

# ABERFELDY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Paper on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 2020

***Action from Regular Meeting Tuesday 4th February, 2019 at 7.30pm***

## **Introduction**

The report that Rannoch and Aberfeldy, (in Perth and Kinross) was ranked in the index as most deprived in Scotland for "Access" was raised and the question posed, by the chair, what if anything should we do about this? No one in the room knew exactly what the index measured or what this really means. As Pat Spicer was already working on the index and its significance to enable an application to SUSTRANS to be made, he volunteered to try to clarify what was behind the statement and share that learning, so a more informed debate could be had at a subsequent meeting.

This paper does not address the whole index. There is

- 1) A basic introduction
- 2) Description of the area that we form part of
- 3) An explanation of what the "Access" element is about
- 4) Some commentary on the problems of application to Rural areas
- 5) Some data.
- 6) Links to other documents

For the news story see (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-51279966>)

## **The SIMD – What is it and how was it compiled?**

The findings, which are published by the Scottish government every four years, involve ranking 6,976 "datazones", effectively small postcode areas, across Scotland based on levels of income, employment, health, education, housing, access to services and crime (the 7 "Domains").

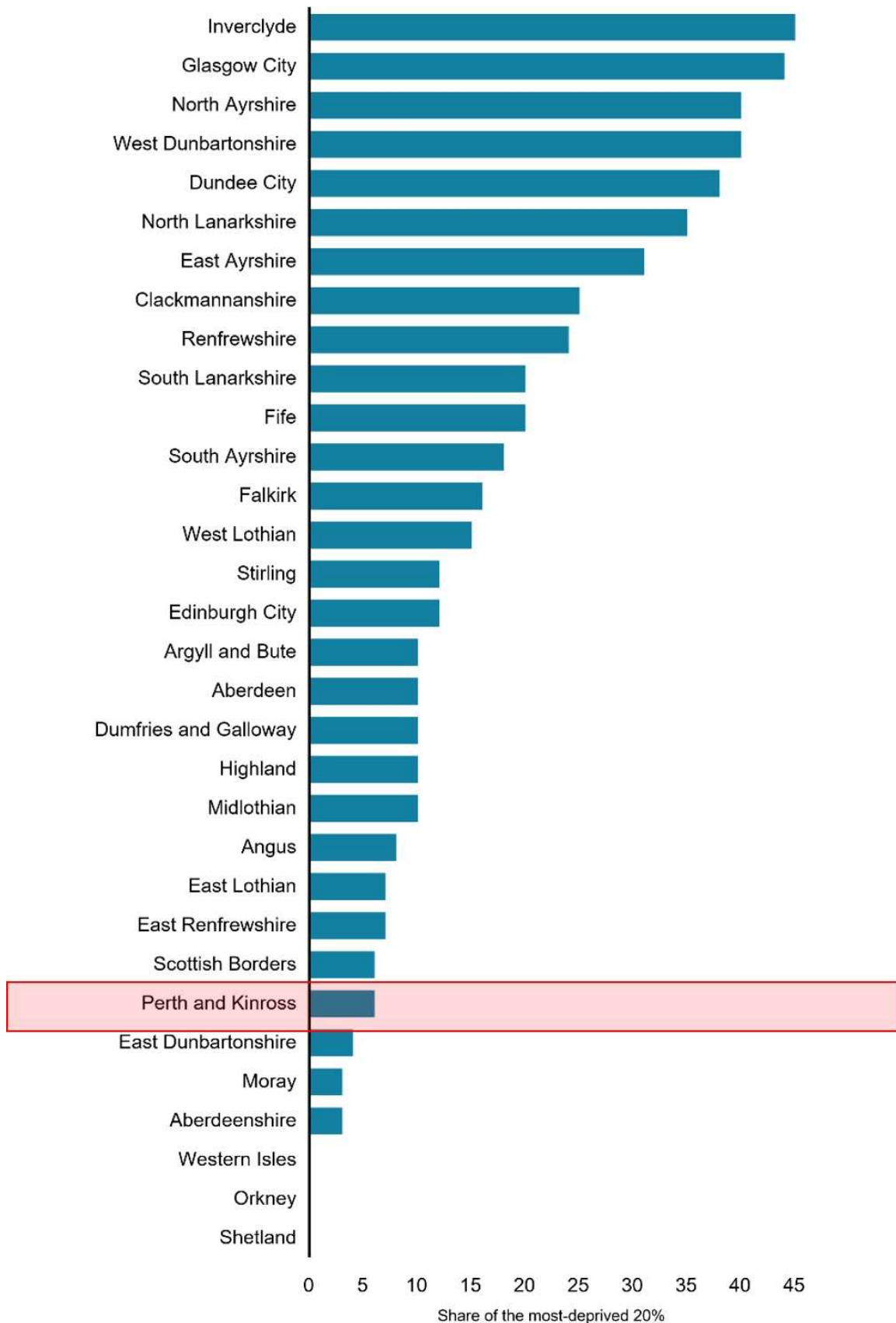
Overall scores are then calculated for each datazone. These scores are aggregated into larger areas for the main ranking exercise. Rankings are published for overall deprivation and for each of the seven domains.

For a Scotland wide perspective there is a further aggregation that ranks Council Areas by their share of the 20% most deprived (plot on next page).

The principal purpose of the SIMD is to provide a means of identifying concentrations of deprivation in Scotland and where there is greater need for support and intervention.

