

North Yorkshire Council Election 5 May 2022

NY Climate Coalition survey of candidate views on key environmental issues

Candidate name	Party	Division
Kevin Foster	Green Party	Hipswell & Colburn

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?

I have completed this training with Richmond District Council but would like to keep up to date with this training.

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?

Should change to carbon free as soon as possible.

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 believe that going green will bring new jobs. There may be costs in the short term, but in the long term it will be cost-effective.

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

Totally opposed to fracking . I support solar farms and onshore wind farms when built in appropriate places.

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?

To lobby the government for all new houses to have solar panels, heat pumps and EV charging points and have insulation to the highest standard.

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 I have supported the planting of all new trees in Richmondshire.

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 I am very happy to do this.

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

Yes I am very happy to do this. All council departments should do this.

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 I took the emergency climate motion to Richmond District Council in 2019 at the earliest opportunity after being elected.

10. Is there anything else you'd like to add on your environmental or climate views?

Yes. We really need to get the government to publish their waste strategy so the new council can organize the most cost-effective and environmentally friendly way to deal with all waste and improve the way we recycle. We need to improve our transport and make it reliable and electric.

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?

I have provided answers to the questions. It would take me a long time to answer what my future priorities are in general. I would like to see the council provide all services to a better standard than we have at present and to make environmental issues a high priority when taking important decisions.