summary

This report summarises the findings from a Dog-related Public Spaces Protection Order public consultation undertaken between May and August 2026 (12 weeks). Informed by the consultation, it proposes the new draft Dog-related Public Spaces Protection Order 2027 (PSPO) which will replace the existing Public Spaces Protection Order. The report outlines the proposed provisions for the Council area for a period of 3 years from 1 January 2027 until the 31 December 2029.

There were over 5000 responses made to the consultation, the majority of which supported renewing the current provisions. For the protection of public health and the welfare of dogs and their owners, this report recommends renewing the current provisions. Where there are notable other views, these are discussed in the report.

The recommendations from the Committee will be considered by Cabinet at their meeting on 10 November 2026.

2.0 Recommendations

1. That members of the Committee consider the draft Dog-related Public Spaces Protection Order 2027 including the Consultation Report and Equality Impact Assessment, and comment as necessary.
2. That the draft Dog-related Public Spaces Protection Order 2027, amended as necessary, be recommended to Cabinet for approval.

3.0 Reason for the recommendations

To protect public health and safety and animal welfare.

To comply with the requirements of 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 health and safety and animal welfare.

To recognise and implement the requirements of equality legislation and the Public Sector Equality Duty.

4.0 The Report

- 4.1 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.

- 4.2 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 the need.

- 4.3 An Order, as well as meeting the above tests, must be fair, proportionate, and consistent with the principles related to public health and safety to enable dog owners and non-dog owners to enjoy public open spaces. Irresponsible dog ownership can give rise to a range of public health concerns that affect residents, visitors and the wider community. Dog fouling in public spaces presents a risk of exposure to harmful bacteria and parasites, including *Toxocara canis*, which can pose particular health risks to young children and vulnerable individuals. Uncontrolled dogs may also contribute to injuries through bites, attacks or collisions, while dogs that are not kept under proper control can cause fear, anxiety and reduced enjoyment of public spaces for other users.
- 4.4 In addition, persistent fouling and irresponsible behaviour can undermine the amenity and accessibility of parks, beaches and open spaces, discouraging their use for recreation, exercise and other activities that support physical and mental wellbeing. Exercise and social interaction are also an important components of animal welfare. By encouraging responsible ownership, the Order seeks to maximise the social, health and wellbeing benefits associated with dog ownership whilst minimising the detrimental impacts that can arise from irresponsible behaviour.
- 4.5 The Order should be enforceable without having detrimental impact on those that are reliant on assistance from dogs. Assistance dogs provide essential support to disabled people, including those with visual impairments, mobility difficulties and a range of medical conditions. Access to public spaces may not be practicable for some disabled people without their assistance dog.
- 4.6 A small team of Animal Licensing & 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 animal 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.
- 4.7 Officers enforce the provisions of the PSPO by patrolling and investigating complaints. Since 2024, Dorset Council has received between 30 to 50 complaints or enquiries each year relating to the Order at beach locations. These have included reports of alleged breaches, requests for amendments to the restrictions, and general enquiries regarding enforcement. Most of the contacts received relate to the restrictions in place on Front Beach at Lyme Regis, reflecting that the provisions at this location are more contentious.

- 4.8 An important role of officers, is to raise awareness of the provisions of an Order. A graduated approach to enforcement is operated, seeking to raise awareness and educate in the first instance. A Fixed Penalty Notice is only considered where a person refuses to comply with an officer's instruction; where there is evidence of repeat offending (either through information provided to the officer or through the officer witnessing repeated breaches by the same individual), or where other offences, such as dog fouling have been witnessed to the required evidential standard. Members may wish to consider whether the current priorities and enforcement approach of the Animal Licensing and Dog Control Team reflect their expectations for the service.
- 4.9 Only provisions contained within the public consultation can be considered for inclusion in the Order. These were drawn from the current Order and representations made to the service. Any proposals outside the scope of the consultation would require a further consultation exercise. A specific question relating to the removal and disposal of dog faeces was not included. However, the consultation's introduction made clear that the requirement to remove dog faeces and properly dispose of it would remain within the proposed Order, and that failure to do so would continue to constitute an offence. No concerns, objections or requests for change relating to this provision were raised within the consultation comments received.
- 4.10 Where a restriction applies, the landowner can apply to the Council for a consent to require that we do not undertake enforcement on that land. However, the PSPO takes precedent over any other legal provision (e.g. local byelaws).
- 4.11 The draft Order seeks to maintain all the restrictions currently in place. This approach is supported by the consultation findings in all but one case, Seatown Beach. In that instance, support for removing the restriction was half a percentage point higher than support for retaining it. This is discussed further in the relevant section of this report.
- 4.12 The consultation had a high level of participation with 5013 responses and included good representation of respondent ages, dog owners, and non-dog owners.
- 4.11 Consultation information was sent to all Parish and Town Councils and other relevant landowners, alongside Dorset Police and the Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner who are statutory consultees. Any significant additional commentary from these organisations is summarised in Appendix A, 'The Dog- Related PSPO Public Consultation Report'.
- 4.13 The Council acknowledges receipt of a petition [Petition · Allow dogs on beaches from 1st September instead of 1st October - United Kingdom · Change.org](#) and note the 7104 signatories. This petition calls for a change to

the current rules restricting dog access to Dorset and Hampshire beaches. The petition is generic in nature, in that it covers dog restrictions on beaches both in Dorset and Hampshire and is hosted on a national platform.

- 4.14 Whilst the findings of the public consultation are an important consideration in determining the requirements of the new Order, Members are reminded that consultation responses are only one factor in the decision-making process. In reaching a balanced and proportionate decision, Members should also have regard to;

- the protection of public health and safety;
- the need for consistency of restrictions across comparable locations within the Council's area;
- the practical enforceability of any restrictions introduced.

Consideration should also be given to ensuring that any provision is clear, understandable and capable of being readily complied with by residents and visitors alike. Members should also consider the positive contribution that responsible dog ownership can make to both individual wellbeing and wider society.

We wish to thank participants for their contributions.

5.0 Consultation Findings

- 5.1 The data used to inform these findings is drawn from Appendix A, The Dog Related PSPO Public Consultation Report. The percentage figure has been rounded up to the nearest whole number.

General demographic information - In terms of representative responses, 75% (3047) of the respondents that could be mapped (4,557), were residents (Dorset area postcode). 69% of respondents were female and 66% were aged 50 and over. The response rate of people recognising themselves having a disability under the Equality Act was 15%.

62% of respondents were dog owners. Dog ownership is the strongest factor for influencing responses throughout the consultation. Non-dog owners were consistently more likely to support retaining restrictions, while dog owners were more likely to support reducing or removing them.

The recommended provisions detailed in Section 6 of this report follow the order of the Consultation Report and the relevant page number is referenced. An officer recommendation is given in each case. A summary of the provisions is given in the following table.

5.2

Proposal Category	Number Reviewed	Officer Recommendation
Generic lead restrictions	2	Retain. (Significant level of support, very similar to 2023 consultation)
Generic dogs-on-lead locations	5	Retain. (Significant level of support, very similar to 2023 consultation)
Specific dogs on lead locations	9	Retain. (Level of support was slightly higher than the 2023 consultation)
Generic Exclusion areas	2	Retain (Level of support was similar to the 2023 consultation)
Beach restrictions	9	Retain current arrangements (Level of support compared to the 2023 consultation varied dependent on the restriction)

6.0 Proposed Provisions – lead length and direction to be on lead.

- 6.1 Maximum lead length of 2m where required (page 11) and the areas are listed in Schedule 3 of the draft Order. This received strong support at 83%.
- 6.2 Dogs on lead as directed by an authorised officer, maximum lead length 2m, (page 12). This received almost universal support at 96%.

Recommended for inclusion

7.0 Proposed Provisions - dogs on leads, generic locations

- 7.1 Municipal cemeteries, church, and graveyards, where dogs are permitted, (pages 13 & 14). Received almost universal support at 91%.

Recommended for inclusion

- 7.2 Public formal gardens, (pages 13 & 14). Received strong support at 81%.

Recommended for inclusion

- 7.3 Council owned allotments where permitted, (pages 13 &14). Received significant support at 78%.

Recommended for inclusion

Note: Swanage Town Council requested that restrictions relating to Town and Parish Council-owned allotments be considered for inclusion in the Order. However, this is not something that can be incorporated within the current process and will instead be reviewed as part of the development of the next Order.

- 7.4 Council owned car parks, (pages 13 & 14). Received almost universal support at 92%.

Recommended for inclusion

- 7.5 Within 5m of marked sports pitches, (pages 13 & 14). Received strong support at 83%.

Recommended for inclusion

- 8.0 Proposed Provisions - dogs on leads, specific locations,** (pages 17, 18, 19, 20 of Consultation Report).

- 8.1 Rodwell Trail, Weymouth. A well-used urban cycle and footway connecting the outlying wards to Weymouth town. Received majority support at 57%. Supported by the Friends of Rodwell Trail Group.

Recommended for inclusion

- 8.2 West Bay Harbour Walk and promenade. Received majority support at 66%.

Recommended for inclusion

- 8.3 Lyme Regis pathways etc. adjacent to the Front/Town Beach. Received majority support 65%.

Recommended for inclusion

- 8.4 Weymouth Esplanade. Received majority support 70%.

Recommended for inclusion

- 8.5 Swanage. The Parade and adjacent roads leading to the Beach. Received majority support 65%.

Recommended for inclusion

- 8.6 Studland. Access to Studland Beach from the car park, including the car park and staircases leading to the beach. Received majority support at 62%.

Recommended for inclusion

- 8.7 Studland Beach (known as Knoll Beach), Middle Beach, and Shell Beach, (1st May to 30th September). Received a small majority support at 52%.

Recommended for inclusion

- 8.8 Studland – Ferry Road, from Studland Beach car park to South Coast end marker, Shell Beach National Trust Car Park, and access routes. Received majority support at 62%.

Recommended for inclusion

- 8.9 Charmouth, Lower Sea Lane Car Parks and surrounding areas leading to the Beach. Received majority support 61%.

Recommended for inclusion

- 9.0 Proposed Provisions - dog exclusion areas, generic** (pages 20, 21, 22 of Consultation Report).

- 9.1 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 at 61%.

Recommended for inclusion

- 9.2 Marked Sports Pitches. Received majority support at 61%.

Recommended for inclusion

- 10.0 Proposed Provisions – beach restrictions** (page 24 - maps are produced to support the Order by clearly delineating areas where restrictions apply).

- 10.1 Fixed period for summer restriction. Continuing the fixed period of 1 May to 30 September for relevant beach restrictions received the largest support at 44%. 35% respondents wanted a set period but with different dates or times; 20% wanted no restriction and 1% did not know.

Of those that did not support the current requirement, 47% wanted another period of restriction, chiefly reducing the period. For instance, Dorset Police supported limiting the period from the 1 May to the end of the school holidays. Others wanted dogs to be allowed on beaches in the morning and evening periods.

Opening beaches at either end of the daily exclusion period may be viewed favourably by some dog owners; however, it also presents a number of practical challenges. There is potential for an increased incidence of residual dog fouling and for dogs to remain on the beach beyond the permitted period, resulting in encroachment into the exclusion hours. In addition, several Town and Parish Councils undertake mechanical beach raking in the early morning, while organised exercise classes and swimming groups frequently use beaches during early morning and late evening periods. Retaining the current restriction also provides consistency with neighbouring authorities, as both Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council and East Devon District Council prohibit dogs from beaches throughout the exclusion period.

Maintaining the existing arrangements therefore supports a clear and consistent approach for residents and visitors across Dorset and neighbouring Devon.

Recommended to maintain the current restriction

11.0 Proposed Provisions - specific beach locations – all day dog exclusion from 1 May to 30 September

- 11.1 Swanage, Central Beach, (page 28). Received a small majority support at 53%. Supported by Swanage Town Council.

Recommended for inclusion

- 11.2 Lyme Regis, Front/Town Beach, summer restriction, (page 30). Received majority support at 57%. For some with limited mobility, the accessibility of neighbouring beaches and alternative areas to exercise a dog has been of concern in previous years. Monmouth Beach is largely a pebble beach and access is via gravel/ earth pathways and therefore challenging for those who are unsteady on their feet. However, Members are reminded that those with assistance dogs are not subject to the Front Town Beach restriction. Lyme Regis Town Council comments;

‘We have accessibility matting on Monmouth Beach, which is placed at the high-water mark. There is level access from the car parks and chalets/caravans/beach huts directly onto the matting. The ramp down to East Beach is made of concrete and isn't any more slippery than any other surface when wet. The rocks on the beach will get slippery with algae but wouldn't be accessible for wheelchairs or those with mobility issues anyway.’

‘We completely oppose suggestions to allow dogs on the beaches in the morning or evenings during the current summer exclusion, as the beaches start to get busy very early and remain busy well into the evening. The argument about access for those with mobility issues isn't a factor as far as

we're concerned, as there are plenty of other open spaces in Lyme Regis where dogs can be exercised on or off the lead. Some examples include Middle Mill Fields, Spittles (the section accessed from Timber Hill) and the River Lym Walk.'

'Large sections of Slopes Farm are accessible and level, as are parts of Ware Cliff. Monmouth Beach is probably more accessible than the Front Beach as it is closer to the car parks and there is a level path along the top, with access directly from the car park.'

The issue of will be kept under review with Lyme Regis Town Council.

Recommended for inclusion

- 11.3 Lyme Regis, Front/Town Beach – maintain no winter restriction (page 31). Received majority support at 62%. Lyme Regis Town Council were supportive of reinstating the dog on lead restriction.

Maintain current arrangement, not recommended for inclusion.

- 11.4 Chideock, Seatown Beach (page 33). This is a long stretch of beach and responses were evenly divided with 49.7% wishing to remove the restriction and 49.3% wishing to retain the restriction, similar to the results of the 2023 consultation. The landowner, Wraxall Estate, made representation to maintain the restriction. Residents who responded were more likely to support retention.

Recommended for inclusion

- 11.5 West Bay - East Beach and West Beach (page 34). Received a slight preference for support at 53% for East Bay and 52 % for West Bay. Again, residents who responded were more likely to support retention.

Recommended for Inclusion

- 11.6 Charmouth, West Beach (page 36). Received a small majority in support with 53% wishing to retain the restriction, slightly higher support than in the 2023 consultation.

Recommended for inclusion

- 11.8 Weymouth, Central Beach (pages 38- 40). Maintain current arrangements of all year-round dog off lead exercise area at the Pavilion end. Received a small majority of support at 53%.

For those who wanted it changed, just over half were in favour of enlarging the exercise area. Comments also included relocation further north along the

beach, allowing dogs on the beach during the morning and evening periods and, at a more operational level, improving management and enforcement.

Weymouth Town Council did not submit a formal response to the consultation. Instead, councillors indicated that they wished to respond in their individual capacities. As a result, any comments received from town councillors have been considered as individual consultation responses. Only one response was received from a town councillor and this is summarised in Appendix A.

Recommended to maintain the current arrangement

- 11.9 Retain an exclusion area from the marked dog exercise area at the Pavilion end of Weymouth Beach to the Greenhill Groyne.

Received a small majority in support at 55%.

Recommended for inclusion

12.0 General comments.

The open text box in the consultation document provided respondents with an opportunity to comment on matters not covered by the structured questions. Just over half of respondents chose to provide additional comments. The most common themes related to time-based restrictions, lead requirements, and enforcement. Views on beach access were mixed, with similar numbers of respondents supporting and opposing dogs on beaches. There were also a number of requests for designated off-lead areas.

Dorset Police made the general comment that in terms of tackling rural crime, in the Dorset Police and Crime Plan there is reference to the impact of dogs off lead, disturbing protected wildlife e.g. ground nesting birds, seals resting on beaches. The provisions contained in the PSPO can assist with protecting wildlife.

Lyme Regis Town Council made comments to support retaining existing beach restrictions, dog exclusion areas, and lead requirements.

13.0 Alternative options considered.

- 13.1 None. A PSPO is the prescribed way to place reasonable restrictions on the access of dogs to public land.

14.0 Legal considerations

- 14.1 The process for introducing a new PSPO is governed by the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. Before making the Order, the

Council must be satisfied that the statutory tests contained within the legislation have been met.

Any challenge to the proposed Order can be made to the High Court within 6 weeks beginning with the date on which the Order is made and can only be on the grounds of a) The council did not have the power to make the Order, or to include a particular prohibition or requirement or b) A procedural requirement was not complied with.

Any enforcement action arising from the Order will be carried out in accordance with the Council's General and Regulatory Services Enforcement Policies.

15.0 Financial implications

- 15.1 Officer resources are directed towards a wide range of statutory and discretionary functions, with proactive patrols undertaken alongside other service priorities. Consequently, routine patrols relating specifically to the Order are generally considered a lower operational priority unless intelligence, complaints or emerging issues indicate a need for targeted enforcement activity. Should Members wish to see a higher-profile enforcement presence, increased patrol frequency or a more proactive approach to monitoring compliance, consideration would need to be given to the associated resource and financial implications, including officer capacity and the potential impact on other service areas.

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.

16.0 Natural environment, climate & ecology implications

- 16.1 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, but there may be beneficial effects.
- 16.2 Some restrictions on open spaces may cause dog owners to have to travel further by car to exercise their dogs with associated fuel use and emissions.

17.0 Well-being and health implications

- 17.1 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 provide many positive benefits including companionship, opportunities to exercise and support mental health and social interaction.

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

18.0 Other implications

- 18.1 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.

19.0 Risk implications.

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

Current Risk: Medium

Residual Risk: Low

20.0 Equalities

- 20.1 An EqlA for the proposed Order is given at Appendix C.
- 20.2 The EqlA will continue to be updated as the Order is implemented.
- 20.3 Exemptions to compliance and enforcement practices have been informed by the EqlA and in line with guidance issued by the ECHR on assistance dogs.

21.0 Appendices

Appendix A – Dog-related PSPO Public Consultation Response Report 2026

Appendix B - Dog-related Public Spaces Protection Order 2027 (draft)

Appendix C – EqlA Dog-related Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) 2026

Appendix D - Public Consultation Findings Infographic 2026

22.0 Background Papers

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

[Anti-social behaviour powers: statutory guidance for frontline professionals 2025](#)

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

[Equality Act 2010: guidance - GOV.UK](#)

[Assistance dogs: a guide for all businesses| EHRC](#)

[Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan 2024 to 2027 - Dorset Council](#)

[Dealing with irresponsible dog ownership: practitioners' manual - GOV.UK](#)

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

23.0 Report sign-off

This report has been through the internal report clearance process and has been signed off by the Director for Assurance & Governance (Monitoring Officer), the Director for Resources (Section 151 Officer) and the appropriate Cabinet Member(s)

Proposed Dog–Related Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO)

Consultation response analysis report produced by the
Consultation and Engagement Team – Dorset Council

September 2026

Consultation Response Report

What was the consultation about?	This consultation sought views on the proposed renewal of Dorset Council's Dog Related Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for the period 2027 to 2029. The PSPO sets out measures to promote responsible dog ownership and help keep public spaces clean, safe and enjoyable for everyone. The consultation focused particularly on current beach restrictions and whether existing controls continue to provide an appropriate balance between the needs of dog owners, other users and the wider community.
Over what period did the consultation run?	The consultation ran from 26/05/26 to 07/08/26 and was a 12-week consultation process.
What consultation methods were used?	This consultation was on Dorset Council's 'Have your say' website and was available via Dorset Council libraries.
How many responses were received overall?	5,013 total responses were received.
How representative is the response to the wider population?	83.8% (4,203) of responses were from local residents, with 14.6% (730) from visitors to Dorset. A small portion of business operators were at 0.6% (31), Councillors within Dorset at 0.6% (29) and representatives of organisations at 0.4% (20). There were more female respondents at 68.6% (3370) compared to male respondents at 26.1% (1281). Age of respondents varied from 49 and under at 28.0% (1381), 50 to 64 at 38.0% (1875) and 65 plus at 28.0% (1422). 89.1% (4321) of respondents identified with the ethnic group, White British, which is a typical reflection of Dorset's wider population. Responses from disabled residents was quite high at 14.9% (727).
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?	Consultation and Engagement Team, Dorset Council, September 2026

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 31st of December 2026. Dorset Council has sought the views of the public on the contents of the next PSPO, which will run from 1st January 2027 until the 31 December 2029.

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 lead length, and 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 will be available in spreadsheet form if required.

Analysis Method

Responses to closed questions were collated and summarised, with the number of respondents for each question shown in the report. All consultation questions and their results are included.

Open-ended responses were reviewed and analysed. Where a large number of comments were received, responses were coded and grouped into common themes to identify key issues raised by respondents. Where only a small number of comments were received, responses have been presented verbatim to accurately reflect respondents' views.

Demographic analysis was undertaken to identify whether views differed between respondent groups. Findings have been reported where notable differences were identified and were considered to add meaningful context to the interpretation of the results.

Note: Figures may not always total precisely due to rounding.

Executive Summary

- A total of 5,013 responses were received for this consultation. The majority of responses were from Dorset residents (83.8%, 4,203) and dog owners (61.5%, 3,085).
- There was strong support for retaining the existing dog control measures:
 - 96.0% (4,786) supported retaining the current dogs on lead by direction requirement.
 - 82.7% (4,116) supported retaining the requirement for dogs to be on a lead when directed or in designated areas.
 - 60.5% (3,022) supported continuing the exclusion of dogs from designated exclusion areas.
 - 61.4% (3,067) supported continuing the exclusion of dogs from marked sports pitches.
- Views on beach exclusion periods were more mixed. While 44.4% (2,224) supported retaining the current exclusion period (1 May to 30 September), 35.1% (1,755) supported a different seasonal restriction period and 20.1% (1,004) supported removing seasonal restrictions altogether. However, almost 80% of respondents supported some form of seasonal restriction.

Dogs on Leads at Specific Locations

- Support for retaining existing dogs-on-lead requirements was high at:
 - **Esplanade, Weymouth:** 69.6% (3,263)
 - **West Bay Harbour Walk and Promenade:** 66.3% (3,086)
 - **The Parade, Swanage:** 65.0% (3,028)
 - **Marine Parade and Cart Road, Lyme Regis:** 64.9% (3,051).
 - **Lower Sea Lane, Charmouth:** 60.9% (2832)
- Opinion was more divided at locations associated with **Studland and the Rodwell Trail**, which attracted the lowest levels of support for retaining existing restrictions:

- **Studland Beaches:** 52.0% (2,439) supported retaining the requirement, while 19.9% (932) supported removing it.
- **The Rodwell Trail, Weymouth:** 56.7% (2,650) supported retaining the requirement, while 12.9% (601) supported removing it.
- **Access to Studland Beach:** 61.7% (2,902) supported retaining the requirement, while 14.2% (670) supported removing it.
- **Ferry Road, Studland:** 62.5% (2,931) supported retaining the requirement, while 13.0% (609) supported removing it.

Beach-Specific Restrictions

- **Front Town Beach, Lyme Regis** recorded the strongest support for retaining existing summer exclusion restrictions, with 56.7% (935) supporting retention. Outside the summer exclusion period, 61.6% (1,009) supported retaining the current off-lead arrangement.
- **Central Beach, Swanage; West Beach, Charmouth; East Bay Beach; and West Bay Beach** all produced closely balanced results, with support for retaining restrictions ranging from 51.9% to 53.2%, indicating no strong consensus.
- **Seatown Beach, Chideock** produced the most evenly divided result in the consultation, with 49.7% (282) supporting removal of the restriction and 49.3% (280) supporting retention.
- The **Weymouth dog exercise area** also generated mixed views. 52.8% (1,128) supported retaining the current arrangement, while 46.4% (991) supported a change. Among those supporting change, 54.3% (734) favoured enlarging the exercise area.
- Open-ended comments regarding the **Weymouth dog exercise area** highlighted competing views on future provision. The most common themes were requests to enlarge the exercise area, provide greater access for dogs, relocate the exercise area, introduce time-based access arrangements, and improve enforcement and management. Concerns were frequently raised about overcrowding, dog fouling, environmental impacts and potential conflicts with other beach users.
- For the area between the dog exercise area and **Greenhill Groyne**, 55.2% (1,173) supported retaining the current restriction, compared with 41.4% (879) supporting its removal.

Demographic Findings

- Dog ownership was the strongest factor influencing responses throughout the consultation. Non-dog owners were consistently more likely to support

retaining restrictions, while dog owners were more likely to support reducing or removing them. The largest difference was recorded for **Studland Beaches**, where 83.9% (1,494) of non-dog owners supported retaining restrictions compared with 32.5% (945) of dog owners.

- Age was the second strongest factor influencing responses. Respondents aged 65 and over were consistently more likely to support retaining existing restrictions, while younger respondents were generally more supportive of increased access and flexibility.

Open-Ended Responses

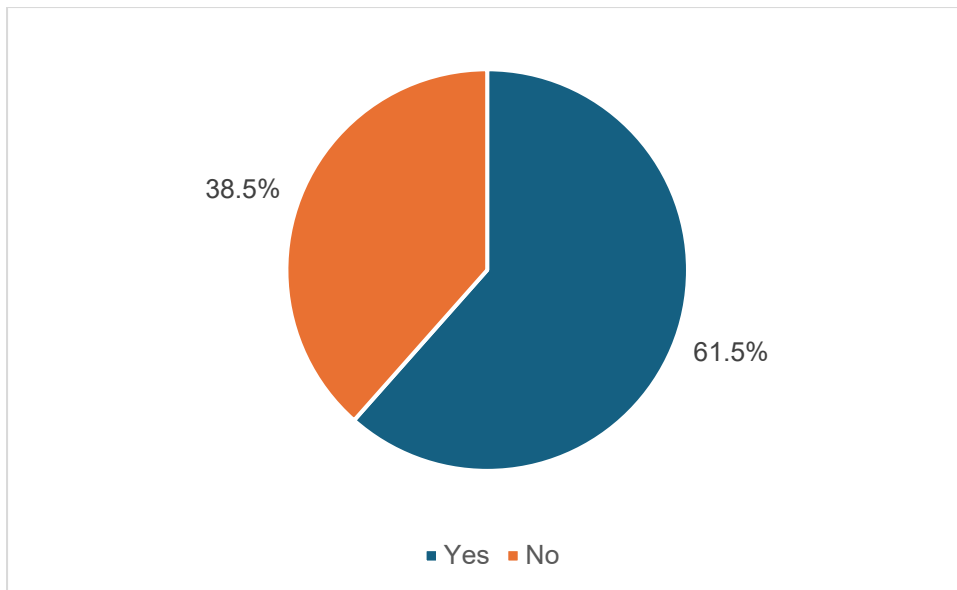
- Common themes included:
 - Responsible dog ownership and enforcement.
 - Public safety and dog behaviour.
 - Dog fouling and waste disposal.
 - Seasonal beach restrictions and access arrangements, particularly requests for greater use of time-based restrictions.
 - Accessibility considerations for older and disabled residents.
 - Requests for restrictions that are clear, proportionate and enforceable.
 - The need to balance the needs of dog owners with those of other beach users.
 - Requests for designated dog-friendly and off-lead areas.
- Views on beach access were particularly divided. Similar numbers of respondents supported increased access for dogs on beaches and the provision of dog-free areas, reflecting the closely balanced results seen across many of the beach-specific consultation questions.
- Across both closed and open-ended responses, the findings demonstrate broad support for retaining core PSPO controls, while highlighting more divided views regarding beach access, seasonal restrictions and dog-friendly provision at key coastal locations

Data Analysis

Respondent Type

Q1. Do you own a dog?

