

Green Party submission to Local Electoral Area Boundary Committee No. 2 (Cork City)

29 April 2018

Summary

The Green Party is supportive of the inclusion in the committee's terms of reference that local electoral areas in the expanded Cork City Council be designed around the concept of urban villages or have a neighbourhood focal point.

We are also supportive of the inclusion in the terms of reference that the expanded Cork City Council is expected move to an area- or district-based structure based on five local electoral areas and that one of these should be the city centre.

We propose that the five local electoral areas should be the following:

- City Centre (7 seats)
- North Suburbs (including Glanmire) (7 seats)
- South East Suburbs (7 seats)
- South West Suburbs (5 seats)
- Ballincollig-Blarney (5 seats)

A map of these five proposed local electoral areas follows (Figure 1). An indication of the urban village concept within these local electoral areas can be seen by mapping the distance in minutes to a retail grocery store within each of these areas (Figure 2).

A description of each of these proposed local electoral areas follows in the next section of this submission. Further maps and a breakdown of each of the proposed local electoral areas, including small area units, is in the appendices.

The data used in our analysis is from the All-Island Research Observatory based at Maynooth University.

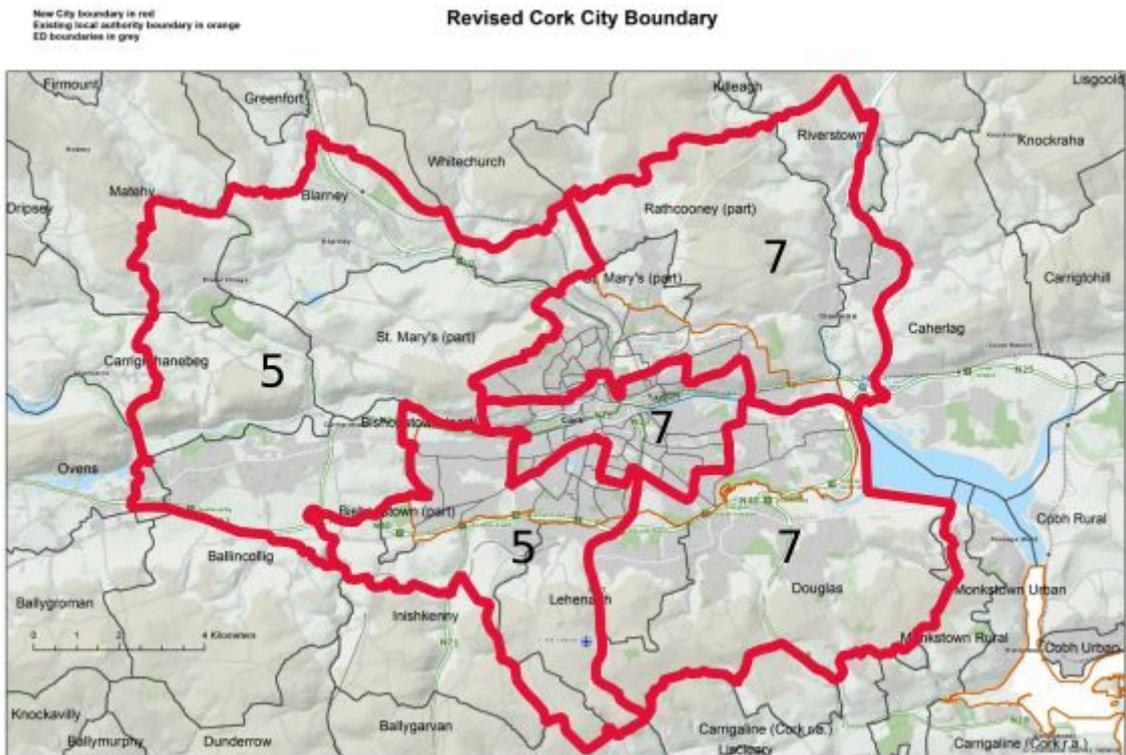


Figure 1: The proposed local electoral areas and the number of councillors returned from each.

