



REPORT TO: COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE ON 1 DECEMBER 2009

SUBJECT: SCOTTISH INDEX OF MULTIPLE DEPRIVATION 2009

BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 The Committee is invited to note the main findings of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 2009.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms the Council's Administrative Scheme relating to the development and implementation of the Council's strategy and policies in relation to social inclusion in partnership with other public sector partners, voluntary sector and private sectors as appropriate.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that Committee:

- **notes the main findings of the SIMD 2009**
- **notes the proposed use of the SIMD 2009 findings**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The SIMD identifies small area concentrations of multiple deprivation across all of Scotland through the use of datazones. The SIMD is used as a measurement for the allocation of funding to Community Planning Partnerships in order to tackle deprivation and poverty.
- 3.2 The SIMD provides a relative ranking from most deprived (rank 1) to least deprived (rank 6,505) data zone in Scotland overall and under each of the 7 domains:
- employment
 - income
 - health
 - education, skills and training
 - access to services
 - crime
 - housing

- 3.3 The SIMD results are currently used to influence outcomes and priorities in the Single Outcome Agreement and in each of the individual themed Strategic Assessments to identify aspects of deprivation in Moray.

4. KEY RESULTS SIMD 2009

- 4.1 There have been changes to the methodology used for 4 of the 7 domains (income, health, education skills and training, and access to services) since SIMD 2006 and lower rankings observed may reflect a greater sensitivity of the analysis. Also because of the relative nature of the SIMD some of the change seen will simply be due to datazones pushing others up or down the rankings.
- 4.2 One Moray datazone has entered the overall 15% most deprived in Scotland since 2006. This datazone is Elgin South Lesmurdie, in the ward of Elgin City North. It has an overall ranking of 789.
- 4.3 Two further Moray datazones are in the overall 20% most deprived in Scotland: Buckie Millbank in the Buckie ward (ranked 1051) and New Elgin West Thornhill in the Elgin City South ward (ranked 1150). The two Elgin datazones were in the 20% most deprived in 2006 but Buckie Millbank was not.
- 4.4 The employment domain uses exactly the same indicators with updated data between 2006 and 2009. Therefore there is greater significance to the entry of 3 Moray datazones into the 15% most employment deprived in Scotland in 2009. These datazones are Forres Central in the Forres ward (ranked 798) Elgin South Lesmurdie (ranked 911) and Elgin Cathedral in the Elgin City North ward (ranked 976). Data used in the employment domain covers a period before the recession but investigations indicated that including more recent unemployment data would have negligible effects on the overall distribution.
- 4.5 Results are presented by domain in **Appendix I**.

5. PROPOSED USE OF SIMD FINDINGS

- 5.1 A lower-level analysis on SIMD 2009 results will be carried out in December 2009, in order to identify the primary reasons for low rankings in relevant domain areas. This exercise will also include an analysis of the demographics of individuals residing in the most deprived areas.
- 5.2 These results will influence a number of activities of the Council and Community Planning Partners and groups including:
- The development of the Strategic Assessments and the overall Single Outcome agreement
 - Contribution towards the research currently being carried out to identify key areas of deprivation in Moray.

- Influencing the ongoing developments of the individual funded provision through the Fairer Scotland Fund's rolling programme.
- Influencing the development of the Fairer Scotland Fund employability service.
- The development of the Moray Financial Inclusion Strategy ensuring that activity will be directed towards areas of deprivation particularly the areas identified as income deprived.
- Influencing the future activity of the Social Inclusion Implementation group and the Employability Action Group.

5.3 Updated information on areas of deprivation will be used to share findings with partner agencies, promote greater partnership working, and to influence future targeted delivery of services where appropriate.

6. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) **Single Outcome Agreement/Service Improvement Plan**

The SIMD 2009 results will influence through strategic assessments the development of futures Single Outcome Agreement and will support the development of the Fairer Scotland Fund and the Social Inclusion Strategy. It will also contribute to a number of outcomes and priorities contained in the SOA, particularly national outcome 7.

(b) **Policy and Legal**

The Moray Council has a statutory duty under the Local Government in Scotland Bill 2003 part 2 section 16 (1) to initiate, maintain and facilitate the process of Community Planning. The introduction of a 'Duty of Community Planning' through the Local Government (Scotland) Act 2003 emphasises the importance of considering social inclusion in the Community Planning process.

(c) **Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)**

There are no financial implications or otherwise arising from this report

(d) **Consultations**

None.

7. CONCLUSION

7.1 The Government have released the 2009 Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) and this report asks Committee to note the main findings of the SIMD 2009 and the proposed use of the SIMD 2009 findings.

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Background Papers: SIMD 2009 Draft Summary for Moray

Ref:

Signature: 

Date : 23 November, 2009

Designation: Chief Executive

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