

**Mayoral Area:** West Yorkshire

**Party:** Green

**Candidate name:** Andrew Cooper

**Twitter:** @clrandrewcooper

**1. If elected, how will you champion social workers in your area?**

*Yes. Social workers are on the frontline of helping some of our most vulnerable people. Their role is vital. Politicians should be supportive of social workers and not disappear when the going gets tough*

**2. Directly-elected Mayors can use their position to effectively champion national issues on behalf of their constituents. If elected, will you use your influence to raise issues relating to social work with national Government?**

*Though the Mayor has no direct power over social work they are the political representative of a whole region so what they say matters and yes I would want to use my influence with central government to support social work.*

**3. If elected, will you (when suitable) make representations for the investment in social work recruitment, education, and retention initiatives?**

*Yes and I would seek the views of professionals on when I could be most helpful.*

**4. If elected, will you promote equality and diversity in your area?**

*Yes this a core element of my political beliefs.*

**5. If elected, will you seek to tackle poverty and the causes of poverty in your area?**

*Yes and I will seek a trial for a Universal Basic Income in West Yorkshire*

**6. If elected, will you seek to tackle homelessness and the causes of homelessness in your area?**

*Yes and I would seek a suspension of the Right to Buy to protect the social housing stock. Social housing is a social good.*

**7. Please write no more than 300 words on what you would like our members to know about your candidacy.**

I am a Kirklees Green Party Councillor and have been for the last 22 years. I have been elected and re-elected 6 times. During that time I have gained a wealth of experience as a Cabinet Member, Scrutiny Panel Chair and as a Leader of the Green Party Group. We have held balance of power and so have managed to implement a number of Green Party policies including the UK's first universally free insulation scheme and what is effectively a ban on Fracking in our Local Plan.

I have lead on the Green Party response to the West Yorkshire Combined Authority Devolution Consultation writing, collating and integrating responses from members. The response highlighted the lack of focus on climate change, the lack of accountability of the proposed Elected Mayor and the threat to local democracy posed by the Mayoral Combined Authority. The full response can be viewed here. <https://clrandrewcooper.blogspot.com/2020/07/yorkshire-and-humber-green-party.html>

**In my Campaign to be the first Green Mayor of West Yorkshire I will focus on Jobs, Homes and Climate Change**