



Leeds Community Committees Annual Report 2018 to 2019



Leeds
CITY COUNCIL



Leeds Community Committees Annual Report 2018 to 2019

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Welcome

Our 10 Community Committees continue to work for the residents of Leeds, by providing a forum for local people to have their say on the issues that matter to them most. They provide a mechanism for involving communities in local decision making on key issues 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 and support the funding of projects and activities that address local needs.

We want our communities to feel empowered and to be at the heart of providing local solutions to local problems across a wide range of issues. Through our conversations with local communities, we have developed a better understanding of how our local neighbourhoods are changing. The Community Committees have worked closely with residents and partners to identify what works best, which has been used to influence and shape their work programme.

Our commitment to locality based working has been demonstrated over the course of the last 12 months in the broad range of projects that the Community Committees have funded, spending over £2 million in 2018/19!

Young people continue to play an important role in our communities. Their population is growing and they represent our city's future, so it's important that their voices are heard. For this reason each committee has engaged with young people, either through Youth Summits or other engagement activity, where we have learned about what matters to them most. This information has influenced the development of a large number of projects, which you can read more about on pages 16 to 17.

The Community Committees are committed to equality and diversity, as 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.

The Community Committees continue to act as the council's local champion to ensure that our communities continue to be strong and to create a fair and compassionate city.

The ongoing challenge for the council is how we better engage with our communities and ensure that all their voices are being heard. We want local people to be able to access opportunities which make a positive difference to their lives and those of others across our great city.



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 over 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 different cultures, languages, races and faiths.

This report covers the sixth 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.

The report looks at progress over the last 12 months and demonstrates how, by involving our residents in workshops based on local and city-wide priorities, it 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.

Each year all 10 Community Committees set out their local priorities, identifying 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 Community Committees on behalf of local communities.



