

PSPO Dog Control Consultation Analysis.2023 - draft

Summary

A total of 374 people accessed the campaign which ran from 10th November to 9th December 2023 of that 81 responded online and 311 people were aware, informed but chose not to comment. We had one response from a statutory body - Essex Police, who stated that they support the renewal of the PSPO for Dog Control. The consultation include a survey with questions and a free text box for further comments and the Public Space Protection Order which was available to download or view online, which 26 used that option.

The consultation was promoted across social media and was available on the Councils interactive consultation portal <https://yoursay.southend.gov.uk/> it was also made available in a hardcopy format if requested.

The overall consensus from those responding is that they strongly support and understand what the Council is trying to achieve and do see that a PSPO is required to be renewed to cover existing provisions for dog control.

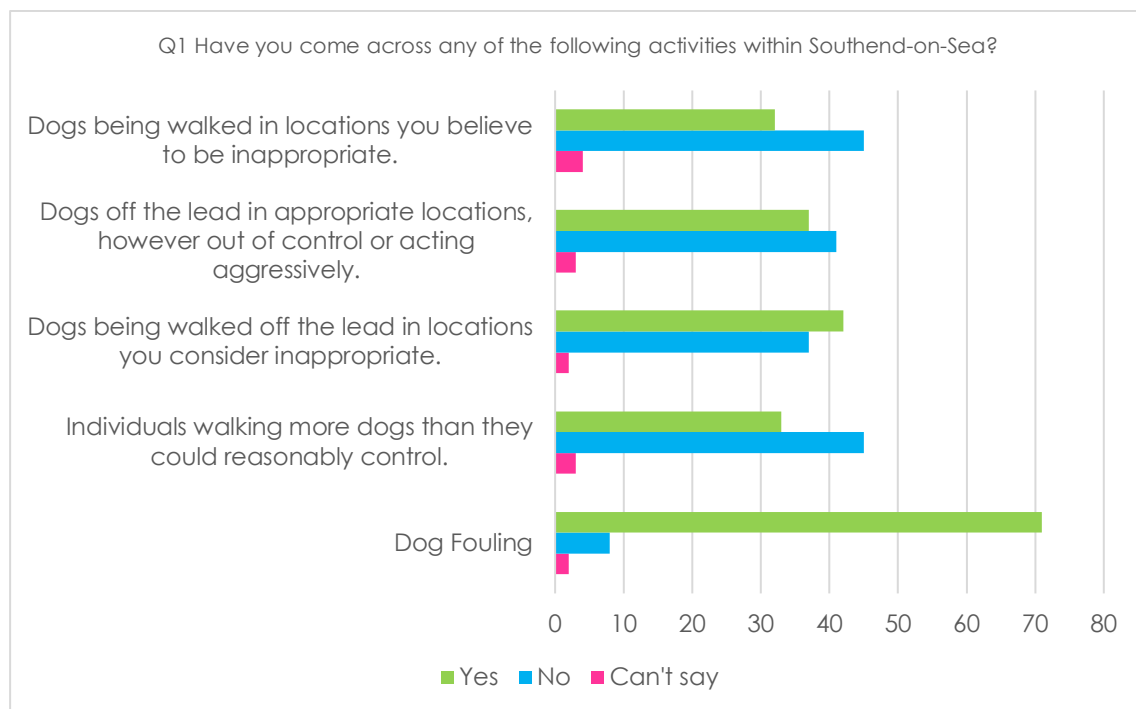
Dog Fouling was the biggest issue throughout the town with over 84% stating they have come across it, with a high percentage stating it had a detrimental impact on the quality of life around the town.

Some of the individual comments received identified the challenge on how it is to be enforced and monitored once the PSPO is adopted. There was a concern regarding owners who are not in control dogs, being off leads. There were many comments both positive and negative relating to access to the beaches for dogs outside the current restrictions.

Full Breakdown of questions

1. Have you come across any of the following activities within Southend-on-Sea?

- Dog Fouling
- Individuals walking more dogs than they could reasonably control.
- Dogs being walked off the lead in locations you consider inappropriate.
- Dogs off the lead in appropriate locations, however out of control or acting aggressively.
- Dogs being walked in locations you believe to be inappropriate.



This was a multi-response question and of those responding Dog fouling seem to be the biggest issue with 88% having come across dog fouling on the street, 52% of respondents didn't think that dogs were being walked in inappropriate locations and 41% didn't think that individuals were walking more dogs than they could reasonable control.

2. If you have experienced any other issues regarding the behaviour of dogs and dog owners in public areas within Southend-on-Sea

This was an open text response with 35 individuals responding, majority of experienced irresponsible owners or owners that had no control of their dog. **Please see Appendix one for a full list of responses*

3. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding the necessity of the potential dog control PSPO?

- A. I believe a PSPO is necessary to deal with issues regarding dog control within Southend-on-Sea
- B. I believe the previous dog control orders adequately addressed key issues within Southend-on-Sea.

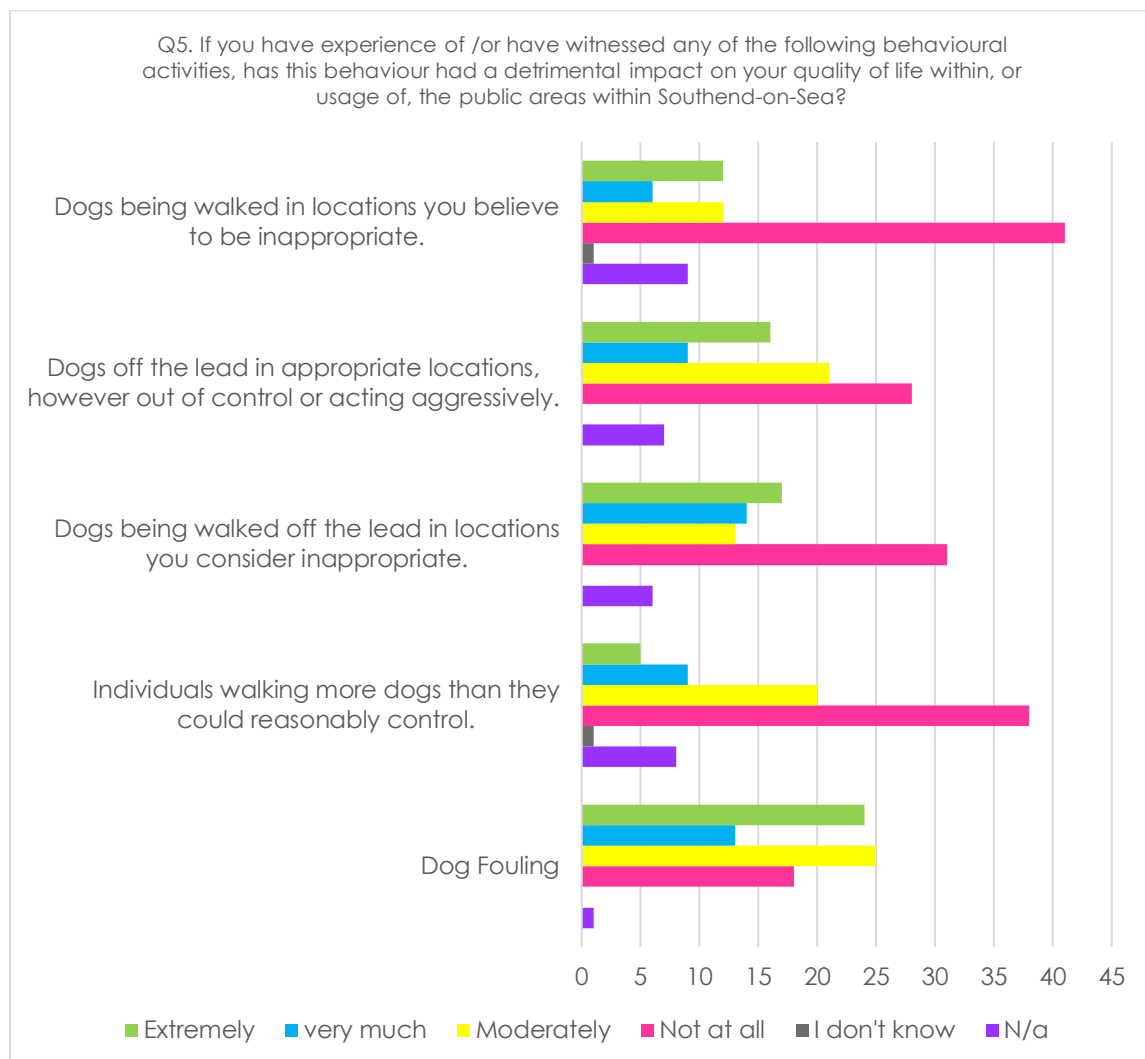


This was a single response question the overall majority agreed with the statement A with 48% strongly agreeing, but only 7% strongly agreeing with statement B. Most responses disagreed with Statement B.

