

North Yorkshire Council Election 5 May 2022

NY Climate Coalition survey of candidate views on key environmental issues

Candidate name	Party	Division
Anne Mannix	Labour and Cooperative	Hutton Rudby and Northallerton

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?

Of course. There are many confusing ideas and misconceptions about carbon and the role it plays in global warming. We could all do with the training. This should be a priority because carbon reduction feeds into such a wide range of decisions that councillors will need to make. Carbon reduction should be an item on every agenda of every meeting.

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?

The council should look at retro fitting all the buildings under its ownership to minimise energy usage. Local farmers and agriculturists should be involved in consultations on the best ways to reduce carbon and the council should look at ways to facilitate this.

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?

Not implementing green measures is potentially catastrophic, more expense and job losses may be the price we have to pay to help alleviate climate change, unpopular as this may be. However, investing in green technologies will both create jobs and increase our energy security.

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

I won't repeat the case against fracking here but it is not an option as far as I am concerned.

I appreciate that there are some concerns over wildlife and solar farms and wind turbines and these need to be considered, however we do need them.

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?

Yes. Low carbon should be a priority when considering any development proposals. Once developers are aware of this stipulation they will be competing to get the lowest carbon footprint for their projects.

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. However it needs to be native trees, appropriate to our area and resources must be put aside to husband the trees to maturity. It is too easy to say we have planted 10,000 trees and think that's the job done.

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."

I feel I have insufficient financial knowledge to judge what would be appropriate investments appropriate to the pension fund, but I would support experts in this field to find ways of diverting the fund away from fossil fuels.

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

Yes, but also to involve communities so they support this spending and they can feed in their own suggestions.

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?

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?

Could write so much, however, my priorities are looking at rural food poverty and access to food banks from outlying communities with no transport links.

From our manifesto Pursue the principle of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle at every opportunity, and support the principles of the circular economy.

Establish local resources-recovery parks which re-use and repair waste materials, which in turn creates green jobs and provide for more items to be recycled at recycling centres

Finally, thanks for this survey, it helps to focus concern into actual measures.