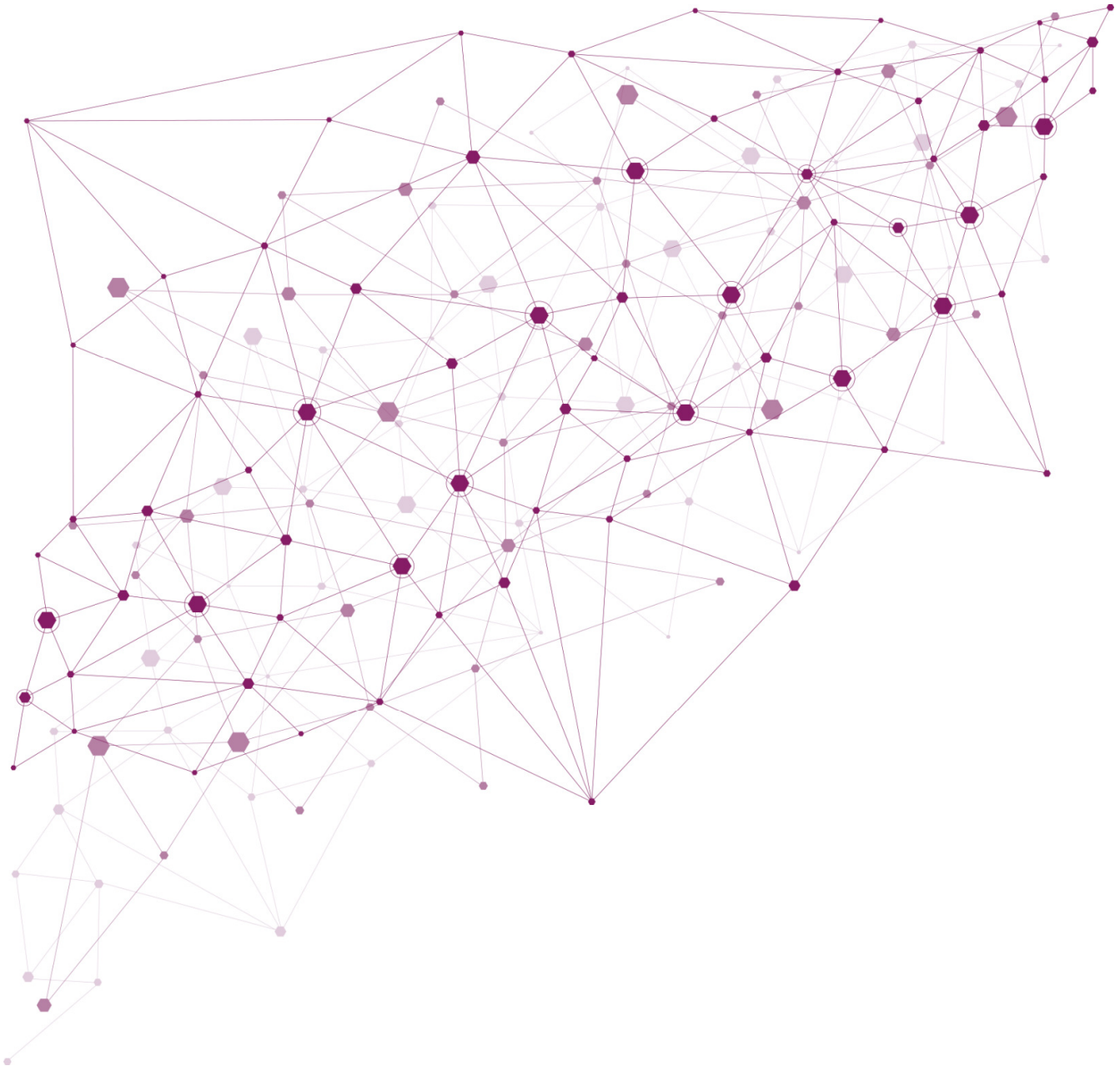


Blackpool Council

Public Space Protection Order Consultation Report - August 2018



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1. Executive summary

Blackpool Council currently operates a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) within the town centre area. This aims to prevent a variety of anti-social behaviour activities and unauthorised soliciting of money from taking place, enforced via staff with the authority to issue fixed penalty notices. Blackpool Council seeks to renew the current PSPO's, extend the area in which these PSPO's are enforced and implement additional PSPOs. The consultation sought out the views of businesses and the public in regards to other issues in Blackpool and the level of agreement with renewing and extending the PSPOs.

- A total of **571** responses were received to this consultation of which **409** were collected via street surveys, **154** through an online consultation and **8** paper responses were received in the post from hardcopies distributed in Blackpool Council's public facing buildings.
- The proportion of respondents who visit the following on a weekly basis was as follows:
 - Town Centre: 59.7%
 - Promenade: 55.3%
 - Beach: 30.0%
- The biggest problem in Blackpool town centre was reported as people loitering around cash machines/shop doorways for the purposes of begging
- Respondents said the biggest problem on Blackpool promenade was people drinking on the street
- The biggest problem reported on Blackpool beach was broken glass on the beach

The consultation found the following proportions of respondents in agreement with each of the proposals:

Proposals to renew and extend PSPOs in town centre and promenade	% of agreement
Prohibiting people loitering around cash machines/shop doorways for the purposes of begging	95.5%
Prohibiting the use of psychoactive substances (ie. spice. Formerly known as legal highs)	95.3%
Prohibiting people drinking alcohol on the street	92.5%
Prohibiting people (including youths) engaging people in card tricks and scams	85.3%
Prohibiting the sale of publications (rag/ gag mags etc) without consent of the authority	78.1%
Prohibiting the sale of lucky charms/heather	73.3%
New promenade PSPO proposals	
Prohibiting people engaging in an unregulated charity campaign	90.2%
Prohibiting the use of trolleys over 1m ³ by pedlars	66.0%
Prohibiting people engaging in street performance without the consent of the authority	52.4%
New beach PSPO proposals	
Prohibiting people taking glass products onto the beach	90.9%
Prohibiting pedlars entering the beach	71.6%

2. Background and Methodology

2.1. Background

The Public Protection Division commissioned Infusion to undertake a consultation on the renewal and extension of the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO). The aim of the consultation was to gather perceptions of how much of a problem different issues were to residents and visitors in Blackpool, specifically focusing on the town centre, promenade and beach. Respondents to the consultation were also asked for their views on the proposal to introduce PSPOs in specific areas of Blackpool as a means of tackling specific issues.

