



# Leeds Community Committees Annual Report 2017 to 2018



**Leeds**  
CITY COUNCIL



# Leeds Community Committees Annual Report 2017 to 2018

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# Foreword

The ten community committees continue to work for Leeds' residents across the city. They provide a forum for local people to have their say on issues that matter to them, by involving them in decision making on key areas such as environmental improvements, community safety, health and wellbeing and employment.



They continue to ensure that our citywide priorities are discussed in local neighbourhoods through presentations and workshops at all ten community committees, which have also continued to fund local projects and activities. Our young people are a growing part of our population and represent our city's future and for this reason we have engaged with them and learned from them about their needs and priorities through a number of events. You can read more about some of these on pages 16 to 18.

Through our conversations with local communities there is a joint understanding of how our local neighbourhoods are changing. The community committees have worked closely with residents and partners to identify lessons from existing community projects across the city, which has led to increased understanding of changing communities, providing local solutions to local problems and tackling a range of issues. We want every resident, regardless of their background, ethnicity, faith or sexuality to be proud and feel fully engaged in the life of our city and to have the confidence that they can make a real positive difference, not just in their own communities, but to Leeds as a whole.

The challenge for the council is how we can engage and ensure that the voices of all people in our communities are being heard and that they are not missing out on the opportunities, which are available to others in the city.

The community committees will continue to act as the council's local champions to ensure we develop stronger communities to create a fair and compassionate city.

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

**Councillor Debra Coupar**

**Deputy Leader and 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 residents. 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.

This report covers the third full year of operation for the community committees, which use a common framework of principles that include holding meetings in the communities and neighbourhoods they represent.

Effective use of branding and communications tools, including social media, are helping to:

- reflect a sense of place and promote the committees;
- raise awareness of the community committees' work;
- promote local funding available; and
- enable local councillors to engage with more residents and tackle the issues that matter to them.

The social media channels in particular, are proving invaluable for engaging with local communities and are being used to:

- encourage more people to get involved and to make a difference;
- allow us to consult with local residents around what we are doing and demonstrate we are listening;
- build networks of local people and organisations who trust us; and
- inform people about emergency situations such as flooding and help them find out what help and support is available for them.

This report looks at progress over the last twelve months and demonstrates how involving our residents in workshops, based on local and city-wide priorities, is really 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 local services.

# Leeds' Community Committees - highlights from 2017 to 2018

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, crime, unemployment and health, combined with consultation with local councillors and residents.

The following pages give just a few examples of the work being carried out by the committees on behalf of local communities.



**Outer South Youth Democracy Day**

**Leeds Civic Hall**

# Outer West Community Committee

## Outer West's Blooming Good Idea

The Outer West Community Committee awarded over £10k of their wellbeing fund on local 'In Bloom' projects, including Pudsey, Farsley, Calverley and New Farnley in Bloom.

In Bloom groups encourage residents and businesses to work in partnership to decorate their homes or premises with flowers, making their neighbourhoods look more attractive and greener. These volunteers take pride in where they live; they enhance the area, raising funds for flower displays, creating and maintaining flower beds and litter picking.

These community groups were recognised for their tremendous green fingered efforts when they wowed judges in the prestigious regional Yorkshire in Bloom Awards. Their unstinting energy and enthusiasm for creating areas of floral glory across these local communities were met with great enthusiasm from the judges. Calverley won gold awards in the 2017 Yorkshire in Bloom competition for 'Urban Community' and 'Open Spaces' categories and Pudsey won the 'Gold' award for the 'Small Town' category.

Yorkshire in Bloom encourages and develops community spirit and civic pride whilst promoting responsibility for planting, cleanliness and maintenance. Across Leeds there are over 50 in bloom groups and Leeds as a city was awarded a coveted Gold award in the 'Large City' category and named as overall winner in the 'City/Town Centre' group.



The team of gardeners give their time and expertise for free to transform a number of sites across the Outer West. Modest estimates indicate that volunteers across all groups contribute up to 1000 days of voluntary work in the Outer West area over a 12 month period.

The Outer West is fortunate to have an array of residents, community groups and businesses, who are dedicated to ensuring their local areas are always attractive.



