



The Index of Multiple Deprivation by ward (IMD) 2015

Welcome to this **ourcommunities** bitesize bulletin on the Indices of Deprivation 2015 at **ward** level. This edition will look at the recently released Indices of Deprivation the results of which have now been aggregated to **ward** level in Dorset adopting a 'best-fit' approach.

The **official index** is measured at a small area level (called Lower-layer Super Output Areas – LSOAs) in England with an average of 1,500 residents in each. The LSOA data has now been taken and aggregated to produce ward level data that can be ranked nationally.

In a **national** context **Dorset** as a whole does not score highly in relation to deprivation.



However there are pockets of deprivation in the county

- **Six wards** in Dorset are in the **top 20%** most deprived nationally
- **Five** of those are within **Weymouth & Portland** and **one** in **Christchurch**
- **Three** of these areas are in the **top 10%** most deprived nationally
Underhill, Melcombe Regis and Littlemoor

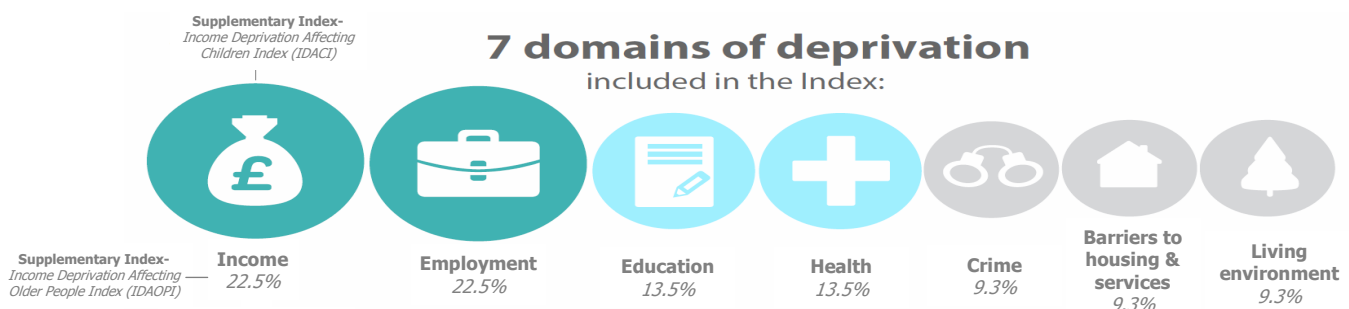
Ward data highlights higher relative rural deprivation in County

- **Broadwindsor** and **Netherbury** in West Dorset and **The Beacon** ward in North Dorset both within the top 40% most deprived nationally
- **Tophill East** and **Tophill West Portland** are also both within the top 40% nationally

Problem! - smaller areas of deprivation can be masked by Wards

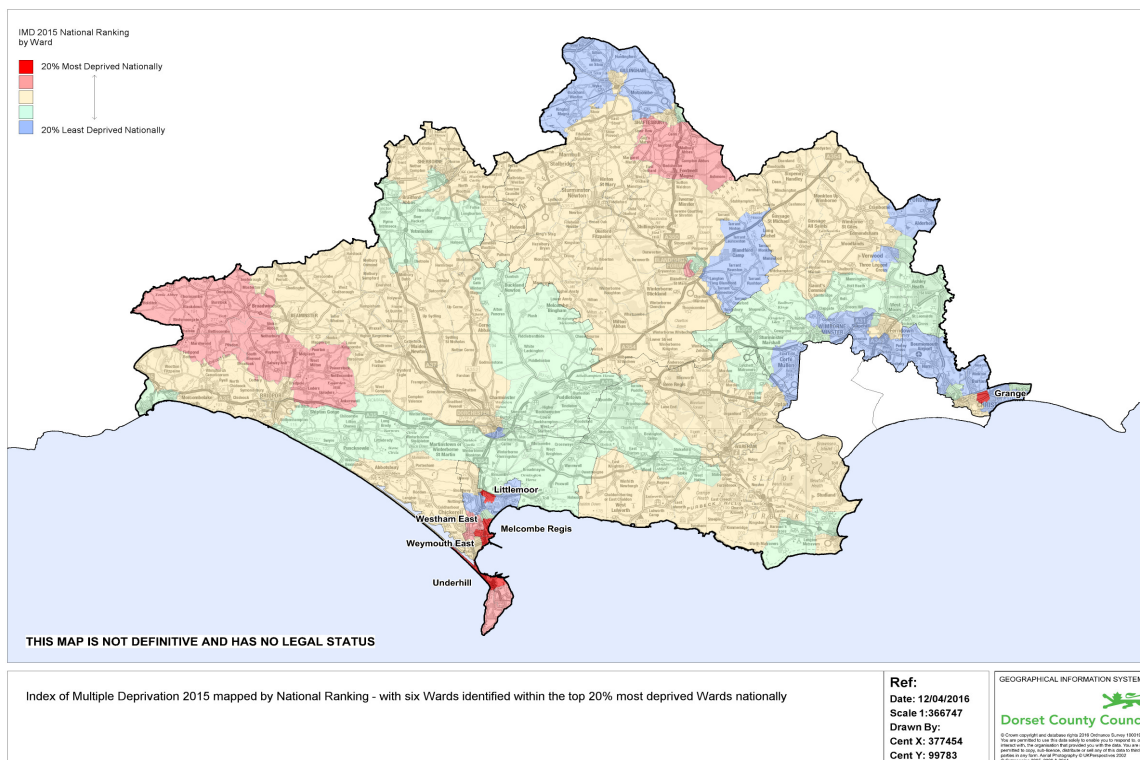
- **Bridport Court Orchard** in top 20% most deprived nationally based on LSOA level
- but the ward it sits in, **Bridport North**, includes less deprived areas that mask the results
- **Ferndown Tricketts Cross** and **Tricketts Cross East** top 30% most deprived nationally
- but the ward they sit in **F'down Central** includes less deprived areas that mask results

The Index of Deprivation includes **seven domains** that together, in different proportions, make-up the IMD. Each domain is also measured separately - for the wards currently IMD only is measured





Deprivation in Dorset - IMD National Ranking - with six wards identified in the top 20% most deprived nationally



Aggregating the Indices of Deprivation data to be used at ward level can provide a useful guide for those looking into identifying recognisable areas of deprivation.

The significance of rural areas becomes more obvious in the IMD ward data as levels of relative deprivation are more consistent than in urban locations where areas of deprivation and affluence in close proximity can cancel each other out.

This dataset should however be treated with a degree of caution as it uses a ‘best fit’ methodology to match or aggregate smaller geographies to ward level. This is because there is no way to break down the building blocks of IMD which are Lower-layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) into smaller geographies that might better fit ward boundaries. In many cases a ward will have data attributed to it from an LSOA that does not sit wholly in that ward - in these cases the ward is given the LSOA attribute where the greatest proportion of addresses from that LSOA fit into the ward.

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| <p>Benefits </p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  recognisable geography  rural areas given more significance | <p>Issues </p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  small pockets of deprivation can be masked  results for wards based on a best fit approach  data may not be in line with local knowledge |
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Although useful for providing a general guide and giving people a good idea of where deprivation is focused in Dorset, it is advised that for funding applications, service delivery, strategies and other specific projects that the LSOA based Indices of Deprivation 2015 is used which is available on our statistics website.

<https://apps.geowessex.com/stats/Topics/Topic/Deprivation>

This bulletin was created by: Consultation and Research, Chief Executive’s Dept using the 2015 Indices of Deprivation released September 2015. For more information contact Pete Jackson 01305 224614 or visit www.dorsetforyou.com/statistics