

**DEVELOPMENT, LEISURE & CULTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT**  
**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UNIT**

**NORTHERN IRELAND MULTIPLE DEPRIVATION MEASURE 2009**  
**CONSULTATION DOCUMENT**

**Income Deprivation Domain Question**

1. Whether the proposed changes from the 2005 domain are acceptable? specifically whether Adults and Children in Households in receipt of Housing Benefit should be included in the domain?

**Council Response:** The proposed additional indicators which reflect a change in the benefits system are acceptable and Council welcomes the approach that persons in receipt of more than one benefit will be counted only once in this domain. With respect to housing benefit and those in receipt of income support, jobseekers allowance and guarantee pension credit there is an automatic entitlement and therefore to include housing benefit in the measures will be more relevant when dealing with families with low earned income through earnings or other benefits. With average NI earnings being set in region of £26k per annum, the threshold of £16k set by housing benefit would clearly indicate levels of deprivation. The average family currently will benefit from tax credits and child benefit and both these benefits are included for assessment purposes of housing benefit however we note that tax credit data is no longer accessible and will therefore not be included in the updated domain. Council would request a reconsideration of this decision as tax credit information is an important indicator in determining levels of deprivation.

NI Multiple Deprivation Measure 2005 (Existing Indicators)	Proposed updated indicators
<b>Employment Deprivation Domain</b>	
Unemployment claimant count of women aged 18-59 and men aged 18-64	Unemployment claimant count of women aged 18-59 and men aged 18-64
Incapacity Benefit claimants women aged 18-59 and men aged 18-64	Incapacity Benefit claimants women aged 18-59 and men aged 18-64
Severe Disablement Allowance claimants women aged 18-59 and men aged 18-64	Severe Disablement Allowance claimants women aged 18-59 and men aged 18-64
Invalid Care Allowance claimants women aged 18-59 and men aged 18-64	Carer's Allowance claimants women aged 18-59 and men aged 18-64
Participants in New Deal for Young People (18-24 years) who are not included in the claimant count	
Participants in New Deal for 25+ who are not included in the claimant count	
	<b>Employment and Support Allowance claimants women aged 18-59 and men 18-64</b>

### Employment Deprivation Domain Question

1. Whether, given the recommendations and changes to data availability, the proposed updated domain is acceptable?

**Council Response:** Council agrees that the Labour Force Survey and Family Resources Survey sample sizes are too small to measure hidden unemployment so should be excluded as a separate indicator.

While Council accepts that the Steps to Work programme introduced in 2008 in place of New Deal has not yet been operating province wide and is therefore excluded from the current measure we feel this should be included as soon as possible thereafter as the New Deal programme was included in the last measure to capture those not claiming Job Seekers Allowance but who were actively seeking employment.

Council would agree that those claiming the new Employment and Support Allowance should be included with those already on Incapacity Benefits in this domain to reflect the changes introduced to the claimants system for those who cannot work due to illness or disability.

NI Multiple Deprivation Measure 2005 (Existing Indicators)	Proposed updated indicators
<b>Health Deprivation &amp; Disability Domain</b>	
Years of Potential Life Lost	Years of Potential Life Lost
Comparative Illness and Disability Ratio	Comparative Illness and Disability Ratio
A combined measure of two indicators: i) individuals suffering from mood and anxiety disorders, based on prescribing data ii) suicides	A combined measure of <b>three</b> indicators: i) individuals suffering from mood and anxiety disorders, based on prescribing data ii) suicides <b>iii) mental health inpatient stays</b>
People registered as having cancer	People registered as having cancer <b>(excluding non-melanoma skin cancers)</b>
	<b>Emergency Admission Rate</b>
	<b>Low Birth Weight</b>
	<b>Children's Dental Extractions</b>

### Health Deprivation & Disability Domain Question

Whether the proposed changes from the 2005 domain are acceptable?

**Council Response:** The availability of additional indicators to enhance the health deprivation and disability domain is welcomed. The ability to link prescription data to postcode area is a useful indicator in highlighting concentrations of health related illnesses and ultimately a contributory factor in determining area wide levels of deprivation. Council would support the proposed changes to this domain.