# Inner West Community Committee

## Bosom Buddies

Bosom Buddies is a breastfeeding support group providing help and information to new mums across Leeds. They are part of a wider Leeds breastfeeding peer support network and are mothers who have pursued volunteering to support other new mums, who may be struggling with breastfeeding in Bramley. As peer supporters, they offer encouragement, moral support, a shoulder to cry on and signposting to local services.

Bosom Buddies also provides online support using social media such as Facebook, Twitter and Mumsnet, which reach families locally, regionally and nationally. They provide direct online support to approximately 30 families a week, although given the public nature of some of these networks, it is likely that a much wider audience benefits from this activity.

The Inner West Community Committee supported the group with funding to provide an opportunity for more women to be trained as Bosom Buddies, to assist with their very busy group sessions.

Breastfeeding is the most cost effective way of providing babies with a healthy start. There is a wealth of evidence to support breastfeeding as the optimal and normal way to feed a baby, yet many women stop before they had planned to, with at least half stopping in the first few weeks. Almost three-quarters of mothers breastfeed their new-borns, dropping to around 40% after 6 weeks. Having a resource such as Bosom Buddies brings new mums together and enables the passage of knowledge through mum-to-mum support.

The funding for the project has allowed the group to increase their Bosom Buddies Peer Supporters by 11 and also increase the group attendees up to 47. A total of 128 families have been supported outside of the group sessions, either face-to-face or online.



# Outer North West Community Committee

## Fun activities for disabled children

Children with disabilities have benefitted from holiday play schemes thanks to wellbeing funding from the Outer North West Community Committee. Aireborough Supported Activities run holiday play schemes for children aged 4 to 19, with moderate to severe learning and physical disabilities, living in north Leeds.

The project aims to enhance the lives of children with disabilities by providing them with fun activities and opportunities to socialise with friends and make new ones. Due to their complex needs, many children require a high level of support to take part. The activities are designed to suit the wishes, needs and abilities of the children and include swimming, hydrotherapy, cinema, bowling, trampolining, rebound therapy, art and crafts, music, dance, drama, circus skills, sensory sessions and intensive interaction.

All leaders and volunteers undertake comprehensive training to help prepare them for the challenges of the scheme and caring for children with additional needs, whilst building team confidence and increasing understanding of safeguarding, disability awareness, communication and behaviour techniques.



The young people have enjoyed new activities and venues, made new friends and spent time away from home, giving parents and siblings a break from caring duties, whilst allowing them to gain independence and resilience.

One parent commented:

“The play scheme is vital to children with disabilities as for some it is their only social activity and enables them to try new activities in a safe, well-staffed environment. It is also very much appreciated by parents and carers, who get respite and the chance to spend more time with their other children”.

Another added:

“J's confidence has grown and I noticed his social skills have improved; he was chattier with staff. He will try new activities and will talk a little bit more about what he's done when we pick him up”.

# Inner North West Community Committee

## Leeds Frontrunners – Pride Run 2017

Leeds Frontrunners identify as an LGBT running club, which has been active in the city for almost three years. Their members strongly support inclusivity in all its forms and welcome a diverse range of members from within and outside the LGBT community. They are affiliated with England Athletics and have a dedicated team of volunteers, who give up many hours each week to support people who would like to start running.

Funding from the Inner North West Community Committee supported Leeds Frontrunners to hold Pride Run 2017. Working with Parkrun on Woodhouse Moor, they offered a programme of 'Couch to 5k' sessions and 'Parent Run' classes, where childcare was provided for runners with younger children. Leeds Frontrunners also took part in England Athletic 'Leader in Running Fitness' programme, allowing the club to provide two opportunities to run weekly. This was all in the build-up to the main event, Pride Run 2017.

The event was held on 5 August 2017 and over 500 runners from 43 different running clubs enjoyed an inclusive, fun event. There were 96 first time runners with Parkrun and 35 runners were under 25 years of age, demonstrating that the event encouraged new and younger runners to take part.



Pride Run 2017 was hugely successful, it had a great buzz and was held at the beginning of Leeds Pride Weekend 2017.



