

**Retford Town Centre Neighbourhood Plan: Decision Statement (Adoption)**

# Summary

* + - * 1. Following positive referendum results on the 14 November 2024, Bassetlaw District Council is publicising its decision to adopt the Retford Town Centre Neighbourhood Plan as part of the Bassetlaw Development Plan, in accordance with Regulation 19 and 20 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

# Background

* + - * 1. Designation of the Retford Town Centre Neighbourhood Area and the associated Retford Town Centre Neighbourhood Planning Group (neighbourhood forum) were initially approved by Bassetlaw District Council on 4 March 2021, with a subsequent extension of the area approved on 23 September 2021. The Neighbourhood Area was designated as a business area, in recognition of the relative number of business properties. This additional designation provisioned for non-domestic rate payers in the Neighbourhood Area to be enabled to vote on whether the completed Neighbourhood Plan should be adopted, in addition to the customary residential referendum.
				2. The Neighbourhood Plan was under development between Autumn 2021 and late 2023. It was formally submitted to the District Council on 4 January 2024, followed by six weeks of consultation with the public and statutory bodies, concluding on 14 February 2024.
				3. Bassetlaw District Council subsequently appointed an independent examiner, Gill Kingaby BSc (Econ) MSc MRTPI, to assess whether the Neighbourhood Plan met the basic conditions required by legislation, and whether the Plan should proceed to referendum.
				4. The Examiner’s Report, received on 21 May 2024, concluded that the Neighbourhood Plan met the Basic Conditions and that, subject to a number of modifications proposed in the Examination Report, the Plan should be the subject of concurrent residential and business referendums. The Examiner’s Report, proposed modifications, and the intention to hold referendums, were considered and approved at the Council meeting held on 25 July 2024.

# Decision & Reasons

* + - * 1. Concurrent residential and business referendums were held in the Retford Town Centre Neighbourhood Area, as proposed, on Thursday 14 November 2024. Both referendums posed the question: 'Do you want Bassetlaw District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Retford Town Centre to help it decide planning applications in the Neighbourhood Area?’.
				2. Paragraph 38A (4)(a) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, as amended, requires that the District Council must adopt, or ‘make’, the Neighbourhood Plan if more than half of those voting have voted in favour of the plan. Bassetlaw District Council is not subject to this duty if the making of the plan would breach, or would otherwise be incompatible with, any EU obligation or any of the Convention rights (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998).
				3. Bassetlaw District Council has assessed that the plan including its preparation does not breach, and would not otherwise be incompatible, with, any EU obligation or any of the Convention rights (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998).
				4. The count took place on the evening of the 14 November 2024 following the close of poll, and greater than 50% of those who voted in both residential and business referendums were in favour of the Plan being used to help decide planning applications in the plan area.
				5. The results of the referendum were:

Residential

Number of votes cast in favour of a YES: 51 (87.93%)
Number of votes cast in favour of a NO: 7 (12.07%)

Turnout: 58 / 457 (12.69%)

Business

Number of votes cast in favour of a YES: 16 (88.89%)
Number of votes cast in favour of a NO: 2 (11.11%)

Turnout: 18 / 33 (54.55%)

* + - * 1. In accordance with the Regulations, and the Council’s procedure, the Retford Town Centre Neighbourhood Plan is duly considered ‘made’. Planning applications in the [Neighbourhood Area](https://www.bassetlaw.gov.uk/media/1qwduedg/retford-town-centre-neighbourhood-area-boundary-map.png) must now be considered against the Neighbourhood Plan, as well as existing planning policy, including the Bassetlaw Local Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework and Guidance.

**Neighbourhood Planning**

Bassetlaw District Council

15 November 2024

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