Base: n-5013



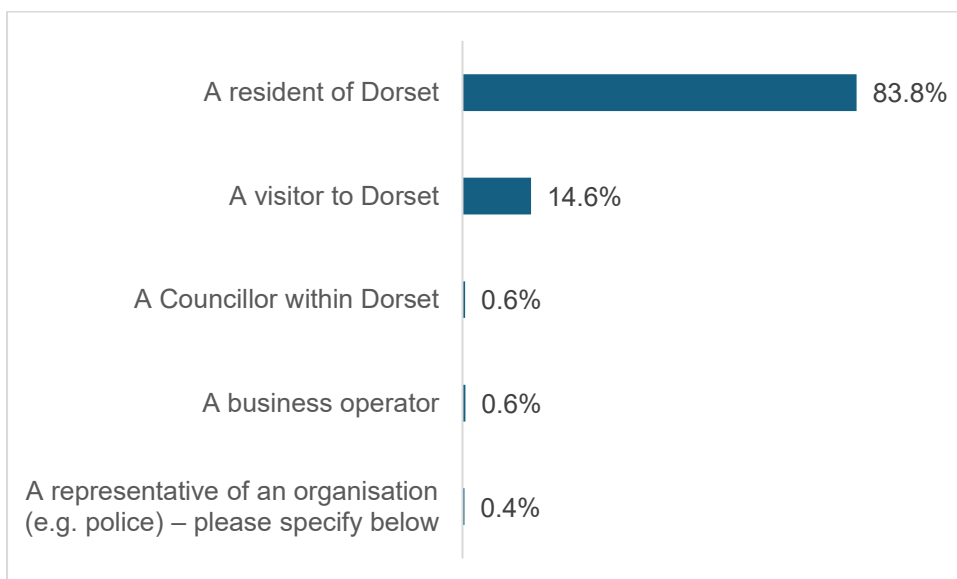
Option	Total	Percent
Yes	3085	61.5%
No	1928	38.5%

The majority of respondents were dog owners, with 61.5% (3,085) stating that they own a dog. A further 38.5% (1,928) reported that they do not own a dog.

This indicates that dog owners were more heavily represented in the consultation responses than non-dog owners.

Q2. Are you answering this survey as...?

Base: n- 5013



Option	Total	Percent
A resident of Dorset	4203	83.8%
A visitor to Dorset	730	14.6%
A Councillor within Dorset	29	0.6%
A business operator	31	0.6%
A representative of an organisation (e.g. police) – please specify below	20	0.4%

The majority of respondents were Dorset residents, with 83.8% (4,203) answering the survey in this capacity. Visitors to Dorset accounted for 14.6% (730) of responses. A small proportion of responses were received from business operators 0.6% (31), Councillors within Dorset 0.6% (29), and representatives of organisations 0.4% (20). This indicates that the consultation responses primarily reflect the views of Dorset residents.

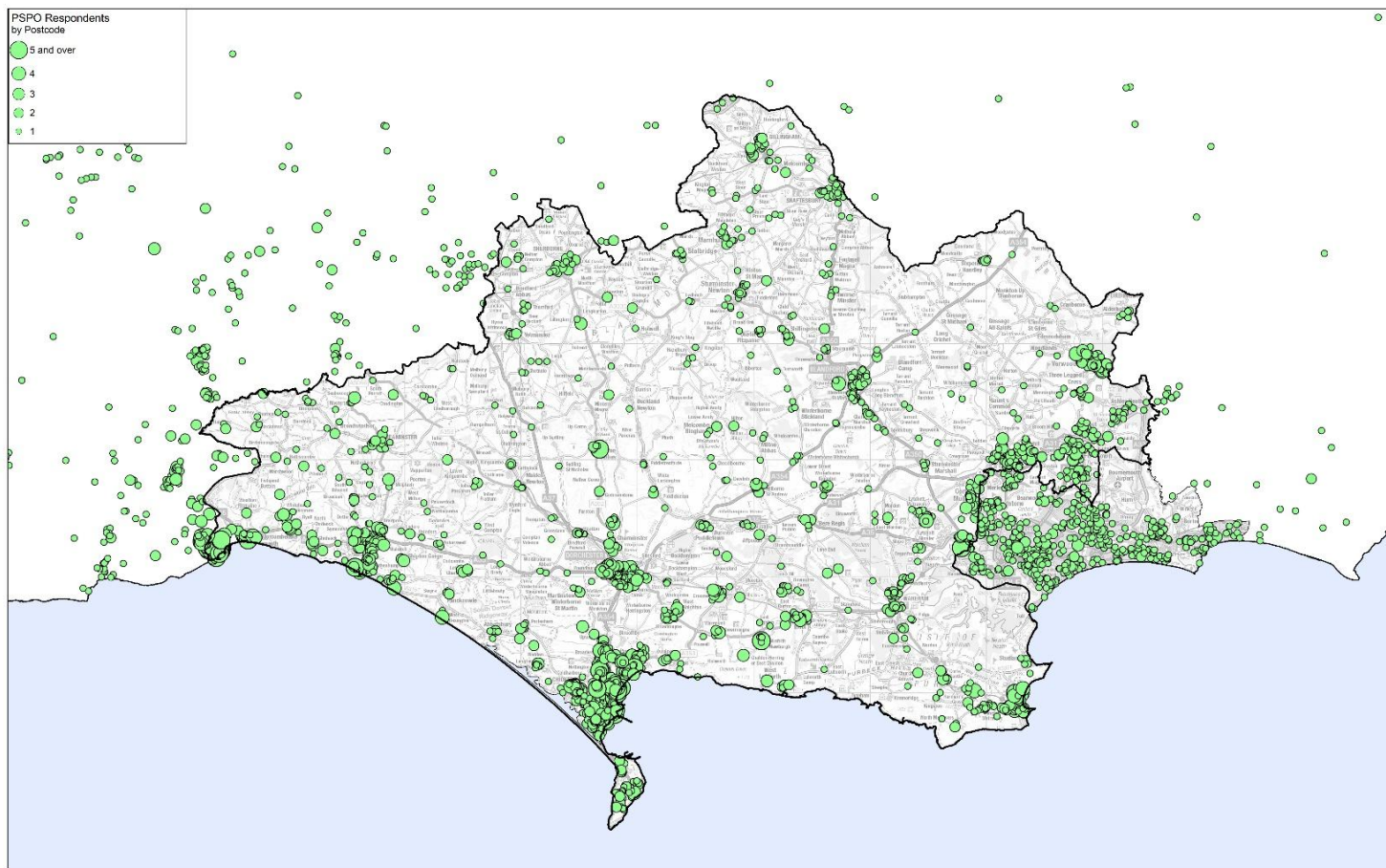
Those who responded as a representative of an organisation are listed verbatim in the table below.

Name of organisation:
Lyme Regis Town Council (x 3 respondents)
Trillberry Guest house
Lyme regis deckchair hire
Holiday let- Sykes
Finishing touch
A resident of Uplyme who frequently visits Lyme Regis.
Dorset Council (x 2 respondents)
S&KW ltd
I'm a resident if Axminster & regularly visit Dorset beaches
St Catherine's Preschool
Queen Thorne News and Views
The Wild Bear Club (dog walking and pet sitting services)
Broadstone Cricket Club
I am both a resident and a business operator. I am also a landlord.
Retired Trainer/Educator and Management Consultant
DC & DTC
Seasides
DC WTC
National Trust
Poole Bay Pet Services
Port House Lyme Regis
Swanage town council
Shaftesbury Town Council
Current visitor in the process of moving to Dorset
Adult social care
Broadmayne Parish Council

Bryanston Parish Council
Bradford Abbas Parish Council
Wimborne Minster Town Council
Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner - David Sidwick
swanage council
Broadmayne Parish Council
Guide Dogs UK (puppy raiser)
Friends of the Rodwell Trail and Sandsfoot Castle Gardens
Sturminster Marshall Parish Council
Sixpenny Handley & Pentridge PC
Love Dogs West Dorset and the Environment
The Tides Inn
Swanage Town Council
Puppy Perfect Training
Yetminster & Ryme Intrinseca Parish Council
Weymouth and Dorset COuncils
Yetminster & Ryme Intrinseca Parish Council
Live in East Devon, so boarder Dorset.
Compton Abbas Parish Council
The Cactus Tea Rooms
And a business owner
DoggoneShame Lyme Regis
Groovy
Weymouth Bike Hire
Dorset Police (x 2 respondents)
Stefan
The Lawrence of Arabia Hotel
Dorset Dogs, founded in 2009, comes under the umbrella of the Dorset Heaths Partnership.

Q3. What is the postcode for where you live?

Base: n-4970



Distribution of responses to consultation on Public Space Protection Order by postcode

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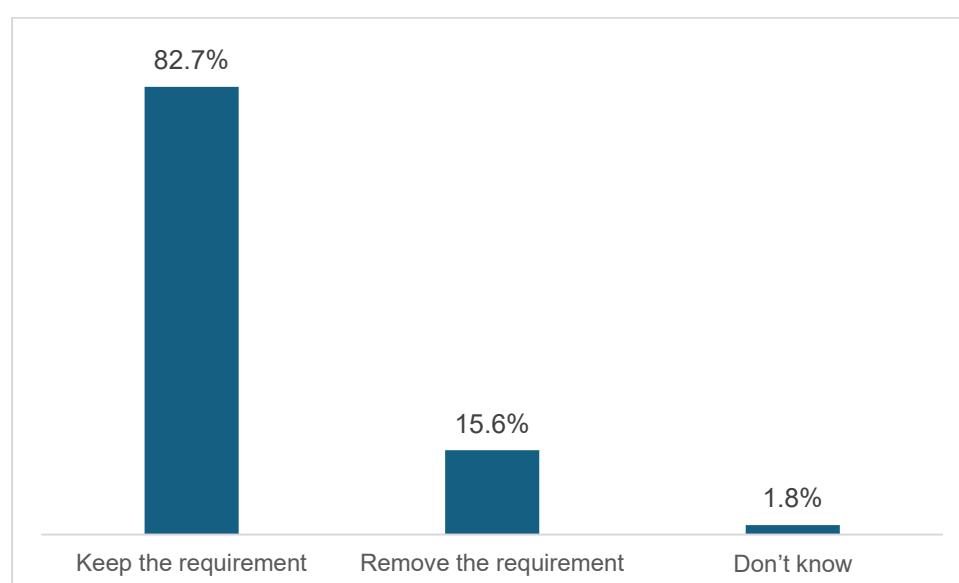
Responses were received from across the Dorset Council area, demonstrating broad geographic engagement with the consultation. Three-quarters of respondents (75.0%) provided a postcode within the Dorset Council area. The highest concentrations of responses were from the more populated coastal and urban areas, particularly around Weymouth and Portland, as well as from neighbouring Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) Council areas that border Dorset Council.

Responses were also received from rural communities throughout Dorset, indicating that views were captured from a diverse range of locations. Postcodes located outside the Dorset Council area have been classified as "Visitors", reflecting responses from people who use Dorset's public spaces but do not reside within the council area.

Lead Requirements

Q4. What is your view on the current requirement for dogs to be on a lead (when directed or in designated areas), with a maximum lead length of two metres?

Base: n-4979



Option	Total	Percent
Keep the requirement	4116	82.7%
Remove the requirement	775	15.6%
Don't know	88	1.8%

A large majority of respondents supported retaining the current requirement for dogs to be on a lead when directed or in designated areas, with a maximum lead length of two metres. Overall, 82.7% (4,116) supported keeping the requirement, compared

with 15.6% (775) who supported its removal. A small proportion of respondents 1.8% (88), selected 'Don't know'. These findings indicate strong support for retaining the current requirement.

Dog owners and Non-dog owners

Support for retaining the requirement was higher among respondents who do not own a dog, with 97.0% (1,856) supporting the requirement compared with 73.7% (2,260) of dog owners. Dog owners were more likely to support removing the requirement, with 23.6% (722) favouring its removal compared with 2.8% (53) of non-dog owners.

Option	Dog owners		Non-dog owners	
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
Keep the requirement	2260	73.7%	1856	97.0%
Remove the requirement	722	23.6%	53	2.8%
Don't know	83	2.7%	5	0.3%

Base: Dog owners (n=3,065), Non-dog owners (n=1,914)

Resident and visitor status

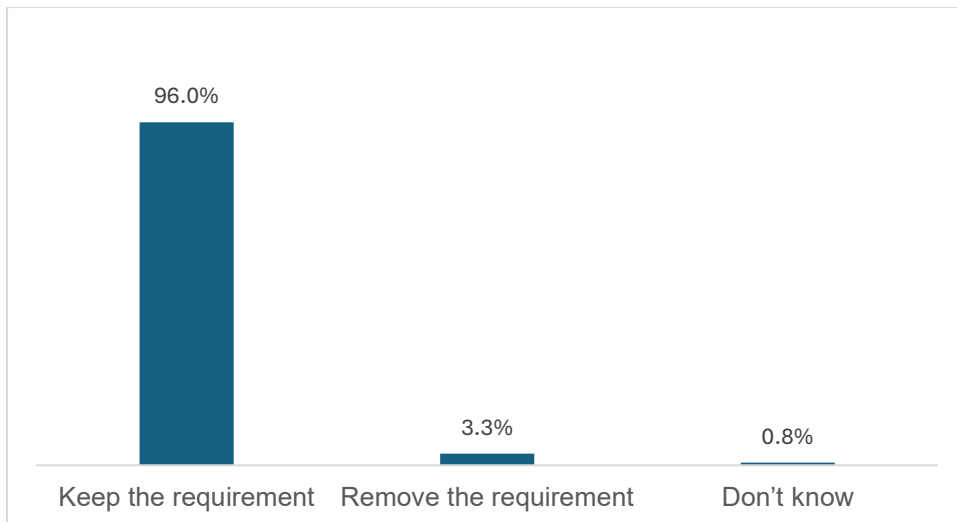
Dorset residents were more likely to support retaining the requirement, with 84.5% (3,530) supporting the requirement compared with 72.6% (525) of visitors to Dorset. Visitors were more likely to support removing the requirement, 25.4% (184), than residents, 13.8% (576).

Age

In addition, support for retaining the requirement increased with age, from 75.5% (1,035) among respondents aged 49 and under to 81.3% (1,517) among those aged 50 to 64 and 90.7% (1,281) among respondents aged 65 and over. This suggests that older respondents were more likely to support the current requirement than younger respondents

Q5. What is your view on the current 'dogs on lead by direction' requirement, where authorised officers can ask for a dog to be put on a lead if there is a safety risk?

Base: n=4986



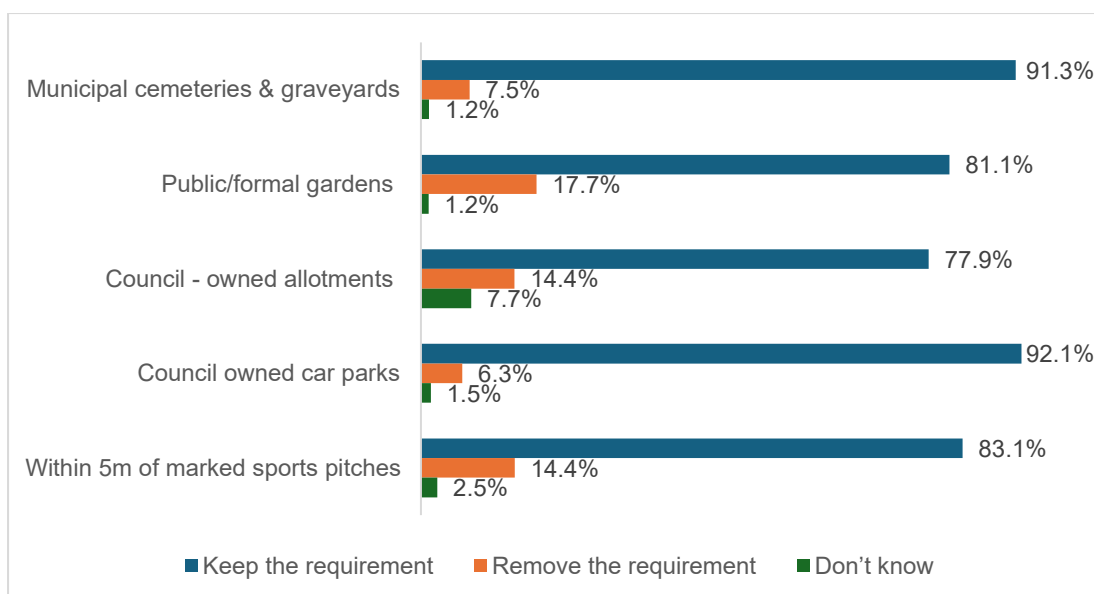
Option	Total	Percent
Keep the requirement	4786	96.0%
Remove the requirement	162	3.3%
Don't know	38	0.8%

There was very strong support for retaining the current 'dogs on lead by direction' requirement, which allows authorised officers to require a dog to be placed on a lead where there is a safety risk. Overall, 96.0% (4,786) supported keeping the requirement, compared with 3.3% (162) who supported its removal. A small proportion of respondents, 0.8% (38), selected 'Don't know'. These findings indicate overwhelming support for retaining the current requirement.

Q6. What is your view on keeping the 'dogs on lead at all times' requirement in the following areas?

General areas

Base: Municipal cemeteries & graveyards (n-4995), Public/formal gardens (n-4978), Council – owned allotments (where dogs are permitted) (n-4981), Council owned car parks (n-4968) & Within 5m of marked sports pitches (n-4986)



	Option	Total	Percent
Municipal cemeteries & graveyards, (where dogs are permitted)	Keep the requirement	4560	91.3%
	Remove the requirement	373	7.5%
	Don't know	62	1.2%
Public/formal gardens (where dogs are permitted)	Keep the requirement	4037	81.1%
	Remove the requirement	883	17.7%
	Don't know	58	1.2%
Council - owned allotments (where dogs are permitted)	Keep the requirement	3881	77.9%
	Remove the requirement	715	14.4%
	Don't know	385	7.7%
Council owned car parks	Keep the requirement	4577	92.1%
	Remove the requirement	315	6.3%
	Don't know	76	1.5%
Within 5m of marked sports pitches	Keep the requirement	4143	83.1%
	Remove the requirement	718	14.4%
	Don't know	125	2.5%

Across all locations, most respondents supported retaining the requirement for dogs to be kept on a lead at all times. Support was highest for Council-owned car parks 92.1% (4,577) and municipal cemeteries and graveyards 91.3% (4,560), with strong majorities also supporting the requirement within 5 metres of marked sports pitches 83.1% (4,143), in public/formal gardens 81.1% (4,037), and on Council-owned allotments 77.9% (3,881).

Support for removing the requirement was highest for public/formal gardens 17.7% (883), followed by Council-owned allotments 14.4% (715) and within 5 metres of marked sports pitches 14.4% (718).

These findings indicate broad support for retaining the current requirement across all locations, although support was comparatively lower for public/formal gardens, Council-owned allotments and within 5 metres of marked sports pitches. Further analysis has therefore focused on these locations, where responses were more varied and demographic differences were more evident.

Public/formal gardens

Support for retaining the requirement for dogs to be kept on a lead at all times in public/formal gardens was higher among respondents who do not own a dog, with 94.8% (1,817) supporting the requirement compared with 72.5% (2,220) of dog owners. Dog owners were more likely to support removing the requirement 26.0% (796) than non-dog owners 4.5% (87).

Views also differed by age. Support for retaining the requirement was 73.2% (1,007) among respondents aged 49 and under, compared with 80.3% (1,492) among those aged 50 to 64 and 89.5% (1,266) among respondents aged 65 and over.

Council-owned allotments

Support for retaining the requirement on Council-owned allotments was higher among respondents who do not own a dog, with 88.6% (1,699) supporting the requirement compared with 71.2% (2,182) of dog owners. Dog owners were more likely to support removing the requirement, 20.0% (614), than non-dog owners, 5.3% (101).

Support for retaining the requirement also increased with age, from 72.6% (994) among respondents aged 49 and under to 77.5% (1,447) among those aged 50 to 64 and 83.0% (1,176) among respondents aged 65 and over.

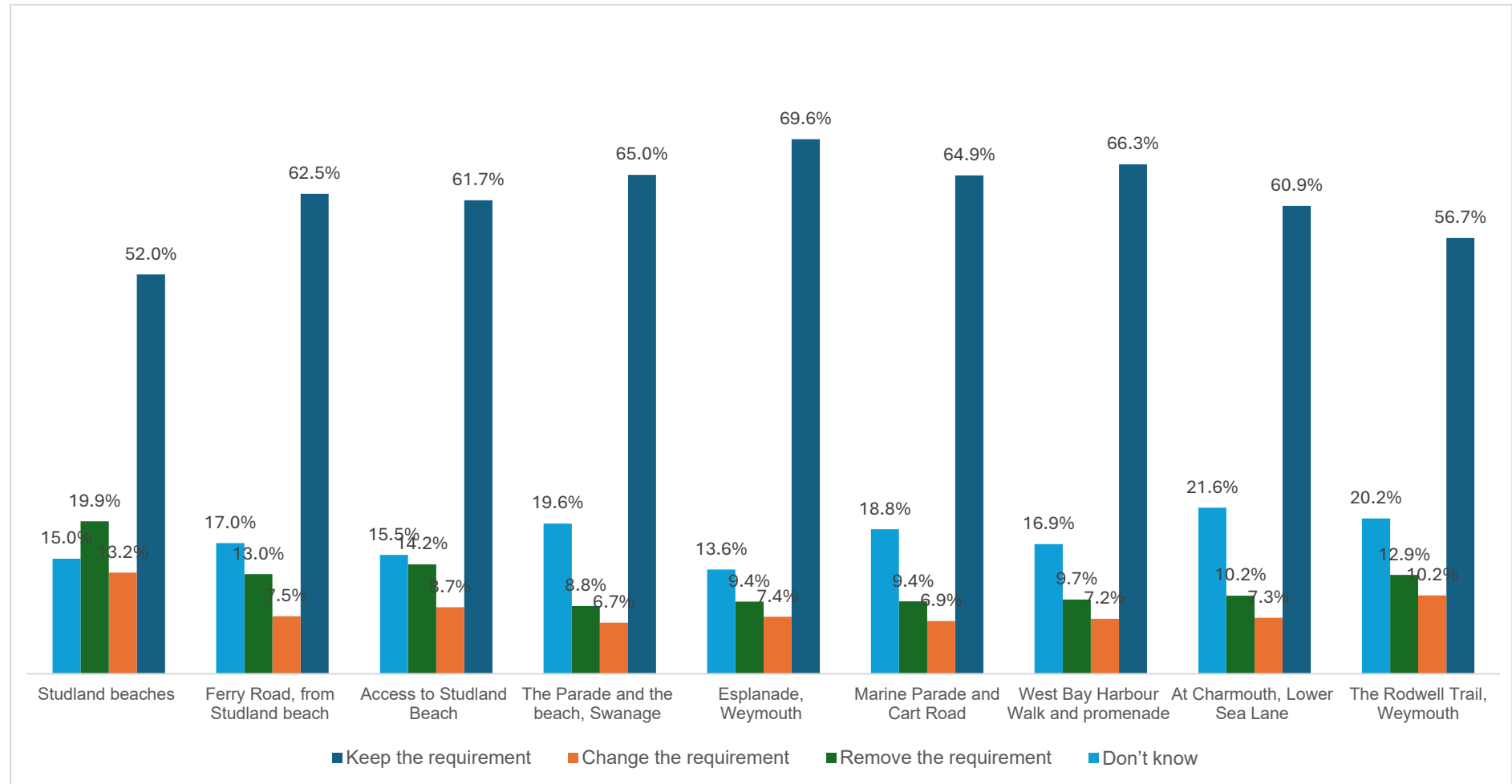
Within 5 metres of marked sports pitches

Support for retaining the requirement was higher among respondents who do not own a dog, with 96.4% (1,848) supporting the requirement compared with 74.8% (2,295) of dog owners. Dog owners were more likely to support removing the requirement 21.8% (670) than non-dog owners.

Support for retaining the requirement also increased with age, from 75.4% (1,037) among respondents aged 49 and under to 83.5% (1,557) among those aged 50 to 64 and 89.3% (1,264) among respondents aged 65 and over.

Specific Beaches and Trails

Base: The Rodwell Trail, Weymouth (n-4672), At Charmouth, Lower Sea Lane (n-4651), West Bay Harbour Walk and promenade (n-4654), Marine Parade and Cart Road (n-4702), Esplanade, Weymouth (n-4688), The Parade and the beach, Swanage (n-4662), Access to Studland Beach (n-4707), Ferry Road, from Studland Beach (n-4691), Studland Beaches (n-4692)



	Option	Total	Percent
The Rodwell Trail, Weymouth	Keep the requirement	2650	56.7%
	Change the requirement	477	10.2%
	Remove the requirement	601	12.9%
	Don't know	944	20.2%
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	Keep the requirement	2832	60.9%
	Change the requirement	340	7.3%
	Remove the requirement	473	10.2%
	Don't know	1006	21.6%
West Bay Harbour Walk and promenade	Keep the requirement	3086	66.3%
	Change the requirement	333	7.2%
	Remove the requirement	450	9.7%
	Don't know	785	16.9%
Marine Parade and Cart Road, and stair/footpath leading from Charmouth Road Car Park to Church Beach and the associated Sea Wall, Lyme Regis	Keep the requirement	3051	64.9%
	Change the requirement	323	6.9%
	Remove the requirement	443	9.4%
	Don't know	885	18.8%
Esplanade, Weymouth	Keep the requirement	3263	69.6%
	Change the requirement	348	7.4%
	Remove the requirement	441	9.4%
	Don't know	636	13.6%
The Parade, and associated roads leading to The Parade and the beach, Swanage	Keep the requirement	3028	65.0%
	Change the requirement	311	6.7%
	Remove the requirement	411	8.8%
	Don't know	912	19.6%
Access to Studland Beach from the car park, including the car park and staircases leading on to the beach, Studland	Keep the requirement	2902	61.7%
	Change the requirement	407	8.7%
	Remove the requirement	670	14.2%
	Don't know	728	15.5%
Ferry Road, from Studland beach car park to the South Coast Path End Marker,	Keep the requirement	2931	62.5%
	Change the requirement	352	7.5%
	Remove the requirement	609	13.0%

Shell Beach National Trust Car Park and all access routes	Don't know	799	17.0%
Studland beaches also known as Knoll Beach, Middle Beach and Shell Beach from the 1st May to 30th September	Keep the requirement	2439	52.0%
	Change the requirement	618	13.2%
	Remove the requirement	932	19.9%
	Don't know	703	15.0%

Support for retaining the requirement for dogs to be kept on a lead at all times was highest for the Esplanade, Weymouth 69.6% (3,263), followed by West Bay Harbour Walk and promenade 66.3% (3,086), The Parade, Swanage 65.0% (3,028), and Marine Parade and Cart Road, Lyme Regis 64.9% (3,051).

Levels of support were lower for locations associated with Studland, including Ferry Road and associated access routes 62.5% (2,931), access to Studland Beach from the car park 61.7% (2,902), and Studland beaches 52.0% (2,439). The Rodwell Trail, Weymouth also recorded comparatively lower levels of support, with 56.7% (2,650) favouring retention of the requirement.

The highest levels of opposition were recorded for Studland beaches 19.9% (932), followed by access to Studland Beach from the car park 14.2% (670), Ferry Road and associated access routes 13.0% (609), and The Rodwell Trail, Weymouth 12.9% (601).