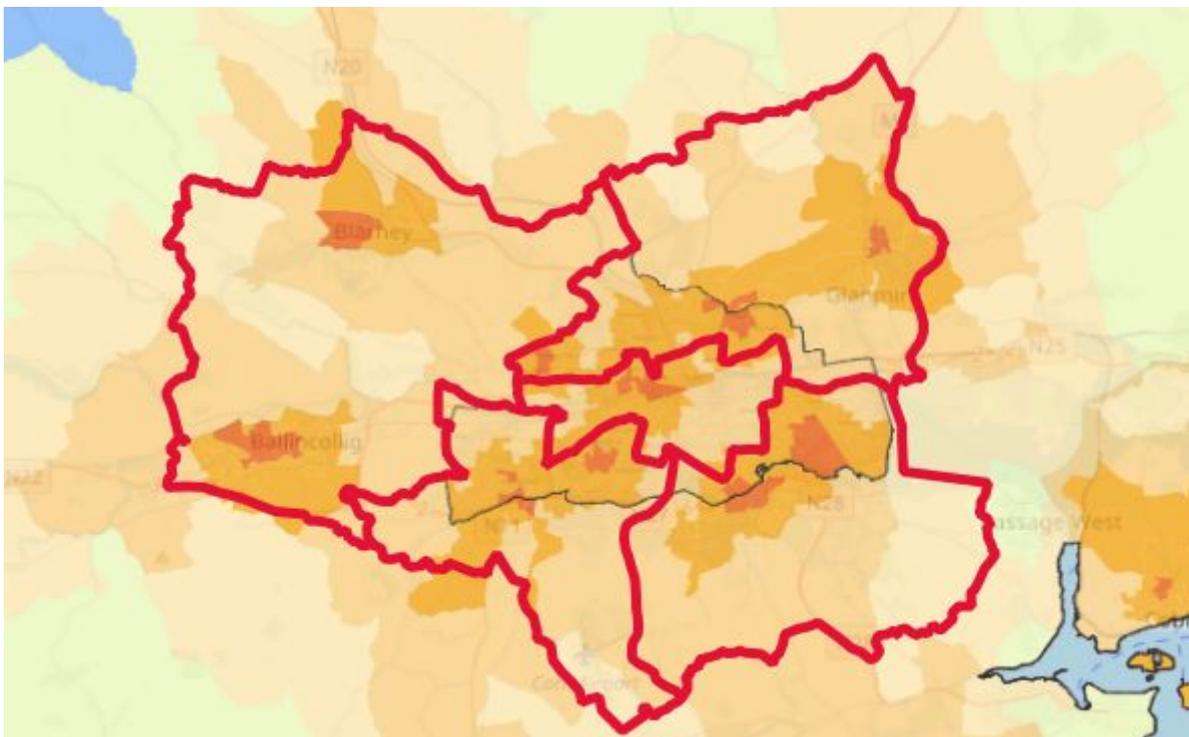


Figure 2: Distance in minutes to a grocery store, illustrating the “urban villages” within each of the proposed local electoral area.

Description of proposed LEAs

City Centre (7 seats, 45K population)

This local electoral area comprises the city's historic core and the Victorian expansion. The area corresponds roughly to the city boundary in the mid-1800's.

The northern boundary of this local electoral area represents a very marked change in social class and the area as a whole is recognizable in contrast to the other proposed LEAs by its housing stock by year built. Architecturally, the area is defined by terraced townhouses and buildings pre-dating the automobile age of the mid-20th century.

Obviously, this local electoral area includes the island. From east to west, it stretches from the College Quarter to the Docklands. North of the river it includes Sunday's Well, Shandon and the Victorian Quarter, including Barrackton, the St Luke's area and Montenotte. South of the river, it includes the South Parish, Turner's Cross and Ballinlough.

Contiguous suburbs

Three of the proposed local electoral areas are related in character in being defined by the contiguous suburban growth of the city in the latter half of the 20th century. However, they are markedly different in socio-economic composition.

North Suburbs (7 seats, 50K population)

The North Suburbs local electoral area is distinctive from the other two LEAs of the contiguous suburbs by being predominantly non-professional working class. It comprises the contiguous northern suburbs of the city built in the latter half of the 20th century from Knocknaheeny, across Gurrabraher, Blackpool and Ballyvolane, to Mayfield, and includes Glanmire.

