

**Update of Measures of Spatial Deprivation
 Minutes of the First Steering Group Meeting
 2pm Tuesday 3rd February 2009
 Boardroom, McAuley House**

Present:

Name	Department / Organisation
Mr Robert Beatty (Chair)	NISRA
Mr Alex Boyle	DOE
Mr Gary Ewing (Secretary)	NISRA
Ms Joanne Henderson (deputising for Mr Martin Monaghan)	DETI
Ms Margaret Langhammer	DRD
Dr David Marshall	NISRA
Mr Martin Mayock	DHSSPS
Dr Ruth McAreevey	RDC
Ms Cathryn McBurney	NISRA
Ms Frances McCandless	NICVA
Dr Alan McClelland	OFMDFM
Ms Karen McCullough	DE
Mr Tony McKibben	DSD
Mr Darren McKinstry	Equality Commission
Ms Zita Murphy (deputising for Mr Keith Morrison)	DARD
Mr Dave Rogers	DEL
Dr Michael Willis	DCAL

Apologies were received from Mr Joe Frey (NIHE), Mr Danny McSorley (SOLACE), Mr Keith Morrison (DARD) and Mr Martin Monaghan (DETI).

(i) Welcome and introduction

Robert Beatty opened the meeting, welcomed everyone present and provided apologies for members who could not attend. This was followed by round-the-table introductions.

(ii) Background Information - Paper 1

David Marshall delivered a presentation; providing background information on the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measures 2005 and previous measures of spatial deprivation in Northern Ireland; information on corresponding measures in the UK and RoI; and outlining the process for an update of the current measures.

David Marshall explained that the DFP Minister had informed Executive colleagues that the NIMDM 2005 would be updated. He noted that this update would be undertaken within NISRA and that Departments had agreed to this via the Statistics Co-ordinating Group. He also noted that the update is overseen by this Steering Group with domain groups, comprising relevant experts, meeting to discuss issues around data provision and the recommendations from the NIMDM 2005 report. The data analysis would be undertaken by NISRA statisticians whilst external academics would quality assure a consultation document detailing the proposed methodology for the measures.

Robert Beatty initiated the discussion by highlighting that an update would take place in 2009/10 with a more fundamental review to follow after the 2011 Census. The discussion that followed pivoted on what constituted an 'update' rather than a 'review'. The group agreed that in carrying out an update the NIMDM 2005 recommendations would be considered and that new data may also be included only where changes in data collection had occurred or more appropriate sources were available.

Key Point 1: It was agreed that the deprivation project will take the form of an 'in-house' (within NISRA) update to the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2005; with a more fundamental review to take place after the 2011 Census.

Key Point 2: The Steering Group decided that the update will constitute a recalculation of indicators with more recent data, providing such data is available; or using improved, more robust data where it is available. Recommendations made in the NIMDM 2005 report will be considered, with the Steering Group deciding which recommendations are pursued and which are more suitable for the longer-term review.

Key Point 3: The Steering Group agreed that recommendations considered to be outside the remit of an update should be considered as part of the longer-term review.

Martin Mayock asked whether the final decision on the NIMDM 2005 recommendations would be made by the domain groups. Robert Beatty answered that domain groups should make recommendations but that ultimately the Steering Group should make the decision. Karen McCullough suggested that Terms of Reference would be necessary for domain groups. This was agreed.

Action Point 1: Draft terms of reference for domain groups and distribute to Steering Group members for agreement.
(NISRA-Demography and Methodology Branch)

Karen McCullough asked whether the 'in-house' nature of the update would mean that additional resources would be available for participating departments to cover the work of departmental statisticians? David Marshall responded that no extra resources have been made available but that the workload on departmental statisticians should not be excessive.

Alex Boyle questioned if Steering Group members needed a statistics background and whether a DoE representative with more experience of the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure might be found. Robert Beatty explained that it was not necessary for Steering Group members to be statisticians although Ms Harcourt, a DRD statistician would be informed and given the option of joining the Deprivation Steering Group.

