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1 Introduction

1.1 The Indices of Deprivation are compiled and published by the Department for Communities and Local Government. The indices combine a range of indicators to provide a single deprivation score for each Lower Super Output Area⁽¹⁾ (LSOA) in England.

1.2 Similar data is gathered in Scotland and Wales, but the indices are slightly different. For this reason, the data is not comparable across the borders⁽²⁾. This may affect some of the data relating to the Forest of Dean District and will be addressed in greater detail below.

1.3 The Indices of Deprivation are measures of deprivation, not affluence. All of the people in a deprived area are not necessarily deprived and some people in the least deprived areas will be deprived. These measures of deprivation cover a range of issues and refer to unmet needs caused by a lack of resources of all kinds, not just a lack of financial resources. For example, the 2010 Indices show that over 5 million people live in the most deprived areas in England and of these, 38% are income deprived. The indices are also relative and as a result, there will always be areas that are considered to be deprived⁽³⁾.

1.4 The most recent results were published in 2010 by the Department for Communities and Local Government and are entitled 'The English Indices of Deprivation 2010'⁽⁴⁾.

1.5 Gloucestershire County Council carried out a county wide analysis of these figures, which is available online⁽⁵⁾.

1 There are 34,378 Lower Super Output Areas in England and Wales. These areas were created using census data from 2001 for the purposes of statistical analysis. A Lower Super Output Area has a minimum population of 1,000 residents and 400 households. The average Lower Super Output Area has a population of 1,500. Source:

<http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/Infodoc?page=aboutneighbourhood/geography/superoutputareas/scoa-intro.htm>

2 Source:

<http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/Infodoc?page=analysisandguidance/analysisarticles/indicesofdeprivation.htm>

3 Source: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/pdf/1871208.pdf> , pg.2

4 Source: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/indices2010>

5 <http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/inform/index.cfm?articleid=104149>

2 Types of Indices

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2.1 The 2010 Indices use 38 separate indicators relating to seven distinct domains. The domains are income; employment; health and disability; education, skills and training; barriers to housing and other services; crime; and living environment.

2.2 Most of the domains including income deprivation, employment deprivation, health deprivation and disability, education, skills and training, crime and living environment are based on numeric indicators such as the number of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance or the average points score of pupils taking English, Maths and Science at Key Stage 2 exams. Barriers to housing and services includes a geographic element and considers the road distance to a GP surgery, the road distance to a supermarket or convenience store, the road distance to a primary school and the road distance to a post office⁽⁶⁾. This domain also includes figures relating to homelessness, overcrowding and housing affordability. As outlined above, the analysis focuses on England and does include any reference to Wales. This has implications for those LSOAs which are close to the border with Wales and can, in practice, access services in Chepstow and Monmouth. This does not have any impact on the other data.

2.3 Another important consideration is that each of the seven domains is weighted. Income deprivation and employment deprivation have the highest weighting of 22.5%; health deprivation and disability and education skills and training have the second highest weighting of 13.5%; barriers to housing and services, crime and living environment have the lowest weighting of 9.3%⁽⁷⁾.

2.4 Given that the barriers to housing and services domain has the lowest weighting and is only partially composed of geographic information, the proximity of Chepstow and Monmouth should not greatly impact on the overall assessment of deprivation in the district. Any data set which assesses the entire country will contain anomalies. This does not undermine the overall usefulness of the data.

2.5 Gloucestershire County Council conducted additional work to address this issue⁽⁸⁾.

6 Source: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/pdf/1871208.pdf> pg. 13-16

7 Source: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/pdf/1871208.pdf> pg. 16

8 <http://www.maiden.gov.uk/Accessibility/Maps2011/AccessMatrix2011.pdf>

3 Results

3.1 The 2010 indices show that 98% of the most deprived LSOAs in England are mostly in urban areas, but there are also pockets of deprivation surrounded by less deprived areas⁽⁹⁾.

Overall Deprivation Level

3.2 In the Forest of Dean District⁽¹⁰⁾, only one LSOA, Cinderford West 1, was in the top 10% of deprived areas in Gloucestershire. It was ranked 29th out of 367 neighbourhoods.

3.3 A number of LSOAs in the Forest of Dean District were ranked in the top 10-20% of deprived neighbourhoods in Gloucestershire.

Lower Super Output Area	County Ranking
Lydney East 1	40
Lydney East 3	42
Cinderford East 2	44
Cinderford West 3	53
Lydbrook & Ruardean 1	60
Littledean & Ruspidge 2	68
Coleford Central 2	71
Coleford East 1	73
Awre	74

3.4 None of the LSOAs in the Christchurch and English Bicknor ward or the Tidenham ward feature in these lists, indicating that the inclusion of geographic data and the proximity of these wards to Chepstow and Monmouth did not push these areas into the lowest 20%.

Income

3.5 In terms of income, both Cinderford West 1 and Lydney East 1 are in the lowest 10% of income deprived LSOAs in Gloucestershire. These were ranked 18th and 34th respectively.

9 Source: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/pdf/1871208.pdf> pg. 3

10 Source: <http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/inform/index.cfm?articleid=104149>

Employment

3.6 Some five LSOAs feature in the bottom 10% in the county for employment. These include:

- Cinderford West 1 (12th),
- Cinderford East 2 (27th),
- Newnham and Westbury 1 (29th),
- Lydney East 1 (33rd),
- Lydney East 3 (34th).

Health Deprivation and Disability

3.7 Both Cinderford West 1 (34th) and Lydney East 1 (22nd) are in the bottom 10% in the county for health deprivation and disability.

