

Report

Report to:	Community Wealth Building Commission
Date of Meeting:	28 February 2023
Report by:	Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

Subject:	Area Profiling Tool for South Lanarkshire
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ♦ provide the Commission with an overview of an online Tool developed by the Council which provides statistical information on small areas and communities within South Lanarkshire.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Commission is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the contents of the report be noted.

3. Background

3.1. The Commission has been provided with statistical information on the economic and social context within South Lanarkshire at its meetings on 31 August 2021 and 28 June 2022. The indicators within this “data digest” will be updated and brought to a meeting of the Commission later this year.

3.2. When the data digest was presented previously, a commitment was given to bring regular updates on relevant statistics to the Commission to inform decision-making and provide appropriate context for Community Wealth (CWB) work in South Lanarkshire.

3.3. The purpose of this report is to signpost a resource available on the Council’s website which provides data to aid understanding of the social and economic situation in South Lanarkshire. This takes the form of an Area Profiling Tool developed by the Council and available for anyone to use.

4. The Area Profiling Tool

4.1. The Area Profiling Tool (the Tool) enables thematic reports to be generated about areas within South Lanarkshire which are defined by the user. These can be as large as the whole of South Lanarkshire or as small as a single data-zone. Any combination of data-zones can be selected to form a user-defined area for analysis.

4.2. The Tool has 2 main features: the ability for users to select an area of interest or to define their own “custom” area and the ability to select what sort of information they would like to see about the area.

- 4.3. The Tool stores statistics about individual data-zones in South Lanarkshire and this is the lowest level to which analysis can be provided. Individual data-zones can be selected and any combination of data-zones can be defined as an area for analysis.
- 4.4. To make selection of areas easier, the Tool has a number of pre-defined geographies built in. These include:-
- ◆ South Lanarkshire Council Area Committee areas
 - ◆ deprived data-zones
 - ◆ multi-member wards
 - ◆ learning communities
 - ◆ urban/rural South Lanarkshire
- 4.5. Once an area is selected, the Tool offers users a choice of statistical themes, which reflect the outcomes set out in the Council Plan, Connect. Users can select a single theme for their output report or they can request a report on all of them at once. The themes are:-
- ◆ communities and environment
 - ◆ education and Learning
 - ◆ children and young People
 - ◆ health and wellbeing
 - ◆ housing and land
 - ◆ our economy
- 4.6. Appendix 1 shows a sample report combining all the themes using the Hamilton Area Committee area as the geography of interest. This illustrates the range of information available under each theme. The tables provide data on the area selected, including a comparison (if available) with South Lanarkshire as a whole and with the Scottish average. By running the same thematic report for different areas, it is possible to see comparisons across South Lanarkshire, for example comparing different communities within a town or comparing different towns and settlements.
- 4.7. The data underlying the area profiles is updated with new data as it is published, so running the reports will bring back the latest information available for the indicators which are included under each theme. Some indicators, however, such as those which rely on the census, have not been updated nationally for some time. The issue of data lag is more apparent at data-zone level due to the additional cost and time required to collect and process data for small areas.

5. Next Steps and Recommendations

- 5.1. The Tool will continue to be updated with new data as it is made available.
- 5.2. As the Council rolls out new technologies for the management of data, the Tool will be reviewed to assess options for migrating it to an alternative platform, possibly within a dashboard-style Tool which provides a wider range of intelligence about the social and economic situation in South Lanarkshire.
- 5.3. The Commission will continue to receive an annual refresh of the data digest previously provided, the next iteration being available in summer 2023.

6. Employee Implications

- 6.1. There are no direct employee implications.

7. Financial Implications

7.1. There are no direct financial implications.

8. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

8.1. There are no climate change implications as a result of this report.

9. Other Implications

9.1. None.

10. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

10.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and therefore no impact assessment is required.

Paul Manning

Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

18 January 2023

Link(s) to Council Objectives/Values/Ambitions

♦ Accountable, effective, efficient and transparent

Previous References

♦ CWB Commission Reports – Data Digest 31 August 2021 and 28 June 2022.

List of Background Papers

♦ None

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

Tom Little, Head of Communications and Strategy

Ext: 4904 (Tel: 01698.454904)

E-mail: Tom.Little@southlanarkshire.gov.uk