Action Point 2: Ms Stephanie Harcourt to be informed of Deprivation Steering Group.
(NISRA-DMB)

(iii) Proposed timeline for Deprivation Update - Paper 2

David Marshall presented a proposed timeline for the update to the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure before asking for opinions from the Steering Group. Dave Rogers considered the timetable to be challenging as the publication date is late 2009/early 2010.

David Marshall proposed that an announcement is made on the NISRA website to inform users that an update to the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure is underway. The announcement should include Terms of Reference for the Steering Group and a note of the intention of a more thorough review of deprivation measures after the 2011 Census and the current Local Government Boundary Review. The Steering Group agreed to this.

Action Point 3: Deprivation update announcement to be published on the NISRA website.
(NISRA-DMB)

Issues were raised about the timing of the consultation period over the summer holiday period. However counter points included that as the consultation period will span 4 months this may be less of an issue. The Steering Group agreed that this was surmountable if the DFP Committee were informed at an early stage of the process - ideally around the publication of the consultation document.

Action Point 4: DFP Committee to be informed at an early stage of the project.

(iv) Output Geography - Paper 3

Cathryn McBurney delivered a presentation explaining the geographies used in the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2005; the current Review of Local Government Boundaries in Northern Ireland; and outlined the proposed output geography for the updated spatial deprivation measures.

Cathryn McBurney highlighted that the Review of Local Government Boundaries was likely to result in new electoral ward and Local Government District Boundaries in 2010, while statistical geographies (Output Areas and Super Output Areas) would need to be considered after the Census 2011.

Therefore the proposed output geography for the updated deprivation measures were the current Super Output Areas and Output Areas, with summary measures produced on current Ward, Local Government District and Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries (as was the case in the NIMDM 2005). Following the results of the boundary review, the need for summary measures for the new Local Government Boundaries would be discussed.

Robert Beatty invited comments. Debate surrounded the timing of the political agreement on the Local Government Review and the implications of slippage within the proposed deprivation timetable. In addition discussion centred on whether delaying the update, and subsequently creating and using the new political geographies would constitute a 'review', rather than an 'update'.

Key Point 4: The Steering Group agreed that the existing NIMDM 2005 geography should be used for the update to the measures of spatial deprivation. Summary measures at the new Local Government District level will be reworked following finalisation of the Boundary Review; while a new small area statistical geography should be considered in the future review of deprivation measures.

(v) Draft Terms of Reference - Paper 4

Robert Beatty tabled the draft terms of reference document. A number of changes were suggested and agreed within the Steering Group. The redrafted terms of reference are attached for further consideration and final agreement.

Action Point 5: Consider attached revised draft terms of reference.
(Steering Group)

(vi) Any Other Business

Alex Boyle raised the issue of populating the domain groups. David Marshall explained that relevant experts and departmental statisticians who produce the data were invited. David Marshall added that most domain groups lend themselves to particular departments or individuals, while membership of the

proximity to services and overall Multiple Deprivation Measure groups was less obvious. Interested parties were asked to indicate if they would like to attend a particular domain group meeting. Michael Willis expressed an interest in attending the Proximity to Services Domain Group.

Action Point 6: Steering Group Members to consider membership of Proximity to Services and Overall Domain Group.
(Steering Group)

(vii) Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting will be late May or early June 2009, after the consultation document has been quality assured by external academics and before the consultation document is published for public consultation.

Action Point 7: Arrange second Deprivation Steering Group meeting.
(NISRA - DMB)

Summary of Actions

Action	Detail	Lead
1	Draft and distribute Domain Group Terms of Reference to Steering Group members for agreement.	NISRA-DMB
2	Contact Ms Stephanie Harcourt re Deprivation Update.	NISRA-DMB
3	Publish announcement of Deprivation Update on NISRA website.	NISRA-DMB
4	Inform DFP Committee of Deprivation Update.	NISRA-DMB
5	Consider attached revised draft Steering Group Terms of Reference.	Steering Group
6	Consider membership of Proximity to Services and Overall Domain Group.	Steering Group
7	Arrange second Deprivation Steering Group meeting.	NISRA-DMB