2.2. Methodology

The methodology involved a dual approach. The first sought a random sample of 400 residents and visitors, reached via street surveys where fieldworkers approached people in a number of designated areas, including the town centre and promenade, and asked them to take part in the consultation. Respondents were shown a map to view which areas of Blackpool would be impacted by the proposed PSPO.

To ensure as many residents as possible could have their say, an online survey was created to run alongside the street survey, publicised via Blackpool Council's consultation page. Respondents to the online consultation were first required to read through the supporting information and maps. The link for the online consultation was shared on Blackpool Council's social media sites to increase awareness and encourage participation. Businesses and organisations were also given the chance to respond to the consultation.

Paper copies of the questionnaire were distributed to public facing council buildings across Blackpool, including all libraries and the Town Hall.

The survey went live on 7 June and closed on 30 July. A total of 571 responses were received to this consultation of which 409 were collected via the street surveys, 154 through the online consultation. 8 paper responses were received in the post, returned from public facing council buildings.

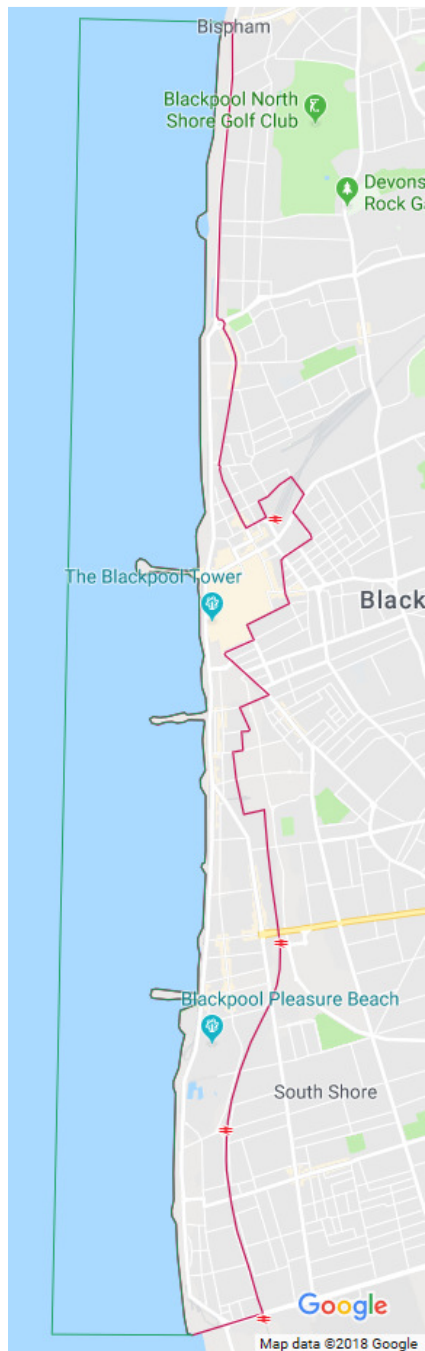
Some of the figures in this report may not total 100% due to rounding.

2.3. Defined areas

The map below outlines the areas for the proposed PSPO proposals. Respondents to the online consultation were asked to read an information page before completing the consultation which included an interactive version of the map below. Respondents to the face-to-face street survey were given a physical copy of the map to review before completing the consultation. Paper copies of the survey were distributed with an information sheet which described the areas covered by the proposals and a link to a website where they could view the proposed areas.

Areas outlined in purple: Town centre and promenade
Areas outlined in green: Beach

Figure 2.1: PSPO map



2.4. Respondent Profile

Given the survey attracted responses from both residents and tourists, it is not possible to state whether the survey is broadly reflective of the demographic make up of each. However, the survey did gather responses from across groups with protected characteristics:

Gender

Overall just over half of respondents were female while just under half were male.

Figure 2.2: What is your gender?

	Total	Online	Face to face	Paper
Base	568	151	409	8
Male	47.0%	42.4%	48.9%	37.5%
Female	52.1%	55.0%	50.9%	62.5%
Prefer not to say	0.9%	2.6%	0.2%	-

Age

45-54 year olds were more likely to respond to the online consultation while those aged 65 and over were more likely to respond to the face-to-face survey.

Figure 2.3: Of the following age groups, which do you fall into?

	Total	Online	Face to face	Paper
Base	568	152	408	8
16-24	6.9%	3.3%	8.3%	-
25-34	6.7%	9.2%	5.9%	-
35-44	13.0%	21.1%	10.3%	-
45-54	22.5%	30.3%	19.6%	25.0%
55-64	20.8%	23.7%	20.1%	-
65 or over	28.5%	7.2%	35.5%	75.0%
Prefer not to say	1.6%	5.3%	0.2%	-

Disability

81.4% of respondents to the consultation reported having no disability while 15.5% were limited in some capacity.

Figure 2.4: Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months?

	Total	Online	Face to face	Paper
Base	569	152	409	8
Yes, limited a lot	6.2%	3.9%	6.4%	37.5%
Yes, limited a little	9.3%	7.9%	10.0%	-
No	81.4%	80.9%	81.9%	62.5%
Prefer not to say	3.2%	7.2%	1.7%	-

Ethnicity

A majority of respondents to the consultation identified themselves as white British (91.2%).

Figure 2.5: What do you consider to be your ethnic origin?

	Total	Online	Face to face	Paper
Base	568	151	409	8
White British	91.2%	84.1%	93.6%	100.0%
White European	2.6%	2.0%	2.9%	-
Asian or Asian British	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	-
Black or Black British	0.9%	-	1.2%	-
Multiple ethnicity	0.2%	-	0.2%	-
Other	1.4%	3.3%	0.7%	-
Prefer not to say	3.0%	9.9%	0.5%	-

Children

65.0% of respondents to the consultation mentioned they had children.

Figure 2.6: Do you have any children in the following age groups?

	Total	Online	Face to face	Paper
Base	563	149	407	7
Under 5	4.8%	6.0%	4.4%	-
5 to 10	8.2%	15.4%	5.7%	-
11 to 16	8.3%	14.8%	5.9%	14.3%
Over 16	53.5%	41.6%	57.7%	57.1%
Don't have children	35.0%	40.9%	32.7%	42.9%

3. Results

3.1. Response type

Response

Overall 94.0% of responses to the consultation were from individuals, with business responses making up 6.0% of respondents. 19.5% of online responses were received from businesses. Many of those business responses were from hotels, B&Bs, guesthouses, cafes and pedlars.

Figure 3.1: Are you responding to this consultation as an individual or a business?

	Total	Online	Face to face	Paper
Base	571	154	409	8
Individual	94.0%	80.5%	99.0%	100.0%
Business/ organisation	6.0%	19.5%	1.0%	-

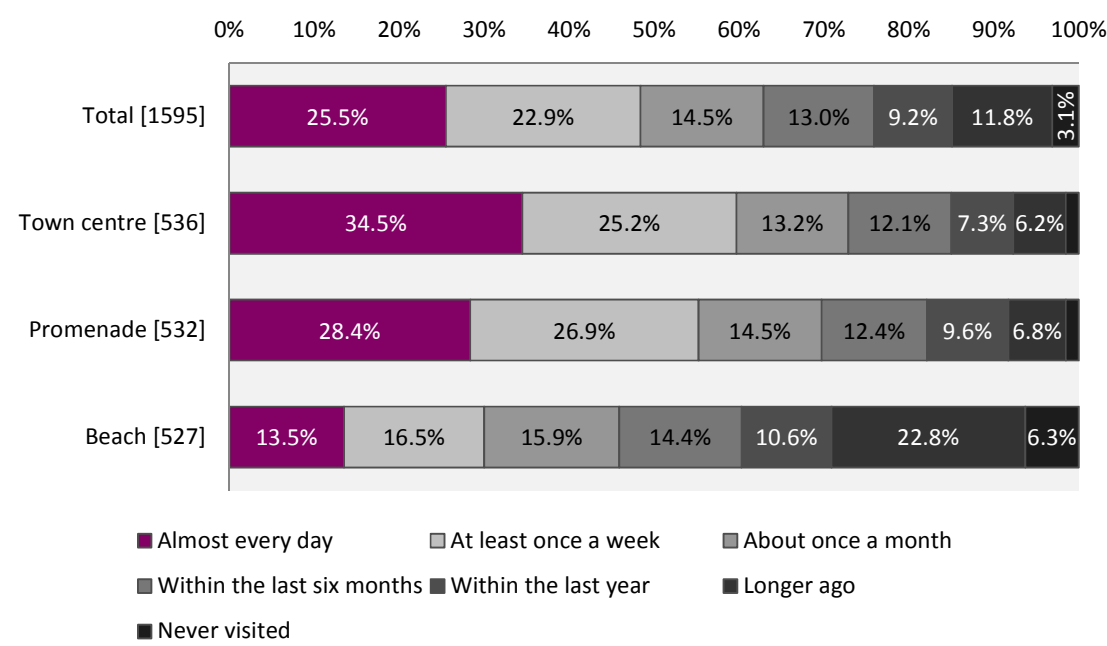
Frequency of visit

Overall 59.7% of respondents said they visited the Town Centre at least every week or more frequently. This number rises to 79.0% with respondents only from Blackpool. Residents of Blackpool were most likely to visit the Town Centre every day (46.2%) while respondents from elsewhere were most likely to have visited Blackpool town centre once in the last six months (23.2%).

Overall 55.3% of respondents said they visited the Promenade at least every week or more frequently. This number rises to 71.5% with respondents only from Blackpool. Residents of Blackpool were most likely to visit the Promenade every day (36.9%) while respondents from elsewhere were most likely to have visited Blackpool promenade once in the last six months (22.5%).

Overall 30.0% of respondents said they visited the Beach at least every week or more frequently. This number rises to 39.3% with respondents only from Blackpool. Residents of Blackpool were most likely to visit the Beach at least once a week (21.8%) while respondents from elsewhere were most likely to have visited Blackpool beach longer ago (29.7%).

Figure 3.2: How often do you visit the following areas in Blackpool?



3.2. Problems in Blackpool Town Centre, Promenade and Beach

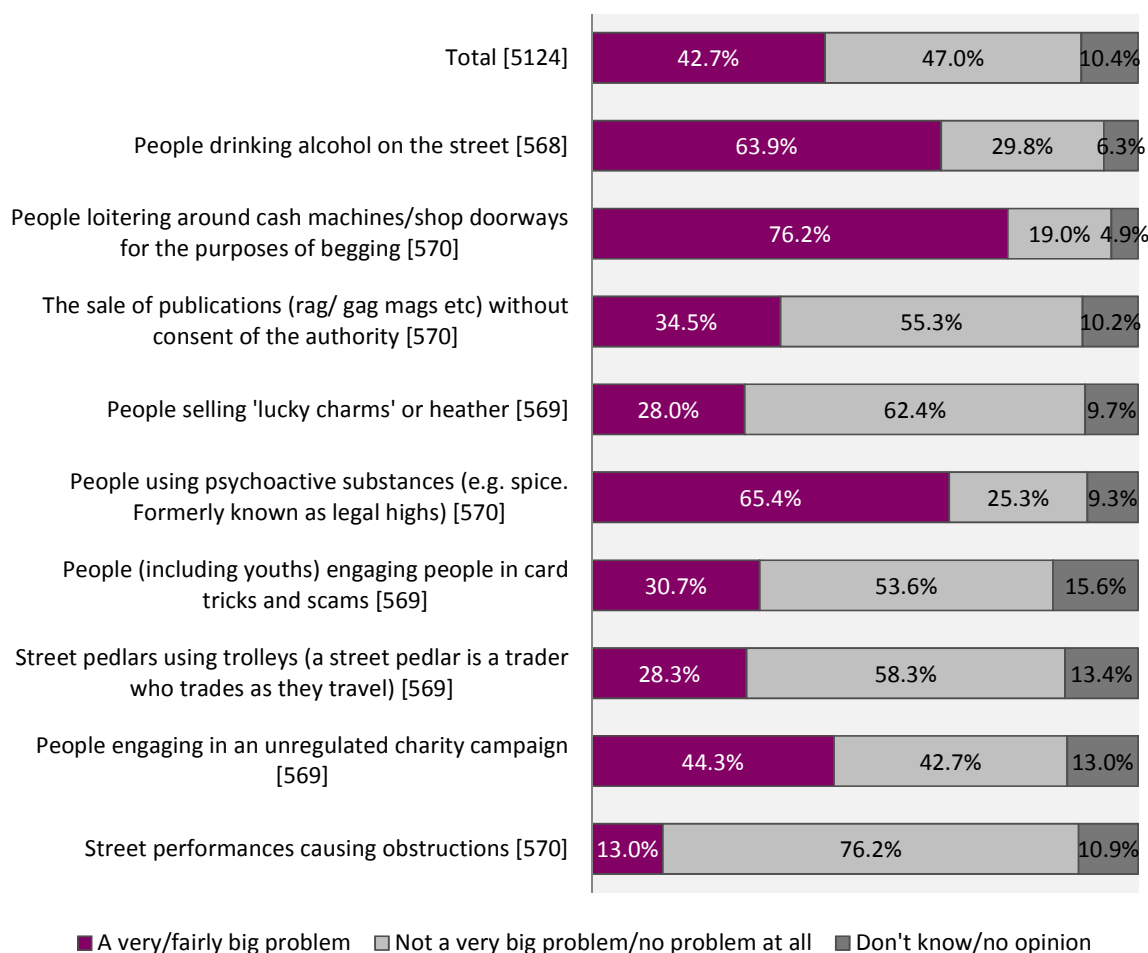
Town Centre problems

Respondents to the consultation regarded 'people loitering around cash machines/shop doorways for the purposes of begging' as the biggest problem in Blackpool town centre with 76.2% of respondents regarding it as a very or fairly big issue. The least regarded issue was 'street performances causing obstructions' with 13.0% selecting this as being a very or fairly big issue.