# Outer East Community Committee

## Kicks programme supporting young people

The Premier League Kicks programme is an innovative scheme led by Leeds United Foundation (LUF) in Halton Moor to develop the potential of boys and girls in football and improve their social skills. Funding from the Outer East Community Committee helped the scheme get started in 2017. The programme initially started as a Friday evening project, offering two one-hour sessions for 8 to 12 year olds and 13 to 16 year olds. Each session can accommodate 32 young people.

The project, which has a permanent base at the multi-use games area at Meadowfield Primary School on Halton Moor Avenue, quickly became very popular with both boys and girls. All the places were taken, which led to a £10,000 wellbeing grant being awarded by the committee to enable the scheme to run seven days a week from January to March 2018 - and it continues to thrive!



Match funding has come in the form of the West Yorkshire Police Safer Community Fund and the South East Housing Advisory Panel. They have also been successful with a £1,000 grant from the Recycling & Energy Recovery Facility for participant refreshments. LUF has recently successfully applied for a further £16,000 of wellbeing funds, bringing the total to £63,400, to continue the daily sessions throughout 2018/19.



# Inner South Community Committee

## Cleaner, greener, creative space

In October half-term 2017 the community committee commissioned Playful Leeds to provide a 'Playbox' - a shipping container full of games and activities - in Trentham Park. The idea was to encourage residents to make use of their local green spaces and provide an open space to start conversations.

It provided a unique opportunity and neutral space, where both the children and adults felt comfortable to express new ideas, challenge perceptions and stereotypes and offer insights on why the park did not meet their needs and expectations.

Local residents want to make the park a place where they feel a sense of belonging and a safe community space. Seeing the young people use the materials, provided by Playbox, creatively at Trentham Park truly brought the park alive with laughter, new friendships, dancing and trying new activities that they normally would not have had the opportunity to experience and enjoy.



Playbox is only the start of this journey and work has begun to build on this foundation by working together with partners from public health, Touchstone and Groundwork to make this a community space for all to enjoy.

Local resident Zoe Mitchell said:

“You have great momentum going there, a knack for getting relationships with people and getting their input. Most importantly you know the real change is going to come from residents.”



# Outer South Community Committee

## Community Heroes

The Outer South Community Committee holds an annual community awards event as a way of saying thank you to dedicated community members who work hard for their local communities.

The awards are an opportunity to celebrate some of the fantastic achievements of individuals and groups from across the whole of the Outer South area of Leeds: Ardsley & Robin Hood, Morley North, Morley South and Rothwell - people that are making a real difference every day to local communities.

This year saw a change to the event format, as residents and community groups were asked to actively nominate individuals, groups or organisations that had made an outstanding contribution to their communities over the last twelve months.

The winners were chosen by members of the public through a voting process and each category winner was entered into the Leeds-wide Compassionate City Awards, in each of their respective categories.

Publicity for the event was shared with community groups, parish and town councils, schools, tenants and residents groups, as well as the local media. In addition to this, regular updates on the Outer South Community Committee Facebook page were posted.



The response to this year's event was overwhelming, as the voting process received over six hundred votes by email, letter, telephone calls and Facebook messages. The Outer South Facebook post alone reached 12,000 people with over 170 specific comments.



# Inner East Community Committee

## St. Hilda's Church drop-in advice

The Inner East Community Committee worked together with a number of different services to put in place a twice-monthly drop-in advice session in Cross Green. Replicating the community hub model, the project drew together several partners at St. Hilda's Church to provide advice on issues including personal debt and financial management, employment, training and housing issues. Any other issues that are raised are recorded and passed on to relevant agencies to deal with.

Funded by the Inner East Community Committee, the sessions have been supported by St. Vincent's Support Centre, Connect for Health, Zest Health for Life, Cross Green Community Group and Money Buddies. So far, residents have been given advice on a range of issues including:

- energy comparison;
- volunteering;
- employment opportunities;
- food banks;
- benefit entitlement;
- homelessness; and
- domestic abuse.

The sessions were extended following their initial positive impact and the community committee is working with partners to explore how they can be supported going forward.