NI Multiple Deprivation Measure 2005 (Existing Indicators)	Proposed updated indicators
<b>Education, Skills and Training Deprivation Domain</b>	
<b>Sub-Domain: Children/Young People</b>	<b>Sub-Domain: Primary School</b>
Proportions of Years 11 and 12 pupils not in grammar school	<b>Key Stage 2 Teacher Assessments for English and Maths (and Irish in Irish medium schools)</b>
	<b>Proportions of pupils attending Special Education Needs Schools or who are attending primary school with Special Needs Education</b>
	<b>Absenteeism at Primary School (all absences)</b>
	<b>Sub-Domain: Post Primary</b>
Key Stage 3 data	<b>Key Stage 3 Teacher Assessments for English and Maths (and Irish in Irish medium schools/units)</b>
GCSE/GNVQ points score	<b>GCSE or equivalent qualifications points score</b>
Proportion of those leaving school not entering Further Education	<b>Proportions of those leaving school not entering Further Education or Training</b>
Proportions of 17-20 year olds who have not successfully applied for Higher Education	<b>Proportions of 18-21 year olds who have enrolled in Higher Education Courses at Higher Education or Further Education establishments</b>
Absenteeism at secondary school level (all absences)	<b>Absenteeism at Secondary Schools (all absences)</b>
Proportions of post primary pupils with Special Education Needs in mainstream schools	<b>Proportions of pupils attending Special Education Needs Schools or who are attending post primary school with Special Education Needs</b>
<b>Sub-Domain: Working Age Adults</b>	<b>Sub-Domain: Working Age Adults</b>
Proportions of working age adults (aged 25-59) in the area with no or low levels of qualification	<b>Proportion of working age adults (25-59) with no or low levels of qualification</b>

### **Education, Skills and Training Deprivation Domain Question**

Whether the proposed changes from the 2005 domain are acceptable?

Specifically

1. Whether Key Stage 2 performance data should replace the 'proportions of children aged 11 and 12 not attending a grammar school'?

**Council Response:** Key Stage 2 Teacher Assessment data is a more accurate way to measure primary school performance, given that pupil level information is now available through the Primary School Census. This will include the performance of all children and is more relevant than using an indicator to capture numbers of children not attending grammar schools. Performance information is more useful in determining educational deprivation.

- Whether primary school level absenteeism rates should be included in the domain?

**Council Response:** Council would agree that this should be included now that Primary School Census data is available. Previously, in NIMDM 2005, secondary school level absenteeism rates were included and we feel it would be beneficial to replicate this for the primary sector.

- Whether the proportion of primary school age pupils with Special Education Needs should be included in the domain?

**Council Response:** The proportion of primary age pupils with Special Educational Needs is an important indicator to determine deprivation and is a welcomed addition to this domain as previously children with special educational needs were only counted in post primary schools.

- Whether the destination of school leaver's indicator should include those not entering Further Education or training?

**Council Response:** Council would agree that the destination of School Leavers domain should be adapted due to the number of school leavers who do not go into Further Education but go into full and part-time training schemes in order to further their educational attainments, who previously were not being counted. The indicator should therefore be amended to consider those not entering Further Education or Training as this is more reflective of the aim of this domain.

- Whether three sub-domains should be introduced, decreasing the importance of 2001 Census data in the overall domain?

**Council Response:** Council would agree that the proposal to reduce the importance of the 2001 Census Data from 50 % to 33% and increasing school level data to 66% across 2 sub-domains is better. The suggested percentages should also applied in the fuller review of the deprivation measures following the Census in 2011.

NI Multiple Deprivation Measure 2005 (Existing Indicators)	Proposed updated indicators
<b>Proximity to Services Domain</b>	
GP premises	GP premises
Accident and Emergency hospital	Accident and Emergency hospital
Dentist	<b>Other Primary Health Care Services</b>
Optician	
Pharmacist	
Jobs Centre or Jobs and Benefits Office	Jobs Centre or Jobs and Benefits Office
Post Office	Post Office
Food shop	<b>Supermarket/Food Store</b>
Settlement of 10,000 or more people	<b>Large Service Centre</b>
	<b>Council Leisure Centre</b>
	<b>Financial Services</b>
	<b>Other general services</b>

## Proximity to Services Domain Question

1. Whether the proposed changes from the 2005 domain are acceptable?

**Council Response:** The proposed amendments capture a more enhanced data set permitting a more in depth analysis of proximity to services. Council would request that proximity to Council Leisure Centres be expanded to take cognisance of locally available community owned or managed community/recreational centres which have the potential to improve deprivation ratings particularly in rural areas.