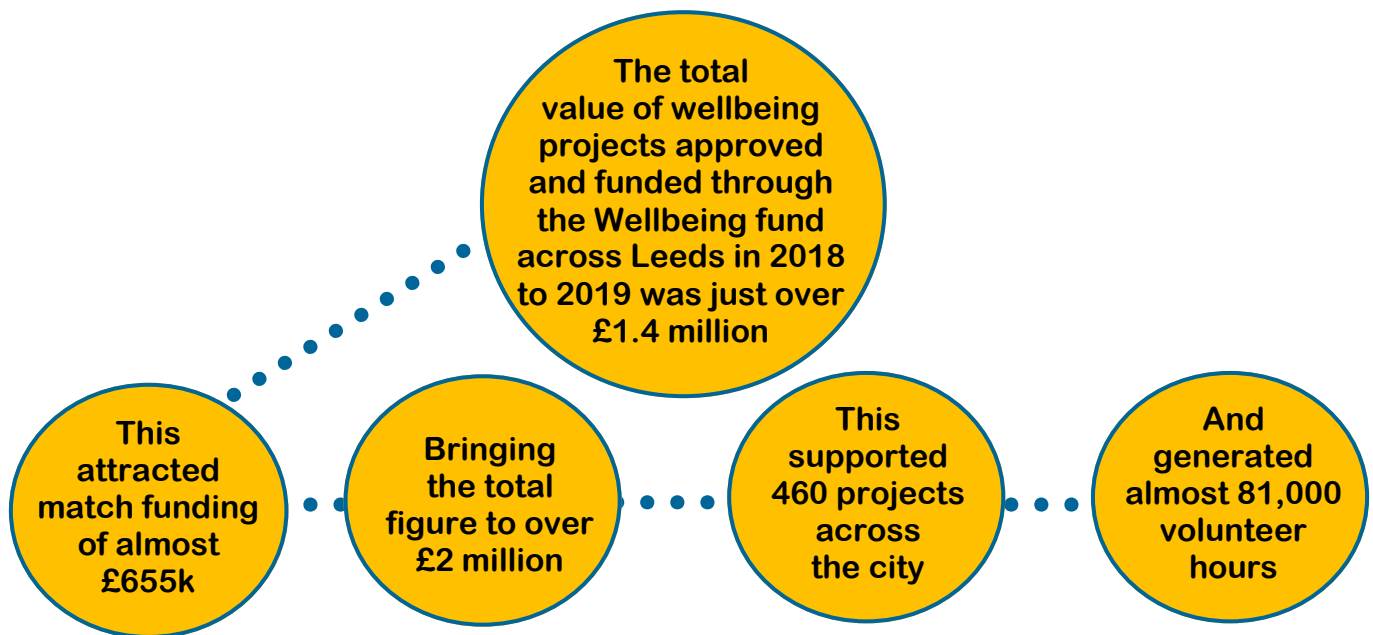
Spending money locally

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 address local priorities.

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

Money allocated to Community Committees supports 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 to make 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 2018 to 2019, almost £500,000 of youth activities funding was approved, which attracted a further £310,000 in match funding and over 10,000 volunteer hours.



Outer West Community Committee

In Bloom

The Outer West Community Committee awarded over £10,000 of their Wellbeing Fund to local 'In Bloom' projects, including Pudsey, Farsley, Calverley & New Farnley.

'In Bloom' groups encourage residents and businesses to work in partnership to make their neighbourhoods look more attractive and greener. Volunteers take pride in where they live, enhance the area with flower displays, create and maintain flower beds and also undertake litter picking.

The floral features were successfully provided and maintained throughout the summer by the Parks and Countryside Service in partnership with Pudsey, Calverley, Farsley & New Farnley 'In Bloom' groups.

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

The vibrant floral features enhance communities, improving the local surroundings and making them a more attractive place to live, work and visit.



Inner West Community Committee

Get Fit, Get Fed, Get Active Bramley

This was a six week programme of Healthy Holiday activities at two public green spaces in Bramley: Bramley Fall Park and Bramley Park.

The aim of these sessions was to provide fun and engaging activities for young people, along with some healthy lunch time food.

Various activities were delivered over a 6 week period including: tree spirits & bug hunting, teaching participants about the various different trees and bugs that are around them, in a fun and interactive activity session; nature walks & natural crafts, showing participants how interesting and enjoyable it can be to go on a nature walk; we're going on a bear hunt and create your own story book, a real life 'bear hunt' where participants had to sing the words from the book and re-create the different terrains that are mentioned in the book, such as 'long, wavy grass' and 'thick, gooey mud'; and sports, land art and den building.

There were also activities such as rounders, cricket, football and hula hoops, as well as making a large piece of artwork using twigs, leaves, branches and string.

At the end of the project there was a 'Go Wild 2018' celebration and also an end of summer holiday party. During October half term a Halloween special was held with pumpkin carving, autumn crafts and games.

A total of 112 families took part in the sessions, which were designed to be suitable for all ages and abilities.



Outer North West Community Committee

Yoga, Mind and Body

The Outer North West Community Committee funded a programme of weekly sessions of yoga during term time, in various school venues across the Aireborough and Horsforth Clusters.

Due to the size differences between the two Clusters, two sessions a week ran in Horsforth and four sessions a week in Aireborough.

It was known from research and from local intelligence that there is a need for easily accessible positive activities that address mental health in young people.

Yoga, which is becoming increasingly popular for young people is about balance, strength and harmony, whilst also promoting relaxation and an overall sense of well-being, so perfectly addresses this need.

Participating in groups such as yoga has a positive effect on mental health, which in turn affects attendance at school and ultimately achievement.

Young people who attended the sessions commented that “the relaxation was useful at home leading up to exams, as well as during yoga”.



In addition to the positive effect on mental wellbeing, the year 6 classes allowed pupils from different primary schools to visit the school they will transition to, on a weekly basis and mix with pupils from those other primary schools.

Some verbal feedback from the students included:

"Is it sleepy time yet?"; "I really enjoyed the Harry Potter yoga" and "The Christmas yoga poses were fun".



Inner North West Community Committee

Leave Leeds Tidy

Leave Leeds Tidy is a response to the challenges experienced in those residential areas with high numbers of students residing in them and the refuse created when many change house or leave for the summer.

During this 'student changeover' period, the Leave Leeds Tidy campaign expanded into Headingley, with 12 collection days over 4 collection points located at St Michael's Church, Co-Op Food, Leeds University Campus and Hyde Park Picture House.

The items from all collection points were sorted and weighed, with items going towards the free shop at All Hallows Church. The donations going to charity were collected by St Vincent's, SLATE and EMMAUS.

The campaigners set out promoting the campaign with leafleting around Hyde Park, Woodhouse and Headingley. In total they delivered over 4,200 leaflets to students and residents.

A Facebook video was used from the previous year and was shown before 121 screenings at Hyde Park Picture House.

Leave Leeds Tidy has had a hugely successful year, diverting 13.3 tonnes of household waste from landfill.

Almost 1,400 students were engaged with the project as well as many residents who commented that the streets of Hyde Park looked significantly cleaner.



Outer East Community Committee

Garforth Neighbourhood Elders Team

The large geographical size of the Outer East area and public transport issues have contributed to social isolation, particularly among elder people. This particular project has helped to address some of these issues.

Outer East Community Committee funding was used to help promote luncheon clubs in the area, with a number of new clubs being opened. These are all well attended and run by volunteers and co-ordinated by the Neighbourhood Elders Team.

Lunch clubs have brought older people in the community together to enjoy a hot nutritious meal and to socialise with friends. They have also been a constant support to the existing clubs.

Many groups have taken up the training programme opportunities, such as food hygiene, safeguarding and dementia awareness.

46 volunteers were recruited from the villages and they are overseen by the Lunch Club Co-ordinator. They assist at their nominated club and also are utilised as a contingency back-up to cover holidays and sickness.

Public Health have also been involved, providing knowledge and education through themed events covering topics including hydration awareness, nutrition and International Day of Older People.



There have been a series of themed events at Easter, Valentines, Halloween, as well as a number of outings. One client now attends regularly having not been out for a number of years.

Garforth Neighbourhood Elders Team also arranged a 'windmill' community disabled transport for a trip to Thompson Fish and Chip Restaurant in York, which was very popular and well received.

Inner South Community Committee

'We're Watching You' glow in the dark anti-dog fouling signs

Dog fouling continues to be a major problem in the Inner South area, particularly around parks and greenspaces, worsening throughout the darker winter months when irresponsible dog owners are more likely to not clean up after their pet.

Following discussions at both the Inner South Community Committee and Environmental Sub Group meetings, members asked for a hard hitting campaign to tackle the issue of dog fouling.

Officers had discussions with colleagues in the Cleaner Neighbourhood Team and they suggested the use of a 'We're Watching You' warning sign and campaign. This design had previously been used as a trial elsewhere and seemed to be effective.

Keep Britain Tidy glow in the dark signs were chosen as they are proven to reduce dog fouling by up to 75% in areas where they have been installed. The glow in the dark technology can be seen after dark and the eyes' design seems to watch you, so having a deterrent effect.

Members and the Cleaner Neighbourhood Team were asked to identify dog fouling hotspots, to enable signage to be placed at the locations which could also be followed up by delivering responsible dog ownership letters to residents in the affected area.



Wellbeing funding was used to purchase 80 signs, 40 for Hunslet & Riverside and 20 each for Beeston & Holbeck and Middleton Park wards, enabling maximum impact around areas such as pocket parks.

The success of the campaign continues to be monitored through the Inner South Environmental and Community Safety Sub Group.



Outer South Community Committee

Breeze Bake Off

The Outer South Community Committee funded a Breeze Bake Off, run by the Out of School Activities Team for children and young people from Ardsley, Robin Hood and Rothwell.

Transport was provided for the young people to travel from their local neighbourhood to a bespoke Junior Kitchen in Morley for a 7 week Bake Off Programme every Tuesday, from 6th November until 18th December 2018.

21 young people took part in total and each week the young people made and created different bakes and took on different challenges.

They learnt new skills, followed recipes and competed against each other for 'star baker'. The young people used their own initiative, worked together and supported each other.

Each week they made their own tea and had a light meal whilst their bakes were in the oven. Social and life skills were developed and the young people enjoyed the experience and had lots of fun.

The group was broadly reflective of the community and came from a range of social and ethnic backgrounds. The course really boosted the self-esteem and confidence of the young people that took part and they went away having developed new friendships.



At the end of the course a bake off final was held that was judged by local ward councillors from Ardsley, Robin Hood and Rothwell.



Outer North East Community Committee

Mountain Bike Park in Wetherby

Last year saw the official opening of a mountain bike park in Wetherby, built entirely by volunteers.

The Devil's Toenail Bike Park, made with over 500 tonnes of stone, transforms a triangle of wasteland, where two railway lines once split. Now, after almost a year of building, thousands of hours of people's free time and Leeds City Council support, over one kilometer of trails, a jump line and pump track are now ready for riding.

Volunteers from Wetherby Bike Trails have worked alongside Yorkshire volunteer trail builders and SingletrActon to make a facility for the community and in particular young people.

The bike park offers challenges for all abilities, with a blue section for basic riding, red for proficient mountain bikers and black for experts.

The trail is a loop around most of the site, including a rock garden made from recycled stone. The jump line is an opportunity to get some air and the pump track is a continuous loop of features to help maintain mountain bike riding skills.

Key sections reflect the area's history, such as 'Flying Ginger' for the jump line named after Wetherby's WW2 fighter ace Ginger Lacey and the central trail, 'The Mainline' recalls the days of steam. Watsons Meadow is named after the Watson family who owned much of the site and sold it to Wetherby Town Council for a nominal fee of one pound, so the project could happen.

The park was made possible with £32,000 from the Sport England Community Asset Fund and £5,000 from the Leeds Outer North East Community Committee, as well as key support from Wetherby Town Council.



Inner East Community Committee

Lark in the Park

The annual Lark in the Park event took place on 21st July 2018. The event in East End Park, which was celebrating its 10th year, had between 2,500 and 3,000 people in attendance throughout the day.

The event has grown from strength to strength over the years, thanks to a strong planning committee consisting of local third sector organisations, council services and volunteers.

The partnership approach included Zest, Richmond Hill Elderly Action, Housing Advisory Panel, Leeds Mencap, Leeds Let's Get Active, St Vincent's, Freedom Church, Richmond Hill Children's Centre, Project Hope, Youth Services and the local ward members. All of these organisations played a role in planning the event as well as bringing along stalls and volunteers on the day.

As well as the delivery of the event, a partnership approach is also evident in the funding of it, with the Inner East Community Committee, Inner East Housing Advisory Panel and Veolia all contributing towards the costs, as well as hours of volunteer time on the day.



All activities at the event were free of charge and the cost of food and snacks were kept to an affordable amount.

Satisfaction surveys carried out from the event had an average score of 9.3 out of a possible 10, showing that the event was very well received by those who attended.

The 10th anniversary of Lark in the Park marked the end of Community Unity's stewardship of the event, however not the end of the event itself. They left behind a strong legacy for a new partnership to continue to deliver the event in the future.



Inner North East Community Committee

Chapelton Citizens Advice and North Leeds Debt Forum Financial Education Project

The Inner North East Community Committee contributed £5,000 towards the delivery of financial education classes to children and young people at Carr Manor and Allerton Grange schools.

This project was delivered by Chapelton Citizens Advice and North Leeds Debt Forum Financial Education Project. This is the first time a project of this type has taken place in the city.

1,120 pupils received financial education on the cost of living, value for money and budgeting. The pupils were aged between 12 and 14, with a focus on years 7 & 8.



The nature of the schools model of operating a whole school mentoring system enabled delivery to the 11-16 age range and content was modified to make it relevant to the older groups.

Following the success of the lessons and the positive feedback gained from staff and pupils, it was agreed that there would be benefit in reaching out directly to parents to see if money saving could also be achieved for them.

A financial inclusion fair was held inviting all members from the North Leeds Debt Forum to attend. Carr Manor school agreed to host this during their parents evening/day during which 600 people attended.

Exhibitors at the event included Money Buddies, Credit Union, Uswitch, Foodbank, Citizens Advice Bureau, the Community Hub, Unity Housing and the Advanced Income Team.

Following delivery of the event, monitoring showed that parents attending saved in excess of £9,000 by offering switching advice. There was also 6 new credit union savings accounts opened with many other attendees taking away leaflets and advice.

The project has developed links with Allerton High School, with Carr Manor School requesting more specific work with years 10 and 11.

Last year's work finished off with a survey. 63 responses were completed, with 41% agreeing or strongly agreeing that they felt much more confident with money and had started to consider their finances.

The same percentage said that they had learned something new in terms of finance. 60% strongly agreed that savings were a good idea.

After the value for money session, 67% said they now look to save money on trainers by shopping around and 55% have gone on line to find discounts and vouchers.

Community Voice and Influence

Children and Young People

Leeds Community Youth Ambassadors

A group of young people age 8 to 17 years are members of the Leeds Community Youth Ambassadors Group supported by the Voice and Influence officers in the Communities Team. The group meet on a regular basis to support the voice of children and young people locally.

During the summer of 2018, 18 young people from the group took part planning and carrying out peer inspections. The peer inspections involved young people attending Youth Activity Fund, Well Being and Play Enabling Grant funded projects across the city, often with elected members. The inspectors spoke to the organisers and interviewed them in relation to the project.



Mystery shopping and consultation exercises were carried out with the young people taking part in the activities, asking if they were having fun and rating the activity. 44 projects were inspected throughout the summer and the findings were reported back to the organisations and elected members. The young people gained a Leeds Youth Award for their hard work and involvement, presented at an awards evening by the Lord Mayor of Leeds.

The Leeds Youth Ambassadors were nominated and shortlisted for the national Children Young People Now Awards for their contribution towards The Youth Volunteering and Social Action Award on behalf of their peer inspection work. The ambassadors were also nominated for Child Friendly Leeds Youth Group of the Year for their hard work and dedication for the city.



The Ambassadors have also worked with Leeds City Council Planning Department to establish the needs of children in the development of child friendly communities. The ambassadors presented to developers the needs of children, in the development of estates and communities representing the children and young people of Leeds.

Community Voice and Influence Children and Young People

Youth Summits

From October 2018 the Communities Team delivered 8 community youth summits across the city, for 8 Community Committees, with 600 children and young people taking part from 73 Leeds schools.

The Youth Service, school clusters and many organisations and partners worked with the Communities Team in supporting the youth summits. These focused on giving children and young people a voice in their community, alongside consultation on the spend of the Youth Activity Fund.



Consultation also took place within communities, including 16 schools, with 1,082 children and young people making recommendations for how they would like their Community Committee to spend money on youth activities.

In total 1,669 children and young people have had a say and made recommendations for the spend of the Youth Activity Fund in their area. This work was also supported by the Youth Service and their Youth Matters Group, who consulted young people at fun days and youth groups.

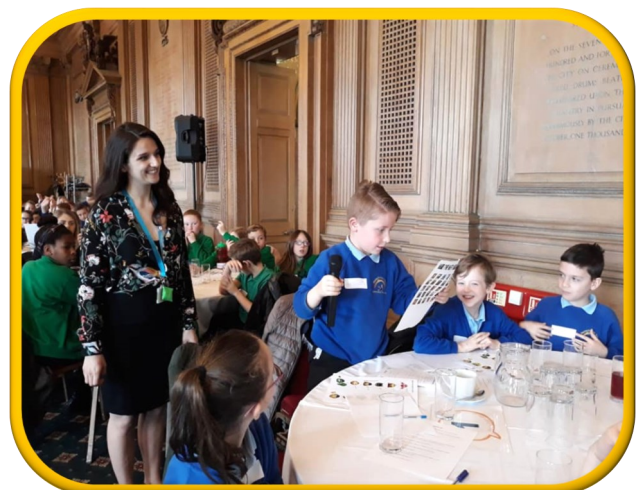


All of the consultation taking place fed into an online survey, with 3,800 responses providing a citywide picture for activities.

