

Bassetlaw

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Comment text:

Please find attached:

- Proposal for a Retford Town Centre Ward with possible adjustments to adjacent wards
- Maps x 3:
 - o Original Retford ward boundaries
 - o Option 1 showing possible boundary changes
 - o Option 2 showing alternative possible boundary changes
- Bassetlaw Electoral Forecast showing ward electorate number to 2023

Retford Town Centre is a natural community where people live and work within a social environment that is not replicated in any of the adjacent wards. Retford Town Centre will grow quickly as more space above shops is converted into accommodation and sites identified in the Retford Neighbourhood Plan are developed. The UKAEA STEP project at West Burton (just outside Retford) is expected to deliver increased interest in Retford Town Centre as a residential and commercial location. Communications in the north/south (London/Edinburgh/Leeds) and east/west (Sheffield/Lincoln) directions make Retford an attractive base of operations.

For information, the Retford Town Centre Neighbourhood Plan can be accessed here [RetfordV10.pdf](#) (retfordbusinessforum.org.uk).

The plan is designated as a business plan and is currently at Reg 16 stage. and it is hoped will go to referendum with residents and businesses in September 2024.

If you need any further information, please let me know

Thanks very much for your help

Best wishes

Rick

Attached Documents:

- [bassetlaw-forecast-2030-040324.pdf](#)
- [map-of-retford-wards-original-280424.jpeg](#)
- [map-of-retford-wards-possible-option-1-280424.jpeg](#)
- [map-of-retford-wards-possible-option-2-280424.jpeg](#)
- [rbf-proposal-retford-town-centre-representation-260424.pdf](#)



Response to the Boundary Commission Investigation into

District Council Boundaries 2024

Retford Town Centre

Background

The Retford Town Centre Neighbourhood Plan Area (RTCNP) was arrived at, and agreed, through a Neighbourhood Planning process involving consultations with the local residents, businesses, and visitors.

The RTCNP was felt to have a cohesion and commonality of interests around the concept of a Vision for Retford. Not only did a Neighbourhood Plan emerge from this process but also a Vision for Retford document outlining those activities that did not fall within the neighbourhood planning approach, but which were felt to be important to the consulted population.

This document attempts to best comply with the three statutory criteria that govern electoral reviews:

- To deliver electoral equality for voters, which means ensuring that each local councillor represents roughly the same number of electors.
- To provide boundaries that reflect natural communities, which means establishing electoral arrangements which, as far as possible, maintain local ties and where boundaries are easily identifiable.
- The need to secure effective and convenient local government, which means ensuring that the new wards can be represented effectively by their elected representative(s) and that the new electoral arrangements as a whole allow the local authority to conduct its business effectively.

Representation

One of the issues identified during the Neighbourhood Planning process was that electoral wards divided the town, at both the District and County levels.

The main wards covering the RTCNP are East Retford East and East Retford West which basically have their border along the centre of Carolgate (the main shopping street in Retford). East Retford North has a marginal inclusion to the northeast of Amcott Way which is occupied by Morrisons and Home Bargains. East Retford South has no inclusions in the RTCNP. It is difficult to be precise without an accurate census, but the weighting in terms of residents and businesses overlap is more in favour of East Retford West.

In terms of residents, the Housing Needs Assessment carried out for the Retford Town Centre Neighbourhood Planning Group (RTCNP) in 2022 mentions that "The population of the Retford Town Centre NA is estimated to be around 750 people in 2022." This report also identified that the town centre population is not typical of the surrounding housing mix in that there is a higher proportion of single apartments with more people in younger age classifications.

This population is likely to increase through residential apartment developments in the planning process in Chapelgate and Churchgate and housing being considered between Bridgegate and

Amcott Way. There are also sites on Chancery Lane which could be developed for housing on the first and second floor levels. Apartments are currently being constructed on Carolgate at the junction with New Street, and a number of applications for residential accommodation above existing retail spaces are in place and/or anticipated. If all of these developments go ahead there could be a further one hundred residents. There are also other potential sites, not currently being brought forward for development which could add to the residential figures in the future.

