



REPORT TO: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GROUP 5 NOVEMBER 2009

SUBJECT: SCOTTISH INDEX OF MULTIPLE DEPRIVATION - NAMING DATA ZONES AND INTERMEDIATE GEOGRAPHIES

BY: CORPORATE POLICY UNIT MANAGER – THE MORAY COUNCIL

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 This report is to inform the Community Engagement Group of the proposal to agree locally relevant names for data zones and intermediate geographies within Moray.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 The Community Engagement Group is asked to:

- (i) Agree to name data zones and intermediate geographies in Moray to make SIMD results and small area statistics more user-friendly;
- (ii) Agree a consultation method for data zone and intermediate geography names; and
- (iii) Agree that the results of the consultation will be submitted to the next meeting of the Community Engagement Group in February 2010.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD)

- 3.1.1 The SIMD identifies small area concentrations of multiple deprivation across all of Scotland.
- 3.1.2 The SIMD was originally released in 2004 and updated in 2006. Another update will be available this year. The results of the 2009 analysis are to be released on 29 October 2009.
- 3.1.3 The geographical area used to present SIMD results is the data zone. The whole of Scotland is divided into data zones which are contained within local authority boundaries.
- 3.1.4 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:

- crime
- current income
- education
- employment
- geographic access to services
- health
- housing
- skills and training

- 3.1.5 Intermediate geographies are larger statistical areas made up of several data zones which are useful for comparing areas more broadly. The Scottish Government provides SIMD result summaries including both data zone and intermediate geography codes.
- 3.1.6 The Scottish Government asked for Community Planning Partnerships to provide feedback on the naming of their data zones in March 2009. This is an ongoing project with no deadline. The Office of the Chief Statistician has advised that local names would improve understanding of the SIMD 2009.
- 3.1.7 Approximately 8 of 32 Community Planning Partnerships in Scotland have provided the Scottish Government with names for their data zones. Twenty-nine of 32 Community Planning Partnerships have provided the Scottish Government with local names for their intermediate geographies. Moray agreed to not to name intermediate geographies at the time of consultation on their boundaries in 2004. Names provided to the Scottish Government have not been used in the presentation of SIMD results to date as not all Community Planning Partnerships have agreed local names. Intermediate geography names supplied by Community Planning Partnerships to date have been updated on the Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics website.
- 3.1.8 The Scottish Government used concentrations of multiple deprivation and patterns of individual deprivation identified using the SIMD 2006 to allocate the Fairer Scotland Fund to Community Planning Partnerships.
- 3.1.9 SIMD results are currently used in the Single Outcome Agreement and in each of the themed Strategic Assessments to describe aspects of deprivation in Moray.
- 3.1.10 Naming data zones and intermediate geographies would enable SIMD results to be presented with user-friendly local names to describe specific areas of Moray. This may encourage involvement to address these results in specific areas.
- 3.1.11 The next release of the SIMD is likely to be in 2012 and the Office of the Chief Statistician has indicated that local names for data zones and intermediate geographies may be used to present results if sufficient response is received from Community Planning Partners. Therefore names formalised would be distributed to Community Planning Partners in the

interim for reference. Any specific reference to a data zone or intermediate geography should include both its code and name for continuity.

3.2 Proposal for naming Moray's data zones and intermediate geographies

- 3.2.1 The Geographical Information Systems (GIS) / Corporate Address Gazetteer (CAG) Officer at The Moray Council created names for Moray's 116 data zones in 2007 in collaboration with Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) for the purposes of their fragile areas assessment. These names are presented in **Appendix 1**.
- 3.2.2 The vast majority of the suggested names (101 of 116) contain 3 or less settlement names and are unlikely to evoke discussion. Fifteen of the suggested names contain 4 or more settlement names and may require summarising to shorter names which can be used in reports and tables in future. Given this, it is proposed that the current draft data zone names are used for consultation purposes.
- 3.2.3 In relation to names for Moray's 24 intermediate geographies for use in the consultation, it is proposed that these are based on existing settlements and administrative boundaries. This work can be undertaken by the GIS/CAG Officer, the Elections Officer and the Research and Information Officer (Fairer Scotland Fund) during November 2009.
- 3.2.4 The Community Engagement Group is asked to agree a way to formally name data zones and intermediate geographies which are relevant to the community areas.
- 3.2.5 Though a wide consultation is intended, it must be appreciated that that an extensive and resource intensive consultation cannot be undertaken at this time. Therefore it is proposed to use existing community groups' expertise, such as Area Forums and Community Councils, to facilitate the consultation and agree the names.
- 3.2.6 If the consultation is carried out on an area basis i.e. Associated School Group (ASG) / Area Forum, this should enable the groups to identify the most relevant names of places as recognised within local communities. The local consultation would concentrate on data zones and intermediate geographies falling entirely or partly within their boundary line. The distribution of data zones and intermediate geographies for consultation by area would be on the advice of the GIS/CAG Officer and the Elections Officer.
- 3.2.7 To assist with the consultation, the draft names would be used and outlined on an accompanying map. This could be presented in an electronic document or on large printed maps.
- 3.2.8 Feedback from the 8 areas would be compiled and presented in full to the next meeting of this group. It is anticipated that agreement on the final

names can be approved at that meeting and thereafter be submitted as Moray's names to be used for the SIMD 2012, dependent on responses from other Community Planning Partnerships.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Single Outcome Agreement/Service Improvement Plan

Names would be used in the Single Outcome Agreement, Strategic Assessments and supporting research documents such as Fairer Scotland Fund bids in future to describe specific areas of deprivation.

(b) Policy and Legal

None.

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

A time commitment of approximately 2 weeks is required from the GIS/CAG Officer in order to produce images and maps of data zone and intermediate zone boundaries, as required. The Elections Officer will advise on initial proposed names based on knowledge of local boundaries and the Research and Information Officer (Fairer Scotland Fund) will centrally co-ordinate the project.

The cost of printing a large map is approximately £35.

(d) Consultations

The consultation process agreed should involve local area representatives.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 The Community Engagement Group is asked to agree a way to formally name data zone and intermediate geographies in Moray considering the background information and proposals presented in this report.

Author of Report: Laura Stien, Research and Information Officer
Background Papers: The Scottish Government SIMD Background and Methodology, Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics Data Zone Background Information, Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics Intermediate Geography Background Information.

Signature Bridget Mustard Date: 28/10/09

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