# Inner North East Community Committee

## Family Solutions

Family Solutions is a scheme based at Stainbeck Community Café, which supports residents in Meanwood, including neighbourhoods among the most deprived nationwide. The Inner North East Community Committee and local Housing Advisory Panel each supported the project with £5,000.

Over the past year, Family Solutions supported 40 new families through the community café at Stainbeck Church with CV writing and job searches, access to food banks, benefit applications, accessing debt advice and basic shopping and prescription collections for less mobile residents. Family Solutions has helped people into work and volunteering, provided 12 families with school uniform, given out 60 food bank vouchers and Christmas hampers and toys to over 100 people.

Additionally, the project has made referrals for debt management, helped families move home and supported families with furniture from charities. People were also supported to claim benefits and with switching energy suppliers.



The café remains as busy as ever, particularly over the school holidays, when families struggle with additional expenses. It acts as a trusted gateway to existing local and citywide services and also promotes community cohesion, as the café is a popular and respected place for residents from different social backgrounds, ethnicities and faiths to meet.

Partners such as the food banks, West Yorkshire Police, the council, schools and health centre are already working with the project and have been making referrals to the community café.



# Outer North East Community Committee

## Neighbourhood Planning

The Outer North East Community Committee continues to set a trend with regards to neighbourhood planning. This year it was the theme of a community committee meeting with council officers, as well as local neighbourhood planning groups, to discuss their work in their respective communities.

The aim of the workshop was to improve the dialogue, not only between neighbourhood planning groups and elected members, but also between the neighbourhood planning groups themselves.

Going forward, council officers regularly report to the community committee on progress in the patch and councillors use the Outer North East Town and Parish Council Forum to facilitate discussions on issues such as cross parish working and the allocation of Community Infrastructure Levy funding.

## YOUR VILLAGE YOUR VOTE



Barwick in Elmet and Scholes  
Neighbourhood Plan

## REFERENDUM

**October 12<sup>th</sup> 2017**

Polling Station  
Scholes Elmet Primary School

Find out More – Drop In Event

**The Manor House**

**4<sup>th</sup> October 2017 – 4pm to 6.30pm**



In Outer North East there are 16 ‘made’ or ‘soon-to-be made’ neighbourhood development plans underway. The Outer North East Community Committee has long supported neighbourhood planning, employing a localism officer as far as back in 2011 to help kick start the process.

# Engaging with young people

Building on our commitment to engage and involve children and young people in decisions within their communities, young people have been paramount in choosing which activities should be supported by the community committees' Youth Activity Fund.

Events and opportunities were organised across the city for young people to meet their local councillors, have their say and choose what activities they would like. As each community is different these events are adapted to engage with a wide range of young people, as well as being inspirational and fun.

All of the views and opinions expressed by young people attending the events have been shared with local councillors to help influence local decisions. Overall, there were 714 children and young people participating across Community Youth Summits and engagement sessions in 2017 to 2018.

Here are just a few highlights of the different events that took place this year:



## Inner East Community Committee

### 'Have Your Say' Youth Summit at Chapel FM

Ten local organisations worked together with the community committee to bring together a diverse range of young people in the Inner East area to have their say on youth activities. Young people from Chapel FM – a community radio station and arts centre - helped to plan the event, which took place in December 2017.

45 young people attended from different organisations and had a chance to sample activities, meet the Lord Mayor and their local councillors. As well as deciding what youth activities they would like, young people had a chance to have their say about the new Fearnville Leisure Centre. Tasty food was provided by local social enterprise Shine and the event featured exciting performances from local young people, including DAZL dance and Breeze Has Talent winner, Ella Playford.

# Engaging with young people

Young people under 18 represent 21% of Leeds' population and this figure is rising. It is vital we consult with our young people, who are the future of our city.

## Outer West Community Committee

### Youth Summit at the Leeds Civic Hall

In October, pupils from the Outer West area of Leeds were invited to the Civic Hall to learn about local democracy, meet their councillors and have their say, whilst being inspired by the historic building and its history. 35 pupils came as representatives from six different schools, including two secondary schools.