In the RTCNPA there are approximately 350 businesses across a range of industries, including retail, hospitality, legal and financial services, health and beauty services, and others. Assuming an average employment of five/six people per business these organisations will employ approximately 1750 – 2100 people. (There is a wide range from supermarkets and large group stores to ‘one person bands’)

The RTCNPA therefore has between 2500 and 2950 people living and working within the area with an interest in it. This does not include the visiting workers on the markets nor the relevance of the Town Centre to the prosperity of the wider district.

Proposal

In order to represent the specific and unique needs of the RTCNPA it is proposed that a single member ward is created as ‘Retford Town Centre.’ Approximately five hundred current residents would automatically transfer from East Retford West to the Retford Town Centre through the boundary change. There would be a smaller impact on East Retford East of approximately two hundred and fifty, based on 2023 estimates. This would reduce the electorate in East Retford West to approximately 3200 and in East Retford East to 5740. East Retford West currently returns two representatives (ave 1800 people each), and East Retford East returns three (ave 2000 people each).

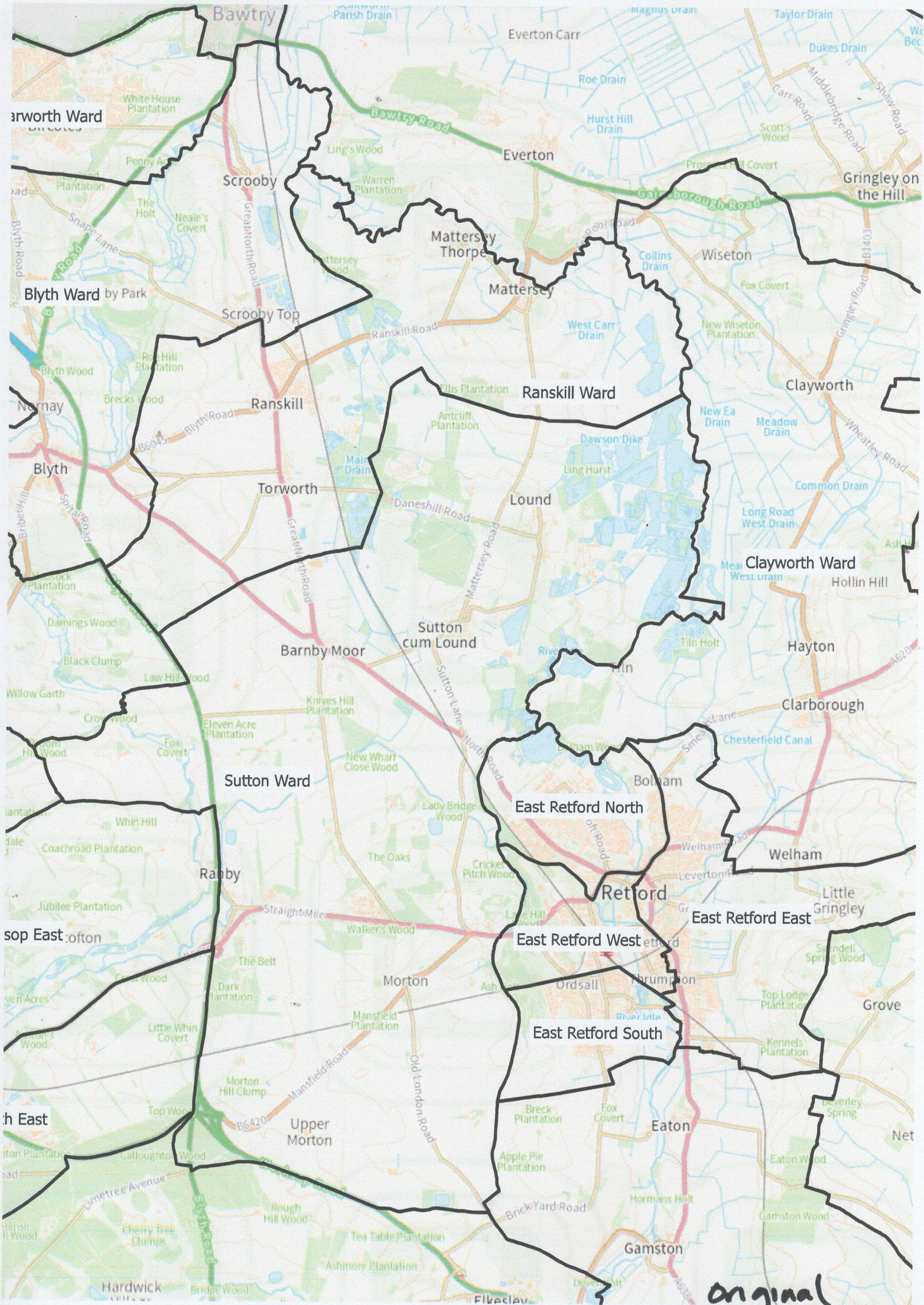
It is not possible to accurately rebalance households across wards without a street-by-street analysis, however, these are possible approaches, which may benefit from a detailed investigation:

1. The East Retford North area has an electorate of 5721 (three representatives, ave 1900 each) with an increasing population through new housing developments along North Road. An adjustment to the area at the north-west of the East Retford North area, transferring residents located to the west of the North Road, and north of Hospital Road, to the East Retford West area could help to rebalance the resulting change in representation. If East Retford North were to transfer the housing on the west side of Tiln Lane to East Retford East, this could reduce the required number of councillors in East Retford North to two, from the current three.
2. Alternatively, as well as transferring housing to the west of North Road and north of Hospital Road to East Retford West, East Retford North could extend to include all housing to the north of Welham Road, taking these numbers from East Retford East and potentially allowing a reduction in the required number of councillors in this ward from three to two.

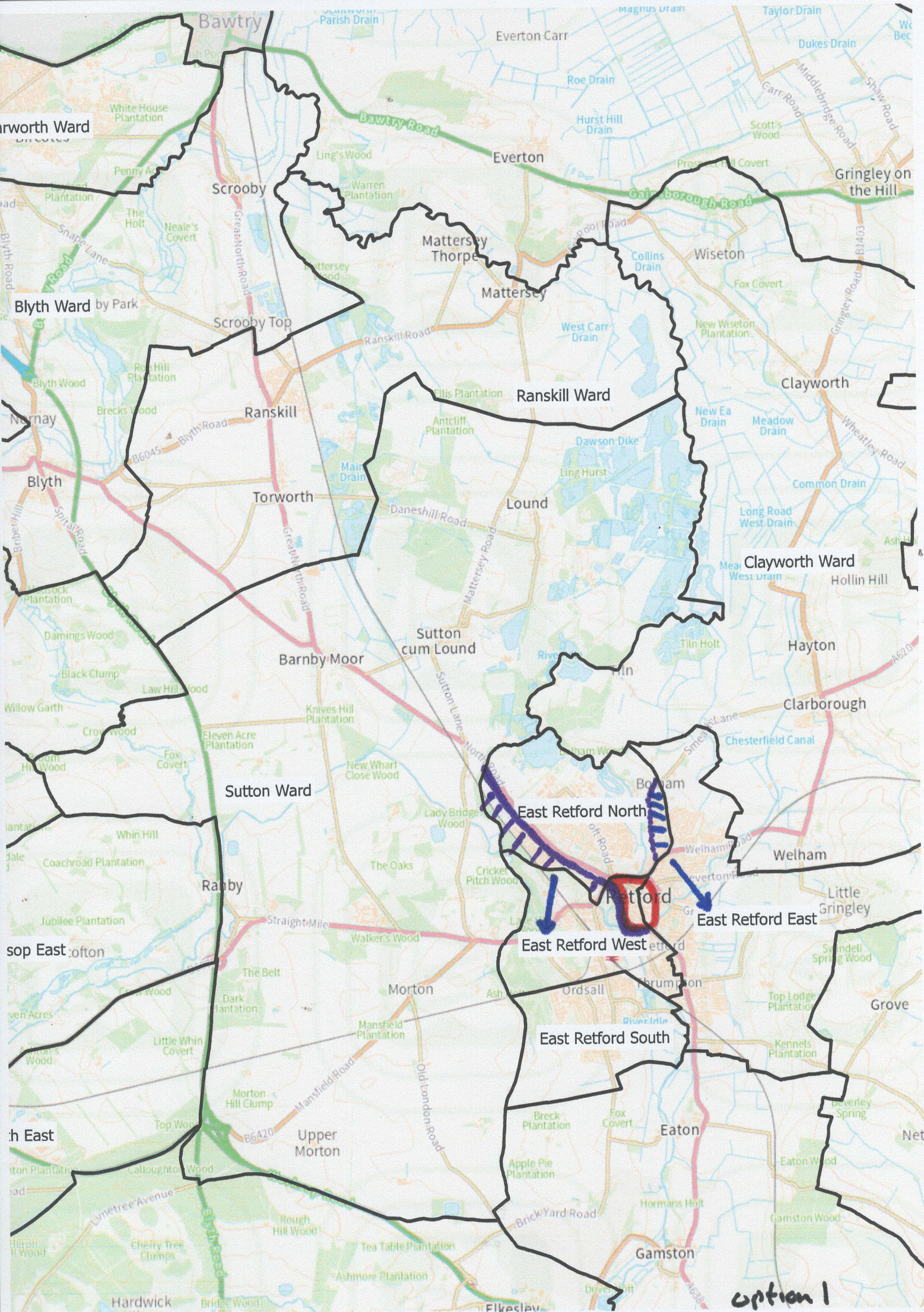
The residents and businesses in Retford Town Centre have particular and unique requirements, not reflected in the social and cultural composition of any of the adjacent wards, and therefore representation by a single councillor is proposed, reflecting these needs.