A notable proportion of respondents selected 'Don't know' across all locations, ranging from 13.6% (636) for the Esplanade, Weymouth, to 21.6% (1,006) for the Charmouth (Lower Sea Lane) location. This suggests that some respondents may not have felt sufficiently familiar with certain locations to express a view.

These findings indicate majority support for retaining the requirement across all locations. However, views were more divided for Studland beaches, the Studland access routes, and the Rodwell Trail, Weymouth. Subsequent demographic analysis has therefore focused on these and other locations where differences in opinion were more apparent.

Demographic analysis was undertaken to identify whether views differed between respondent groups. The most notable differences were observed by dog ownership and age, with these characteristics showing clear and consistent variations in support across multiple locations. Other demographic groups showed less variation in their responses.

Dog ownership

Views differed significantly by dog ownership across all beach locations. Respondents who did not own a dog were consistently more likely to support retaining the requirement than dog owners. The largest difference was recorded for

Studland beaches, where 83.9% (1,494) of non-dog owners supported retaining the requirement compared with 32.5% (945) of dog owners. Similar differences were evident across the Rodwell Trail, the Studland access routes, and the other beach locations included in the consultation.

Option	Dog Owners Keeping Requirement		Non-Dog Owners Keeping Requirement	
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
The Rodwell Trail, Weymouth	1181	40.9%	1469	82.3%
Charmouth, Lower Sea Lane and access routes	1353	47.0%	1479	83.5%
West Bay Harbour Walk and promenade	1550	53.9%	1536	86.3%
Marine Parade and Cart Road, Lyme Regis	1492	51.7%	1559	85.8%
Esplanade, Weymouth	1692	58.4%	1571	87.7%
The Parade, Swanage	1521	52.8%	1507	84.6%
Access to Studland Beach from the car park	1383	47.4%	1519	84.9%
Ferry Road, Studland and access routes	1414	48.7%	1517	84.9%
Studland beaches (Knoll Beach, Middle Beach and Shell Beach)	945	32.5%	1494	83.9%

Base: Respondents who selected 'Keep the requirement'. Dog owners (n=3,085); Non-dog owners (n=1,928)

Age

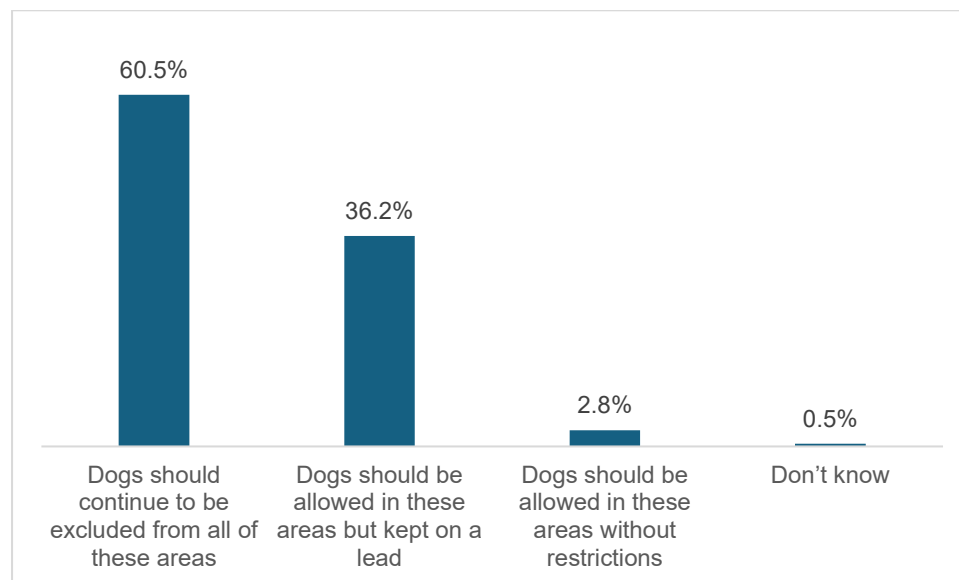
Views also differed by age across the beach locations. Respondents aged 65 and over were generally more likely to support retaining the requirement, whilst those aged 49 and under were more likely to support changing or removing it. The largest difference was recorded for Studland beaches, where support for retaining the requirement increased from 42.9% (578) among respondents aged 49 and under to 48.7% (861) among those aged 50 to 64 and 63.4% (808) among respondents aged 65 and over. Similar patterns were observed at the Rodwell Trail, the Studland access routes, West Bay Harbour Walk, the Esplanade in Weymouth, Marine Parade in Lyme Regis and The Parade in Swanage.

Exclusion Areas

Q7. What is your view on the current requirement that dogs are excluded from certain public areas marked as 'No dogs except assistance dogs'?

This includes skateboard parks, tennis and basketball courts, bowling and putting greens, enclosed play parks, sporting or recreational facilities, and athletics tracks.

Base: n-4994



Option	Total	Percent
Dogs should continue to be excluded from all of these areas	3022	60.5%
Dogs should be allowed in these areas but kept on a lead	1808	36.2%
Dogs should be allowed in these areas without restrictions	140	2.8%
Don't know	24	0.5%

Most respondents supported retaining the current requirement that dogs are excluded from public areas marked as 'No dogs except assistance dogs'. Overall, 60.5% (3,022) supported continuing the exclusion, compared with 36.2% (1,808) who felt dogs should be allowed in these areas if kept on a lead.

Only 2.8% (140) felt dogs should be allowed in these areas without restrictions, while 0.5% (24) selected 'Don't know'.

These findings indicate majority support for retaining the current requirement, although over a third of respondents supported a more flexible approach that would permit dogs on leads.

Dog ownership

Views differed significantly by dog ownership. Respondents who did not own a dog were much more likely to support continuing the exclusion of dogs from these areas, with 90.2% (1,732) supporting the current requirement compared with 42.0% (1,290)

of dog owners. Dog owners were considerably more likely to support allowing dogs access if they were kept on a lead 53.4% (1,642) than non-dog owners 8.7% (166).

Option	Dog owners		Non- dog owners	
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
Dogs should continue to be excluded from all of these areas	1290	42.0%	1732	90.2%
Dogs should be allowed in these areas but kept on a lead	1642	53.4%	166	8.7%
Dogs should be allowed in these areas without restrictions	123	4.0%	17	0.9%

Base: Dog owners (n=3,085); Non-dog owners (n=1,928).

Resident and visitor status

Views also differed between Dorset residents and visitors. Dorset residents were more likely to support continuing the exclusion of dogs from these areas 62.7% (2,626) than visitors to Dorset 47.5% (345). Visitors were more likely to support allowing dogs access if they were kept on a lead 47.4% (344) than residents 34.5% (1,443).

Age

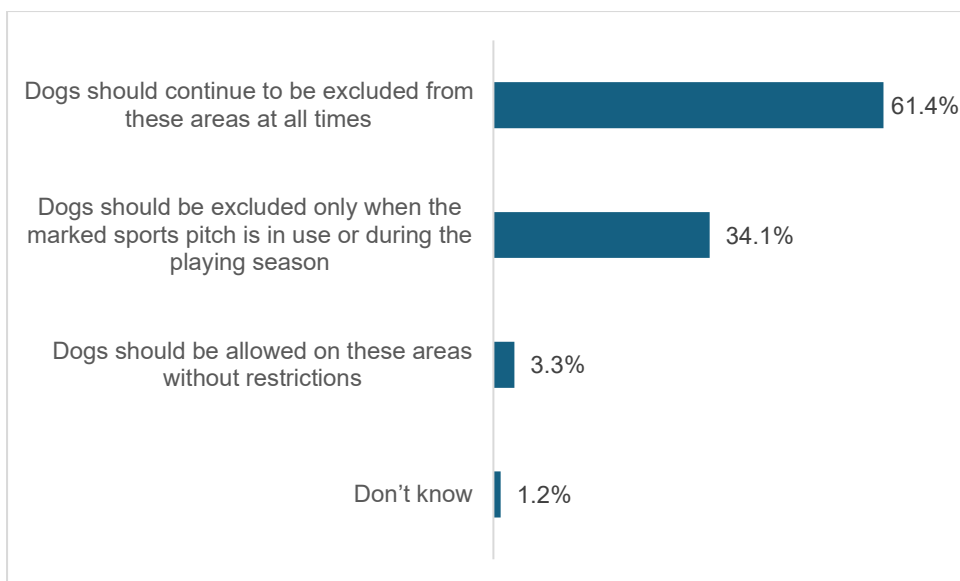
Views also differed by age. Support for continuing the exclusion of dogs from these areas increased with age, from 50.8% (700) among respondents aged 49 and under to 57.4% (1,074) among those aged 50 to 64 and 71.1% (1,004) among respondents aged 65 and over. In contrast, younger respondents were more likely to support allowing dogs access if kept on a lead, with 43.9% (605) of respondents aged 49 and under selecting this option compared with 27.8% (393) of respondents aged 65 and over.

Disability

Respondents who did not consider themselves disabled were more likely to support continuing the exclusion of dogs from these areas 62.6% (2,332) than respondents who considered themselves disabled 49.8% (362). In contrast, disabled respondents were more likely to support allowing dogs access if kept on a lead, 45.3% (329) than non-disabled respondents 34.7% (1,292).

Q8. What is your view on the current requirement that dogs are excluded from marked sports pitches which display 'No dogs except assistance dogs' signage?

Base: n=4992



Option	Total	Percent
Dogs should continue to be excluded from these areas at all times	3067	61.4%
Dogs should be excluded only when the marked sports pitch is in use or during the playing season	1701	34.1%
Dogs should be allowed on these areas without restrictions	166	3.3%
Don't know	58	1.2%

Most respondents supported retaining the current requirement that dogs are excluded from marked sports pitches displaying ‘No dogs except assistance dogs’ signage. Overall, 61.4% (3,067) supported continuing the exclusion at all times, compared with 34.1% (1,701) who felt dogs should only be excluded when the pitch is in use or during the playing season.

Only 3.3% (166) felt dogs should be allowed on these areas without restrictions, while 1.2% (58) selected ‘Don’t know’.

These findings indicate majority support for retaining the current requirement, although around one-third of respondents supported a more flexible approach linked to pitch use or the playing season.

Dog Ownership

Views differed significantly by dog ownership. Respondents who did not own a dog were much more likely to support continuing the exclusion of dogs from marked sports pitches at all times, with 90.9% (1,743) supporting the current requirement compared with 43.1% (1,324) of dog owners. Dog owners were more likely to support excluding dogs only when pitches are in use or during the playing season 50.3% (1,547) than non-dog owners 8.0% (154).

Option	Dog owners		Non- dog owners	
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
Dogs should continue to be excluded from these areas at all times	1324	43.1%	1,743	90.9%
Dogs should be excluded only when the marked sports pitch is in use or during the playing season	1547	50.3%	154	8.0%
Dogs should be allowed on these areas without restrictions	152	4.9%	14	0.7%

Base: Dog owners (n=3,074); Non-dog owners (n=1,918).

Age

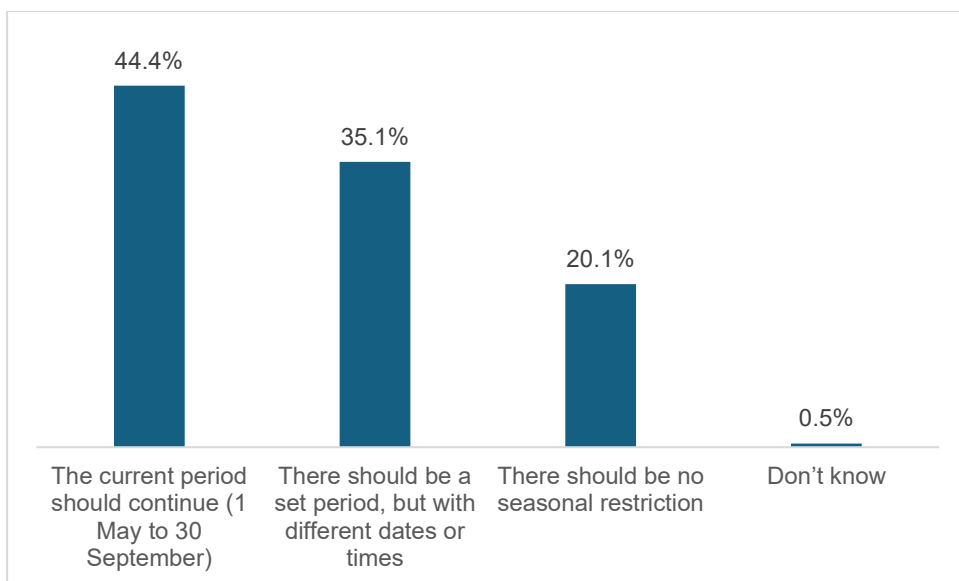
Views also differed by age. Support for continuing the exclusion of dogs from marked sports pitches at all times increased with age, from 48.9% (674) among respondents aged 49 and under to 58.9% (1,099) among those aged 50 to 64 and 74.4% (1,055) among respondents aged 65 and over. Younger respondents were more likely to support excluding dogs only when pitches are in use or during the playing season.

Disability

Views also differed between respondents who considered themselves disabled and those who did not. Respondents who did not consider themselves disabled were more likely to support continuing the exclusion of dogs from marked sports pitches at all times (63.4% (2,365)) than respondents who considered themselves disabled (50.5% (366)). Disabled respondents were more likely to support excluding dogs only when pitches are in use or during the playing season (41.9% (304)) than non-disabled respondents (32.8% (1,222)).

Q9. What is your view on the current requirement that dogs are excluded from the specified Dorset Council beaches during a consistent period each year (1 May to 30 September)?

Base: n-5006



Option	Total	Percent
The current period should continue (1 May to 30 September)	2224	44.4%
There should be a set period, but with different dates or times	1755	35.1%
There should be no seasonal restriction	1004	20.1%
Don't know	23	0.5%

Views on the current requirement that dogs are excluded from specified Dorset Council beaches between 1 May and 30 September were mixed. Overall, 44.4% (2,224) supported retaining the current period, while 35.1% (1,755) felt there should continue to be a seasonal restriction but with different dates or times.

A further 20.1% (1,004) felt there should be no seasonal restriction, while 0.5% (23) selected 'Don't know'.

These findings indicate that most respondents supported retaining some form of seasonal beach restriction, although there were differing views on whether the current dates should remain unchanged or be amended.

Dog ownership

Views differed significantly by dog ownership. Respondents who did not own a dog were much more likely to support retaining the current exclusion period of 1 May to 30 September, with 78.9% (1,518) supporting the current dates compared with 22.9% (706) of dog owners. In contrast, dog owners were more likely to support a different set period 47.1% (1,451) or no seasonal restriction 29.5% (909) than non-dog owners 15.8% (304) and 4.9% (95), respectively.

Option	Dog owners		Non- dog owners	
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent

The current period should continue (1 May to 30 September)	706	22.9%	1518	78.9%
There should be a set period, but with different dates or times	1451	47.1%	304	15.8%
There should be no seasonal restriction	909	29.5%	95	4.9%

Base: Dog owners (n=3,085); Non-dog owners (n=1,928).

Resident and Visitor Status

Views also differed between Dorset residents and visitors. Dorset residents were more likely to support retaining the current exclusion period 46.4% (1,949) than visitors to Dorset 32.4% (236). Visitors were more likely to support a different set period, 37.4% (273), or no seasonal restriction, 29.9% (218), than residents, 34.8% (1,461) and 18.4% (771), respectively.

Age

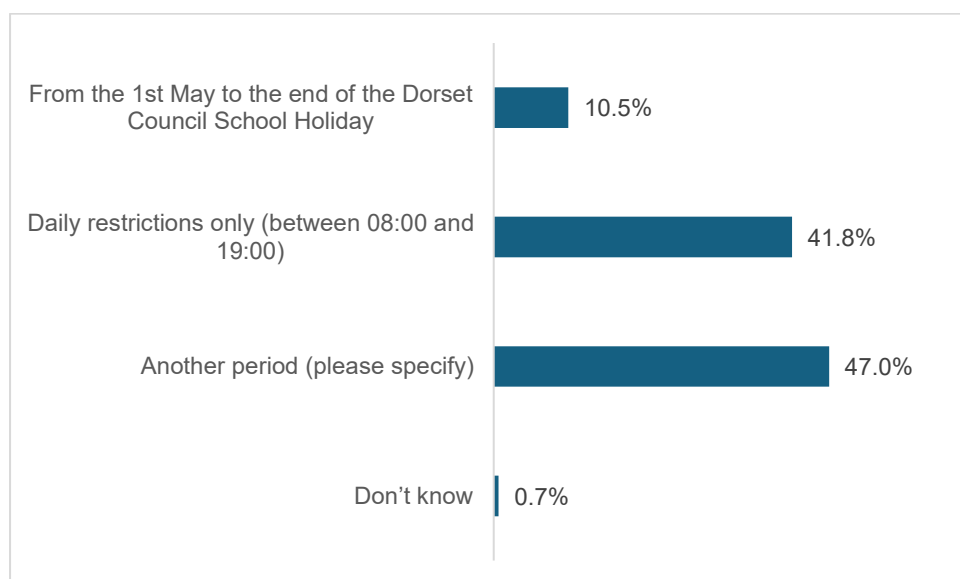
Views differed by age. Support for retaining the current exclusion period increased with age, from 35.1% (485) among respondents aged 49 and under to 39.5% (739) among those aged 50 to 64 and 57.9% (822) among respondents aged 65 and over. Younger respondents were more likely to support either a different exclusion period or no seasonal restriction.

Disability

Views also differed between respondents who considered themselves disabled and those who did not. Respondents who did not consider themselves disabled were more likely to support retaining the current exclusion period 45.3% (1,694) than respondents who considered themselves disabled 36.7% (267). Disabled respondents were also more likely to support either a different exclusion period or no seasonal restriction.

Q10. As you think it should be a different period, please select from the options below.

Base: n-1597



Option	Total	Percent
From the 1st May to the end of the Dorset Council School Holiday	167	10.5%
Daily restrictions only (between 08:00 and 19:00)	668	41.8%
Another period (please specify)	751	47.0%
Don't know	11	0.7%

The most commonly selected option was 'Another period', supported by 47.0% (751) of respondents. A further 41.8% (668) supported replacing the seasonal restriction with daily restrictions only between 08:00 and 19:00.

A smaller proportion, 10.5% (167), supported extending the restriction from 1 May to the end of the Dorset Council school holiday, while 0.7% (11) selected 'Don't know'.

These findings indicate that respondents who favoured changing the current exclusion period were more likely to support either a different period or daily time-based restrictions than extending the existing restriction period.

Respondents suggested a range of alternative approaches, most commonly relating to time-based restrictions and changes to the timing of the seasonal restriction period.

Comments on another period	Total
Requests for restrictions during certain hours only	447
Restriction period around current dates	225

Restrictions linked to school holidays	175
Extended restriction period including Easter and autumn	135
Explicit support for dogs before 9/10am and after 6/7pm	130
Combination of seasonal and daily restrictions	86
July-August or six-week summer holiday period	65
Dogs excluded all year	47
Wardens, fouling, leads, litter concerns	38
Mentions disability, elderly users, accessible beaches	20
Fewer restrictions or unrestricted access	15
Designated dog-free beaches/sections	5
Other	179

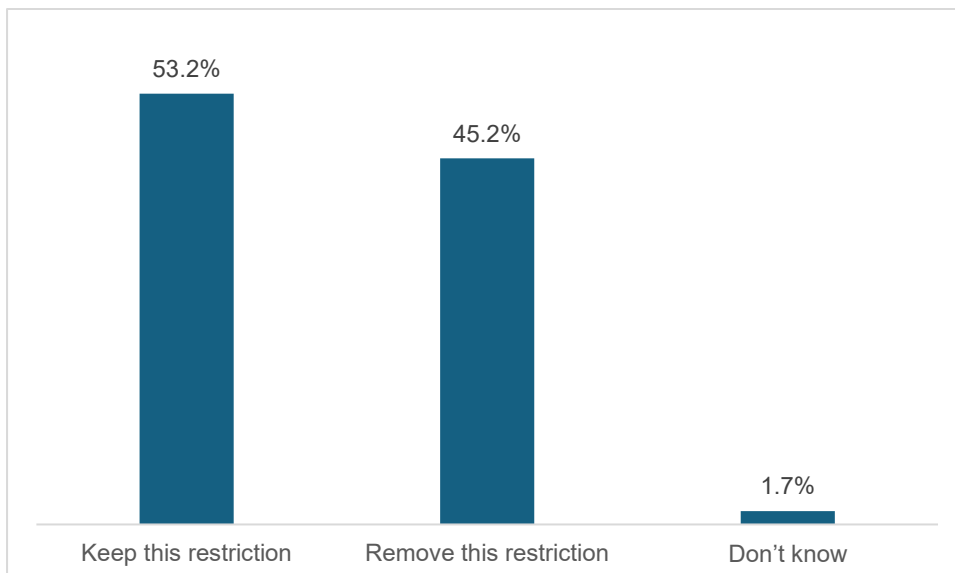
Note: To support the analysis of a large volume of comments, AI was used to assist in coding responses to the open-text question above. The AI-generated coding was reviewed by officers, and professional judgement was applied throughout the analysis and reporting process.

Beaches

Central Beach, Swanage

Q11. What is your view on the current requirement that dogs are excluded from Central Beach during the summer period?

Base: n-1211



Option	Total	Percent
Keep this restriction	644	53.2%
Remove this restriction	547	45.2%
Don't know	20	1.7%

Views on the current requirement that dogs are excluded from Central Beach during the summer period were closely balanced. Overall, 53.2% (644) supported retaining the restriction, compared with 45.2% (547) who supported its removal.

A small proportion of respondents, 1.7% (20), selected 'Don't know'.

While opinion was relatively evenly split, support for retaining the restriction was slightly higher than support for its removal.

Dog ownership

The most notable differences were observed by dog ownership. Respondents who did not own a dog were much more likely to support retaining the restriction 93.1% (434) than dog owners 28.2% (210). In contrast, dog owners were far more likely to support removing the restriction 69.7% (519) than non-dog owners 6.0% (28).

Option	Dog owners		Non- dog owners	
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
Keep this restriction	210	28.2%	434	93.1%
Remove this restriction	519	69.7%	28	6.0%

Base: Dog owners (n=745); Non-dog owners (n=466).

Resident and visitor status

Opinion also varied between Dorset residents and visitors. Residents were more likely to support retaining the restriction 55.6% (590) than visitors 34.1% (47), while visitors were more likely to support removing it 62.3% (86) than residents 43.1% (458).

Age

Support for retaining the restriction increased with age, from 39.8% (134) among respondents aged 49 and under to 48.2% (224) among those aged 50 to 64 and 70.6% (218) among respondents aged 65 and over.

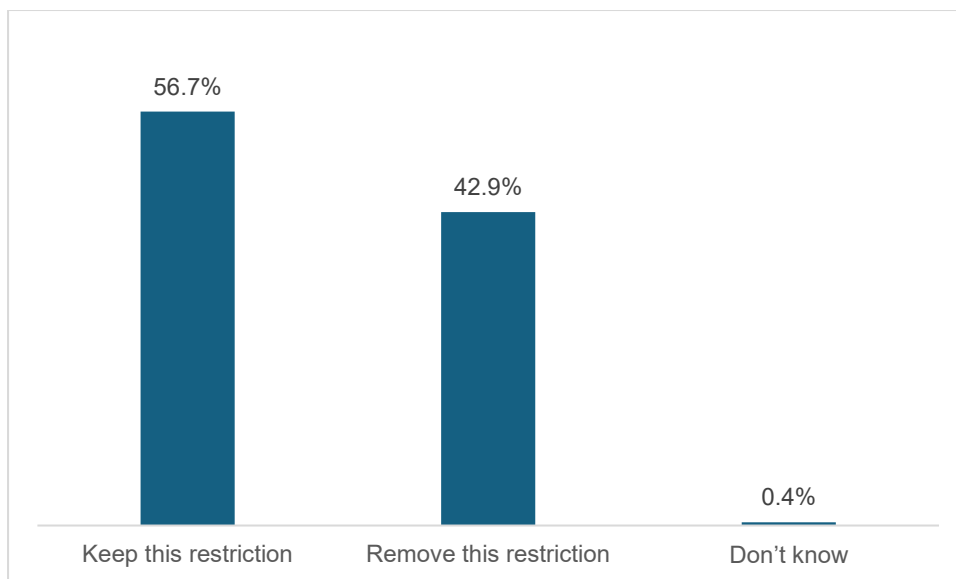
Disability

Respondents who did not consider themselves disabled were more likely to support retaining the restriction 54.6% (478) than respondents who considered themselves disabled 43.9% (82).

Front Town Beach, Lyme Regis

Q12. What is your view on the current requirement that dogs are excluded from Front Town Beach during the specified summer period?

Base: n-1650



Option	Total	Percent
Keep this restriction	935	56.7%
Remove this restriction	708	42.9%
Don't know	7	0.4%

A majority of respondents supported retaining the current requirement that dogs are excluded from Front Town Beach during the specified summer period. Overall, 56.7% (935) supported keeping the restriction, compared with 42.9% (708) who supported its removal.

A small proportion of respondents, 0.4% (7), selected 'Don't know'.

These findings indicate that, while views were divided, there was a moderate overall preference for retaining the current restriction.

Dog ownership

Views differed significantly by dog ownership. Respondents who did not own a dog were much more likely to support retaining the restriction 94.4% (689) than dog owners 26.7% (246). In contrast, dog owners were far more likely to support removing the restriction, 72.7% (669), than non-dog owners, 5.3% (39).

Option	Dog owners		Non- dog owners	
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
Keep this restriction	246	26.7%	689	94.4%
Remove this restriction	669	72.7%	39	5.3%

Base: Dog owners (n=920); Non-dog owners (n=730)

Resident and Visitor Status

Opinion also varied between Dorset residents and visitors. Residents were more likely to support retaining the restriction 65.0% (727) than visitors 38.1% (193), while visitors were more likely to support removing it 61.5% (311) than residents 34.5% (386).

Age

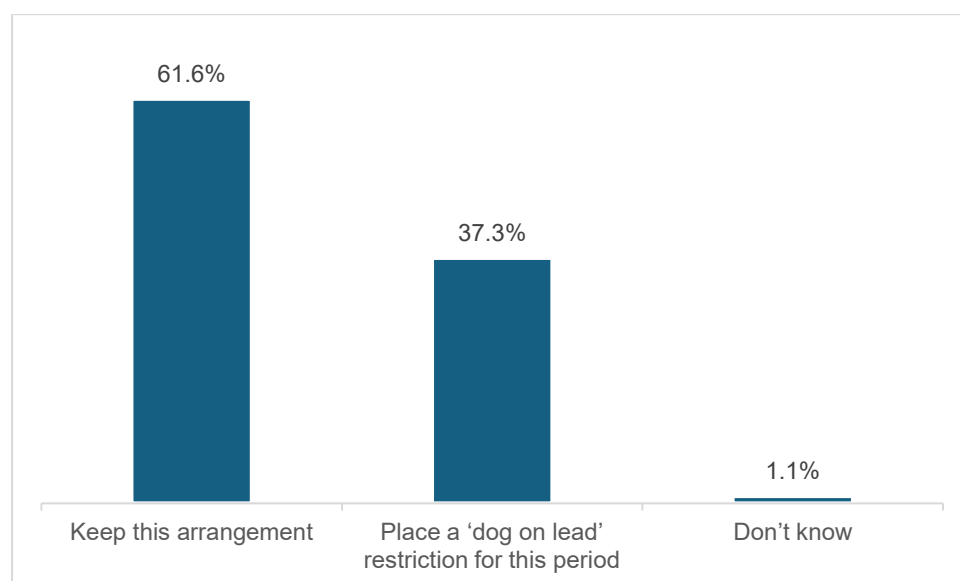
Views also differed by age. Respondents aged 65 and over were more likely to support retaining the restriction 71.2% (297) than respondents aged 49 and under (49.0% (234)) and those aged 50 to 64 49.2% (315). This suggests that the main difference in opinion was between respondents aged 65 and over and younger age groups.