South East Suburbs (7 seats, 45K population)

The South East Suburbs local electoral area is marked by a predominantly professional working population. It comprises the contiguous south-eastern suburbs of the city built in the latter half of the 20th century. Its western border is defined by the South Link Road and Kinsale Road, from where it forms a quarter circle of the city from Grange/Frankfield to Blackrock, crossing Douglas, Rochestown and Mahon.

South West Suburbs (5 seats, 35K population)

The South West Suburbs local electoral area is somewhat similar to the South East Suburbs but is more varied in socio-economic population, including students attending CUH, CIT and UCC.

This local electoral area comprises the contiguous south-western suburbs of the city, built predominantly in the second half the 20th century. Its eastern border is defined by the South Link Road and Kinsale Road. It runs from Togher-Ballyphehane, through The Lough, to Wilton-Bishopstown.

Ballincollig-Blarney (5 seats, 30K population)

The final local electoral area comprises the non-contiguous suburbs of Ballincollig, Blarney and Tower. The area is markedly different from the other proposed local electoral areas by the “county town” feel of its urban settlements with their rural hinterland. Its eastern border is defined by the end of contiguous suburban development at western end of Bishopstown in the south and Knocknaheeny in the north.

Appendix 1: Small area analysis

The following community and population analysis formed the basis of our proposal. Our analysis divided the expanded city boundary into natural communities (called “districts” below) comprised of small area units.

These “districts” were normally much smaller than a local electoral area. The proposed local electoral areas were then formed from an amalgamation of these “districts” into larger contiguous communities of shared characteristics.

City Centre

District	Small Areas
Docklands	City Hall B Knockrea A Knockrea B
South Parish	South Gate A South Gate B City Hall A
Island	City A City B
Turners Cross	Turners Cross A Turners Cross B Turners Cross C Evergreen
College Quarter	Mardyke Gilabbey A Gilabbey B Gilabbey C Glasheen A Glasheen B
Victorian Quarter	Tivola A Montenotte A St Patricks' A St Patricks' B St Patricks' C Blackpool B
Sunday's Well	Sunday's Well A Sunday's Well B Shanakiel (south)
Ballinlough	Ballinlough A

	Ballinlough B Ballinlough C Tramore A Tramore B
Shandon	Shandon A Shandon B Gurrabraher C

North Suburbs

District	Small Areas
Glanmire	Riverstown Rathcooney
Mayfield	Tivoli B Montenotte B Mayfield
Balyvolane	Glen A Glen B St Mary's (west)
Blackpool	Commons Blackpool A Farranferris A Farranferris B Farranferris C Fair Hill A Fair Hill B Fair Hill C
Gurrabraher	Churchfield Gurrabraher A Gurrabraher B Gurrabraher D Gurrabraher E
Knocknaheeny	Shanakiel (north) Knocknaheeny

South East Suburbs

District	Small Areas
Douglas-Rochestown	Douglas

	Browningstown Tramore C
Grange-Frankfield	Lehenagh (east)
Mahon	Mahon B
Blackrock-Ballintemple	Mahon A Mahon C