The day was jam packed with lots to do, including sampling activities such as a dance workshop and smoothie making, as well as a 'takeover' of the council chamber. Everyone who came enjoyed lunch together at the nearby Leeds Beckett University campus, so that pupils caught a glimpse of real university life.

## Inner South Community Committee

### Youth Summit at Elland Road

Leeds United opened the doors of the Centenary Pavilion in January to 175 young people from 14 schools in the Inner South area of Leeds. Schools from across the area were invited to bring representatives to learn about democracy, meet their local councillors and make a difference in their community. The day was fun filled with lots of activities for young people to sample, including cycling, sports, drama, science and inflatables.



Young people then had a chance to vote on their favourite activities, thinking about what everyone in their community would enjoy. Secondary pupils were also asked to design their own activity and discussed important issues in their community.

# Engaging with young people

## Summer 2017 peer inspections

Throughout summer 2017, a team of ten young people from across Leeds visited 36 different activities, some of the projects funded by local councillors. The peer inspectors' team went to see how the money was being used for young people and make sure activities are safe and inclusive. The peer inspectors tried each activity and spoke to young people taking part, ensuring they were having fun and asking them to give their feedback about the activity. Peer inspectors also developed their leadership and communication skills by interviewing the different staff members and meeting local councillors who also visited the projects. Many of the inspectors completed their Leeds Youth Award for their contribution to the community and made a short film.



# Spending money locally

## How we made a difference in local areas

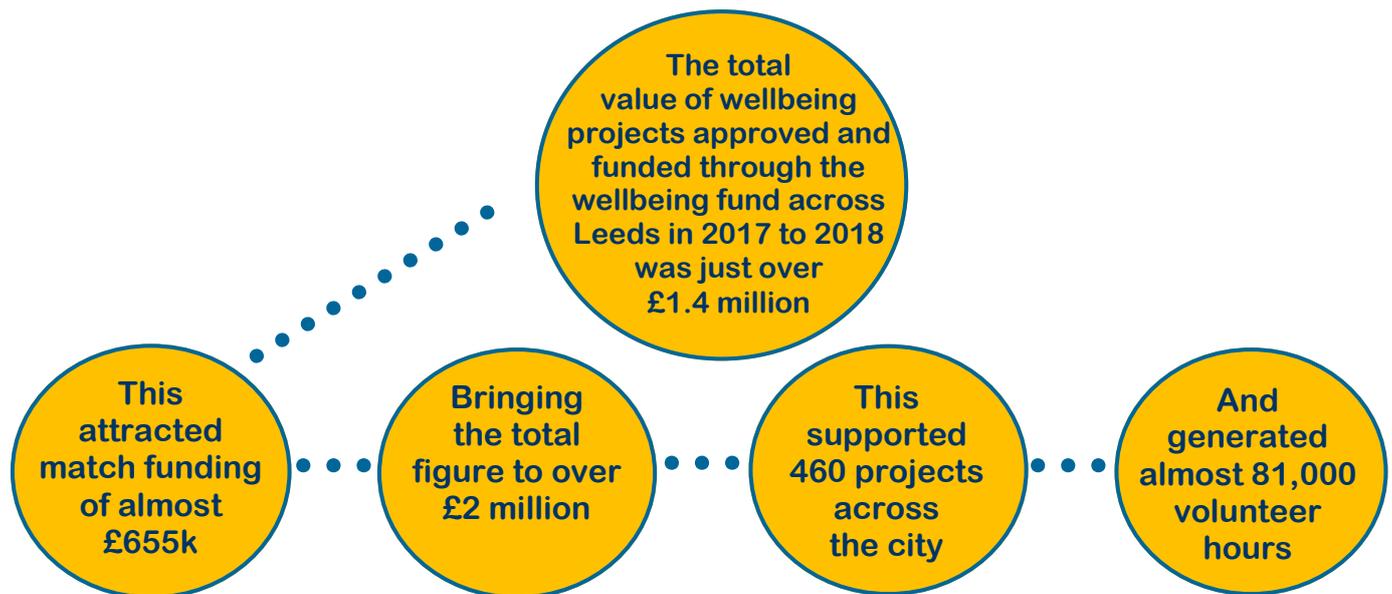
Community committees play an important role in understanding and addressing issues of concern to local people. One of the many ways they do this is by funding projects that fall within their identified priorities.