The top 5 activities that children would like to see funded are: cooking; fun days; arts & crafts; dance; and sport.

Children and young people would like these during the school holidays, held in the community, both inside and outside.

Parks and green space is highly valued and children and young people's key concerns are anti-social behaviour, knife crime and litter.



International Women's Day Celebration Events

All 10 Community Committees played an active role in promoting and funding the celebration events for the 2019 International Women's Day on Thursday 8th March.

International Women's Day is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women, whilst also marking a call to action for accelerating gender balance.

The theme of this year's International Women's Day was #BalanceforBetter and was the sixth consecutive year that we have held celebrations in Leeds.

Alongside the city centre event the 10 Community Committees funded, promoted and jointly organised a number community events in their own wards including, performances of poetry and dance, coffee mornings, craft activities, shared lunches that celebrate different cultures and promote diversity, exercise sessions, colour therapy sessions and an event that promoted inter-generational work.

The event in the Inner East was a particular success with local residents taking part in a wide range of empowering activities that included interactive displays, a secret cinema club screening of 'Moana' and a live performance from young girls from local community organisation, Getaway Girls.

Many local people took part in the activities that aimed to empower women and raise awareness of this year's theme. The event was run by staff from the Compton Centre, the Communities Team and local community organisations and volunteers.



Leeds City Council's Community Committees

How do Community Committees work?

There are 10 Community Committees in Leeds made up of local councillors that are elected to represent an area, from each of the 33 wards in the city. They hold 4 meetings a year in public 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.

How can you get involved?

- Attend a meeting
- Contact your local Councillor
- Ask a question or take part in a discussion through our social media pages

Meetings are held at different locations across the city, generally starting in the early evening and lasting a couple of hours. All meetings are open to the public and are usually themed around a particular topic.

Meetings are published on our website and can also be found on our social media pages (along with other local information and activities).

Need more information?

Please contact the Community Committee Support Team for a chat on 0113 3785808 or email at communitycommitteefunding@leeds.gov.uk



Leeds City Council's Community Committees

Inner East Community Committee

Burmantofts and Richmond Hill
Gipton and Harehills
Killingbeck and Seacroft

Councillor Arif Hussain
arif.hussain@leeds.gov.uk



Inner West Community Committee

Armley
Bramley and Stanningley
Kirkstall

Councillor Hannah Bithell
hannah.bithell@leeds.gov.uk



Outer South Community Committee

Ardsley and Robin Hood
Morley North
Morley South
Rothwell

Councillor Neil Dawson
neil.dawson@leeds.gov.uk



Outer North East Community Committee

Alwoodley
Harewood
Wetherby

Councillor Norma Harrington
norma.harrington@leeds.gov.uk



Leeds City Council's Community Committees

Inner South Community Committee

Beeston and Holbeck
Hunslet and Riverside
Middleton Park

Councillor Angela Gabriel
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Outer East Community Committee

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

Councillor Pauline Grahame
pauline.grahame@leeds.gov.uk



Inner North West Community Committee

Headingley and Hyde Park
Little London and Woodhouse
Weetwood

Councillor Javaid Akhtar
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Leeds City Council's Community Committees

Outer North West Community Committee

Adel and Wharfedale
Guiseley and Rawdon
Horsforth
Otley and Yeadon



Councillor Paul Wadsworth
paul.wadsworth@leeds.gov.uk

Outer West Community Committee

Calverley and Farsley
Farnley and Wortley
Pudsey



Councillor Amanda Carter
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Inner North East Community Committee

Chapel Allerton
Moortown
Roundhay



Councillor Mohammed Shahzad
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community committee](http://www.leeds.gov.uk/community-committee)**

**InnerEast
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**InnerSouth
OuterSouth
OuterNorthEast**