



Leicester  
City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the  
OVERVIEW SELECT COMMITTEE

Held: WEDNESDAY, 19 MARCH 2025 at 5:30 pm

P R E S E N T:

Councillor Cassidy - Chair

Councillor Adatia  
Councillor Kitterick  
Councillor Mohammed  
Councillor Rae Bhatia  
Councillor Waddington

Councillor Batool  
Councillor March  
Councillor Porter  
Councillor Singh Patel

In Attendance:

City Mayor Sir Peter Soulsby  
Deputy City Mayor Councillor Cutkelvin  
Councillor Pickering (Online)

\* \* \* \* \*

**102. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Osman – Cllr Westley substituted.

It was noted that Cllr Dawood had joined the executive and Cllr Mohammed would substitute for him until the end of the municipal year.

**103. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were asked to disclose any pecuniary or other interests they may have in the business on the agenda.

Councillor March made a declaration with regard to the item Capital Budget Monitoring April-December 2024/25, the report mentioned Ellesmere College, at which she was a governor.

#### **104. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

It was noted that Cllr Batool was present at the previous meeting but had not been recorded as such.

It was suggested that whilst the working group on adventure playgrounds had met, it would be useful for it to continue to look and how playgrounds could be helped.

AGREED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 30 January 2025 be confirmed as a correct record subject to corrections as detailed above.

#### **105. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair announced that the second session of informal scrutiny on workforce representation that was due to take place the previous week had been postponed and a new date was currently being established.

The Chair announced that there would be a short break to allow for those observing Ramadan to break fast.

#### **106. PROGRESS ON ACTIONS AGREED AT THE LAST MEETING**

The Chair noted that updates on actions were noted on the workplan.

#### **107. QUESTIONS, REPRESENTATION AND STATEMENTS OF CASE**

The Monitoring Officer reported that no questions, representations and statements of case had been submitted in accordance with the Council's procedures.

#### **108. PETITIONS**

The Monitoring Officer reported that no petitions had been received.

#### **109. TRACKING OF PETITIONS - MONITORING REPORT**

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report which provided an update on the status of outstanding petitions against the Council's target of providing a formal response within three months of being referred to the Divisional Director.

It was noted that two were marked as red. Updates were provided and it was noted that:

Regarding the Peebles Way petition:

The City Transport Director had to take over due to staff leaving partway

through and a lack of resource in the team.

Currently, he had:

- Arranged for a member of the road safety team to attend Peebles Way to review traffic operations next week.
- Requested data from the police.
- Started analysis of traffic data.
- Drafted correspondence to the lead petitioner/supporting ward member.

Regarding the Oakland Avenue petition, there was currently a draft pro-forma that was written following a meeting with the petitioner and councillors in December. This was held until a response from the executive on a relevant policy area came forward as it would have materially changed our response.

That had concluded, and it had been signed off on a design that would alleviate the issue and was discussed in that meeting. The proforma would be completed as soon as possible.

AGREED:

That the status of the outstanding petitions be noted, and to remove those petitions marked 'Petition Complete' Ref: from the report.

#### **110. CALL IN OF EXECUTIVE DECISION - PROPOSED PURCHASE OF A 134-UNIT CITY CENTRE BUILDING**

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report informing the Commission that the Executive decision taken by the City Mayor on 3 March 2025 relating to the proposed purchase of the YoHo building has been the subject of a 7-member call-in under the procedures at Rule 12 of Part 4D, City Mayor and Executive Procedure Rules, of the Council's Constitution.

The Chair clearly outlined the process that he would follow in determining how to resolve the call-in. The Commission was recommended to either:

- a) Note the report without further comment or recommendation. (If the report was noted the process continues and the call-in will be considered at Council on Full Council or
- b) Comment on the specific issues raised by the call-in. (If comments were made the process continues and the comments and call-in would be considered at Full Council); or
- c) Resolve that the call-in be withdrawn (If the committee wished for there to be no further action on the call-in, then they must actively withdraw it. If withdrawal was agreed the call-in process stops, the call-in would not be considered at Full

Council and the original decision takes immediate effect without amendment).

The Director of Housing gave a presentation outlining the issue using the slides attached. Key points (other than those on the slides) included:

- The council continued to face financial pressures in this area, with £11m added to the homelessness budget for the last two years, and an overspend of £6m expected this year.
- Despite the law limiting the length of stay in Bed and Breakfast to six weeks, the average length of stay in Leicester was currently 97 days, leading to criticism and financial penalties from the Social Care Ombudsman.
- There were 1966 individuals on the housing register in need of one-bed properties, with an average wait time of up to 6 months.
- The council was on track to deliver 1600 new homes, with 1100 delivered in the last 4 years.
- YoHo was a fairly new 134-unit building, exclusively self-contained and with modern facilities. It could help meet the demand for temporary accommodation.
- Acquiring the building would:
  - a. enable the council to move all those currently in bed and breakfast.
  - b. reduce the council's spend by £2.8m a year and;
  - c. provide clients with more independence including cooking and laundry facilities.
- The council planned to work with a specialist housing provider with extensive experience managing such buildings.
- Different levels of support would be provided to the clients depending on where they are on their journey.
- The building would not serve as another Dawn Centre but would provide accommodation to those on a positive trajectory toward independent living.
- The plan was to reconfigure the building from 134 to 118 units, to enable the council to accommodate areas for support services and engagement; and communal use.
- The YMCA for single people has a similar set up to the one proposed for YoHo, has been run successfully for many years and did not cause issues for the local community.
- Watford, in conjunction with YMCA had a 10-storey building in the city centre which is 200 bedrooms and have used it since 2020 as temporary accommodation. The residents had been well integrated into the society.
- The YoHo building had 7 floors and residents will be able to access only their own floor and community, alongside the ground floor which will be communal.
- The Yoho building would exclusively be for singles; couples and families will not be accommodated.
- The management plan would be subject to further scrutiny.

- The Yoho building was ideal for those needing support around health issues because of its proximity to Inclusion Health care in Charles Barry house and Homelessness Mental health team and Turning Points.
- Two external and one internal valuation were undertaken and indicate that the property is worth more than the council is paying.

The Chair invited the proposer of the call-in, Councillor Kitterick, represented by Cllr Sahu (Seconder), to make their case. The following points were raised:

- The council lacked the experience in managing a building of this size, as the YMCA example cited was smaller in size, and though long in operation, proved to be inadequate for the increasing number of clients.
- The restriction of residents to own floors underscored the concerns about their vulnerability.
- There was insufficient information regarding the planning behind the purchase.
- The large number of residents could have significant impacts on both the building and other residents in the area.
- The flats were small (23 sqm) and below national standards.
- There should have been a more robust management plan, with evidence from other external providers of buildings of this size that have been a success.
- There was no site visit to the building by the commission.
- The planning strategy had not been clearly outlined, especially given the proposed remodelling and the planning conditions for it to be used as student accommodation.
- The per unit would cost an excess of 6 figures, which did not seem a bargain as was indicated in the presentation. This money could be spent on other housing needs in the city.
- The per-unit cost was higher than expected, and the building's purchase price exceeded the national average for housing families.
- The performance of the Housing Network as managers had been questioned based on the feedback of residents who stay in their properties.

The Chair invited the City Mayor to respond, and the Deputy City Mayor, Housing and Neighbourhoods responded on his behalf. The following points were raised:

- The cost of using bed and breakfast (B&Bs) accommodation was far higher than temporary accommodation. This was in addition to the fact that they lacked essential facilities like cooking and laundry and made it difficult to develop a network of friends/build a community.
- The YoHo purchase addressed an immediate need for temporary accommodation, not as a long-term policy.
- The decision that was called-in relates to the purchase, and not the

management of the building.

- The management of the building would be subject to further scrutiny.
- The Housing department was open to organising a site visit for commission members.

The Chair invited the following partners, Help the Homeless and Homelessness Charter for the City of Leicester to make representations. The following points were made:

- There was a well-evidenced need for suitable temporary accommodation that the YoHo building would fulfil.
- The building would provide a vital stepping stone for individuals transitioning toward independent living, offering stability not found in BnBs.
- There was expertise in the city as well as around the country that the council and partner organisations can heavily draw from, and that can be mobilised to provide ongoing assistance to people living in these units.
- Many of the services already had established relationships with these individuals.
- The concerns about anti-social behaviour by the residents were misplaced, as these individuals were already a part of the community, in more suitable accommodation.

The Chair invited a service user to share their experience, and the following points were made:

- The B&Bs did not provide the stability required to integrate properly into society, because you can't do your own cooking or washing. The living situation was also not good for one's self-worth.
- The YoHo building would provide a supportive environment where individuals on their path to independence could thrive.

The Chair invited a response to the comments, and officers noted that:

- The plan to address housing needs was being executed under several strands, including building and renting properties, and the purchase of over £100m worth of housing since 2019.
- The YoHo building fell under temporary accommodation. A planning use change would be sought if it was ever to be made a permanent accommodation.
- The pre-planning application for the building had been done and the purchase is subject to final planning.
- This type of accommodation was demand-led and when the demand died down, the council could look to the best use of the building.
- The use of the building would be restricted to 12-18 months.

Members of the Committee discussed the report which highlighted the following points:

- There was a need for the commission to be kept informed if the property was not being used as planned or the outcomes for purchasing were not being achieved.
- There was a potential for people with different vulnerabilities to take up the property and there was need for a plan around this.
- The management of the building needed to be thoroughly revisited.
- Consideration should be given to issues around fire safety and noise. Additionally, there was need for an independent structural survey to be commissioned.

In response to questions and comments by members of the OSC, officers noted the following:

- There was already a Key Performance Indicator (KPI) for any accommodation within the service to monitor the actual length of stay of users and this data would be shared with the commission on a periodic basis.
- In housing vulnerable individuals or those with protected characteristics, their preference /suitability would be taken on board in their placement.
- The cost of the property was £10.9m and being funded through the £45m loan to support homelessness.
- The needs of families were being addressed as well – though the purchase of 140 family properties, which were dispersed across the city.
- The council did not purchase housing for investment returns.
- What would be saved by this purchase was the equivalent of £65 a night for an individual to stay in a B&B. The council received approximately 18% back in housing benefits.
- Assurances were given that the building was 90% over the line on due diligence and would be signed off as satisfactory in due course before purchase.

The Chair asked if the proposer wished to withdraw the call-in.

Councillor Cassidy moved that, following the points raised during the meeting, the call-in be withdrawn. This was seconded by Cllr. Mohammed and upon being put to the vote, the motion was carried.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the call-in be withdrawn.

## **111. QUESTIONS FOR THE CITY MAYOR**

Prior to receiving questions, the City Mayor gave a presentation on the interim

submission regarding Local Government Reorganisation.

Slides were presented (attached), other points included:

- This was not the final position, but an interim submission needed to be submitted to the government.
- In January, the district councils in Leicestershire acknowledged that it would be necessary to make significant adjustments with regard to devolution in the region, although there had been objections from Oadby and Wigston Borough Council (OWBC).
- Leicestershire County Council had acknowledged the need for changes in boundaries.
- Central Government wanted to achieve combined mayoral authorities across the whole of England.
- The government wanted unitary councils and where the size and/or boundaries of an authority hindered the delivery of services, proposals would be expected to address this.
- The full proposal was to be submitted on 8 November 2025.
- With regard to the populations of the Mayoral Strategic Authority, it was thought that a population of 1.2m would be accepted despite being short of the 1.5m target.
- The City of Leicester had a uniquely tight boundary. This was due to the fact that whilst many urban areas had become metropolitan districts and had their boundaries extended in the 1970s, Leicester had not.
- Discussions would be needed with district councils regarding housing.
- The Leicester Built Up Area as defined by the Office of National Statistics went beyond the city boundaries, as did the principle urban area, the bus catchment area, the travel to work area and the Coronavirus Lockdown area.
- The County Council were now suggesting freezing the Leicester City Boundary and having a single unitary boundary around it.
- The proposal from Leicester City Council (LCC) allowed room for discussion with the county and district councils.
- The final proposal would come to Full Council and OSC prior to that.

Questions were invited from members and the following responses were given:

- The proposal would be the subject of proper discussion in Council and would require the agreement of the Council.
- Discussion had taken place between the leaders of Leicestershire County Council, Rutland County Council. Ultimately democratic approval would be needed.
- Leicester City Council had been a mayoral system for 14 years, this might want to be reviewed if changes were made. Whether the mayoral system was retained or not would not make any immediate difference. Some areas had two mayors, and the example of Salford City Council was given, whereby the city council had a mayor, and they were also under the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, which also had a



metropolitan mayor.

- The government had the primary legislation that can allow Local Government Reorganisation to be delivered and established. However, it had indicated that there was an intention of having a bill which had the power to impose solutions and dissolve previous established authorities. It was desired to get a firm view from the Council as to what it thought ought to happen.
- Discussion with the County Council may help to understand what a sensible extension of the city boundary might look like.

AGREED:

That the presentation be noted.

The Chair accepted the following questions to be asked to the City Mayor:

Councillor March also asked:

*Am I right in my understanding that we've brought in an external organisation to support with council tax bands for individuals/collection?*

*Conscious that we are moving to a new system, and I've had a few people who have been put unexpectedly onto the wrong bills?*

In response to this it was clarified that annual billing had not been moved to an external organisation, however, an external support service was used when needed, although not for annual billing. If there were individual cases, it could be useful to find out where there were exceptional cases and look into these. It was further noted that a third-party organisation was involved with debt collection.

Councillor Rae Bhatia asked:

*What are the latest timelines for Leys building demolition and its redevelopment? Can this be speeded up?*

In response to this the City Mayor reported that there had been different ownerships, but things were finally amalgamated, and the building would be demolished by the end of October this year.

In response to a further question from Cllr Rae Bhatia regarding the potential to tax hotels, it was noted that some cities, such as Edinburgh, had such a tax, and some tourist areas could benefit from it. However, whilst a local tax could be useful, local government was, in general, funded from property tax and

business rated.

Councillor March asked with regard to city catering, whether the new supplier was a real living wage employer.

In response to this, it was stated that it was not a single caterer taking over and it was up to schools and colleges to procure their caterers, and it could not be certain that all of them would be real living wage employers and some paid better than others.

In response to a question from Cllr Porter regarding the Museum Service Vision and Priorities 2025-29 and the reduction of opening hours for some museums and whether the plans could be put on hold to allow for a public consultation, it was explained that opening hours could be changed at any time and there was no need to put a hold on the plan. The plans would be considered by scrutiny and points made would be taken on board. The changes were to a limited number of venues. Decisions made on opening hours could be reversed at any time if deemed necessary. The focus was on sites such as Leicester Museum and Art Gallery, where large numbers of people visited.

In response to a questions from the Youth Representative regarding how much of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) was allocated to Leicester, and whether money from the government to empower communities could be used to fund adventure playgrounds, it was clarified that the funding from the UKSPF had been allocated in three tranches totalling £9.1m. This was profiled across Skills, Business Support and Communities & Place, and the funding needed to be used in these profiles. The UKSPF had been considered by the Economic Development, Transport and Climate Emergency (EDTCE) Scrutiny Commission.

With regards to the query on adventure playgrounds, it was noted that their future was in the hands of the playgrounds themselves and the Council were keen to work with them. It would be necessary to take opportunities during the year to look at this to consider the extent to which the Council were helping them.

## **112. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING APRIL-DECEMBER 2024/25**

The Director of Finance presented the third report in the monitoring cycle for 2024/25 to the end of December 2024.

The Committee was recommended to consider the overall position presented within the report and make any observations it saw fit.

In response to questions, it was noted that:

- The Director of Education was developing a plan to reduce DSG spending to manage the rising deficit. However, if the statutory override was not extended or the government did not find a solution, it could create a significant budget issue for the council because it may need to be financed from the general fund.
- SEND education was under pressure, as EHCPs had strict criteria for determining eligibility for SEN support.
- The council was creating more of its provisions to reduce costs and was collaborating with special schools in the city to enhance the impact of these provisions.
- The council was constantly exploring opportunities to reduce cost, e.g. the transformation fund set aside for areas where technology can be used differently. The Revenue Monitoring Report period 3 highlighted ongoing transformation work in social care.
- The government had increased the tonnage charges, and there was ongoing work to change some of the council's waste practices.
- The pandemic and shift to work-from-home have slightly increased the tonnage profile.
- Questions were asked about the pressures in homelessness and recovering the costs from housing benefits. It was noted the housing benefit system was complex and largely depended on individual circumstances.
- The council could recover some of the cost through the housing benefits from tenants, particularly those in supported living. However, there was a strict criteria around what counted as supported living.
- There was an agreement to sell Greyfriars, which would generate capital receipts for the council.
- The Workforce was an essential element to delivering good services and Social Care had done a lot of work around trying to fill the vacant positions.
- There was a request for the £6.8m underspend for adult social care to be ringfenced and utilised for this service alone.

#### AGREED

- 1) That the report be noted.
- 2) That comments made by members of this committee to be taken into account by the lead officers.

### **113. CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING APRIL-DECEMBER 2024/25**

The Director of Finance submitted the third capital monitoring report of the financial year. The purpose of this report is to provide the position of the capital programme at the end of December 2024 (Period 9).

It was recommended that the Committee consider the overall position of this report and make any observations it saw fit.

Comments and questions were invited from members, and the following were stated:

- When allocating the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) the council had to ensure that its outcomes align with the objectives of the fund as part of their submission and this was monitored.
- The capital investment in Haymarket was focused on the dance academy and its positive impact on the students that go there, the economic benefits across the city and income to the council.
- Regarding De Montfort Hall, the goal was for the site to generate revenue to become self-sustaining and bring independent shows into the city. Other economic benefits included support for temporary work and student-based work.
- The council was about to launch a neighbourhood needs assessment, which would focus on the needs and services available to specific neighbourhoods.
- The council was reviewing how the assets and buildings were utilised and working on the capital investment going into those areas.
- The reallocation of funds from Pioneer Park to Pilot House was because the objectives for Pioneer Park had been delivered under the allocated budget. Pilot house required additional funds to ensure its completely. These programmes, both part of the Government's Levelling Up initiatives, had prescribed uses and would not involve public engagement.
- The council anticipated a revenue pressure of around £1.3m because of the surge in RTB applications in the 2025/26 HRA budget. However, in the long term, the removal of discount would benefit the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) because it would help with sustainability once the surge was over.
- Maintenance costs could either go through the revenue or capital accounts depending on their scale. There were significant rules around what qualified as capital expenditure including minimum spending thresholds, length of the project etc.
- The £3.2m spend allocated for the railway station was a combination of the demolition costs, design and planning, negotiations and other structural elements.
- The Jewry Wall Museum was scheduled for completion in June 2025, barring any further issues on the site. Some of the factors that had led to the project being protracted were two contractors working on the project went into liquidation, unforeseen delays as a result of other issues on site etc. However, the main risks had now been discharged.
- Regarding St Paul's Church and its deteriorating state, progress had been hindered because of difficulties with the owners of the building. Officers intended to serve a full repair notice, which would trigger a compulsory purchase order.

AGREED

- 1) That the report be noted.
- 2) That comments made by members of this committee to be taken into account by the lead officers.

#### **114. COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME - TASK GROUP SCOPING DOCUMENT**

The Chair submitted a report providing members of the Committee with a proposed scope for the review of the Council Tax Support Scheme and the opportunity to comment on the scope for the review, suggest issues to include and consider joining the group.

Comments and questions were invited from members, the following were stated:

- It was requested that the task group look at how the discretionary scheme is monitored.
- In response to requests that members other than those on the Committee be invited to present evidence, it was suggested that the committee could invite other members as part of their evidence gathering.

AGREED:

- 1) That the report be noted.
- 2) That a working group be convened on the issue.
- 3) That comments made by members of this committee to be taken into account.
- 4) That members to be kept informed of any key issues related to this topic.
- 5) That the task group look at how the discretionary scheme is monitored.

#### **115. OVERVIEW SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee was asked to consider the current work programme and to make comments and/or amendments as it considered necessary.

It was noted that the next meeting would be 1 May 2025.

AGREED:

That the current work programme be noted.

#### **116. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

There being no other items of urgent business, the meeting closed at 20:48.



# Devolution and local government reorganisation

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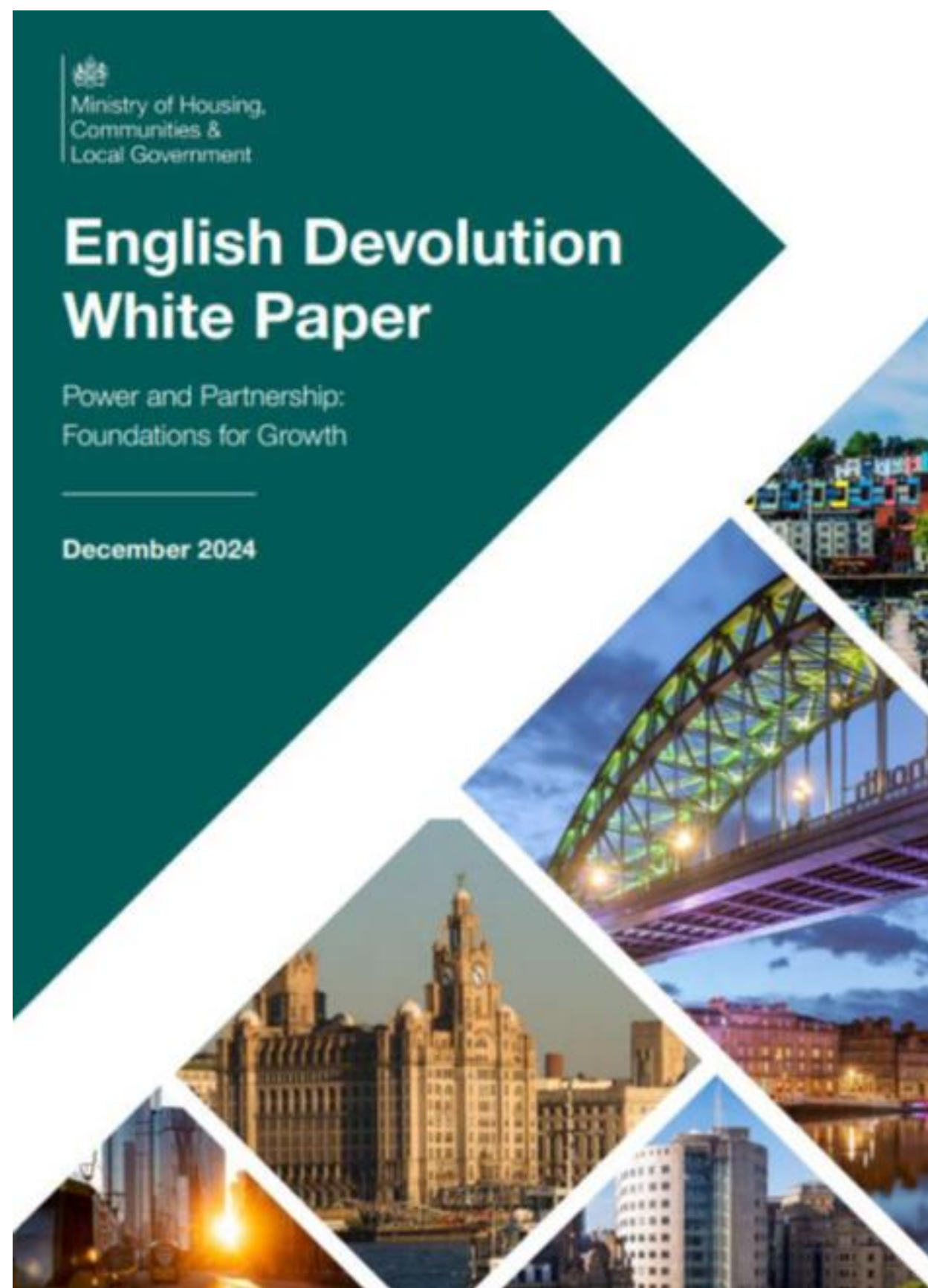
Briefing

Interim LGR submission

March 2025

Minute Item 11.1





# The Government's approach to devolution

Deepen devolution to all England over next 5 years

Rebalance power from central to local government

Universal coverage of strategic authorities – clear preference for a mayor with associated powers

Align public authority boundaries to strategic authority boundaries (eg. police and fire)

Local government reorganisation in two tier areas and for unitary councils where size and boundaries hinder delivery of sustainable services

Local government reorganisation to unlock devo



## **What Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland agreed and sent to the Minister – January 2025**

**“We are clear that any LGR option will need to address the boundaries of the City.”**

**“...expansion of the city boundary... will deliver the right conditions... to ignite growth of the local and sub-regional economy, [create] a more efficient and financially sustainable local government structure allowing more effective public service delivery.”**

**“...we collectively recognise that we are an area which needs reorganisation to unlock devolution.”**

# Government response Feb 2025:

- Formal invitation to councils to submit proposals
- Call for simpler, sensible and more financially sustainable unitary local government structures, complementing plans for devolution
- Interim plan to be submitted by 21 March
- Full proposal to be submitted by 28 November





## Proposals should consider

- Single tier of local government
- Population of 500,000 or more
- Sensible geography
- Sensible economic areas
- Improvement to local services
- Efficiency savings
- Local identity, and cultural and historic importance
- Support to devolution
- Justification needed for not using existing district boundaries as 'building blocks'

# What the Government asked for





# Strategic authorities

- Sensible population ratios between unitary local authorities and any strategic authority
- New strategic authorities – combined population of 1.5 million+
- In agreeing areas for strategic authorities, the government will consider:
  - Scale
  - Economies
  - Contiguity
  - No devolution islands
  - Delivery
  - Alignment
  - Identity

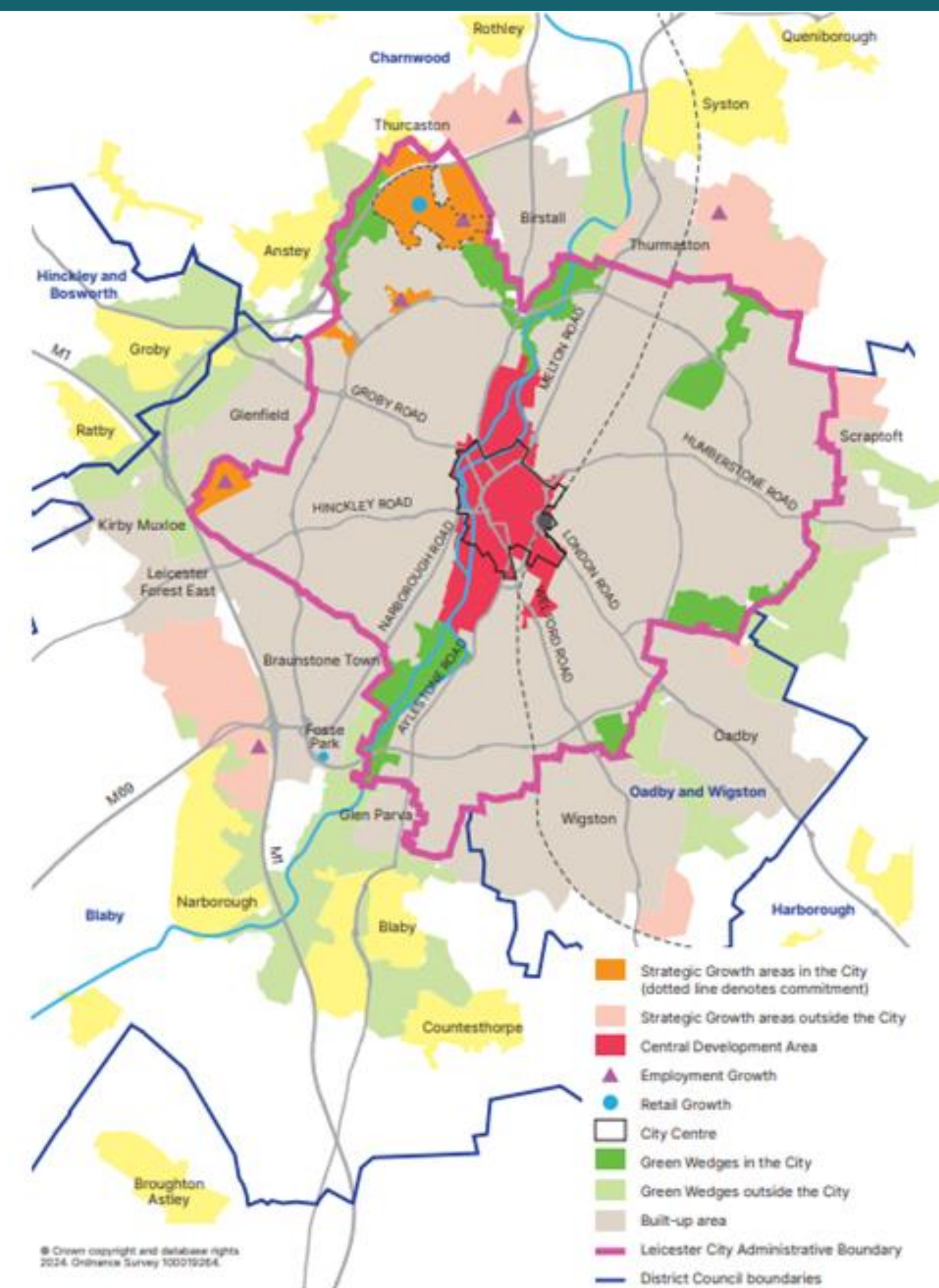
# Government requirements





# Existing city boundary

- Accident of history
- Illogical boundaries
- Heavily constrained – housing, employment land
- Constrained financially – low tax base
- Inefficient service delivery: waste collection, highway maintenance, education





# City boundary context – boundary comparisons

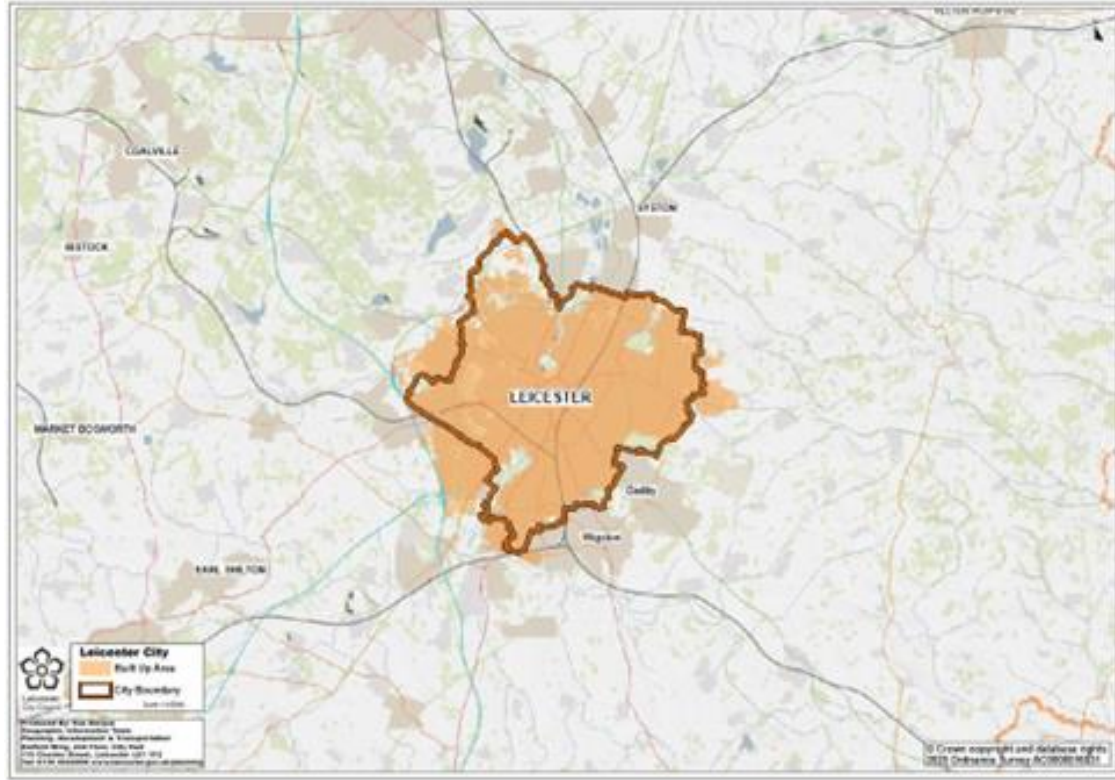
## Leicester

Population: **372k**

Area km2: **73**

Population density  
pop'n/km2:

**5095**



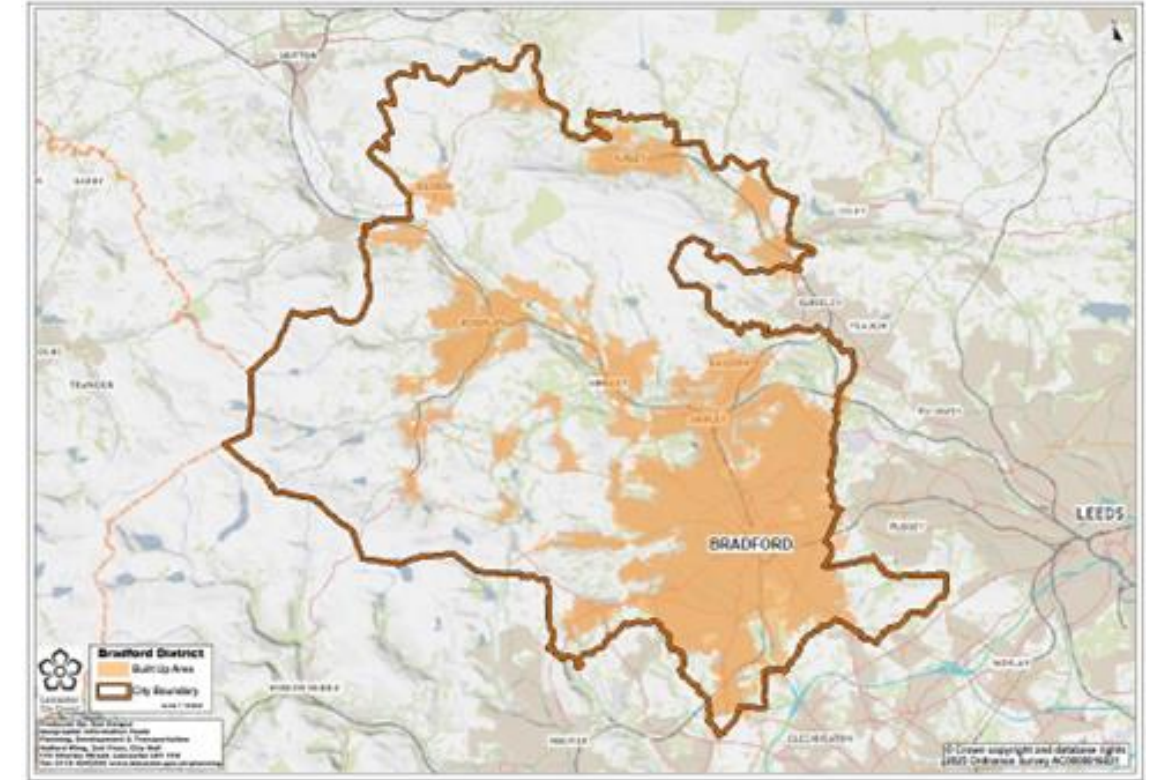
## Bradford

Population: **553k**

Area km2: **365**

Population density  
pop'n/km2:

**1514**



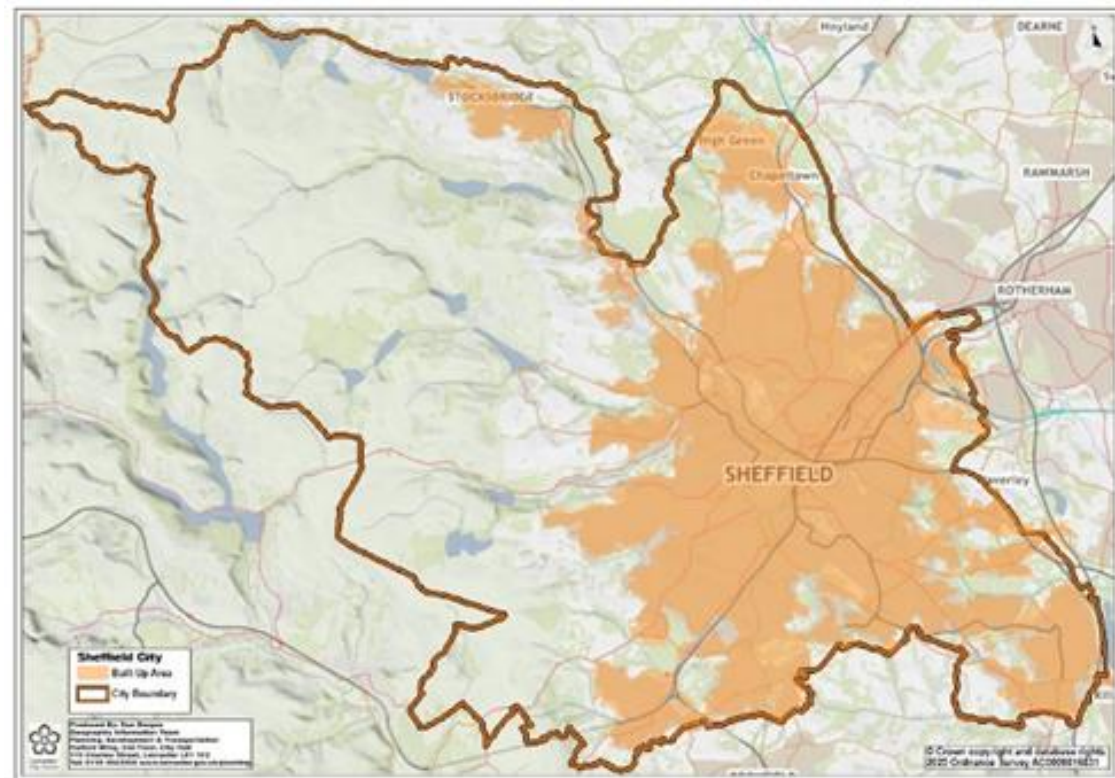
## Sheffield

Population: **564k**

Area km2: **367**

Population density  
pop'n/km2:

**1540**



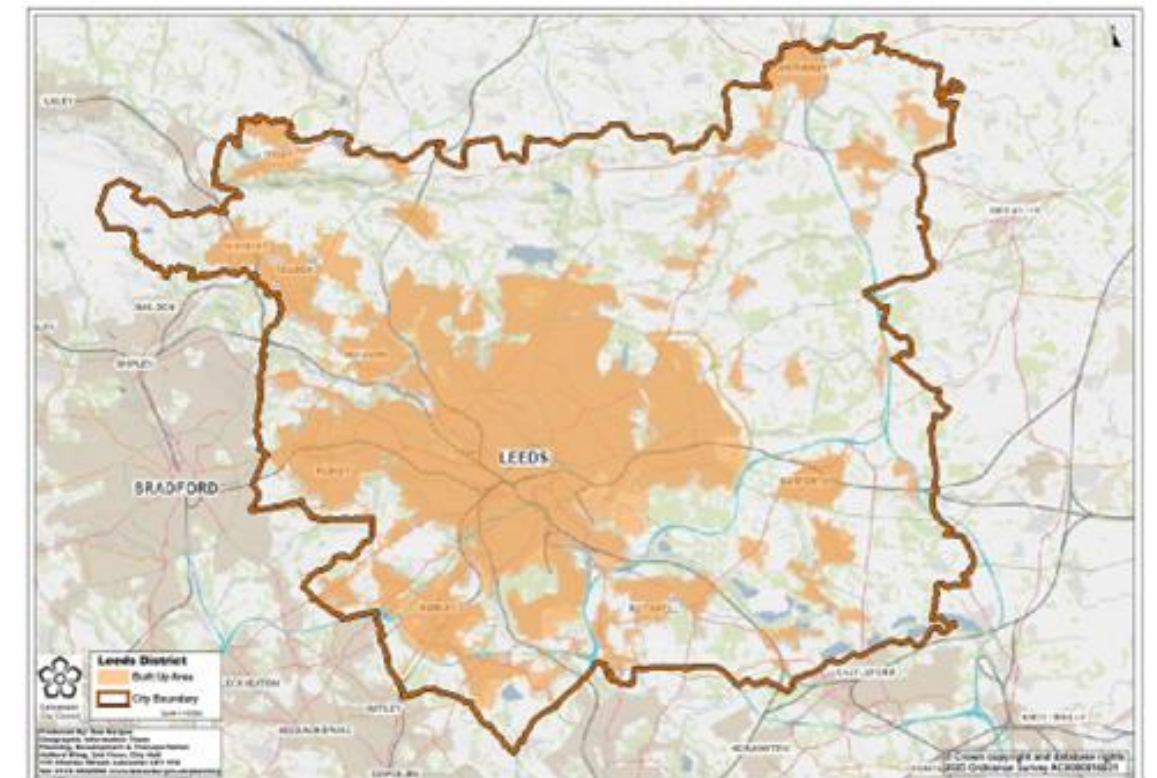
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Population: **820k**

Area km2: **550**

Population density  
pop'n/km2:

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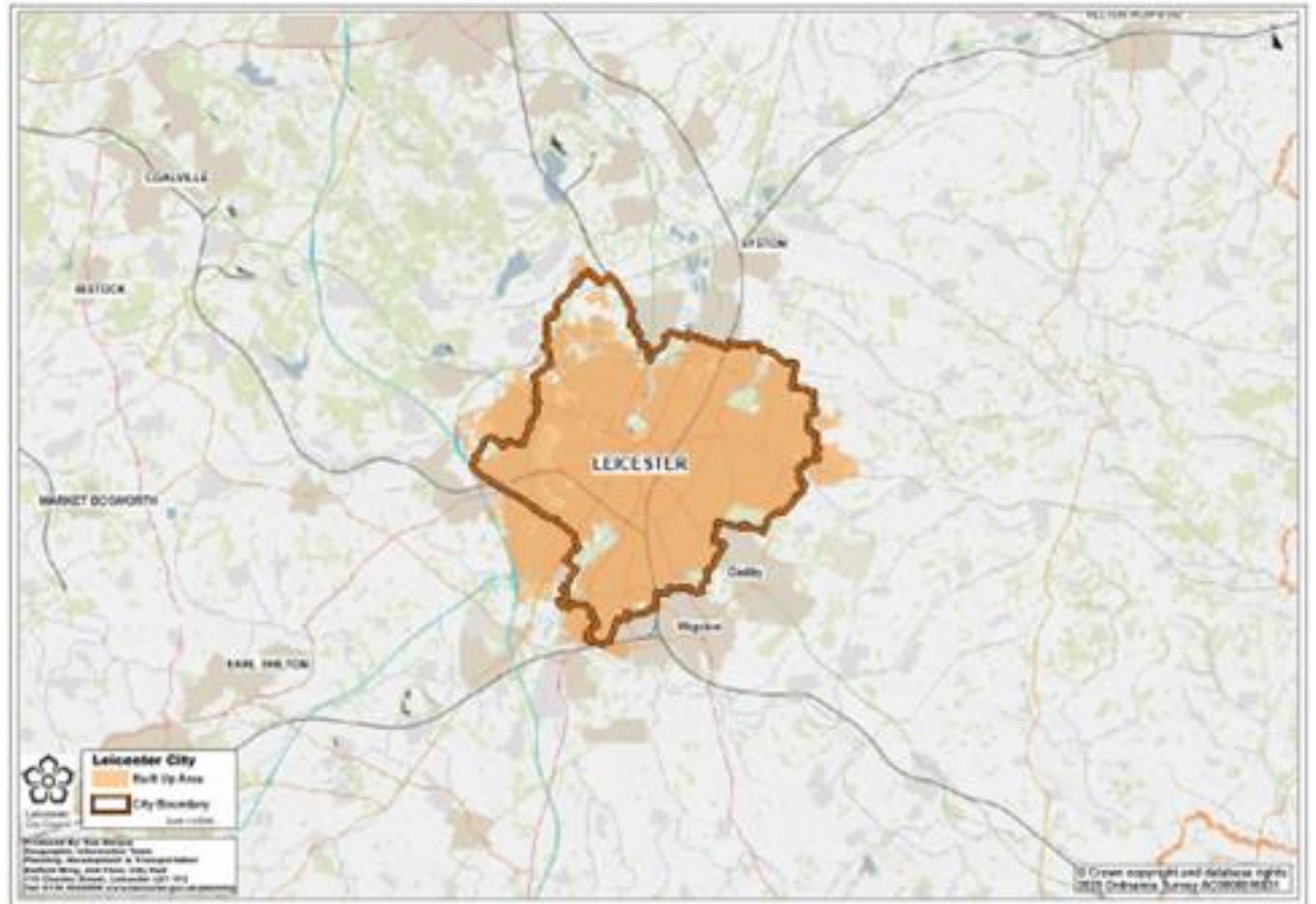
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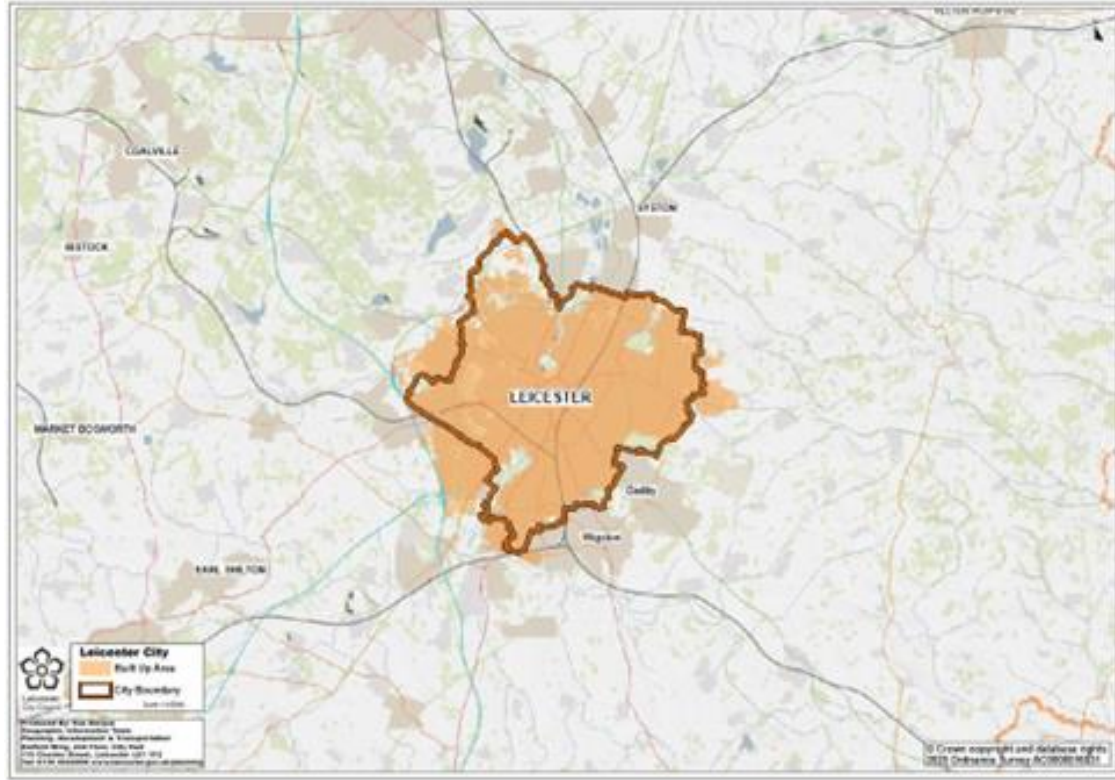
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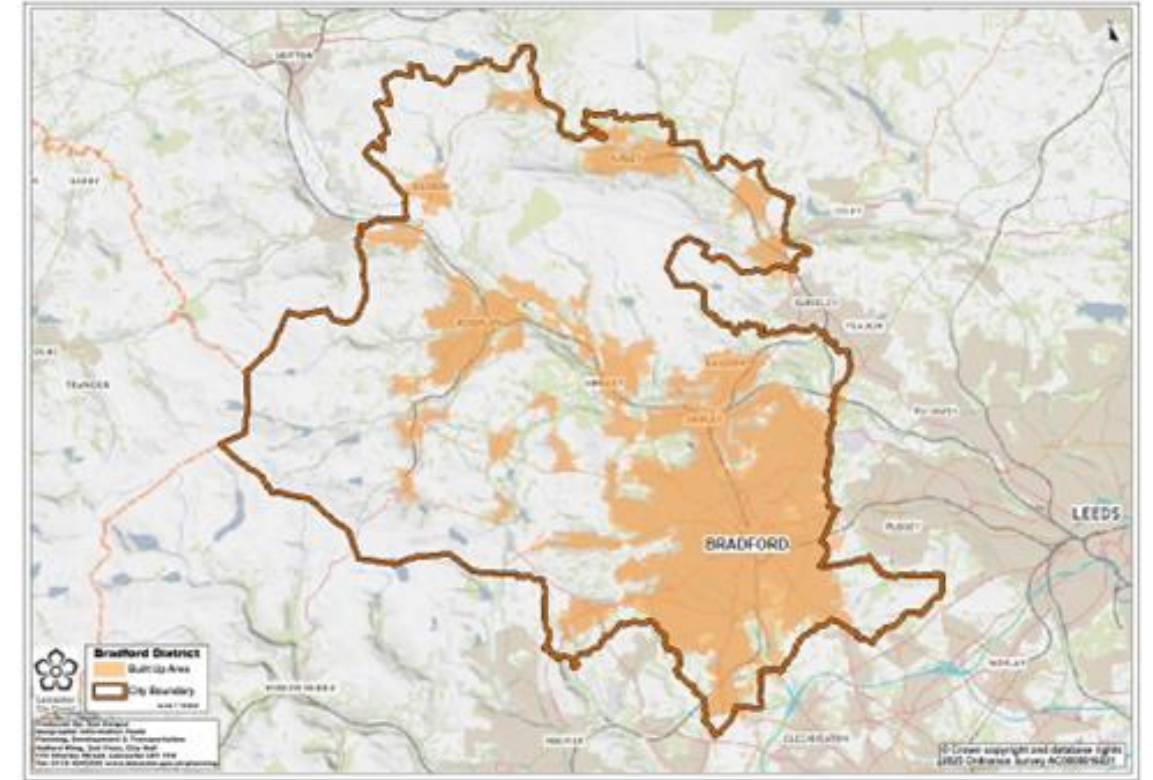
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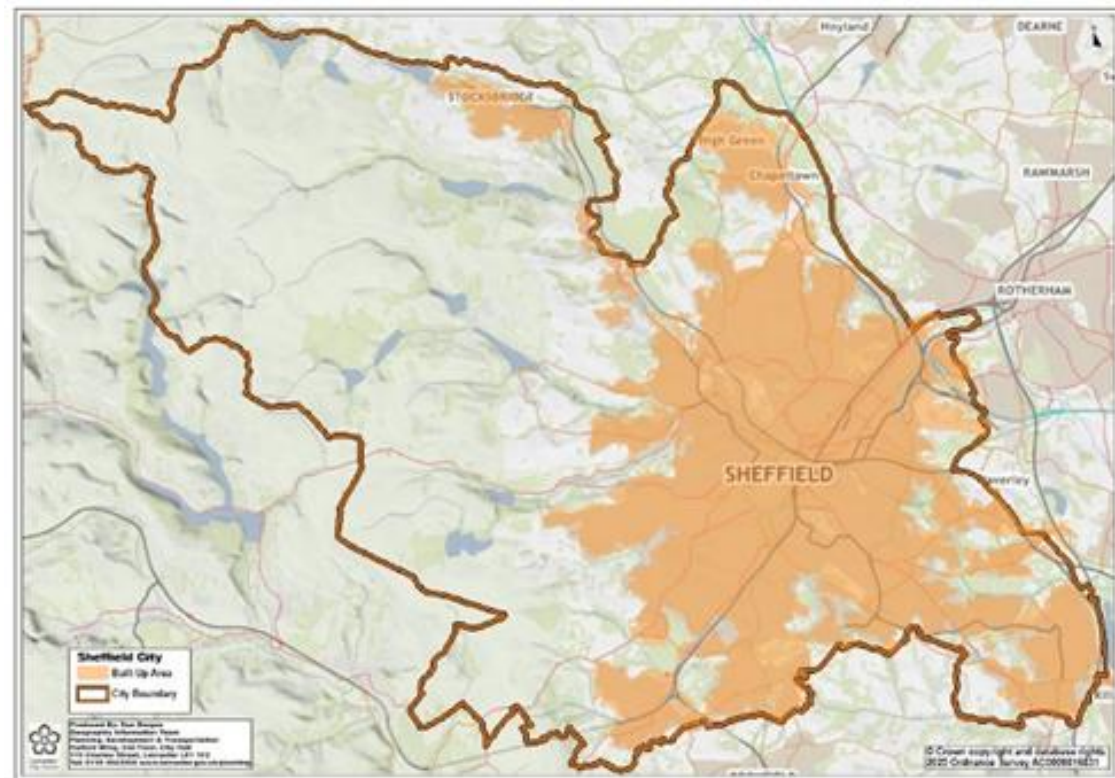
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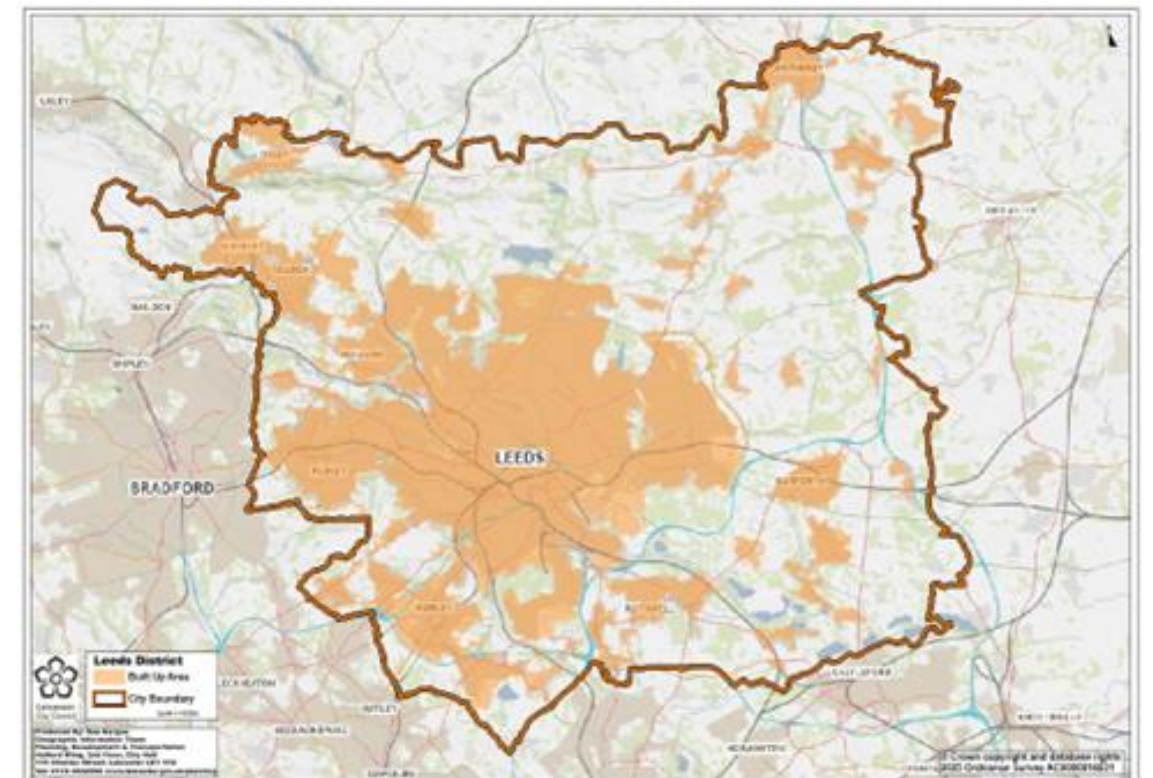
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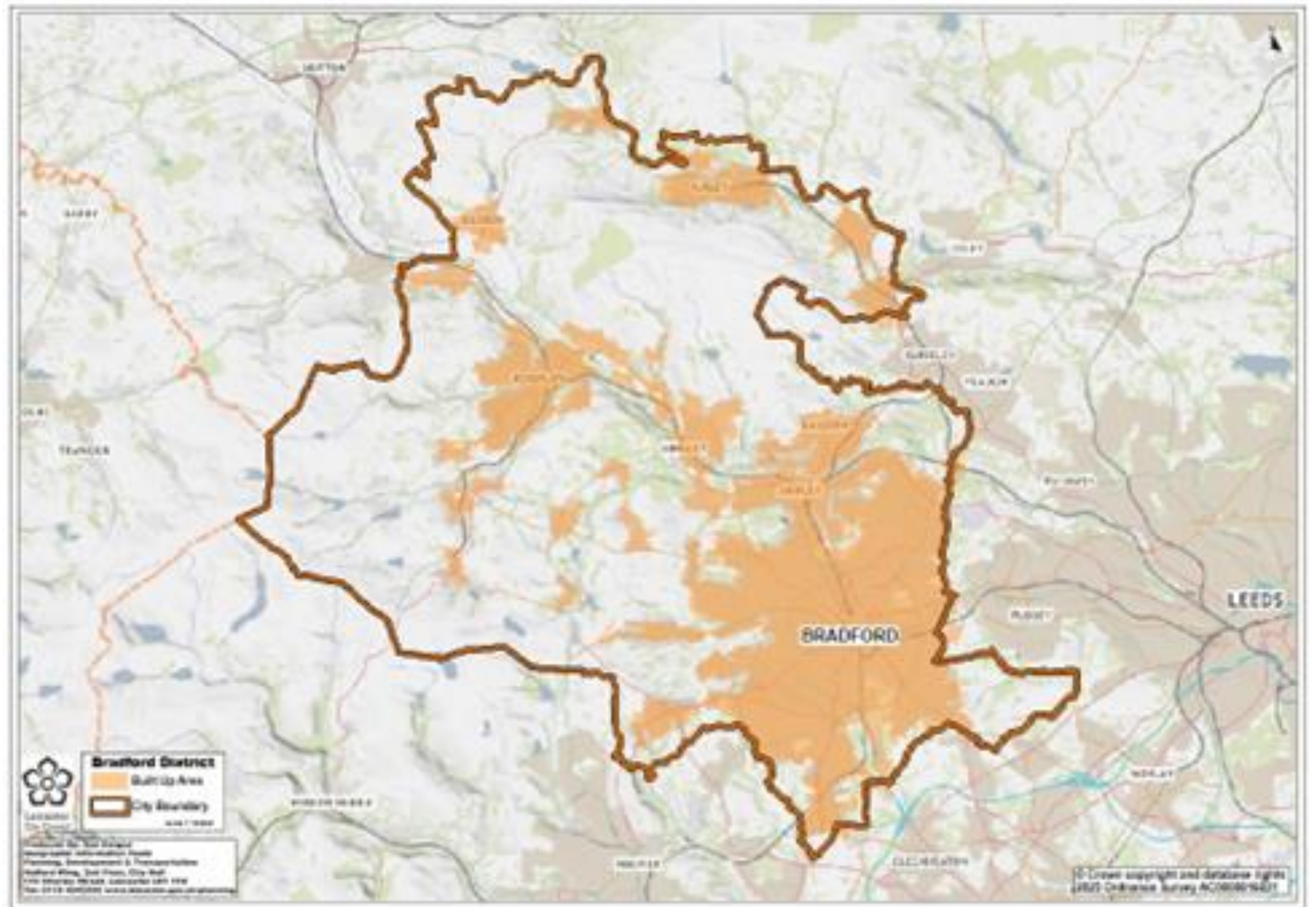
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# City boundary context – boundary comparisons

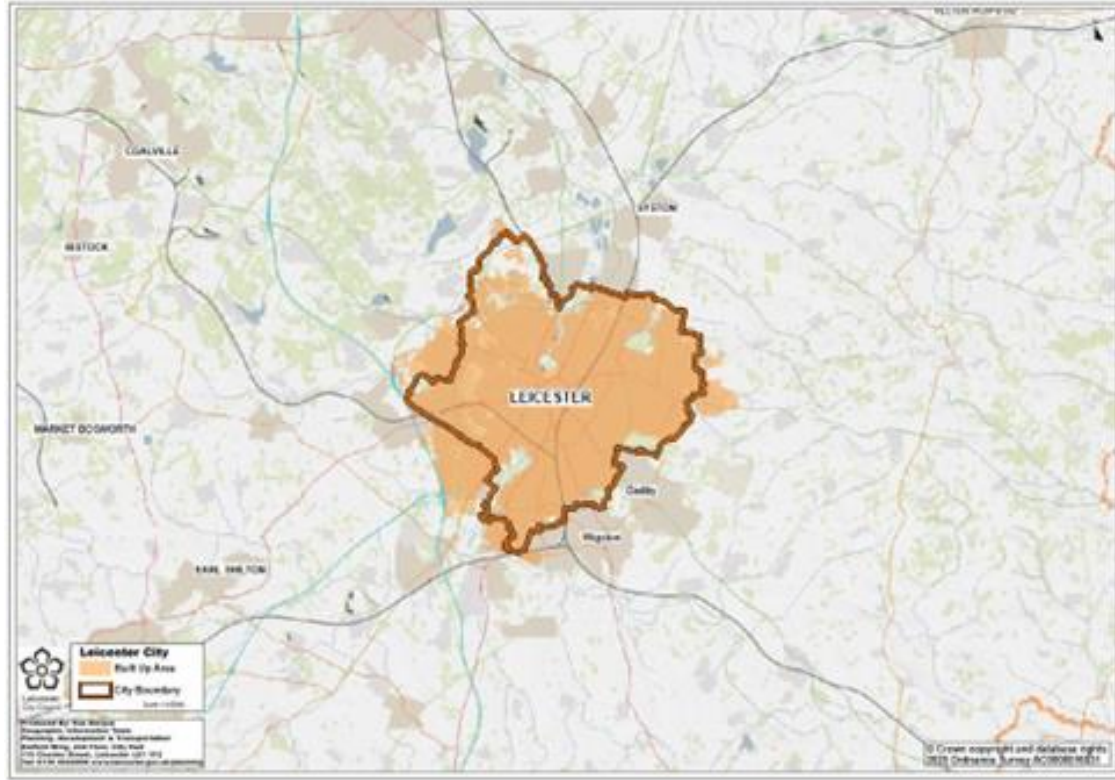
## Leicester

Population: 372k

Area km2: 73

Population density  
pop'n/km2:

**5095**



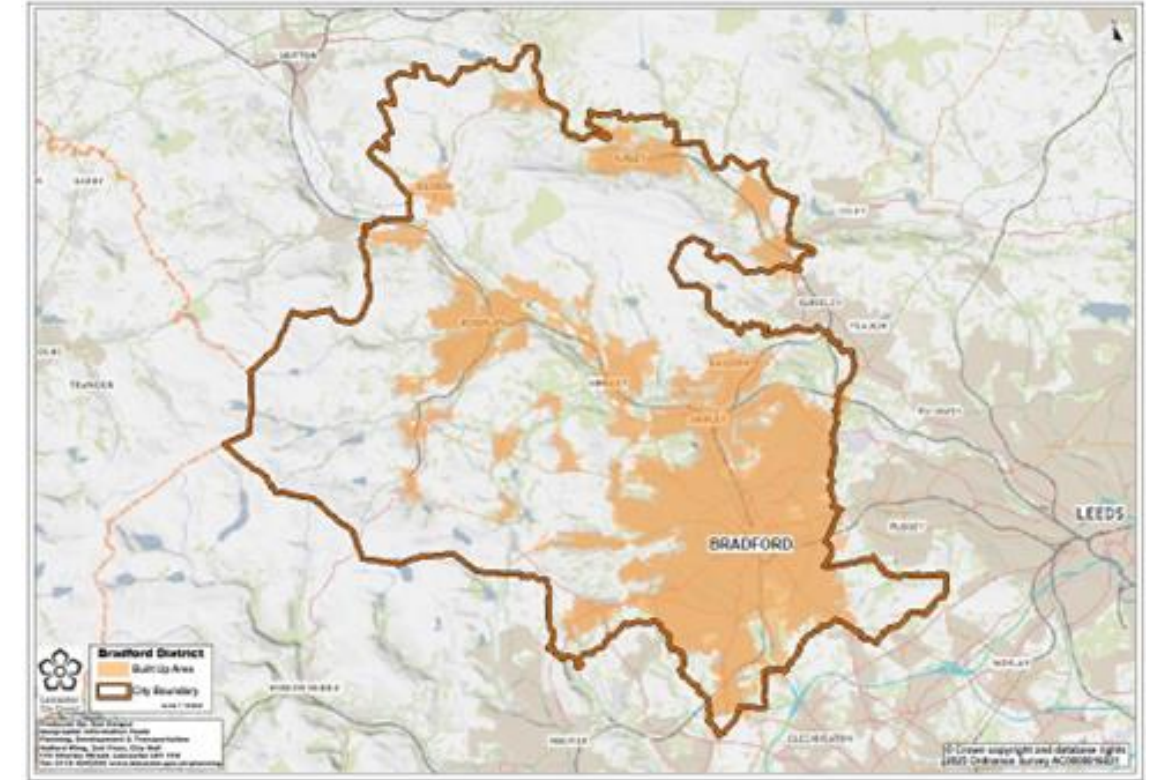
## Bradford

Population: 553k

Area km2: 365

Population density  
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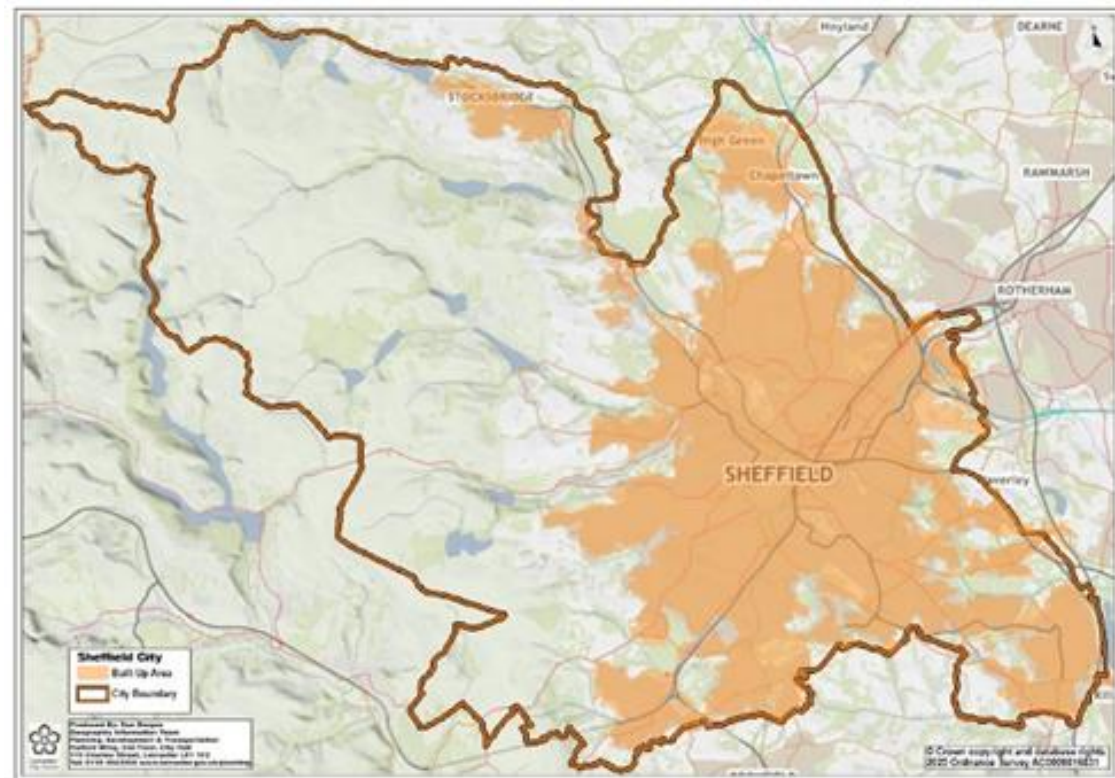
## Sheffield

Population: 564k

Area km2: 367

Population density  
pop'n/km2:

**1540**



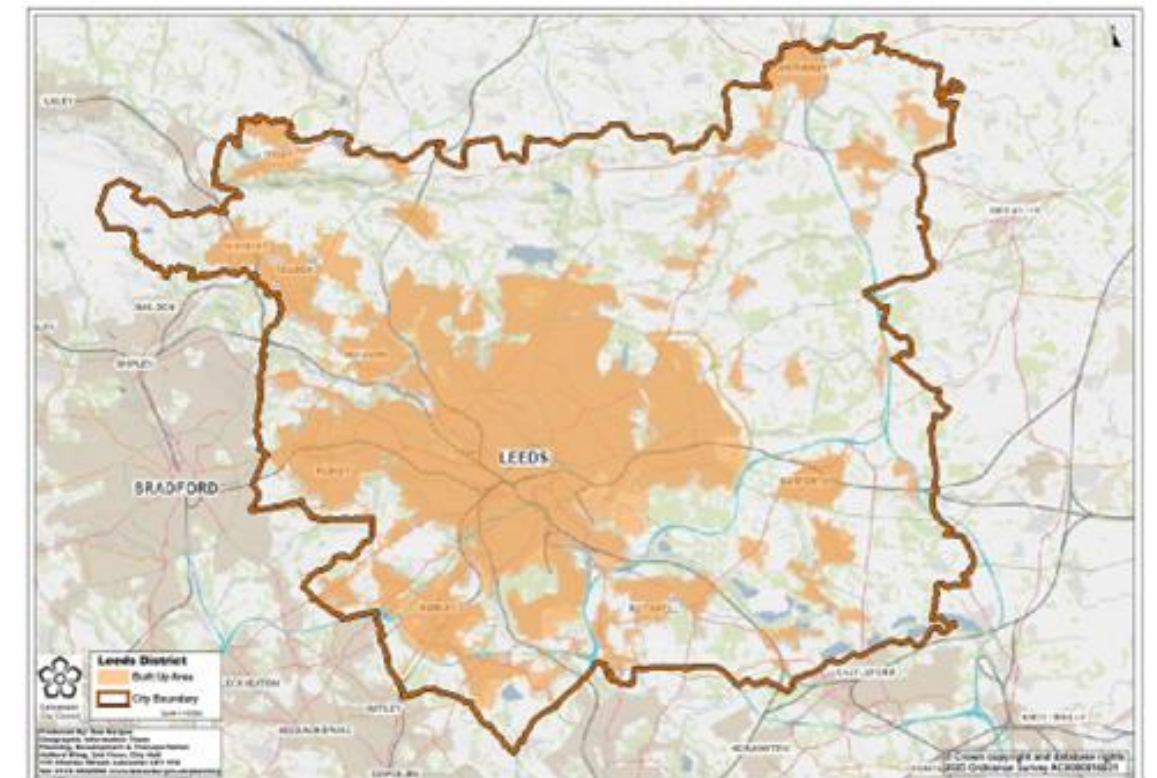
## Leeds

Population: 820k

Area km2: 550

Population density  
pop'n/km2:

