



Leeds Community Committees' Annual Report 2014 to 2015



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Foreword

The community committees play an important role in our ambition to bring place, people and resources together by:

- **ensuring that we spend money and work more intelligently and flexibly than before;**
- **making it easier for people to do business with us; and**
- **improving the way we make decisions locally with residents.**



This report marks the end of the first operational year of our community committees, which have been set up to improve the way we work locally and form part of the council's commitment to involving our residents more closely with the priorities for their local area and decision-making on funding and services.

A huge amount has already been achieved over the last twelve months. The new branding and more informal approach to community committees have encouraged many more local people to attend meetings and the use of more effective communications, including social media, has enabled many more citizens to participate in discussions and consultations.

The new style of working is starting to make an impact on our ability as a council to listen and act on what local residents are saying. That said, I am conscious that there still remains a great deal of work to be done by community committees as we move forward in these challenging times.

Like other local authorities, Leeds has undergone unprecedented cuts to its budget of around £94 million over the last three years. The result of these cuts is that the council must find new ways to protect and deliver essential frontline services for the people of Leeds and this is why we have a responsibility to involve local residents in the difficult choices that we must now make as a council about services.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the community committee chairs and their members for their invaluable time and insightful contributions to this important work, as well as the senior officers and their teams. Last but not least, I would like to express my sincere thanks to fellow ward member and previous executive member for communities, Councillor Peter Gruen. His tireless work and commitment to this new approach to locality working has already resulted in many early successes for the community committees, some of which are outlined throughout this report.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Debra Coupar'.

Councillor Debra Coupar

Executive Member for Communities

Introduction

Leeds City Council is the second largest metropolitan district in the country, covering 217 square miles with three quarters of a million inhabitants. Leeds is a rich and varied place, including a vibrant city centre, with built-up areas surrounding it, some rural areas, and several towns and villages. It is also a diverse city with many cultures, languages, races and faiths.

There are 10 community committees in Leeds made up of local councillors from the 33 wards in the city. They hold at least four public meetings a year and are an important part of the council's decision-making process. The meetings provide an opportunity for local people to discuss key issues of concern with elected members, and help influence decisions on matters of local interest, such as environmental improvements, community safety, health and wellbeing, and employment.

This is the first full year of operation for the community committees, which were previously known as area committees. The move to establish community committees began following a review of the way the council works locally. This resulted in a proposal to replace the area committee arrangements to ensure a move towards a greater focus on local issues by local people and away from the bureaucratic nature of many area committee meetings, where there was little or no attendance by the public.

The community committees were formally established on the 9th of June 2014 at the Annual Council meeting and the first round of meetings took place in July 2014. A series of locality working design principles provide a common framework for the operation of each community committee, whilst giving them enough flexibility to work in the way best suited to them and the areas they represent. The key changes include:

- holding meetings in the communities and neighbourhoods they represent at times that suit local residents;
- shorter, jargon-free reporting tailored to the locality;
- greater emphasis on advertising the meetings to the public and encouraging residents to get involved; and
- holding themed workshops on local priorities involving members, residents, council services and partners.

A new branding and identity have been developed to support the new community committees, which help reflect a sense of place and promote the committees through communications and marketing plans. This is helping to:

- encourage attendance at meetings;
- increase involvement and participation through social media; and
- raise awareness of the community committee funding provided to local projects.

This report looks at progress over the last twelve months and, in particular, how the new approach of themed workshops based on local and city-wide priorities is starting to improve the way the council works locally. There are many excellent examples of how our community committees and their support teams have worked to improve neighbourhoods and improve local services; this annual report can only highlight a few of the many examples of this work.

Further information about our community committees and their work can be found at: leeds.gov.uk/communitycommittees and

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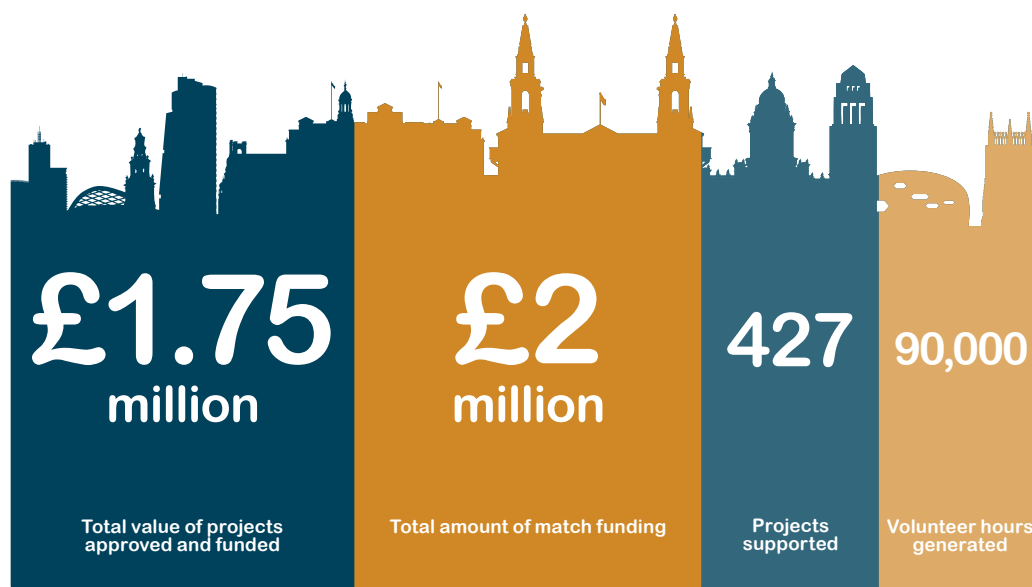
Spending money in communities – how we made a difference in local areas

Community committees play a fundamental role in understanding and addressing issues of concern to local people. They do this in many ways, one of which is by providing funding to take forward projects that fall within their identified priorities. At the start of each year, each committee is allocated dedicated sums known as wellbeing funding and youth activities funding. This funding, provided to local projects and activities, can increase significantly, as it allows grant recipients the opportunity to lever in matched funding from other sources, as well as attract volunteers.

The following major benefits have been identified from funding delegated to community committees.

- **Developing community capacity and pride** – generating a sense of belonging and often involving volunteering by local residents to make things happen.
- **Sealing the deal** – funding projects where the work would not otherwise be taken forward.
- **Leverage** – acting as a catalyst to lever in funding from other sources.
- **Implementing planned local actions** – focussing on specific local priorities.

The total value of projects approved and funded through the wellbeing fund across Leeds in 2014 to 2015 was almost £1.75 million, with match funding of almost £2 million more than doubling the original amount, bringing the total figure to almost £3.75 million. This supported 427 projects across the city and generated almost 90,000 volunteer hours.



The Youth Activities Fund is made available for community committees to provide local activity for children and young people aged 8 to 17 years across the city.

In 2014 to 2015 almost half a million pounds of funding was approved, which levered in a further £300,000 in match funding and over 9,000 volunteer hours.

