Appendix B - Comments Disagreeing with the PSPO at Aberavon Beach

- 1. Unless you have specific evidence that justifies this creeping increase of regulation In our lives, I would say the proposal is wholly unsupportable and indefensible.
- 2. Dogs are not the problem. Yes, a few people fail to clean up dog mess. You have the power to fine them. Do not punish all dogs and their owners because of a few bad owners. Will you consider banning all teenagers, for example, because some leave glass bottles and other rubbish on the beach? No. Let's be honest, the weather is sometimes so poor in the summer that it is only dog walkers using the beach and prom and providing custom for local business by sitting outside Remos with their dogs or taking their dogs into the dog friendly Franco's or The Front.
- Some days the weather is awful during the summer and so the beach is deserted and yet no dogs are allowed on the beach.
- 4. Dogs should be allowed on beach during high season but kept on lead on promenade as the size of the area is restricted.
- 5. The current 1st May to 30th September is too long! For most of September there is nobody on the beach during the week.
- 6. Most of year the beach is empty due to the weather, I don't see it being and issue for dogs being allowed on there all year round!
- 7. I think dogs should be allowed on the beach all year around.
- 8. Questions have been written in a biased way against dog walkers. Many dog walkers have told me that the existing ban is far too long, children are in school until mid July and return early September. So I would like to see dogs on the beach July and September.
- 9. I have a disabled daughter and two dogs. Her favourite place to take the dogs is down the beach. In the summer months I would have to take her down the sand dunes where there is a higher chance of coming across some junkies used needles so in the summer months I avoid the beach with my daughter as I know she will get too stressed being there without her dogs, considering I live within 2 mins of the beach it's such a shame she can't enjoy the only decent thing in aberavon.

- 10. Make aberavon beach MORE dog friendly not less. There is a massive call for dog friendly beaches and places for dogs and their family to eat. Why is aberavon going the other way.
- 11. The dog friendly beach is always busier than the other, there are times in the summer that I can't take my dog to the beach because the dog friendly part is full of people, while I'm banned from the practically empty larger beach.
- 12. I believe it is important that dogs are kept on. Leads on the promenade as there is so much traffic on there, walkers, runners, cyclists etc, but I believe the beach should be open to dogs all year.
- 13. We live on aberavan beach front. We cannot walk fsr due to disability and have a child with severe anxiety and is asd, adhd and odd. The dogs we have is for my son to help him. We struggle to leave the house and the only place we can go is the beach. The local authority has closed all the public parks and football pitches so we cannot use those and the only open spaces to walk is the beach. Without the dogs to take out to the beach, we would not leave the house and my sons anxiety would be worse. My partner cannot walk far anf the beach has an easy access for us. If not we wpuld be isolated by our town and council.
- 14. It's people not dogs who are the issue on the beach. I use the beach daily and clean it daily. Fine people for littering and dog mess yes but dogs should be allowed on the beach
- 15. Dogs are permitted on the small beach all year. Despite this being a dog beach this beach gets very crowded with public and the littering and broken glass makes dog walking particularly difficult throughout the summer months. I would urge the council to increase the amount of time dogs can be walked on the main beach not reduce.
- 16. At the moment I am having to take the dog in the car to more open walks up the mountain. The prom is repetitive and my dog pines over going on the sand and in the sea. I would also love to take my shoes off and walk on the sand daily. It's why I moved here. I think responsible dog owners shouldn't be penalised for irresponsible dog owners that don't pick up the mess or allow unfriendly dogs off lead.
- 17. Where else are we going to walk our dogs of the lead in winter the beach is big where people and dogs can go safely

- 18. I suffer with both physical and mental health. My dog and i like the beach and the space. Enough room for everyone. The beach would be empty a lot of the time without dog walkers.
- 19. There are only so many open spaces you can take your dog safely
- 20. The beach is only ever used on warm sunny days during the exclusion time we as dogwalkers use it hail rain or snow. The beach has a nice wide open space when the tide is out therefore you can walk a good way and still be close by.
- 21. As a disabled person and someone who deals with mental health issues, the beach is a daily visit for myself and my dog. When the kids are in school, (the only time we get a break) and when me and the wife are off on the same day, we regularly walk together with the dog. I can't walk to far with my rheumatoid arthritis and this little stroll looking at the waves keeps me and my wife sane. Don't take it away please
- 22. We are fit and active and walk our dog daily 6am every morning. It's empty just how we like it.. we take nothing and leave nothing. Pay full council tax and are banned from a beautiful part of our town.
- 23. I live near the Port Authorities smaller beach. Dogs are welcome all year around. It's important for families to share this space. In 7 years of living here, I have been deeply affected by the rubbish/ drug use etc from human behaviour and never once been affected by any animal visiting the beach. I believe the money used for the dog warden would be more beneficial being spent on patrolling the promenade for dog/ horse fouling. Poop a scooping is a problem on the promenade. I probably don't understand enough of the law, but never thought it was ok for horses to leave poo without owners cleaning it (Tenby town has this policy correct) Thanks for the opportunity to share my thoughts
- 24. I do not believe that the presence of dogs on the beach has any negative impact on local residents visiting the beach, if anything quite the opposite.
- 25. Litter is more than a concern that dogs.
- 26. Sensible dog owners should be aloud to use the beach all year long. You get more mess and disturbance from people drinking and having fires.
- 27. This protection order will stop people from visiting the beach and they will go elsewhere. This will also have an effect on the local businesses serving food and coffee at the beach

- 28. I see much more waste left by humans then any dogs. The mess people leave is hideous these last few years. Fine them!!
- 29. The beach allows my dog to enjoy a good run whilst I can walk at my own pace and not have to worry. It is also a flat area which is ideal for my medical condition
- 30. A disabled family member benefits greatly from being able to walk short distances on flat ground. This helps their condition not to deteriorate. The main beach is perfect for this and being encouraged to join dog walks is an incentive to keep this consistent year round. Dog ban means only the less accessible areas can be accessed for dog walking which are not suitable for disabled family member. This has a negative impact on their health.
- 31. My husband and I work and use this time to relax and spend time with our dogs and children out in the fresh air.
- 32. Animal rights
- 33. The dog restricted area removes all easily accessible access to the beach. There are no straps or ramps for wheelchairs to the dunes area of the beach. The small beach at the steelwork end of Aberavon beach has similar problems with elderly or disabled gaining access to the beach.
- 34. Well behaved dogs which remain under the dog owners control do not need leads.
- 35. If a person is physically disabled it makes it harder for them well behaved dogs \Im
- 36. I can't walk far from the car. I have a disability which means my well behaved dogs can have a run off lead on the beach whilst I sit when necessary.
- 37. Dogs should be allowed on the beach all year round. Horses are allowed so why not dogs
- 38. My brother in law is physically and mentally disabled, our dogs are therapy dogs for him, without them he would struggle on the promenade and beach due to the volume of persons present
- 39. People love walking in this area, it should be assessable to all the public
- 40. Ok, so a few owners don't pick up after their dog. Fine them. But weigh this small inconvenience up against the impact it has on people's mental health seeing our

beautiful beach and not being able to go on it because they have their dog. We haven't all got time to walk our dog then go back out for another walk on our own.

- 41. The beach is big enough for dogs and humans
- 42. Us dog walkers use the beach irrelevant of time of year, we are the regular users but are punished when a time of year comes. The beach is empty most days if not for dog walkers except on sunny days but again are punished. Dog walkers are the regular users, why punish them? Why not put a flag up on very busy sunny days and flag means dogs to be kept on lead due to the amount of people. But very sunny hot days wise dog walkers won't use the beach it's too hot. Please make a wise decision, think of the regular local users. But any time of year there should be a fine for people leaving dog waste on prom, beach or anywhere it's disgusting
- 43. Dogs should be allowed on the beach during off peak times 1/5-30/9. It's far easier to clean dog mess from the sand firstly and secondly the prom becomes overly crowded with big walkers and cyclists
- 44. There should be a greater focus on those irresponsible dog owners that don't pick up after their dogs. Also more focus on the people who litter and cause more mess on the beach than responsible dog owners ever would.
- 45. Please re-allow dogs all year. Mans best friend.
- 46. Are you serious? You are worried about a few people who may fail to pick up after their pet when eater companies are pumping sewage into the sea. Don't like dogs, do you?
- 47. You're asking why because the Council are completely clueless. This entire suggestion is bafflingly ludicrous. Outside of peak summer temperatures of July/August dog walkers are the majority down the beach. This entire thing should be scrapped and the funds used to stop the actual ASB from humans. I see no public protection order is being consulted on for the 'boy racers' who make the entire area a no go in the evenings, or those dealing and experimenting with drugs along the prom. I'd agree that irresponsible owners leave dog mess on the prom which is incredibly annoying and disgusting but for the most part this is the most narrow minded activity to pursue when there are so many more important issues ongoing.
- 48. More difficult to walk the dog by Scarlett Avenue due to access to the beach compared with rest of the beach.

