Levenmouth is an area in Fife which includes the towns of Leven, Buckhaven and Methil, as well as smaller villages. In the past, the area had traditional heavy industries, such as coal mining and the docks.

Once, the Methil docks were Scotland's most important coal port. Hundreds of people worked there, everyone was busy!

Things started to change in the 1960s when the mines started to close.

But not all areas were affected in the same way.

I read that twice as many people are out of work in Buckhaven than in Leven, and it's been that way for a long time.

Buckhaven was more seriously affected by losing its industries. Are there other differences between the two areas?
How much money you have doesn’t tell the whole story. The SIMD looks at differences between small areas called data zones, which have 700 - 800 people. There are almost 7000 datazones in Scotland.

SIMD combines information about income, employment, health, education, access to services, crime and housing.

This gives a ranking for each area which tells you whether the overall level of deprivation in one area is higher or lower than in another.

**Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss**

For example, the ward of Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss ward has 25 data zones: 16 of them are among the most deprived 20% in Scotland. That’s nearly two thirds of the data zones in the area.

**Leven, Kennoway and Largo**

Leven, Kennoway and Largo has lower deprivation levels, with 7 out of 26 data zones among the most deprived in Scotland. That’s just over a quarter.
No, lots of things have been changing here, with new opportunities for people in the area.

There are great educational opportunities at the newly built Levenmouth Academy, and Fife College has been expanding.

The area also has incredible potential for offshore renewable energy.

Voluntary organisations like CLEAR Buckhaven are changing the way Buckhaven looks and feels for residents and visitors.

Improving the environment and connections around the River Leven will encourage more people to visit the area.

A new business park is being developed to support innovative industries, such as renewable energy. There are plans to re-open the railway line, and improve local buses and active travel links.

So will Levenmouth always have high levels of deprivation?
Well that's good. But how can the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation help?

SIMD can help communities highlight the things that matter to them, and want to change. And it can be used to identify opportunities to improve the lives of local people.

We would really like to know what you think about our story. Please get in touch with us, and maybe share some stories of your own.

You can use the interactive mapping tool at https://simd.scot to find out the levels of deprivation within an area and show the results on a map.

More resources can be found at www.gov.scot/SIMD. Here, you can download all SIMD indicator data analysis, read the key findings guidance notes and understand how SIMD is constructed.

You can also download SIMD ranks and other data from Statistics Scotland at www.statistics.gov.scot

Get in touch with the SIMD Team:

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