**1493**





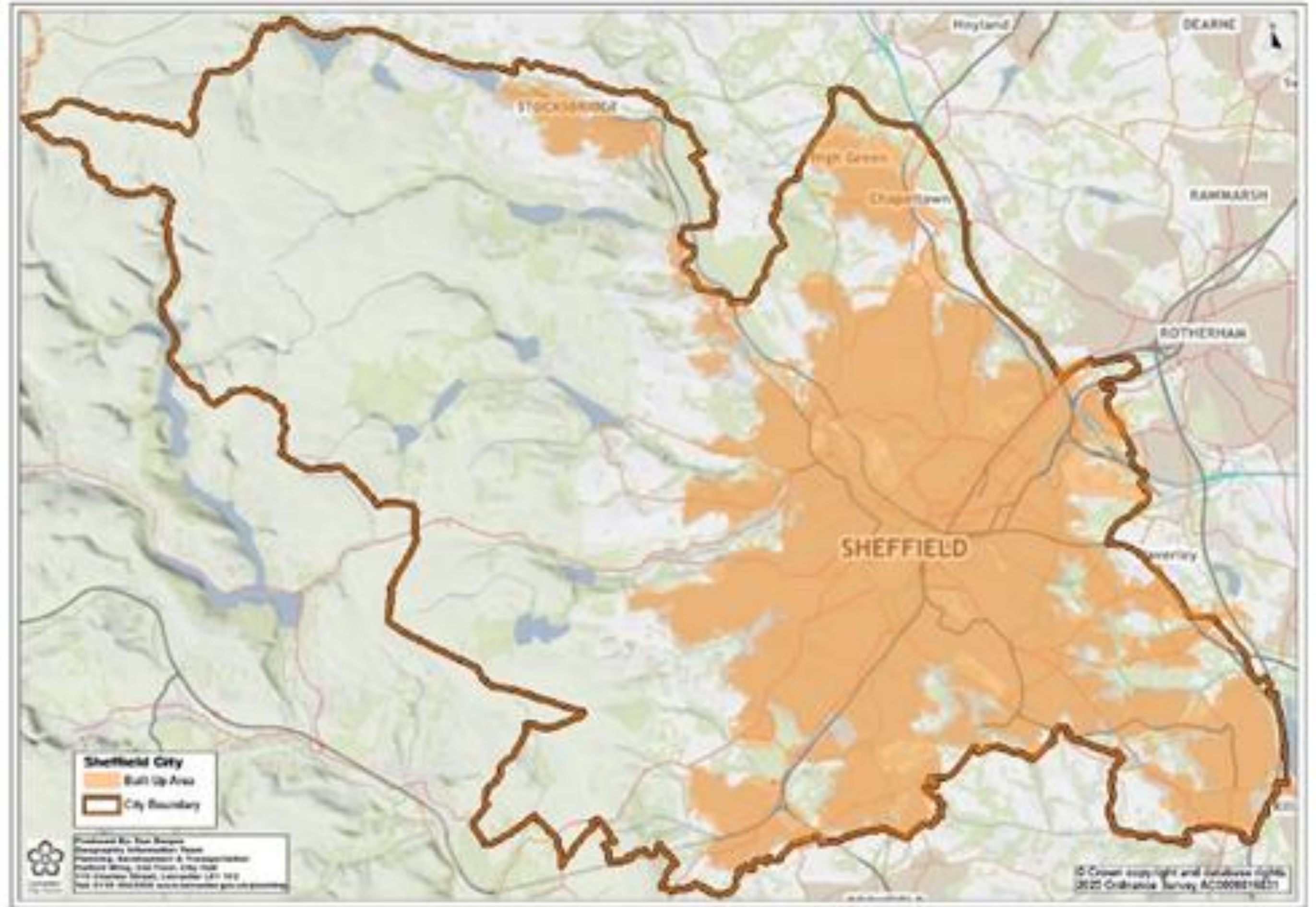
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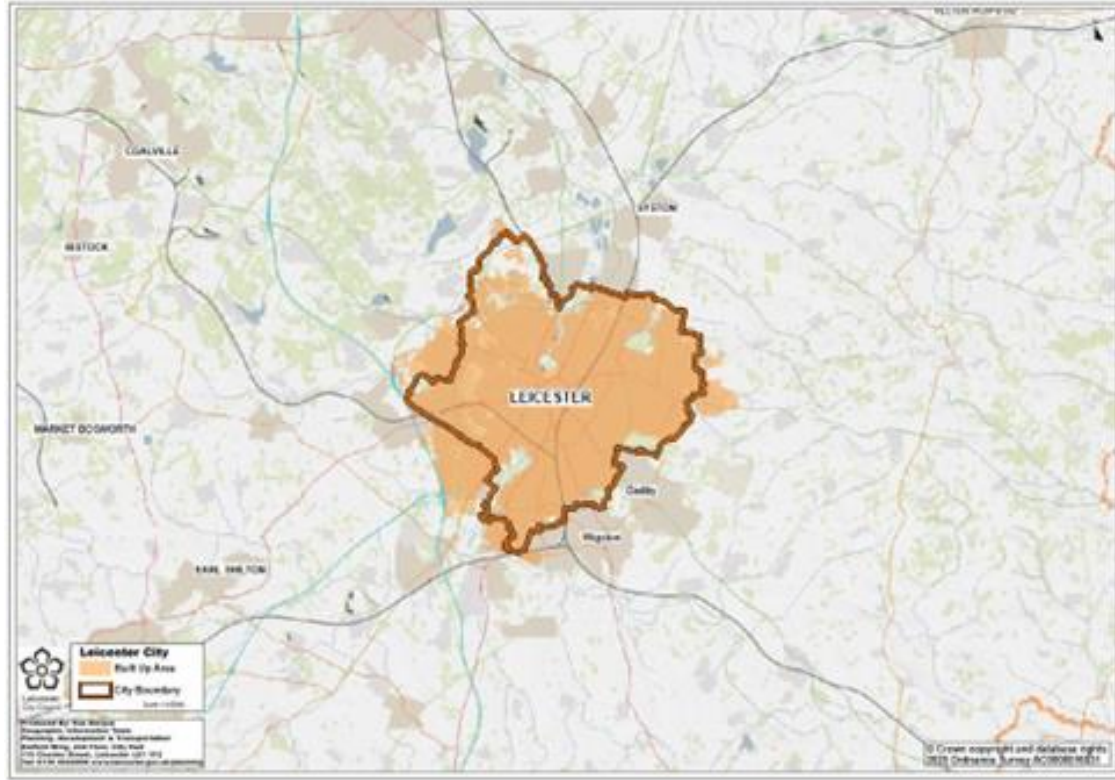
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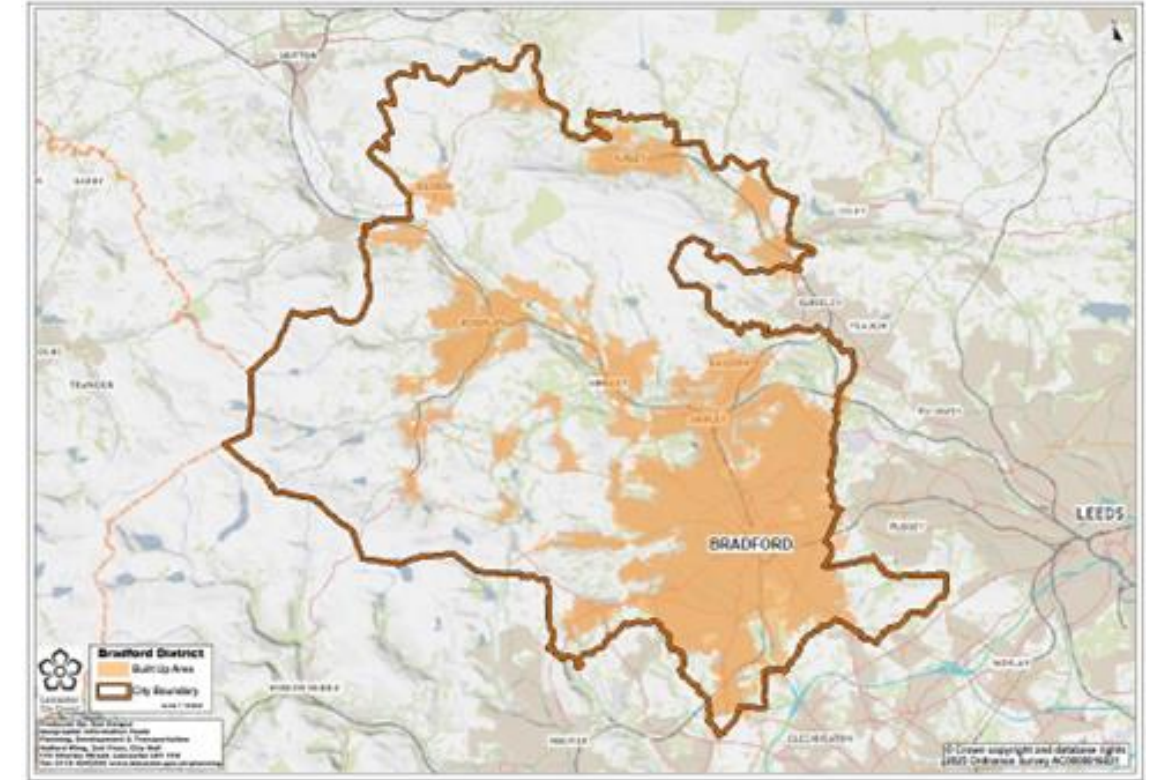
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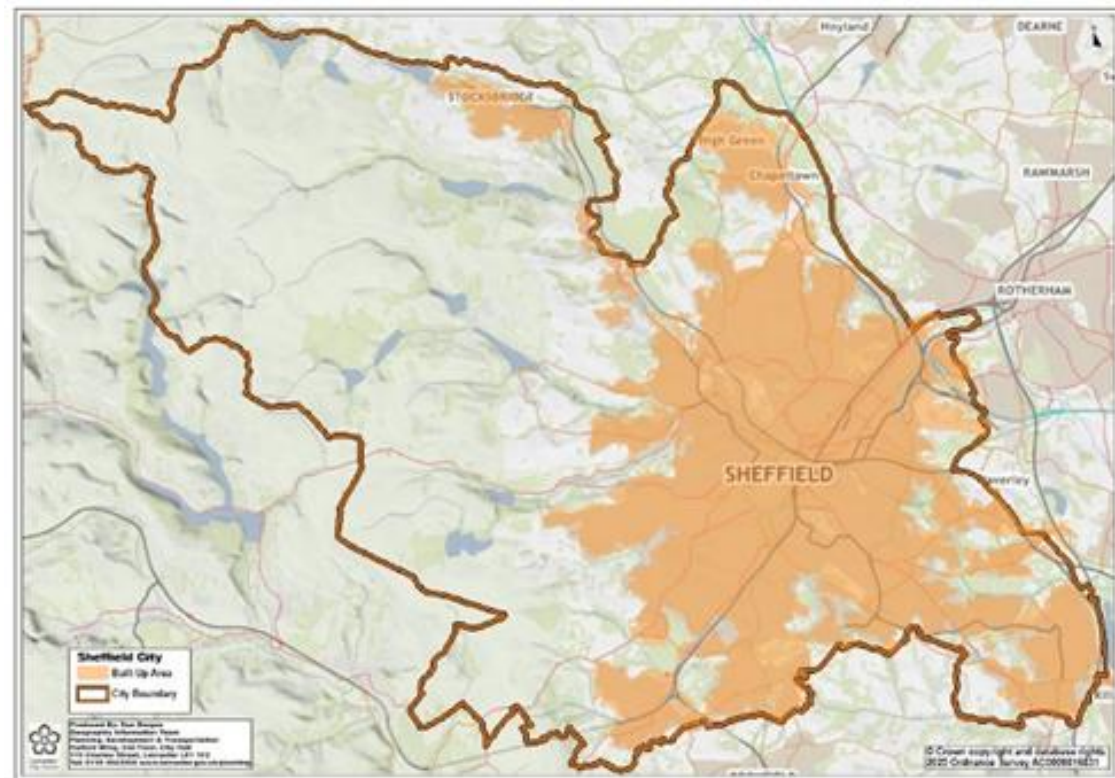
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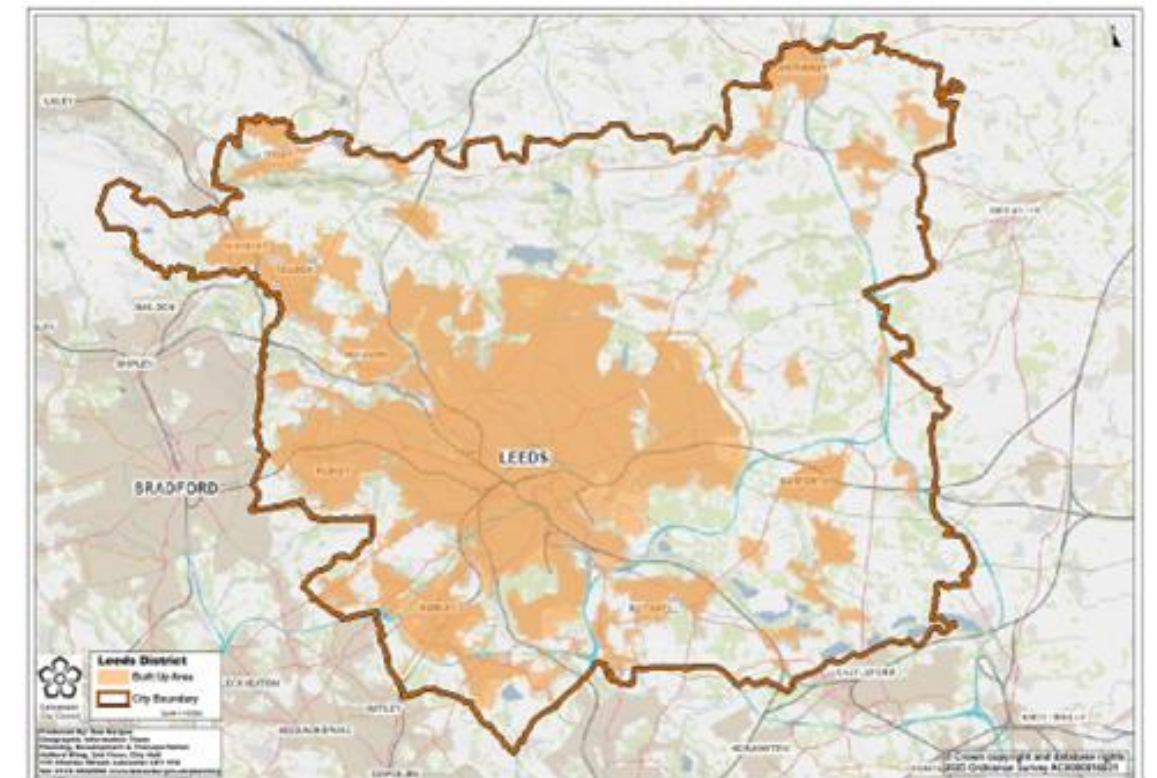
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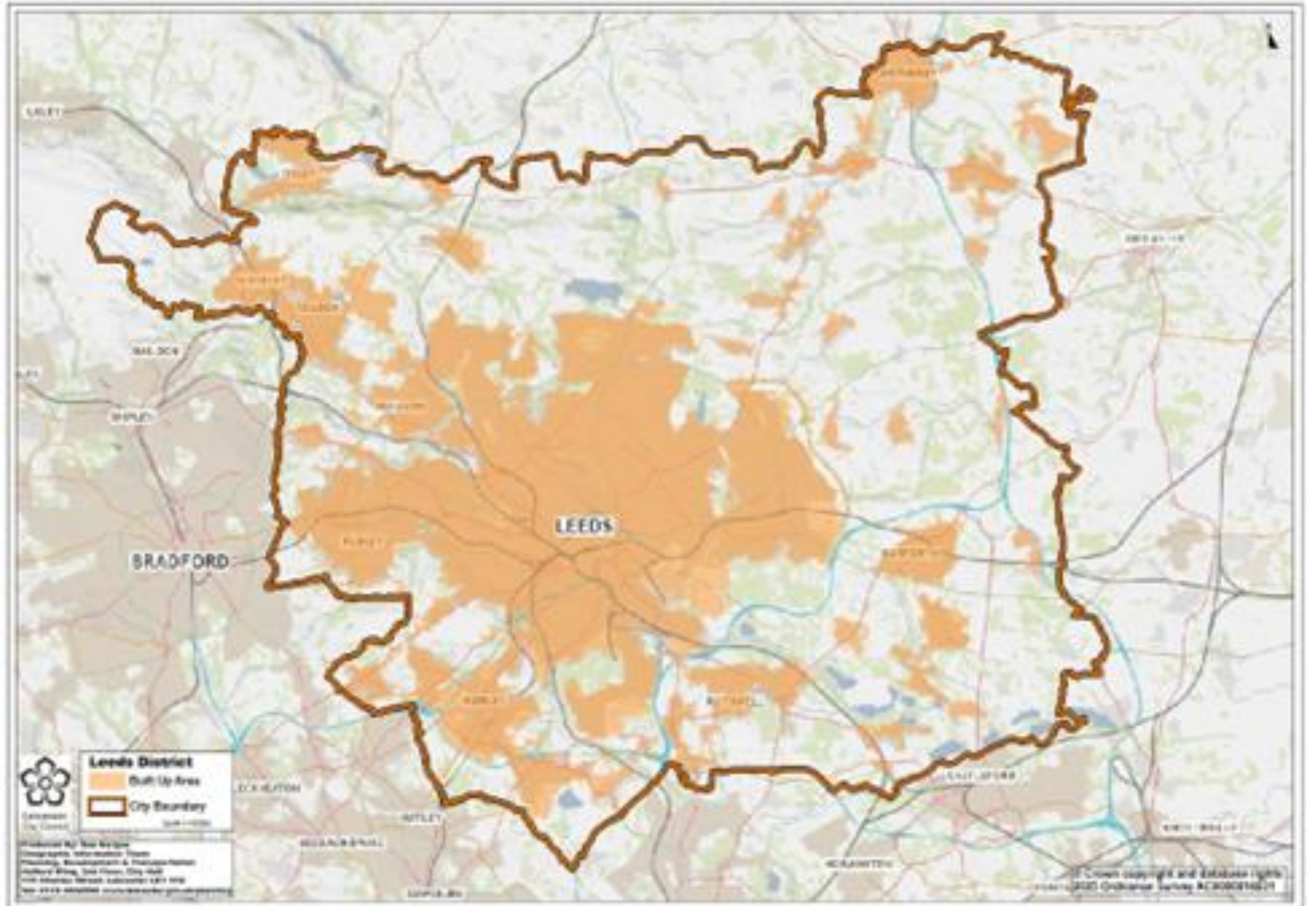
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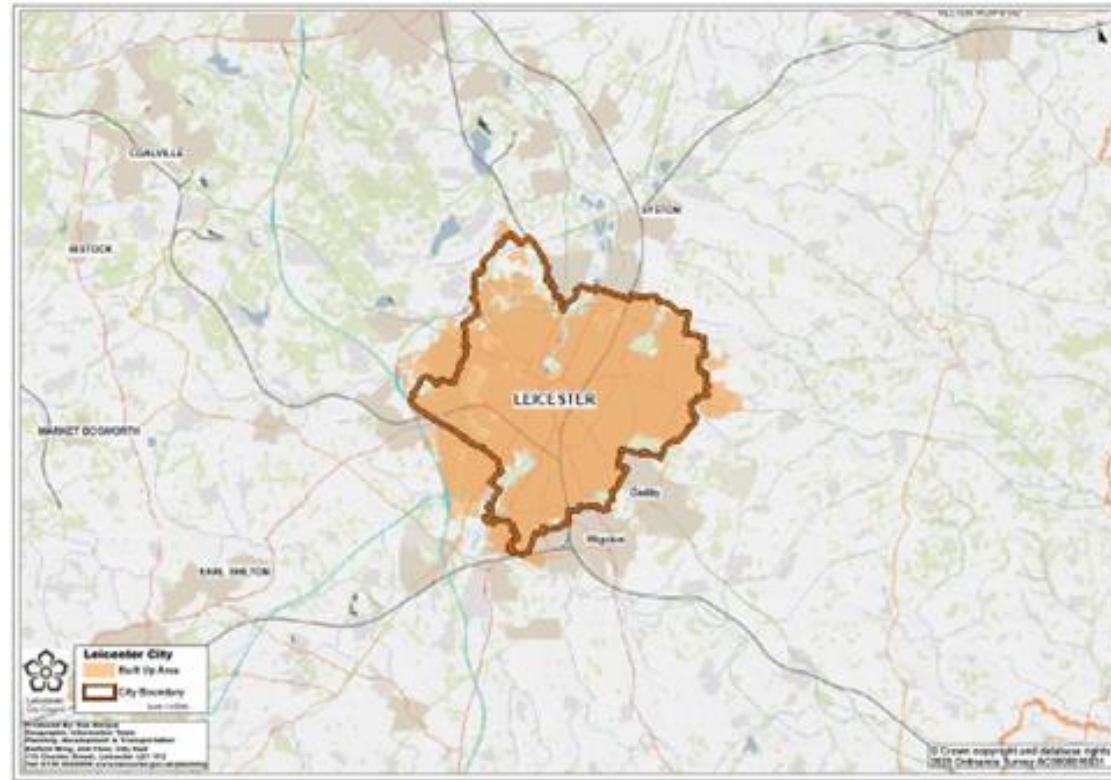
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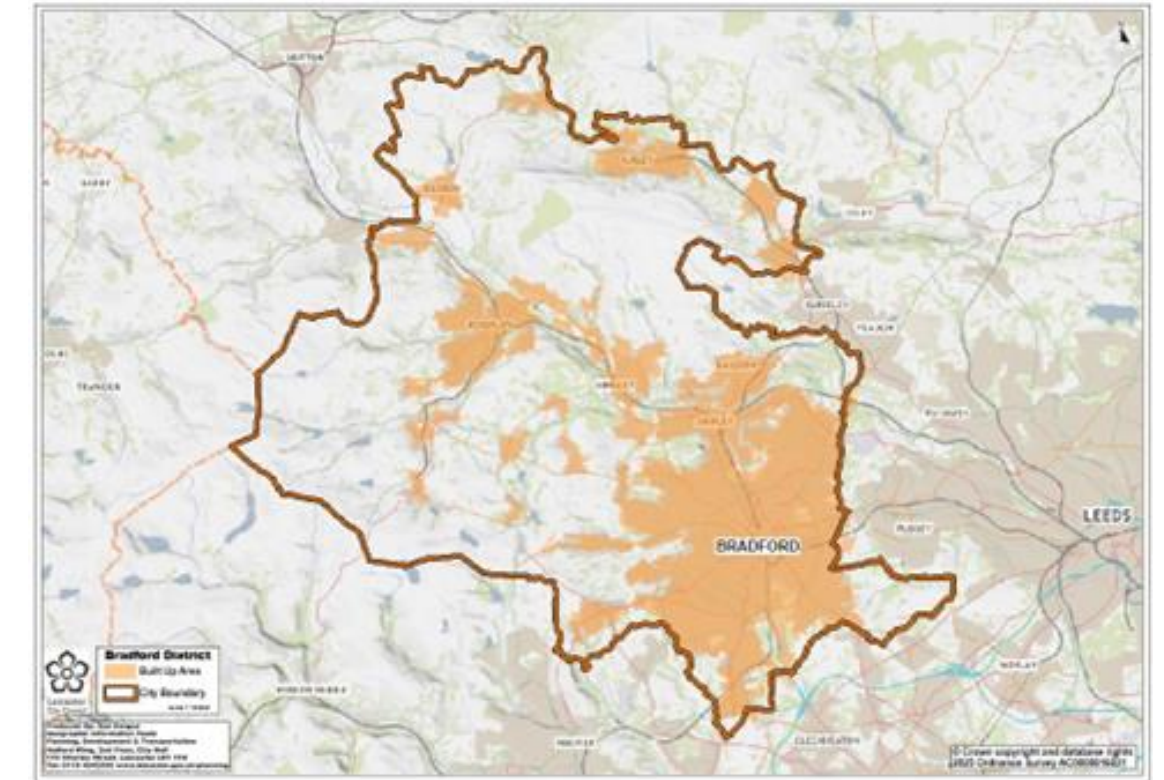
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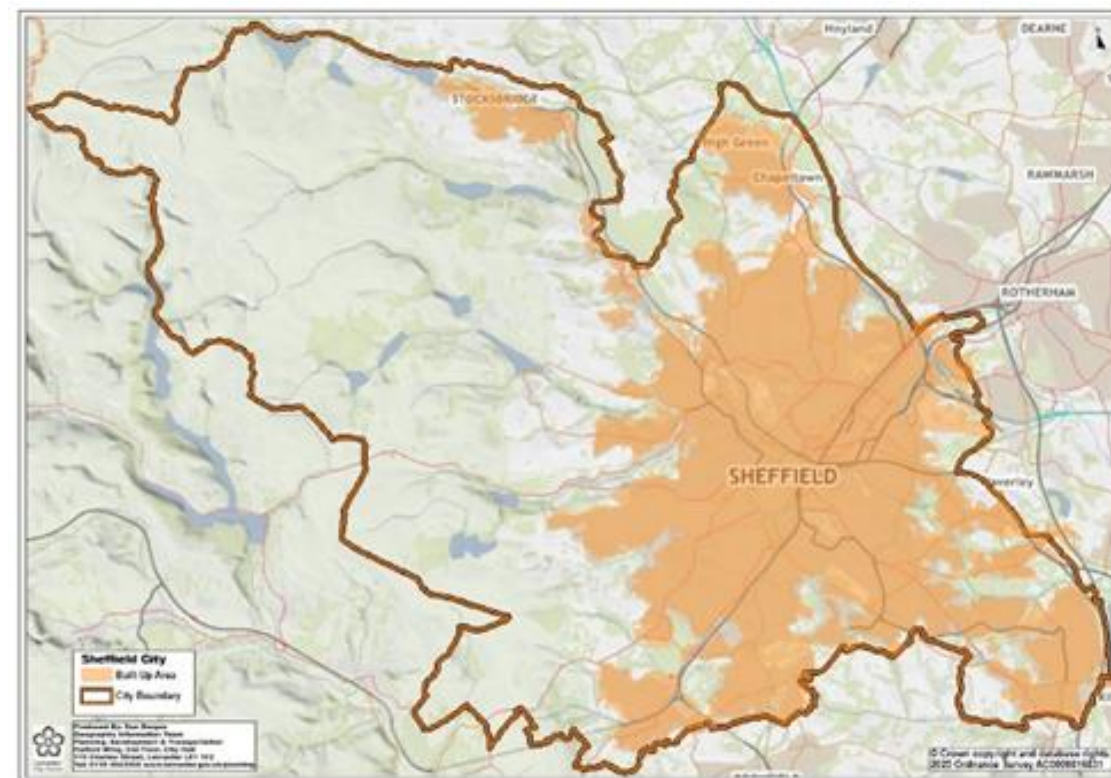
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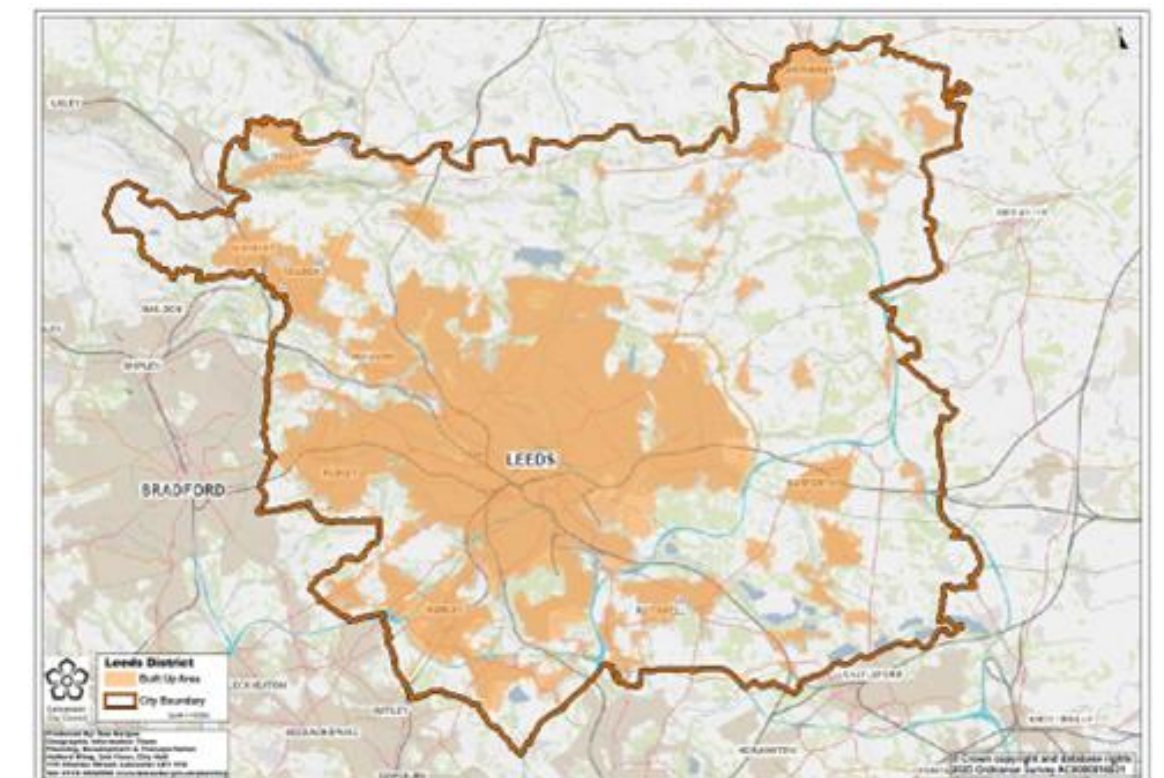
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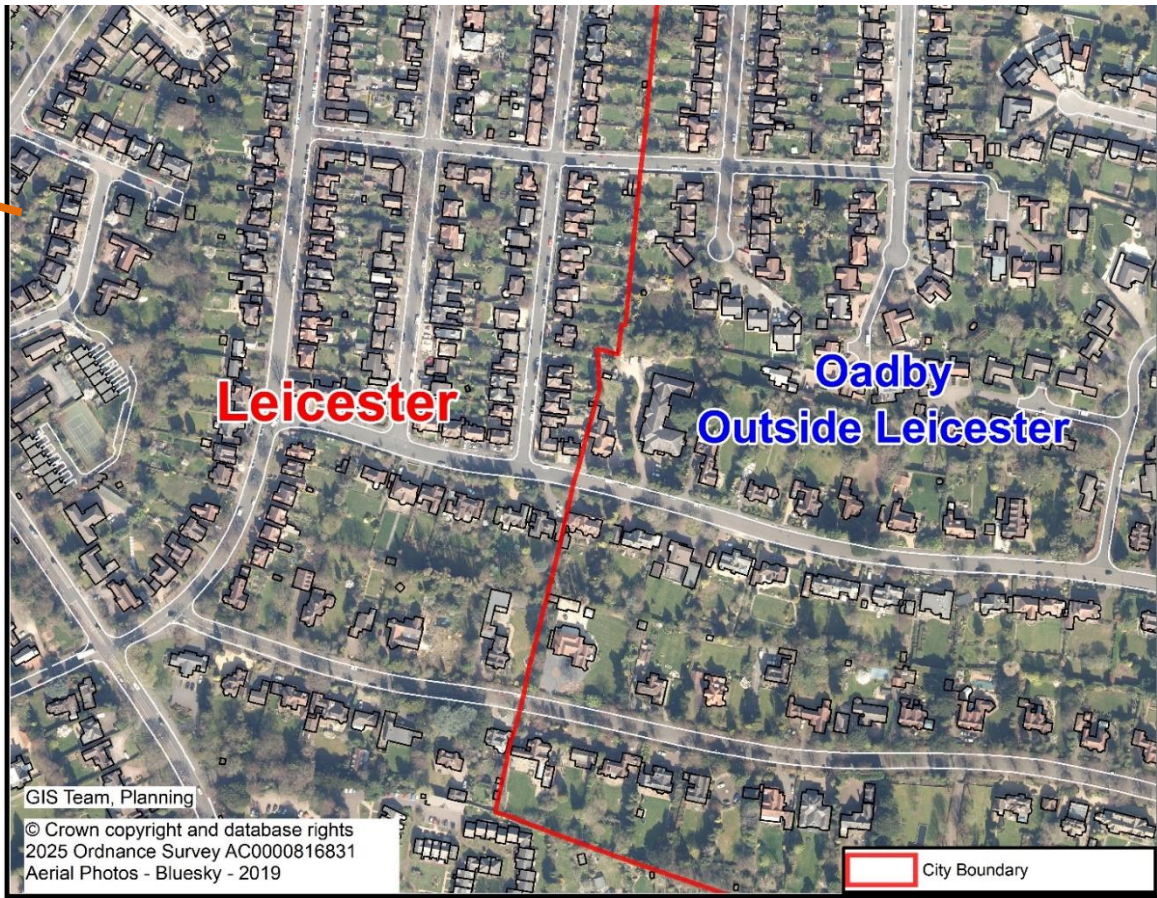
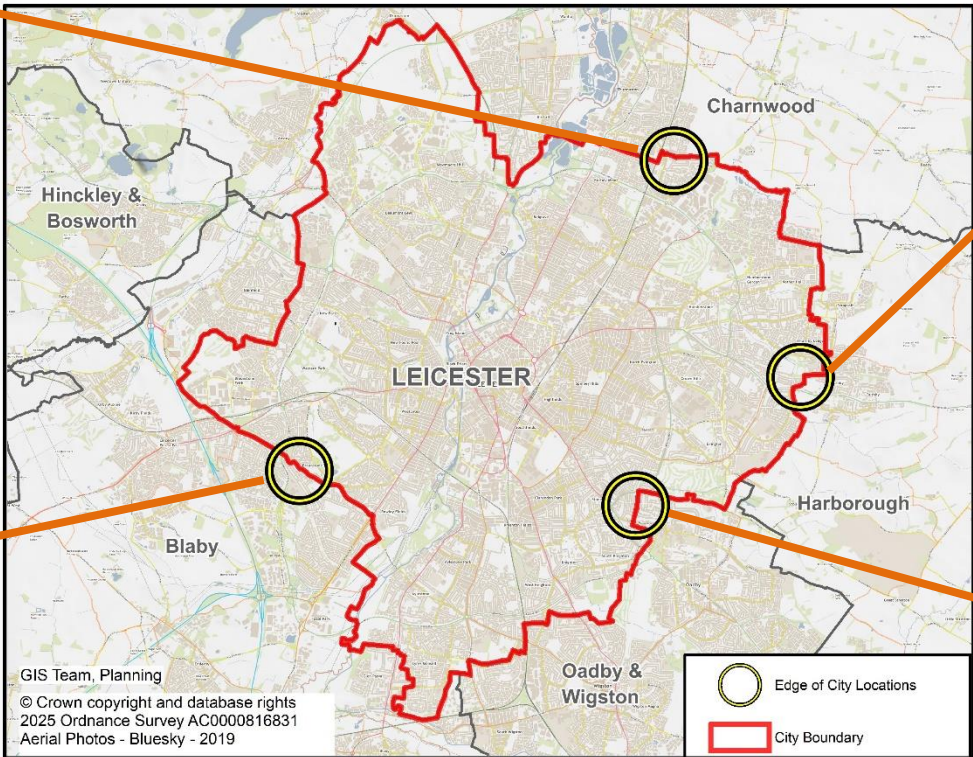
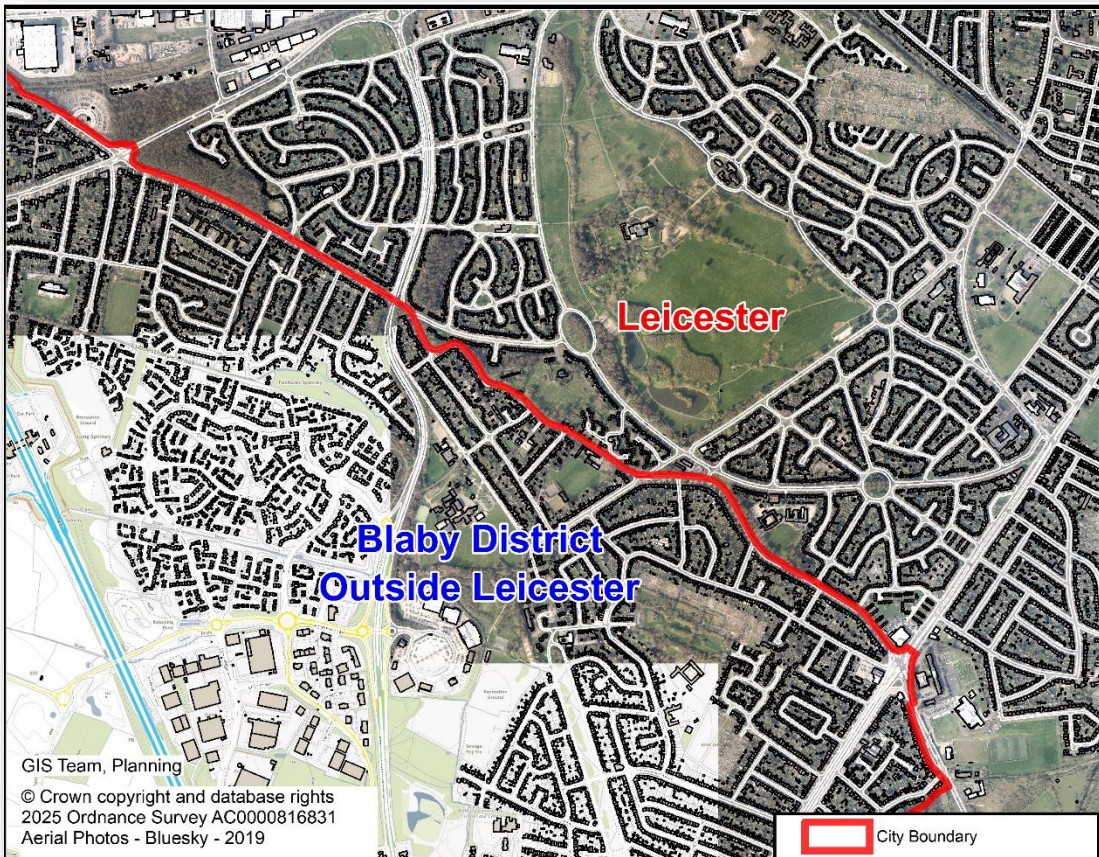
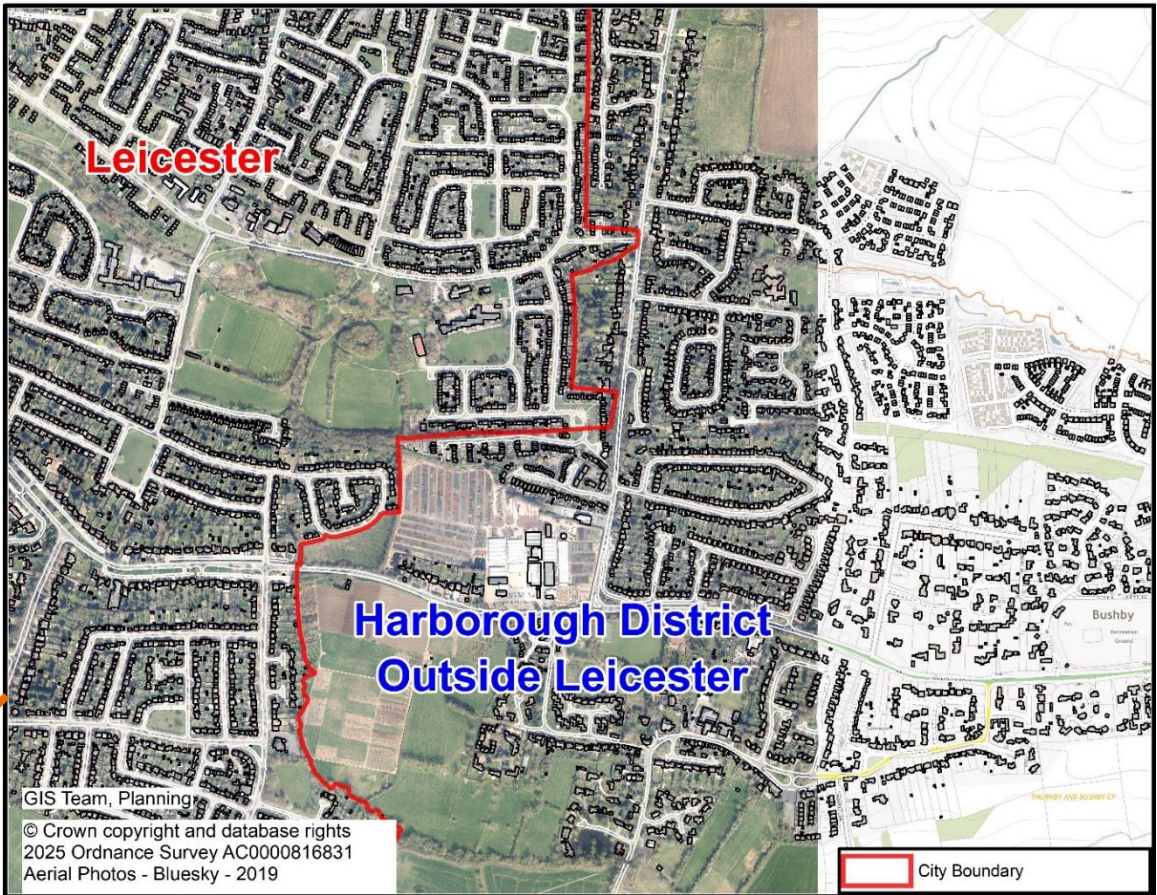
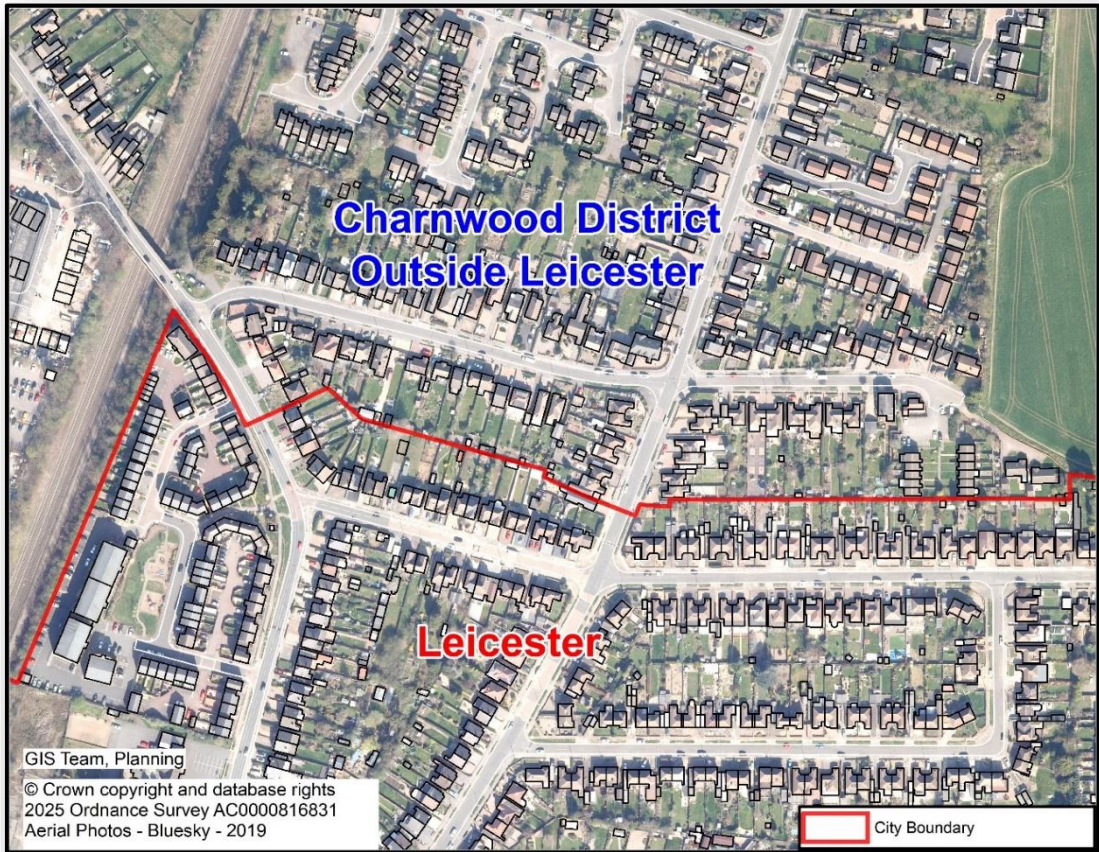
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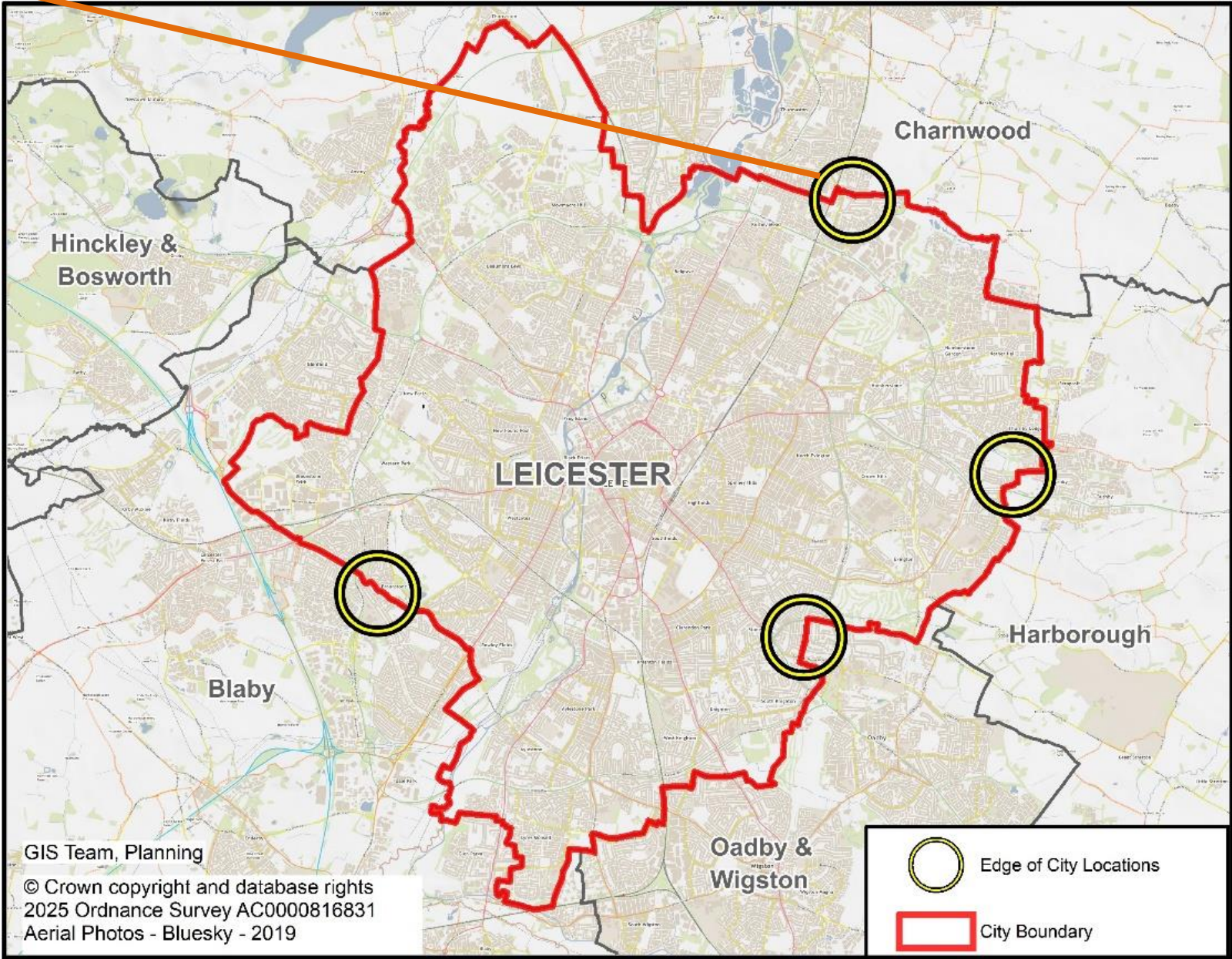
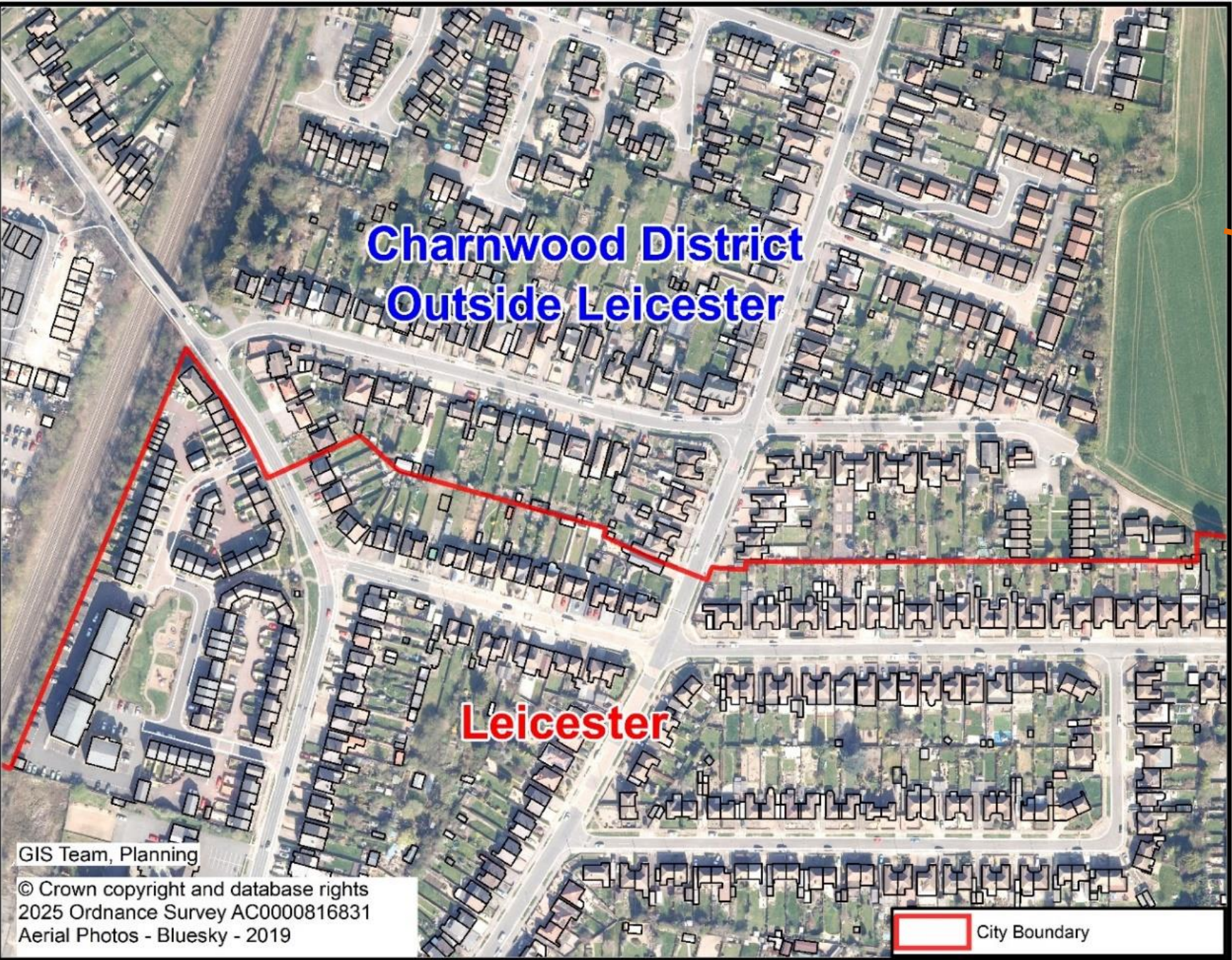


# Illogical city boundary: examples



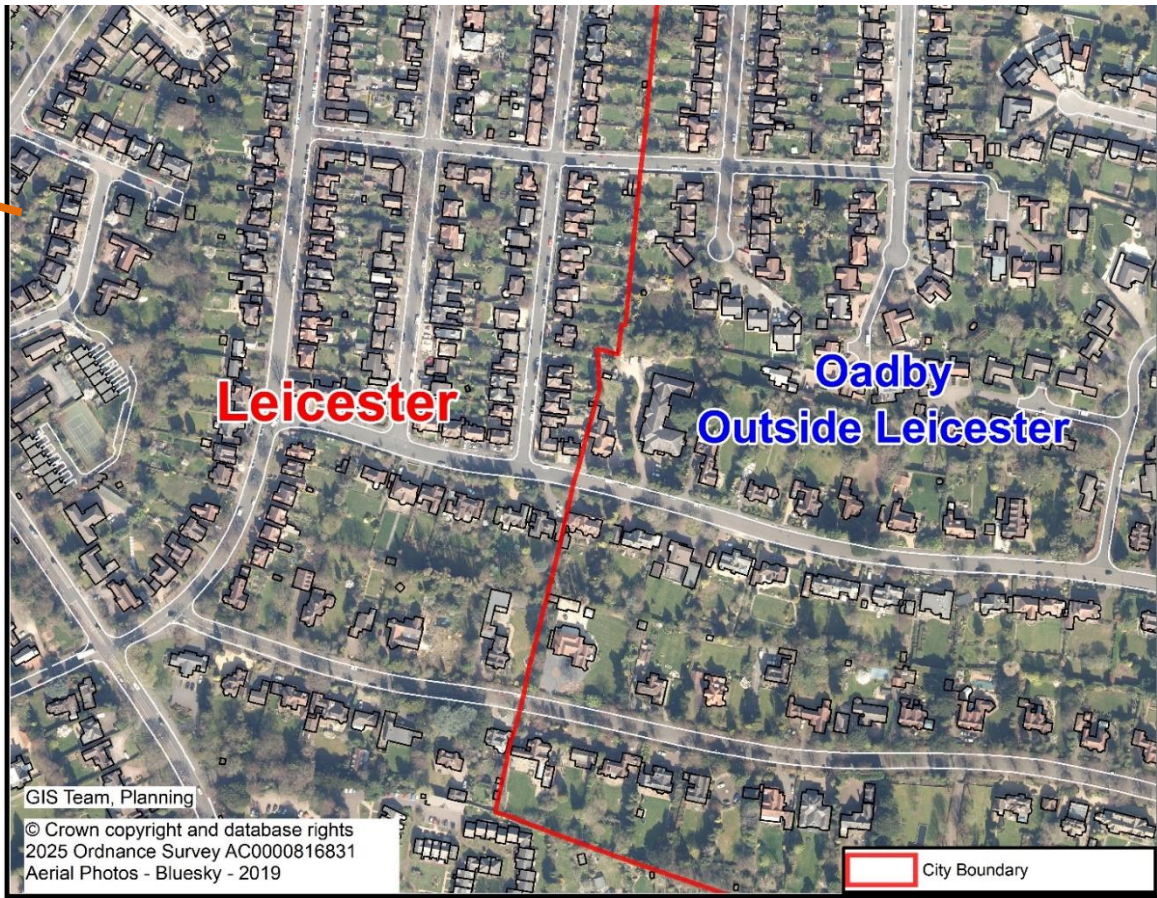
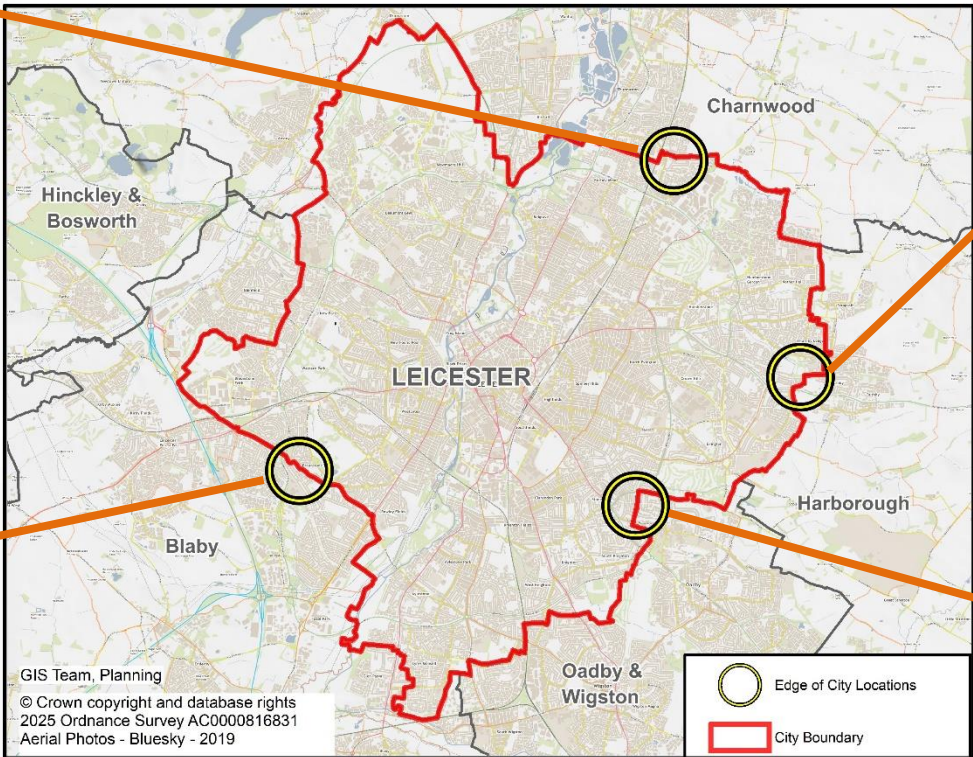
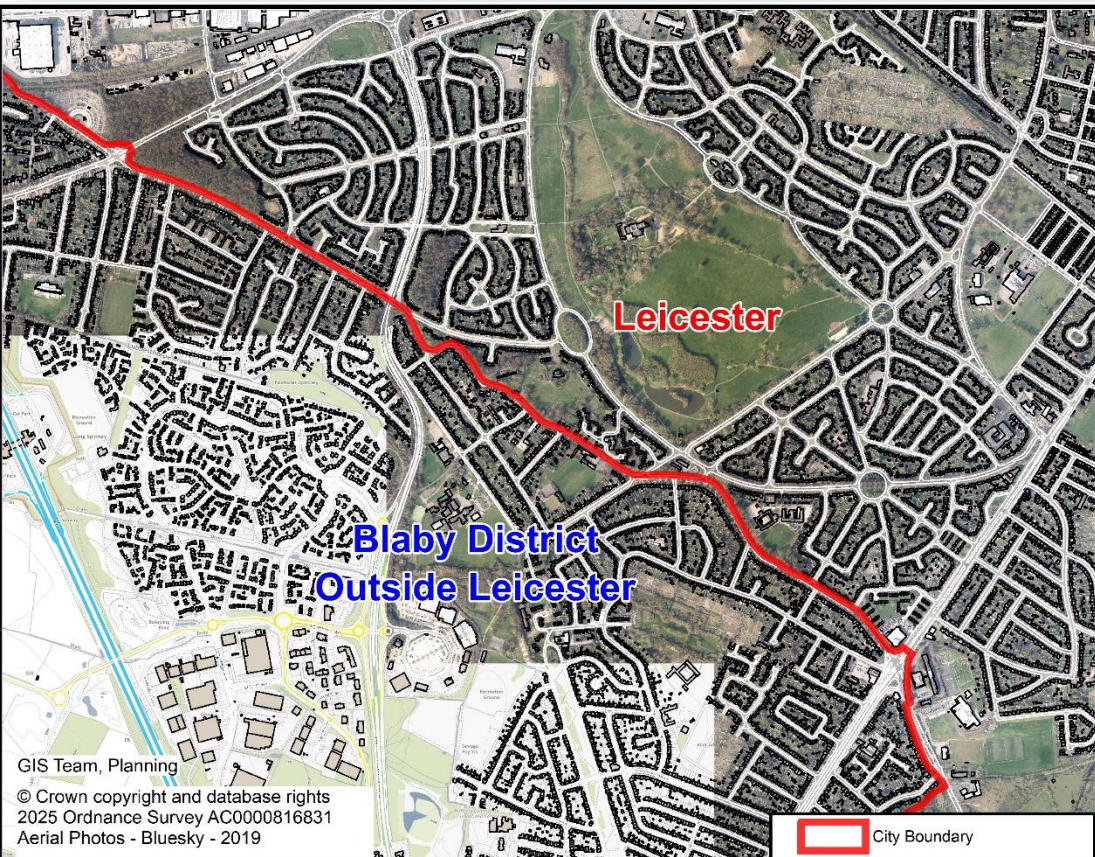
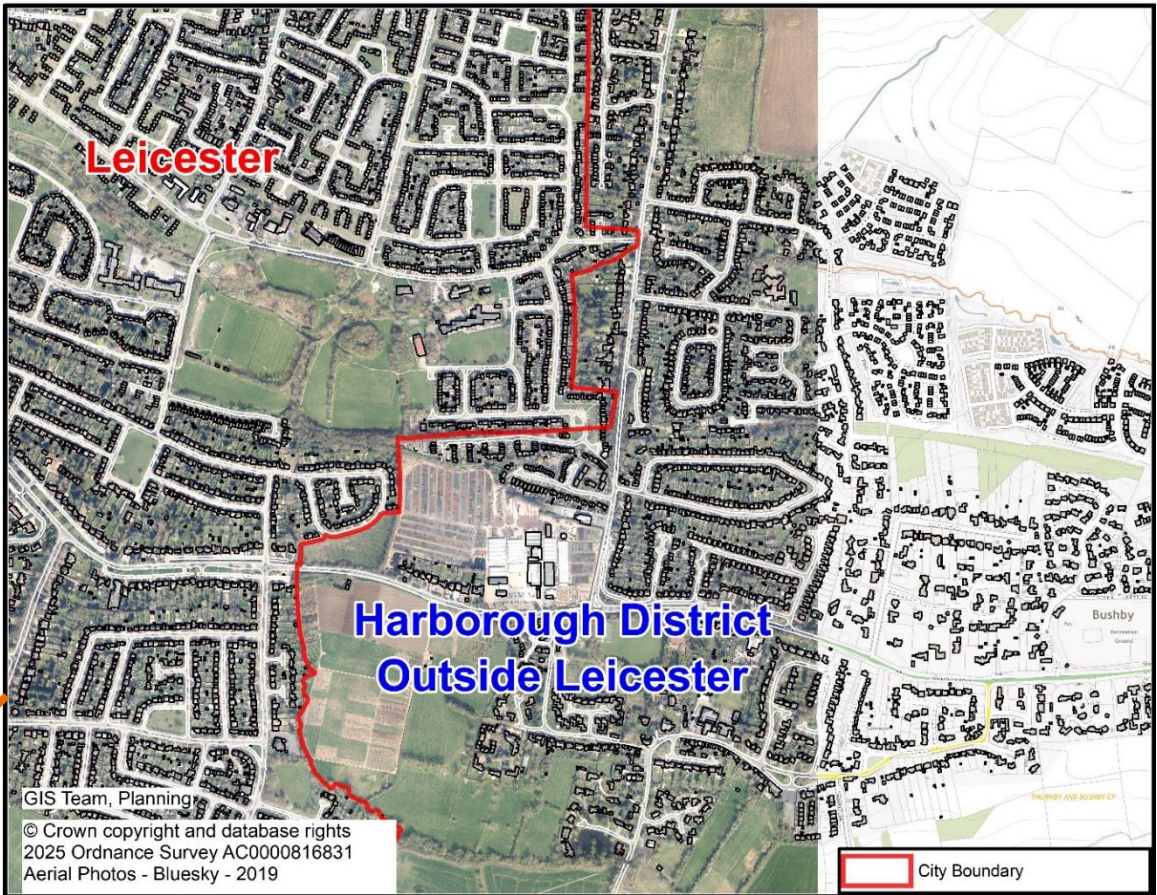
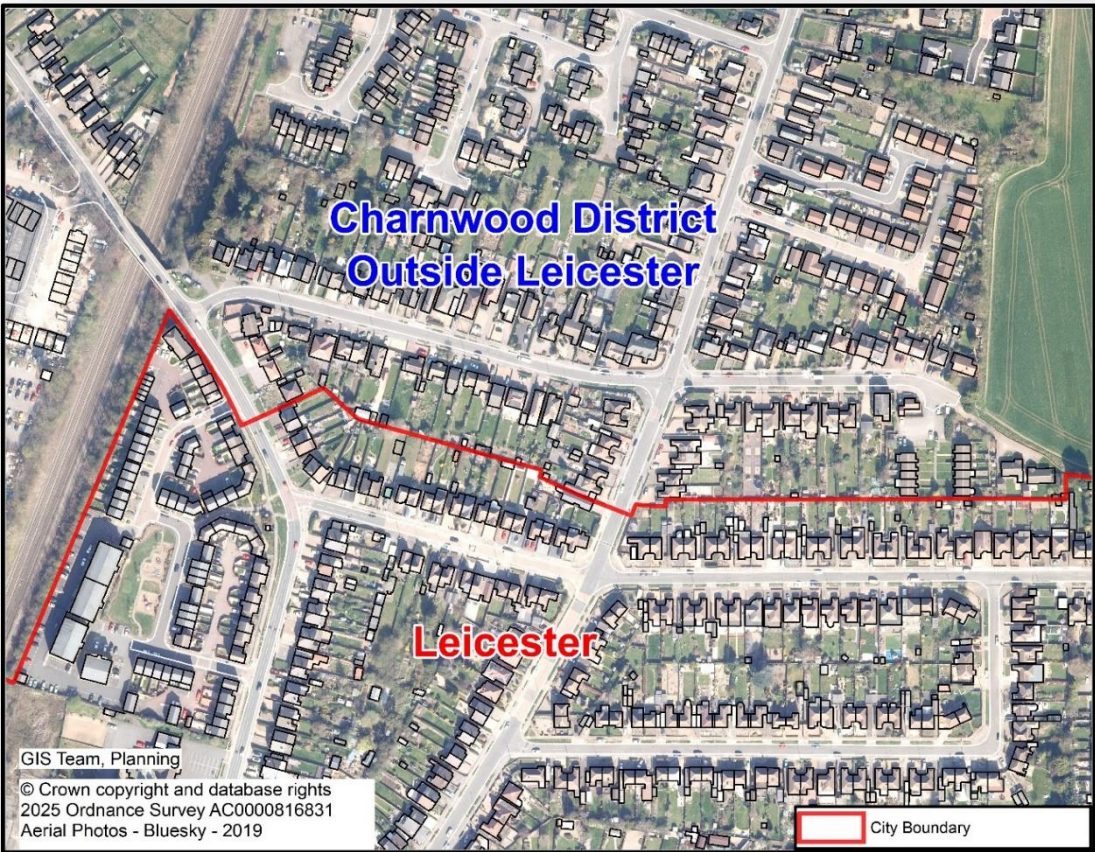