4. Please explain your response* to question 3

This was an open text response with 81 individuals responding, the main comments identified were irresponsible dog owner, not looking after or being in control of their dog and the lack of monitoring and enforcement and not enough deterrent. **Please see Appendix one for a full list of comments received.*

5. If you have experience of /or have witnessed any of the following behavioural activities, has this behaviour had a detrimental impact on your quality of life within, or usage of, the public areas within Southend-on-Sea?
- Dog Fouling
 - Individuals walking more dogs than they could reasonably control.
 - Dogs being walked off the lead in locations you consider inappropriate.
 - Dogs off the lead in appropriate locations, however out of control or acting aggressively.
 - Dogs being walked in locations you believe to be inappropriate.

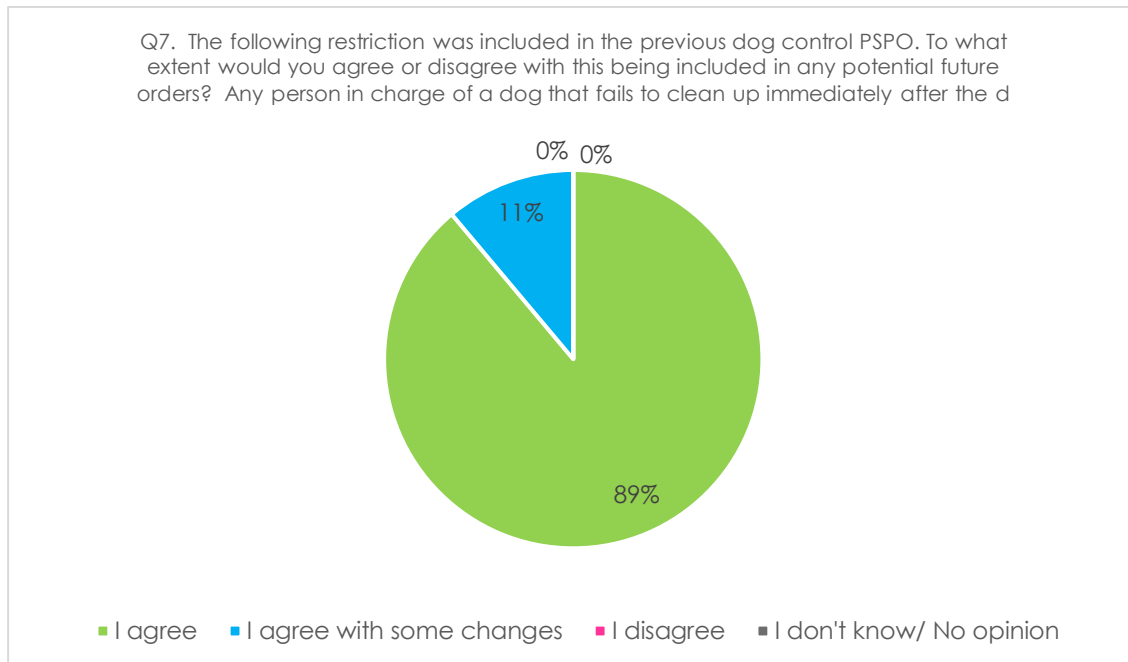


This was a single response to each statement 46% stated that dog fouling had an extreme/very much detrimental impact on quality of life. Of the other statements most identified that it had not a detrimental impact in public areas around the town.