Residents of Blackpool were more likely to consider 'people loitering around cash machines/shop doorways for the purposes of begging' as a very or fairly big problem in the town centre than visitors to Blackpool (87.0% to 61.2%).

Those who completed the consultation online regarded 'people using psychoactive substances' as the biggest issue in the town centre (95.5% very or fairly big problem) compared to those who completed a face-to-face interview who considered 'people loitering around cash machines/shop doorways for the purposes of begging' as the biggest issue (69.2% very or fairly big problem).

Figure 3.3: How much of a problem, if at all, do you think each of the following are in Blackpool's town centre?



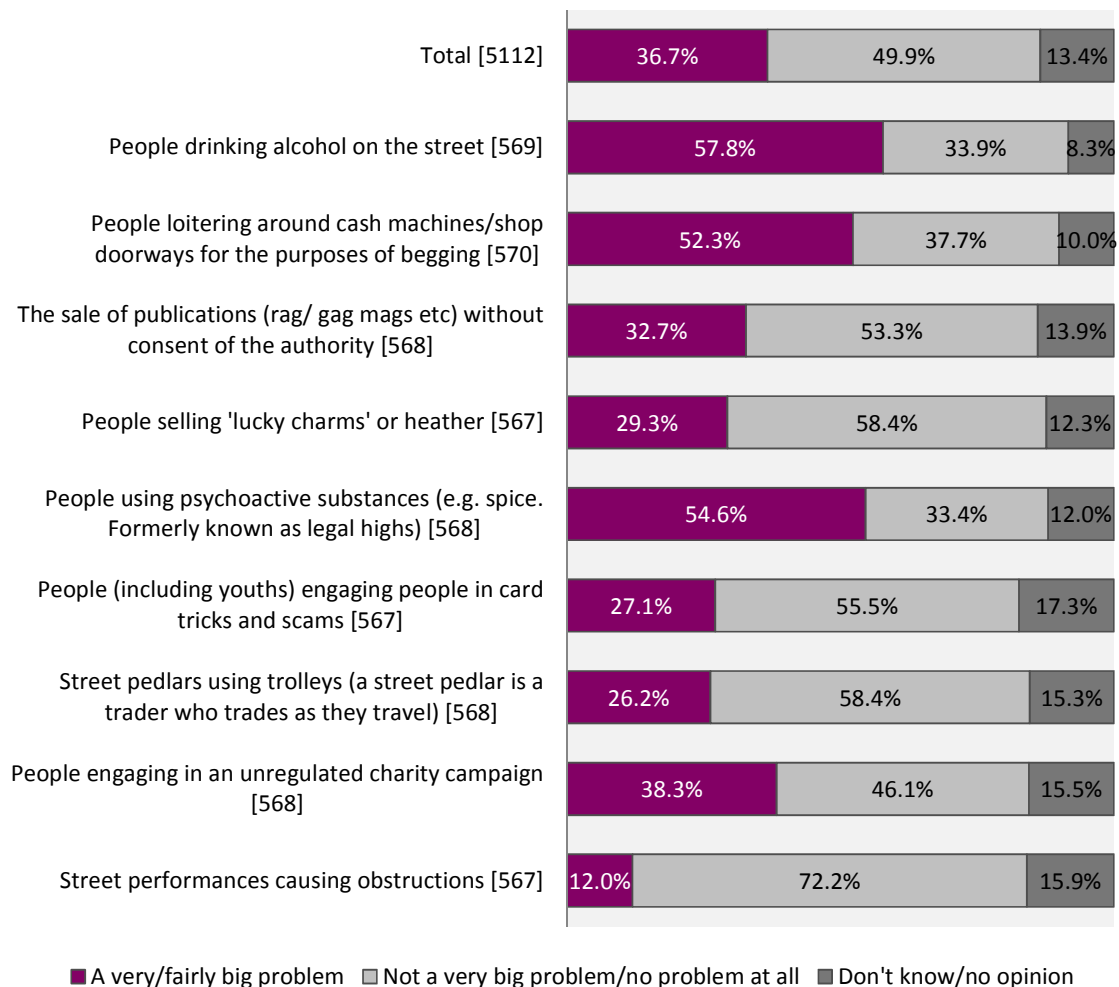
Promenade problems

Respondents to the consultation regarded 'people drinking on the street' as the biggest problem on Blackpool promenade with 57.8% of respondents regarding it as a very or fairly big issue. The least regarded issue was 'street performances causing obstructions' with 12.0% selecting this as being a very or fairly big issue.

Residents of Blackpool considered 'people using psychoactive substances' as a biggest issue on Blackpool promenade (73.2% very or fairly big problem) compared to visitors who considered 'people drinking alcohol on the street' as being the biggest issue (41.3% very or fairly big problem).

Those who completed the consultation online regarded 'people using psychoactive substances' as the biggest issue on the promenade (90.1% very or fairly big problem) compared to those who completed a face-to-face interview who considered 'people drinking alcohol on the street' as the biggest issue (47.7% very or fairly big problem).

Figure 3.4: How much of a problem, if at all, do you think each of the following are on Blackpool's promenade?