Disability

Respondents who did not consider themselves disabled were more likely to support retaining the restriction 59.2% (715) than respondents who considered themselves disabled 41.0% (107).

Q13. What is your view on the current arrangement that dogs may be off-lead on this part of the beach outside the summer exclusion period?

Base: n-1639



Option	Total	Percent
Keep this arrangement	1009	61.6%
Place a 'dog on lead' restriction for this period	612	37.3%
Don't know	18	1.1%

Most respondents supported the current arrangement that allows dogs to be off-lead on Front Town Beach outside the summer exclusion period. Overall, 61.6% (1,009)

supported keeping the current arrangement, compared with 37.3% (612) who supported introducing a 'dog on lead' restriction during this period.

A small proportion of respondents, 1.1% (18) selected 'Don't know'.

These findings show a clear preference for retaining the current arrangement, although over a third of respondents supported introducing a dog-on-lead requirement outside the summer exclusion period.

Dog Ownership

Views differed significantly by dog ownership. Respondents who did not own a dog were much more likely to support introducing a dog-on-lead restriction during this period, 62.7% (456), than dog owners, 17.1% (156). In contrast, dog owners were more likely to support retaining the current arrangement 81.7% (745) than non-dog owners 36.3% (264).

Option	Dog owners		Non- dog owners	
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
Keep this arrangement	745	81.7%	264	36.3%
Place a 'dog on lead' restriction for this period	156	17.1%	456	62.7%

Base: Dog owners (n=912); Non-dog owners (n=727)

Resident and Visitor Status

Views also differed between Dorset residents and visitors. Visitors were more likely to support retaining the current arrangement, 71.8% (362), than residents, 56.6% (628), while residents were more likely to support introducing a dog-on-lead restriction, 42.5% (471), than visitors, 26.6% (134).

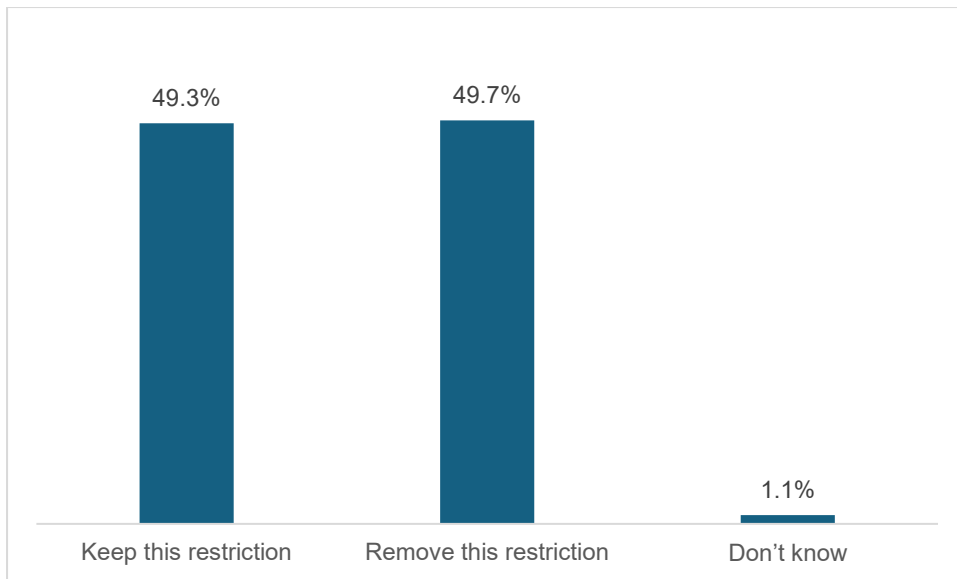
Age

Support for retaining the current arrangement was lower among respondents aged 65 and over (51.7% (214)) than among respondents aged 49 and under (63.5% (302)) and those aged 50 to 64 (69.5% (442)).

Seatown Beach, Chideock

Q14. What is your view on the current requirement that dogs are excluded from Seatown Beach during the specified summer period?

Base: n-568



Option	Total	Percent
Keep this restriction	280	49.3%
Remove this restriction	282	49.7%
Don't know	6	1.1%

Views on the current requirement that dogs are excluded from Seatown Beach during the specified summer period were evenly divided. Overall, 49.7% (282) supported removing the restriction, compared with 49.3% (280) who supported retaining it.

A small proportion of respondents, 1.1% (6) selected 'Don't know'.

These findings show that there was no clear preference either for retaining or removing the current restriction, with support for both options at a similar level.

Dog ownership

The most notable differences were observed by dog ownership. Respondents who did not own a dog were much more likely to support retaining the restriction (90.5% (237)) than dog owners 14.1% (43). In contrast, dog owners were far more likely to support removing the restriction 85.0% (260) than non-dog owners 8.4% (22).

Option	Dog owners		Non- dog owners	
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
Keep this restriction	43	14.1%	237	90.5%
Remove this restriction	260	85.0%	22	8.4%

Base: Dog owners (n=306); Non-dog owners (n=262)

Resident and visitor status

Opinion also varied between Dorset residents and visitors. Residents were more likely to support retaining the restriction 54.6% (238) than visitors 31.8% (41), while visitors were more likely to support removing it 66.7% (86) than residents 44.7% (195).

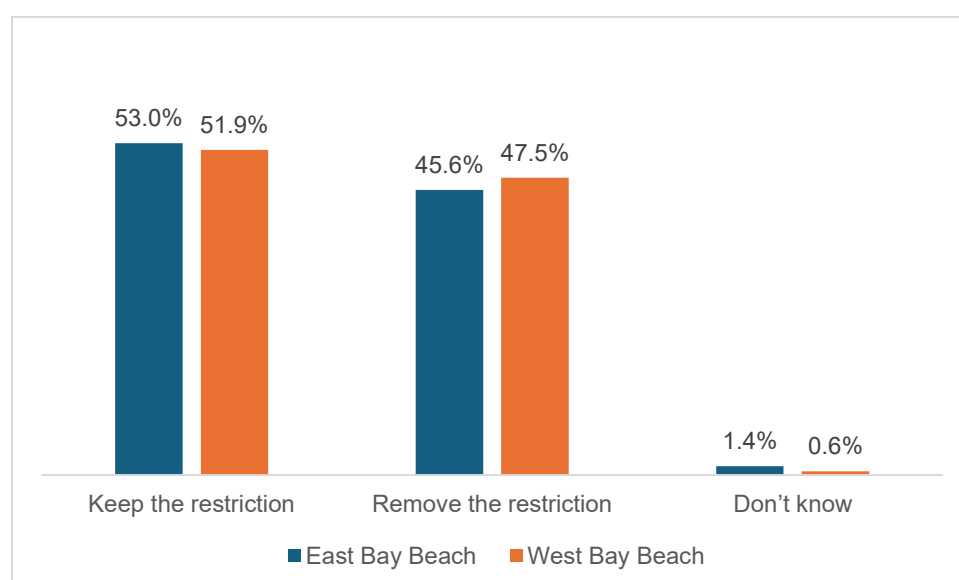
Age

Respondents aged 65 and over were more likely to support retaining the restriction 67.6% (96), than respondents aged 49 and under 43.7% (59) and those aged 50 to 64 37.6% (89).

West Bay Beaches

Q15. What is your view on dog exclusion restrictions during the specified summer period for the following beaches?

Base: East Bay Beach (n-1049), West Bay Beach (n-1038)



	Option	Total	Percent
East Bay Beach	Keep the restriction	556	53.0%
	Remove the restriction	478	45.6%
	Don't know	15	1.4%
West Bay Beach	Keep the restriction	539	51.9%
	Remove the restriction	493	47.5%
	Don't know	6	0.6%

East Bay Beach

A small majority of respondents supported retaining the current summer dog exclusion restriction at East Bay Beach. Overall, 53.0% (556) supported keeping the restriction, compared with 45.6% (478) who supported its removal.

A small proportion of respondents, 1.4% (15) selected 'Don't know'.

These findings indicate that opinion was closely balanced, although there was a slight overall preference for retaining the current restriction.

Dog Ownership

The most notable differences were observed by dog ownership. Respondents who did not own a dog were much more likely to support retaining the restriction 92.2% (404) than dog owners 24.9% (152). In contrast, dog owners were far more likely to support removing the restriction 73.2% (447) than non-dog owners (7.1% (31)).

Option	Dog owners		Non- dog owners	
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
Keep this restriction	152	24.9%	404	92.2%
Remove this restriction	447	73.2%	31	7.1%

Base: Dog owners (n=611); Non-dog owners (n=438)

Resident and Visitor Status

Opinion also varied between Dorset residents and visitors. Residents were more likely to support retaining the restriction 56.6% (482) than visitors 37.6% (71), while visitors were more likely to support removing it 61.9% (117) than residents 41.8% (356).

Age

Respondents aged 65 and over were more likely to support retaining the restriction, 69.9% (195), than respondents aged 49 and under, 44.2% (118) and those aged 50 to 64, 44.1% (188), indicating a notable difference between older and younger respondents.

West Bay Beach

A small majority of respondents supported retaining the current summer dog exclusion restriction at West Bay Beach. Overall, 51.9% (539) supported keeping the restriction, compared with 47.5% (493) who supported its removal.

A small proportion of respondents, 0.6% (6) selected 'Don't know'.

These findings indicate that opinion was closely balanced, although there was a slight overall preference for retaining the current restriction.

Dog Ownership

As with East Bay Beach, dog ownership had a strong influence on respondents' views.

Respondents who did not own a dog were much more likely to support retaining the restriction at 91.9% (398) than dog owners at 23.3% (141). In contrast, dog owners were far more likely to support removing the restriction, at 75.9% (459), than non-dog owners, at 7.9% (34).

Option	Dog owners		Non- dog owners	
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
Keep this restriction	141	23.3%	398	91.9%
Remove this restriction	459	75.9%	34	7.9%

Base: Dog owners (n=605); Non-dog owners (n=433).

Resident and Visitor Status

Opinion also varied between Dorset residents and visitors. Residents were more likely to support retaining the restriction, 56.0% (471) than visitors 34.6% (65), while visitors were more likely to support removing it 65.4% (123) than residents 43.4% (365).

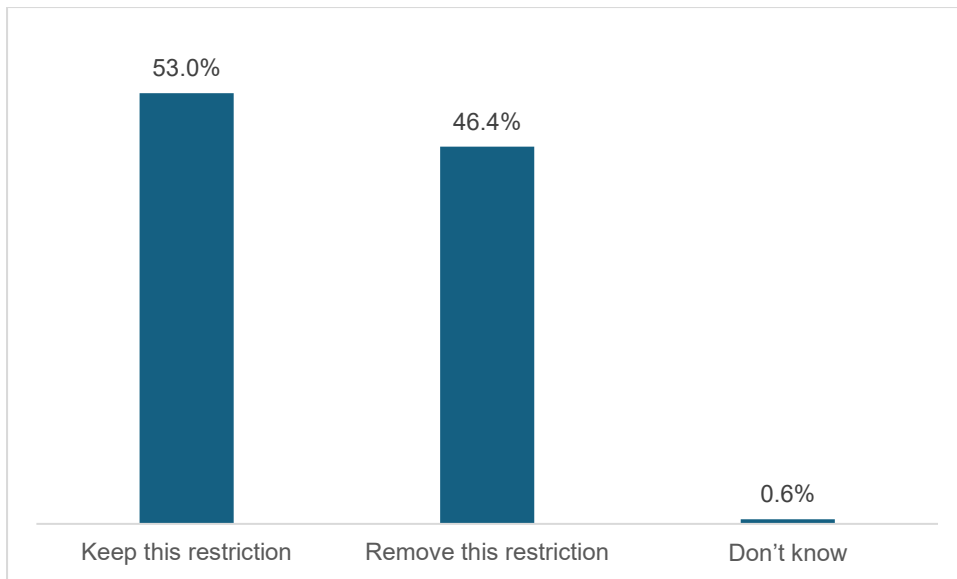
Age

Respondents aged 65 and over were more likely to support retaining the restriction, 68.2% (189), than respondents aged 49 and under, 44.3% (116) and those aged 50 to 64, at 42.2% (179), indicating a notable difference between older and younger respondents.

Charmouth Beach

Q16. What is your view on the current requirement that dogs are excluded from West Beach during the specified summer period?

Base: n-726



Option	Total	Percent
Keep this restriction	385	53.0%
Remove this restriction	337	46.4%
Don't know	4	0.6%

A small majority of respondents supported retaining the current requirement that dogs are excluded from West Beach during the specified summer period. Overall, 53.0% (385) supported keeping the restriction, compared with 46.4% (337) who supported its removal.

A small proportion of respondents, 0.6% (4), selected 'Don't know'.

These findings indicate that opinion was closely balanced, although there was a slight overall preference for retaining the current restriction.

Dog Ownership

Views on the restriction varied considerably according to dog ownership.

Respondents who did not own a dog were much more likely to support retaining the restriction (93.0% (293)) than dog owners (22.4% (92)). In contrast, dog owners were far more likely to support removing the restriction (76.6% (315)) than non-dog owners (7.0% (22)).

Option	Dog owners		Non- dog owners	
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
Keep this restriction	92	22.4%	293	93.0%
Remove this restriction	315	76.6%	22	7.0%

Base: Dog owners (n=411); Non-dog owners (n=315)

Resident and visitor status

Opinion also varied between Dorset residents and visitors. Residents were more likely to support retaining the restriction, 60.2% (321), than visitors, 33.0% (61), while visitors were more likely to support removing it, 67.0% (124), than residents, 39.2% (209).

Age

Respondents aged 65 and over (66.0% (126)) were more likely to support retaining the restriction than respondents aged 49 and under (44.2% (118)) and those aged 50 to 64 (45.9% (128)), indicating a notable difference between older and younger respondents.

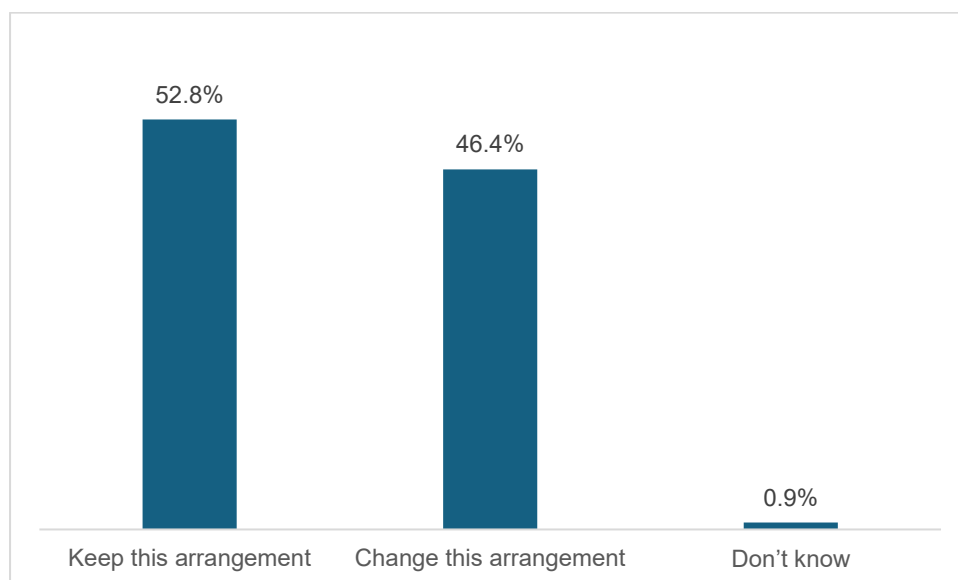
Disability

Support for retaining the restriction was lower among respondents who considered themselves disabled (43.8% (56)) than among respondents who did not (54.9% (290)). In contrast, disabled respondents were more likely to support removing the restriction (56.3% (72)) than non-disabled respondents (44.7% (236)).

Weymouth (Central) Beach

Q17. What is your view on the current arrangement that dogs are permitted all year round in the designated dog exercise area at the pavilion end of Weymouth Beach?

Base: n-2138



Option	Total	Percent
Keep this arrangement	1128	52.8%
Change this arrangement	991	46.4%
Don't know	19	0.9%

Views on the current arrangement that allows dogs to be permitted all year round in the designated dog exercise area at the pavilion end of Weymouth Beach were divided. Overall, 52.8% (1,128) supported keeping the current arrangement, compared with 46.4% (991) who felt it should be changed.

A small proportion of respondents, 0.9% (19), selected 'Don't know'.

These findings show that opinion was closely balanced, although there was a slight overall preference for retaining the current arrangement.

Dog Ownership

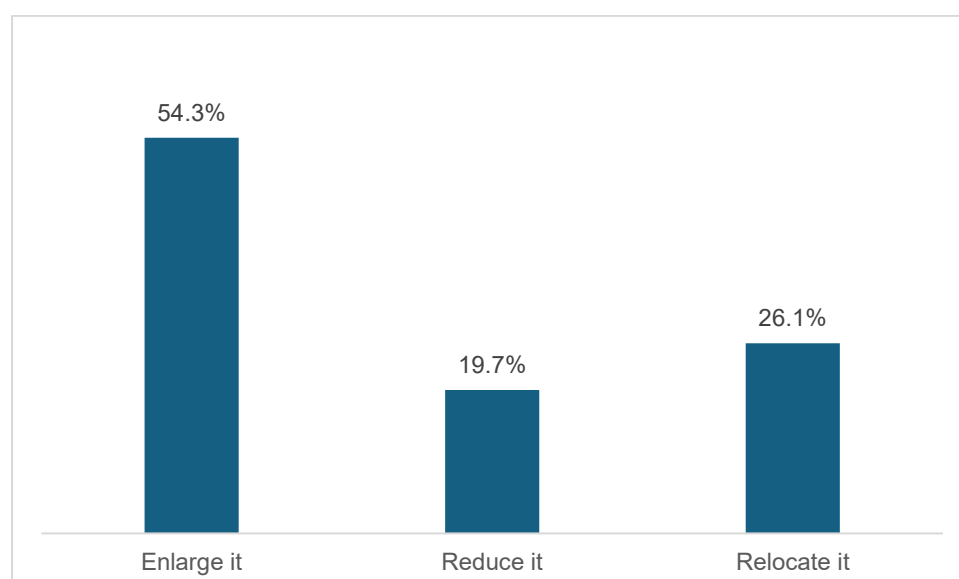
Respondents who did not own a dog were slightly more likely to support retaining the current arrangement 55.7% (482) than dog owners 50.8% (646). Dog owners were correspondingly more likely to support changing the arrangement 48.5% (617) than non-dog owners 43.2% (374).

Option	Dog owners		Non- dog owners	
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
Keep this arrangement	646	50.8%	482	55.7%
Change this arrangement	617	48.5%	374	43.2%

Base: Dog owners (n=1,273); Non-dog owners (n=865)

Q18. If at the previous question you selected you think the exercise area should be changed, how would you like it to be changed?

Base: n-1353



Option	Total	Percent
Enlarge it	734	54.3%
Reduce it	266	19.7%

Relocate it	353	26.1%
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The most commonly selected option was to enlarge the dog exercise area, supported by 54.3% (734) of respondents. A further 26.1% (353) supported relocating the area, while 19.7% (266) supported reducing its size.

These findings indicate that respondents who wished to see a change were more likely to favour expanding the designated dog exercise area than reducing or relocating it.

Dog Ownership

Views differed significantly by dog ownership. Dog owners were much more likely to support enlarging the designated dog exercise area 74.2% (654) than non-dog owners 17.0% (80). In contrast, non-dog owners were more likely to support reducing the area 48.0% (226) or relocating it 35.0% (165) than dog owners (4.5% (40) and 21.3% (188) respectively).

Option	Dog owners		Non- dog owners	
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
Enlarge it	654	74.2%	80	17.0%
Reduce it	40	4.5%	226	48.0%
Relocate it	188	21.3%	165	35.0%

Base: Dog owners (n=882); Non-dog owners (n=471)

Q19. If you think the exercise area should be enlarged, reduced or relocated, please provide further comments here.

Base n-1001

Responses primarily focused on requests to relocate the exercise area, increase available space and access for dogs, introduce time-based restrictions, and improve management and enforcement arrangements. Respondents frequently cited overcrowding, fouling, environmental concerns and impacts on other beach users as reasons for their preferred changes.

Categories labelled 'other' contain a wide range of individual suggestions that did not recur frequently enough to form standalone themes.

Requested Changes

Theme	Description	Total
Increase Dog Access	Access to whole beach	86
	Year-round access	34
	Remove designated zones	2

	Dogs allowed with no restrictions	4
	Reference to designated area	20
	Enlarge it/increase	132
Reduce Dog Access	Remove entirely	18
	Reduce size	15
	Remove specific zone	2
	No dogs on beaches	92
	Remove designated zones	2
	No dogs on beach from pavilion to beach office	2
Time/Condition-Based Access	Early morning/evening access	45
	Seasonal restrictions	45
	Peak time restrictions	63
	Certain times	25
	No dogs during hot weather	13
Relocate Exercise Area	Move away from main beach	130
	Move to clock area	88
	Move to less popular area	86
	Specific alternative locations mentioned	221
Management and Enforcement	More enforcement	21
	Lack of enforcement	2
	Dogs on lead	57
	More signage	10

Explanatory Themes

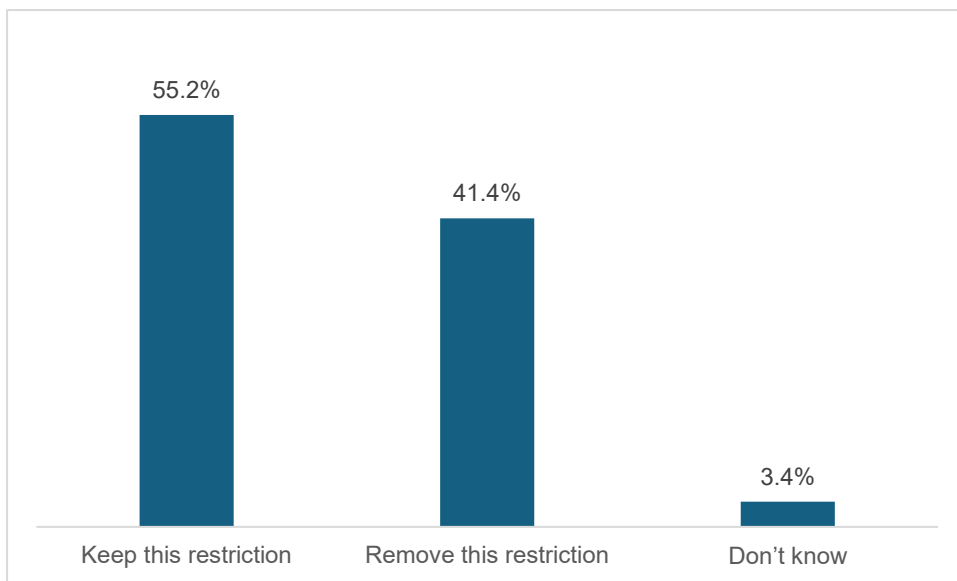
Theme	Description	Total
Reasons Given / Issues Raised	Area too small/overcrowded	93
	No space for dogs on exercise area	47
	Dog poo/urine/fouling	81
	Responsible owner/no control	18
	Owners should pick up after dogs	25
	Pet pollution/environmental hazards	28
	Animal safety	18
	People create mess/people are problem	17
Community/User Considerations	People/public/families/visitors/tourists/children	102
	Family walk their dog	16
	Accessibility/disabled residents	3
	People without dogs not allowed on dog area	2

Other Responses

Theme	Description	Total
No Change/Miscellaneous	Keep it the same	11
	Other	179

Q20. What is your view on the current requirement that dogs are excluded from the area between the marked dog exercise area (pavilion end of the beach) and Greenhill Groyne during the specified summer period?

Base: n-2124



Option	Total	Percent
Keep this restriction	1173	55.2%
Remove this restriction	879	41.4%
Don't know	72	3.4%

Views on the current requirement that dogs are excluded from the area between the marked dog exercise area (pavilion end of the beach) and Greenhill Groyne during the specified summer period were mixed. Overall, 55.2% (1,173) supported keeping the restriction, compared with 41.4% (879) who supported its removal.

A small proportion of respondents, 3.4% (72) selected 'Don't know'.

These findings indicate that, while opinion was divided, there was a moderate overall preference for retaining the current restriction.

Dog Ownership

The most notable differences were observed by dog ownership. Respondents who did not own a dog were much more likely to support retaining the restriction 89.9% (773) than dog owners 31.7% (400). In contrast, dog owners were more likely to support removing the restriction 63.7% (805) than non-dog owners 8.6% (74).

Option	Dog owners		Non- dog owners	
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
Keep this restriction	400	31.7%	773	89.9%
Remove this restriction	805	63.7%	74	8.6%

Base: Dog owners (n=1,264); Non-dog owners (n=860)

Resident and Visitor Status

Opinion also varied between Dorset residents and visitors. Residents were more likely to support retaining the restriction 57.4% (1,096) than visitors 35.1% (67), while visitors were more likely to support removing it 59.7% (114) than residents 39.4% (751).

Age

Support for retaining the restriction increased with age, from 45.2% (273) among respondents aged 49 and under to 50.3% (394) among those aged 50 to 64 and 69.2% (391) among respondents aged 65 and over. This indicates a notable difference between older and younger respondents.

Disability

Respondents who considered themselves disabled were less likely to support retaining the restriction 44.2% (151) than respondents who did not consider themselves disabled 57.4% (872). In contrast, disabled respondents were more likely to support removing the restriction 50.3% (172) than non-disabled respondents 39.4% (598).

General Comments

Q21. If you have any additional comments about the proposed PSPO that are not addressed in this survey, please comment in the box below.

Base n: 2716

Respondents most frequently commented on time-based restrictions, lead requirements, and enforcement. Views on beach access were mixed, with similar numbers supporting dogs on beaches and calling for dog-free areas, alongside requests for designated off-lead spaces.

Comments were often linked to concerns about dog fouling, safety, responsible dog ownership, and impacts on other beach users, including children, people with allergies or phobias, and disabled residents. Many respondents also referenced specific local beaches and locations when explaining their views.

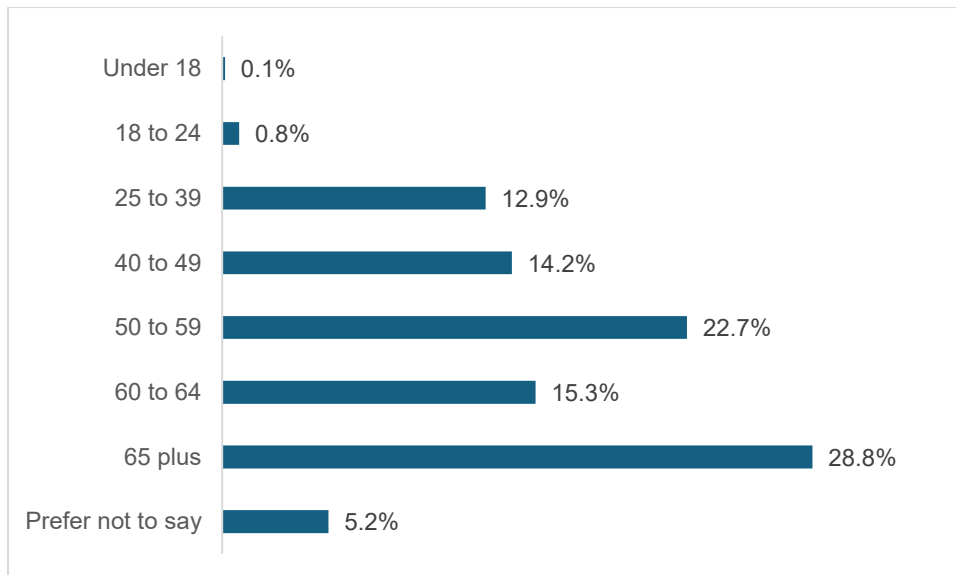
Categories labelled 'other' contain a wide range of individual suggestions that did not recur frequently enough to form standalone themes.

Theme	Description	Total
Restrictions and Controls	Dogs on leads requirements	335
	Lead enforcement	262
	Time restrictions (off-peak hours 8pm-8am)	461
	Seasonal restrictions	171
	Summer vs winter restrictions	98
	Flexible restrictions requested	113
	Maintain current restrictions	95
	Amend restrictions	3
	Dog-free areas requested	31
	Hot weather restrictions and dog welfare	5
	Nature reserve/wildlife restrictions	6
	Apply similar restrictions to horses	9
Access and Area Provision	Support for dogs on beaches	177
	Opposition to dogs on beaches	180
	Dog-friendly beaches	35
	Designated off-lead dog area requested	93
	Relocate dog exercise area	4
Management and Enforcement	Enforcement, monitoring, wardens, fines and policing	293
	Signage and information	71
	Signage for assistance dogs	6
	Additional dog waste bins requested	70
Reasons Given / Issues Raised	Dog fouling	526
	Safety concerns	335
	Concerns about dogs and vulnerable users (children, allergies, phobias)	199
	Litter and general mess	145
	Accessibility and disability considerations	109
	Responsible dog ownership	79
	Environmental and wildlife concerns	54
	Economic and tourism impacts	33
	Cyclists and cycleways	13
Location-Specific References	Specific beaches or Dorset locations referenced	202
	Cornwall referenced as an example	61
	Jubilee Clock Tower location mentioned	14
Other Responses	References to other councils, licences, policies or residency	464
	Other location or beach-specific suggestions	127
	Consultation process feedback	18

Demographics

Q22. Please select your age group.

Base: n-4934



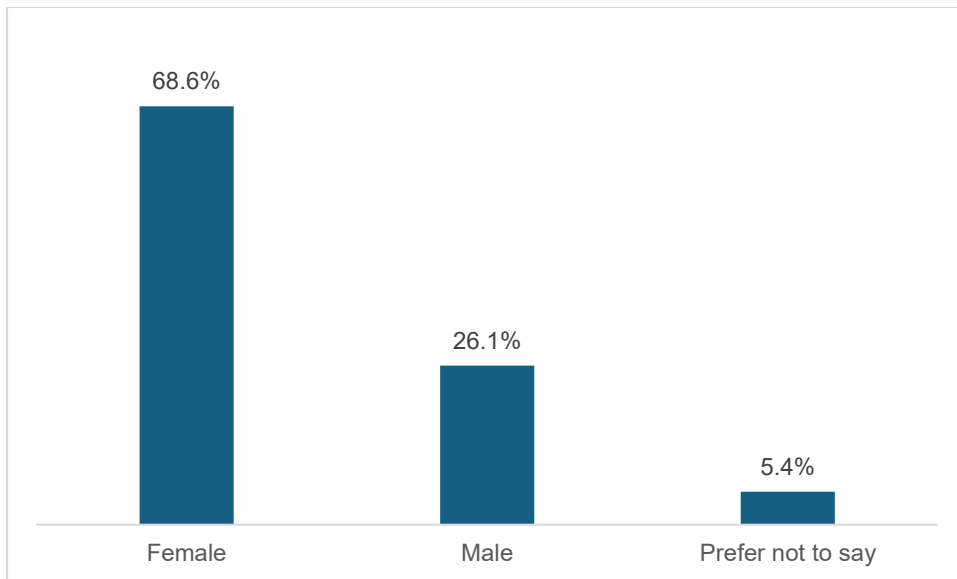
Option	Total	Percent
Under 18	7	0.1%
18 to 24	41	0.8%
25 to 39	635	12.9%
40 to 49	698	14.2%
50 to 59	1120	22.7%
60 to 64	755	15.3%
65 plus	1422	28.0%
Prefer not to say	256	5.2%

Respondents were predominantly older adults. Respondents aged 49 and under accounted for 28.0% (1,381) of responses, those aged 50 to 64 accounted for 38.0% (1,875), and those aged 65 and over accounted for 28.8% (1,422).

This shows that responses were primarily received from respondents aged 50 and over, who represented around two-thirds of all respondents

Q23. What is your sex?

Base: n-4916



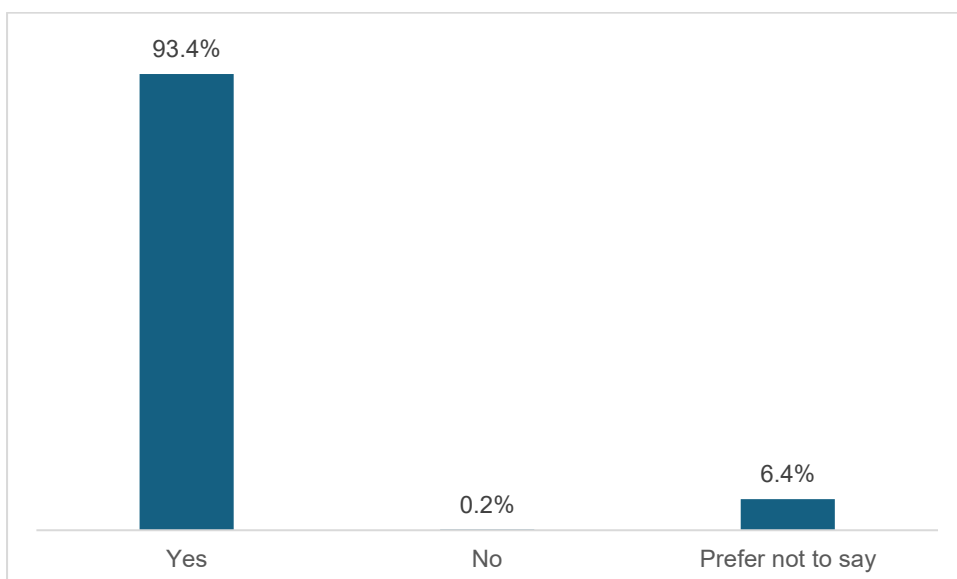
Option	Total	Percent
Female	3370	68.6%
Male	1281	26.1%
Prefer not to say	265	5.4%

The majority of respondents were female, accounting for 68.6% (3,370) of responses. 26.1% (1,281) of respondents were male.

These findings indicate that the survey received substantially higher participation from female respondents than male respondents.

Q24. Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?

Base: n-4878

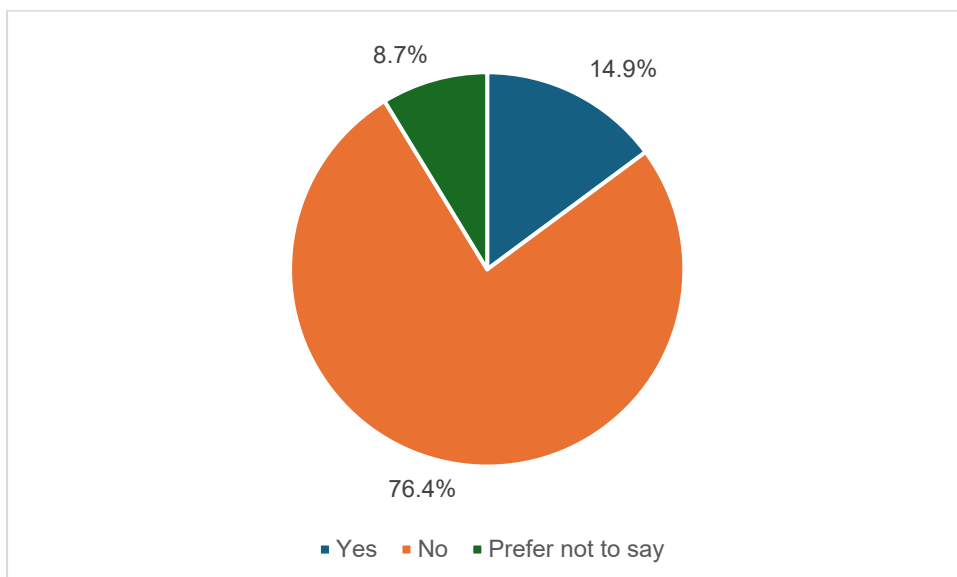


Option	Total	Percent
Yes	4558	93.4%
No	8	0.2%
Prefer not to say	312	6.4%

The vast majority of respondents 93.4% (4,558) indicated that the gender they identify with is the same as their sex registered at birth. A small proportion (0.2% (8)) indicated that it was not.

Q25. Do you consider yourself to be disabled as set out in the Equality Act 2010?

Base: n-4896

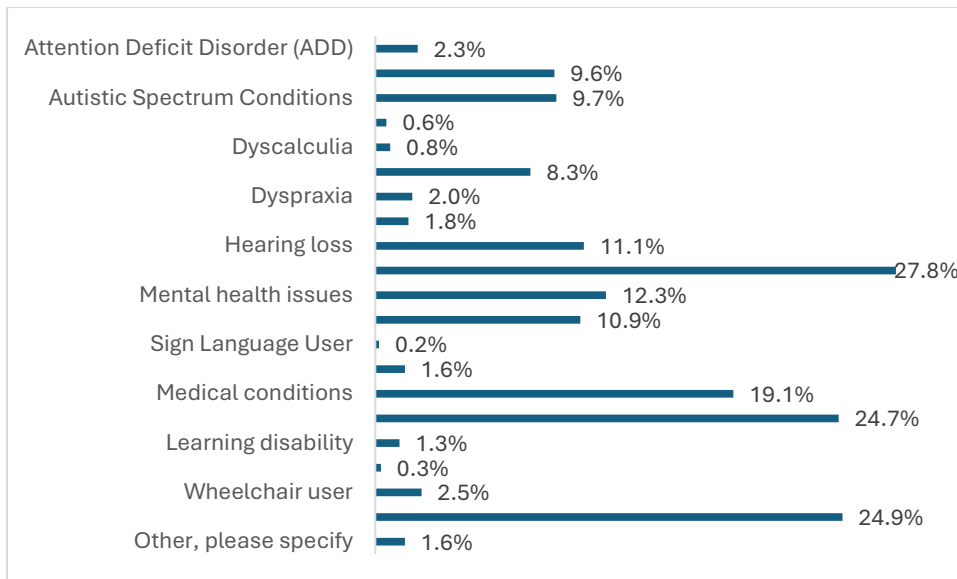


Option	Total	Percent
Yes	727	14.9%
No	3742	76.4%
Prefer not to say	427	8.7%

Overall, 14.9% (727) of respondents identified as disabled under the Equality Act 2010, while 76.4% (3,742) indicated that they were not disabled.

Q26. If at the previous question you stated you consider yourself to have a disability, please state the type of disability which applies to you.

Base: n-1016



Option	Total	Percent
Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD)	23	2.3%
Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)	97	9.6%
Autistic Spectrum Conditions	98	9.7%
Blind	6	0.6%
Dyscalculia	8	0.8%
Dyslexia	84	8.3%
Dyspraxia	20	2.0%
Deaf	18	1.8%
Hearing loss	113	11.1%
Long term health condition	282	27.8%
Mental health issues	125	12.3%
Physical impairment	111	10.9%
Sign Language User	2	0.2%
Visually impaired	16	1.6%
Medical conditions	194	19.1%
Mobility issues	251	24.7%
Learning disability	13	1.3%
Specific learning differences	3	0.3%
Wheelchair user	25	2.5%
Prefer not to say	253	24.9%
If you prefer to use another term, please write in the box below	16	1.6%

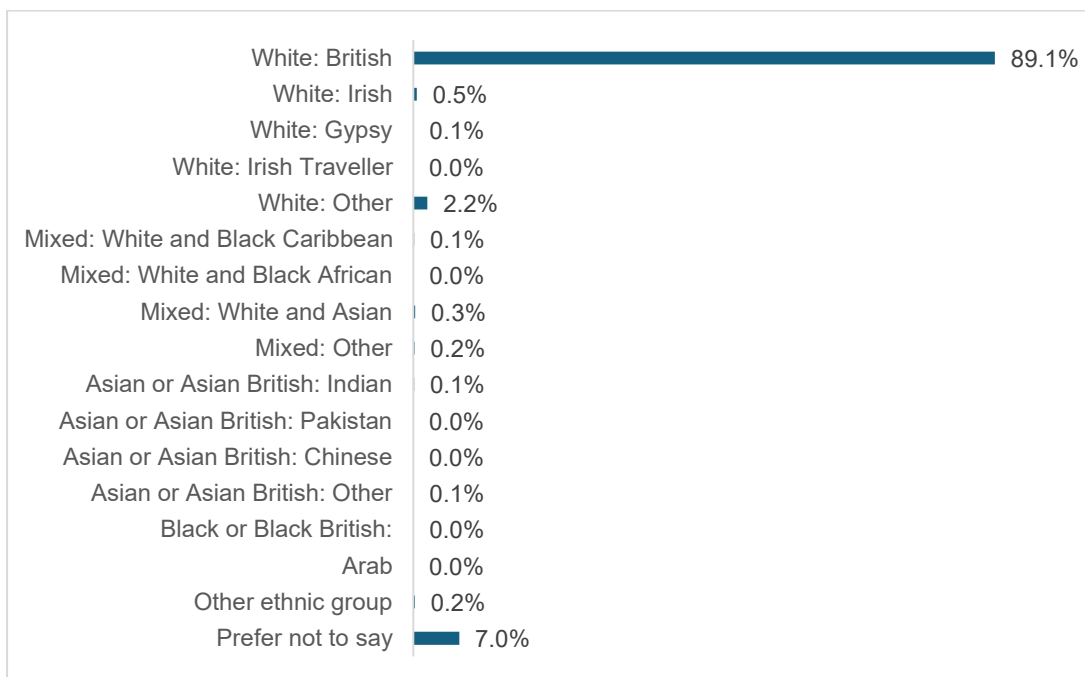
Among respondents who identified as disabled, the most commonly reported disability types were long-term health conditions (27.8%, 282), mobility issues (24.7%, 251) and medical conditions (19.1%, 194). Mental health issues, hearing loss, physical impairment, autistic spectrum conditions and ADHD were also frequently reported.

Other – Disability type:
Multiple sclerosis
too many "disabilities" listed that aren't important enough to qualify
I suffer from anaphylaxis to pollens, including grass which can be extremely problematic
I suffer from anaphylaxis to pollens, including grass which can be extremely problematic
Pathological demand avoidance and sensory processing disorder
Epilepsy and also have severe mobility issues to due bilateral clubfoot.
Cancer
Fibromyalgia & Arthritis
Old enough to appreciate society is increasingly divided. It's not just dogs. Integration would be fantastic!
I have mobility problems
Inuries use rollator
FND
Temporarily disabled pending hip replacement
genetic hypermobility making me wobbly & anxious
Spinal arthritis
Myself and family members are registered disabled
Old [redacted]
My wife has Bi lateral hip displacea and have to walk slowly with sticks.
I care for my adult disabled son
Epilepsy
Cancer
I'm a carer for my husband who had a stroke and has mobility and cognitive issues
Cancer
Diabetes
I am partially sighted and use a guide dog but also have a family dog
Cancer
Carer for husband with mobility issues.
Cancer
I have scleroderma, which is similar to rheumatoid arthritis
Bipolar,ocd,complex ptsd
My wife has to use a walking aid.
Ostomy patient
Pacemaker
Autoimmune disease
Mobility issues
Cancer
Cancer
Muscular dystrophy
Not registered disabled BUT have significant osteoporosis.
Anxiety Partial Deafness
COPD

I am autistic but do not consider it a disability
Epilepsy
Neurodivergent
Impaired vision
Sensory Processing Issues
cancer
Stroke
autoimmune/severe allergies
Perimenopause
COPD
Menierries
Chronic fatigue
PTSD
Accessibility issues from various health conditions
PTSD
Artificial arm
Parkinsons
I am a parent and full time carer to son with learning disability
My daughter has cancer and her dog is her only loyal companion. Going to the beach to swim with her dog locally is a joy and privilege.
My wife is blind, which causes balance issues.
Walking aid user

Q27. What is your ethnic group?

Base: (n-4852)



Option	Total	Percent
White: British	4321	89.1%
White: Irish	26	0.5%
White: Gypsy	3	0.1%
White: Irish Traveller	0	0.0%
White: Other	105	2.2%
Mixed: White and Black Caribbean	6	0.1%
Mixed: White and Black African	2	0.0%
Mixed: White and Asian	15	0.3%
Mixed: Other	10	0.2%
Asian or Asian British: Indian	6	0.1%
Asian or Asian British: Pakistan	1	0.0%
Asian or Asian British: Chinese	0	0.0%
Asian or Asian British: Other	3	0.1%
Black or Black British:	2	0.0%
Arab	0	0.0%
Other ethnic group	11	0.2%
Prefer not to say	341	7.0%

The respondent population was predominantly White British, accounting for 89.1% (4,321) of responses. A further 2.2% (105) identified as White: Other, while all other ethnic groups individually accounted for less than 1% of respondents.

Appendix 1 – Out of format responses

Lyme Regis Town Council – email response

Subject: Re: Dog Related PSPO

Hi Janet,

The operations manager and deputy town clerk are both out of the office today but I'm conscious you need a response.

We have accessibility matting on Monmouth Beach, which is placed at the high water mark. We can't put it any closer to the sea as it would get washed away. There is level access from the car parks and chalets/caravans/beach huts directly onto the matting.

The ramp down to East Beach (Back Beach) is made of concrete and isn't any more slippery than any other surface when wet. The rocks on the beach will get slippery with algae, but wouldn't be accessible for wheelchairs or those with mobility issues anyway.

I'm sure you're aware of the town council's position on the matter - we completely oppose any relaxation of the current restrictions and would prefer to see them strengthened. To clarify, we completely oppose suggestions to allow dogs on the beaches in the morning or evenings during the current summer exclusion, as the beaches start to get busy very early and remain busy well into the evening. The argument about access for those with mobility issues isn't a factor as far as we're concerned, as there are plenty of other open spaces in Lyme Regis where dogs can be exercised on or off the lead.

My colleague is taking a photo of the matting so I can send this to you.

I hope that helps but please let me know if we can provide any further information.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

Hi Janet,

Some examples include Middle Mill Fields, Spittles (the section accessed from Timber Hill) and the River Lym Walk. Large sections of Slopes Farm are accessible and level, as are parts of Ware Cliff. Monmouth Beach is probably more accessible than the Front Beach as it is closer to the car parks and there is a level path along the top, with access directly from the car park.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

Wraxalls – email response

Subject: RE: Seatown Beach

Hi Janet – thank you for your email.

I do think the restriction should remain in place, but it is very difficult to enforce.

I think it's generally accepted that dogs are not allowed on most beaches during this period but without wardens enforcing the restriction there will always be plenty of dogs on the beach!

Kind Regards

[redacted]

Managing Director

Member of the public – email response

Subject: Compliment re Dogs PSPO Lyme Regis

Dear Councillors,

I am writing in response to Dorset Council's consultation on the proposed Dog-Related Public Spaces Protection Order and to ask that the Council considers a more balanced approach to seasonal dog restrictions on Lyme Regis Front Beach.

I fully appreciate the need to maintain a clean, safe and welcoming environment for everyone. My suggestion is not to remove the restrictions entirely, but instead to introduce a small designated dog-friendly section of Front Beach, located away from the busiest supervised sandy area, or alternatively permit access during the quieter early morning and evening hours.

I believe this would provide a fair compromise between families who prefer a dog-free central beach and responsible dog owners who also wish to enjoy Lyme Regis.

One issue I believe deserves greater consideration is accessibility. At present there is no easily accessible dog-friendly beach in Lyme Regis for disabled people, elderly visitors or those with limited mobility. The alternative beaches often involve steep slopes, uneven surfaces, steps or long walking distances. This means that many people who can access the promenade and Front Beach cannot realistically access the beaches where dogs are permitted.

This is not a new concern. Dorset Council's own Equality Impact Assessment recognised that dog owners had raised concerns about accessibility at Lyme Regis and specifically referred to mobility issues and the lack of suitable alternative

locations for exercising dogs. The assessment stated that these locations should be reviewed where issues become apparent.

Since many of the original restrictions were introduced, the legal framework has also changed significantly. Dorset Council now operates a Dog-Related Public Spaces Protection Order that already requires owners to clean up after their dogs, allows officers to require dogs to be placed on leads where necessary and enables Fixed Penalty Notices of £100 (£75 if paid early) to be issued for breaches. These powers provide effective enforcement against irresponsible owners rather than relying solely on blanket seasonal bans.

Another point worth considering is how the beach is actually used throughout the day. During much of the summer, Front Beach is relatively quiet before approximately 9:30am and again after around 6:00pm or 7:00pm. The town webcam frequently illustrates this. Allowing dogs during these quieter periods would have little impact on families using the beach during peak hours while significantly improving opportunities for local residents and visitors.

Tourism has also changed considerably over the last decade. More families now holiday with their dogs than ever before, and many accommodation providers welcome pets. Visitors staying in holiday accommodation cannot safely leave dogs in parked vehicles during warm weather and many holiday lets ask that dogs are not left unattended. This leaves families with limited options during the day if the main beach is unavailable.

I would also encourage the Council to consider the economic benefits that more flexible access could bring. Early morning dog walkers frequently purchase breakfasts, coffees and other refreshments after walking on the beach. While I appreciate that detailed economic data may not currently exist, consulting local cafés, restaurants and retailers could provide valuable evidence on whether the current restrictions have affected trade during the summer months.

Importantly, Public Space Protection Orders must be supported by evidence and reviewed regularly to ensure they remain necessary and proportionate. Dorset Council has stated that these Orders should only remain where there is evidence that they are required and has invited residents, visitors and businesses to comment on whether the current beach restrictions remain appropriate.

I would therefore ask the Council to consider whether there is current evidence that justifies excluding dogs from the entire length of Front Beach for five months each year. If dog fouling and enforcement data demonstrate that responsible dog ownership has improved, then a more proportionate solution may now be appropriate.

I respectfully ask the Council to consider one or more of the following options:

- Create a small designated dog-friendly area on Front Beach away from the busiest family beach.
- Allow dogs on Front Beach before 9:30am and after 6:00pm during the summer season.
- Improve accessible dog-friendly beach provision for disabled and less mobile residents and visitors.
- Review the latest evidence on dog fouling, complaints and enforcement before renewing the current restrictions unchanged.

I recognise that the Council must balance the interests of many different groups. However, I believe these modest changes would improve accessibility, better support tourism and local businesses, make Lyme Regis more welcoming to modern family holidays and continue to protect the main family beach that residents and visitors value so highly.

Thank you for considering my comments, and I hope they can contribute positively to the consultation.

Yours faithfully,

[redacted]

Yetminster Parishes – email response

Subject: Suggested Comments for the Dog Related Open Spaces Order.

Dear Sir/Madam

I have telephoned the switchboard this morning and been given your email address for forwarding our comments to in relation to the 'Dog Related Public Spaces Order (PSPO) and comments that YRIPC wish to make collectively. (I have personally already filled out an individual survey in relation to the above).

With kind regards

[Redacted]

Clerk – YRIPC

Background:-

Dorset Council has launched a consultation on renewing the Dog-related Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO), which sets rules for dog control in public spaces to ensure safety, cleanliness, and enjoyment for everyone. The current PSPO, in effect since January 2024, will expire on 31 December 2026. The proposed new order would run from 1 January 2027 to 31 December 2029. The consultation aims to balance responsible dog ownership with protecting areas used by children, families, and people engaging in sports or other activities.

YRIPC Comments:-

The PSPO provides clarity for both dog owners and non-owners about where dogs can go and when they must be controlled. 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.

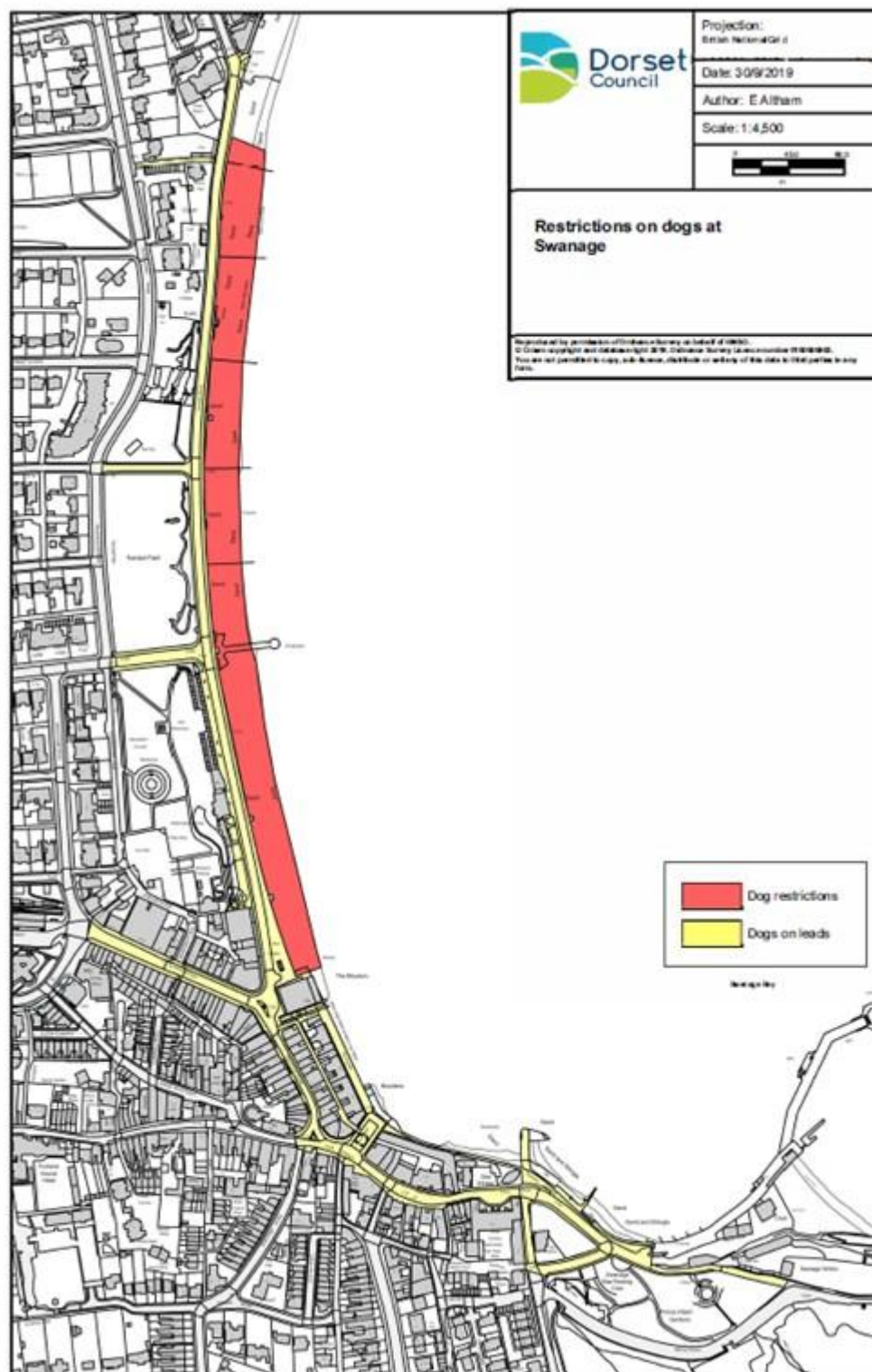
The PSPO takes precedent over any other legal provision (e.g. byelaws).

