

North Yorkshire Council Election 5 May 2022

NY Climate Coalition survey of candidate views on key environmental issues

Candidate name	Party	Division
Mike Jordan	Con	South Selby

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?

Not sure as do not know what that involves.

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?

In a coordinated manner. If you ask staff to work from home you have thousands of homes heated during the day on top of heating the council offices!!! You might make the council look good from a transport view but you need to look at the whole of the problem.

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?

I need to see the evidence. In 1815 there was an eruption in Indonesia which meant the EU and North America never saw a summer in 1816 and they had 2 severe winters. Nature can have a massive impact.

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

An important role but more inclined to do off-shore wind. We have no manufacturers for onshore wind so it will have a negative impact on the economy for no good reason.

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?

That would mean no more big homes except for the very rich and it doesn't tackle the main issue of heating the homes we already have. That is where the focus needs to be.

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."

No. The role of the pension fund is to make as much profit as it can for its members in order to sustain them.

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

Yes, as said, provided it is done in a coordinated way.

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?

It needs to be realistic in its approach.

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?

Drax is in my division and is continually developing new ways of energy efficiency. It is the backbone for stabilising the entire countrys network as wind farms and solar farms cannot provide 3,000 cycles/sec etc or the large voltages involved.

We also need nuclear power and fast. There are companies making small plants for such as submarines. One of them can power a town. So we need to look at installing them.

My biggest concern is the cost of making solar farms, wind farms etc which doesn't seem to be a concern. I have done a report in the past. We need 20 strategic power plants in this country run by nuclear, solar, wind and biomass. Instead we have tiny suppliers all over the land with cables running here there and everywhere all doing a bit, plus some from abroad, all doing different rates and voltages. It's a mess in my view. I have done a separate report some years back about the issue of losing power and presented it to the powers that be. No interest as it was a long term affair. We are now suffering because of the lack of vision. I still have that report.