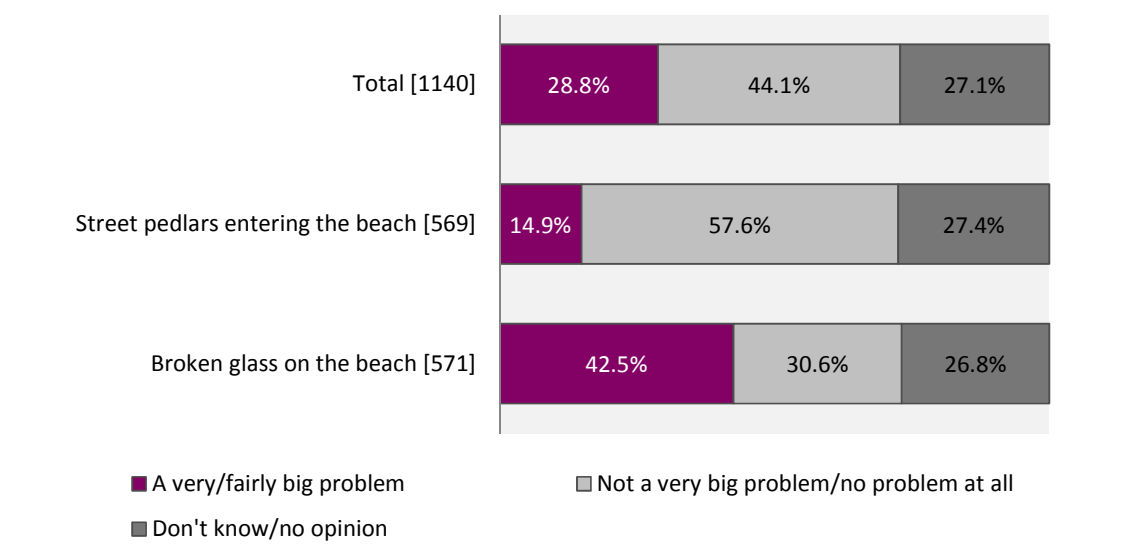
Beach problems

Respondents to the consultation regarded ‘broken glass on the beach’ as the biggest problem on Blackpool beach with 42.5% of respondents regarding it as a very or fairly big issue. The least regarded issue was ‘street pedlars entering the beach’ with 14.9% selecting this as being a very or fairly big issue.

Residents of Blackpool were more likely to consider ‘broken glass on the beach’ as a very or fairly big problem in the town centre than visitors to Blackpool (54.4% to 26.2%).

70.1% of those who completed the consultation online regarded ‘broken glass on the beach’ as a very or fairly big problem compared to 32.8% those who completed a face-to-face interview.

Figure 3.5: How much of a problem, if at all, do you think each of the following on Blackpool's beach?



Comments on problems

Respondents to the consultation were given the chance to leave comments in regards to the previously listed issues in Blackpool town centre, promenade and beach, and the impact they may have had on themselves or their family. The most common type of comment was left in regards to the issue of homelessness and begging in Blackpool, which was mentioned by 29.3% of respondents. This was followed by comments mentioning problems of people being under the influence of drugs or alcohol (19.5%) and comments suggesting that the outlined problems in Blackpool may not be much of a problem to the respondent (10.7%).

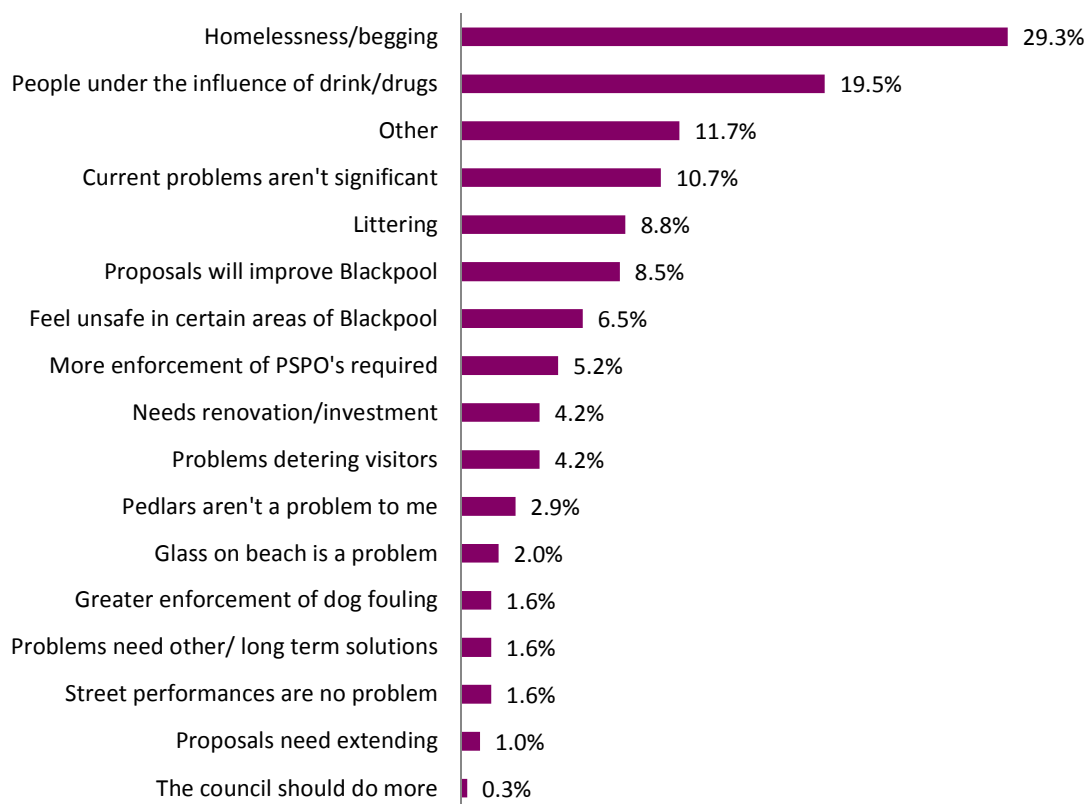
Examples of comments to this question included:

"I come into town every day during the week to work, it is very intimidating to pass a significant number of beggars"

"The drunks and spice addicts along with the beggars are prolific in Blackpool, apart from being a nuisance they can be very frightening and aggressive"

"Blackpool has problems like anywhere else"

Figure 3.6: Do you have any comments to make on these issues and any impact on you? (base – 307)



Other town centre problems

Respondents to the consultation were given the chance to leave comments in regards to anything else they consider to be a problem in Blackpool town centre. The most common type of comment was left in regards to the issue of homelessness and begging in Blackpool, which was mentioned by 27.7% of respondents. This was followed by comments mentioning problems of littering and dog fouling (18.8%) and people under the influence of alcohol or drugs (17.0%).