Examples of how the wellbeing and youth activities funding have been used can be found throughout the document, but includes the following :

Over 50's walking football club – £2,564.52 from the Outer West Community Committee. The project has allowed older residents to rediscover the joys of playing football again through a sport, which is safe, enjoyable and has numerous health benefits.



Members of the over 50's walking football club.

The players commented:

“It gets me off the sofa! This is the highlight of my week!”

“Where else would us lot be able to play football like this – it’s brilliant!”

Inner South Employment & Skills Board – £6,000 from the Inner South Community Committee. This wellbeing funding has contributed towards the cost of holding an apprenticeship event at the John Charles Centre for Sport, paying partial costs towards room hire and funding banners to advertise it at key locations in south Leeds. It also paid the full cost to hold a jobs fair in Middleton in 2014. Looking ahead, the funding will also meet the costs of producing a video promoting apprenticeships, which will include young people, who have successfully been through the apprenticeship programme and now hold full-time jobs.

Barleyfields Radio Project – Tempo FM – £3,000 from the Outer North East Community Committee. The Barleyfields Radio Project was established in October 2008 in conjunction with Leeds Youth Service. Since then, Wetherby Community Radio Ltd has been actively assisting young people each week either at the Barleyfields Youth Centre or at the new training studio in the Tempo FM studios with their media studies. The project has been a great success and three students have been able to gain university places as a direct result from their involvement with the project. The funding was used to purchase several licences to enable the project to continue throughout 2014. A total of 33 young people received training over 73 training sessions.

Themes and priorities – the key issues tackled by our community committees

Each year all ten community committees set out their local priorities – the key areas they want to address over the next twelve months. These are chosen using local data, which gives information on a range of issues, including population, ethnicity, unemployment and health, combined with consultation with local councillors and residents.

Most of the community committees have now changed the way the meetings are run to include discussions and workshops with partner organisations and residents on local priorities, supporting the council's commitment to involve local people more closely in decisions taken about their area. Over the financial year 2014 to 2015, these workshops largely fell into the following categories:

- health and social isolation
- domestic violence
- employment and skills
- environment
- children and young people

Health and social isolation

As a city, Leeds continues to experience wide health disparities between its wealthiest and most deprived areas. However, some emerging concerns, including social isolation and mental health, affect all Leeds' communities. Around 30 per cent of patients in Leeds visit a GP needing social help, not medical. It is estimated that nearly 15,000 people aged over 65 in the city are intensely lonely and have lost their family, friends, mobility or income. The number of people over 65 living alone in Leeds is predicted to rise by more than a third over the next 15 years.

In Leeds the 'social prescribing' concept has been developed and is being used locally through partnerships between community committees, the NHS clinical commissioning groups and the third sector. This takes the form of a referral to an appropriate activity or group and could be a lunch club, a fitness class for older people or getting in touch with organisations like Carers Leeds or the Alzheimer's Society.

Outlined below are examples of how this approach is working following workshops held throughout Leeds by a number of community committees on the theme of social isolation.

Patient Empowerment Project

There is evidence that in Inner West Leeds the prevalence of mental health conditions is higher than the Leeds average, with people living in the tower blocks in the area suffering disproportionately.



Social isolation – winter warmer lunch.

At the Inner West Community Committee's workshop on mental health, community committee members, health partners, service users and residents discussed the issues, particularly focussing on how to engage with people who feel isolated.

NHS Leeds West Clinical Commissioning Group and the council's public health service has now developed a social prescription approach, which helps people with minor mental health issues to access activities and support within their local community. NHS Leeds West CCG has funded Bramley-based charity BARCA to lead a partnership of third sector agencies (Better Leeds Communities, Leeds Mind and Touchstone) to deliver this service called the Patient Empowerment Project (PEP) in conjunction with the 38 GP surgeries in west Leeds.

Following on from this successful project, £15,000 was approved by the community committee to deliver a social prescribing model in the New Wortley area. This was matched with £35,000 from the council's environment and housing services.

The project will appoint a coordinator to work with the residents of four high-rise flats in New Wortley, as a direct result of the community committee workshop.

One person directly attributes their return to paid work after being at risk of homelessness to the support received from the PEP. This participant thanked the PEP coordinator and said:

"You've been absolutely fantastic; I don't know what I'd have done without you."

Another participant commented at review:

"Thank you for all the help, I've hit rock bottom and you are the only one that's helped me."

Further information about local mental health services has been distributed to hundreds of people on the



Community committee meetings.

forum mailing lists and information added to the Inner West Community Committee's Facebook page.

A similar approach has been adopted following the Outer East Community Committee workshop on social isolation in January 2014, attended by around 50 people including representatives from all four neighbourhood networks from the area.

The key action from the meeting was the need for more outreach work to tackle social isolation, and this is now being pursued with colleagues in adult social care and the third sector. It is estimated that in this area 30% of elderly people are socially isolated, with neighbourhood networks having contact with around 10% of them; the project aims to engage with the remaining 20%. With community committee and partner support it is anticipated that a project to deliver additional outreach work will be operational by autumn 2015. The targets and monitoring arrangements will form part of the proposal.

In January 2015 the Inner East and Inner North East Community Committees worked closely with the Poverty Truth Commission – an independent project linking people in poverty with decision makers – to deliver workshops on social isolation. Each committee was attended by over 40 people including local councillors, residents, council officers, third sector representatives and local GPs, where people spoke candidly about their experiences of social isolation.

Following the workshops, partner agencies have worked together more closely, encouraged by the community champions, to fund a community development worker to help local people build connections and networks, restoring a sense of neighbourliness. This was highlighted as an issue at the committees.



The local public health team took action on reducing social isolation through its partnership working groups, commissions and campaigns. One example of this was the distribution of cold weather packs during the winter, which gave an opportunity to engage with socially isolated older people and encourage them to take advantage of other local groups. Since the community committee discussions, £500 has been allocated by the Inner East Community Committee to young people in Seacroft to encourage them to engage in street soccer and £1,000 to a men's group in Seacroft to help with engagement and socialising.

The Outer North West and Outer West Community Committees also held workshops on social isolation and older people in December 2014 and January 2015. Partners focussed on challenges facing services in supporting older people, who were living alone and feeling isolated. A wide range of stakeholders engaged in the events, as well as statutory services providers, including local neighbourhood networks and voluntary sector organisations. A key theme that emerged was the need to find mechanisms for identifying socially isolated people and ensure they are helped to access local services and engage in community programmes to improve their health and wellbeing. Actions being explored include putting together guidance for frontline services and organisations to be able to recognise signs that point to isolation and to take steps to refer people to key services. In February and March 2015 the Inner and Outer South Community Committees also discussed these issues.

Older Persons' Events

From aromatherapy massages to meeting the Lord Mayor, a wide range of activities for older people were funded by the three South East Community Committees in 2014.

