

**Candidate Survey Scoring for Gorton and Denton by-election 2026 – Friends of the Earth**

	<b>Conservative Candidate</b>	<b>Greens Candidate</b>	<b>Labour</b>	<b>Lib Dems</b>	<b>Reform UK</b>
<b>Do you support the legally binding targets in the Climate Change Act?</b>	<p>0 – <u>Local Conservative branch</u> says “Charlotte supports the repeal of the Climate Change Act”,</p> <p>Mirrors national policy to <u>scrap Climate Change Act and with it the 2050 target.</u></p> <p><u>Claim to still support climate action</u> but have also pledged to scrap several important measures <u>including</u> the EV mandate, and to maximise oil and gas extraction.</p>	<p>3 – Response from candidate that “We believe in stronger targets and faster and earlier emissions reductions than those set out in the Act and would push the government to transition to a zero-carbon society by 2040” reiterates the 2024 manifesto commitment to reach net zero <u>more than a decade ahead of 2050.</u> The party has set out a set of measures it would take to do this although it does not set out detailed calculations to show how their ambitious target will be met.</p>	<p>3 – and has <u>comprehensive plan to meet them (although not without faults)</u></p>	<p>3 – their policy paper <u>For People, For Planet</u> agreed in Autumn 2025 states “Liberal Democrats fully support the framework set in law by the Climate Change Act” and lays out policies they would introduce if elected.</p>	<p>0 – its <u>2024 manifesto</u> and more <u>recent list of policies</u> say they will “scrap net zero”</p>
<b>Do you support higher taxes on polluters, including the super-rich, to pay for action to protect the climate and nature?</b>	<p>0 - No indication of support and Kemi Badenoch has indicated that she would <u>scrap the existing Excess Profits Tax on oil and gas companies.</u></p>	<p>3 – Response from candidate that “The Green Party has been a consistent voice for wealth taxes, windfall taxes on fossil fuel companies, and a carbon tax to reduce the emissions of polluting industries. Ordinary people are paying the</p>	<p>2 – increased and extended the <u>Energy Profits Levy</u> on North Sea oil &amp; gas, is <u>extending scope of higher rate of Air Passenger Duty on private jets</u> from April 1<sup>st</sup> and increased <u>first year Vehicle Excise Duty Rates</u> for more polluting</p>	<p>3 – <u>For People, For Planet</u> calls for frequent flier tax and on private jets and supports the windfall tax on fossil fuel extraction. The party <u>manifesto</u> also called for reforms to the Capital Gains Tax, higher Digital Services tax and taxing of the banks.</p>	<p>0 - No policy to tax polluters, instead has said that it will <u>scrap the Energy Profits Levy</u> (on excess profits of the oil and gas companies) and in <u>2024 manifesto</u> commits to taxing renewable energy.</p>

		<p>price of climate collapse, and this needs to change”</p> <p><u>2024 manifesto</u> commits to introduce a carbon tax on all fossil fuel imports and domestic extraction, based on greenhouse gas emissions produced when fuel is burned. Also commits to a Wealth Tax of 1% annually on assets above £10 million and of 2% on assets above £1bn.</p>	<p>cars. But has resisted calls for Wealth taxes or polluter pays taxes such as frequent fliers tax.</p>		
<p><b>What steps will you take to reduce energy bills for local residents in Gorton and Denton?</b></p>	<p>0 - <u>Local Conservative branch</u> says that candidate supports “axing the Carbon Tax and scrapping the Labour Govt’s old renewable subsidies, to save the residents of Gorton &amp; Denton money on their household bill”</p> <p>Mirrors national party claims that its <u>Cheap Power Plan</u> will cut bills but their proposals are unclear or don’t stand-up to scrutiny (for example, cutting carbon costs which are required as</p>	<p>3 – Response from candidate points to <u>manifesto commitments</u> saying that “ The cheapest bill is the one you don’t have to pay. This is why in our 2024 manifesto we pledged £29bn over five years to insulate homes to EPC B standard or above, as part of a ten-year programme - £12bn to retrofit social housing and £17bn as grants to retrofit privately owned homes to a similar standard This is key to reducing energy bills and</p>	<p>2- It is fast tracking development of renewables, including with <u>record auctions</u>, which will reduce the amount of time high cost gas sets the energy price. It is <u>removing some policy costs of energy bills</u>. And it’s <u>Warm Homes Plan</u> is increasing investment into insulation and requiring landlords to upgrade homes. Further spending on insulation and further action on policy costs is still needed though.</p>	<p>3 – For People, For Planet commits to ensuring all UK homes meet at least a minimum energy performance standard over 15 years, “free home energy improvements ... – for low-income households” and the introduction of “a social tariff to provide further targeted energy discounts for vulnerable households, including those on low incomes and households in receipt of Personal Independence Payments.”</p>	<p>0 – the only way in which it says it will reduce energy bills is by “<u>scrapping net zero</u>” <u>which includes scrapping support for renewable energy although as these are legally-binding contracts they can’t be scrapped. They are also opposed to renewable energy developments, which is the cheapest way to produce electricity</u>. They’ve said they want to <u>fast-track nuclear energy</u> which is much more expensive than renewables. Overall</p>

