

## North Yorkshire Council Election 5 May 2022

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

Candidate name	Party	Division
Margaret Smith	Labour	Harrogate Oatlands and Pannal

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?

Campaign to ensure that environmental impact is taken into account in all decisions made by NYCC.

All public transport vehicles electric by 2030

All NYCC vehicles to be electric by 2030

Create a good network of electric charging points in both urban and rural areas

Consult with communities to rollout 20 mph speed limit zones in all public areas so reducing pollution especially but not exclusively from diesel vehicles

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 should be investing in new green technologies.

New jobs will be generated in:

- Local renewable energy generation
- heat pump installation and retrofitting insulation
- Carbon capture

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

Support renewable wind solar biomass and water  
Encourage community ownership  
Co-operative and community procurement

Totally oppose Fracking and ban gas and oil from fracking

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?

We would address this in the local plans, requiring new developments to be

- energy efficient
- conserve water

Build process to adopt principles of the circular economy

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: - our manifesto pledges to develop an ethical investment strategy which disinvests in high carbon industries

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?

Absolutely

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 power station, grid capacity, energy-efficiency, retrofitting, peatland conservation, plastic pollution, waste, circular economy, nature recovery or the government's new energy security strategy?

Support hydrogen as fuel.

As indicated above we support investment in energy efficient homes and in retrofitting older buildings.

Peatland conservation is important as well as for numerous facts such as, but not exclusively carbon storage .