

## North Yorkshire Council Election 5 May 2022

### NY Climate Coalition survey of candidate views on key environmental issues

Candidate name	Party	Division
GERALD Ramsden	Labour	Northallerton South

Thanks for taking part in this survey. We hope you will see this as an opportunity to share your thoughts with voters on important climate and environmental issues. While we would ideally like candidates to answer the survey in full, we appreciate that some of the points are quite technical. Candidates come from many different backgrounds and may be drawn to local government because of a passion for other aspects of service delivery and community interest. Please feel free to focus on the questions you feel are most relevant to you. You can always add more information later if you wish.

Thanks for the invitation to respond to this. The manifesto contains most of what is policy, I will give answer to MY commitment to the re-greening of North Yorkshire.

<https://www.scarboroughandwhitbylabour.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/159/2022/03/Labour-Manifesto-May-2022-final.pdf>

1. The newly elected members of North Yorkshire Council (NYC) will be responsible for overseeing the county's net zero strategy. Would you support the provision of carbon literacy training (e.g. through the [Carbon Literacy Project](#)) as part of the induction programme for new councillors?

**Any training that helps councillors understand the issues surrounding is welcome. In the future much more policy will be decided that has the environment to the forefront. Understanding how the environment keys into the prosperity of the County is an important for the welfare of our constituents.**

2. Transport, agriculture and domestic energy are the biggest sources of greenhouse gas emissions in North Yorkshire. In your view, how should the new NY Council tackle these most effectively?

**Transport, and homes are the easier issues to address. Any new programmes for the county must be viewed with an eye on the future. For example , housing is of two groups, older housing that would benefit from more ecologically friendly insulation, and new housing which has to be built using eco friendly processes, as well as improved heating systems, and energy generation. For this to happen the antiquated departmental system of government would require a root and branch re-organisation so that all the issues around, housing, or transport, or schooling are dealt with under the same planning umbrella, rather than being split between two or three separate departments.**

3. Many politicians support net zero commitments, but some argue that "green" measures to protect the environment and climate are too expensive, will cost jobs and need to be delayed. Where do you stand on this?

**If climate change is not addressed now, there will be no jobs or growth. Change is always a painful process, but you now have to recognise the changes we make now are for our grandchildren, and their children. Too many politicians look only to the next election cycle, a very short-sighted process in my view. All politicians agree what needs to be done to address climate change, but differ on their approaches.**

4. As we seek more energy independence nationally, what role do you see in our region for onshore wind, solar farms and fracking?

**Fracking is a non-starter, it is too environmentally dangerous. Wind and solar are today's technology and whilst they help towards a greener future will not be a panacea for the UK. That technology has yet to be developed.**

5. How could the future NYC use its powers under the planning system to promote sustainable development? Should there be a presumption against high-carbon development proposals in NYC's planning policies?

**There is a danger that the total UK picture is ignored in favour of local schemes. First of all the environment is a global issue and needs to be dealt with in this way. The future Authority can use its powers to form partnerships with the adjacent areas, where greater benefits may be seen, rather than smaller individual local schemes, which whilst being ecologically carbon negative do not have the scale.**

6. There are plans (in the [NY Local Enterprise Partnership strategy](#)) to double the current area of woodland in the region. Would you actively support this target?

**The partnership needs to be with all the partners , including developers, public services and the new Authority.**

7. Will you sign the UK Divest Pledge: "If elected, I pledge to support the council divesting its pension fund out of fossil fuels and redirecting those amounts into sustainable investments and the local economy over an appropriate time-scale. I promise to do everything in my power to make sure this happens within the first year of my term in office."

**Yes**

8. Would you support net zero measures as a spending priority for the new council?

**Yes**

9. Most districts/boroughs in NY and around 75% across the UK have declared a climate emergency. In your view, should the new NYC adopt a similar motion to underpin its decarbonisation and planning policies?

**Motions are not the be all and end all of underpinning policies. Actions speak louder than words, but motions give voice to the constituents.**

10. Is there anything else you'd like to add on your environmental or climate views?

For example, what would your future priorities be in your division and more widely in North Yorkshire? Do you have any comments on more technical matters such as hydrogen as a fuel, Drax, grid capacity, energy-efficiency, retrofitting, peatland conservation, plastic pollution, waste, circular economy, nature recovery or the government's new energy security strategy?

**The Environment does not exist on its own, it is an integral part of everything humanity does, and needs to do to make this planet viable for everything that lives upon it. There is no Planet b. The way our lives are lived will have to change to give our grandchildren a chance of life without want. I do not exclude any ideas and each will be examined on their own merit, not individually but as the complete package with other related measures.**