NI Multiple Deprivation Measure 2005 (Existing Indicators)	Proposed updated indicators
<b>Living Environment Domain</b>	
<b>Sub-Domain: Housing quality</b>	<b>Sub-Domain: Housing quality</b>
SOA level housing stress	<b>SOA level Decent Homes Standard</b>
Houses without central heating	
	<b>SOA level Housing Health and Safety Rating System</b>
<b>Sub-Domain: Housing Access</b>	<b>Sub-Domain: Housing Access</b>
Household overcrowding	
LGD level homelessness acceptances	<b>SOA level homelessness acceptances</b>
<b>Sub-Domain: Outdoor physical environment</b>	<b>Sub-Domain: Outdoor physical environment</b>
SOA level local area problem score	SOA level local area problem score

## **Living Environment Domain**

1. Whether the proposed changes from the 2005 domain are acceptable?

**Council Response:** The availability of additional indicators to enhance the living environment domain is welcomed. The replacement of houses without central heating with the SOA level Decent Homes Standard is a more comprehensive indicator measuring the quality of housing in relation to a number of factors including state of repair, facilities, services, and level of thermal comfort. The use of the Housing Health and Safety Rating System taken from the House Conditions Survey will accurately reflect poor housing quality and therefore of relevance to this domain.

NI Multiple Deprivation Measure 2005 (Existing Indicators)	Proposed updated indicators
<b>Crime and Disorder Domain</b>	
<b>Crime Sub-Domain</b>	<b>Crime Sub-Domain</b>
Violence, robbery and public order	Violence, robbery and public order
Burglary	Burglary
Vehicle Theft	Vehicle Theft
Criminal Damage	Criminal Damage
<b>Disorder Sub-Domain</b>	<b>Disorder Sub-Domain</b>
Malicious and deliberate Primary Fires	<b>Deliberate Primary Fires</b>
Disturbances	<b>Anti Social Behaviour Incidents</b>

## Crime and Disorder Domain Question

1. Whether, given the recommendations and changes to data availability, the proposed updated domain is acceptable?

**Council Response:** Council would agree that since the DPP Survey is sent to one in 10 households, the sample sizes are not large enough to create robust indicators at the small area level, and so should not be used in the updated Crime and Disorder domain.

Council agrees that since research carried out by NIO gave inconclusive results on the relationship between deprivation and reporting rates, reported crime rates provided by PSNI should continue to be used without adjustment until such time as data from the 2008/9 survey become available and can be used to further investigate the relationship between deprivation and reporting rates.

Although evidence from the Northern Ireland Crime Survey suggests that domestic violence is severely underreported, it is clear that the levels of reporting to police are higher than to any other voluntary or statutory organisation. It is therefore accepted that PSNI recorded crime data are currently the most robust source of small area information on domestic violence and should continue to be included in the violence indicator in the crime sub-domain.

As the change from "malicious and deliberate fires" to "deliberate primary fires" is a change in name only, Council would not be of the opinion that this would impact negatively in any way on the operation of the Crime and Disorder Sub-domain.

The replacement of the "disturbances" indicator by "anti-social behaviour incidents" following the introduction of the National Standard for Incident Recording in April 2006, which sought to improve the consistency by which incidents are recorded and classified, would seem to be a sensible adjustment, particularly as one of the most frequently reported forms of anti-social behaviour is "rowdy or inconsiderate behaviour" is now included.

Council would agree that the weighting, 60% for anti-social behaviour incidents and 40% for deliberate primary fires is appropriate. The giving of additional weight to the most deprived areas in each sub-domain is also positive.

## Concluding Remarks

Council would support as previously detailed the amendments to the updated NI Multiple Deprivation Measure which we believe will strengthen the validity of the individual domains. Council would also stress that:

- There is a clear need to maintain a comparative trend analysis built up over the years from previous measures of deprivation like the Robson Index in order to accurately measure the impact of strategy and policy interventions by Central and Local Government and Statutory Organisations.

- Core data such as Tax Credit Information must be made available to ensure accurate and relevant recording

In addition Council believe that consideration should be given as part of the 2011 Census or as part of the full review of Noble to identifying individual lifestyle choice decisions. This data could be overlaid with the NI Multiple Deprivation Data to give a more comprehensive measure of deprivation in NI.