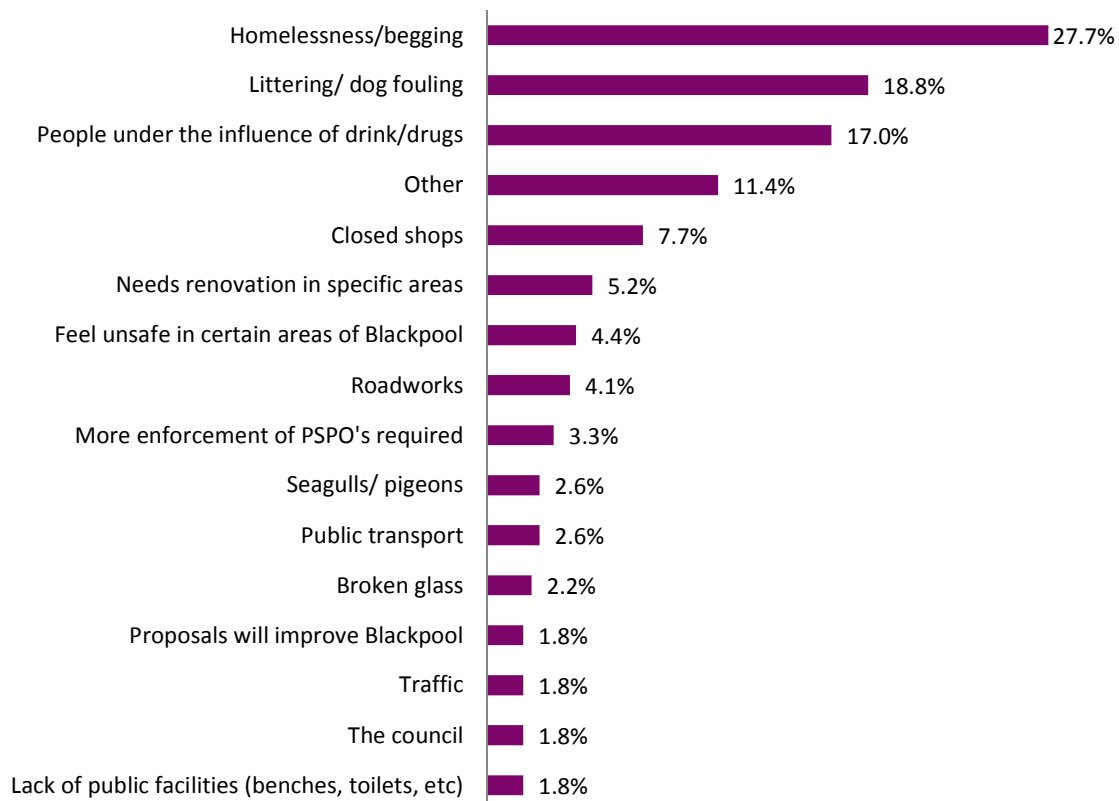
Examples of comments to this question included:

"Beggars & homeless people sleeping in shop doorways"

"Continuous excessive noise from bars and clubs onto the street"

"Litter and overflowing bins"

Figure 3.7: Is there anything else which you consider to be a problem in the following areas in Blackpool? (Town Centre)(base – 271)



Other promenade problems

Respondents to the consultation were given the chance to leave comments in regards to anything else they consider to be a problem on Blackpool promenade. The most common type of comment was left in regards to the issue of littering and dog fouling in Blackpool, which was mentioned by 33.9% of respondents. This was followed by comments mentioning problems of people under the influence of alcohol or drugs (14.9%) and homelessness and begging (10.7%).

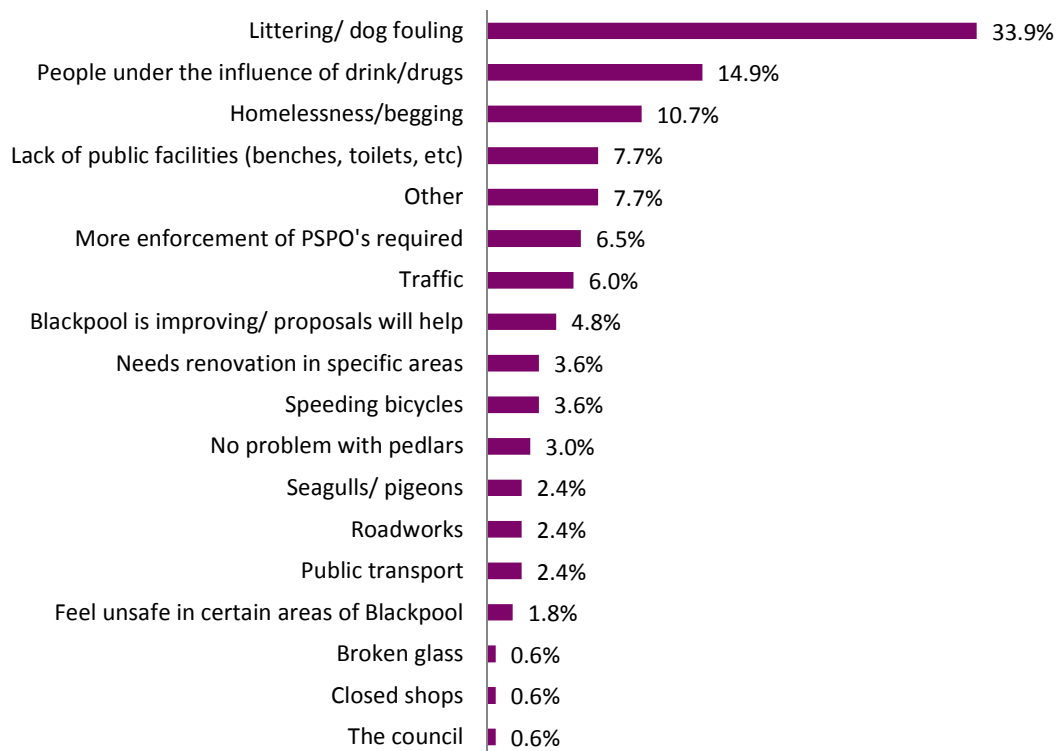
Examples of comments to this question included:

"People throwing or leaving litter on the beach"

"There is also a fairly big problem with people smoking cannabis on the promenade"

"Shelters on the prom taken over by homeless and drunk people"

Figure 3.8: Is there anything else which you consider to be a problem in the following areas in Blackpool? (Promenade)(base – 168)



