

REPORT TO: COMMUNITY PLANING BOARD ON 27 MAY 2010

SUBJECT: SCOTTISH INDEX OF MULTIPLE DEPRIVATION SIMD 2009

BY: THE MORAY COUNCIL, COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

1. REASON FOR REPORT

1.1 To update the board on the brief that has been produced in response to the SIMD 2009 and to outline progress, timescale outcome and a way forward.

2 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That the Community Planning Board note the updated analysis of deprivation in Moray using a combined topical and geographical approach by settlement presenting Moray SIMD results and key component statistics in concise, illustrated papers that are accessible and that the time line for consultation on this is carried forward.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 At the Community Planning Board meeting held on 4 March 2010 it was agreed that for a partnership approach to tackling deprivation further research should be carried out with affected communities, and that a report be submitted to the next meeting providing an update of progress, timescale, outcome and way forward.

3.2 The Board discussed the need to combine a topical and geographical (grouping areas) along with qualitative research.

3.3 The aim of further research would be to assist identify recommendations on how deprivation could be more effectively targeted and in identifying appropriate resources.

3.4 The first step was that further research into the results of the SIMD has been carried out by Fairer Scotland Fund staff using a topical and geographical (grouping areas) approach and the results are attached as appendix 1,2 and 3. The three topics are: Income /Employment, Education and Health. Crime, public transport and concentrations of social rented accommodation and population demographics have been incorporated into the topic papers.

- 3.5 The next stage will be to consult on topic papers produced over the next six months, firstly with specialist services and key informants listed in Appendix 4. The purpose would be to obtain feedback on the statistics and also to identify what action each service might wish or be willing to carry out. The topic paper will also be distributed to Fairer Scotland Funded Projects to improve their targeting of vulnerable groups.
- 3.6 This would be followed by research within local communities. It is proposed that all communities are consulted in order to identify hidden pockets of deprivation as some of these “hidden” areas do not feature in the statistics as concentrated deprived areas.
- 3.7 It would be important to consult not only with representative organisations such as Community Councils, Area Forums etc but also with representative groups of individuals. It is also proposed to work with agencies such as Jobcentre Plus to assist identify individuals who are considered vulnerable.
- 3.8 The final stage would be to produce a report based on the extended research carried out. This would contain draft recommendations which would be discussed with partners. The research report would develop an evidence-based poverty profile of Moray and provide the basis for action plans for the partnership to tackle deprivation issues.
- 3.9 It is proposed that the report be completed before the next Strategic Assessment 2011/2012 linking the poverty agenda to a future Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) looking at prioritisation of poverty issues and reviewing of indicators and targets.

SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

- (a) **Single Outcome Agreement/Service Improvement Plan**
This initiative will contribute to 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/evidence based-based weighting and sharing of resources to effectively tackle deprivation. Some resource

maybe required to fund research and it is envisaged that there will be sufficient resource in the FSF budget to carry out this research.

5. **CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 **Concise illustrated papers have been produced using SIMD results and component statistics for all of and a plan has been developed to initially consult partners and specialist agencies followed by a wide consultation with local communities This will develop an evidence based Poverty Profile Developing outcome focused action plans, drawing from the evidence base and linking to the next Strategic Assessment.**

Author of Report: John Ferguson, Community Planning and Development
Manager

Background Papers:

Ref: