

# North Ayrshire Research Briefing: Local Level Brexit Vulnerabilities in Scotland

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This briefing note summarises the findings of research carried out by the Scottish Government into the impact of Brexit on local areas. The full report can be found at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/local-level-brexit-vulnerabilities-scotland-brexit-vulnerabilities-index-bvi/>.
- 1.2 The research identifies areas of Scotland that are expected to be most vulnerable to the consequences of Brexit; and what drives those risks to support local authorities and other organisations in understanding local risks around EU exit. It analyses data on eight variables and produces a Brexit Vulnerability Index score for nearly 7,000 different areas (data zones) in Scotland. An accompanying interactive map allows for more granular analysis of each data zone in Scotland. It can be accessed from <https://bit.ly/30W1UVQ>.

## **2. Producing a local Brexit Vulnerability Index**

- 2.1 The analysis is derived from a similar methodology used to calculate rankings in the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD). The Brexit Vulnerability Index ranks, in order of risk and vulnerability, each data zone according to the data from various indicators.
- 2.2 Eight variables are used to construct the index, capturing the following factors and weighted according to how important each indicator is in terms of Brexit impact as well as the reliability/quality of the data:
  - Access to Services (weight = 20);
  - Share of the population of working age (20);
  - Income deprivation (40);
  - Population Change (20);
  - Workers in Brexit sensitive industries (30);
  - EC Payments received (a) CAP (10);
  - EC Payments received (b) ESF/ ERDF (5); and
  - EU Worker Migration (20).
- 2.3 The variables are then combined together to form a single indicator for each data zone in Scotland – the Brexit Vulnerability Index. The results can then be used to identify the data zones which are believed to be most vulnerable to the challenges which Brexit represents. Whilst results are provided for individual data zones, these should not be viewed in isolation. The risks that an individual data zone faces will depend on a range of wider factors such as the vulnerability of the wider region in which it is located, commuter patterns and unique local characteristics.

## **3. North Ayrshire Results**

- 3.1 The analysis shows that areas in every local authority in Scotland are exposed to the risk that Brexit represents. However, more rural areas appear to be of proportionately greater risk.
- 3.2 At a local level 21% of North Ayrshire's data zones are in the 20% most vulnerable in Scotland. This is the 13<sup>th</sup> highest in Scotland. The three most vulnerable areas Na h-Eileanan Siar, Shetland Islands and Argyll and Bute

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are all classed as “Island and Remote Rural” authorities. Of the council areas ranked higher than North Ayrshire, Glasgow is the only city area with the rest being “Mainly Rural”. North Ayrshire is assessed as the most vulnerable “Urban with Substantial Rural” area mainly as a result of having some very vulnerable data zones in both Arran and its deprived urban areas. This emphasises the importance of North Ayrshire’s island and rural areas being recognised and included in the Scottish Government’s Rural Economic Strategy and other government rural strategy, policy and funding work.

- 3.3 Within North Ayrshire 39 data zones (out of 186) are classed as being in the 20% most vulnerable in Scotland with a total population of just under 30,000 people. These are shown in Appendix A.
- 3.4 There is a high degree of correlation between the Brexit Vulnerabilities Index (BVI) and the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) with 23 mainly urban North Ayrshire data zones featuring in the the highest 20% in Scotland in both Indices.
- 3.5 Maps are provided at Appendix B showing the geographical spread of Brexit vulnerable areas across North Ayrshire.

### **4. Conclusion**

- 4.1 Brexit will affect communities across Scotland in different ways. This research shows at data zone – or community – level where in Scotland is likely to be most vulnerable to Brexit. It does so by identifying the factors which will influence a community’s vulnerability, and assesses the extent to which the characteristics of different communities makes them more or less vulnerable to Brexit.
- 4.2 Many of the most vulnerable areas are in “Mainly Rural” local authorities. This does not mean that urban areas would not see a negative impact from Brexit, but that on average rural communities are typically relatively more exposed to the risks that Brexit represents.
- 4.3 At a North Ayrshire level vulnerable data zones are spread across the area with concentrations in both rural and urban areas. In particular there is a strong correlation between North Ayrshire areas which have a high degree of vulnerability to Brexit and which are already areas of multiple deprivation.
- 4.4 The results from the Index emphasises the need for greater economic support to the North Ayrshire economy post Brexit and reinforces the Council’s long standing case for greater public (and private) investment in our economy.

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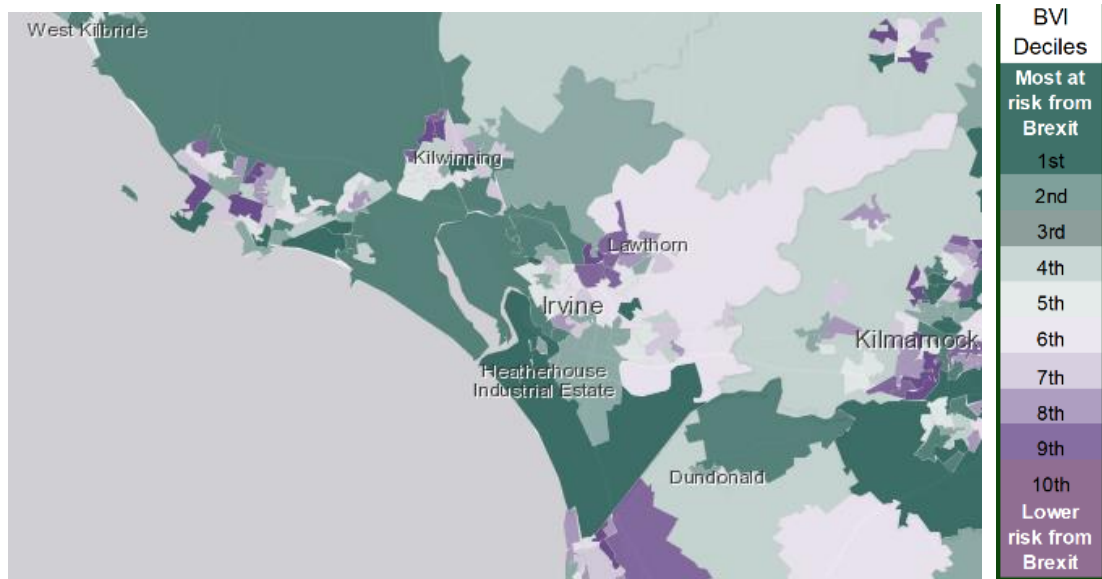
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Appendix A North Ayrshire Data Zones in 20% most vulnerable across Scotland

Datazone	Intermediate Zone Name	Population 2018	BVI Rank (out Of 6,976)	SIMD Rank (out Of 6,976)
S01011171	Arran	812	13	4,007
S01011174	Arran	407	33	3,468
<b>S01011243</b>	<b>Ardrossan_Central</b>	<b>957</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>S01011240</b>	<b>Saltcoats_Central</b>	<b>631</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>45</b>
S01011178	Springside_and_Rural	448	77	2,315
<b>S01011232</b>	<b>Irvine_Fullarton</b>	<b>959</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>290</b>
<b>S01011230</b>	<b>Irvine_Fullarton</b>	<b>929</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>S01011236</b>	<b>Stevenston_Ardeer</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>1,069</b>
S01011173	Arran	558	381	5,429
<b>S01011348</b>	<b>Beith_West</b>	<b>888</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>1,350</b>
<b>S01011196</b>	<b>Irvine_Bourtrees</b>	<b>816</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>527</b>
<b>S01011270</b>	<b>Stevenston_North_West</b>	<b>679</b>	<b>494</b>	<b>604</b>
<b>S01011302</b>	<b>Dalry_East_and_Rural</b>	<b>791</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>509</b>
<b>S01011216</b>	<b>Irvine_Castlepark_North</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>376</b>
S01011317	Largs_South	784	576	5,317
<b>S01011294</b>	<b>Kilwinning_Central_and_North</b>	<b>839</b>	<b>593</b>	<b>330</b>
S01011347	Kilbirnie_South_and_Longbar	965	694	1,875
<b>S01011269</b>	<b>Stevenston_North_West</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>714</b>	<b>544</b>
<b>S01011238</b>	<b>Saltcoats_Central</b>	<b>585</b>	<b>733</b>	<b>189</b>
<b>S01011290</b>	<b>Kilwinning_West_and_Blacklands</b>	<b>1,054</b>	<b>748</b>	<b>519</b>
S01011172	Arran	741	777	3,904
<b>S01011227</b>	<b>Irvine_Central</b>	<b>693</b>	<b>781</b>	<b>532</b>
S01011307	Fairlie_and_Rural	778	816	2,230
S01011327	Largs_Central_and_Cumbrae	624	829	1,414
S01011303	Dalry_West	921	909	5,067
<b>S01011213</b>	<b>Irvine_Castlepark_North</b>	<b>1,049</b>	<b>963</b>	<b>916</b>
S01011233	Stevenston_Ardeer	1,164	1,009	2,429
<b>S01011306</b>	<b>Dalry_West</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>1,023</b>	<b>902</b>
<b>S01011292</b>	<b>Kilwinning_West_and_Blacklands</b>	<b>699</b>	<b>1,043</b>	<b>260</b>
<b>S01011229</b>	<b>Irvine_Fullarton</b>	<b>523</b>	<b>1,048</b>	<b>214</b>
<b>S01011235</b>	<b>Stevenston_Ardeer</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>1,059</b>	<b>185</b>
S01011310	Fairlie_and_Rural	706	1,215	2,566
S01011356	Beith_East_and_Rural	976	1,254	4,137
<b>S01011252</b>	<b>Ardrossan_North_East</b>	<b>751</b>	<b>1,259</b>	<b>735</b>
<b>S01011250</b>	<b>Ardrossan_North_East</b>	<b>1,014</b>	<b>1,260</b>	<b>803</b>
S01011312	West_Kilbride_and_Seamill	1,040	1,304	6,315
<b>S01011300</b>	<b>Dalry_East_and_Rural</b>	<b>884</b>	<b>1,323</b>	<b>790</b>
S01011335	Skelmorlie_and_Rural	887	1,333	4,969
S01011177	Arran	865	1,368	4,901
	<b>Total Vulnerable Population</b>	<b>29,657</b>		
Data Zones in <b>bold</b> feature in 20% highest in both BVI and SIMD				

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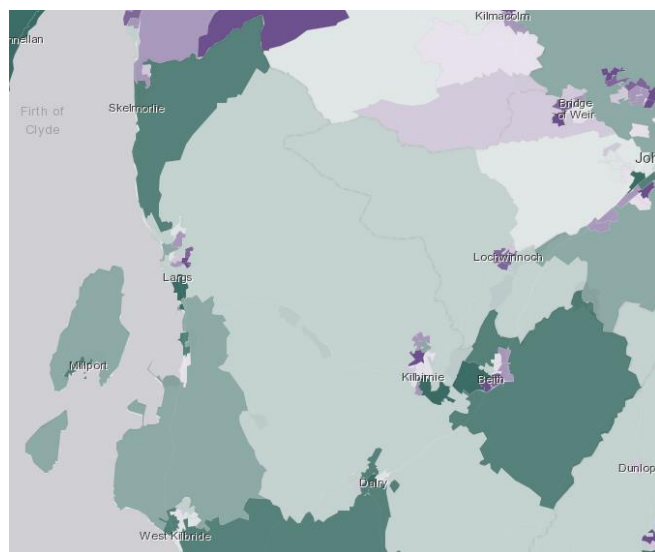
**Appendix B Brexit Vulnerability Map - North Ayrshire (Full details at <https://bit.ly/30W1UVQ>)**



Three Towns, Kilwinning and Irvine



Arran



North Coast and Garnock Valley