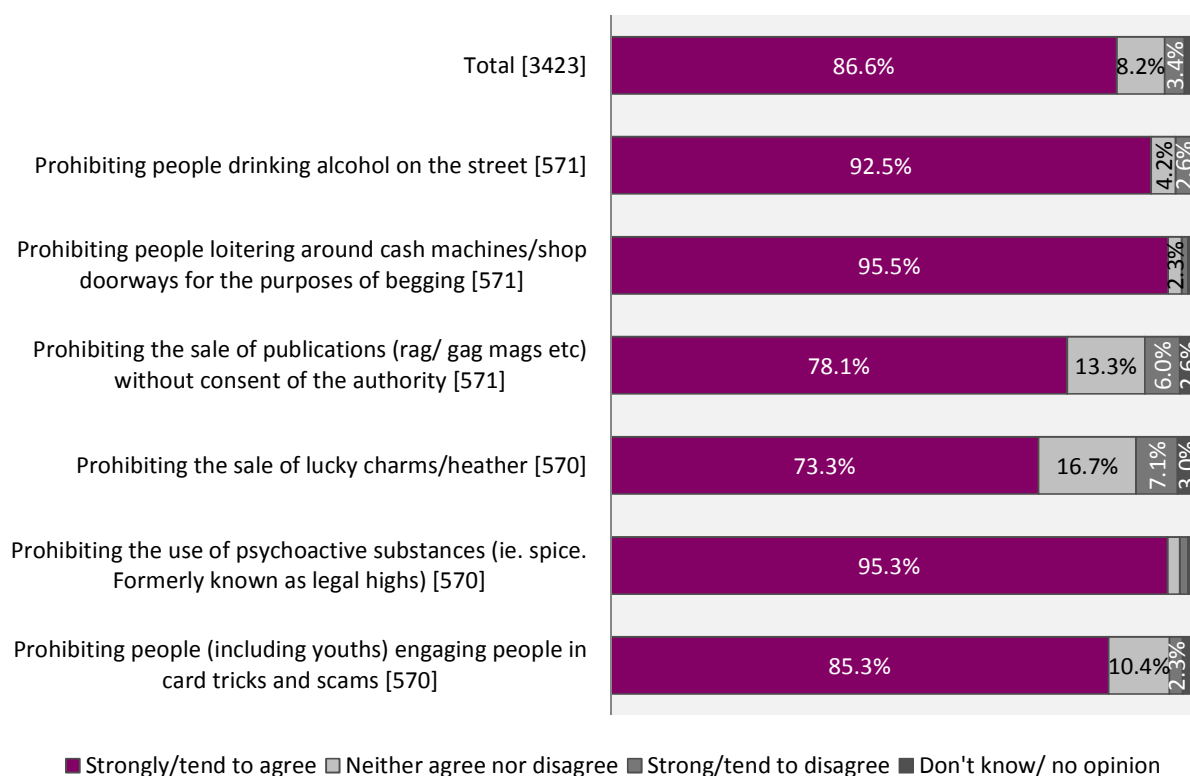
3.3. Agreement with proposals

Level of agreement with proposals

Respondents to the consultation were asked to what extent they agreed or disagreed that the PSPOs which were already being enforced should be renewed in Blackpool's town centre and promenade. The highest level of agreement was to continue 'prohibiting people loitering around cash machines/shop doorways for the purposes of begging', with 95.5% of respondents strongly or tending to agree. The lowest level of agreement was to continue 'prohibiting the sale of lucky charms/heather', with 73.3% of respondents strongly or tending to agree.

Residents of Blackpool were more likely to agree to 'prohibiting people loitering around cash machines/shop doorways for the purposes of begging' (97.6), while visitors to Blackpool were more likely to agree to 'prohibiting the use of psychoactive substances' (96.1%).

Figure 3.9: To what extent do you agree or disagree that the following protection orders should be renewed in Blackpool's town centre and promenade?

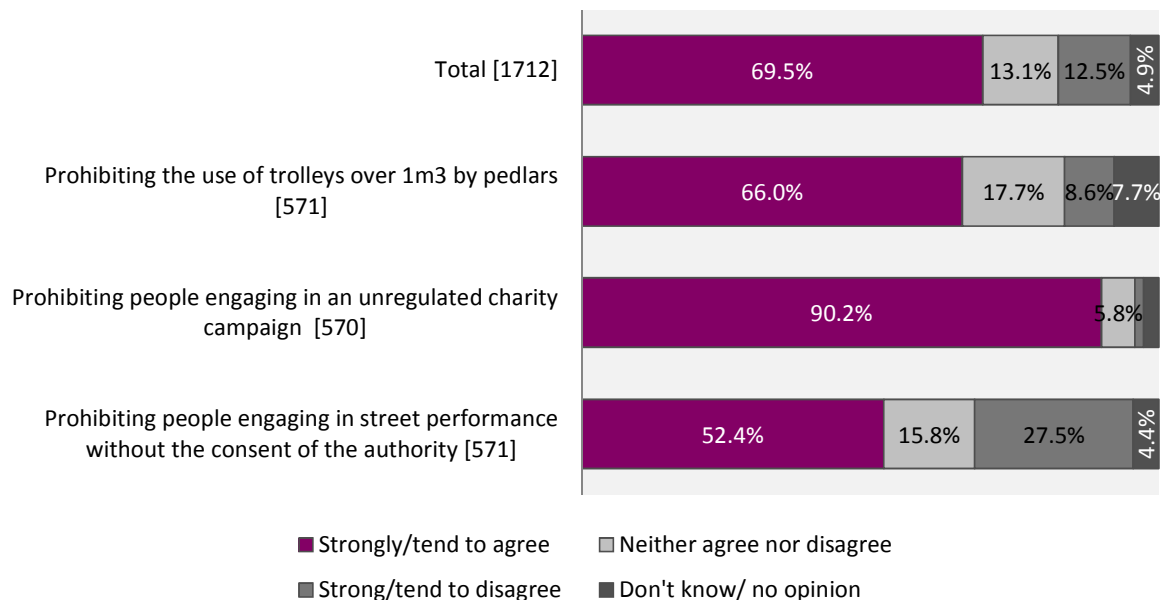


Promenade proposals

Respondents to the consultation were asked to what extent they agreed or disagreed that new PSPO's should be enforced on Blackpool's promenade. The highest level of agreement was to enforce 'prohibiting people engaging in an unregulated charity campaign', with 90.2% of respondents strongly or tending to agree. The lowest level of agreement was to enforce 'prohibiting people engaging in street performance without consent of the authority', with 52.4% of respondents strongly or tending to agree.

Residents of Blackpool were more likely to agree to 'prohibiting people engaging in an unregulated charity campaign' (93.5%) than visitors to Blackpool were (86.4%).

Figure 3.10: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following proposals relating to protection orders on the promenade?

