

**REPORT TO: COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD HELD ON 4 MARCH  
2010**

**SUBJECT: SCOTTISH INDEX OF MULTIPLE DEPRIVATION (SIMD)**

**BY: COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT MANGER,  
THE MORAY COUNCIL**

**1. REASON FOR REPORT**

1.1 The Community Planning Board is asked to consider how it responds to the Scottish Index for Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 2009 and how the key issues and areas identified in the report could be targeted.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

2.1 It is recommended that the Community Planning Board;

- consider the implications of the SIMD 2009 figures for Moray
- agree a partnership approach to tackling deprivation
- agree that further research is carried out with affected communities

**3. BACKGROUND**

3.1 At a meeting of the Communities Committee of the Moray Council held on 1 December 2009 (paragraph 19 refers) it was agreed that a report would go to the Community Planning Board in order for them to investigate the areas of deprivation, how these should be targeted and resources required.

3.2 The SIMD identifies small area concentrations of multiple deprivations across all of Scotland through the use of datazones.

3.3 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

3.4 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**.

4.6 A lower-level analysis on SIMD 2009 results has been carried out in order to identify the primary reasons for low rankings in relevant domain areas. This exercise includes an analysis of the demographics of individuals residing in the most deprived areas.

#### **5. USE OF SIMD FINDINGS**

- 5.1 The Board can initially use the findings in a number of ways:
- 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 areas identified as income deprived.
  - Influencing the future activity of the Social Inclusion Implementation group and the Employability Action Group.
- 5.2 It is proposed that further research is carried out to gather qualitative data from affected communities to determine community perspectives and to engage local communities in the process of resolving these issues.
- 5.3 The issue of deprivation is however a central issue for the Community Planning Partnership and although the use of the Fairer Scotland Fund can be used to assist tackle deprivation, it was intended that the Fairer Scotland Fund would act as a catalyst to redirect mainstream resources towards tackling the root causes of deprivation and disadvantage. This requires a mainstream and integrated community planning response.
- 5.4 It is further proposed that the Board now considers a partnership approach to tackling deprivation and that may mean a redirection and targeting of agency resources and a more integrated response.
- 5.5 There are a number of approaches available if the Board should decide to provide an integrated response:
- Topic based
  - Geographic
  - Combined
- 5.5.1 **Topic based** - Partners identify thematic areas relative to the domains within the SIMD, such as employment, crime or educational attainment and look at these topics with an agreed focus on identifying hidden areas of deprivation, and seeking to improve the overall situation impacting on their ranking within specific SIMD domains.
- 5.5.2 **Geographic** -The areas of deprivation identified by the SIMD as being in the 15% most deprived nationally for any domain are clearly defined small geographic areas. Partners may wish to focus resources within an integrated partnership approach on these areas identified as most in need.

5.5.3 **Combined** - A combined approach would identify issues of deprivation through a topic based approach however it would do this across a group of neighbouring datazones giving wider geographical spread. Services can be directed more appropriately and more efficiently than the geographical approach.

5.6 The Social Inclusion Implementation Group are currently reviewing the partnerships social inclusion strategy, they operationally manage the Fairer Scotland Fund and provide a focal point of the partnership on social inclusion. The Board may need to consider the role and membership of this group if a more comprehensive approach to tackling this issue is agreed.

## 6. **SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

- (a) Single Outcome Agreement/Service Improvement Plan  
Outcome 7 - We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society
- (b) Policy and Legal  
The Council and its Community Planning Partners have a statutory duty under Section 15(2) of the Local Government Act in Scotland (2003) to make provision for consulting with the public over the planning and provision of services.
- (c) Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)  
The Fairer Scotland Fund which is available until 2011 has generally been allocated, however it was only ever intended to be a catalyst in shifting mainstream resource to assist tackling disadvantage. Partners need to consider the possible redirection and sharing of resource to effectively tackle deprivation.
- (d) Consultations  
The Community Planning Board has been consulted previously.

## 7. **CONCLUSION**

7.1 **The SIMD figure for 2009 indicate a decline in the status of Moray in relation to national figures for Multiple Deprivation, the partnership are asked to consider the figures and to consider a collective response to tackling disadvantage.**

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Background Papers:

Ref: