



**Deprivation Review Steering Group
Wednesday 21st April 2004,
2pm, Boardroom, McAuley House.**

Persons present:

Mr Robert Beatty	Head of Demography and Census, NISRA	(Chair)
Dr Michael Anyadike-Danes	Economic Research Institute of Northern Ireland, Head of Research	
Mr Harvey Beck (deputising for Stanley McBurney)	DARD	
Mr Nigel Flynn	Rural Development Council, Director of Policy	
Mr Brian French (deputising for Siobhan Morgan)	NIO	
Mr Declan French (deputising for Martin Mayock)	DHSSPS	
Mr Joe Frey	NI Housing Executive, Head of Research	
Mr Robert Kidd	DEL	
Ms Eileen Lavery	Equality Commission, Director of Policy and Research	
Dr David Marshall	NISRA	
Mr Tony Mathewson	PSNI	
Mr Martin Monaghan	DETI	
Ms Frances McCandless	NICVA, Director of Policy	
Mrs Karen McCullough	DCAL	
Dr Chris Morris	DSD	
Dr Tracy Power	DRD	
Mr Michael Woods	OFMDFM	
Ms Patricia Wyers (deputising for Ivor Johnston)	DE	
Ms Janis Watson	Neighbourhood Statistics, NISRA	(Secretary)

In attendance

Mr Michael Noble	University of Oxford
Mr George Smith	University of Oxford
Ms Chelsie Antilla	University of Oxford
Mr David McLennan	University of Oxford
Ms Jennifer Doak	Neighbourhood Statistics, NISRA

Apologies were received from Danny McSorley Chief Executive, Omagh District Council. Robert Beatty opened the meeting and welcomed everyone present.

1. Minutes of 7th October 2003 meeting

The minutes were approved.



2. Introduction

Robert Beatty began the meeting by giving an update on recent progress with official measures of spatial deprivation in England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland. In Northern Ireland, he noted that since the last meeting of the Steering Group the 'Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2001 – A user's guide', was published and a revised spatial deprivation measures website was launched at www.ninis.nisra.gov.uk

Robert Beatty gave an update on the procurement process since the last Steering Group meeting and thanked members of the sub-group involved. He noted that a contract had been awarded to the Social Disadvantage Research Centre (SDRC) at the Department of Social Policy and Social Research, University of Oxford, led by Michael Noble.

3. Noble Team Presentation

Robert Beatty invited the team from SDRC to give a presentation to the Steering Group. Michael Noble introduced the team and invited George Smith to give a presentation on the current measures of deprivation. Then Michael Noble gave a summary of the proposed schedule.

Michael Noble then discussed new deprivation indicators, with specific reference to recent developments in England. Chelsie Antilla presented the Living Environment and Geographical Access domains; David McLennan then discussed the Crime domain, the geographies available and the timestamp of the measures. Finally, Michael Noble discussed the methodology, consultation and outputs from the research project.

4. Consultation

Robert Beatty then invited the Steering Group members to discuss the consultation process. It was noted that NICVA helped with the consultation process in the previous review. Frances McCandless stated that NICVA would be happy to assist again. It was also agreed that Steering Group members could provide further input into the form of the public consultation process.

Action Point 1: **NISRA and NICVA to arrange consultation meetings.**
(Janis Watson / Frances McCandless)

Action Point 2: **Suggestions for content of public consultation meetings to Janis Watson by June 2004**
(Steering Group Members)

To ensure a full dissemination of information on the review it was agreed that updates on the progress of the deprivation review as well as the minutes and papers of the Steering Group meeting will be placed on the NISRA website. Other organisations represented on the group could also advertise the review and provide links to the NISRA website.



Action Point 3: **Update on Deprivation Review placed on NISRA website by mid-May and passed on to Steering Group members.**
(Janis Watson)

5. Geography

Robert Beatty then invited discussion on the geography for the Deprivation Measures. He explained that the administrative geography of Northern Ireland was based around electoral wards, which had populations varying in size by a factor of 10. For statistical purposes (e.g. measuring spatial deprivation) it is preferable to have areas with equal populations. Mr Beatty noted that the Office for National Statistics have developed Super Output Areas (SOAs) for England that have roughly equal population counts. The Steering Group agreed that, from a technical perspective, SOAs were preferable but would wish to see a strong link to wards retained.

Action Point 4: **NISRA to include a section in the Consultation Document on the geography of the Measures with specific reference to Super Output Areas.**
(David Marshall)

Action Point 5: **Circulate relevant papers on Super Output Area developments in England to Steering Group members.**
(Robert Beatty)

6. Time of Data

The Steering Group then discussed the time point for data. The group agreed that the data for the review should, as far as possible, be for the single year 2003.

7. Methodology

Robert Beatty noted that the consultation process would cover the proposed methodology, including the domains and indicators. He confirmed that the research team had already begun talking to data suppliers. In a round table discussion a number of points were made regarding the robustness and further availability of data since the last review. A number of action points were agreed

Action Point 6: **Public transport data to be made available to Research Team.**
(Janis Watson to arrange with Tracy Power)

Action Point 7: **Rural Development Council to discuss available indicators with researchers.**
(Janis Watson to arrange with Nigel Flynn)



Action Point 8: **Circulate Fermanagh District Council “Deprivation in Fermanagh and the Noble Report” to Steering Group members and the Research Team.**
(Janis Watson)

8. General Issues

The meeting was then opened up for Steering Group members to raise any general issues. General comments made by group members included:

- **Backwards and sideways compatibility** – The research team noted that this was something that was difficult as the brief was to obtain the best measures at 2003. Given this it was almost impossible to get backwards/sideways compatibility. They suggested that the best approach would be to monitor individual indicators over time and space.
- **Indicator availability** – On the back of this Robert Beatty noted that NISRA would like all the relevant indicator data from the review to be published – most likely through the Neighbourhood Statistics website. This was agreed, with relevant disclosure control and shrinkage techniques applied.

9. Way Forward/Date of next meeting

The group agreed that next meeting would be after the series of public consultation meetings.

[Post meeting note: meeting planned for Friday 3rd September, 2pm, Boardroom, McAuley House]

NISRA
May 2004