- 49. My daughter has ASD/ADHD/ODD and cannot understand why dogs cannot go on the beach or prom without a lead. This causes meltdowns and as such I have stopped walking to the beach during these times, which is awful because we live so close on Victoria Road!!
- 50. Everyone needs space to enjoy, if they have dogs, it's also good socialising for dogs as well as humans, stop racism against dogs and spaces, mental health for all species.
- 51. I'm a pensioner and have mobility issues and excluding my dog and therefore myself from the central part of the beach means I have no access to any of the cafes or facilities.
- 52. There should be a greater focus on those irresponsible dog owners that don't pick up after their dogs. Also more focus on the people who litter and cause more mess on the beach than responsible dog owners ever would.
- 53. More difficult to walk the dog by Scarlett Avenue due to access to the beach compared with rest of the beach.
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- 55. Everyone needs space to enjoy, if they have dogs, it's also good socialising for dogs as well as humans, stop racism against dogs and spaces, mental health for all species.
- 56. I have seen the public cause more trouble on the prom compared to what an on lead dog does.
- 57. The beach is huge and almost always mostly empty, even in high summer, so there is plenty of room for everyone. Dog fouling is always an offence whether on or off the beach so enforce that law rather than restrict public access
- 58. Twice in the last week my son (2 Years of age) has been jumped on my large dogs on the beach due to owners inability to keep their dogs under control. It is an accident waiting to happen and as local resident, I am now unable to allow my son to play on the beach in case something similar happens again. I am a dog owner myself and am more than happy for my dog to be able to access the small beach and dunes end of the beach to

ensure the main section of the beach is reserved for people to enjoy the amenities too. The way it currently stands, dogs take president

- 59. Just enforce the dog fouling. That is the biggest issue when when walking
- 60. Dogs leave far less mess than humans on the beach.
- 61. The beach is large enough to accommodate dogs and people, including the period proposed
- 62. The patrol on the promenade to reduce dog fouling would be money better spent. Sometimes a walk along there becomes all about dodging the dogs mess.
- 63. The beach is for everyone. Dogs should be allowed year round. Stop trying to charge for parking as well.
- 64. There should be a space (in the beach) for dogs during the summer. The weather isn't always good enough for sunbathing but would be ideal for dogs to stretch their legs. Also many families (like ours) have both children and dogs that like to enjoy fun time together
- 65. I think the period is too long. If there is a ban it should be reduced to the school summer holidays. The length of the ban is excessive. Especially in September when the children are in school and the weather isn't so nice. Could it not just be July and Aug?
- 66. Easier access for myself with my dog to get onto the beach with a pram when they are banned between those dates I won't have any access to the beach.
- 67. During the day in the peak of summer the beach is busy, but I have been there SO many times and there has literally been no one on the beach or prom and I still have to struggle down the slope to the bottom of the beach.
- 68. 99% of dogs cause no problems friendly, under control and owners clean up. Can't say
 99% of teenagers don't cause a problem sadly litter, bad language, rowdy behaviour.
 Guess dog owners are a soft target for the council though.
- 69. The less dogs are allowed off leads and the more they are away from areas that children play in the safer everyone will be!
- 70. The only people down the beach and on the prom in the winter are the dog walkers. If the weather is warm dogs don't go out in the middle of the day while the public are enjoying the beach. You will have a lot more tourism if this was allowed
- 71. There is plenty of space for dogs to be on the beach all year round. It also means dog owners children can access the safe part of the sea where the lifeguards patrol.

- 72. Personally, I don't think dogs should necessarily be banned on the beach during high season, as there are plenty of days where the beach is deserted where it would be nice to be able to walk the dog. On busier and hot days I agree maybe they shouldn't be on the beach if they cannot be controlled. I have been to Oxwich on busy days where dogs are allowed and it's never been an issue.
- 73. Absolutely ridiculous that dogs are banned at all but I do agree with lead restrictions. Walking the dogs on the smaller beach or sand dunes is a nightmare in the summer as its so busy and often the times I walk the dog there's no one on the main beach anyway. Plus sick to death of my dog standing on broken glass, dirty nappies among all the other rubbish left during summer months by people. The state of all of the beach early morning before volunteers clean it up is vile. People are a much bigger problem than dog mess.
- 74. I think more focus on not allowing littering would be better than not allowing dogs on the beach. It's already an offence to not pick up dog mess, so allowing dogs onto the beach wouldn't have a negative effect. There's more harm from litter to children and families which is a huge problem. Patrols to fine people who leave litter or don't pick up dog mess would be more beneficial than a blanket ban on dogs.
- 75. There are many beaches in Wales where dogs are allowed all year. It doesn't seem to cause any issues.
- 76. Dogs are not the issue. Littering from groups of teenagers is.
- 77. Humans imposed more problems on the beach than dogs. The mess people leave is awful
- 78. Dogs are a part of people's family and to exclude them would have a detrimental impact upon the health an wellbeing of dog owners and their families
- 79. I regularly visit with my mum who is 71 and it is sometimes not possible to get onto the dog side when the tide is in. The dunes are very unsuitable for anyone who has any health issues, mobility issues, as well as being a bit excluded from sight if you are alone. Also certain breeds or older dogs struggle to walk through the dunes in the heat. Plus myself and many other dog walkers tend to pick up rubbish and sharp object's from the beach which is a benefit as we want to keep our pets safe as well as appreciating the beach all the year round.

- 80. Dogs should be allowed on the beach all year around, people having BBQ's make more mess than dogs. It's a dog owners responsibility to ensure it is kept under control at busier times.
- 81. We need to attract people to out beach not alienate them because they are dog owners. It impacts on small business in the front who rely on regular people who often only go out to walk their pets an have a coffee and catch up.
- 82. I strongly object to the proposed PSPO and would urge the council to reconsider the proposal.
- 83. This proposal will have an adverse impact on disabled dog owners. It may also have an adverse impact on pregnant owners or young mothers who are also dog owners. This proposal will restrict their ability to socialise and to exercise their dogs in a suitable environment. I would like to know what equality assessment has been undertaken and how the council intends for this proposal to comply with its obligations under the Equality Act 2010.
- 84. It is worth noting that the only nuisance I have witnessed on Aberavon beach is that there are people engaging in alcohol consumption, holding barbecues, and playing loud music through large speaker systems. Whilst I would not begrudge these people their enjoyment of the beach, I suggest that the council - if implementing draconian measures to reduce 'nuisance and injury to members of the public' - consider also banning alcohol, barbecues, and music.
- 85. I believe the only time dogs shouldnt be allowed on the beach or promenade is during hot weather when owners should act responsible. Sometimes during summer months, the weather can be bad so there is no reason why dogs should be banned from the beach. When it is raining, people dont sit on the beach even in July!!
- 86. Older family members and those with disabilities should have access to areas to walk their dogs that are flat/relatively flat and close to parking locations.
- 87. I feel safer walking with my dog. I'm sure there are many more assaults recorded than dog incidents. I also feel safer around people at the beach also walking their dogs as I knew they are there for a purpose.
- 88. The businesses would benefit from the visitors with dogs if they were allowed on the beach between may and september. The times I visited during the times when there was inclement weather and there was only dog walkers who are made to stay at one

end of the beach when the rest of the beach is empty just seems entirely unnecessary and given the facts of climate change, we seem to be having more inclement than good weather! Dog walkers are out no matter the weather, sun bathers and beach loungers not so much! More warden presence to deter those who are lazy and not cleaning up after their dogs will hopefully deter those amongst us who are irresponsible owners.