South West Suburbs

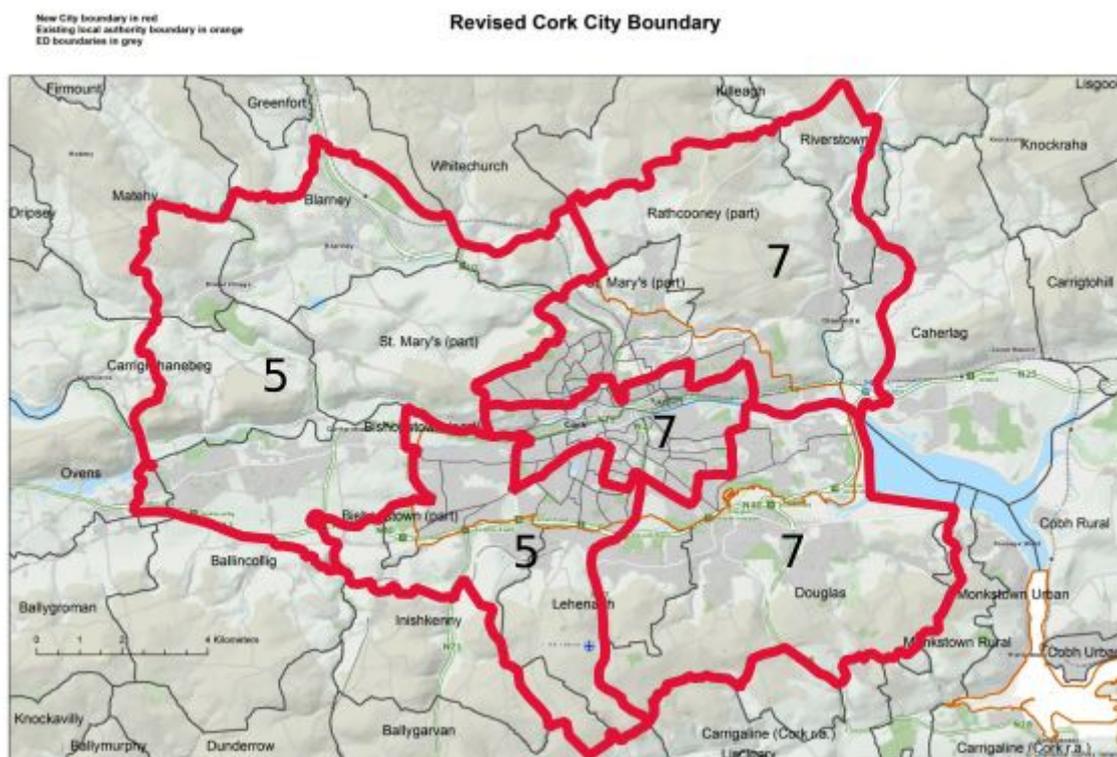
District	Small Areas
Togher-Ballypheane	Lehenagh (west) Togher A Togher B Pouladuff A Pouladuff B Ballyphehane A Ballyphehane B Turners Cross D Inniskenny (west)
The Lough	The Lough Greenmount Glasheen C
Wilton-Bishopstown	Bishopstown A Bishopstown B Bishopstown C Bishopstown D Bishopstown E Inniskenny (east) Bishopstown (part of)

Ballincollig-Blarney

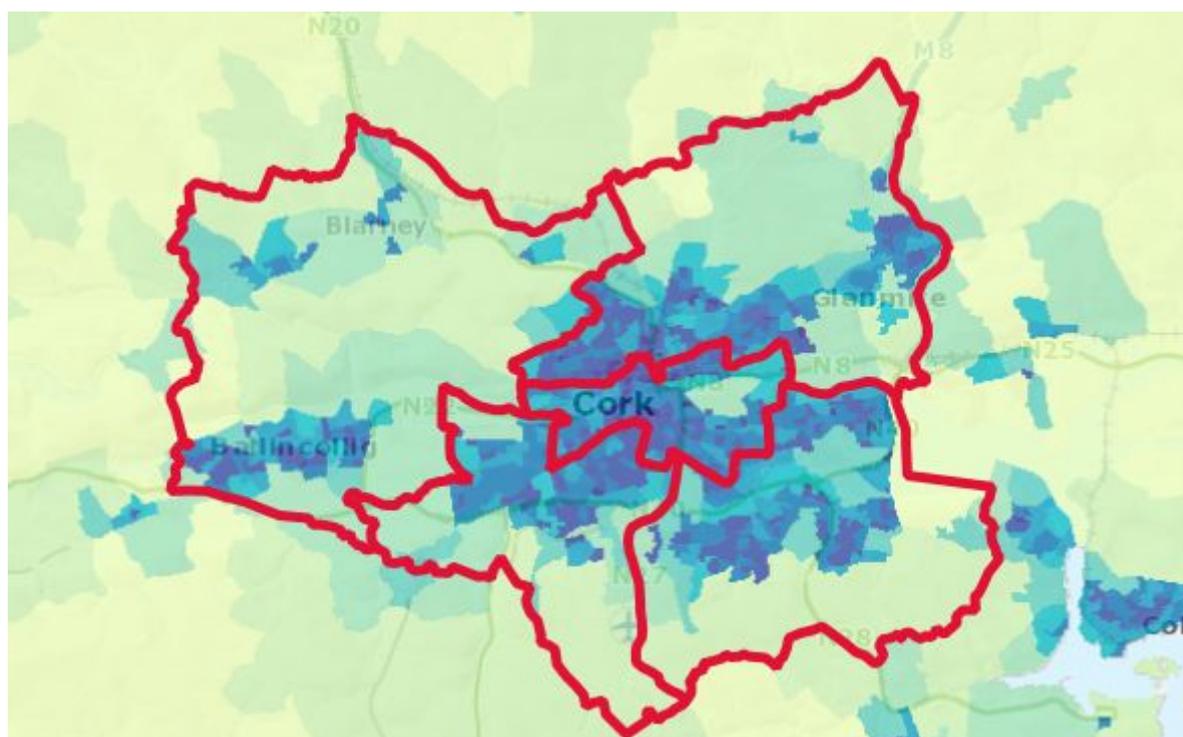
District	Small Areas
Ballincollig	Ballincollig (part) Ovens (part) Carrigrohane Beg (south)
Blarney	St Mary's (west) Mathey (part of) Blarney (part of)