Coinciding with the International Day of Older People on 1 October 2014, the fourteenth older persons' event week was held throughout the Outer East area. Activities included a meet-and-greet with the Lord Mayor, sing-alongs and stalls from many groups including the Fire Service, Police, Green Doctor and Lloyd's health checks. Held at a different venue each day, events took place in Great Preston, Swarcliffe, Cross Gates, Halton, Halton Moor, Garforth and Kippax. Approximately 450 residents attended, enabling socially isolated older people to discover activities to give a positive impact on their health and wellbeing. Similar events were held in the Outer and Inner South areas, attracting around 500 older people.



Older persons' event.

The Men's Room Project

The Inner East Community Committee supported the 'Men's Room' project with a £1,000 wellbeing grant, which funded Leeds arts and health charity Space 2 to run the project in Seacroft. Around 14 men with mental health issues attend the group each week, held at the Denis Healey Community Centre. The group has supported these men to build confidence, develop employability skills, improve their health and wellbeing, develop social networks and become engaged with their local community. Space 2 has worked closely with Housing Leeds to identify men who might benefit from this project and ensure they are receiving advice and support in relation to housing issues.

Richmond Hill Elderly Action Winter Warmth Project

Using £1,000 wellbeing funding from the Inner East Community Committee, Richmond Hill Elderly Action (RHEA) set up a winter warmth project, particularly targeting older residents who were socially isolated.

RHEA distributed information on benefit entitlement, fuel poverty, home improvements and on how to keep safe and warm during the long winter months. Leaflets and information were made available on a wide range of services provided by the council and voluntary sector, including Care & Repair, the Green Doctor, the Meals at Home Service, Telecare, Community Links and Silver Line – the only free confidential helpline providing information, friendship and advice to older people, open 24 hours a day, every day of the year. The charity also provided hot food and warm clothing to older people in the local area.

Domestic violence

Sadly, as in the rest of the UK, domestic violence is still an issue of concern in all areas of Leeds and has been identified as one of the seven 'breakthrough' projects that the council will target in 2015 to 2016. The community committees are working together with local organisations and communities to address the issue of domestic violence in a targeted way and identify areas of under-reporting.

A number of community committee workshops on domestic violence and abuse were held across the city in 2014 to 2015, including the Outer North West, South East, Inner South, Outer East, Inner North East and Inner East areas. A wide range of local partners attended and local residents were well represented at many of the workshops.

Participants welcomed the opportunity and space to talk about domestic violence and abuse and the way it manifests itself in different relationships. Examples discussed included controlling behaviour in relationships between young people, emotional and financial control in a relationship, intergenerational violence and abuse, domestic abuse for individuals living in extended families and the way domestic violence and abuse takes place in Leeds' different communities.

They looked at what is currently in place to respond to domestic violence and how the community committees can help raise awareness in local areas. Common themes emerging from the discussions included:

- more awareness-raising, better informed and better connected frontline services;
- giving victims the choice to move away and decide whether the perpetrator is relocated;
- more help for children, who witness domestic violence;
- more promotion of healthy relationships to young people; and
- working with perpetrators at the very earliest stage.

Using the outcomes from the workshop, the community committees in West North West worked with the local community safety partnership to develop a local delivery plan. The plan includes a range of actions aimed at raising awareness among local partners and elected members, promoting training to frontline staff, supporting organisations to take up the First Level Domestic Violence quality mark and improving engagement with primary care services.

All the community committees in the West North West area awarded £1,000 wellbeing funding to hold a Christmas party for vulnerable children, many of whom had witnessed or had been a victim of domestic abuse. For many of these children Christmas is a difficult time, having witnessed abuse and a breakdown in family relationships. The aim of the project was to hold a fun event for the children and socialise with other children, who have been through similar issues to themselves.

Following a workshop at meetings of the Inner South and Outer East Community Committees, a local action plan has been drafted and services are currently seeking resources. Community safety coordinators have worked across the city to put together a model policy and guidelines, which schools can adapt to meet local needs – a requirement of receiving the quality mark. The other important aspect of the quality mark is the appointment of a domestic violence lead in every school, whose role is to keep up-to-date with developments, supporting other staff and getting involved with campaigns to raise awareness. To support this, a full two-day package of training has been developed and is being rolled out to all schools across the city, covering all the different aspects of domestic violence. The response from all the training has been overwhelmingly positive, with people reporting increased levels of awareness and confidence to tackle domestic violence.

Employment and skills

One of the council's key priorities is to maintain a strong and healthy economy and promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth. This needs to happen not just in the city centre, but in all parts of Leeds from the inner city to our market towns.

Business enterprise and employment

The Outer West Community Committee held its first themed meeting on delivering actions, which drive business enterprise, the local economy, and quality learning and employment opportunities.



Ahead Partnership project meeting.

The discussions focussed on how local businesses, council services and the community committee could work better together to deliver practical, meaningful and realistic actions for the area. Local businesses that attended gave valuable feedback on how best to attract new employers to the area and improve infrastructure to grow existing businesses. The meeting also explored how to link local employment opportunities to local people and how to promote initiatives that help businesses grow and develop.

Since the workshop, action has been taken to:

- support local people to find work;
- provide support to schools around opportunities for apprenticeships;
- bring more mobile library and pop-up facilities to areas where there are no services;
- revitalise the high street offer; and
- support businesses to ensure issues are resolved more quickly.

The Outer West Community Committee also supported a business brokerage model with Ahead Partnership, through £10,000 wellbeing funding, to develop Business Support Local, which was piloted on a small scale in the area. The programme has to date supported around 300 small businesses struggling in this difficult economic climate.

“It is very timely for my business to be involved with ‘Business Support Local’; it was a great opportunity to stop and think about an aspect of my business and to get unbiased, objective feedback from like-minded people. It also reinforces how there is a lot of experience and support within the local community that, if directed effectively, will develop strong and creative businesses.”

Karen Waite, Director, Leap Like A Salmon Ltd.

The second round of the community committees for Inner North East and Inner East focussed on employment and skills issues. At the Inner North East Community Committee, residents and partners actively engaged in workshops to prioritise recommendations that could support improvement in employment and skills services in the Queenshills and Brackenwoods estates, where high levels of unemployment is one of the main causes of deprivation. These included:

- exploring the idea of setting up additional job clubs;
- improving the coordination of services and support provided in the area; and
- exploring the need for further mental health services that specifically support people into work.

The recommendations are now being considered by the East North East Employment and Skills Board.

The Inner East Community Committee held a productive workshop with partners and residents on how to reengage young people in the area. The ideas that emerged from the discussions are being used to develop a local work programme for the area.

Employment and Skills Boards – getting local people into employment

Skills boards have been established in all three areas by community committees to:

- provide strong local leadership that champions the ambition of achieving maximum uptake of job and training opportunities for local people;
- coordinate the implementation of agreed proposals through securing the required resources, setting and monitoring appropriate targets and holding services to account; and
- develop strong links with local and city-wide employers to establish a 'fit for purpose' workforce for new and future developments.

