

North Yorkshire Council Election 5 May 2022

NY Climate Coalition survey of candidate views on key environmental issues

Candidate name	Party	Division
Tina Davy	Labour	Cayton

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.

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?

Yes

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?

Decarbonise transport- why not have solar power/dynamo technology in/on vehicles to generate energy directly? Reduce meat consumption (I have been vegetarian for over 40 years) and reform land use to minimise greenhouse gas release and maximise uptake. Increase the use of micro-generation of energy, such as solar panels and other renewable energy technologies in/on the home, to make homes cheaper to run and sustainable.

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?

Investment in "green" measures will create jobs and potentially improve the quality of life for all, for example by reducing air pollution. Fossil fuel industries receive enormous subsidies, that money could be diverted to be invested in renewables. As the latest UNIPCC Report makes clear we do not have the time left to delay tackling the Climate Emergency.

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

I am opposed to fracking. I would rather see solar panels/other micro-generation on buildings, where appropriate, than solar farms, depending on the nature and location of the "farm". When I was a Scarborough Borough Councillor (2013-15) I suggested that the Council cover its open-air car parks with solar panels, so I would be ok with that kind of "farm", depending on the context/location and National Park regulations.

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?

It should ensure that sustainable development is integral to any re-development/new-build, for example incorporating rainfall capture and usage and re-use of waste water within the home as standard, along with micro-generation of energy. Yes, there should be a presumption against high-carbon development.

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?

Yes.

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?

Depends on the context: I would prefer a "zero emissions" presumption on spending. We cannot allow "net zero" to enable some emitters to continue "business as usual".

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?

Yes.

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?

Energy efficiency and retrofitting should be part of a Green New Deal and could provide skilled and satisfying employment as well as more comfortable and cheaper to run homes and other types of

property. I feel that Drax could be a beacon of renewable energy technology, with the cooling towers covered in solar panels for example, but I do not feel that importing and burning wood pellets is the optimal use of its facilities.

I support reform of the Grid to support local power generation, and local control. I do not support investment in new nuclear power in the pursuit of energy security as it is very expensive to build and maintain, takes far too long to complete, and it is very expensive to deal with the hazardous waste.

I feel that we have a duty to clean up pollution and develop a circular economy where “waste” is re-used so that we can address bio-diversity loss and protect and enhance the environment for ourselves and other species. I am not opposed to the development of new technologies for example to generate power, but measures taken need to be sustainable and implemented within an Earth Systems approach, involving all stakeholders.