

**re: NI MULTIPLE DEPRIVATION MEASURES CONSULTATION**

Please find following the response that Fermanagh District Council is making to NISRA regarding the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measures Consultation.

Fermanagh District Council welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Consultation exercise for the Northern Ireland Measure of Multiple Deprivation. We would draw your attention to the detailed response submitted to NISRA under cover of our letter dated 14 October 2004. We note that the seven domains remain as previously despite our previous comments regarding the crime domain.

In addition, the Council would request that the following responses are considered for the 2009 Consultation.

**1. Income Deprivation Domain:**

- i) The Council accepts that adults and children in receipt of housing benefit should be included in the domain.

**2. Employment Deprivation Domain:**

- i) The Council accepts, given the recommendations and changes data availability, that the proposed updated domain is acceptable.

**3. Health Deprivation and Disability Domain:**

- i) The Council agrees that an emergency hospital admission rate indicator should be included in the domain (for length of stay of four nights or more).
- ii) The Council agrees that mental health hospital admissions should be included in the mental health indicator.
- iii) The Council agrees that a children's dental health indicator should be included in the domain.
- iv) The Council agrees that a low birth weight indicator should be included in the domain.

**4. Education, Skills and Training Deprivation Domain:**

- i) The Council agrees that Key Stage 2 performance data should replace the 'proportions of children aged 11 and 12 not attending a grammar school.

- ii) The Council agrees that primary level absenteeism rates should be included in the domain.
- iii) The Council agrees that the proportion of primary school age pupils with Special Education Needs should be included in the domain.
- iv) The Council agrees that the destination of school leavers indicator should include those not entering Further Education or training.
- v) The Council agrees that three sub-domains should be introduced, decreasing the importance of 2001 Census data in the overall domain.

## **5. Proximity to Services Domain:**

This is one of the most important domains to Fermanagh, given the rurality and lack of access to services.

- i) Fermanagh District Council does not agree that cross border services centres and accident and emergency hospitals should be included.

Although they may be accessible from a time and distance point of view, currently costs are prohibiting our residents from using these services and therefore these are not accessible.

- ii) The Council agrees that a general service indicator should be included.
- iii) The Council questions that the size (and therefore the range and prices of stock carried) of convenience stores might differ significantly between rural and urban areas. Individuals in rural areas may therefore have to shop at other than the nearest food store for particular items. The Council, therefore, recommends that a minimum size of 2,500 square feet be included in this indicator. This would guarantee that the 'general food store/convenience store' be sufficiently large to carry a full range of items.
- iv) The Council feels that dentists, opticians and pharmacists in Fermanagh rely on trade from across the Border and that access to these services is not a good indicator as the nearest service may not be available on the basis of cost.
- v) A question arises regarding Council Leisure Centres in that there is a variety in the provision that they offer.

- vi) The Council prefers that service centres should be based on population.
- vii) The Council strongly agrees that the calculation of proximity should be based on time, not distance.

Further, the Council strongly agrees that car ownership should not be an indicator as due to the lack of public transport in Fermanagh, most households have access to a car through necessity.

#### **6. Living Environment Domain:**

- i) The Council accepts that Central Heating information from the 2001 Census and SOA level housing stress should be replaced by the Decent Home Standard.
- ii) The Council accepts that the Housing Health and Safety Rating System should be included.
- iii) The Council accepts that the Household Overcrowding information from the 2001 Census should be excluded.

#### **7. Crime and Disorder Domain:**

- i) The Council accepts that given the recommendations and changes to data available, the proposed updated domain is acceptable.