

Consultation on Proposed Dog Related Public Spaces Protection Order

The intent of the Dog Related Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) is to tackle any irresponsible dog ownership which is detrimental to the local community's quality of life so that everyone can use and enjoy public spaces. The Order provides clarity for dog owners and non-owners alike about controls on public spaces across the Dorset Council area. As the Order is of a restrictive nature, it is important to ensure any restrictions are proportionate and consistent across the Dorset Council area. 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 December 2023 and Dorset Council is seeking the views of the public on the contents of the next PSPO which will run from 1st January 2024 until the 31st December 2026.

The outcome of the consultation may see changes to the previous Order dependent upon the views expressed. Councillors will make the final decision on the controls to be included in the new Order, having reviewed the feedback received during the consultation.

The views of residents, visitors and businesses are therefore very important, and a period of consultation will run for just over 10 weeks finishing at 4.30pm on Friday 25th August 2023.

To have your say, please complete this short survey, it should take about 15 minutes or less for the 35 questions related to the proposal and a few questions 'about you'. There is a general comments box in the last section of the survey where you can mention any other matter relevant to this PSPO renewal. Results will be published on the Dorset Council Website after the closing date.

A report including the findings from the consultation will be presented to the Place and Resources Overview Committee on the 5th October 2023. A final report together with a draft Order will then be presented to Cabinet in November for their approval.

Information on the current PSPO including the listed exemptions is available to view at:

[Dog Related Public Spaces Protection Orders \(PSPO\) - Dorset Council](#)

Questions follow on the next page.

Section 1: About You

Q1. Do you own a dog?

- Yes
- No

Q2a. Are you answering this survey as...?

- A resident of Dorset
- A visitor to Dorset
- A Councilor within Dorset
- A business operator
- A representative of an organisation (e.g. police) - Please tell us which organisation

Q2b. Is this an official response?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please give your name – Open text box

Q3. What is the postcode for where you live?

Section 2: Dogs on Beaches

Dog Fouling

Q4. The current PSPO requires the clearing up and appropriate disposal of dog fouling in public spaces.

Do you think this should be retained?

- Yes
- No

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

Maximum lead length

Q5. The current PSPO requires a dog to be on a lead, either by direction or when in a specific area. In these situations, and locations, the maximum lead length is two meters (six feet, six inches) to ensure control of a dog and to protect pedestrians, other dogs, and cyclists.

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

- Yes
- No

Dogs on lead 'by direction'

Q6. The dogs on lead 'by direction' requirement allows certain authorised officers, such as Dorset Council Animal Welfare and Dog Control officers, to require a dog be put on a lead when in any public open space if there is a safety risk to another animal or people nearby.

Should this requirement be retained?

- Yes
- No

Dogs on leads

Q7. The current PSPO names areas where dogs are required to be kept on a lead at all times. These include specific roads, parks, gardens and other open spaces.

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

	Restriction to be retained	No restriction	Don't know
Municipal cemeteries & graveyards, where dogs are permitted	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Public/formal gardens where dogs are permitted	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Council - owned allotments where dogs are permitted	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Council owned car parks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Within 5m of marked sports pitches	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
And at these specific locations			
The Rodwell Trail, Weymouth			
West Bay Harbour Walk and promenade (as shown on Map in yellow for West Bay)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Marine Parade and Cart Road, and stair/footpath leading from Charmouth Road Car Park to Church Beach and the associated Sea Wall, Lyme Regis (as shown on Map in yellow for Lyme Regis)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The Esplanade, Weymouth (as shown on map in yellow for Weymouth)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The Parade, and associated roads leading to The Parade and the beach, Swanage (as shown on Map in yellow for Swanage)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Access to Studland Beach from the car park, including the car park and staircases leading on to the beach, Studland (as shown on Map in yellow for Studland)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Shell Beach, Studland (as shown on map in yellow for Shell Beach)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
During 1 st May to 30th September at Knoll beach	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Dog Exclusion Areas

Recreation areas and Marked Sports Pitches:

Q8. The current PSPO excludes dogs from public areas which are clearly marked ‘No dogs’ (or words/symbols to that effect). These areas are skateboard parks, tennis and basketball courts, bowling and putting greens, enclosed play parks, sporting or recreational facilities and athletics tracks.

Would you like to see this continued?

- Yes - I think dogs should be excluded from all of these areas
- No – I think dogs should be kept on a lead but not excluded
- No - I think there should be no restrictions

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

Q9. The current PSPO excludes dogs from marked sports pitches which are clearly marked with ‘No dogs’ (or words/symbols to that effect).

