



25 September 2006

## **NEW DISADVANTAGED AREA MAPS PUBLISHED**

The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment has announced the results of updating its disadvantaged area maps.

DETI will continue to target 30% of the Northern Ireland population by designating the six most deprived Council areas in Northern Ireland, together with the most disadvantaged areas of Belfast, as the focus for activities aimed at tackling poverty and social need. The six Council areas, selected by using the new data available from the 2005 Noble Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure, are Newry & Mourne, Strabane, Derry, Omagh, Cookstown and Dungannon.

Commenting on the new maps, DETI Minister Maria Eagle said: **“DETI is firmly committed to playing its part in tackling the problems of deprivation and social exclusion in the most disadvantaged areas of Northern Ireland. The updated maps represent a fair and objective approach to defining deprivation and will enable DETI and its agencies to effectively target resources.**

**“While those areas designated as disadvantaged will be afforded priority status, the Department will continue to seek to improve job and income opportunities throughout Northern Ireland and to provide an appropriate response to the needs of individual areas.”**

## NOTES TO EDITORS:

1. The updated maps are based on indicators from the 2005 NI Multiple Deprivation Measure produced by a research team led by Mike Noble from the University of Oxford.
2. Noble 2005 builds on earlier work in Northern Ireland and England and uses 43 separate indicators to measure relative deprivation across seven domains (income; employment; health and disability; education, skills and training; proximity to services; living environment; and crime and disorder). These domains may be used individually, in any combination or weighted together to form the Multiple Deprivation Measure. The DETI maps are based solely on the income and employment domains which are considered to be the most relevant to DETI activities.
3. In addition to targeting the six most deprived Council areas, DETI has continued to target Belfast City Council at a smaller area level. Due to its population size and lack of homogeneity, to do otherwise would disproportionately skew resources away from other areas across NI.
4. In previous years, DETI attributed 'special status' to a small number of areas which fell outside the DETI maps yet at the time were experiencing relatively high levels of unemployment. In view of falling unemployment in Northern Ireland in recent years, with the current unemployment rate below the UK average and second lowest among the UK regions, the use of a 'special status' category is no longer appropriate. 'Special status' was formerly afforded to Larne, Carrickfergus, Fermanagh and Limavady.
5. Based on indicators from the 2001 Noble NI Multiple Deprivation Measure, DETI formerly designated Newry & Mourne, Strabane, Derry, Omagh, Cookstown and Moyle, along with areas of Belfast, as disadvantaged.
6. Copies of the updated maps are available on the DETI website at [www.detini.gov.uk](http://www.detini.gov.uk)
7. Media enquiries should be directed to the DETI Press Office on telephone 028 9052 9604.
8. General information can be obtained by contacting Irene McAllister, DETI Equality & Diversity Unit, on telephone 028 9052 9650 or by e-mail to [irene.mcallister@detini.gov.uk](mailto:irene.mcallister@detini.gov.uk)