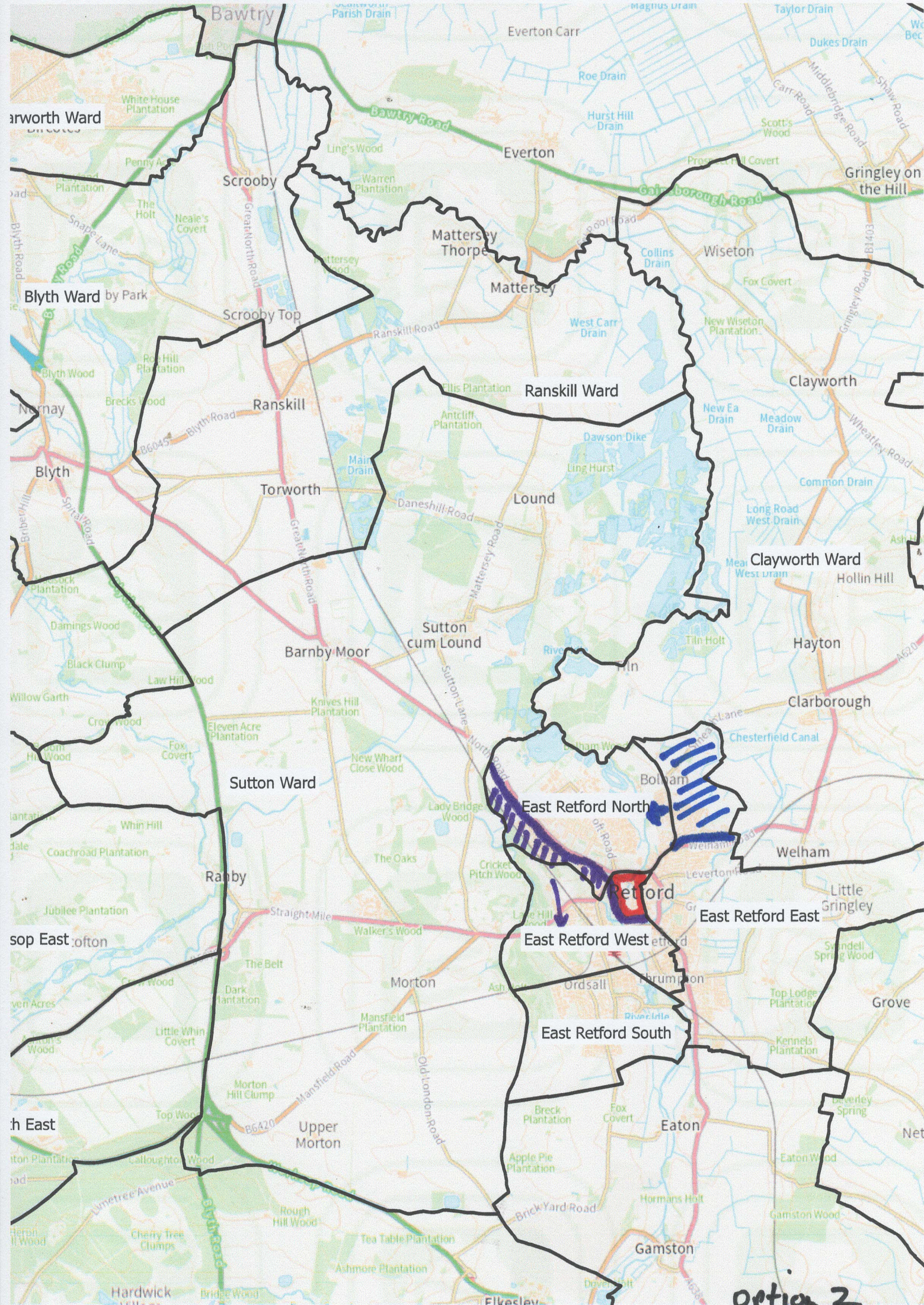
Attached:

- Ward maps – original, and with possible ward adjustments mentioned above (options 1 and 2)
- Electoral forecast



original





BASSETLAW – ELECTORAL FORECAST 2030

Check your data	2021	2023	2030
Number of councillors:	48	48	48
Overall electorate:	88,427	89,742	97,023
Average electorate per cllr:	1,842	1,870	2,021

Scroll left to see the first table

Fill in the name of each ward once	Fill in the number of councillors per ward			These cells will show you the electorate and variance. They change depending what you enter in the table to the left.
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Name of ward	Number of cllrs per ward	Electorate 2021	Variance 2021	Electorate 2023	Variance 2030	Electorate 2030	Variance 2030
Beckingham	1	1,937	5%	2,054	10%	2,335	16%
Blyth	1	1,841	0%	1,865	0%	1,882	-7%
Carlton	3	4,489	-19%	4,696	-16%	5,462	-10%
Clayworth	1	1,512	-18%	1,514	-19%	1,546	-24%
East Markham	1	2,020	10%	2,072	11%	2,125	5%
East Retford East	3	5,418	-2%	5,499	-2%	5,990	-1%
East Retford North	3	5,062	-8%	5,140	-8%	5,721	-6%
East Retford South	2	3,794	3%	3,816	2%	4,122	2%
East Retford West	2	3,822	4%	3,777	1%	3,786	-6%
Everton	1	2,022	10%	1,990	6%	2,022	0%
Harworth & Bircotes	3	6,453	17%	6,699	19%	8,184	35%
Langold	1	1,939	5%	1,976	6%	2,531	25%
Misterton	1	2,004	9%	1,965	5%	2,072	3%
Rampton	1	1,686	-8%	1,667	-11%	1,728	-15%
Ranskill	1	1,881	2%	1,955	5%	2,086	3%
Sturton	1	1,854	1%	1,843	-1%	1,872	-7%
Sutton	1	1,667	-10%	1,653	-12%	1,700	-16%
Tuxford and Trent	2	3,469	-6%	3,495	-7%	3,667	-9%
Welbeck	1	1,492	-19%	1,479	-21%	1,667	-18%
Worksop East	3	4,823	-13%	4,753	-15%	4,864	-20%
Worksop North	3	7,209	30%	7,485	33%	7,986	32%
Worksop North East	3	4,934	-11%	5,000	-11%	5,204	-14%
Worksop North West	3	6,027	9%	6,395	14%	6,997	15%
Worksop South	3	5,542	0%	5,463	-3%	5,654	-7%
Worksop South East	3	5,530	0%	5,491	-2%	5,820	-4%