Suggested Provisions: -

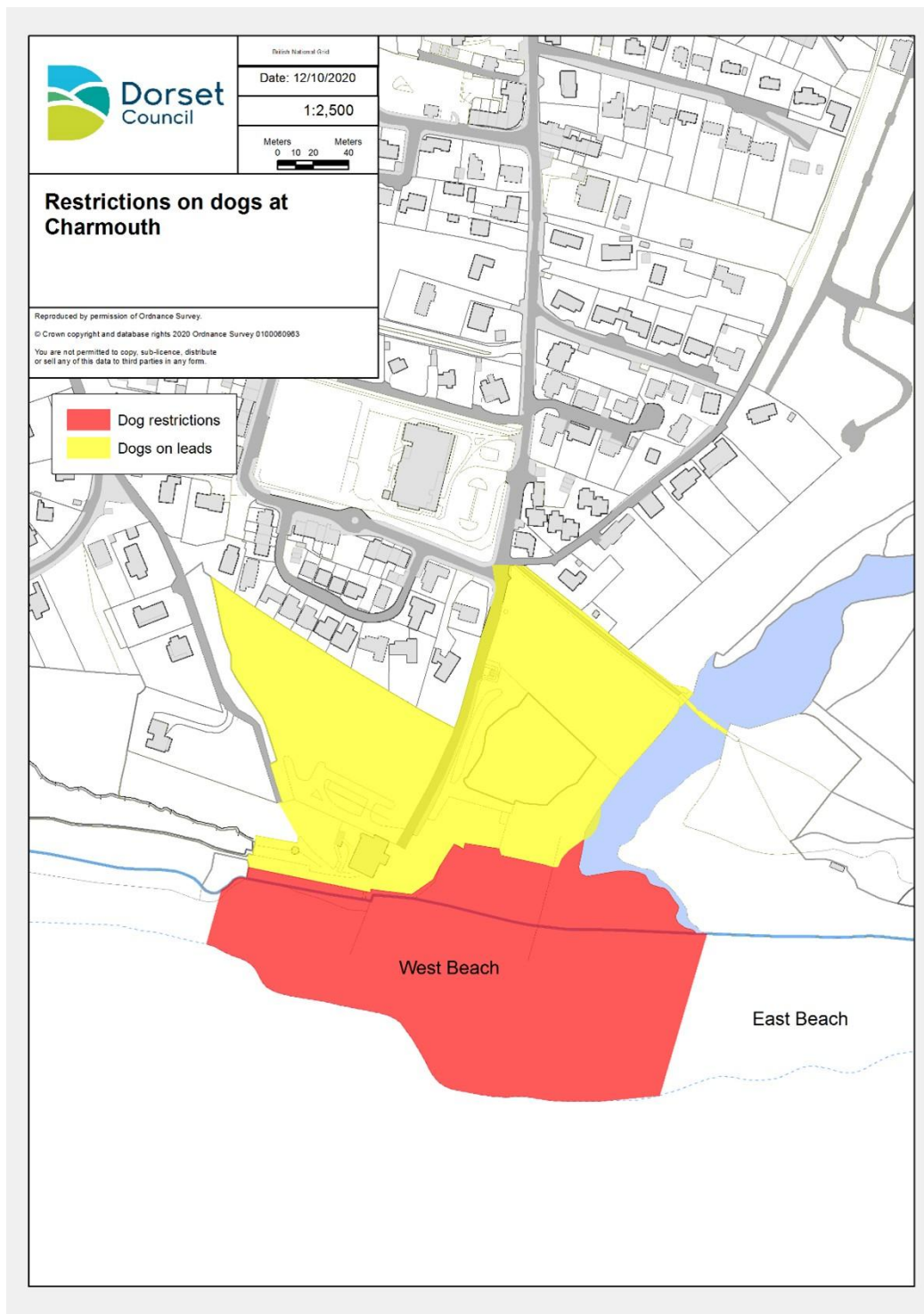
1. Clearance of dog fouling and appropriate disposal from public open spaces.
2. Maximum lead length of 2m where required (see 3).
3. Dogs must be on leads in the following locations a) municipal cemeteries, b) church and graveyards, where dogs are permitted and c) within 5m of marked sports pitches,
4. Dogs must be excluded from all land which comprises any fenced (and/or hedged and /or walled) children's play area and tennis court.

Appendix 2 - Maps

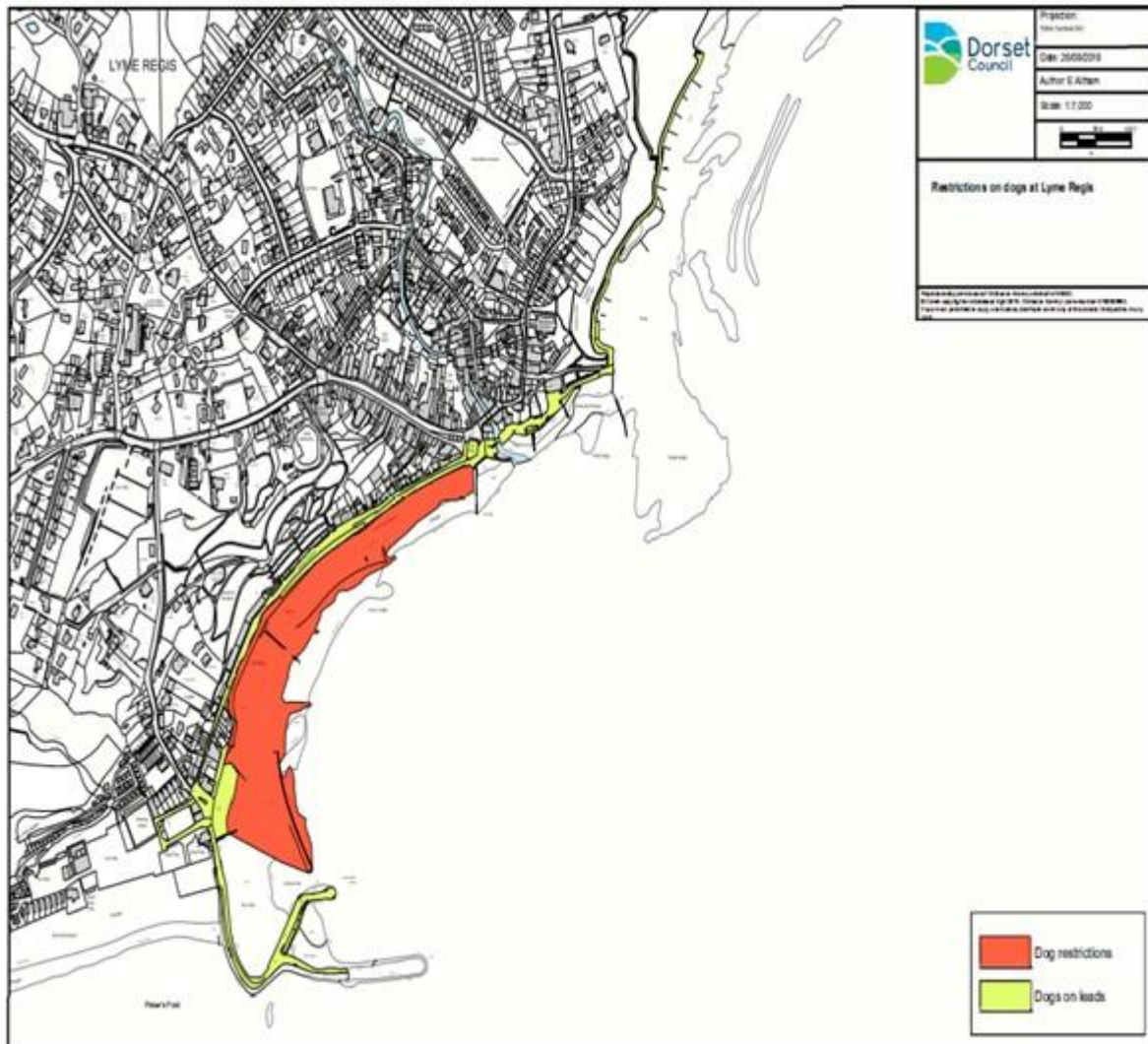
Swanage



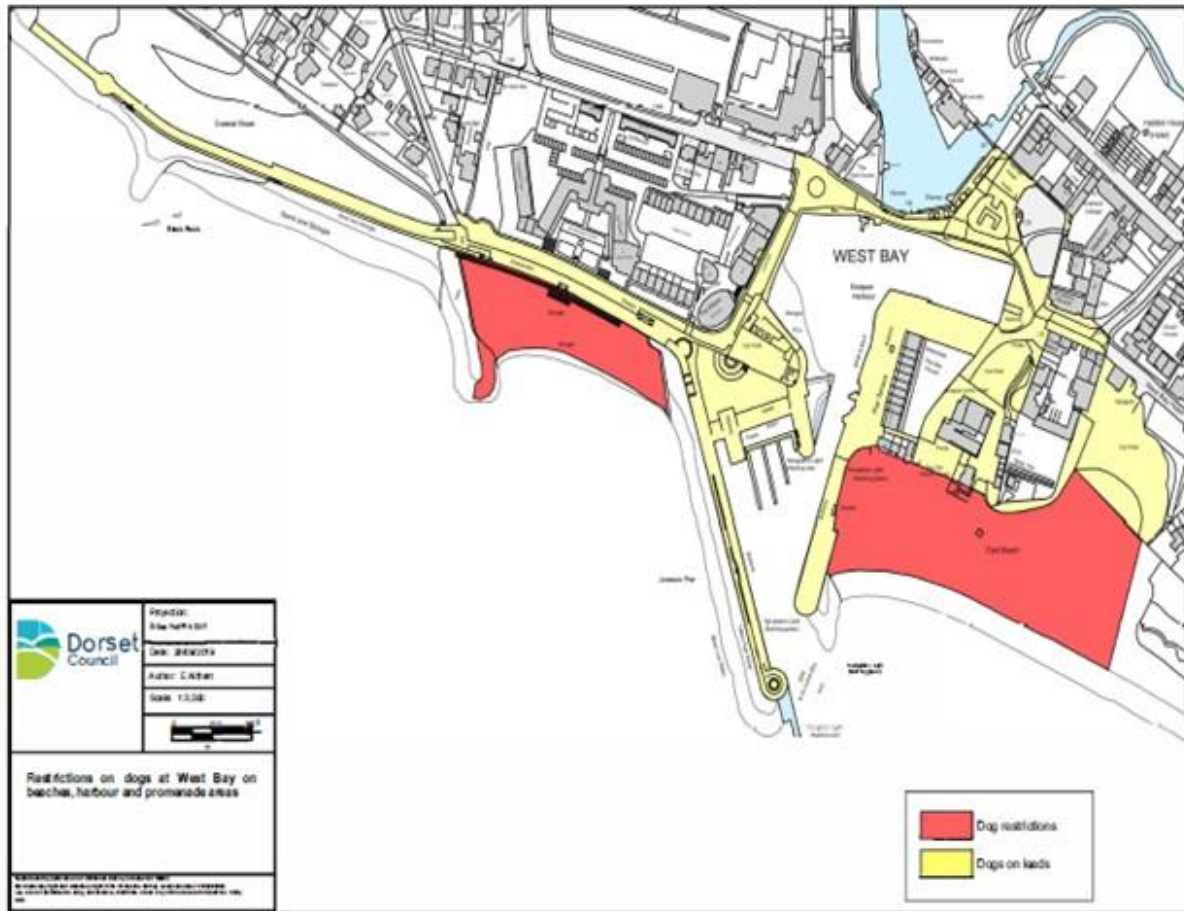
Charmouth



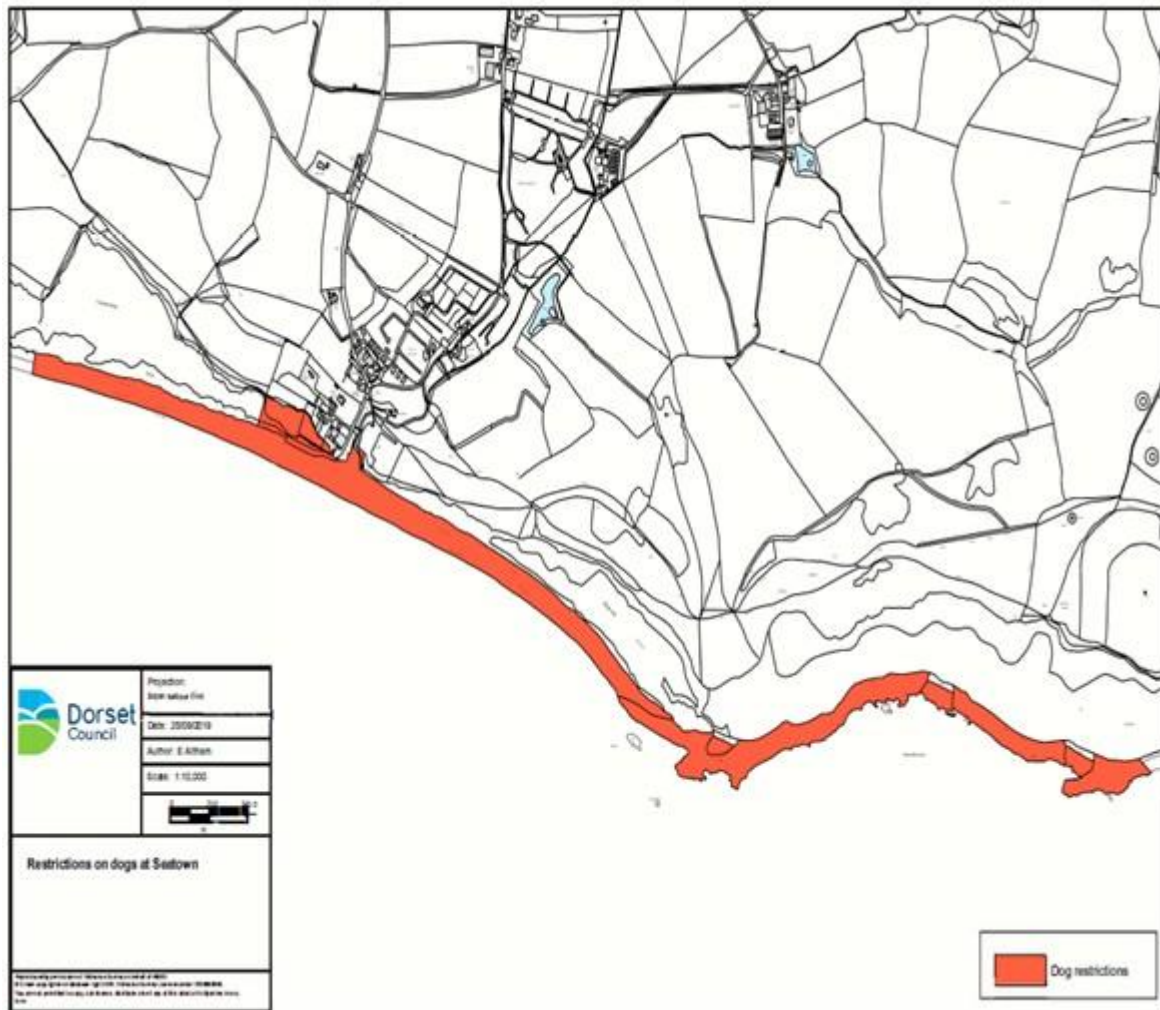
Lyme Regis



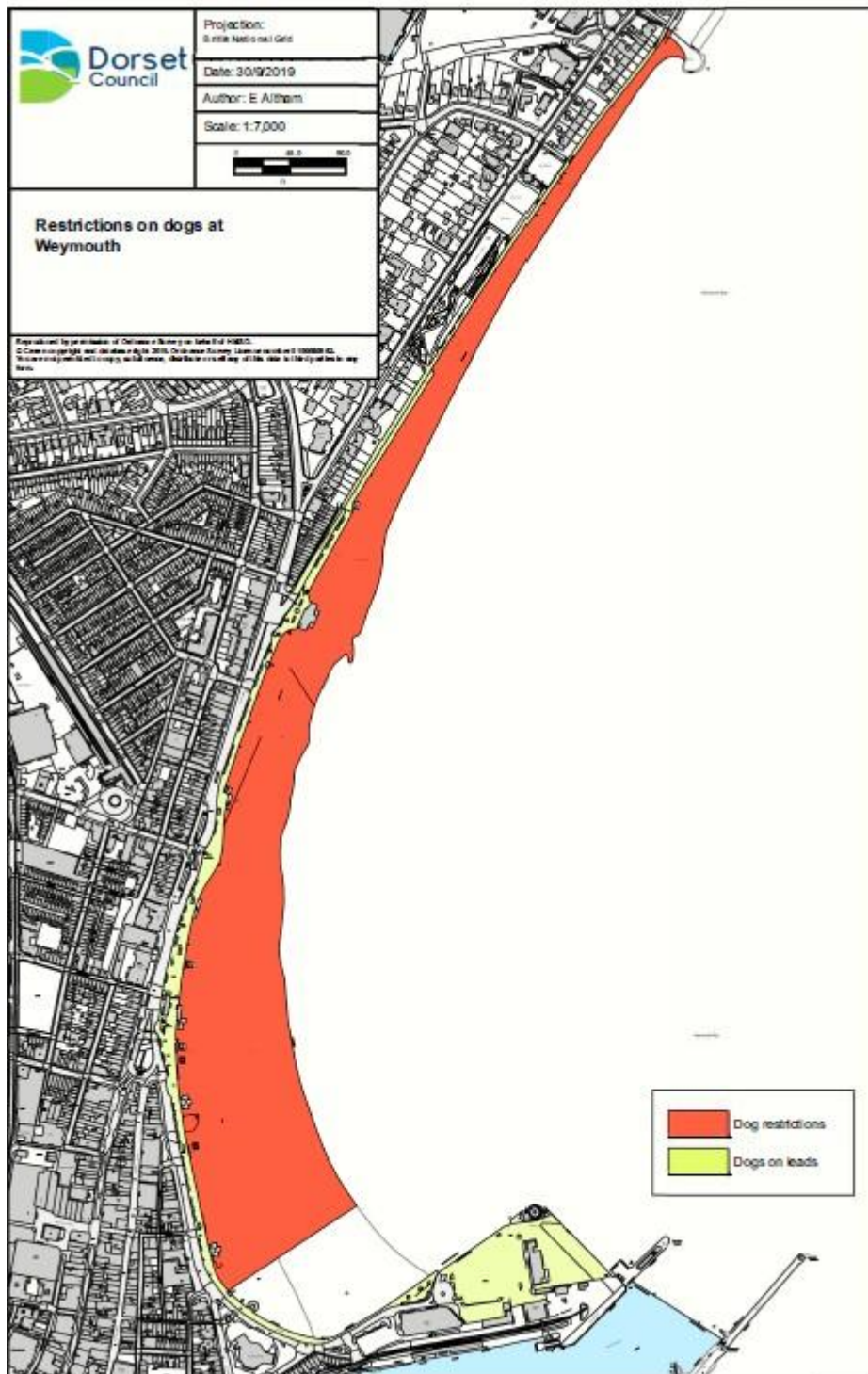
West Bay Beaches



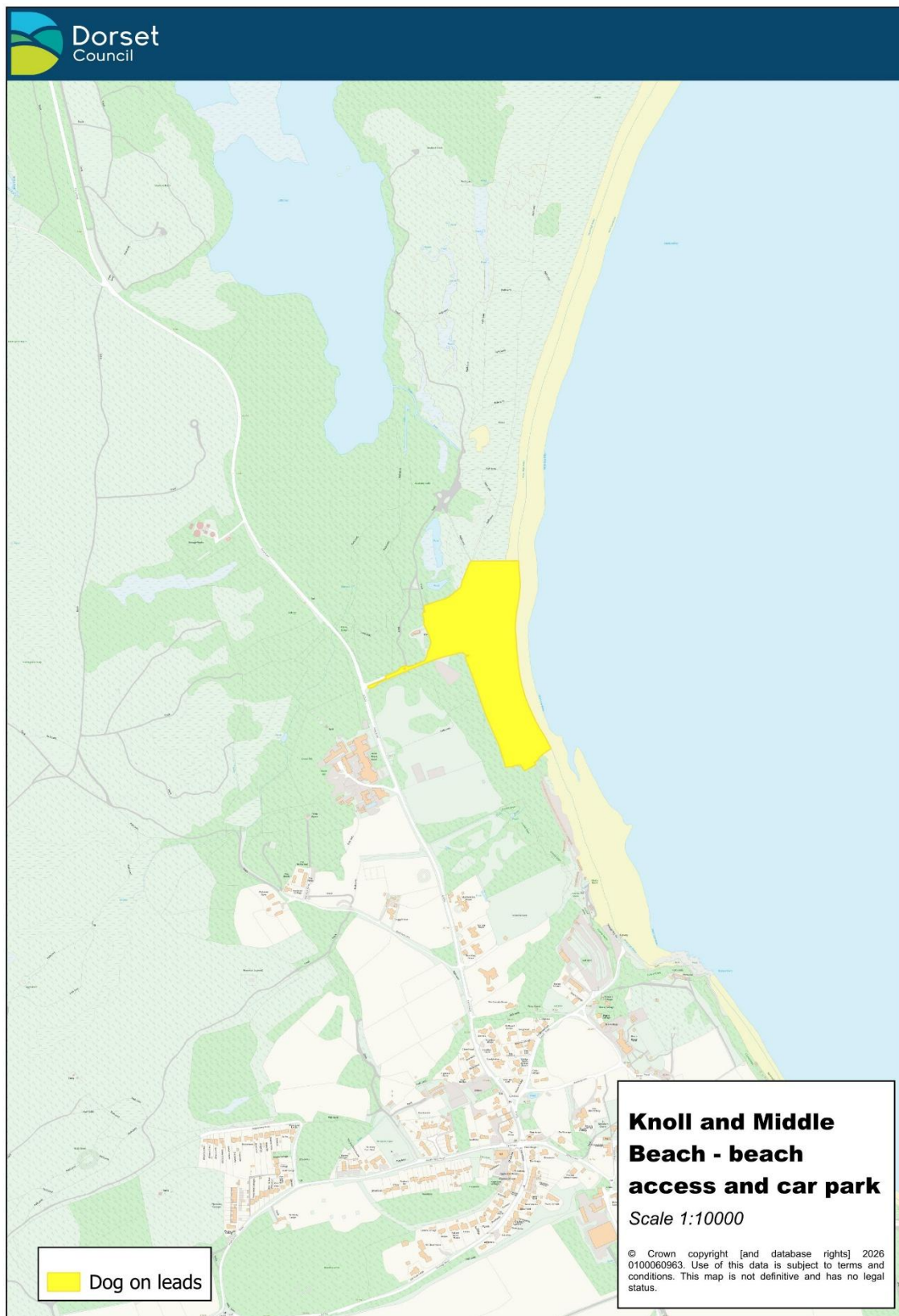
Chideock



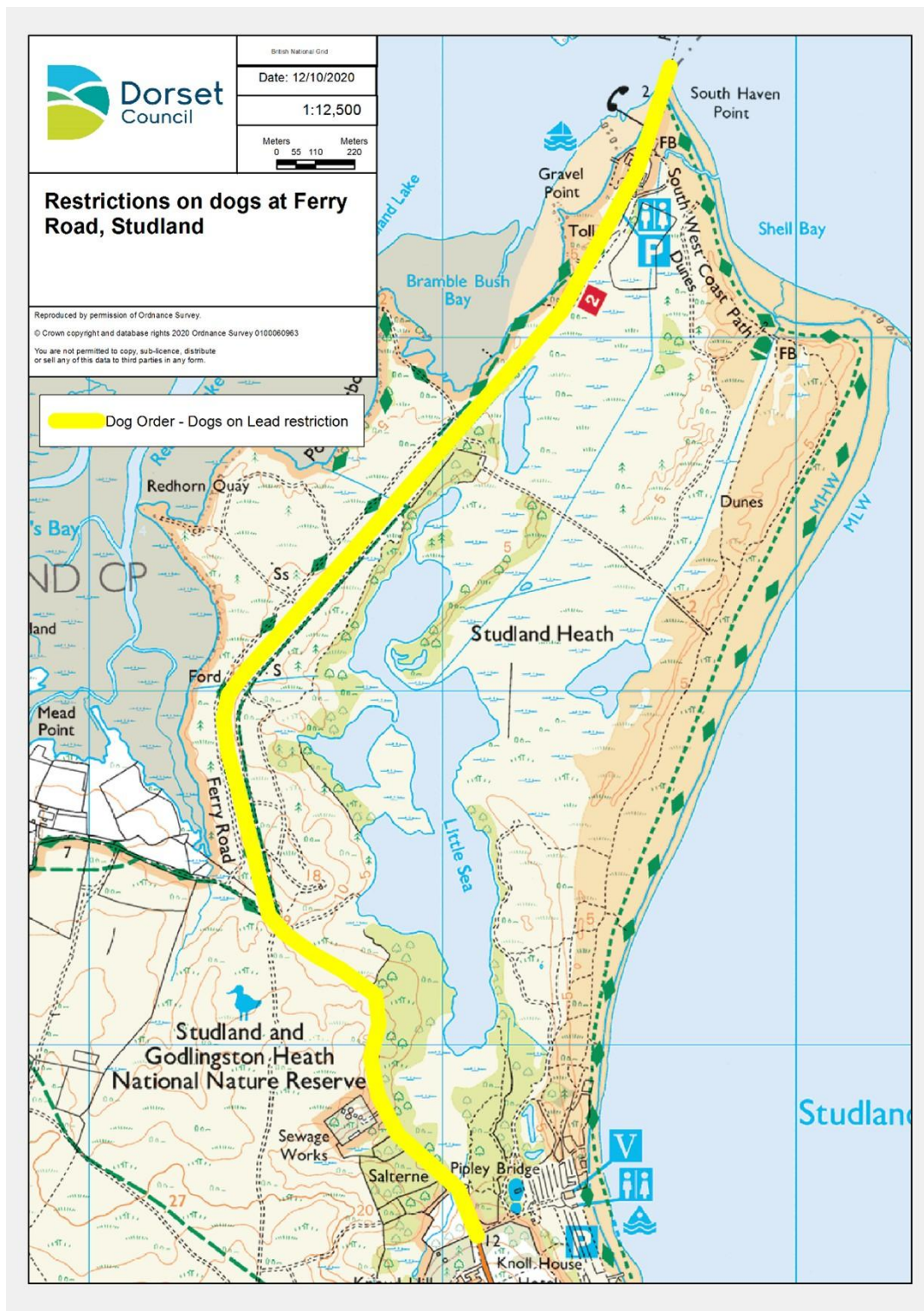
Weymouth



Studland beaches (Knoll Beach, Middle Beach and Shell Beach)



Ferry Road, Studland



Studland beaches (Knoll Beach, Middle Beach and Shell Beach)



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Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014

The Dorset Council Dog Related Public Spaces Protection Order 2027

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

This Order shall be known as The Dorset Council Dog Related Public Spaces Protection Order 2027 and shall come into force on 1st January 2027 for a period of three years.