Would you like to see this retained?

- Yes – I think dogs should be excluded from these areas at all times
- No – I think dogs should only be excluded when the sports pitch is in use
- No – I think dogs should only be excluded during the playing season
- No – I think there should be no exclusions

Beaches in the area of Dorset Council

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

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

Q10. Do you agree with the continuation of a consistent period for these specified beaches?

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

Q11. As you think it should be a different period, please select a different time-frame restrictions should apply to.

- the beginning of the Dorset Council Spring Term School Holiday and the end of the Dorset Council Summer Term School holidays
- after 08:00 and before 19:00 (1st May to 30th September)

Specific Beaches

NEXT SECTION - ONLY SELECT WHICH BEACHES YOU WANT TO COMMENT ON. No other beaches are affected by this PSPO.

Pick off this list

- Swanage (Central Beach);
- Lyme Regis (Front Town Beach);
- Seatown Beach, Chideock;
- West Bay Beaches;
- West Beach Charmouth;
- Weymouth (Central) Beach;

Central Beach Swanage (see attached map)

The current Order prohibits dogs from Central Beach during a specified summer period.

Q12. Would you like this control retained?

- Yes
- No

Front Town Beach, Lyme Regis (see attached map)

The current Order prohibits dogs from Front Town Beach during specified summer period.

Q13. Would you like this control retained?

- Yes
- No

Q14. Dogs must be on lead from the 1st October to the 30th April in this area of the beach. Do you agree?

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

Seatown Beach, Chideock (see attached map)

The current Order prohibits dogs from Seatown Beach during specified summer period.

Q15. Would you like this control retained?

- Yes
- No

West Bay Beaches (East and West - see attached map)

Q16. The existing Order stipulates dogs are prohibited from East and West Bay Beaches during specified summer period.

Would you like this control retained?

- Yes
- No

Charmouth Beaches (see attached map)

Q17. The existing Order stipulates dogs are prohibited from West Beach during specified summer months.

Would you like this control retained?

- Yes
- No

Weymouth (Central) Beach (see attached map)

Q18. Weymouth beach has a permanent dog exercise area at the pavilion end where dogs are permitted all year round.

Would you like this retained?

- Yes
- No

Q18b. If no, how would you change the exercise area?

Appendix A

- Enlarge
- Reduce
- Remove
- Relocate

If enlarging or relocating, please provide further comments in the box

Q19. The current Order requires dogs to be excluded from the area between the marked exercise area (pavilion end of the beach) and Greenhill Groyne during specified summer period.

Would you like this control retained?

- Yes
- No

General Comments

Q20. If you have any additional comments about the proposed PSPO that are not addressed in this survey, please comment in the box below.

Free text box

Demographic questions

If you are representing an organisation you do not need to answer the following questions.

So that we can see how different people may be affected by the proposals, we would be grateful if you could complete a few questions about yourself. These questions are optional.

Q21. Are you...?

- Male
- Female
- Non binary
- Prefer not to say

Q22. The Equality Act 2010 describes a person as disabled if they have a longstanding physical or mental condition that has lasted or is likely to last 12 months; and this condition has a substantial adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. People with some conditions (cancer, multiple sclerosis and HIV/AIDS for example) are considered to be disabled from the point that they are diagnosed.

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

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

Q23. Which age group do you belong to?

- Under 18
- 19 - 24
- 25 - 34
- 35 - 44
- 45 - 54
- 55 - 64
- 65 or over
- Prefer not to say

Q24. Which of the following best describes your ethnic origin?

Asian or Asian British

- Indian
- Pakistani
- Bangladeshi
- Chinese
- Any other Asian background (please specify)

Black, Black British, Caribbean or African

- Caribbean
- African
- Any other Black, Black British, or Caribbean background (please specify)

Mixed or multiple ethnic groups

- White and Black Caribbean
- White and Black African
- White and Asian
- Any other Mixed or multiple ethnic background (please specify)

White

- English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British
- Irish
- Gypsy or Irish Traveller
- Roma

Appendix A

- Any other White background (please specify)

Other ethnic group

- Arab

Other ethnic group - (please specify)

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this survey. Please click 'Submit' below to send us your response.

The results will be used to guide councilors' decision making for PSPOs relating to dog control across the Dorset Council area.

Results will be published on the consultation tracker after the closing date.