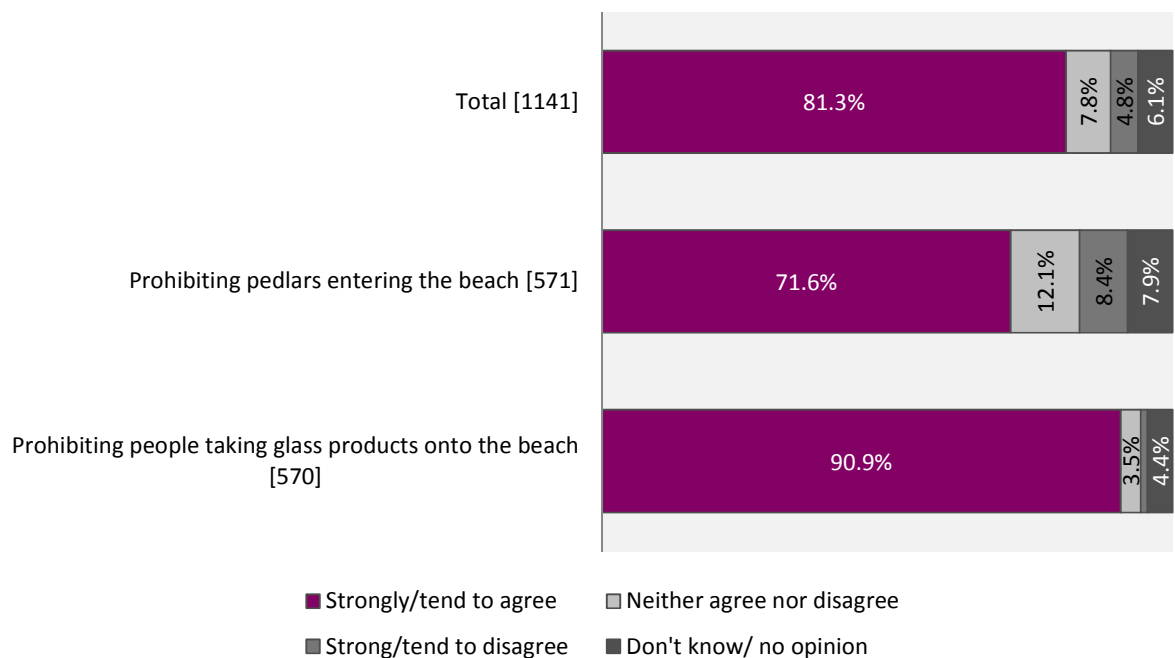


Beach proposals

Respondents to the consultation were asked to what extent they agreed or disagreed that new PSPO's should be enforced on Blackpool's beach. The highest level of agreement was to enforce 'prohibiting people taking glass products onto the beach', with 90.9% of respondents strongly or tending to agree. The lowest level of agreement was to enforce 'prohibiting pedlars entering the beach', with 71.6% of respondents strongly or tending to agree.

Residents of Blackpool were almost as likely to agree to 'prohibiting people taking glass products onto the beach' as visitors to Blackpool were (90.8% to 90.2%).

Figure 3.11: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following proposals relating to protection orders on the beach?



Comments regarding new proposals

Respondents to the consultation were given the chance to leave comments in regards to why they agree or disagree to the proposals to add new protection orders to Blackpool's town centre, promenade and beach. The most common type of comment mentioned how the proposals are likely to make Blackpool a cleaner and safer place to be, which was mentioned by 49.5% of respondents. This was followed by comments mentioning how the proposals would improve the image of Blackpool and encourage visitors (22.3%). Another common theme of the comments mentioned how dangerous broken glass can be and how important it is that it is dealt with (7.3%).

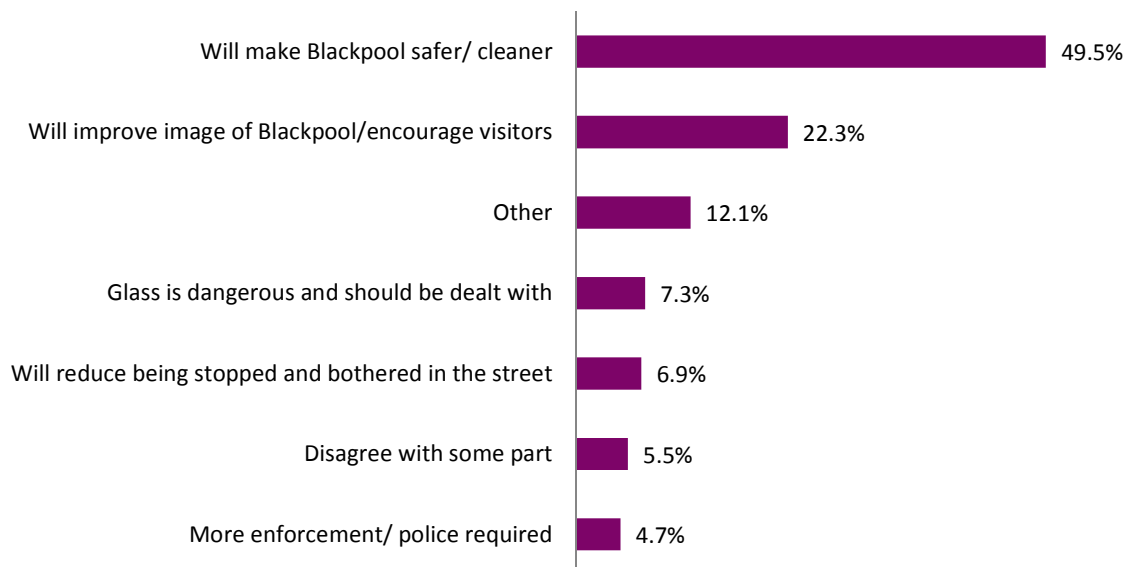
Examples of comments to this question included:

"The proposals which I feel will make Blackpool more safer to more pleasing to both residents and holidaymakers."

"I completely agree with all these proposals. To get people to invest in Blackpool, it needs to be where people want to come and feel relaxed while being here."

"Glass can cut people's feet when they go into and out of the sea. It has happened to me."

Figure 3.12: Please tell us why you agree or disagree with the proposals to add new Protection Orders to Blackpool's town centre, promenade and beach? (base – 422)



Other comments

Respondents to the consultation were given the chance to give any other comments they may have about the proposals. The most common type of comment mentioned how the proposals will be difficult to enforce and more authorised enforcers will be required for the additional PSPOs (34.9%). This was followed by comments mentioning how the proposals are a good idea in general and should be implemented (21.4%). Another common theme of the comments mentioned how littering is a problem in Blackpool (10.3%).

Examples of comments to this question included:

"I welcome them all. The police work really hard but they're stretched due to cuts at a national level. It will take a great deal of resources but I do think it will help both locals and the tourist side of things."

"I am glad to see that the council are aware of some of the problems of the town. I hope that they act swiftly and firmly in these matters"

"The litter enforcement contractor should be re-engaged. They did an excellent job. The amount of litter and cigarette litter in the town centre and Promenade is disgraceful."

Figure 3.13: Do you have any other comments to make about any of these proposals? (base – 126)