- 89. parents with parkinsons and dementia are not able to come with me when i walk my dog due to the restrictions.
- 90. Let us all enjoy the natural beach, try keeping the drunken parties off there not the dogs!! The dog walkers pick up the rubbish, broken glass etc, use some common sense councilz
- 91. Aberavon beach is very nearby my home and it is one of the few places my dog can go for a walk that allows me good access (car park right beside beach). As a disabled person this is essential and removing/restricting my ability to walk my dog would adversely impact my life and hers by extension. Also, I am likely to be pregnant in the next year and again restricting or removing access will adversely impact me.
- 92. The promenade has easy access for disabled people to walk their dogs safely their pets are their family and they shouldn't be excluded. People litter the beach by having parties leaving bbq etc not dogs!!
- 93. Disabled people have easier parking & able to walk their dogs these are their life line
- 94. Humans make more mess than a dog. Under the terms of the Environmental health Act of 1990 it's the duty of dog owners to clean up after the dog. 80% of humans don't clean up after themselves. Idiotic rules on dogs.
- 95. Dogs should be allowed on the beach throughout the year
- 96. Very difficult to get down to the beach via the sand dunes if the tide is in due to our age and mobility.
- 97. I strongly disagree that dogs are banned from the beach between 1st May to 30th September. In a heatwave, when the beach is packed, I wouldn't entertain taking my dogs to the beach. However, this year for example, the weather was mostly chilly and wet through all of July and August. There were only a handful of people on the entire beach and under these circumstances I would have taken my dogs on the beach. I do, however, agree that on the promenade dogs should be on a lead at all times.

- 98. A shorter restriction juky/aug. Dogs should be on a lead on the promenade but ridiculous to make it an offence. I'm sure you could spend resources more wisely than enforcing dogs being off a lead.
- 99. Autistic daughter likes to walk dog on the beach and doesn't like a change in routine.
 Stop restricting people.
- 100. Because dog walkers should have equal rights to other beach users. It is unfair that we are unable to enjoy the beach at all times of year. I very much feel that dogs should always be on the lead on the promanade and a good compromise could be that they are allowed on the beach itself all year, but have to be kept on a long line during the high season. The blanket ban you have is silly really. In that often times, you can go to the beach in June and it's deserted, but you still can't go down onto the sand.
- 101. The public frequently use the 'dog section' of the beach during all seasons with no apparent issues. Irresponsible dog owners should be specifically targets when leaving dog foul.
- 102. There is no problem with having dogs on the beach during high season.
- 103. A small section of beach close to the pier is rarely used for anything and would be ideal for dog walks all year round
- 104. This proposal is unfair in comparison to people leaving litter on the beach. If this is being enforced then why is littering not being enforced. It is discrimination to to dog owners. The majority of dog owners are responsible and keep there dogs on leads and pick up their mess on the beach. However the site of the beach after a hot day is disgusting. As a local I volunteer to clear up the beach form the aftermath of a weekend and no one is accountable for it. There should be littering signs about fines. next to the dog exclusion signs!!!!! However the truth is the enforcement officers see us as a easier target to deal with rather than some drunken louts on the beach!
- 105. The Kennel Club is the largest organisation in the UK devoted to dog health, welfare, and training. Our objective is to ensure that dogs live healthy, happy lives with responsible owners. We campaign for and advocate on behalf of dogs and their owners and, as part of our external affairs activities, engage with local authorities on issues such as Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs).

The Kennel Club is the only national organisation named by the UK Government as a body that local authorities should consult prior to introducing restrictions on dog

walkers and is considered the leading canine authority on dog access. As such, we would like to highlight the importance of ensuring that PSPOs are necessary and proportionate responses to problems caused by dogs and irresponsible owners. We also believe that it is essential for authorities to balance the interests of dog owners with the interests of other access users.

Response to proposed measures

Seasonal measures

In the case of a seasonal restriction, we encourage the local authority to consider whether a time restriction is an appropriate measure. We have received feedback and evidence which suggests that many beaches are empty in both the early mornings and late evenings, a prime time for many owners to exercise their dogs. Beaches can be an important local resource for owners to ensure that their dog gets their required daily off lead exercise. There is little reason as to why restrictions should be in place during times of the day when the beach is little used, even in the busy season.

Assistance dogs

The Kennel Club welcomes the exemptions proposed in this Order for assistance dogs. We urge the Council to review the Equality and Human Rights Commission's guidance for businesses and service providers when providing any exemptions for those who rely on assistance dogs. The guidance can be viewed here:

https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/assistance-dogs-a-guidefor-all-businesses.pdf

However, we would suggest further consideration of the wording contained within the Order, specifically with reference to 'prescribed charity'. While a proportion of assistance dogs relied upon by disabled people are trained by charities, many are not. A number of reputable assistance dog providers are members of Assistance Dogs UK. This umbrella group currently has eight member organisations, which can be viewed here: http://www.assistancedogs.org.uk/. It is important to note that the membership of Assistance Dogs UK is not a definitive list of all UK assistance dog organisations and may change during the currency of the PSPO. It also does not provide for owner trained assistance dogs.