# Illogical city boundary: examples



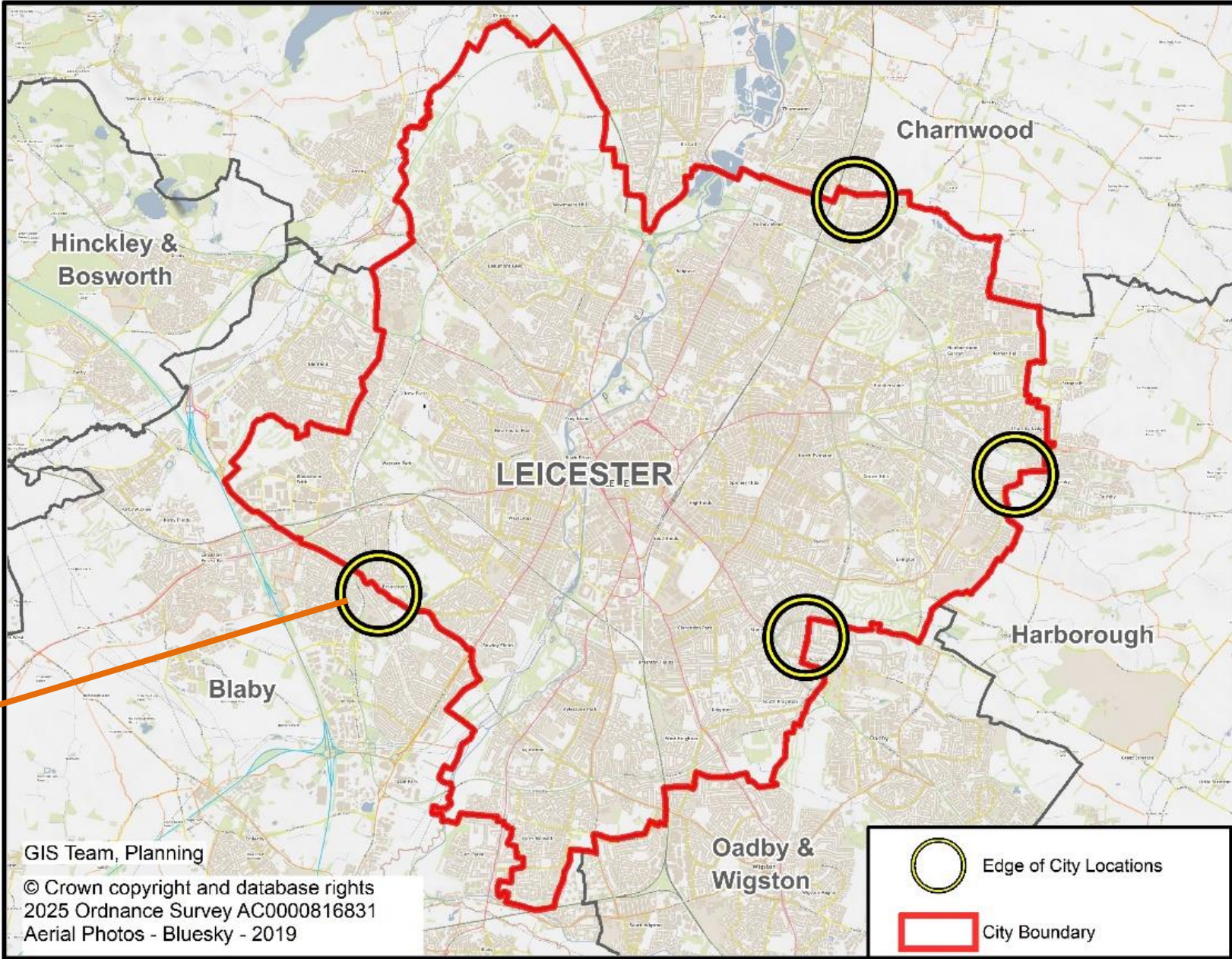
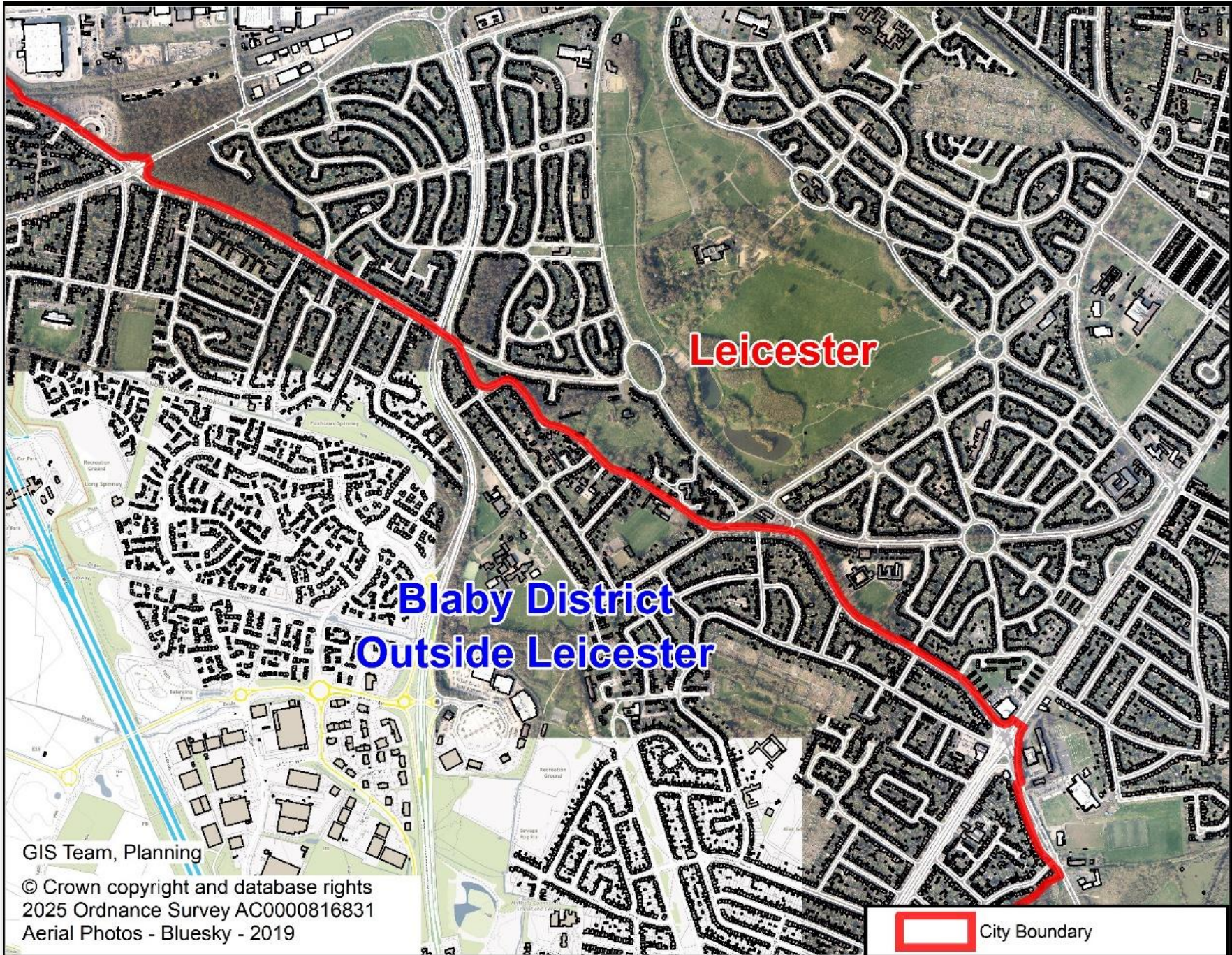


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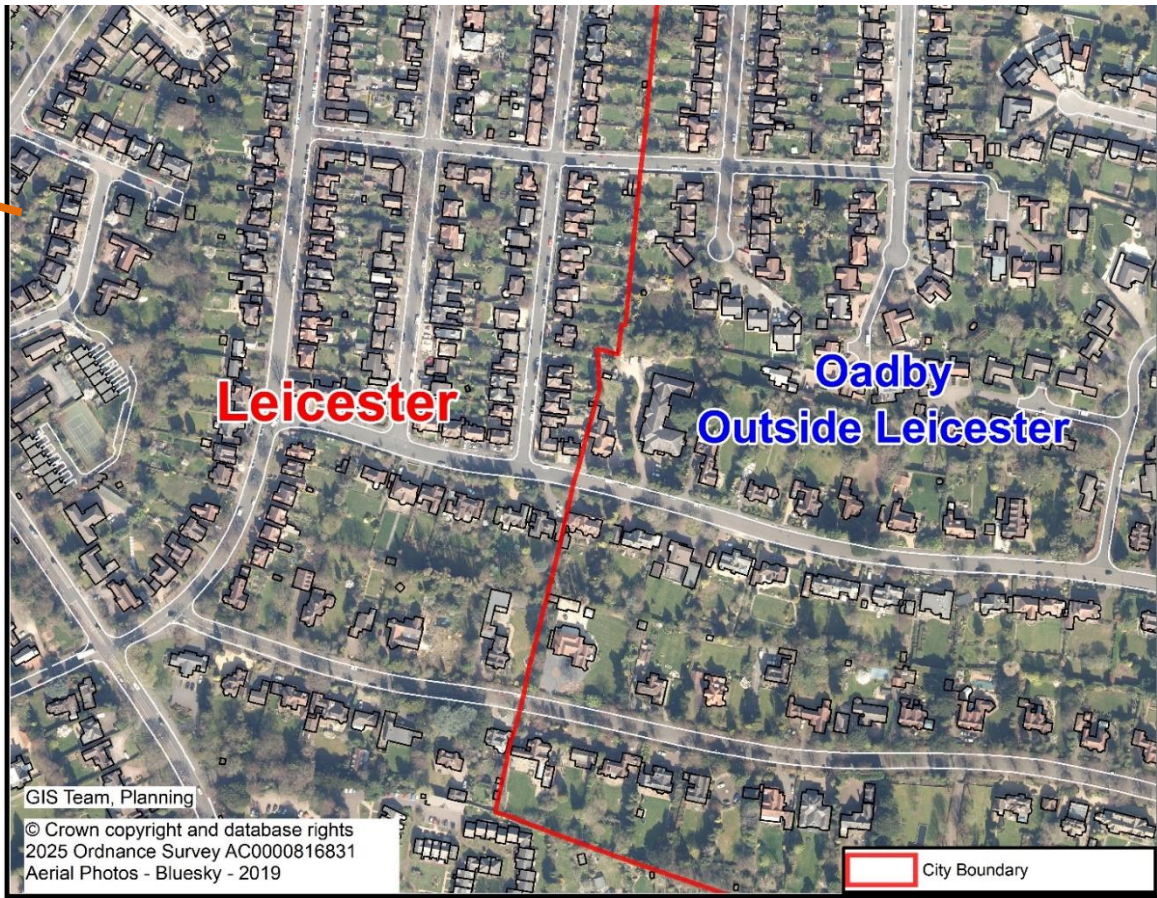
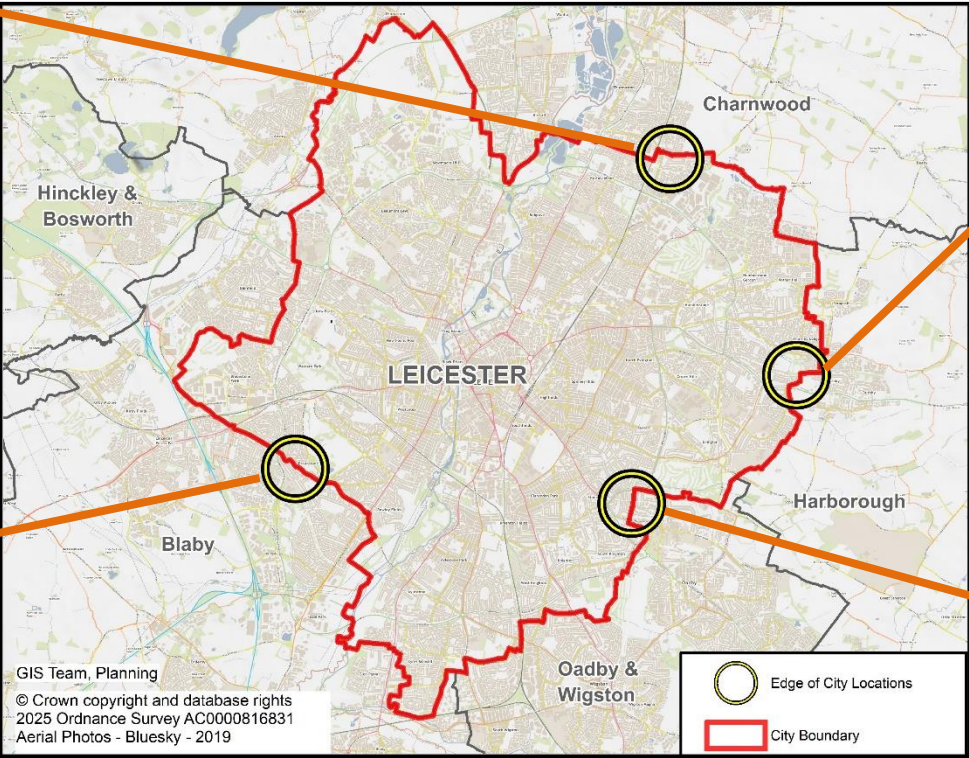
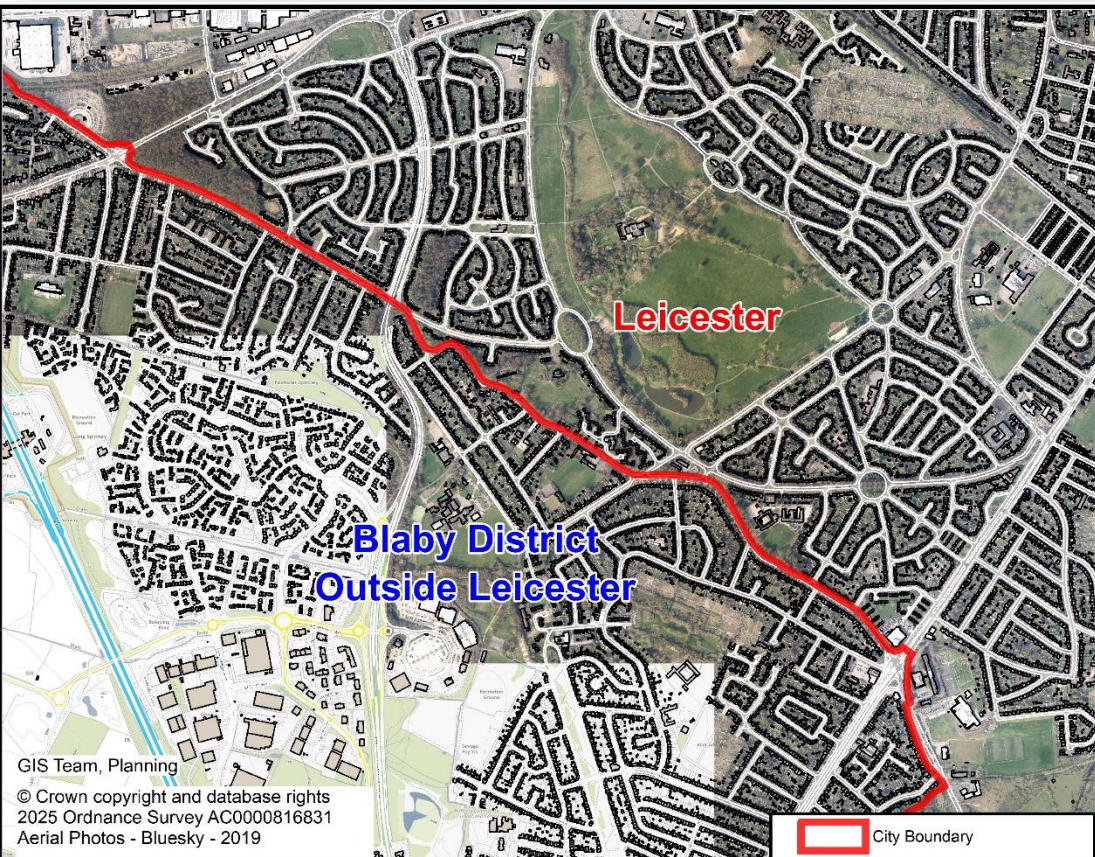
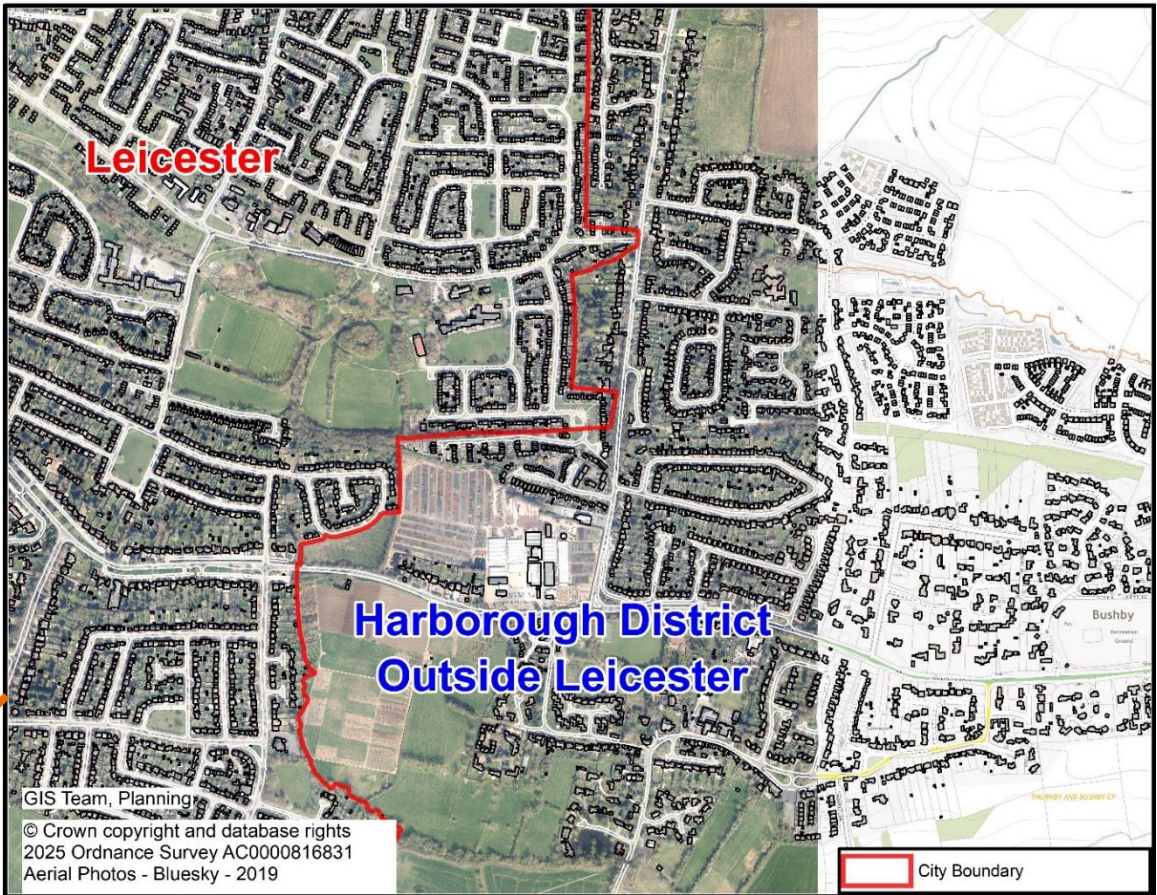
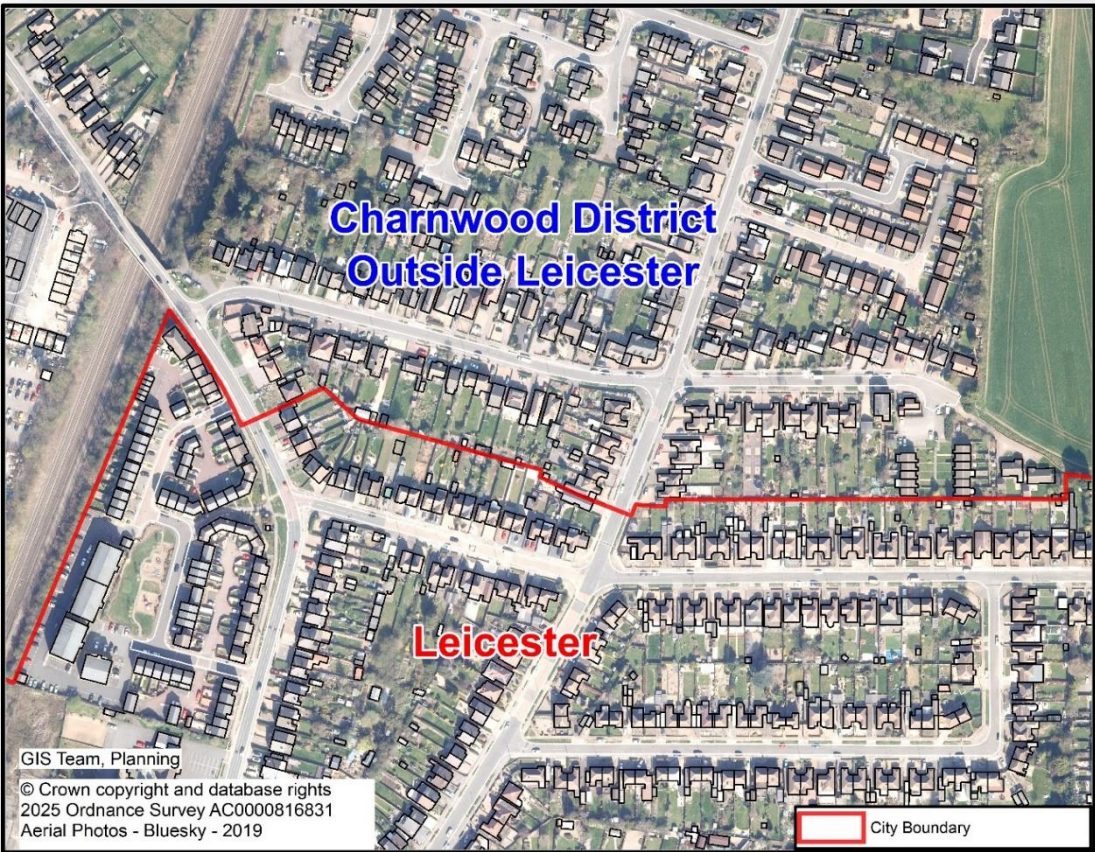


# Illogical city boundary: examples



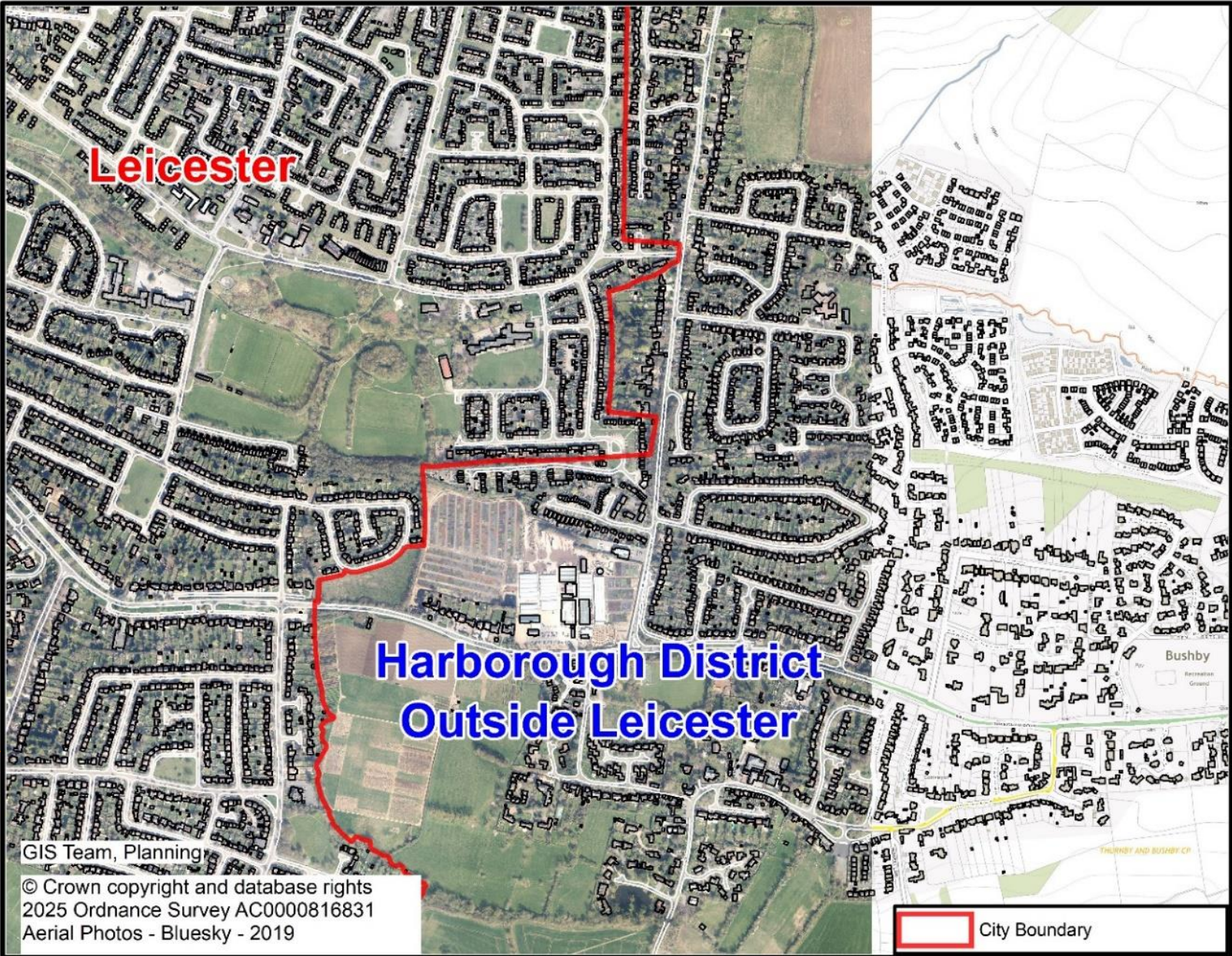
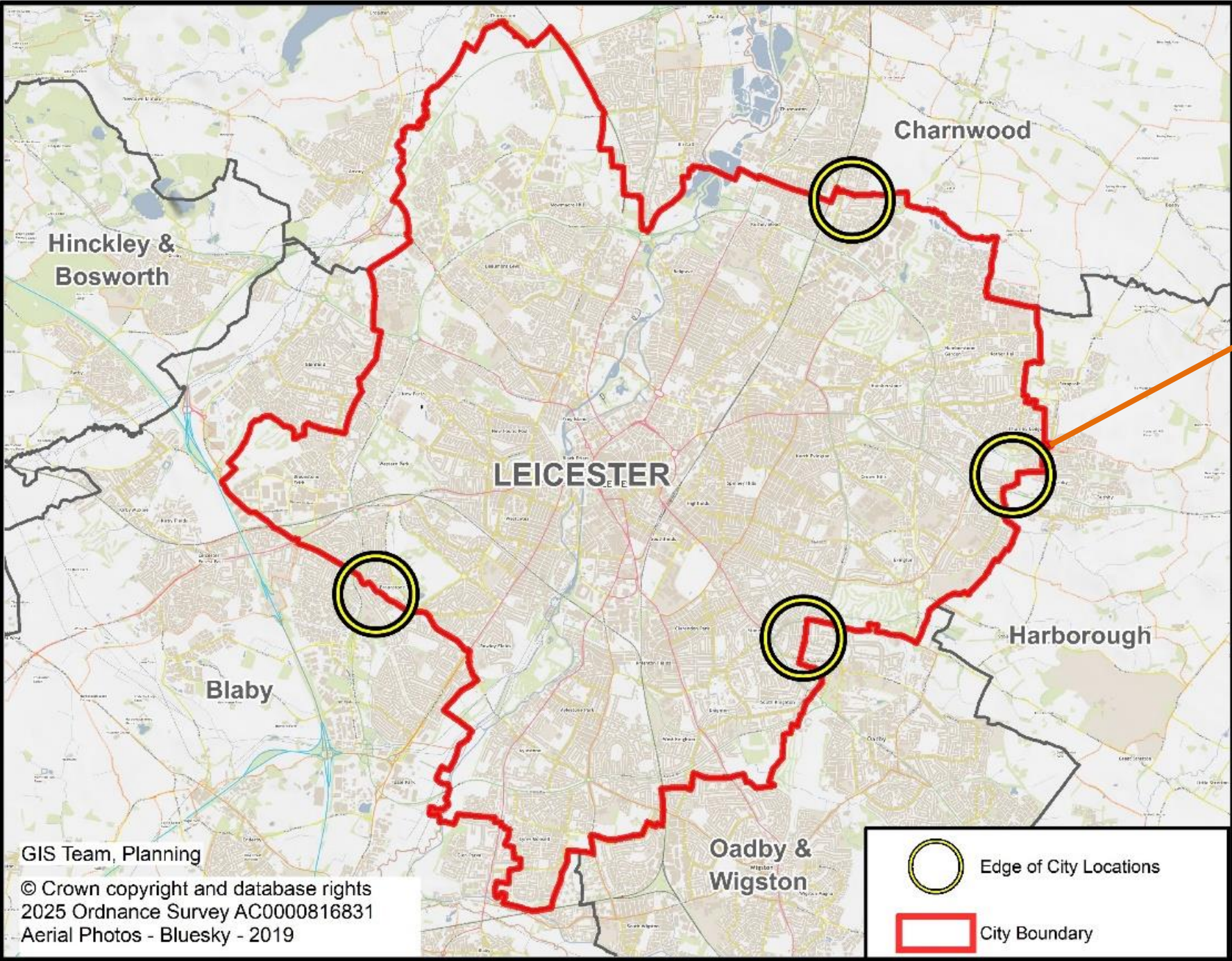