6. Do you have an additional comments* in relation to question 5

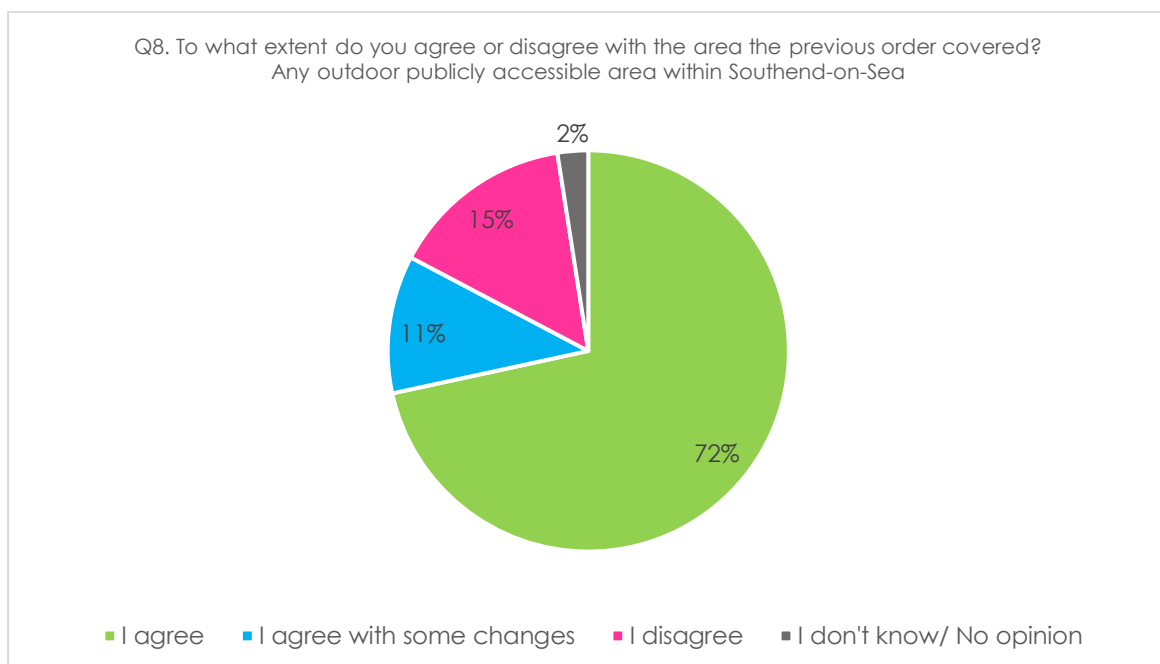
This was an open text response with 37 individuals responding, most had witnessed lack of responsibility from dog owners, allowing their dogs to run off the lead and 'jump up' at people wherever they are. Other responses referred to the beaches and there were both those who wanted a complete ban all year for dogs to those that would like a dedicated beach area for dogs. **Please see Appendix one for a full list of comments received.*

7. The following restriction was included in the previous dog control order. To what extent would you agree or disagree with this being included in any potential future orders?
- a. Any person in charge of a dog that fails to clean up immediately after the dog defecates shall be guilty of an offence.



This is a single response question, overall 89% agree that anyone who fails to clean up after their dog should be guilty of a criminal offence

8. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the area the previous order covered?
- b. Any outdoor publicly accessible area within Southend-on-Sea.