	Whitechurch (part of) Carrigrohane Beg (north)
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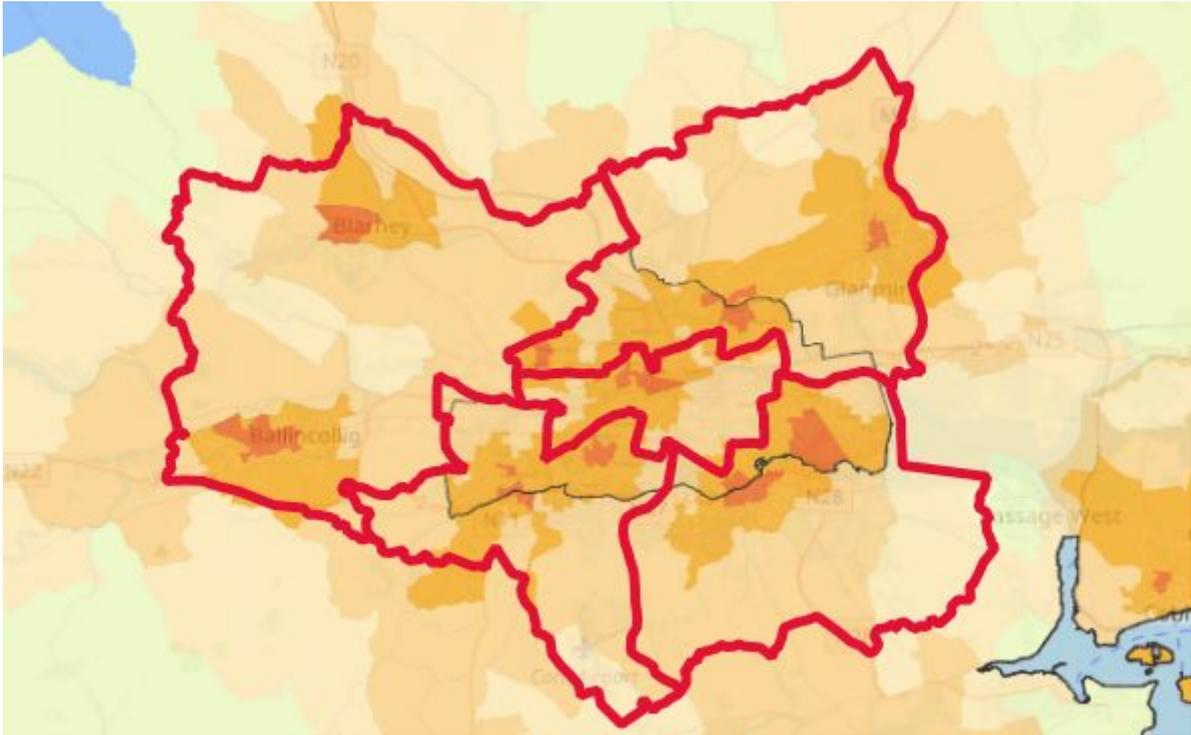
Appendix 2: Geospatial analysis