The Inner South Employment and Skills Board was instrumental in putting in place a unique partnership to deliver a Job Shop at the St George's One Stop Centre in Middleton in late 2013. Since then, the project has been further developed and the service is now fully integrated with customer services staff trained to provide back-up support to the Job Shop staff. From an initial two-day service, it now runs five days a week. The Inner South Community Committee continues to work in partnership to deliver projects across the area to help local residents into employment. Based on the Middleton Asda model – where the council supported local residents to access jobs – advice sessions were held in April 2015 to help local people from the Beeston and Holbeck areas into work at the new Asda store on Old Lane.

One of the Inner South Community Committee's priorities is the need to support people over 50 back into work. The committee held a workshop in February 2015 to gauge views and develop actions in the support of this priority and identified a number of actions:

- develop relationships with businesses regarded as 'age friendly';
- organise community learning sessions in key locations in south Leeds to provide training in elementary Maths and English skills, which are currently a barrier to local people finding employment;
- work with companies like Asda to recruit at least 10% of staff over 50; and
- provide up to 250 work experience places for people over 50 across the city through Job Centre Plus.



St George's One Stop Centre.



Our apprentice with her new employer.

Partnership apprentices

The Inner East Community Committee used £6,000 of its wellbeing fund to sponsor an apprenticeship in business and administration, based on a partnership model. This enabled the successful candidate to gain a huge range of experience with a range of organisations, spending three months each with:

- the former East North East Homes;
- the council's area team;
- West Yorkshire Police; and
- Arcadia Group Plc, based in Burmantofts.

The apprentice, from Lincoln Green, successfully gained an NVQ Level 2 and was able to immediately secure permanent employment with ICS Digital in Sheepscar. The apprentice's new employer commented that the experience gained through the partnership model had been invaluable in enabling the candidate to compete against 270 other candidates.

Employment, skills and welfare pilot

The Inner North East Community Committee has also set aside around £12,000 to fund two apprentices in their area, based on a similar model. Two local voluntary sector organisations have agreed in principle to act as host employers and offer three-month placements, with the area team and police agreeing to do the same. The final three months of the apprenticeship will be with a local business.

The Inner West Community Committee worked with partners to establish a 'destinations team', led by children's services, to work with young people in high schools, targeting those thought most at risk of becoming 'NEET' (not in employment, education or training). This was the second year of the pilot that has seen 137 learners identified for the process, with 80 still engaged in either training or employment the November after leaving school.

Partners valued the low cost, resource-light approach and see the development of relationships between organisations as a significant benefit for the future. One partner commented:

"Everyone else is placed and still happy on the courses they enrolled for, so I think the most successful part of the scheme from our point of view was probably the aftercare once the student had enrolled. We had a few students we thought were in real danger of dropping out once they'd enrolled, but we hear that they are doing very well and are very happy. This kind of check-up process on these vulnerable students is very effective to keep them engaged."

Due to the success of the pilot, the programme is being rolled out across other areas of the city in 2015.

Environment

The quality of our built environment and our greenspaces affects our health and wellbeing and local businesses. Environmental services in Leeds are delegated to the local community communities to ensure the right services are delivered in the right place at the right time.

Environmental delegations

Across the city, the ten community committees have responsibility delegated from the council's Executive Board to develop service level agreements (SLAs) each year and to monitor the delivery of the service against the agreed specifications and outcomes. They also negotiate changes to the SLA to address unforeseen issues and events and service failures or inefficiencies.

The Inner East, Inner North East and Outer North East Community Committees focussed on 'place based issues', including the environment service level agreement, parks and countryside services and the council's derelict and nuisance sites programme, which aims to tackle some of the most problematic buildings across the city. These issues have been considered by the environmental sub-groups and community committees over the year to encourage more locally appropriate action.

Within the Inner East area, partners met to start to understand in more detail the particular issues causing environmental and wider, related problems in Harehills. Together with partners and residents, the community committee considered whether the current service was fit for purpose, given the very specific needs and demands of the community. Residents challenged the community committee to consider redesigning council services to improve the local environment and offered their support. It was recognised that services need to respond to language barriers, very high population densities, low recycling rates and disposal of particular foodstuffs, such as oil and peaks of waste disposal at particular times of year. The committee has funded a neighbourhood manager for several years to help tackle these issues and has recently agreed to fund a similar post for 2015 to 2016, with one of their main priorities being to develop an action plan to tackle the significant environmental issues.

In the South East area all three community committees have an environmental sub-group to monitor the service level agreement with environmental services. Over time, the sub-groups have extended their remit and they now have a more problem-solving focus addressing the key issues in localities. The Outer East and Outer North West sub-groups developed and delivered a strategy for the demands for grit bins during winter and new litter bins throughout the year. The groups also encourage forward planning and developing partnership working to find ever more efficient cost savings and resolve issues affecting several services.



Calverley Park.



Local school designed streetlight banners for Dewsbury Road.

Town and District Centre Schemes

The Town and District Centres scheme is a programme of works being developed and delivered in Kirkstall, Chapeltown Road and Dewsbury Road.

A project commissioned by the Inner South Community Committee under the Town and District Centre scheme in 2014 will invest £200,000 of council funding earmarked for regeneration projects to improve part of Dewsbury Road in the Inner South City and Hunslet ward.

The scheme has been shaped by a series of consultations, involving local councillors, residents, traders and schools. Improvements include a new pedestrian crossing outside Tesco, better car parking opportunities for residents and shoppers, removal of an unattractive advertising hoarding and new streetlight banners designed by local primary school children.

A number of flagships projects will showcase parts of the area, such as a wildflower meadow along the boundary of New Bewerley School and environmental landscaping around the car park at Dewsbury Road One Stop Centre.

A road safety study has highlighted the need for improvements along sections of Dewsbury Road, including pavement upgrades. A design brief has now been drafted with a view to designing and implementing changes in 2015 to 2016.

A town team made up of local business owners was launched at the start of the project and has agreed an action plan to address concerns voiced by traders. The town team will also partner the Town and District Scheme by investing in further public art through funding from Aldi.

Another town and district scheme in Harehills Lane, commissioned by the Inner East Community Committee, aims to improve the physical environment of the area to encourage regeneration, increase business and investor confidence and create an improved shopping environment for local people.

The Bellbrookes car park in Harehills benefitted from a £64,000 facelift – it has been resurfaced, parking bays marked out to provide some additional spaces and new signage, litter bins and landscaping works. The car park improvements are part of a £200,000 scheme to regenerate Harehills Lane. These works have been complemented by a comprehensive highways scheme, which includes traffic calming within a new 20mph zone.

Parks and greenspace

The Inner West Community Committee held a workshop on parks and greenspace, which focussed on how to improve local parks, play facilities and promote volunteering.

Feedback from the discussion groups recommended focussing on the basics to create safe and clean recreation spaces for people to enjoy, such as improving paths, providing more bins and non-traditional imaginative play, rather than the usual swings and slides. A number of options are being considered to promote the health and wellbeing benefits of volunteering outdoors.



Fitness equipment at Ley Lane.