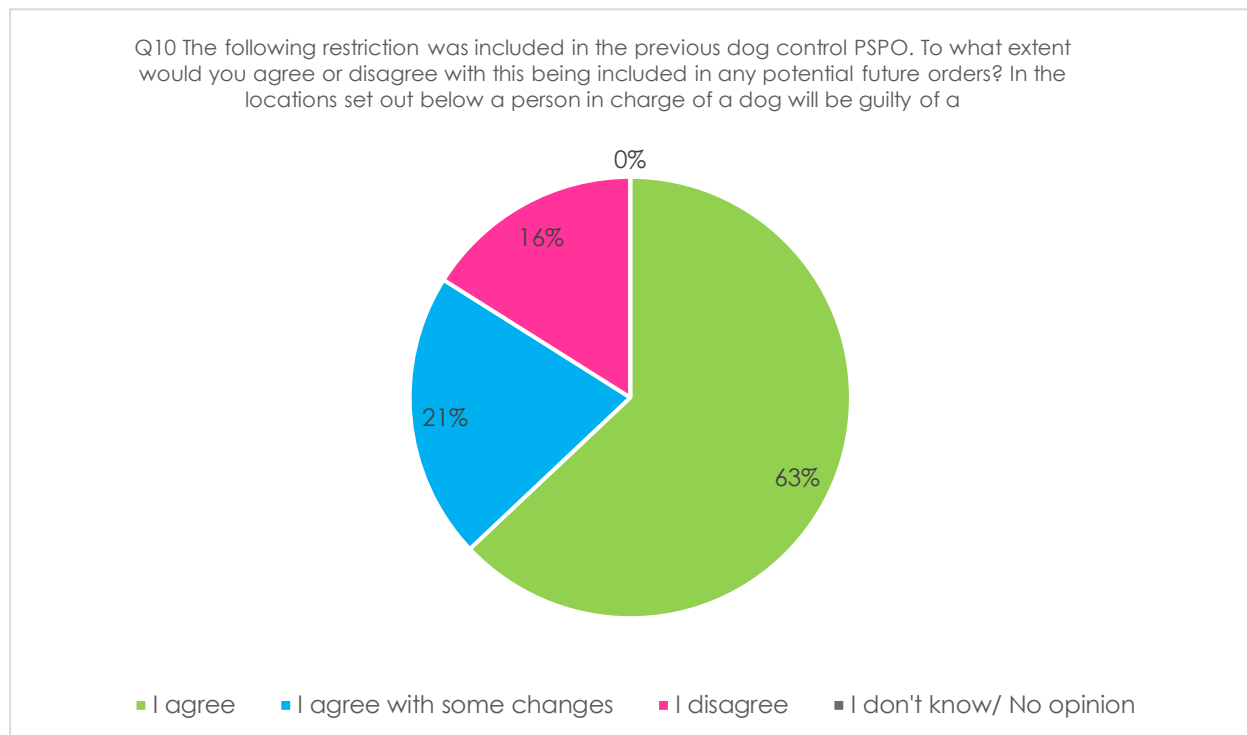
72% agreed with the previous area covered with 11% agreeing but with some changes

9. Do you have any additional comments* or suggested changes to these areas

This was an open response question which related to Q8, 23 individuals responded, there was a mixed response with those agreeing that dogs should be allowed on an area of the beach, with others requesting that there should be no dogs allowed on the beaches any time of year. Another key comment was about the lack of dog bins and dog owners clearing up after their dog. **Please see Appendix one for a full list of comments received).*

10. The following restriction was included in the previous dog control order. To what extent would you agree or disagree with this being included in any potential future orders?

in the locations set out below* a person in charge of a dog will be guilty of an offence if they do not keep the dog on a lead. ** Areas Included - All roads and adjacent pavements and verges All allotments All promenades. The following formal gardens: Chalkwell Park Formal Gardens, Southchurch Park Formal Gardens, Churchill Gardens, Leigh Library Gardens, Prittlewell Square, Southchurch Hall Gardens, The Shrubbery, Priory Park Foundation area, walled garden and Centenary garden. The following bowling greens: Belfairs Park Bowling Greens, Chalkwell Esplanade Bowling Greens, Cavendish Bowling Green, Eastwood Park Bowling Green, Priory Bowling Greens, Southchurch Park Bowling Green, Shoebury Park Bowling Green, Green Areas along beaches (during 1st May to 30th September). The following cemeteries and church yards: Sutton Road Cemetery, North Road Burial Ground, Leigh Cemetery, London Road, Crematorium and memorial grounds, St. Mary's Church Holy Trinity Church, St. Clements Churchyard, St. John's Churchyard.*

