

North Yorkshire Council Election 5 May 2022

NY Climate Coalition survey of candidate views on key environmental issues

Candidate name	Party	Division
Eric Broadbent	Labour	Northstead

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?

Carbon Literacy training in my opinion is an essential requirement for Councillors so they can pass the message onto their 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?

**All public transport must be electric by 2030, as well as private and industrial vehicles.
My own place of work Plaxtons Scarborough produces one electric double decker per day, a fantastic achievement.
The use of bicycles must also be paramount.**

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?

We must invest in new green technologies that will increase employment and not reduce it.

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

Our Manifesto pledge says we will ban gas and oil fracking and support wind solar power on shore and offshore.

It takes 20 years to build a nuclear plant and only 2 months to erect an onshore windmill, as long as fauna and flora are protected.

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?

As a County Planning Member I have always supported new policies that invest and promote energy efficiency and help to recycle all materials.

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?

I have always supported Woodlands and our beautiful Countryside, and always said that for every tree that is chopped down, three must be planted to save our planet.

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 will gladly sign the UK Divest Pledge if elected this May to support my Council and reduce the need for fossil fuels.

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

Yes of course, net zero measures underpin all the work that we need to achieve.

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?

I would if elected put forward a motion to my Council that ensures we will support our ambitions with also the commitment to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.

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?