

Agenda item 9: Multiple Deprivation update**Multiple Deprivation update**

NISRA has been commissioned to undertake an update of the current multiple deprivation measures (i.e. NIMDM 2010).

The purpose of this paper is to update members of the Demographic Statistics Advisory Group on the work.

Issue

Members are invited to note the developments outlined in the paper and, in particular, are actively encouraged to participate in the deprivation geography consultation that has been initiated: see [Deprivation Output Geography Consultation](#)

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Measures that describe the spatial distribution of deprivation or disadvantage have been developed and used by Government and others in Northern Ireland since the 1970s. They have played a pivotal role in both informing the targeting of resources to the most deprived areas in Northern Ireland and monitoring the spatial impact of policy interventions.
- 1.2. The Statistics Advisory Group (SCG) of the NICS, which comprises senior policy officials from Government Departments, has commissioned NISRA to undertake an update of the current Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measures (NIMDM 2010). By way of background, the current measures were published in 2010 and remain the official measures until the update has been completed. The project will take around 18 months to complete, with publication of the new results expected in mid-2017.
- 1.3. The work was initiated in October of last year and activities to date have largely been focused on getting the required NISRA statisticians in place and establishing the necessary governance arrangements. On staffing, we consider that the thrust of the work can be led by a full-time DP Statistician with support from a full-time Assistant Statistician, both of whom will report directly to the Head of Demographic Statistics (Brian Green – G6) and, in turn, NISRA's Director of Analysis (Dr Tracy Power – G5) who will act as Senior Information Risk Owner (SIRO) for the project. While all of the permanent team is now in place, the filling of the Assistant Statistician post was frustrated to a degree by the NICS Voluntary Exit Scheme and gave rise to the need to realign the high level work plan to a degree – the end date does however currently remain as mid 2017. A temporary one-year post will come into effect later in 2016 for the data collection phase of the project.

2. Governance

- 2.1. In view of the importance of the multiple deprivation measure, the work is being overseen by a cross-Departmental Steering Group, including representatives from all Government Departments, Non-Departmental Public Bodies and Local Government Districts (see membership as detailed in Annex A).
- 2.2. The Steering group will be supported by seven Domain Expert Groups (i.e Income & Employment, Health, Education, Living Environment, Crime and Disorder, Proximity to Services and Urban Rural Research). Their role will be to support the team in terms of the methodological development work, securing access to essential data, advancing the 36 recommendations that arose from the 2010 MDM work and bringing forward recommendations to the Steering Group.
- 2.3. A number of key governance activities have been advanced, including:
 - the development of an overarching Business Case for the work
 - the establishment of the Steering Group

- the establishment of seven domain expert groups
 - the development of a risk strategy document and an associated risk register
 - re-aligning the high-level project plan to address the delays in getting the Assistant Statistician post filled
- 2.4. In addition, work was undertaken to update the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee on developments (23 February 2016). This provided the opportunity to rehearse our current understanding of their concerns regarding the current measures.
- 2.5. The first meeting of the Steering Group was held on 10 March 2016. The group were given a high level presentation on the background to the update and were taken through key governance documents such as the Business Case for the work, the high level work plan, the risk register and the handling arrangements for the 36 recommendations that emerged from NIMDM 2010 update. The next meeting is being arranged for the 17 June 2016.
- 2.6. Meetings of the domain expert groups are currently getting underway, with the aim that the first meeting of each group takes place before the second meeting of the Steering Group on 17 June 2016.

3. Overview of the work

- 3.1. The project comprises five key phases, the first of which consists of methodological preparation, including meetings with the Domain Expert Groups and data suppliers.
- 3.2. The second stage will be dominated by the preparation and publication of the Deprivation consultation document in Autumn 2016. Having considered the [NIMDM2010 recommendations](#), this document will set out detailed proposals in respect of the updated multiple deprivation measure. This will be followed by consultation events later that year (third stage).
- 3.3. In the fourth stage, scheduled for early 2017, responses from the consultation will be actively considered in order to finalise the methodology. This will clear the way for the updated deprivation measure to be produced and published along with suitable guidance in mid-2017. As part of this fifth and final stage, NISRA will arrange tailored dissemination events as appropriate to help ensure that users are aware of how to interpret and use the updated measure.

4. Consultation on geographical levels for NIMDM 2017 outputs

- 4.1. As part of phase 1 of the project, NISRA has recently launched a [consultation](#) to consider the options for the geographical levels for which the Updated Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure will be produced and published.

- 4.2. The proposed option is to continue to base the primary outputs on the Super Output Area (SOA) geography, which has been in use for over a decade for deprivation purposes. This has a number of advantages, including:
- continuity over time
 - data availability and quality
 - ability to identify pockets of deprivation
 - user familiarity with geography
 - comparability with geographies used for similar Measures in the rest of the UK
- 4.3. Should the body of evidence however point towards a preference for the alternative option (i.e. to create a brand new statistical geography for NI that nests within the new administrative geographies that resulted from the RPA), it could delay the project by around six months. A decision on this will ultimately be a matter for the Steering Group. **DSAG members are actively encouraged to participate in the [NIMDM 2017 Output Geography Consultation](#), which closes on midnight on 4 May 2016.**
5. **Further information**
- 5.1. Further information on progress of this project can be found on the [NISRA Deprivation website](#).

Brian Green

NISRA

Annex A: Steering Group Membership

Sharon McNicholl	Belfast City Council
Louise Scullion	Causeway Coast & Glens District Council
Michael Gallagher	Derry City & Strabane District Council
Norman Fulton	Dept. of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
Michelle Crawford	Dept. of Communities
Stephen Donnelly	Dept. of Economy
David Hughes	Dept. of Education
Eugene Mooney	Dept. of Health
Tom Reid	Dept. of Infrastructure
Liz Loughran	Dept. of Infrastructure
Glyn Capper	Dept. of Justice
Simon Hookham	Equality Commission
Joe Reynolds	The Executive Office
Heather McKee	Newry, Mourne & Down District Council
Andrea Thornbury	NICVA
Joe Frey	NI Housing Executive
Teresa Canavan	Northern Ireland Rural Development Council
Aiden Campbell	Rural Community Network
Karen McCoy	Southern Health & Social Care Trust
Freda Magill	Ulster Farmers' Union