# Illogical city boundary: examples



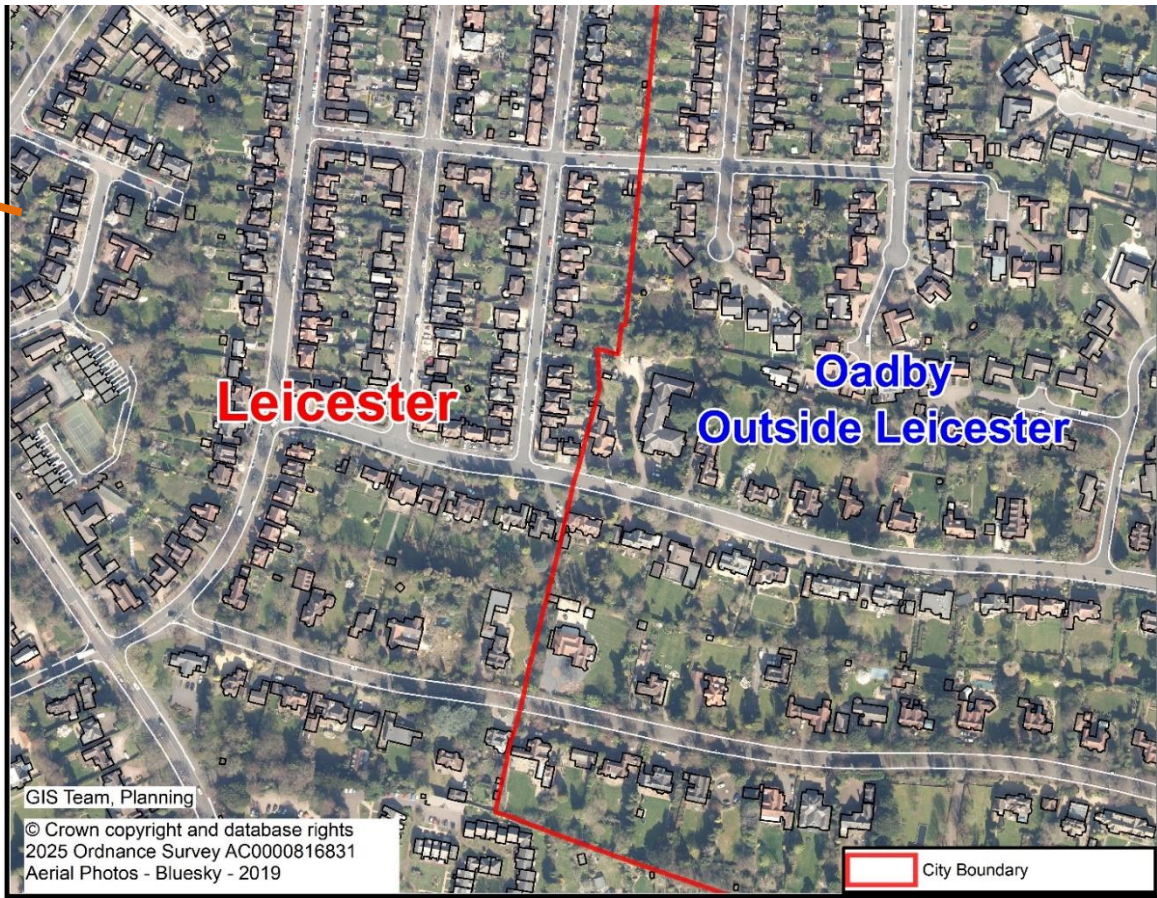
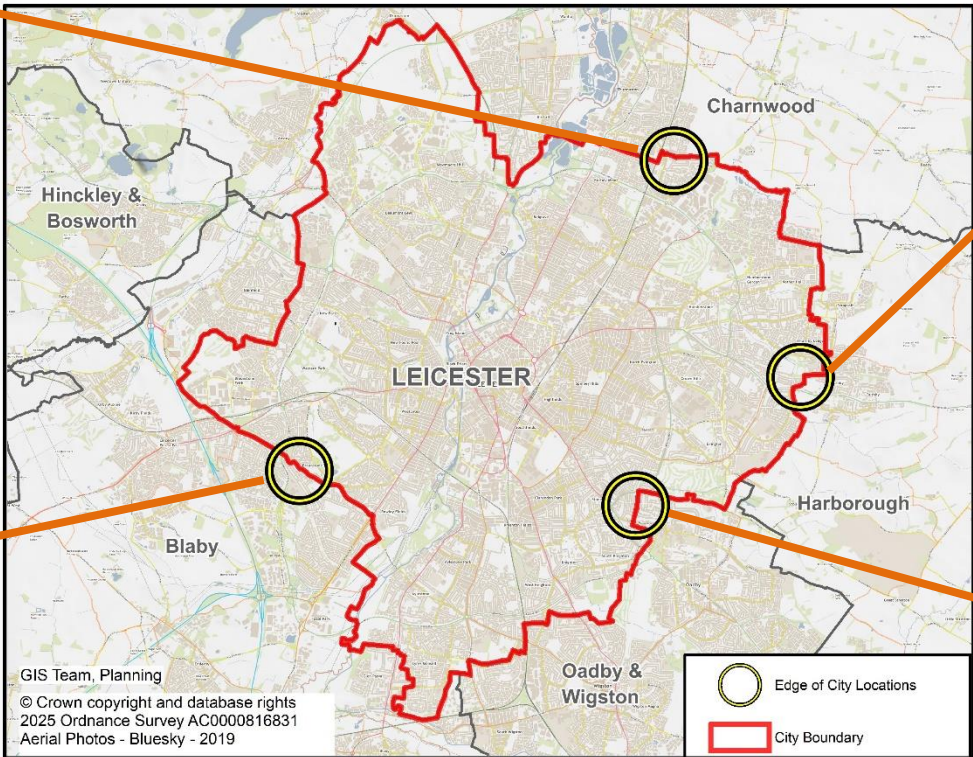
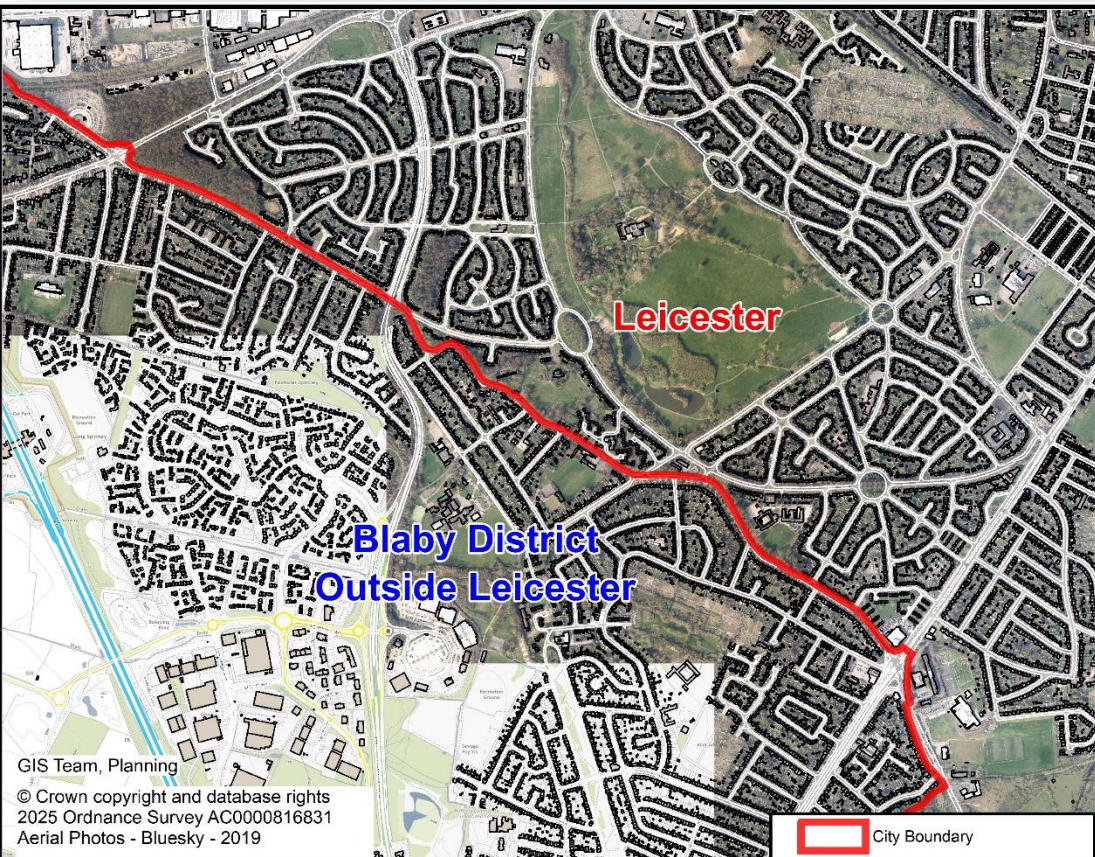
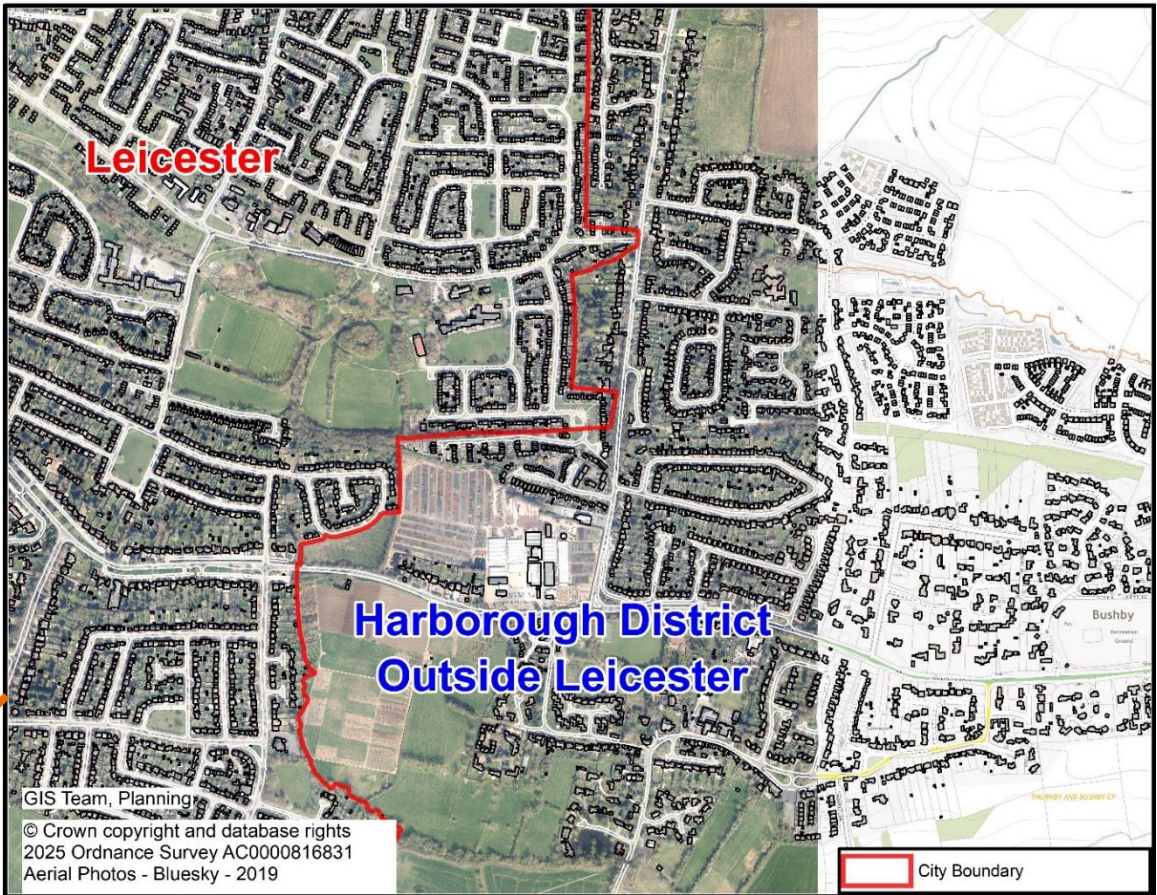
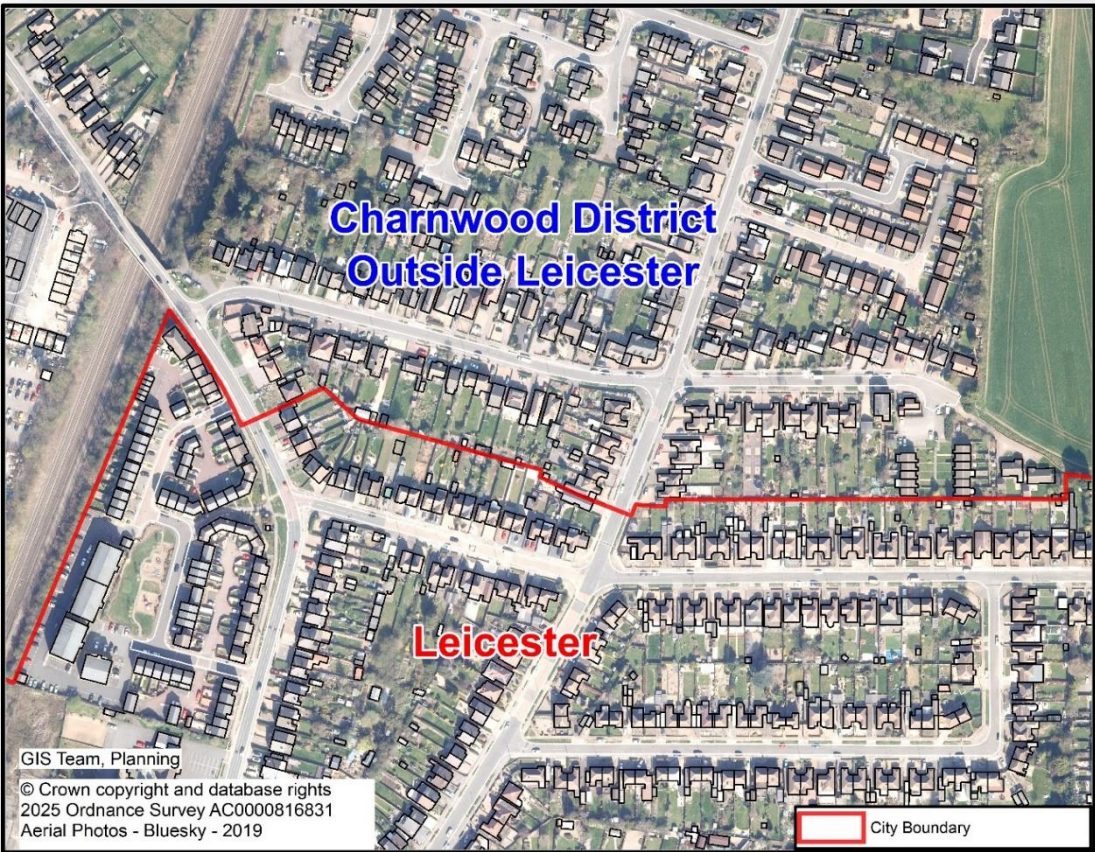


# Illogical city boundary: examples



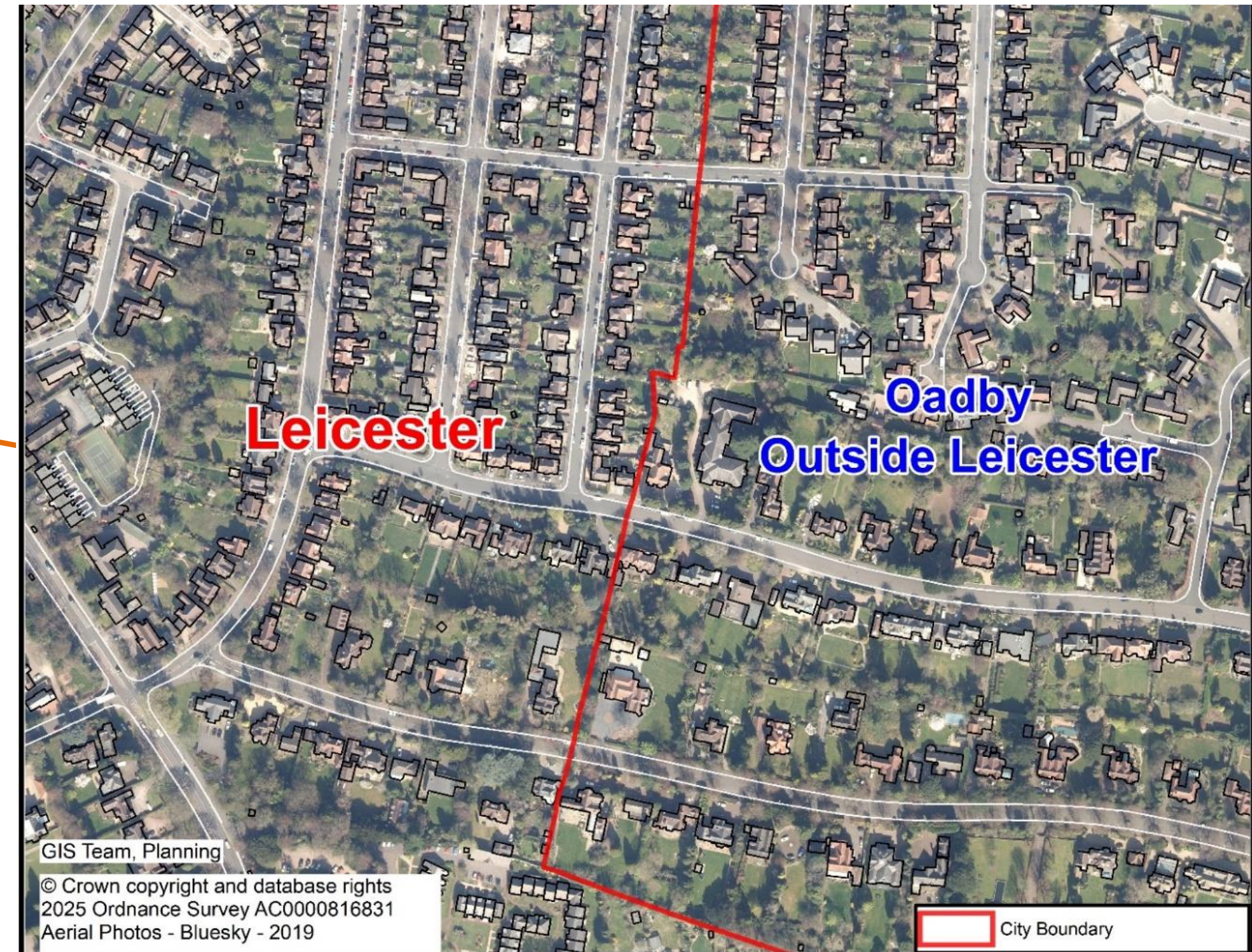
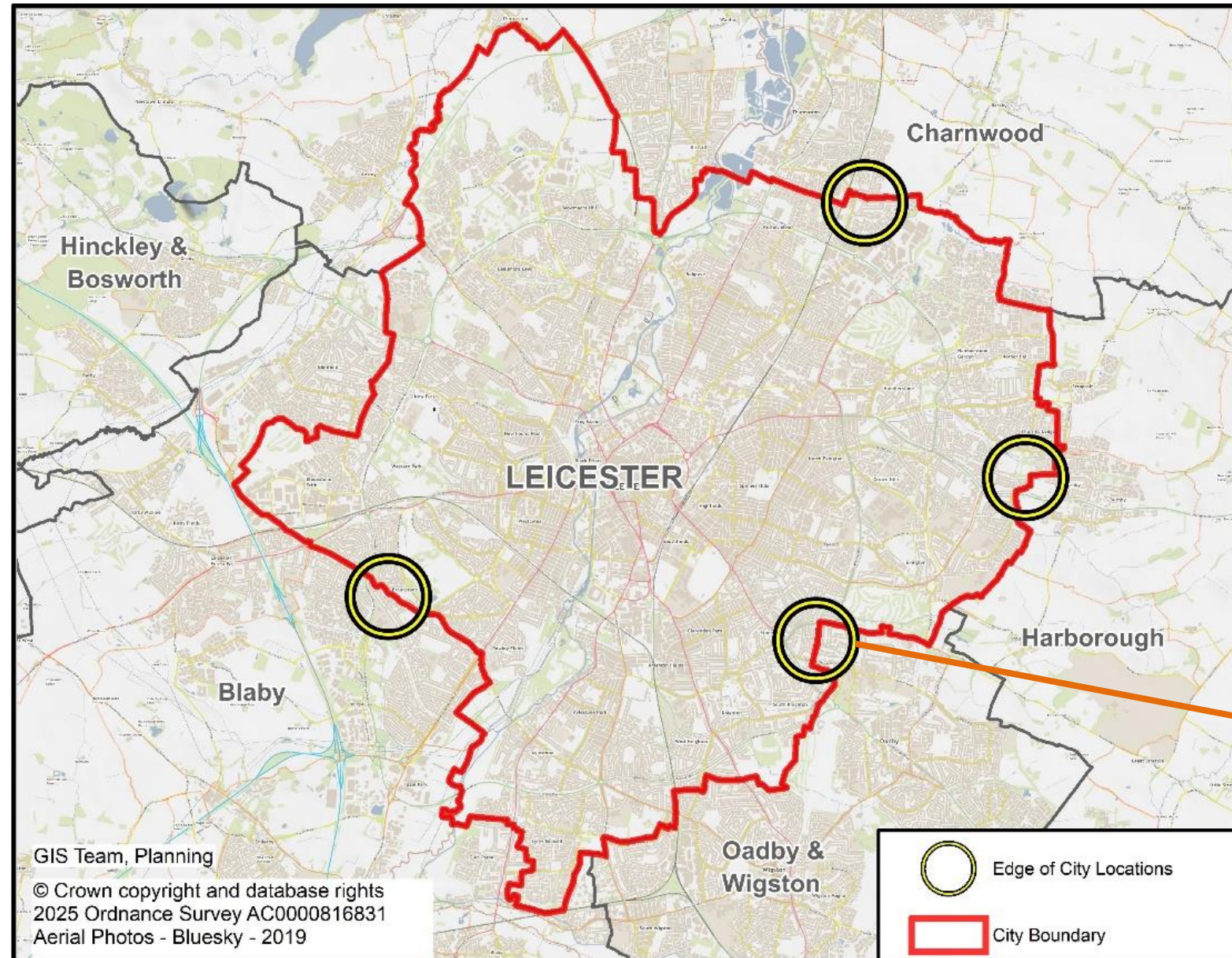


# Illogical city boundary: examples



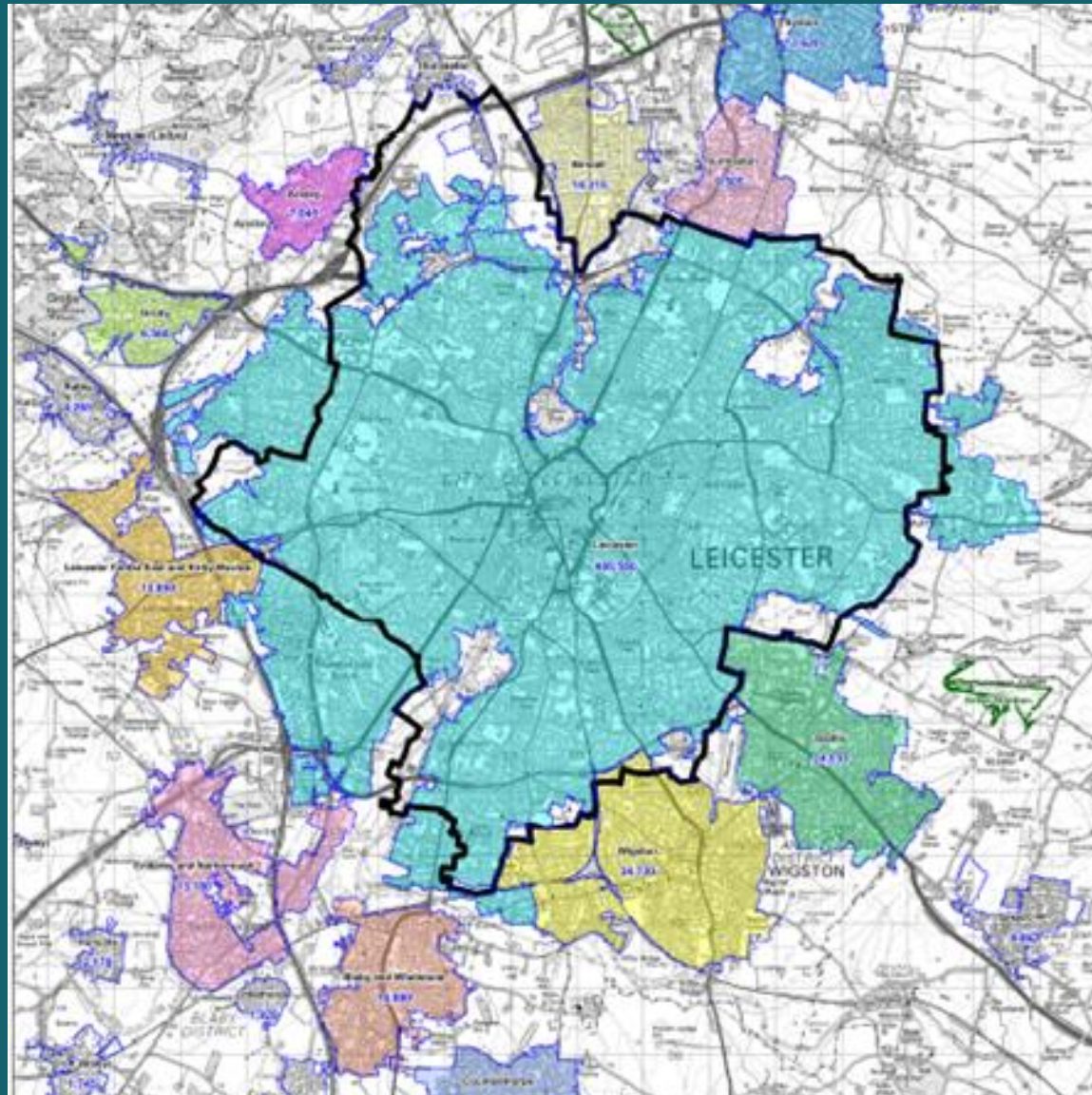


# Illogical city boundary: examples



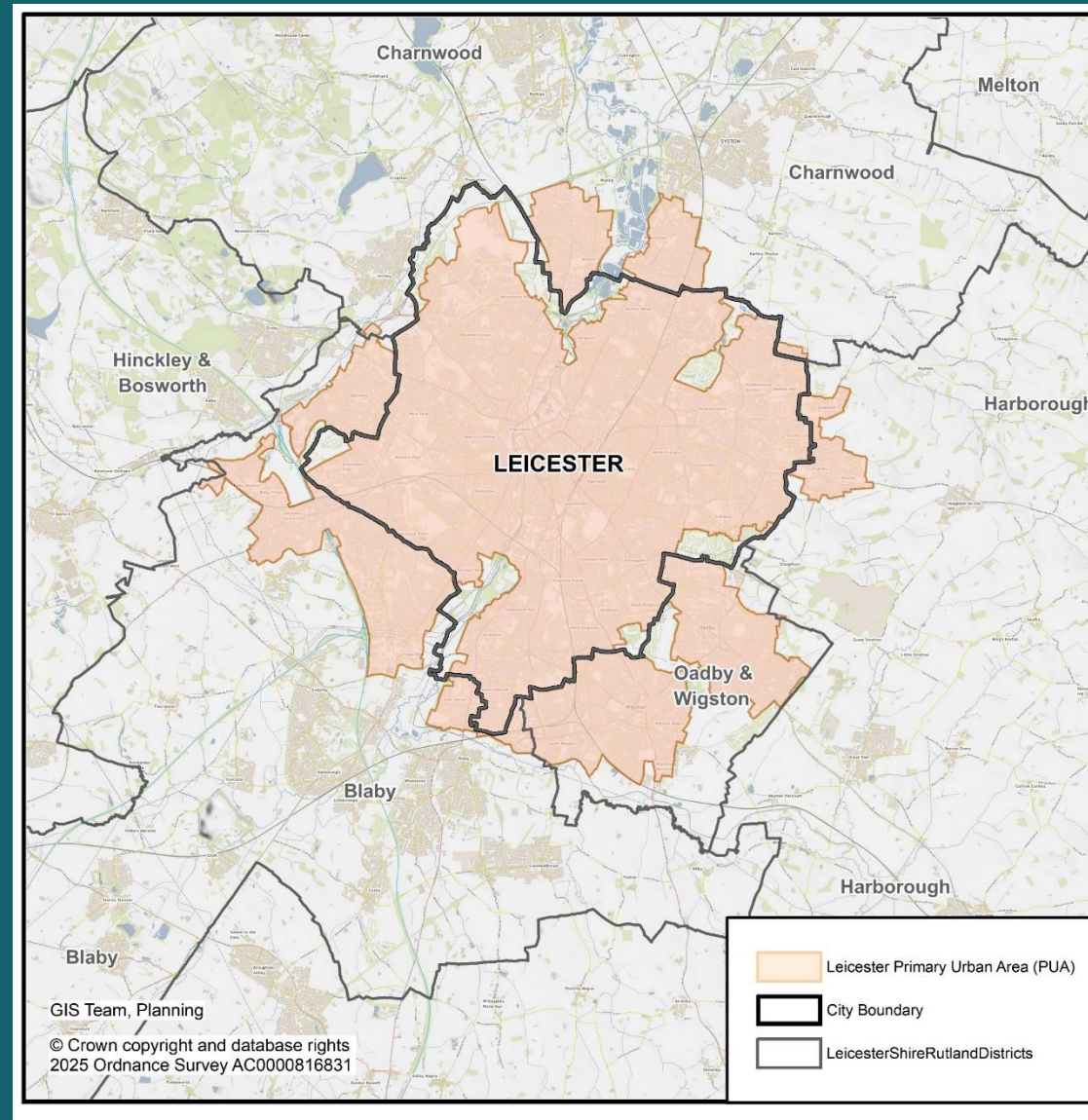


# City boundary context – ‘official’ boundaries



## ‘Built up Area’

**Office of National Statistics  
defined area recognises the  
contiguous built-up area of the  
city and connected suburban  
areas**



