
REPORT TO:	DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE (Special)	AGENDA ITEM:	8
DATE OF MEETING:	7th JANUARY 2002	CATEGORY:	DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE	OPEN:	
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	Peter Woolrich Ext: 5726	DOC:	Dep Indices.doc
SUBJECT:	UPDATING THE ENGLISH INDICIES OF DEPRIVATION –STAGE 1 CONSULTATION REPORT	REF:	myfiles/committees/EnvSer/Deprivation Indices
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	All	TERMS OF REFERENCE:	ES10

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 That Member's respond to the Consultation Paper along the lines indicated in the report.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To consider a response to the Stage 1 Consultation Report from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) on the updating and possible revisions to the Indices of deprivation and to support the Coalfield Communities Campaign's (CCC) response.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 The ODPM's office has published a report for consultation on proposals for updating the Indices of Deprivation. The deadline for comments is 15th January 2003. By way of background, Members will be aware that large sums of Government money are now allocated using the Indices. Any modification or addition can therefore have both a beneficial or deleterious effect on such allocations depending upon how authorities score.
- 3.2 The document is some 75 pages long including appendices and a copy has been placed in the Member's room. One of the crucial questions in the updating of the ID 2000 will be how far the number of domains and indicators could be expanded. The increasing availability of data and the increasing co-operation between government initiatives make far larger indices conceivable. This raises the dilemma of how new indicators or domains should relate to those already in existence and whether there is a point at which transparency suffers in the pursuit of more information
- 3.3 In so far as the original ID 2000 were concerned, many of the larger coalfield areas benefited from their revision as they more accurately reflected their problems and as

a result usually moved them further up the rankings. The main losers were the London Boroughs. The South Derbyshire position remained relatively unchanged, principally due to the fact that the District is such a diverse one with the better parts offsetting and obscuring the worst.

3.4 However, there are certain sections worthy of comment whereby subsequent changes if incorporated into the Indices could benefit the District. In particular –

- The continuing use of Incapacity Benefit (IB), as an indicator of exclusion from employment and of Health deprivation, should be supported. This is one of the more important factors in highlighting former mining areas which tend to have a higher share of such claimants.
- The figures for IB claimants, and for Job Seeking Allowance claimants, should also be extended to cover the 60-64 male age group. Again there tend to be large numbers of older men on these benefits in former coalfield areas.
- Of the six district-level indices, two (the number of employment deprived and the number of income deprived) measure absolute numbers and as such will have a bias in favour of the very largest authorities irrespective of the relative levels of deprivation. This practice will disadvantage shire districts in particular and should be modified to better reflect the situation.
- There are proposals to incorporate new 'domains' covering crime and the environment should data availability allow. Without comparable evidence at the moment it is difficult to assess whether this would make a difference to South Derbyshire's position. Although a legacy of the extractive industries remains in some areas a great deal of remedial work has been carried out over recent years. Crime figures on the other hand could highlight particular ward areas.
- On the question of lack of suitable accommodation, the issue of housing affordability is raised and it is likely that the London boroughs would press for its inclusion. This should be resisted as, although homes may be more expensive in London and the Home counties, they also represent immense capital assets for their owners.
- There is also pressure from the larger urban areas and the London Boroughs to have a measure of ethnicity (or variants such as English as a second language) included (for example in the Education domain) but it can be argued that ethnicity in itself does not measure deprivation.

3.5 The CCC have also requested that the Authority express support along these lines.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 The Indices of Deprivation is used as one of the bases for distributing Government funding. It is important therefore that support is given to those indices which are likely to more favour this District.

5.0 Conclusions

5.1 The Government is consulting on possible changes to the Indices of Deprivation. It is in the interest of the Council to make representations on some of these in order not to be disadvantaged financially. It is considered that support be expressed for the

existing Indices and that only minor modest revisions, as indicated above, be undertaken to bring figures up to date or exploit new data sources.

6.0 Background Papers

ODPM Letter	Updating the English Indices of Deprivation 2000 Coalfield Communities Campaign	November 2002 10/12/02
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