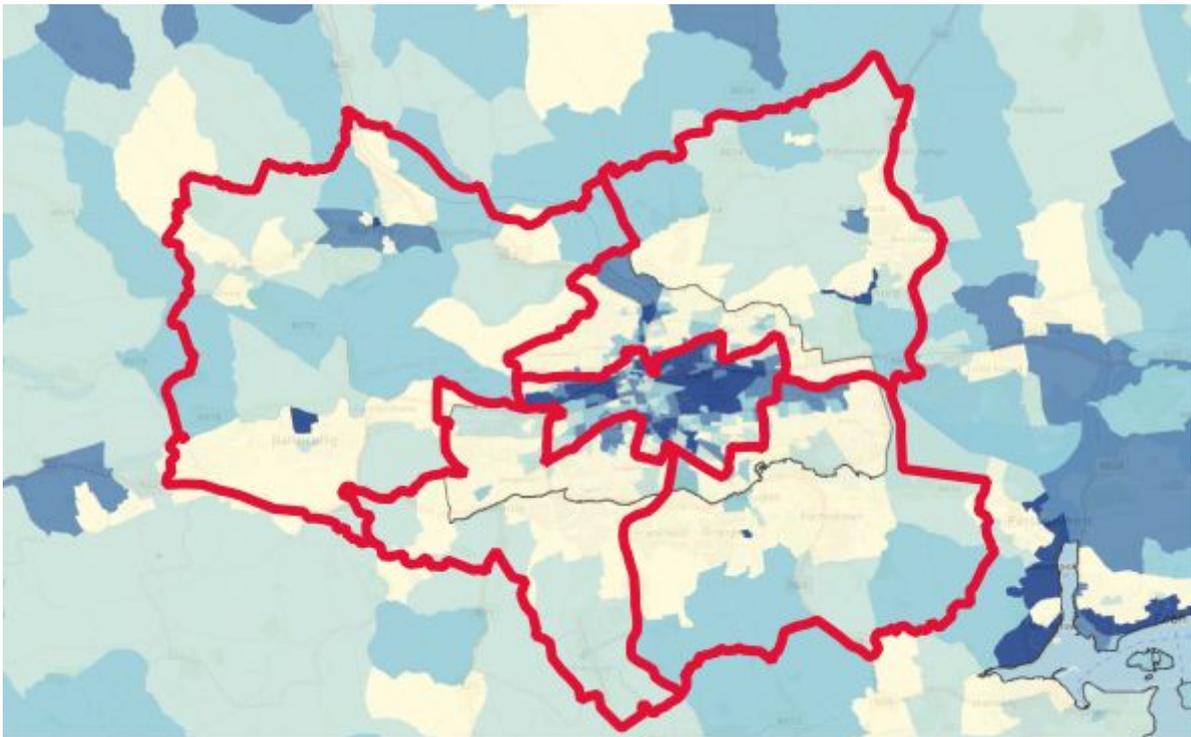
Map 1: The proposed local electoral areas and the number of councillors returned from each.