Outcomes since the meeting include developments to the Ley Lane area to improve local greenspace and tackle the poor state of the playing field, along with issues relating to littering and dog fouling. Wellbeing funds were used to hold community action days and fun days for children, in partnership with Breeze and youth services. Consultation and local engagement was undertaken at these events and questionnaires were completed by local schools. Young people asked for a football pitch with goalposts, which has now been funded and installed. Parents also wanted a community noticeboard, which has also been provided through wellbeing funding. In total, the Inner West Community Committee provided £5,000 in wellbeing funds to support Ley Lane greenspace improvements. The committee has also commissioned after-school play through the Youth Activities Fund and 'green gym' equipment has been installed.

Feedback from local residents and the local school have been very positive.

“Thank you so much! A big thank you from all at Holy Family – yesterday the pitch markings were painted on Ley Lane. It looks fabulous.”

Mandy Kennedy, Holy Family Catholic Primary School, Wortley

Student changeover project

Student changeover is the period when student tenancies end in June and recommence in September. Changeover generates high levels of waste and noise, causing significant problems for local residents. The council, universities and other partners regularly work together to look at ways to improve services in the area. The Inner North West Community Committee held a workshop on the subject in March 2015 and funded a number of projects to address some of the issues.

- The Leave Leeds Tidy initiative, run by the University of Leeds, which encourages residents to reuse and recycle unwanted items – £3,500
- A dedicated noise nuisance patrol, ring-fenced to the LS6 area – £10,000
- Additional dog fouling and littering patrols in the area – £1,000
- Extra staff to work on Woodhouse Moor – £12,000.

The community committee also worked with Leeds Beckett's University Students' Union to develop a new project, which will aim to boost volunteering around changeover time to address environmental issues in the area; the community committee has allocated just over £5,000 for this project.



Students from the university helping during the changeover period.



Young people discussing youth activities.

Children and young people

Leeds has a higher proportion of young people than the national average. Building a child-friendly city remains one of the council's key priorities and the community committees continue to ensure they work with and for the benefit of children and young people in their communities.

Involving young people in decision-making

A number of young people's engagement events took place in the West North West area, including the Outer North West Children and Young Peoples' Engagement event at Leeds Trinity University. A total of 17 high schools and primaries attended from across the area for a full day of activities.

It involved an enthusiastic question and answer session between councillors and students. This was followed by an afternoon session, when councillors and students jointly decided how best to spend a potential £56,000 Youth Activity Fund in the area. Some excellent feedback from the groups was received, which has helped shape future spend of the Youth Activity Fund.

The Outer West Community Committee also met with young people in an interactive 'Dragons Den' like workshop, exploring activities that children and young people would enjoy. At an Inner West Community Committee workshop, young people explained what life was like for them in their local areas and suggested innovative ways of engagement.

A number of key themes emerged from both these workshops, including engaging with young people in settings they are comfortable with, using social media to publicise activities, and providing a mechanism for young people to put forward ideas and represent their community.



Ideas for youth activities.

Key outcomes from the workshops included the design and implementation of a strategy to engage with young people and an annual programme of engagement. A marketing strategy for Youth Activity Fund activities has been designed and implemented to promote the summer projects.



Aireborough Supported Activities Scheme.

The Outer North West Community Committee continues to support a project for children and young people with disabilities through their wellbeing fund. The Aireborough Supported Activities Scheme provides a range of activities including learning circus skills, swimming, trips to the cinema, sailing at Yeadon Tarn and environmental projects at Herd Farm for young people living in the north west of Leeds.

Quotes from parents:

“Because L doesn’t look as if he has a disability and because he says ‘yes’ and ‘no’ in the right places, most people don’t realise how little he understands. Therefore it is really good that he has someone looking out for him and he isn’t just left to be one in the crowd.”

“We had the chance to go cycling and swimming, which is otherwise tricky with one adult and two children, when one of them has extra needs like T.”

Youth Panels

Some of the community committees have established formal youth panels, which are open to children and young people aged 11 to 17. They discuss local issues concerning children and young people and support the community committees by deciding which activities should be funded.

Alwoodley schools held their first Youth Panel in November. Hosted by Allerton High School, the panel meeting was attended by a total of 24 young people aged between eight and fifteen. All seven primary schools and three high schools in the area took part in the event, which was chaired by a local councillor from the Outer North East Community Committee.

The young people had the opportunity to tell the councillor what activities they would like to do in their area, and discuss how these should be delivered. The most popular suggestions were drama and cookery and the young people expressed strong views that they would like to see activities that they could attend on a regular basis, rather than ‘one off’ events in the school holidays. All the young people that attended were very confident in joining in the discussions and challenged some of the suggestions they did not agree with. Everyone enjoyed themselves and said that they would be happy to be involved in future events.

All three community committees in the South East area provided a wide range of activity from their Youth Activity Fund. In the Outer East these activities included sporting projects such as cricket coaching and Junior Park Run at Temple Newsam and environmental projects like Micklefield Primary Urban Rangers. This project, led by Groundwork Leeds, supported environmental education, such as ‘geocoaching’, where children went on high-tech treasure hunts using GPS devices.

In the Outer South area a range of events and activities were held over summer 2014 for under 19s, including arts, inflatables, sports, crafts, performances and dance. These were used as a platform to consult children and young people about the activities they wanted to take part in.

The Children and Families sub-group is now seeking to strengthen the role of the youth panels by arranging peer inspections and mystery shops for future activities.

In the Inner South service providers, the youth service and young people from the area attended a workshop where they discussed anti-social behaviour and crime, employment and community-based help for families who need extra support. The young people were able to give their first-hand experience of these issues.

Community engagement and cohesion

Between formal committee meetings local councillors and their support teams work in a number of different ways to improve local areas and the quality of life for residents. They also work to strengthen links with local community forums, parish and town councils, volunteer groups and residents, supporting local people to understand each other better and get on well together. This can involve a wide range of activities from helping to resolve community tensions to celebrating the diversity of Leeds' population.

Community forums

The Outer East covers a wide geographic area and community forums are the main source of engagement and involvement. The seven forums meet quarterly and are used as an opportunity to share information and provide updates on key issues and services in respective areas. They also allow local groups to initiate projects and programmes of work that have been identified by their members.

One example shows how residents' concerns about road safety raised at the Halton Forum resulted in traffic lights being installed at the junction between Selby Road and Chapel Street. The next phase of improving safety for residents and schoolchildren is to

reduce parking further along the street and possibly relocate the bus stop. Consultation with the forum and the wider community is now being undertaken by Highways.

The Cross Gates Forum developed a memorial stone and garden at Manston Park to commemorate the munitions workers, mostly women, who were killed in several explosions at Barnbow munitions factory between 1916 and 1918. The story behind the munitions factory explosions during the first world war is now on the curriculum in local primary schools and they also compete to design the garden each year. The streets of a new local housing estate have also been named after some of the people killed in the explosions.



Neighbourhood Forum.