## Councils with highest percentage of deprived areas

Share of areas in the 20% most-deprived



## **Rannoch and Aberfeldy**

Rannoch and Aberfeldy are comprised of 6 datazones, numbered S01012013 to 2018. Maps are in the Appendix. The choice of these datazones shows little logic in terms of the population distribution. For instance datazone 2014 comprises a quite compact area that covers "northern" Aberfeldy, including the houses out by the distillery, but excludes the houses around the Tayside Crescent area. Southern Aberfeldy however is part of a vastly larger datazone, albeit with much of it having very low population density. This results in some odd numbers. So S Aberfeldy residents take c 80% longer to drive to facilities in the town than those in N Aberfeldy (who are therefore much less deprived...) Zone 2016 stretches from a boundary on the opposite bank of the Tay by Aberfeldy to the shores of Loch Ericht. Weem is in two different datazones. A key element of data zone definition is that they are all roughly the same in terms of total population (average 760 people)

## **Access**

"Rannoch and Aberfeldy" is rated most deprived in Scotland in terms of access. Access comprises the following sub-elements.

drive_petrol	Time (minutes)	Average drive time to a petrol station in minutes
drive_GP	Time (minutes)	Average drive time to a GP surgery in minutes
drive_PO	Time (minutes)	Average drive time to a post office in minutes
drive_primary	Time (minutes)	Average drive time to a primary school in minutes
drive_retail	Time (minutes)	Average drive time to a retail centre in minutes
drive_secondary	Time (minutes)	Average drive time to a secondary school in minutes
PT_GP	Time (minutes)	Public transport travel time to a GP surgery in minutes
PT_Post	Time (minutes)	Public transport travel time to a post office in minutes
PT_retail	Time (minutes)	Public transport travel time to a retail centre in minutes
broadband	Percentage	Percentage of premises without access to superfast broadband (at least 30Mb/s download speed)

## **SIMD and Rural areas**

From the introduction to the report:

*"Studies suggest that deprivation is experienced differently between people living in rural and urban parts of the country. The main issues in rural areas include access to services, lack of affordable housing and higher fuel costs. Developing a*

*clearer understanding of these issues and how to measure them better is an important step in reducing deprivation across all parts of Scotland.*

*Previous research also indicates that area-level measures of deprivation fail to capture households experiencing disadvantage in rural areas. This is because rural deprivation can be more dispersed in rural areas compared to urban areas. This can lead to inadequate resources and interventions being located in these areas."*

In terms of the problem of rural areas not showing up well in this statistical analysis there is a key quote: "Nine out of ten people who are income deprived do not live in a deprived area"

Another key factor is the weighting of the factors in reaching a combined score

<b>Domain</b>	<b>2016 weight</b>	<b>% of overall SIMD</b>
Income	12	28
Employment	12	28
Health	6	14
Education	6	14
Access to Services	4	9
Crime	2	5
Housing	1	2

Table 1: Weights for each SIMD domain.

Thus access to services and housing, recognised as bigger factors in rural situations get very low weightings, so rural areas inevitably come out lower in the overall rankings compared to folks' experience.

Another factor that is not included anywhere is the lack of police presence full time fire and rescue service or an ambulance service and how that impacts on rural life.

Data_Zone	Total_population	Working_Age_population	drive_petrol	drive_GP	drive_post	drive_primary	drive_retail	drive_secondary	PT_GP	PT_post	PT_retail	Broadband
			minutes									
S01012013 Strathtay, Grandtully & adjacent	772	450	6.7	8.0	3.8	4.1	7.4	8.5	22.0	14.4	19.6	47%
S01012014 North Aberfeldy	857	507	1.3	1.6	1.3	3.0	1.3	2.9	5.4	4.3	3.9	0%
S01012015 South Aberfeldy & hinterland	978	573	2.3	2.9	2.2	3.6	2.2	3.6	10.4	7.6	7.4	11%
S01012016 N of Loch Rannoch	765	488	6.9	20.5	6.8	8.2	24.0	23.4	42.9	13.6	46.1	83%
S01012017 S & W of Loch Rannoch, Glenlyon, S Loch Tay	510	306	21.5	26.6	14.1	14.6	32.3	27.6	66.4	35.2	80.7	75%
S01012018 Kenmore, Acharn, Fearnan & hinterland	831	511	13.1	12.4	7.9	7.7	12.8	9.9	30.2	22.5	31.5	69%

PT = Public Transport Travel Time

## **Documentation**

Documents can be downloaded from the government website as follows:

Main Site: <https://www.gov.scot/collections/scottish-index-of-multiple-deprivation-2020/>

Introduction: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-index-multiple-deprivation-2020/>

Illustrated Story: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/simd-illustrated-story-a-place-in-time/>

Ranks and Domain Ranks: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-index-of-multiple-deprivation-2020-ranks-and-domain-ranks/>

Datazones: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-index-of-multiple-deprivation-2020-data-zone-look-up/>

Tools: Local and National Share Calculator:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-index-of-multiple-deprivation-2020-local-and-national-share-calculator-2/>

Rural Deprivation Evidence Review:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-index-of-multiple-deprivation-rural-deprivation-evidence-review-and-case-studies/>

There is also a map capability:

<https://simd.scot/>

This paper and the documents I have downloaded will be made available on the Community Council Website.

Pat Spicer

February 6<sup>th</sup> 2020

Appendix: Datazone maps

