

Article for 'Your Moray' website

Naming Moray's Statistical Areas

The latest Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) has been published (2009). Having this important information will inform decisions over the targeting of resources to the areas they are most needed, and assist in the planning of infrastructure, community needs and a host of other support frameworks.

The first SIMD, in 2004, led to the identification of specific data zones in the area. The whole of Scotland is divided into data zones which are contained within local authority boundaries. These zones are designed to help local groups and public authorities to be clear with each other - and the public at large - about the areas they are seeking information on or where they wish to target resources. It is, in effect, a local identity understood across all agencies.

The Scottish Government asked Community Planning Partnerships to name their datazones in 2009 to aide local understanding of the areas used to present important statistics, such as data from the SIMD. Names for these specific data zones have been agreed by the Community Engagement Group, and they can be seen [here](#).

Intermediate Geographies (also known as Intermediate Zones) are aggregates of several datazones that can be used to make comparisons between areas on a larger scale. Names for Moray's Intermediate Geographies were created in agreement with the Community Engagement Group, and they can be seen [here](#).

It is important that local forums and groups adopt the use of these names, which will 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.