Bringing services to the community

The Outer South Community Committee has focussed on bringing services out into the community. Five events were held in Morley over the year, reaching thousands of local people. Morley residents were able to find out about leisure services, libraries, Care and Repair, Morley Elderly Action, Trading Standards and the Police whilst shopping in Morley market. The committee also supported the annual St. George's Day Festival in April with a street stall in Queens Street in Morley, visited by 1,500 people.

In Inner South the engagement strategy has focussed on specific pieces of work, with the lead being taken by neighbourhood improvement officers, funded from wellbeing money. One example is the Middleton Skate Park, developed by Middleton Youth Partnership in response to demands from young people living in the area. There was consultation with young people and residents on the need for a skate park as well as its design, which influenced the brief and tender specification. In depth consultation and involvement with young people helped to secure funding from a number of sources to develop the project at a cost of around £100,000.



Seacroft gala show.

Celebrating community heroes

The work community volunteers do is diverse and makes a real impact on people's lives, from 'In Bloom' groups, to dance groups, choirs and older person's groups. In recognition of the many hours of voluntary community work, the Outer South Community Committee held a 'Community Heroes' event at Morley Town Hall, attended by the Lord Mayor. The event was an opportunity for the committee to celebrate the diversity and strength of community leadership and thank people, who contribute on a voluntary basis to make a difference in their communities.

There were some inspirational groups and people in attendance, a testament to the amount of time people give to improve their communities. A few highlights from the night include:

- Tea Cosy Memory Café, providing support to people with dementia in Rothwell and pioneering it as Leeds' first dementia friendly community;
- Kids for Kids, a voluntary dance youth group in Morley, which has been going for over 30 years, promoting exercise and healthy lifestyles, and building confidence in young people; and
- Robin Hood Residents' Association, who have worked hard to vastly improve their local environment and bring the community together.

Representatives from community groups were presented with an award for their work. The Outer South Community Committee highlighted some of the great initiatives it has supported over the past year and how it helps shape local services. The event enabled residents and groups to share information, network and visit information stalls from many different organisations.

Parish and town councils

There are 32 parish and town councils in the Leeds Metropolitan District, which play an important role in maintaining and improving local services and facilities, supporting local voluntary organisations and activities, and influencing and lobbying on local development.

Good partnership working between the community committees and parish and town councils presents an additional opportunity to achieve the council's ambition to achieve a substantial and lasting shift towards local democracy. By working closely together, the community committees and parish and town councils make a vital contribution to the wellbeing of the communities they serve. A charter www.leeds.gov.uk/docs/TheLeedsParishandTownCouncilCharter sets out how the community committees and the parish and town councils work together for the benefit of local people.



Community heroes event 2015.

The Outer North East Parish and Town Council Forum provides a mechanism for regular engagement and opportunities for discussion and collaborative working on issues of common interest to the parishes. The forum enables parish and town councils to work closely with the council to improve the flexibility and effectiveness of the local delivery of services and was highlighted as a model of good practice by the Safer and Stronger Scrutiny Committee's review of the council's relationships with parish and town councils.

The next stage is for the Outer East Community Committee and the parish and town councils to develop a framework for improving local services and the local infrastructure. This involves maximising the potential of new funding opportunities and working closely to align the various funding streams at a local level, including the Community Infrastructure Levy* <http://www.pas.gov.uk/community-infrastructure-levy>. The delegation of more budgets and services to community committees is a real opportunity to be able to further strengthen working relationships with parish and town councils.

The forum has also helped inform the roll-out of reduced night-time street lighting between midnight and 5:30 am, to determine which lights will be switched off in each area, taking into account established 'avoidance criteria' such as high levels of road traffic accidents, crime or areas near to pedestrian crossings.

The Outer North East Community Committee has also supported a number of parish council projects using its wellbeing funding, such as £1,780 to Boston Spa Parish Council to build and promote a heritage trail using blue plaque type signage and an associated guide.



Boston Spa Parish Council heritage trail.

The Outer North West Community Committee hosts a Parish and Town Council Forum three times a year to engage with the six local parish and town councils in the area. This helps to build local relationships, identify engagement opportunities and influence local priorities. A number of joint priorities between the community committee and the local councils have been agreed, including looking at and monitoring the parks and countryside delegation and highways issues in relation to public transport and links to Leeds Bradford airport. Examples of wellbeing spend for town and parish councils include supporting local environmental projects, festive lights and joint funding of an additional police community safety officer.

The Outer East parish councils also work very closely with their community committee. The main engagement is through the community forums held in Garforth and Swillington and Kippax and Methley. In Kippax, the parish council is leading the development of a neighbourhood plan with the community committee. In Micklefield, the parish council has a regeneration partnership, which has been successful in obtaining several hundred thousand pounds of external funding over the last ten years to deliver numerous regeneration projects such as a new skate park, refurbishment of the community centre and environmental improvements.

* The Community Infrastructure Levy is a planning charge, introduced by the Planning Act 2008, as a tool for local authorities to help deliver infrastructure to support the development of their area.

Promoting understanding

Harehills conversation dinner

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rnYGGDj3xfE>

Chapelton conversation dinner

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uUJDUr5b5DM>



Chapelton conversation dinner.

Many of Leeds' communities are made up of people from different backgrounds, beliefs and cultures. A significant part of the work carried out by the community committees and their support teams involves strengthening community cohesion and helping break down barriers.

All three community committees in the East North East area have organised 'conversation dinners' for local residents to share good food and chat with neighbours they have never met before – a new concept to Leeds and our local communities.

The community committees funded these events using £500 wellbeing funding for each conversation dinner in Chapelton, Harehills and three events in Alwoodley. The events were enjoyed by all who attended with everyone meeting new people, particularly people from different walks of life and backgrounds.

"We've already built a bond just in the short time we've been here".

"It was enlightening to hear about his background".

"I gained a good understanding of the challenges of being isolated in a country where the local language is not spoken, the difficulties experienced and how personal drive changed their circumstances".

Making the most of local community assets

In the Inner North West the community committee held a workshop, which focussed on how partners can work together with the community committee to run a successful and sustainable community centre. The Cardigan Centre, Woodsley Road Community Centre and HEART Centre all provided a local perspective on how they delivered services. Participants also discussed the use of social media to promote community groups and the community committee is using its Facebook page to promote events in the local area.

Following the workshop, a £10,500 wellbeing grant was approved to help fund local charity OPAL (Older People's Action in the Locality) to develop a new community centre for the LS16 area and to create a permanent home for their charity.

OPAL has used the £10,500 grant to purchase the leasehold on the Bedford Arms pub in the Silk Mills area of Leeds. Both the Inner West and Outer North West community committees have given a total of £15,000 wellbeing funding towards the costs of refurbishing the building to develop the new community centre.



OPAL outside their newly purchased Bedford Arms.

Communications and social media

Good communications play a vital role in supporting the council's ambition to be responsive to the needs of the local communities, improving local democratic decision-making and involving local people in decisions that affect their neighbourhoods.

Following the development of the ten community committees, there was a need to improve communications to encourage public attendance at community committee meetings, increase community engagement and improve awareness of wellbeing funding and the work of the community committees more generally.



Over the past year communication and marketing activity has focussed on developing a brand identity for the community committees, building and strengthening marketing and communication capacity and developing a digital audience. In just twelve months social media has become an extremely effective way for the committees to engage with many more local residents. One example of this is the consultation on a new library for Kippax, which reached over 5,000 residents through the use of social media. The ten community committees have each set up their own Facebook accounts and audiences are continuing to grow. Collectively over the ten pages there are over 2000 'likes' and the audience reach is exceeding 140,000 unique users. A single Twitter account – [@_YourCommunity](#) – has also been set up, which provides a platform to increase and build following for community committees, make links with partners and services, hold consultations and enable local conversations to take place. The account has over 800 unique followers and is growing on a weekly basis.

Establishing a new identity and more effectively promoting the committees has provided more opportunities for people to have their say, get involved in their local community, and participate in debates over local issues. The attendance at meetings and events has also increased.

Examples of the promotional activity are:

- news items on the council's intranet site for staff
- information in Tom's Blog – the chief executive's video diary
- an article in Housing Leeds, distributed to 70,000 households
- a feature in South Leeds Life, a local community website and magazine
- an advert with in the Council Tax bills, distributed to over 300,000 households
- the use of community radio stations
- personalised emails from chairs to relevant stakeholders, officers and partners
- video invitations from chairs posted on social media
- regular reminders posted on committee Facebook pages about events and meetings
- engagement events
- posters placed in council buildings including one stop centres, libraries and community notice boards

Examples of the brand in action



Outer South Community Committee Workshop

Theme: Employment, Skills & Welfare
Topic: Achieving Positive Outcomes in the Labour Market for those with disabilities

Date: Monday 23rd March 2015
Venue: Morley Town Hall, Queen Street, Leeds, LS27 8DY
Time: 4.00 pm – 5.15 pm

The session will look at:

- What works well
- How can partners contribute towards achieving positive outcomes for disabled people in the labour market

The Workshop will be followed by The Outer South Community Committee meeting at 5.30pm

www.leeds.gov.uk/communitycommittee
 Find us on: [Facebook icon] [Twitter icon]




Your Community

Tweets 1,015 Followers 927 Retweets 870 Likes 38

Your Community @YourCommunity

Great news for local people in #Leeds with the reopening of the library & one stop shop meaning improved services in the locality

Your Community @YourCommunity

Plenty of activities were available for children on Thursday and Friday at #Crossfarms Park courtesy of Leeds City Council 'Breeze on Tour'

Your Community @YourCommunity

Over 600 people joined in family fun over 2 days at #Beeston Village Green and Park. Gaming, sports, a seaside and more was enjoyed

Your Community @YourCommunity

Whatever your exam results, apprenticeships can start your career in 170 sectors. Check out leeds.gov.uk/forapprentices...

Your Community @YourCommunity

Angel of Youth @angelofyouth Aug 15



Community Centres

Have your say!

Councillors from Headingley, Hyde Park and Westwood wards want to hear from people who use community centres and those who don't

Join the debate and help us shape the future of local services

WHEN: Thursday 9th October, 7pm
WHERE: Woodsley Road Community Centre

Featuring:



LCC Inner North West

Outer East Community Committee Area



Timeline About Photos Likes More

699 views the file

Work Needs to be for Page

Outer East Community Committee **Outer East Community Committee** via...
 Tuesday, 8 September 2015 at 16:00
 2 photos

City Centre @ Leicester's Forum (Wade St) ...
 Wednesday, 27 October 2015 at 16:00
 1 photo

See the first in series about disability events from Leeds City Council Outer East Community Committee

Outer east Leeds summer cricket camp: week 2, day 1...

Community committee champions

The community committee champions were introduced in July 2013 and cover the following work areas:

- health, wellbeing and adult social care
- children's services
- employment, skills and welfare
- environment and community safety

The role enables a number of elected members to provide a local perspective on executive board portfolios and supports the council's aim to provide challenge and debate around local issues.

The champions:

- work closely with community committee chairs to identify and lead relevant debates at community committees;
- represent the community committee at local project or partnership meetings, and in the commissioning process to ensure the needs and interests of the area are represented;
- develop informal opportunities and networks with council services and partners to build understanding, improve partnership working, provide challenge and bring a local democratic perspective to a wider range of services; and
- support the executive member to ensure local issues are included in policy development, highlight any service issues or failures, share best practice and learn from innovative approaches developed through community committees.

The champion's role has continued to make an impact in local areas in 2014 to 2015 as demonstrated by the following examples.

The Inner East community champion for children and young people was instrumental in driving positive engagement with young people in Burmantofts and Richmond Hill. Over 150 young people were consulted at six school youth councils across the ward, as well as Richmond Hill Young People's Forum. They gave their views on what activities they would like to see offered over the summer holidays and this information was then used to direct services to provide activities throughout the area, funded through the Community Committee's Youth Activity Fund.

The champion continued to build on the work that she, officers and partners undertook over the summer by visiting local groups and providers across the area, attending a session of Leeds Youth Council, and holding meetings with council officers from children's services, where she has been articulating local concerns and aspirations.

It is envisaged that this model of consultation and engagement could be enhanced this year by revisiting schools to seek feedback on those activities provided through the fund.

Children's and family health were discussed at workshops held in the Inner North West and Inner West areas, which have some of the highest childhood obesity rates in the city. The health and wellbeing champions led on work addressing this issue following the workshops. This has included ensuring a strong take-up of the 'Food Dudes' project – a new primary school programme to encourage healthy eating and exercise. The champions have also worked together with fast food providers to provide more healthy options, and to promote the 'Fit Kids' project – recreational and fitness activities to help young people improve their health and general wellbeing.

The Outer East community champion for health, wellbeing and adult social care raised concerns that had been brought to her attention from Garforth Neighbourhood Elders Team (NET) about older people in the area being unable to afford to buy food. After some research, it became clear that this was a problem that affected many more people. As a result, the community committee teamed up with Brigshaw Trust and NET to provide a foodbank for the Outer East villages. This was supported with a £2,000 award from Outer East Community Committee to set up the foodbank and assist with the initial supply of stock.

The role of community committee champions was fully evaluated during 2014 to 2015. This showed that it is a role, which is generally appreciated and the principles of it are working well with the new ways of working taken forward by community committees. These will help maximise the potential of the role, and there is scope to develop it further. It was recognised that to do so would require additional support from services, improved communications, and a process to capture outcomes. A series of recommendations has been accepted by community chairs, which will be implemented during 2015 to 2016.



Community event.

Challenges and next steps

The community committees have taken great strides forward over the last twelve months in supporting the council to focus more clearly on community engagement and local decision making.

The community committee champions have continued to make an impact in local areas through regular contact between executive board members and the community committees, ensuring local democracy is devolved to local people and key messages fed back.

Wellbeing and youth activity funding is continuing to provide vital funding for the benefit of local communities, with over 500 projects supported in Leeds between 2014 and 2015.