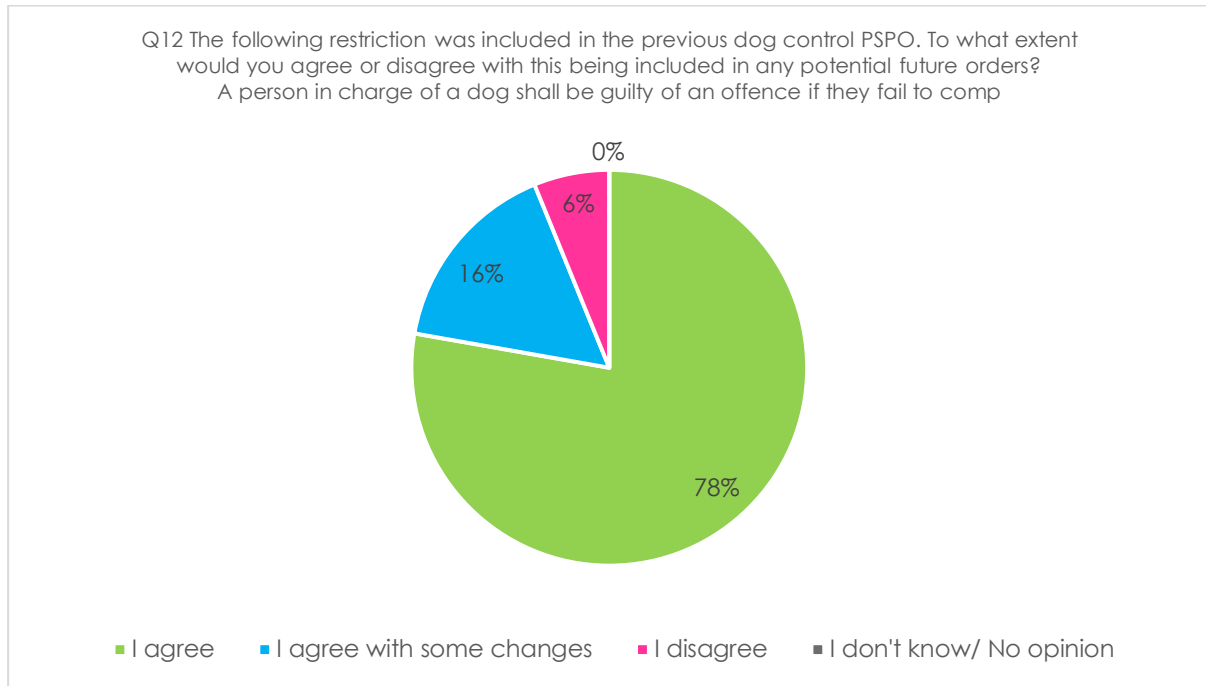


Of those people responding overall 63% of those agree with the area covered by the previous order, with 21% would like some changes only 16% disagreed with the restriction.