Education, Skills and Training

3.8 The following LSOAs are in the bottom 10% in the county for education, skills and training:

- Lydney East 1 (10th),
- Cinderford West 1 (14th),
- Cinderford East 2 (30th),
- Lydney East 3 (32nd),
- Coleford East 1 (36th).

Barriers to Housing and Services

3.9 The following LSOAs are in the bottom 10% in the county for barriers to housing and services:

- Tidenham 3 (8th),
- Tibberton (14th),
- Newland & St Briavels 1 (15th),
- Bromsberrow/Dymock (20th),
- Newnham & Westbury 2 (22nd),
- Hewelsfield & Woolaston (28th),
- Tidenham 2 (32nd),
- Christchurch & English Bicknor (36th).

Crime and Disorder

3.10 None of the LSOAs in the Forest of Dean District are in the bottom 10% for crime and disorder in the county. Some LSOAs are in the bottom 10% to 20%.

Living Environment

3.11 None of the LSOAs in the Forest of Dean district are in the bottom 10% for crime and disorder in the county. Some LSOAs are in the bottom 10% to 20%.

4 Comparison with rest of County

4 Comparison with rest of County

4.1 The clearest expression of the comparative level of deprivation in the district is the maps available on the county council website⁽¹¹⁾. These maps compare the district with the rest of the county.

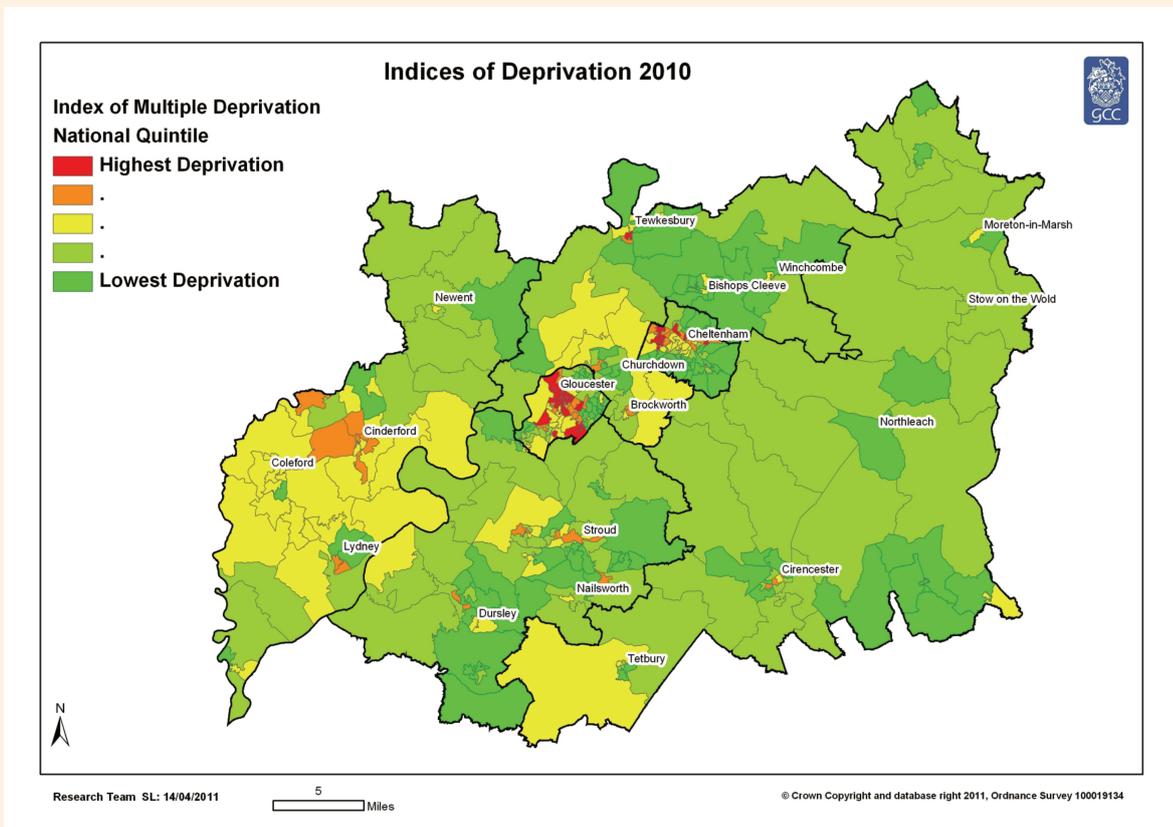
4.2 When the data is viewed in this manner, it appears that, apart from the urban areas of Gloucester and Cheltenham, the Forest of Dean is more deprived than many areas of Gloucestershire, in the domains of income, employment, health and disability and education, skills and training. Although the figures in relation to geographical access to services may be somewhat affected by the location of the district on the border of Wales, the pattern of deprivation in this domain is similar to that in other rural areas of Gloucestershire.

11 <http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/inform/index.cfm?articleid=104147>

5 Conclusion

5.1 The rankings of some LSOAs in the district may be affected by a geographical element of the data, but this does not push these LSOAs into the bottom 20%. Although the urban areas of Gloucester and Cheltenham suffer from a greater concentration of deprivation, the Forest of Dean District suffers from deprivation in various domains across a larger area than many other districts in Gloucestershire.

5.2 For more detailed information about the indices of deprivation in the district and county, please go to the Gloucestershire County Council website: <http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/inform/index.cfm?articleid=104147>.



Map of the index of multiple deprivation in Gloucestershire 2010