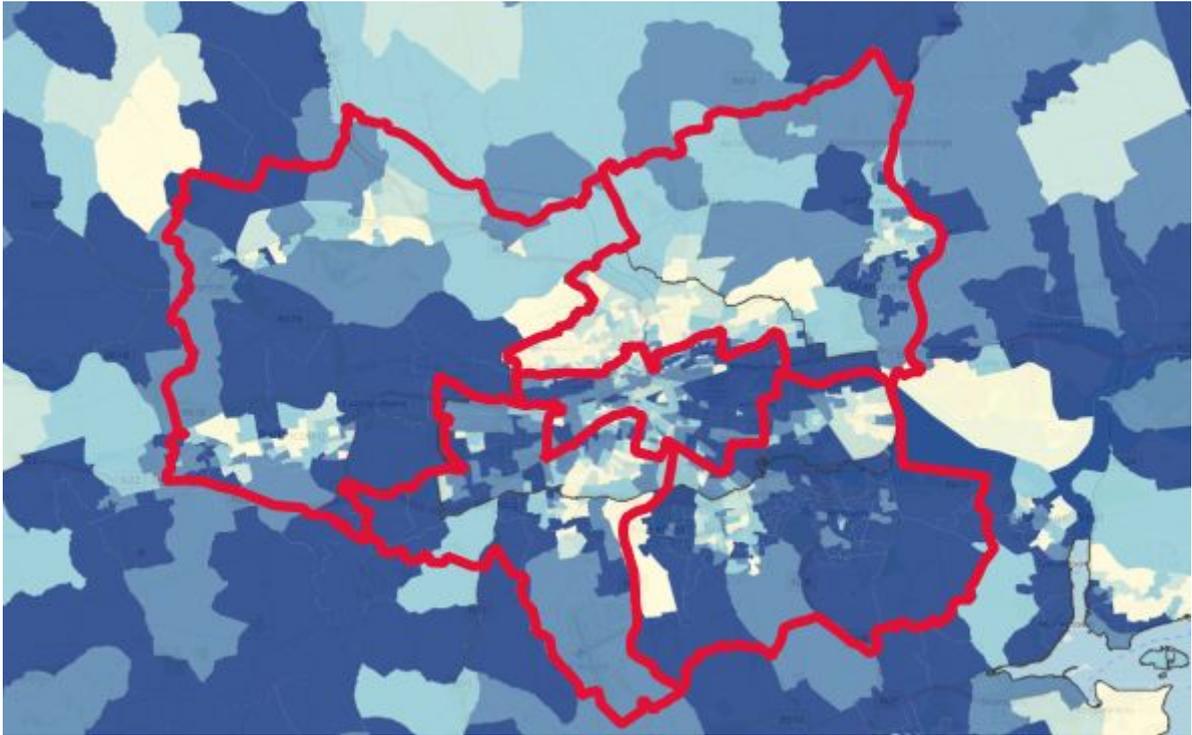
Map 2: Population density within each of the proposed local electoral areas.



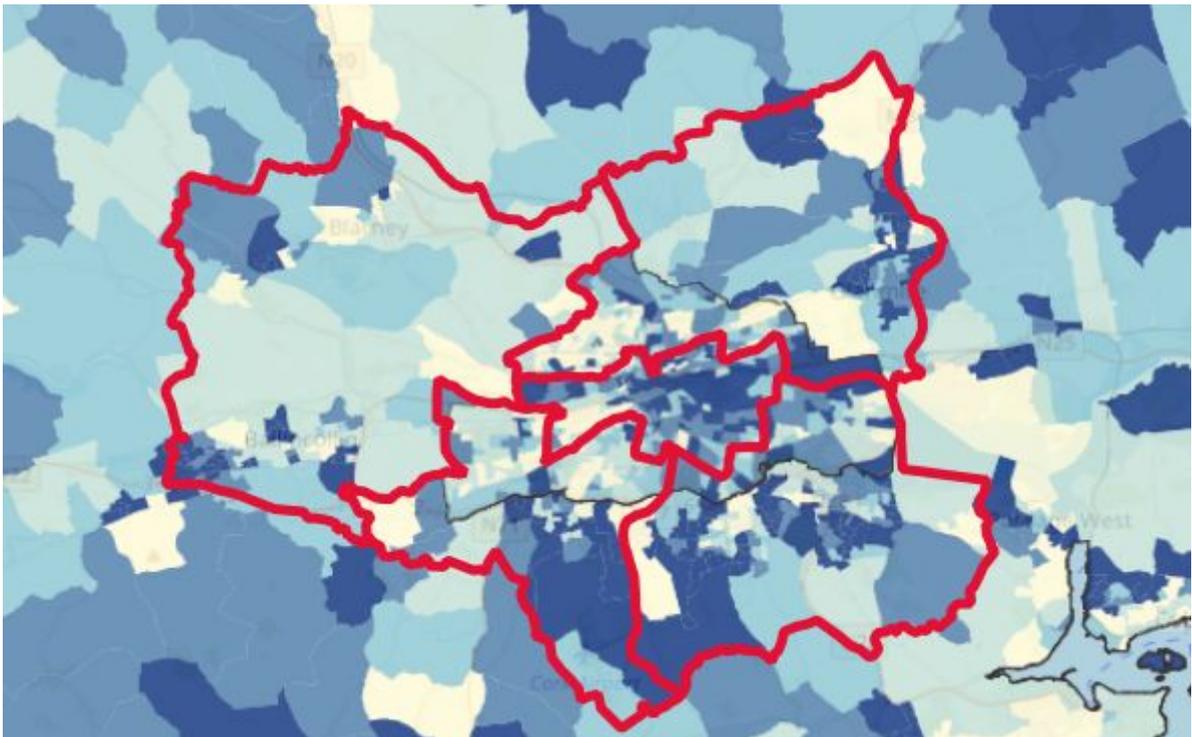
Map 3: Distance in minutes to a grocery store, illustrating the “urban villages” within each of the proposed local electoral areas.