11. If you have any additional comments or suggested changes to these areas, please tell Us

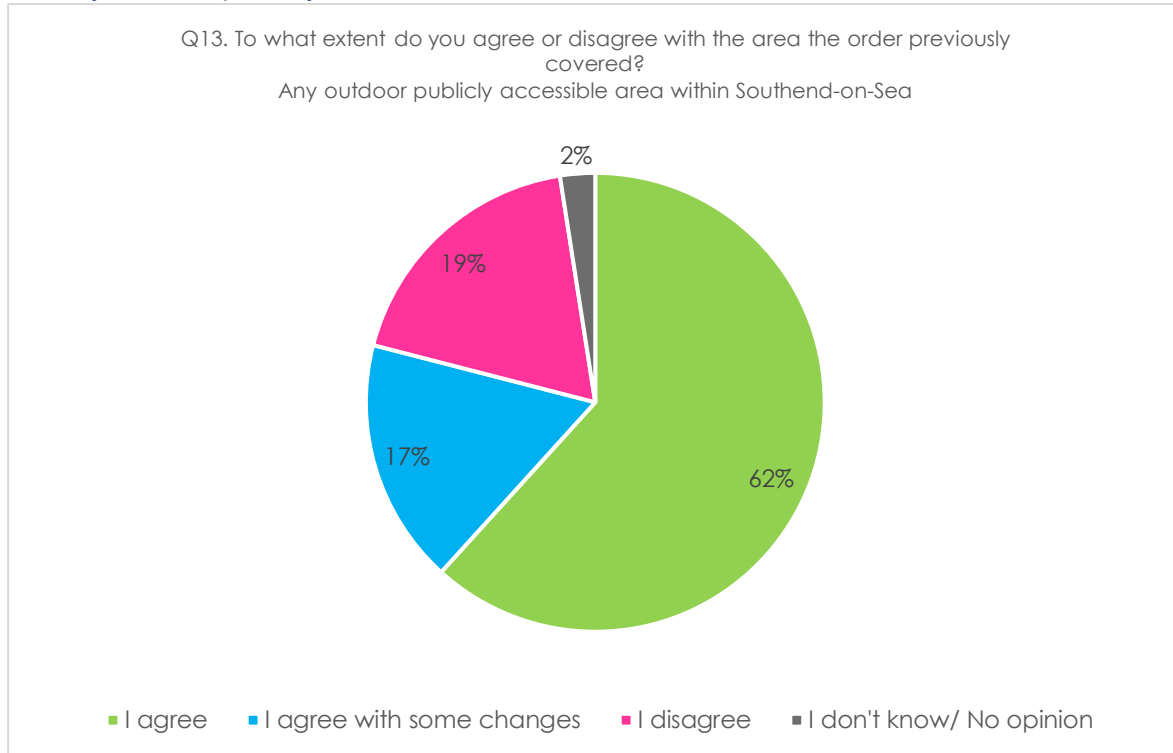
This was an open response that requested additional comments in relation to question 10. There was a list giving details of the areas identified. 30 individual comments were received and most agreed with the areas identified that there should be dogs on a lead at all times. Some also requested this this was not criminalised as some dogs are well enough behaved to be off the lead. Additional areas were requested which included beaches/ seafront area and some additional golf courses and cricket field.

12. The following restriction was included in the previous dog control order. To what extent would you agree or disagree with this being included in any potential future orders? A person in charge of a dog shall be guilty of an offence if they fail to comply with a direction to put and keep a dog on a lead from an authorised officer**. **Authorised officer refers to any police officer, community safety officer, or any other officer authorised by the Council for this purpose.



Of those responding the overall majority agreed that a person should be guilty of an offence if they fail to put a dog on the lead if requested to do so by a Community Safety Officer, Police Officer or authorised officer of the Borough Council. Only 6% of those responded disagreed with 16% agreeing with some changes.

13. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the area the order previously covered?
Any outdoor publicly accessible area within Southend-on-Sea



62% of those responding agree with the area the order previously covered with 17% agreeing with some changes closely followed by 19% of respondents disagreeing with the area.

