

North Yorkshire Council Election 5 May 2022

NY Climate Coalition survey of candidate views on key environmental issues

Candidate name	Party	Division
Rich Maw	Labour	Weaponness & Ramshill

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?

In order to meet the net zero strategy, all councillors must understand where the issues lie and how to deliver policy with this a priority. Therefore I believe it to be an essential part of the induction programme for new councillors to receive carbon literacy 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?

In just a few short years, all public transport must be electric. I believe that there has to be a priority on investment of infrastructure such as charging stations in public car parks. All council owned vehicles (that are able) must be brought over to electric power well before 2030 in order to set example. A focus on introducing safer roads for cyclists too.

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?

Investing in green technologies will protect the environment, deliver increased employment and should be a priority.

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

I am vehemently against fracking. For too long there have been government obstacles placed in front of onshore wind farms. I support the principle of generating our own electricity via renewables and investment in battery storage.

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?

I would be in favour of supporting policy decisions which favour low carbon development proposals. As a current planning committee member I am frustrated at how government policy is lacking in this area. New builds should have much stricter, carbon friendly regulations (such as improved insulation and the readiness for heat pumps etc).

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?

This is a very welcome plan to which I fully support. I also believe we can promote community orchards and as Chair of Allotments on SBC, I would like to see more community growing space.

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 happily sign the UK Divest Pledge to support the council divesting its pension fund out of fossil fuels.

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

It is time to get serious about net zero. Achieving net zero must be a priority in all spending decisions for the new council.

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 readily vote for such a motion as I did when the Labour Group proposed similar at the beginning of our administration on SBC. In fact I would be happy to propose a Climate Emergency motion myself if elected. This ensures that future policy decisions are made with our climate concerns in mind.

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?

I should like to see the introduction of Stewardship Strips on council owned land both within the ward I currently represent (and hope to following the election) and beyond. These hedgerows provide a haven for wildlife and present a natural, green border. I would also like to encourage the community asset transfer of areas of council owned land in order that community orchards and growing spaces may be introduced. I shall continue to fight against fracking in North Yorkshire and for the retrofitting of insulation in people's homes. It is my view that we cannot keep taking from this wonderful world we live in, there are better ways to judge our wealth than by GDP alone.

Rich Maw