Effective use of communications tools, including branding and social media, have raised awareness of the community committees' meetings, promoted local funding available, increased the visibility of their work and enabled local councillors to engage with new audiences and tackle the issues that matter to them.

Looking forward to 2015 to 2016, community committees aim to improve by focussing on the following.

- Strengthening work with all parts of the community – progress has been made but there remains more to do to live up to the ambition;
- Focussing on 'local', making sure that services join up effectively and really meet the needs of local people;
- Developing their quality improvement and assurance role, acting as the eyes and ears for the delivery of local services, and making recommendations back to the executive board where necessary;
- Really understanding local communities and their changing needs, building a local picture to improve delivery – not just using data, but real intelligence built up locally;
- Improving their work and decision making with better intelligence gathered at the local level;

- Using communications and social media more strategically, moving from broadcast to conversation and engagement, using the Facebook pages and new Twitter account – [@_YourCommunity](#);
- Making further administrative efficiencies, such as joint youth activity funding and wellbeing applications; and
- Introducing a robust system of performance management through the development of an action tracker, which shows where the positive discussions with residents has led to services changing and projects delivered to meet needs.

The community committees have already started to make contributions to several of the council's breakthrough projects for 2015 to 2016, and in particular:

- putting children and families first: tackling domestic violence;
- housing growth, and jobs for young people;
- making Leeds the best place to grow old; and
- reducing health inequalities through healthier lifestyles.

Finally, community committees will play a key role in achieving the council's aspiration to build on Leeds' strong economy, while ensuring it is a compassionate city that works with its citizens and communities to reduce inequality, and that the benefits of increased growth and prosperity are felt by all.

Best Council Plan 2015 to 2020

<http://www.leeds.gov.uk/docs/Best%20Council%20Plan%202015.pdf>

Community committees

<http://www.leeds.gov.uk/residents/Pages/Locality-Working-in-Leeds.aspx>

Leeds City Council's Community Committees

Inner East Community Committee

Burmantofts and Richmond Hill
Gipton and Harehills
Killingbeck and Seacroft

Inner North East Community Committee

Chapel Allerton
Moortown
Roundhay

Outer North East Community Committee

Alwoodley
Harewood
Wetherby

Outer East Community Committee

Cross Gates and Whinmoor
Garforth and Swillington
Kippax and Methley
Temple Newsam

Inner South Community Committee

Beeston and Holbeck
City and Hunslet
Middleton Park

Outer South Community Committee

Ardsley and Robin Hood
Morley North
Morley South
Rothwell

Inner North West Community Committee

Headingley
Hyde Park and Woodhouse
Weetwood

Outer North West Community Committee

Adel and Wharfedale
Guiselley and Rawdon
Horsforth
Otley and Yeadon

Inner West Community Committee

Armley
Bramley and Stanningley
Kirkstall

Outer West Community Committee

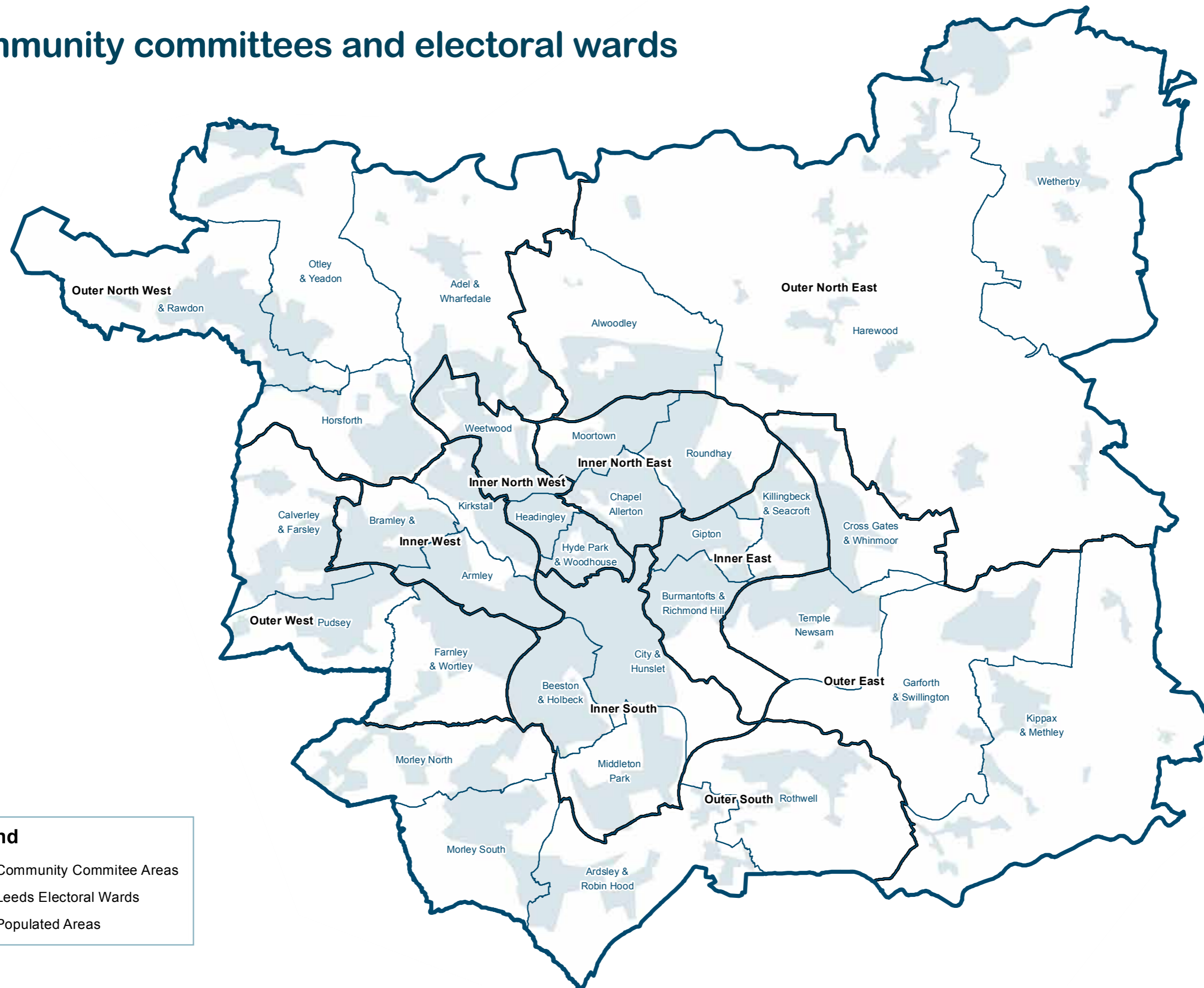
Calverley and Farsley
Farnley and Wortley
Pudsey

You can find details of your own community committee by going to www.leeds.gov.uk/wherellive




For further information please contact the area leaders:

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Baksho Uppal (West North West) 0113 336 7858
Jane Maxwell (East North East) 0113 336 7627

Community committees and electoral wards



Legend

-  Community Committee Areas
-  Leeds Electoral Wards
-  Populated Areas