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We would therefore encourage the Council to allow for some flexibility when considering whether a disabled person's dog is acting as an assistance dog. The Council could consider adopting the definitions of assistance dogs used by Mole Valley District Council, which can be found here:

https://www.molevalley.gov.uk/media/pdf/1/b/83072 - Completed PSPO.pdf or that of Northumberland County Council:

"(4) The term "Assistance Dog" shall mean a dog which has been trained to assist a person with a disability.

(5) The expression "disability" shall have the meaning prescribed in section 6 of the Equality Act 2010 or as may be defined in any subsequent amendment or reenactment of that legislation".

Appropriate signage

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

"cause to be erected on or adjacent to the public place to which the order relates such notice (or notices) as it considers sufficient to draw the attention of any member of the public using that place to -

(i) the fact that the order has been made, extended or varied (as the case may be); and

(ii) the effect of that order being made, extended or varied (as the case may be)." Regarding dog access restrictions, such as a 'Dogs on Lead' Order, on-site signage should clearly state where such restrictions begin and end. This can be achieved with signs that say on one side, for example, 'You are entering [type of area]' and 'You are leaving [type of area]' on the reverse.

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

106. RSPCA Cymru welcomes the opportunity to respond to Neath Port Talbot Council's consultations on the expansion of the proposed Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs). PSPOs provide local authorities with a means of tackling dog-related issues, such as access to public spaces. While RSPCA Cymru understands that local authorities have a duty to improve the communities they serve and protect human health, we

would always urge any council to consider whether PSPOs around dog control are needed to achieve this. PSPOs risk punishing responsible dog owners for the actions of the less responsible, while potentially creating less spaces for dogs to exercise and express theirnatural behaviours. Under the proposed PSPOs, dogs will be excluded from part of Aberavon Beach from May 1 to September 30 every year. An additional PSPO sets out conditions for dogs to be on leads at all times on Aberavon Promenade during the same time period. Exclusion of dogs on Aberavon beach and the requirement for dogs to be on leads on the promenade RSPCA Cymru understands that irresponsible dog ownership can impact the quality of life within local communities - however, we encourage Neath Port Talbot Council to avoid limiting the number of places within the locality where dogs are allowed. Areas such as beaches can provide owners and dog walkers with an appropriate means of allowing dogs to exercise when these spaces are not overly busy. These spaces can prove invaluable to owners, dog walkers and visitors, especially if adequate space is not available nearby. Giving dogs the opportunity to interact with new animals and people in an appropriate place is important in ensuring that a dog is well-socialised. This is particularly important in the development of younger dogs and puppies to ensure they become well-adjusted adults. However, RSPCA Cymru recognises that not all dogs are wellsocialised and some may find other animals or people threatening, therefore not all places will be appropriate for dogs. This is why we are fully supportive of dogs being kept on leads in children's play areas, on school grounds when they accompany those picking children up and in cemeteries when providing comfort to their owners. However, we would encourage a more flexible approach towards dogs being allowed on vast areas of council-owned land that are often empty such as commons, fields, marked sports pitches and beaches. With dogs already excluded from many public places, additional bans and restrictions on places such as beaches will inevitably leave dog owners with even fewer options. An around the clock exclusion of dogs on a large part of Aberavon Beach for almost five months could be considered both restrictive and limiting to responsible owners, especially those with accessibility issues. Because of this, we would consider allowing dogs to be kept on leads on this part of the beach during busy times to be a better proposal than a blanket ban. This is something that has been adopted by some other local authorities which cover beaches in Wales, with

some considering this a sufficient means of tackling dog-related issues in their communities. With regards to the PSPO requiring dogs on leads when walking on Aberavon promenade, we would always call for consideration to be given in terms of whether such an instruction is necessary and needed, especially if there is no risk to the safety of people, the dog themselves or other animals. However, with areas such as promenades having the potential to be extremely busy during the summer months, the proposal to require dogs to be on leads appears to be measured a proportionate in terms of protecting both human and animal welfare. With the promenade located in close vicinity to the area where dogs would be excluded from on Aberavon beach - with the promenade likely to have more people in a smaller space at times - we encourage Neath Port Talbot to consider allowing dogs on-lead on both the promenade and beach these PSPOs cover. With the beach likely to be less busy during certain times of the day, we would also question whether any restrictions should take this into consideration by allowing owners and their dogs access to this part of the beach during certain times of the day, should an on-lead approach not be favourable.