## 'Principal Urban Area'

**Locally defined boundary, published in statutory planning documents by the city, district and county councils, recognises the contiguous built-up area of Leicester**



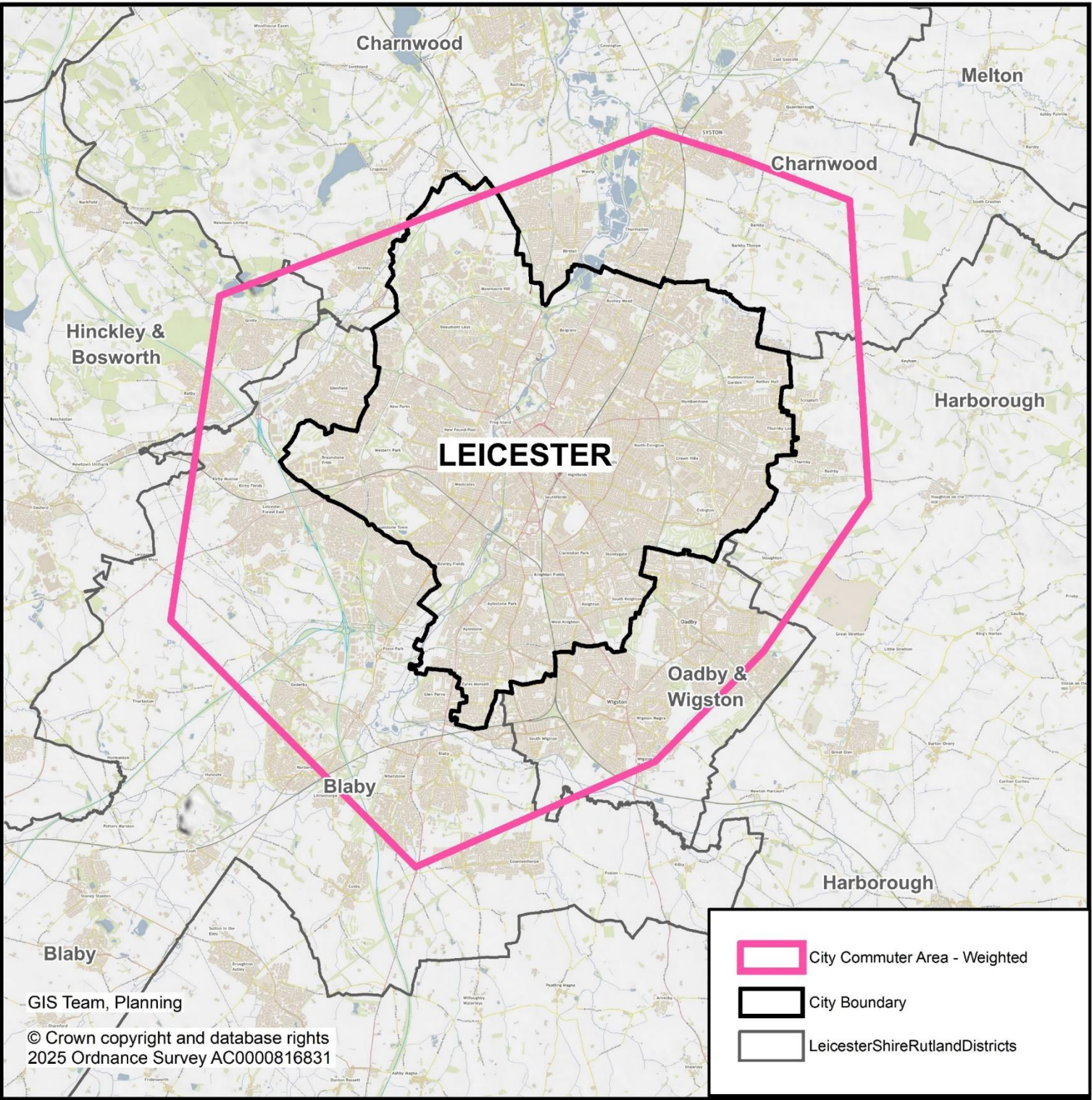
## 'Coronavirus Lockdown Area'

**Government recognised contiguous built-up area where transmission most likely to occur**

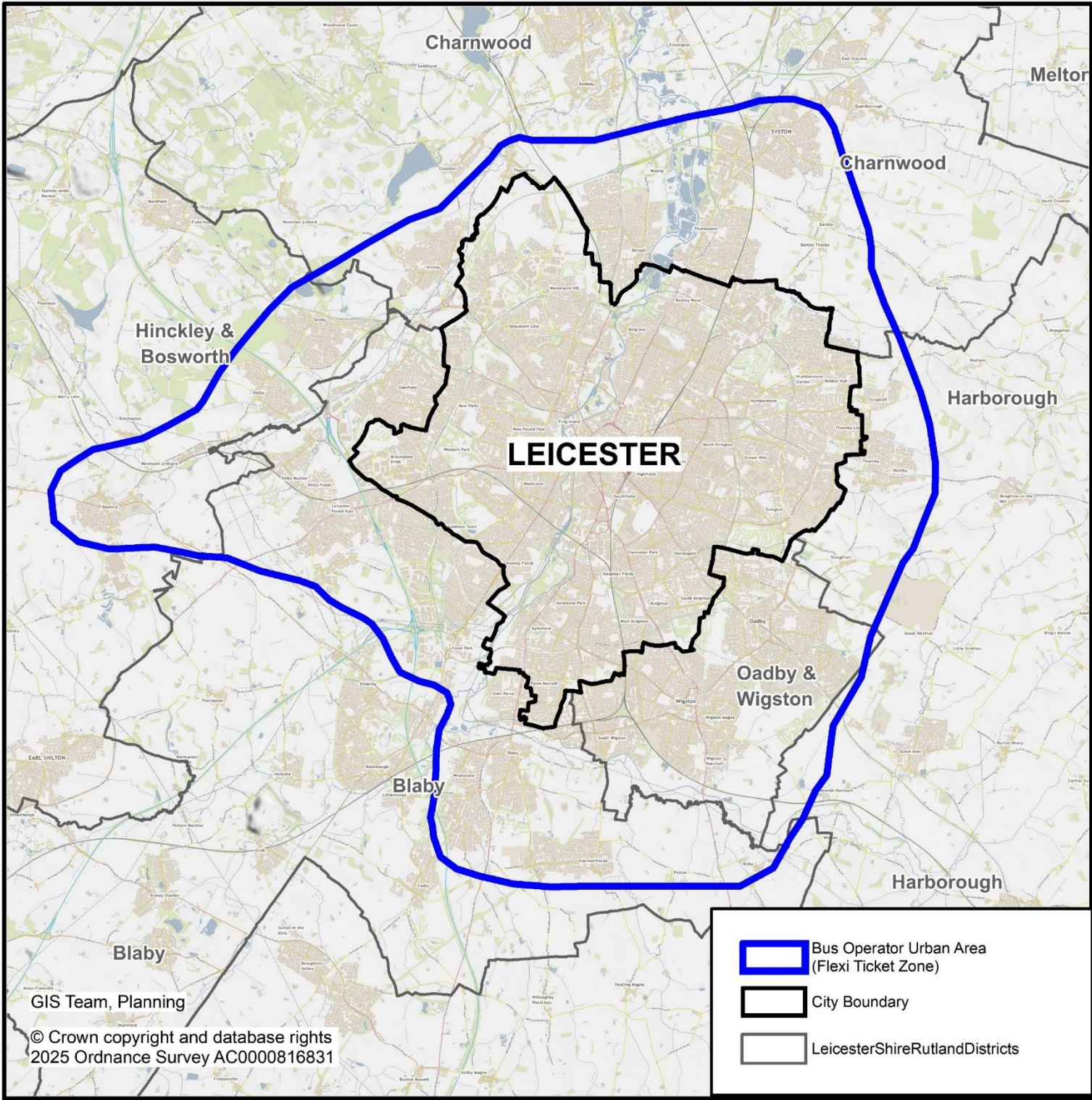


# City boundary context - city travel catchments

City travel to work commuter area

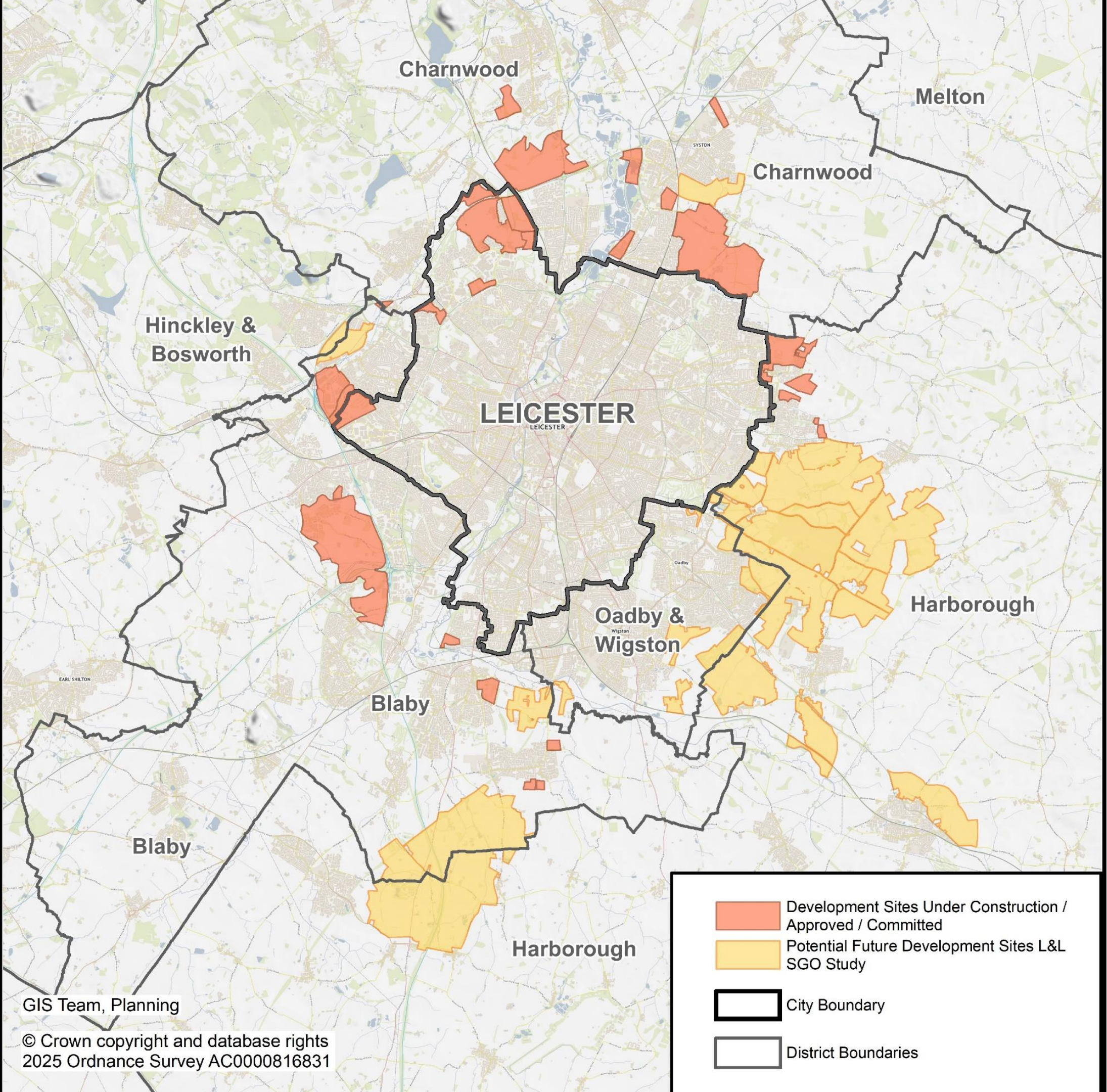


City bus catchment area





# Existing and potential future strategic growth sites





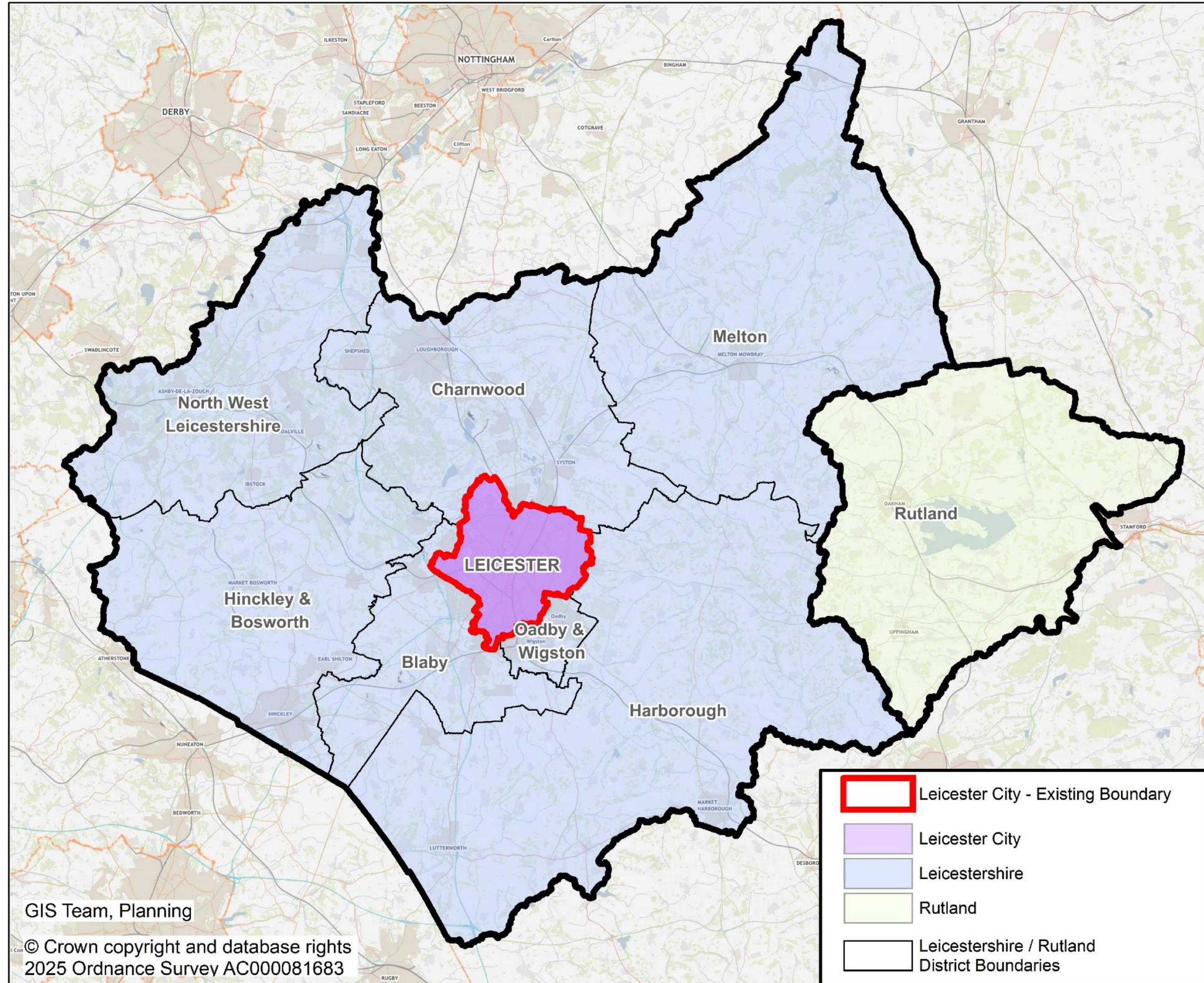
# County council LGR proposal

- One unitary council for existing county area
- Excludes Rutland
- No city boundary change

## Populations

**City – 394,670**

**County – 764,429**





# County council LGR proposal

- ✗ Reneges on Jan 2025 joint LLR submission to Government
- ✗ Retains illogical city boundary
- ✗ Severely constrains land for future city growth: housing, businesses, jobs
- ✗ Unbalanced – 3 unitary councils of very different sizes
- ✗ Does not meet Government target of 500,000+ unitary population
- ✗ More expensive services: 3 unitary councils not 2, less cost efficient
- ✗ Will not deliver financial stability and sustainability for city council
- ✗ Does not join up services across the built-up area
- ✗ Retains unclear service responsibility for residents in adjoining suburbs



# Districts/Rutland LGR Proposal

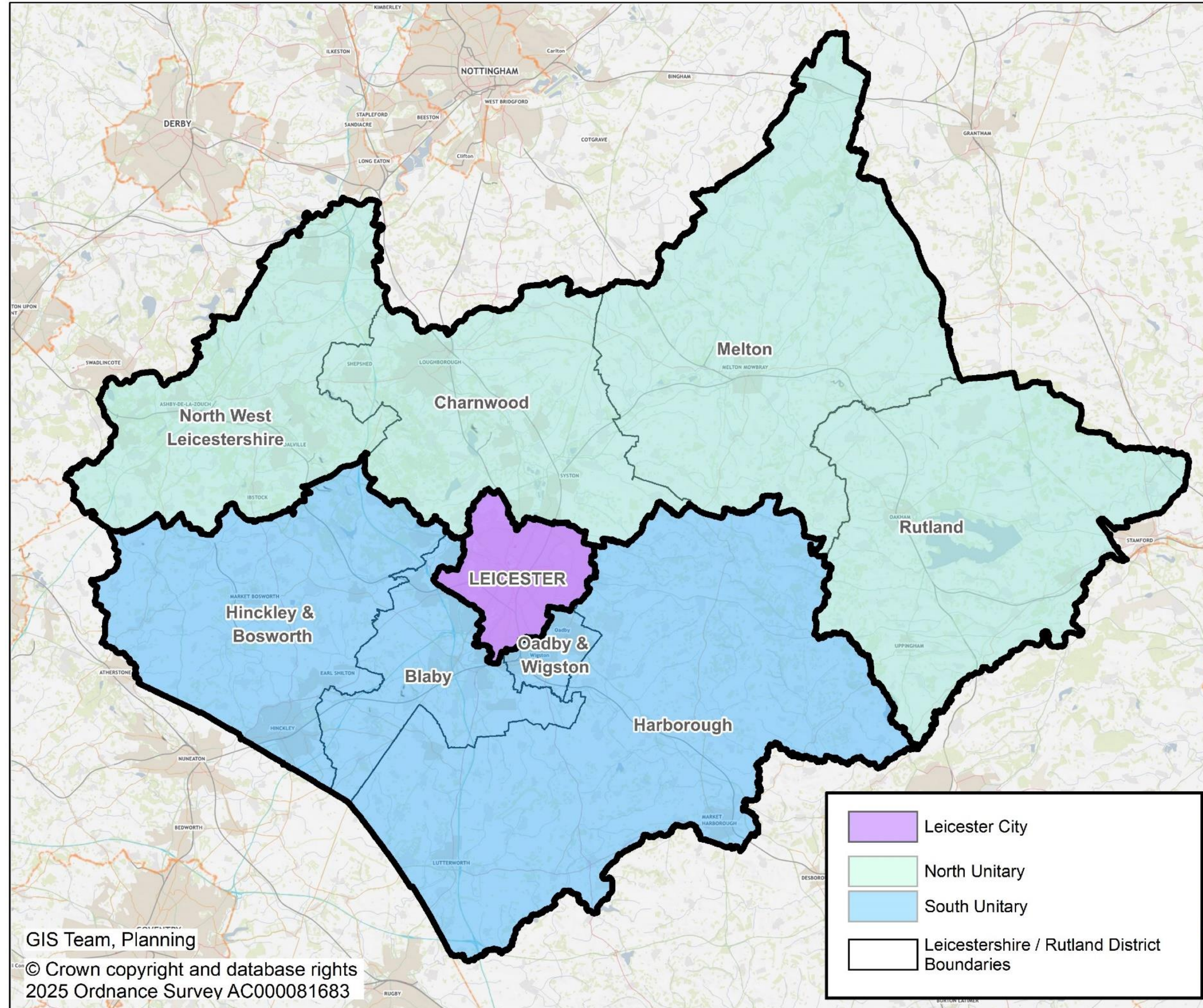
- Two unitary councils across county/Rutland
- No city boundary change

## Populations

City – **394,670**

North unitary – **408,735**  
(NW Leicestershire, Melton, Charnwood, Rutland)

South unitary – **398,187**  
(Harborough, O&W, Hinckley & Bosworth, Blaby)





# Districts/Rutland LGR Proposal

- ✗ Reneges on Jan 2025 joint LLR submission to Government
- ✗ Retains illogical city boundary
- ✗ Severely constrains land for future city growth: housing, businesses, jobs
- ✗ 3 unitary councils rather than 2, adding complexity
- ✗ Does not meet Government target of 500,000+ unitary population
- ✗ Does not join up services across the built-up area
- ✗ More expensive services: 3 unitary councils less cost efficient than 2. Splits social care in county area
- ✗ Will not deliver financial stability and sustainability for city council
- ✗ Retains unclear service responsibility for residents in adjoining suburbs
- ✗ Rutland agrees loss of current council identity



# City council LGR proposal

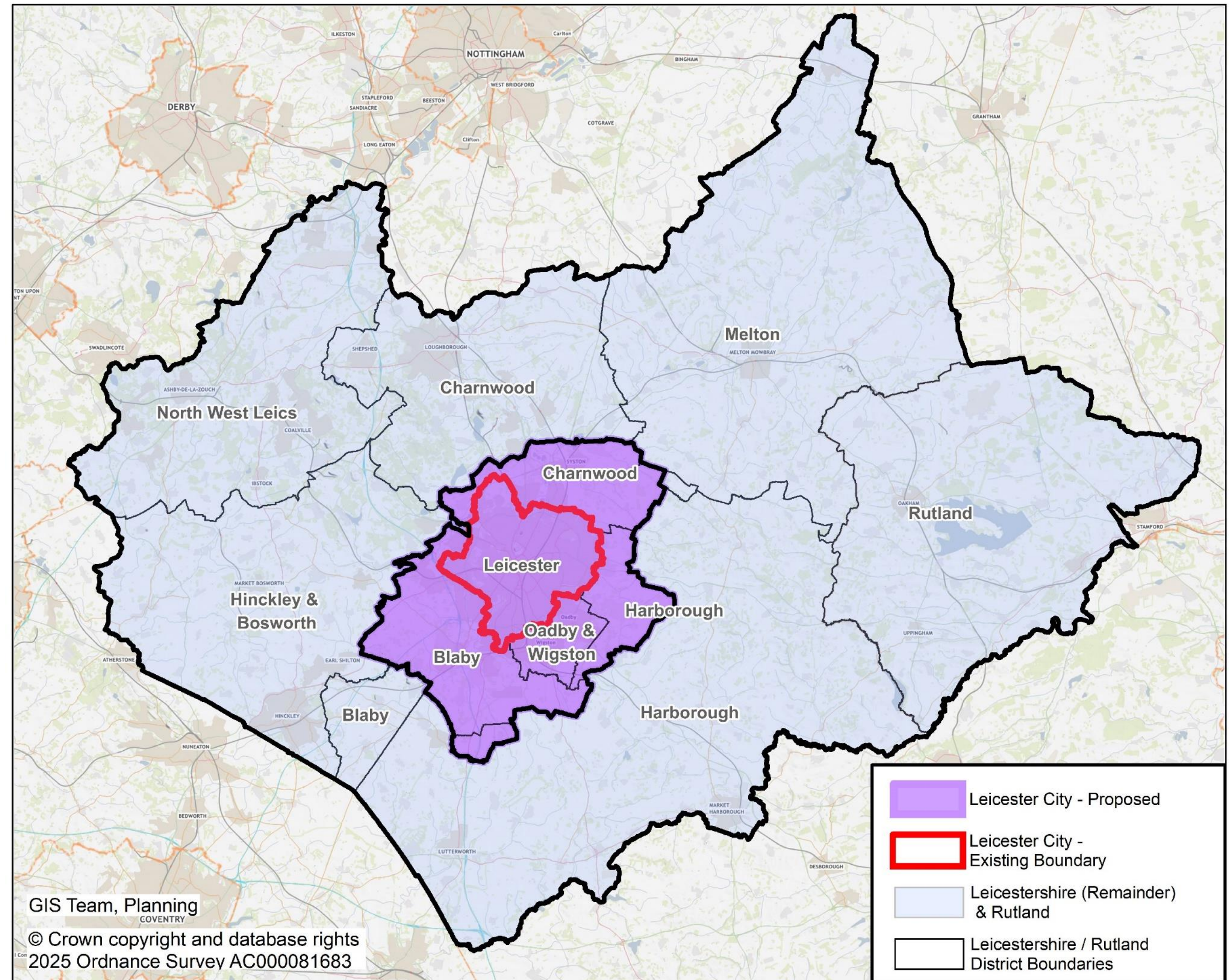
- Expansion of city boundaries to include adjoining built-up areas
- New unitary council for county and Rutland

## Populations

City – **618,869**

County/Rutland –

**582,723**





# City council LGR proposal

- ✓ Delivers on Jan 2025 joint LLR submission to Government
- ✓ Strong justification for not using existing district boundaries
- ✓ Common sense city boundaries
- ✓ Sensible geographical boundaries providing land for future city growth
- ✓ Delivers mayoral strategic authority for LLR with 2 balanced unitary councils
- ✓ Meets Government target of 500,000+ unitary population
- ✓ Most cost efficient option for service delivery: 2 unitary councils rather than 3
- ✓ Delivers financial stability and sustainability essential for city council survival
- ✓ Joined up services across the whole built-up area
- ✓ Clear service responsibility for residents living in adjoining suburbs

# Conclusions

## **Only Leicester City Council's proposal:**

- ✓ keeps to the Jan 2025 joint submission to Government
- ✓ resolves the city's boundary constraints
- ✓ identifies a sensible geographical boundary for Leicester
- ✓ meets the city's need for housing and employment land
- ✓ gives 500k+ population per unitary
- ✓ delivers a sensible economic area
- ✓ is simple, easily understood and cost-effective
- ✓ creates a stable and sustainable financial position for the city council.

## Next steps



Submit  
interim  
proposal to  
Government  
by 21 March



Feedback  
from  
Government



Further detailed  
analysis



Ongoing  
engagement  
and review



Final submission  
to Government  
by 28 Nov