At the start of each year, every committee is allocated a dedicated sum known as wellbeing and youth activities funding. This money is provided for local projects and activities and can be increased through matched funding from other sources.



Money allocated to community committees includes the following benefits:

- developing community capacity and pride – generating a sense of belonging, which encourages local residents to volunteer and become involved;
- funding projects where the work would not otherwise happen;
- encouraging local people to bid for funding from other sources – making the council’s money go even further; and
- delivering local events and activities, which support local priorities.



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

In 2017 to 2018, almost half a million pounds of youth activities funding was approved, which attracted a further £310,000 in match funding and over 10,000 volunteer hours.





# You can find further details on community committees by going to:

[www.leeds.gov.uk/wherellive](http://www.leeds.gov.uk/wherellive) or contact

## Martin Dean Area Leader

[Martin.Dean@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:Martin.Dean@leeds.gov.uk)

07803 417624

## Jane Pattison Localities Programme Manager

[Jane.Pattison@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:Jane.Pattison@leeds.gov.uk)

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[www.leeds.gov.uk/  
community committee](http://www.leeds.gov.uk/communitycommittee)



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[InnerNorthEast](#)

[InnerWest](#)  
[OuterWest](#)  
[InnerNorthWest](#)  
[OuterNorthWest](#)

[InnerSouth](#)  
[OuterSouth](#)  
[OuterNorthEast](#)

# Leeds City Council's Community Committees

There are ten 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.

## Inner East Community Committee

Burmantofts and Richmond Hill  
Gipton and Harehills  
Killingbeck and Seacroft

Chair - Councillor Arif Hussain  
(0113) 224 3031  
07761 230 027  
arif.hussain@leeds.gov.uk



## Outer East Community Committee

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

Chair - Councillor Mary Harland  
(0113) 395 2242  
07866 962 287  
mary.harland@leeds.gov.uk



## Inner North East Community Committee

Chapel Allerton  
Moortown  
Roundhay

Chair - Councillor Eileen Taylor  
(0113) 247 4578  
07802 409 111  
eileen.taylor@leeds.gov.uk



## Inner South Community Committee

Beeston and Holbeck  
Hunslet and Riverside  
Middleton Park

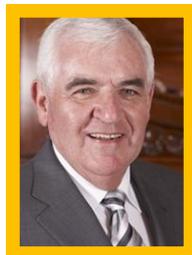
Chair - Councillor Angela Gabriel  
(0113) 246 4578  
07946 632 468  
angela.gabriel@leeds.gov.uk



## Outer North East Community Committee

Alwoodley  
Harewood  
Wetherby

Chair - Councillor Gerald Wilkinson  
(0113) 395 1460  
07748 941 127  
gerald.wilkinson@leeds.gov.uk



## Outer South Community Committee

Ardsley and Robin Hood  
Morley North  
Morley South  
Rothwell

Chair - Councillor Karen Bruce  
(0113) 282 5321  
(0113) 247 4578  
karen.bruce@leeds.gov.uk



# Leeds City Council's Community Committees

## **Inner North West Community Committee**

Headingley  
Hyde Park and Woodhouse  
Weetwood

Chair - Councillor Javid Akhtar  
(0113) 224 3031  
javid.akhtar@leeds.gov.uk



## **Outer North West Community Committee**

Adel and Wharfedale  
Guiseley and Rawdon  
Horsforth  
Otley and Yeadon

Chair - Councillor Paul Wadsworth  
(0113) 224 3201  
paul.wadsworth@leeds.gov.uk



## **Inner West Community Committee**

Armley  
Bramley and Stanningley  
Kirkstall

Chair - Councillor Jools Heselwood  
(0113) 268 4652  
07749 551732  
jools.heselwood@leeds.gov.uk



## **Outer West Community Committee**

Calverley and Farsley  
Farnley and Wortley  
Pudsey

Chair - Councillor David Blackburn  
(0113) 263 4572  
(0113) 395 1416  
david.blackburn@leeds.gov.uk