When in force this Order supersedes the following:

The Dorset Council Dog Related Public Spaces Protection Order 2024

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 the 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;

a) has a physical or mental disability for which an assistance dog is needed to carry out normal day-to-day activities and the dog is working; or

b) who has a physical or mental impairment which has 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

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

has a physical or mental disability 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.

'road' is all public highways having a right of passage for motor vehicles (which includes areas of pavement, footway and verge set aside for pedestrians within such a highway), with 'motor vehicle' being as defined in section 185(1) of the Road Traffic Act 1988 and section 136 (1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as 'a mechanically propelled vehicle, intended or adapted for use on roads'.

'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 Equality and Human Rights Commission.

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 faeces in a receptacle on the land which is provided for the purpose, or for the disposal of waste, shall be sufficient removal from the land
- 2.3.1.1 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

3.1 This Section applies to the land specified and at the times specified in Schedule 2.

3.2 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 –

- 3.2.1 They have a reasonable excuse to do so; or
- 3.2.2 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.
- 3.2.3

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, without reasonable excuse, fails to comply with a prohibition or requirement imposed by this Order commits an offence under section 67 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 and is 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 any person they have reason to believe has committed an offence under this Order. Payment of the fixed penalty discharges liability to conviction for the offence. Dorset Council has set the fixed penalty at **£100**, reduced to **£75** if paid within 14 days of issue.

Date: 11th November 2026

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. Front Beach, Swanage (map 1); and
 - b. West Beach, Charmouth (map 2); and
 - c. Front (Town) Beach, Lyme Regis (map 3); and
 - d. East & West Beach, West Bay (map 4); and
 - e. Seatown Beach, Chideock (map 5); and

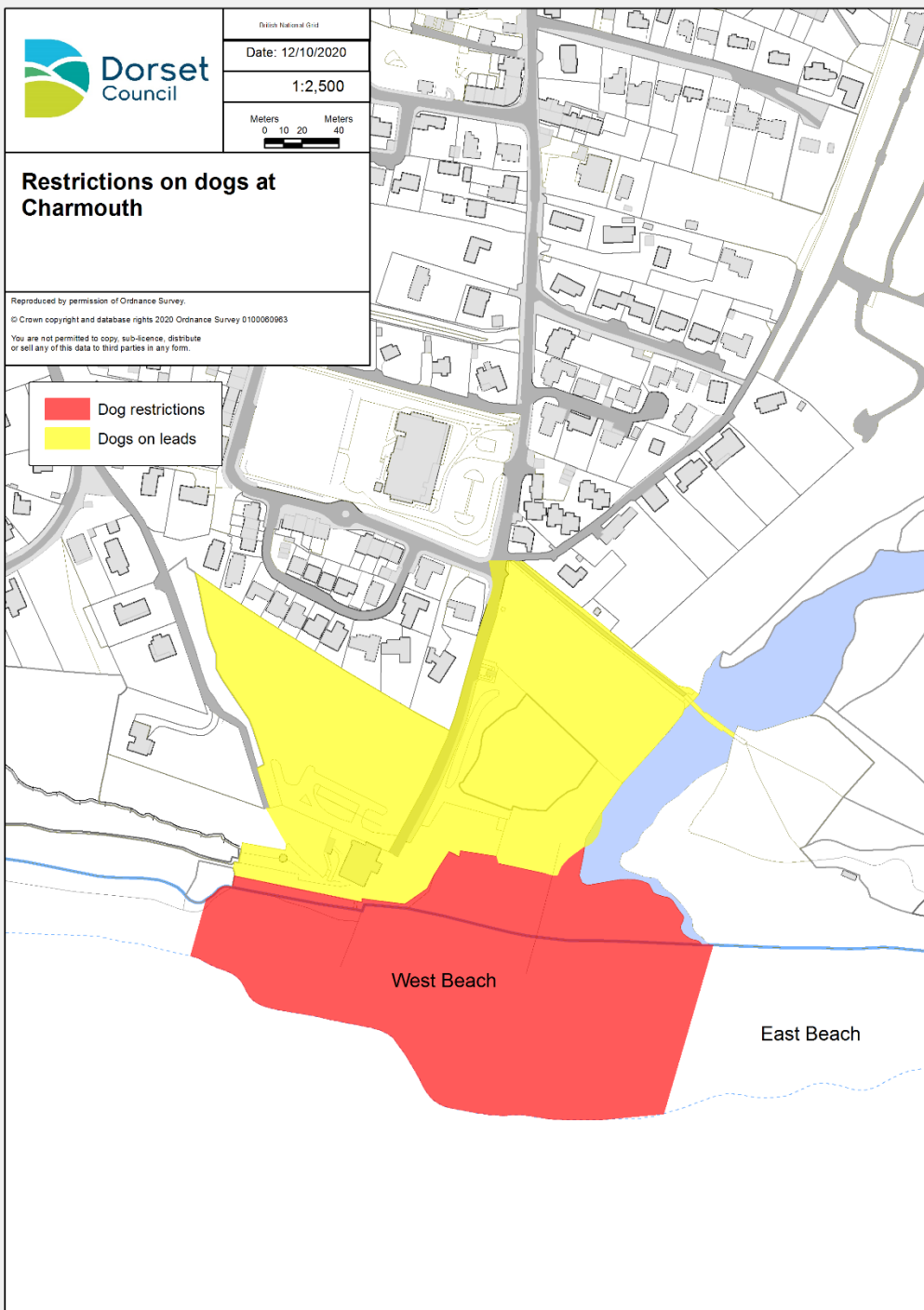
- f. Weymouth Central Beach extending from the northern boundary of the designated Dog Exercise Area at the Pavilion end to the groyne at Greenhill and including Greenhill Beaches, Weymouth, (map 6).

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

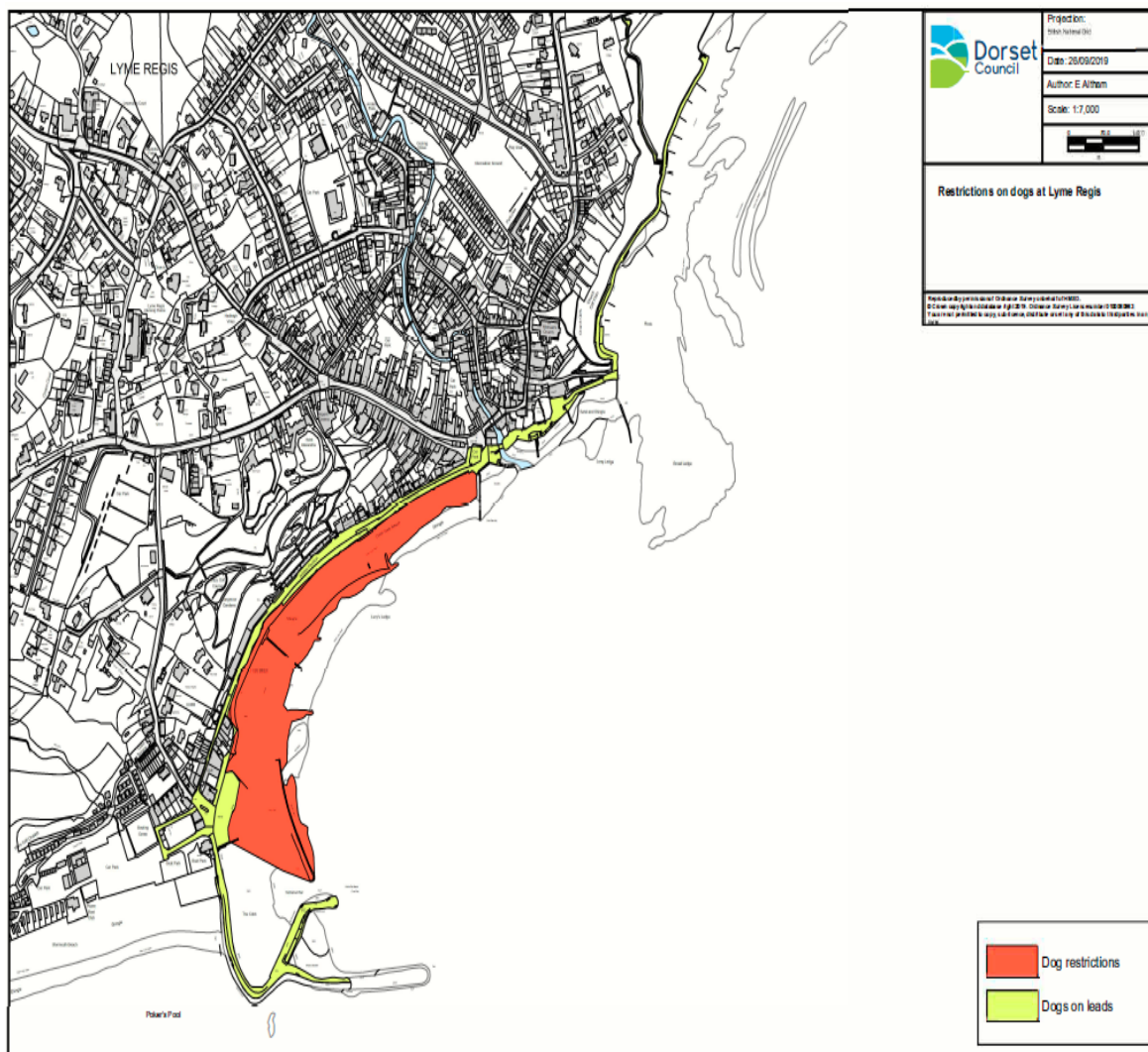
Land on which dogs shall be kept on a lead at all times unless otherwise specified;

1. Municipal Cemeteries, churchyards and graveyards.
2. Council owned Allotments where dogs are permitted.
3. Formal Public Gardens where dogs are permitted.
4. Within 5 metres of the marked perimeter of sports pitch playing surfaces and athletics tracks.
5. Council owned car parks.
6. On the Rodwell Trail, Weymouth.
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 2); 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 4); 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 1); and
 - e. At Studland, access to South Beach (also known as Knoll beach and Middle beach) from the car park, including the car park and staircases leading on to the beach, (Map 7) and
 - f. At Weymouth, The Promenade from the Pleasure Pier to Bowleaze, Weymouth (Map 6, highlighted in yellow), extending when the road

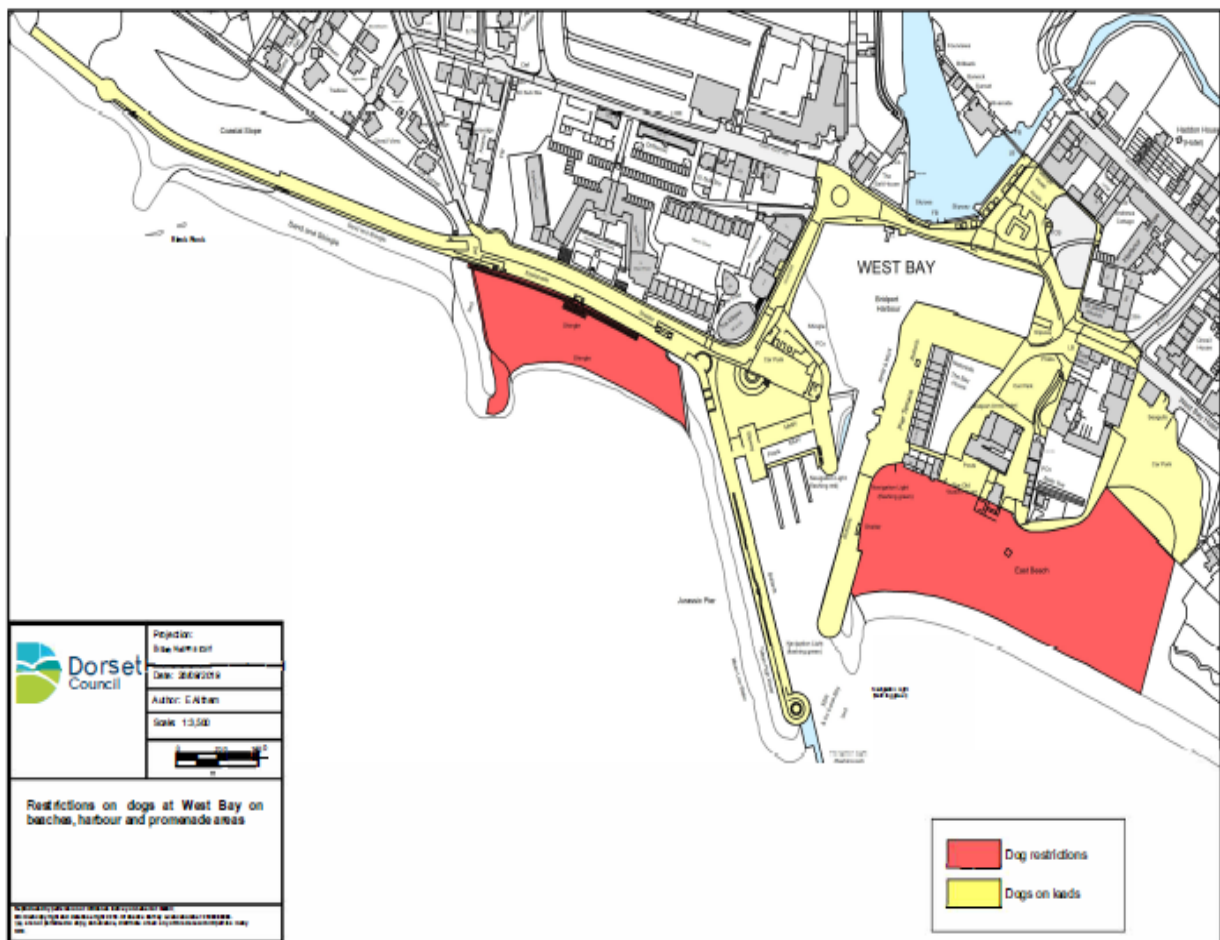
- is pedestrianised and including the path on the opposite side of the road for the duration of road closure; and
- g. Ferry Road, from Studland beach car park to the South Coast Path End Marker, Shell Beach National Trust Car Park and all access routes Shell beach (Map 8).
8. Studland beaches also known as Knoll Beach and Middle Beach from the 1st May to 30th September (Map 9)



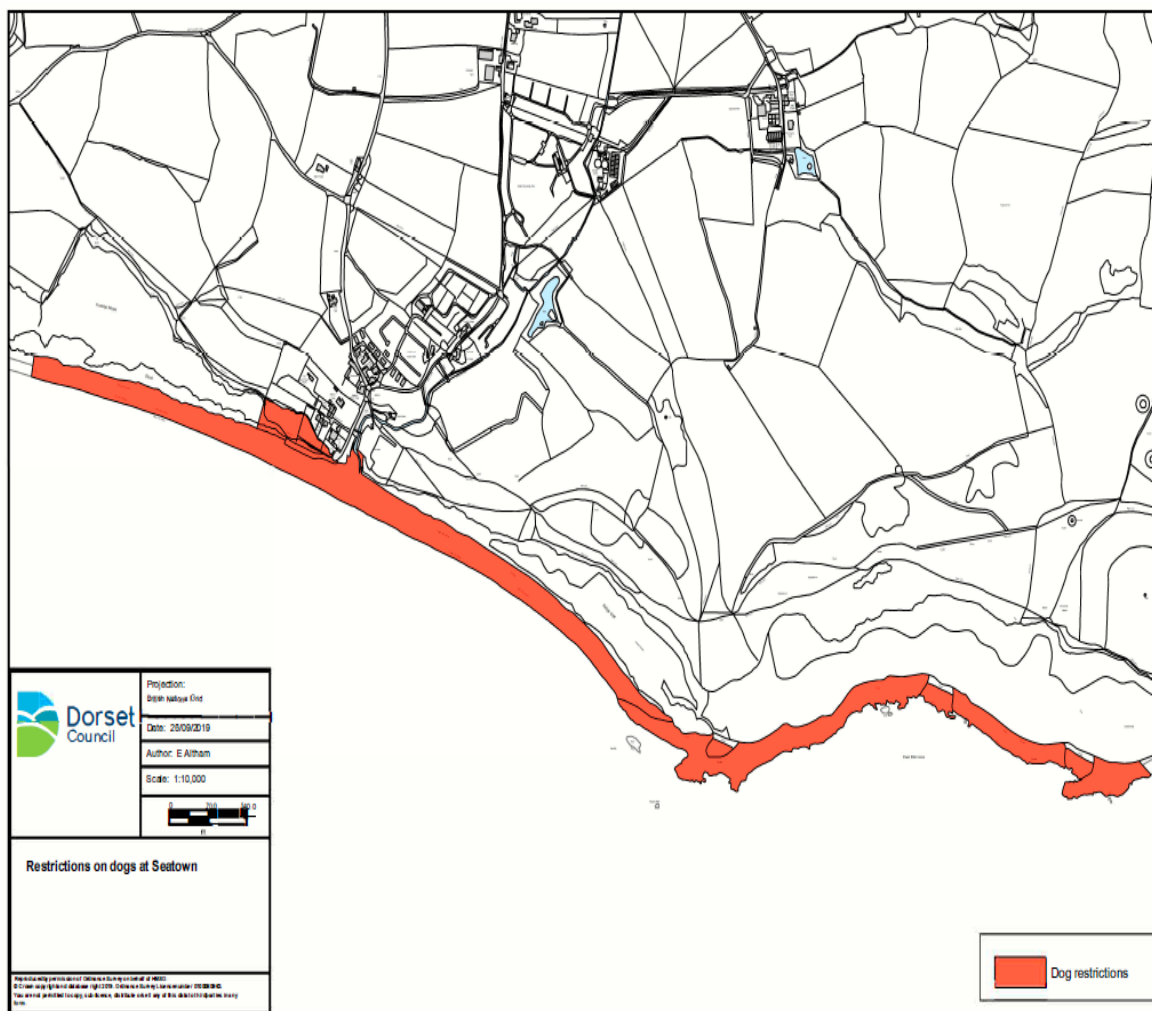
Map 3 Front Town Beach Lyme Regis



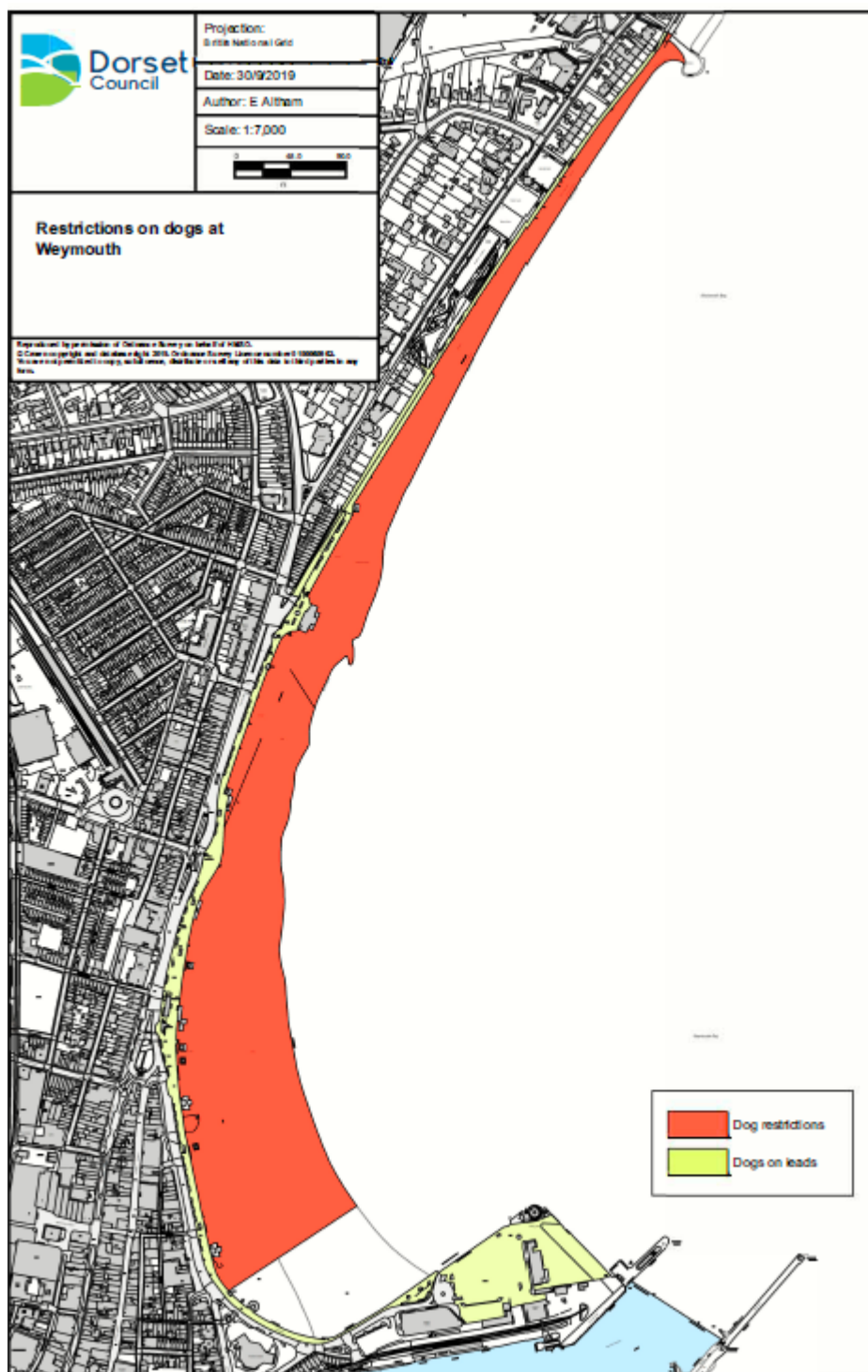
Map 4 – East and West Beach West Bay



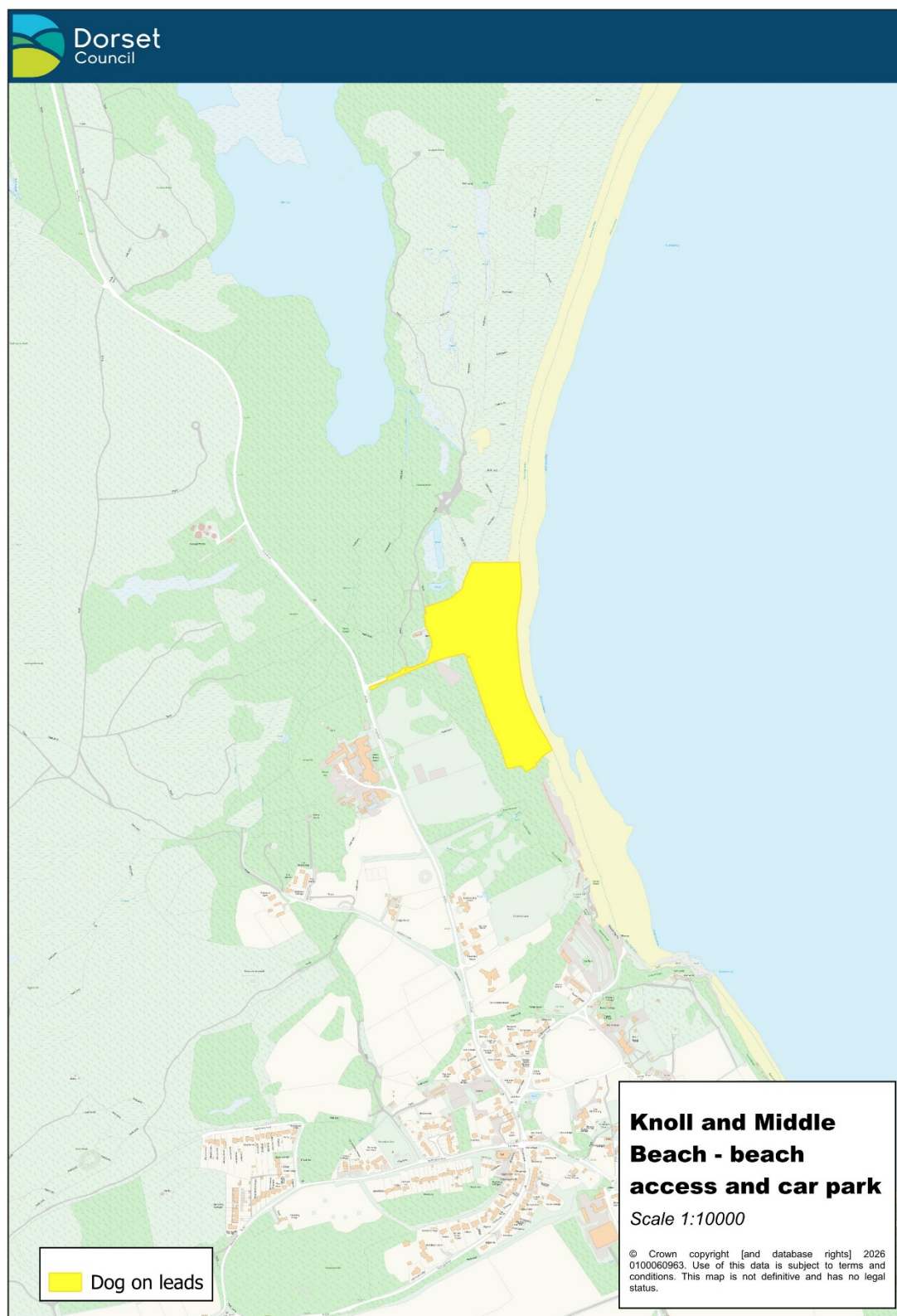
Map 5 - Seatown Beach, Chideock



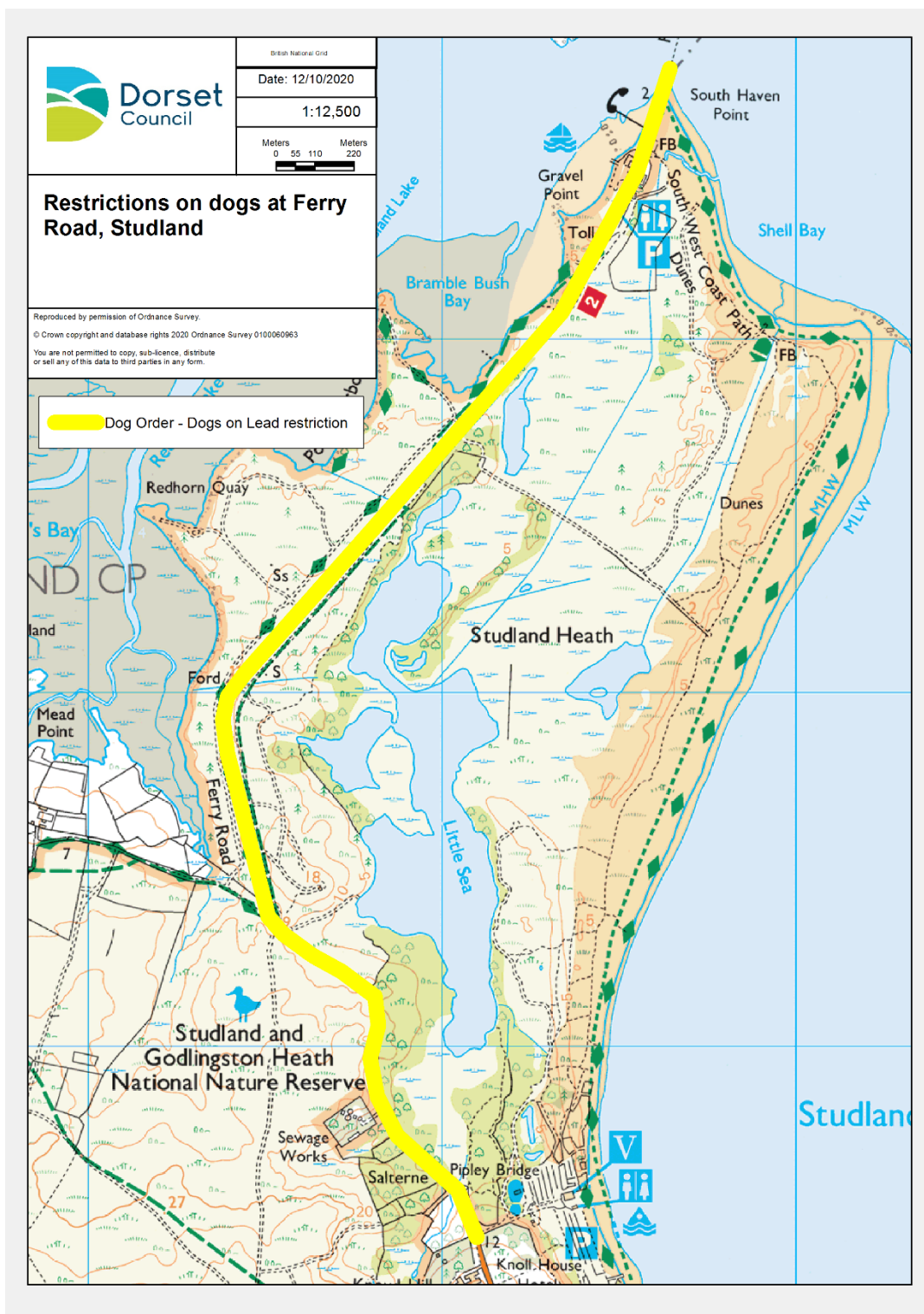
Map 6 - Weymouth Central Beach



Map 7 Access to South Beach, Studland



Map 8 Ferry Road and access points to beach



Map 9 Studland Beaches



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Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) Template

Before completing the EQIA please have a look at the [Dorset Council style guide](#) and also use the [accessibility checker](#) to make sure your document is easy for people of all abilities to read.

