

### **Theme:**

'Levelling up' has the potential to change or reverse some of the macro-economic challenges in targeted areas

### **Area of Focus:**

Using new combinations of data, the local authorities most in need of Levelling Up funding have been identified

### **Key Findings:**

A research group, led by Professor John Gathergood at the University of Nottingham, has combined granular level data to create a new Index of Covid-19 Economic Impact, which ranks local authorities by the severity of the economic impacts of Covid-19 in real time. This is the first data set of its kind in the UK, using both consumer activity and business sentiment. The data is used to show both the impact of Covid-19 and pre-pandemic Indices of Multiple Deprivation.

Key findings are:

- There is not a single story for local authorities across the UK. Some of the most deprived local authorities have been severely affected, whilst others have not. Some wealthier local authorities have been severely affected by Covid-19.
- Both measures of pre-pandemic deprivation and the impact of Covid-19 need to be taken into account when awarding funding.
- The ONS Local Authority Supergroups, which splits the UK into different regions based on economic characteristics show that some groups have been more affected, such as Ethnically Diverse Metropolitan Living being more affected by Covid-19.
- ONS Supergroups are no longer geographically contiguous.



The University of  
**Nottingham**

#### Most Economic Need

1. Barking and Dagenham
2. Blackpool
3. Great Yarmouth
4. Liverpool
5. Newham
6. Haringey
7. Tendring
8. East Lindsey
9. Nottingham
10. Luton

#### Least Economic Need

1. Harborough
2. Bracknell Forest
3. Eastleigh
4. Ribble Valley
5. Fareham
6. Mole Valley
7. South Cambridgeshire
8. Surrey Heath
9. Waverley
10. Rushcliffe

According to the research, these are the ten local authorities with the most and least economic need.

#### **Midlands Engine Impact:**

- Out of the top ten local authorities with most economic need, according to the research, Nottingham is the only local authority within the Midlands.
- Midland's authorities can no longer rely on ONS Supergroups to prove the economic need of the region. Data will become increasingly important in gaining future investment.
- Policy needs to focus on the diversity of economic need within the region, increasing the importance of place-based policy making.
- Future policy can account for both pre-pandemic deprivation and the economic effect of Covid-19.

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