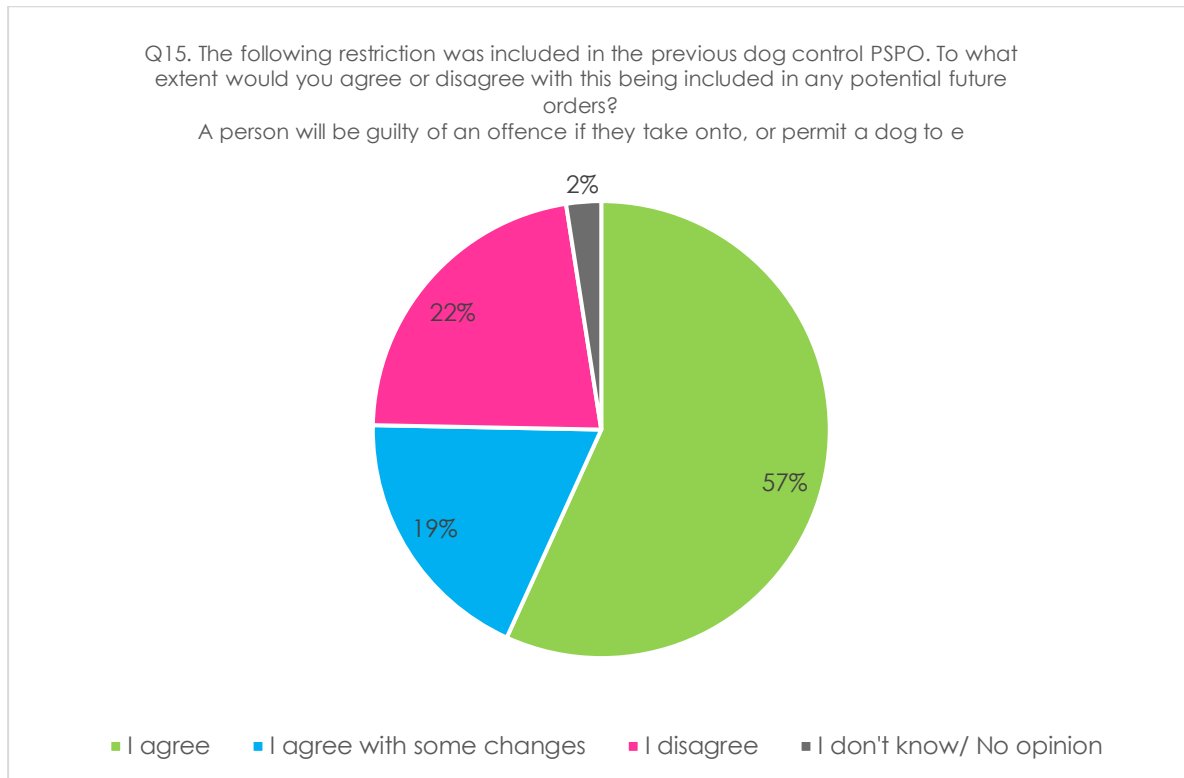
14. Any additional comments* or changes, please tell us

16 people responded to this with the consensus that there should be dedicated dog friendly areas identified somewhere along the foreshore and in parks. And more monitoring and education for those that ignore the rules. * Please see Appendix one for all comments received.

15. The following restriction was included in the previous dog control order. To what extent would you agree or disagree with this being included in any potential future orders?

A person will be guilty of an offence if they take onto, or permit a dog to enter and remain on, any of the land set out below.

**All children's play areas within public parks within Southend-on-Sea. The following sports areas: Belfairs Park Tennis Courts, Bonchurch Park Tennis Courts, Chalkwell Park Tennis Courts, Cavendish Park Tennis and Basketball Courts, Priory Park Tennis Courts, Southchurch Park Tennis Courts, Shoebury Park Tennis Courts, Warner's Park- All Weather Pitch, Milton Road Gardens Tennis Courts, Cluny Square 5 a side pitch. All beaches out to the mean low water mark between 1st May and 30th September.*



Of those responding 57% agreed with this statement with 19% agreeing with some changes, followed by 22% disagreeing completely.

16. If you have any additional changes to the areas please tell us

34 people commented on this with most people agreeing that there should be a dedicated dog friendly areas on the beaches and parks included, but again monitoring and enforcement needed to be improved. Other comments included dogs should be allowed on the beach during the summers months early morning and late evening. **Please see Appendix one for full comments*

17. If you have any additional comments* regarding the PSPO - Dog Control please let us know in the space below

22 people added their comments to this area reiterating the issues of irresponsible dog ownership, the benefits of dog friendly beaches and more monitoring and enforcement.

**Please see Appendix one for full list of comments*

Response from Statutory Bodies

We received a response from Essex Police, supporting the renewal of the PSPO.

Comment

Essex Police supports the proposal to renew the Dog Control Public Space Protection Order as it gives additional on the spot powers to address irresponsible dog ownership and the detrimental affect the identified behaviours has on the community.

There is no evidence to suggest the current PSPO is not fit for purpose and therefore support a renewal of it under its current terms.