Some key tips

- avoid tables and charts, if possible please provide raw data
- avoid pictures and maps if possible.
- avoid using bold, italics or colour to highlight or stress a point
- when using numbering or bullet points avoid using capitals at the beginning unless the name of something
- date format is dd month yyyy (1 June 2021)
- use clear and simple language
- where you need to use technical terms, abbreviations or acronyms, explain what they mean the first time you use them
- if using hyperlinks, make sure the link text describes where the link goes rather than 'click here' Please note equality impact assessments are published on the Dorset Council [website](#)

Before completing this form, please refer to the [supporting guidance](#). The aim of an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) is to consider the equality implications of your policy, strategy, project or service on different groups of people including employees of Dorset Council, residents and users of our services and to consider if there are ways to proactively advance equality.

Where further guidance is needed, please contact the Inclusion Champion or the [Diversity & Inclusion Officer](#).

1. Initial information

Name of the policy, project, strategy, project or service being assessed:

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

2. Is this a

New Order

3. This is for both internal and external stakeholders

4. Please provide a brief overview of its 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 and the updated guidance conferred by the Equality and Human Rights Commission in 2024- Assistance dogs: a guide for all businesses.

5. Please provide the background to this proposal?

This Dog Related Public Spaces Protection Order 2027 provides 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 exist – 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 1st January 2027 to 31st December 2029, after which there will be a further statutory review.

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

Evidence gathering and engagement

6. What sources of data, evidence or research has been used for this assessment? (e.g. national statistics, employee data):

We have collected data from the following sources:

- [Census 21](#) (ONS/NOMIS)
- State of Dorset 2025 [Topic Data - Dorset Council](#)
- [English indices of deprivation 2025 - GOV.UK](#)
- A review of the easing of the restrictions at Front Town Beach Lyme Regis over the winter period (September 2024). No noticeable increase in public safety or significant dog-related welfare concerns were identified.
- Dorset Council Complaint Data
- Previous consultation for superseded Orders has taken place with a range of organisations.
 - 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

The information received from the organisations has been consistent over time, and it was considered that, as there has been no substantial change to the nature of maintaining animal welfare or equality requirements, a very limited stakeholder engagement was required in drafting the current EqIA, namely Dorset Police, Dorset Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner, Town and Parish Councils and other relevant landowners.

7. What did this tell you?

The reports identify Dorset as having one of the oldest populations among unitary authorities in England, with approximately 31% of residents aged 65 and over. While Dorset's overall population has grown only modestly, the ageing profile of the population is likely to result in a greater proportion of residents experiencing reduced mobility, sensory impairments, long-term health conditions and disabilities. This has implications for accessibility and the design of public spaces.

Whilst most stakeholders did not raise concerns, Dorset Council receives communications from a small group of residents regarding accessibility issues on both Weymouth and Lyme Regis beaches due to the dog-exclusion requirement.

The drafting of the Order therefore considers accessibility requirements, applying exemptions where appropriate.

There is no data on the number of dog owners or on the number of specifically accredited assistance dogs, but it is appreciated that their needs must be considered as part of this process.

This is a legal requirement of the Equality Act 2010, Dorset Council's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan 2024 to 2027 and our Public Sector Equality Duty.

The Equality & Human Rights Commission (EHRC) defines 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 a dog to wear a harness or jacket to identify it as an assistance dog, nor does it require owners to carry paperwork for that purpose.

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

(Source: Assistance dogs: A guide for businesses and service providers, EHRC updated 2024) Assistance dogs: a guide for all businesses| EHRC

Officers will be instructed on our approach to enforcement when dealing with assistance dogs or persons claiming exemption due to mobility issues or other impairments. Where the disability is hidden, and the dog is not liveried, the person will be approached and reasonable enquiry made.

8. Who have you engaged and consulted with as part of this assessment?

Residents were consulted as part of the Public Consultation exercise together with official stakeholders namely Dorset Police, Dorset Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner, Town and Parish Councils and other relevant landowners.

9. Is further information needed to help inform decision making?

Not at this stage but will keep under constant review

Is an 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	• the proposal eliminates discrimination, advances equality of opportunity and/or fosters good relations with protected groups.
Negative Impact	• protected characteristic group(s) could be disadvantaged or discriminated against
Neutral Impact	• no change/ no assessed significant impact of protected characteristic groups
Unclear	• not enough data/evidence has been collected to make an informed decision.

Impacts on who or what?	Choose impact	How
Age	Negative and positive	Negative - Increased age may lead to reduced mobility and mental impairment. Challenges may be faced with picking up dog faeces, restraining dogs on lead, walking to exercise areas and walking on gradients, unstable or slippery ground. Mitigation can be found in the Summary of Impacts below. Positive - The benefit is the reduction in the risk of public exposure to harmful bacteria and parasites, particularly to children, as widely recognised in the field of public health. Dog faeces contain pathogens which poses a risk through hand to mouth contact. Children are recognised at greater risk because they are more likely

Impacts on who or what?	Choose impact	How
		to play on the ground and transfer the faeces to their mouths.
Disability	Negative and Positive	Negative - Persons with impaired vision, reduced mobility or heightened anxiety to the extent that an assistance dog is required should not be discriminated by the restrictions contained within the Order. Mitigation can be found in Summary of Impacts below. Positive -Dog interaction can be alarming for some with heightened anxieties, and the council has received feedback to say that exclusion areas or dogs kept on leads is considered a positive requirement.
Care Experience	Neutral	This protected characteristic is considered not to be impacted by this proposal. Dorset Council has not received any queries regarding this cohort and is not aware of any evidence of impacts.
Gender reassignment and Gender Identity	Neutral	This protected characteristic is considered not to be impacted by this proposal. Dorset Council has not received any queries regarding this cohort and is not aware of any evidence of impacts.
Marriage or civil partnership	Neutral	This protected characteristic is considered not to be impacted by this proposal. Dorset Council has not received any queries regarding this cohort and is not aware of any evidence of impacts.
Pregnancy and maternity	Neutral	This protected characteristic is considered not to be impacted by this proposal. Dorset Council has not received any queries regarding this cohort and is not aware of any evidence of impacts.
	Neutral	Clear unambiguous signage is used, suitably located and in

Impacts on who or what?	Choose impact	How
Race and Ethnicity		adequate numbers using internationally recognised symbols. A simple, clear font of a suitable size is used. The provision of information on website and leaflets which are easy to understand. DC website also has Read Speak facility. Officers use translation apps on mobile phones, such as google translate.
Religion and belief	Neutral	This protected characteristic is considered not to be impacted by this proposal. Dorset Council has not received any queries regarding this cohort and is not aware of any evidence of impacts.
Sex (consider men and women)	Neutral	This protected characteristic is considered not to be impacted by this proposal. Dorset Council has not received any queries regarding this cohort and is not aware of any evidence of impacts.
Sexual orientation	Neutral	This protected characteristic is considered not to be impacted by this proposal. Dorset Council has not received any queries regarding this cohort and is not aware of any evidence of impacts.
People with caring responsibilities	Neutral	This protected characteristic is considered not to be impacted by this proposal. Dorset Council has not received any queries regarding this cohort and is not aware of any evidence of impacts.
Rural isolation	Neutral	It's likely that in rural areas there will be more places to exercise dogs, and this can be a social activity.
Socio-economic deprivation	Neutral	This protected characteristic is considered not to be impacted by this proposal. Dorset Council has not received any queries regarding this cohort and is not aware of any evidence of impacts.
	Neutral	This protected characteristic is considered not to be impacted by this proposal. Dorset Council has

Impacts on who or what?	Choose impact	How
Single parents		not received any queries regarding this cohort and is not aware of any evidence of impacts.
Armed forces communities	Neutral	This protected characteristic is considered not to be impacted by this proposal. Dorset Council has not received any queries regarding this cohort and is not aware of any evidence of impacts.

Please provide a summary of the impacts:

The introduction of the dog-related PSPO identifies both positive and negative impacts as highlighted above.

The following mitigations are in place

- The Order will exempt people who require a dog to provide assistance. The definition of an assistance dog is described in the main body of the EqlA. The dog forms an auxiliary aid that helps the individual maintain independence and access public spaces, services and facilities on an equal basis with others.
- Persons may apply to DC for an exemption if unable to pick up their dog faeces. This can be by email. Unless the officer judges otherwise, the dog owner/walker will be required to provide medical evidence as part of the application that they have a significant disability that prevents them from picking up the fouling. This will include their inability to use specialist equipment for the said purpose. If an exemption is granted, the council will provide a photo ID letter to that effect, which can be shown if approached by an officer.
- For those who do not require an assistance dog but are unsteady on their feet, the council will make every effort to ensure suitable alternative exercise areas are available, including discussions with the landowner where the land is not owned by the council.
- Concerns have been raised regarding the summer dog exclusion on Lyme Regis Front Town Beach. These relate to the unsuitability of the adjacent beaches for exercising dogs for persons with limited mobility. The Town Council states that it has accessibility matting on Monmouth beach, with level access from the nearby car park. There are inland green spaces where dogs can be exercised off lead. This issue will be monitored and reviewed.

The approach to enforcement has been revised and is now included in the Officer instruction programme.

Action Plan

Summarise any actions required as a result of this EqlA.

Issue	Action to be taken	Person(s) responsible	Date to be completed by
Officer Training	Training undertaken annually. The training will cover the requirements of the PSPO and the enforcement approach.	Team Leader	01.01.2027
Lyme Regis Front Beach	The suitability of alternative locations to Front Town beach for dog owners with limited mobility.	Service Manager	1.04.2027

Sign Off

Officer completing this EqlA: Janet Moore

Officers involved in completing the EqlA: Janet Moore; Rebecca Buck

Date of completion:21.09.2026

Version Number: v3

EqlA review date: 1.04.2027

Equality Lead Sign Off: James Palfreman- Kay 22.09.2026

Next Steps:

- the EqlA will be reviewed by Communications and Engagement and if in agreement, your EqlA will be signed off.
- if not, we will get in touch to chat further about the EqlA, to get a better understanding.
- EqlA authors are responsible to ensuring any actions in the action plan are implemented.

Please send to [Diversity and Inclusion Officer](#)

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5013 responses

84 % Local Residents
15% Visitors
2% Other



62% were dog owners

In favour

On lead with
Max lead length 83%

Dog on lead
by direction 96 %

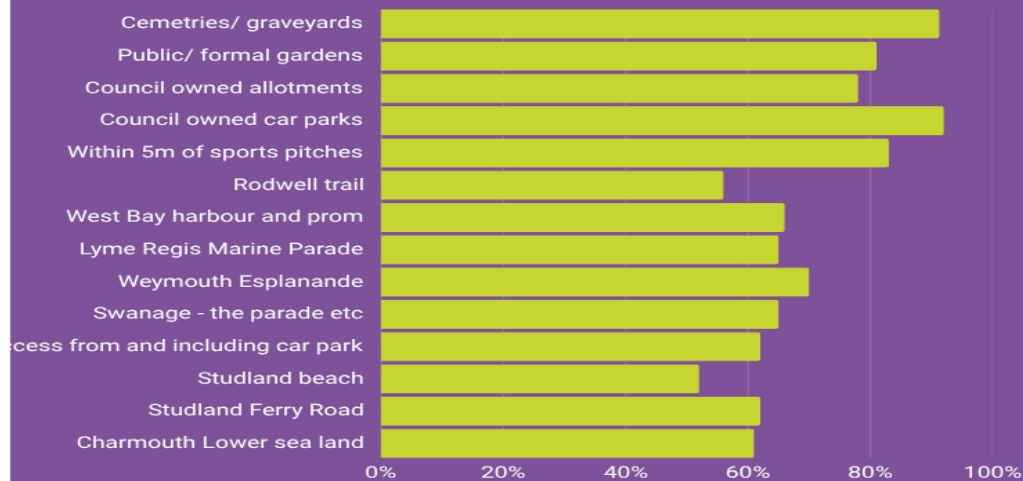
In favour beaches restriction

1 May - 30 Sept 44%

Different time 35%

Of that 35% - 42%
wanted a restriction 8am - 7pm

In favour of dogs on lead at all times

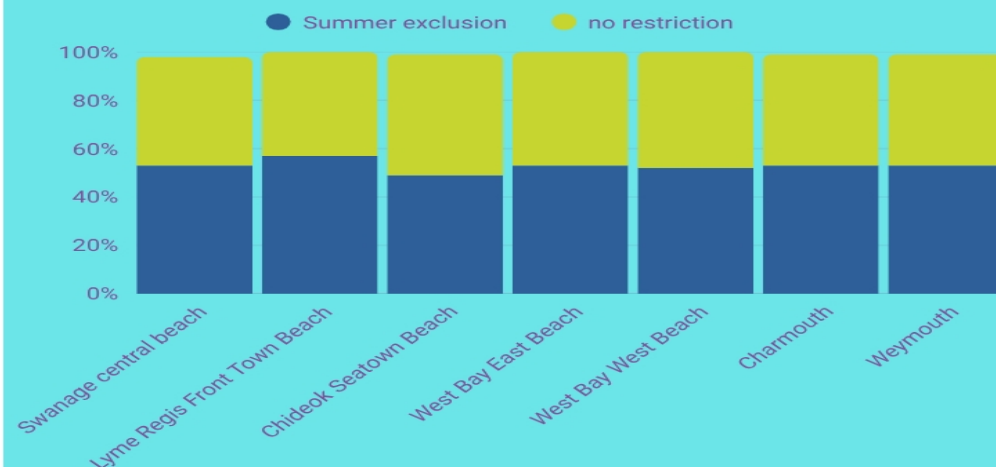


In favour of dog exclusion areas

Certain recreational public areas 61%

Marked sports pitches 61%

In favour of



Numbers have been rounded to the nearest full number (up or down).
For exact numbers please refer to the report

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Place and Resources Overview Committee Draft Work Programme

19 November 2026

Report Title	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officers / Members	Other Information
RoWIP - Rights of Way Improvement Plan	Following the full public consultation of this document, the committee will have the opportunity to comment on draft RoWIP.	Russell Goff, Greenspace Manager Cllr Jack Jeanes, Place Services	Pre-consultation discussion, may return to Place and Resources Overview in July post consultation ahead of final decision by Cabinet
Parking Standards Guidance for Developers and Travel Plan Guidance for Developers		Daniel Washington- Transport Planner, Development	
Community Conversation feedback	Following the community conversation work with town and parish councils the findings will be shared along with next steps.	Nel Stoneham- Delivery Lead, Community. Matt Bell, Cabinet Member for Public Health, Prevention & Communities	

Informal work of the committee:

Date	Topic	Format	Councillors	Lead Officers	Other Information
19 May 2026	Dog Related Public Spaces Protection Order	Briefing	All committee invited	Janet Moore, Service Manager Environmental Protection	Pre consultation conversation,
18 June 2026	RoWIP - Rights of Way Improvement Plan	Briefing	All committee invited	Russell Goff, Greenspace Manager	Pre consultation conversation

Work being and to be scoped-

Community working- unblocking town and parish councils. Work to be informed by the meeting 19 November 2026 (proposed by Cllr Jesperson)
Market towns (scoping feasibility underway- links to the above)

The Cabinet Forward Plan - November 2026 to February 2027 (Publication date – 6 OCTOBER 2026)

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 Members and Portfolios 2026/27

Nick Ireland	Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate, Communications, Performance & Safeguarding
Richard Biggs	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Economic Growth & Strategic Assets
Jack Jeanes	Place Services
Shane Bartlett	Planning and Planning Enforcement
Simon Clifford	Resources & Finance
Matt Bell	Public Health, Prevention & Communities
Steve Robinson	Adult Social Care & Health
Clare Sutton	Children, Families & Education
Gill Taylor	Housing & Homelessness
Ben Wilson	Transformation, Customer & Workforce

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
2026					

October 2026

Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open This is the Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership's Annual Report 2025/26 detailing the Partnership's activity from April 2025-March 2026 and is for Cabinet's information.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 6 Oct 2026		Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Education	<i>Megan Cameron-Brown, Head of Quality Assurance and Partnerships megan.cameron-brown@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director - Children's Services (Paul Dempsey)</i>
Temporary Accommodation Policies Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open These provides the oversight regarding factors that need to be taken into consideration when securing temporary accommodation for households. The policies include: Voids Placement and Sourcing	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 6 Oct 2026		Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness	<i>Sharon Attwater, Head of Housing sharon.attwater@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director - Housing, Prevention and Communities (Sam Crowe)</i>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
Transforming Public Buses and Community Transport Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open A comprehensive review of the Transformation Management Office's (TMO) public buses and community transport options and opportunities. The review sets out the case for change, explores a range of delivery options, and identifies a preferred approach to be taken forward.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 6 Oct 2026		Cabinet Member for Place Services	<i>Owen Clark, Strategic and Policy Team Manager</i> owen.clark@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk <i>Executive Director - Economy and Environment (Jan Britton)</i>
Re-procurement - Enforcement Agent Provision Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open Dorset Council re-procurement of a council wide contract provision for the engagement of required enforcement agent provisions.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 6 Oct 2026		Cabinet Member for Resources and Finance	<i>Katie Hale, Head of Revenues and Benefits</i> katie.hale@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk <i>Executive Director - Modernisation and Customer Delivery (Lisa Cotton)</i>
Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre Rollback Scheme (Hensleigh House Acquisition) Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Part exempt The Cabinet Report requires a decision on the proposal to use the Environment Agency 'Coastal Transition Accelerator Programme' (CTAP) external funding, to acquire the 'Hensleigh House' property in Charmouth as a future relocation site for the Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre (CHCC), a community asset projected to be lost to coastal erosion by 2055.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 6 Oct 2026		Cabinet Member for Place Services	<i>Jack Wiltshire, Corporate Director for Highways and Engineering</i> jack.wiltshire@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk <i>Executive Director - Economy and Environment (Jan Britton)</i>

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Mampitts Community Hub Progress Update Key Decision - No Public Access - Open Report providing an update on the delivery of the Mampitts Community Hub, Shaftesbury against the funding award milestones set by Dorset Council Cabinet on 9 October 2026 and 15 October 2024.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 6 Oct 2026		Cabinet Member for Planning and Planning Enforcement	<i>Andrew Galpin, Infrastructure & Delivery Planning Manager</i> <i>andrew.galpin@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director - Economy and Environment (Jan Britton)</i>
Parking Review and Strategy Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open Consider the Parking Strategy for Dorset Council.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 6 Oct 2026	Place and Resources Overview Committee 9 Jul 2026	Cabinet Member for Place Services	<i>David Rosselli, Transport & Parking Strategy Lead</i> <i>david.rosselli@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> , <i>Jack Wiltshire, Corporate Director for Highways and Engineering</i> <i>jack.wiltshire@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director - Economy and Environment (Jan Britton)</i>
Dorset Community Safety Plan 2026 - 2029 Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open New statutory three-year community safety plan for the Dorset Council area. The plan has been written and agreed by the Council and partners through the Dorset Community Safety Partnership and now requires formal adoption by Dorset Council.	Decision Maker Dorset Council	Decision Date 22 Oct 2026	Cabinet 6 Oct 2026 People and Health Overview Committee 21 Sep 2026	Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness	<i>Andy Frost, Service Manager for Community Safety</i> <i>andy.frost@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director - Housing, Prevention and Communities (Sam Crowe)</i>

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November 2026					
September 2026 (period 6) financial management report 26/27 Key Decision - No Public Access - Open To consider the period 6 financial management report 2026/27.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 10 Nov 2026		Cabinet Member for Resources and Finance	<i>Sean Cremer, Director - Resources (Section 151 Officer)</i> <i>sean.cremer@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Sian Hedger, Deputy s151 Officer</i> <i>sian.hedger@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Director - Resources (Section 151 Officer)</i>
Dog Related Public Space Protection Order 2027 Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open A Cabinet decision is required whether to approve the New Order, following recommendations report from the Place and Resources Overview Committee in Oct 2026.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 10 Nov 2026	Place and Resources Overview Committee 1 Oct 2026	Cabinet Member for Public Health, Prevention & Communities	<i>Janet Moore, Service Manager for Environmental Protection</i> <i>Janet.Moore@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director - Housing, Prevention and Communities (Sam Crowe)</i>
Transformation Update Key Decision - No Public Access - Open Update on transformation portfolio delivery, benefits realisation, portfolio performance and investment position.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 10 Nov 2026		Cabinet Member for Transformation, Customer & Workforce	<i>Nina Coakley, Head of Transformation and Design</i> <i>nina.coakley@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director - Modernisation and Customer Delivery (Lisa Cotton)</i>

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Shillingstone Parish Neighbourhood Plan Review Key Decision - No Public Access - Open Item relating to “making (adoption) of the neighbourhood plan review following receipt of the examiner’s report.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 10 Nov 2026		Cabinet Member for Planning and Planning Enforcement	<i>Ed Gerry, Community Planning Manager</i> ed.gerry@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk <i>Executive Director - Economy and Environment (Jan Britton)</i>
Care Dorset Annual Performance Report Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open To receive and note the Care Dorset Annual Performance Report.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 10 Nov 2026		Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Health	<i>Lindsey Watson, Senior Democratic and Governance Officer</i> lindsey.watson@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk <i>Director - Adult Social Care (Julia Ingram)</i>
Dorset Council - Procurement of Hotel and Guest House Managing Agents Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Part exempt Report seeking approval to award the contract for the management of Dorset Council Hotel and Guest Houses following the recent procurement.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 10 Nov 2026		Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Economic Growth & Strategic Assets	<i>Julian Wain, Strategic Property Advisor</i> Julian.wain@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk <i>Executive Director - Economy and Environment (Jan Britton)</i>
December 2026					

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
Review of Financial Assessment and Care Contributions Policy Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open The policy was due to be reviewed and to update the policy in line with some legal challenges to the Care Act 2014 since its implementation. In doing so we have also amalgamated the Financial Assessment and Care Contributions policy and the Deferred Payment Agreement Policy and the two impact significantly on each other.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 8 Dec 2026	People and Health Overview Committee 2 Nov 2026	Cabinet Member for Resources and Finance, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Health, Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate, Communications, Performance & Safeguarding	<i>Nicola Fowler, Financial Assessments Team Manager nicola.fowler@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Director - Resources (Section 151 Officer)</i>
Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open To consider the adoption of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 8 Dec 2026	Place and Resources Overview Committee 19 Nov 2026	Cabinet Member for Place Services	<i>Russell Goff, Senior Ranger russell.goff@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director - Economy and Environment (Jan Britton)</i>
Mid year performance update Key Decision - No Public Access - Open To provide an update on mid-year progress in council plan delivery and broader organisational health.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 8 Dec 2026		Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate, Communications, Performance & Safeguarding	<i>Liz Crocker, Head of Strategy liz.crocker@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Chris Heighway, Performance and Analytics Team Manager chris.leighway@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Chief Executive</i>

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Adult Directorate CQC Inspection Findings and Improvement Plan Key Decision - No Public Access - Open To provide Cabinet with an overview of the recent CQC inspection of Adult Services and the directorates ambitions for improvement.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 8 Dec 2026	People and Health Overview Committee 30 Nov 2026	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Health	<i>Amy-Jane White, Quality Assurance and Programme Lead amy-jane.white@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Director - Adult Social Care (Julia Ingram)</i>
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Crisis and Resilience Fund Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open The policy to back up the Crisis and Resilience Fund Governance.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 2 Feb 2027		Cabinet Member for Public Health, Prevention & Communities	<i>Laura Cornette, Business Partner - Communities and Partnerships</i> <i>Laura.cornette@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director - Modernisation and Customer Delivery (Lisa Cotton)</i>
December 2026 Quarter 3 financial management plan 2026/2027 Key Decision - No Public Access - Open To consider the Quarter 3 financial management plan 2026/27.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 2 Feb 2027		Cabinet Member for Resources and Finance	<i>Sean Cremer, Director - Resources (Section 151 Officer)</i> <i>sean.cremer@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Sian Hedger, Deputy s151 Officer</i> <i>sian.hedger@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Director - Resources (Section 151 Officer)</i>

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Budget & Medium-term financial plan strategy report (MTFP) Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open To consider the medium Term Financial (MTFP) and budget strategy.	Decision Maker Dorset Council	Decision Date 11 Feb 2027	Cabinet 2 Feb 2027	Cabinet Member for Resources and Finance	<i>Sean Cremer, Director - Resources (Section 151 Officer)</i> <i>sean.cremer@dorsetcouncil .gov.uk, Sian Hedger, Deputy s151 Officer</i> <i>sian.hedger@dorsetcouncil. gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer</i>

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.