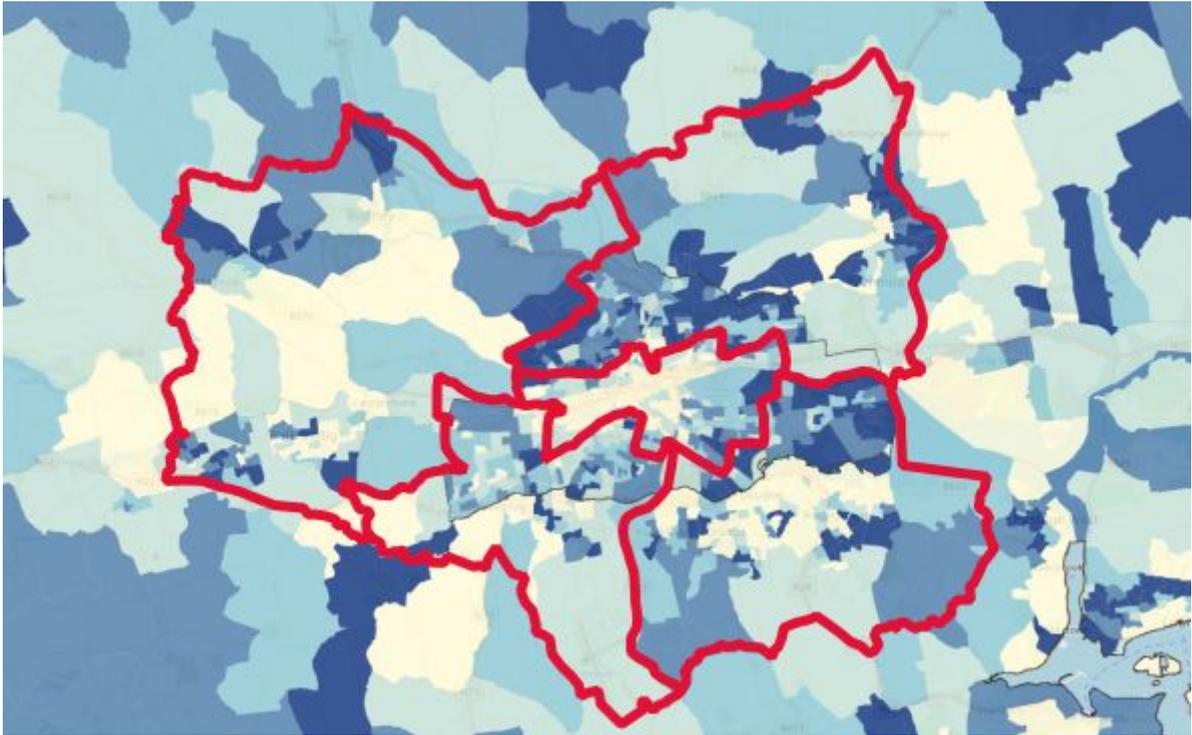
Map 4: The percent of pre-1900 housing in each of the proposed local electoral areas.



Map 5: The percent of workers classified as “professionals” within the proposed local electoral areas.



Map 6: The percent of people classified as being “at work” living in the proposed local electoral areas.



Map 7: The youth dependency ratio within each of the proposed local electoral areas.