	<p>part of the UK-EU Trade Deal). They speak out against cheap renewables, propose more expensive nuclear power, and back gas which is the primary reason bills are high.</p> <p><i>See note 1</i></p>	<p>creating healthier and more comfortable homes. We also want to end electricity prices being set by gas prices, which is burning a hole in people's pockets. Scrapping this unfair rule could save households up to £250 a year. Finally, we need to turbocharge the transition away from expensive oil and gas towards renewables – with a particular focus on community owned energy generation allowing communities and households to have a financial stake in electricity generation”.</p> <p>Manifesto also commits to all new homes to be Passivhaus equivalent.</p> <p><u>Commitments to increase in renewables and community energy sources will reduce the amount of time high cost gas sets the energy price.</u></p>			<p>energy bills are more likely to rise than fall with Reform UK.</p> <p><i>See note 1</i></p>
<b>What will you do to protect local residents</b>	<p>1 - 2024 manifesto pledged £5.6 billion capital funding for flood defences and to support</p>	<p>3 – Candidate response says that “In our Spending Review submission to</p>	<p>2 - It has a climate plan and commitment to Climate Change Act targets which will</p>	<p>3 - For People, For Planet states they will increase funding for the Environment Agency,</p>	<p>0 – Reform UK councils have scrapped climate change actions <u>including on flood prevention</u></p>

<p><b>from the impacts of climate change?</b></p>	<p><i>communities and farmers affected by flooding via Flood Recovery funding. Also committed to tree planting and peatland restoration via Nature for Climate funding though nowhere near ambitious enough.</i></p> <p>The National Adaptation Plan produced by the last Conservative government <u>was very poor and is subject to a legal challenge.</u></p>	<p>government in 2025 we called for an additional £7 billion annually to be invested in making the changes we need to face the impact of climate change on all our lives – from flood defences to future-proofing homes and buildings” Also pointed to importance of local led action “We also believe that local councils should have the powers and resources to lead adaptation work – including managing flood risk, nature-based solutions – such as tree planting and wetlands management – and climate-resilient planning. National strategies must ensure adaptation measures are embedded across government departments and local people must have a voice in shaping adaptation strategies”.</p> <p>2024 manifesto committed to taking a nature-based solutions approach to the</p>	<p>contribute to global efforts to curb the emissions that increasing climate extremes. It <u>has increased flood defence spending.</u> But more is needed on both extreme heat and flooding.</p>	<p>would use nature-based solutions, with support for farmers, as well as hard defences, and invest in flood alleviation. They pledge to extend the discounted flood insurance scheme for at risk households. They have a range of policies on extreme heat, including improved regulation around heat conditions in schools, hospitals and care homes.</p>	<p>Although <u>it has said it will work on flood defence</u> to protect homes and it pledges to plant more trees. It has not outlined whether it would increase, decrease or keep flood spending the same as now. But by scrapping climate action it will make future flooding worse.</p>
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<b>What action will you take to clean up our polluted air in Gorton &amp; Denton?</b>	<p>0 – In 2024 committed to <u>capping bus fares and ensuring safe walking routes</u> to school. But also to reverse expansion of London’s ULEZ, ban Mayors and to preventing local authorities from using road pricing and introduce a ‘right to challenge’ 20mph zones and Low Traffic Neighbourhoods all of which have been shown to help improve air quality.</p> <p><u>Local branch says of the candidate</u> “Charlotte supports a reversal of the ban on petrol and diesel cars. The next Conservative Government will scrap the mandate on manufacturers forcing them to produce a</p>	<p>3 –Candidate response says that “The Green Party supports stricter limits on air pollution aligned with health-based guidelines by the WHO. We want to see enshrined in law the legal right to breathe clean air as a human right. Greens have long championed “Ella’s Law,” to set clear legal duties on government to clean up its act. Our 2024 manifesto called for an additional £19bn investment over five years to improve public transport and invest in new cycleways and footpaths, including the reallocation of funding earmarked for road building; we recently announced a policy of free buses for all those under 22. We broadly</p>	<p>2- When it was elected it reintroduced the 2030 timetable on EVs, continued to support the roll-out of EV chargers and introduced a <u>new discount scheme</u>. It has enabled Manchester and other places to regulate buses, which is making a significant difference. And it setting new standards for <u>wood burning stoves</u>. It does not support WHO standards. And it is shying away from using Low Traffic Neighbourhoods or Clean Air Zones in problematic areas.</p>	<p>3 – strongly supportive of policies to transition to electric vehicles, including with a faster deadline for buses. Calling for reduced fairer costs for public charging to make it a fairer option for those without a driveway (including reduced VAT). Their 2024 Manifesto said they would “Pass a Clean Air Act, based on World Health Organization guidelines, enforced by a new Air Quality Agency.” Their manifesto promised cheaper bus fares (£2 cap, a third off bus and tram fares 19- to 25-year-olds).</p>	<p>0 - no indication of support for WHO guidelines. It has <u>policies to scrap ULEZ, Clean Air Zones and Low Traffic Neighbourhoods as well as the legal requirement to transition to electric vehicles</u> which is essential to cutting air pollution.</p> <p>It says it will improve rail links in some parts of the UK but will also build more roads so overall will make the situation worse.</p>

	<p>growing number of electric vehicles and end Labour's 2030 ban on petrol and diesel cars”</p> <p><u>Mirrors national party statements</u> against the rapid transition to electric vehicles, which will make the biggest difference to air quality.</p>	<p>support the aims of ULEZ type schemes but believe there are smarter, fairer ways to charge drivers based on factors such as vehicle emissions, distance travelled, location and time of day. We also want to work with local people to reimagine how we use streets in residential areas to reduce traffic and open them up for use by the community. We support Active Travel England's objective for 50% of trips in England's towns and cities to be walked, wheeled or cycled by 2030”.</p> <p>Manifesto also shows the party will <a href="https://greenparty.org.uk/app/uploads/2024/06/Green-Party-2024-General-Election-Manifesto-Long-version-with-cover.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com">https://greenparty.org.uk/app/uploads/2024/06/Green-Party-2024-General-Election-Manifesto-Long-version-with-cover.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com</a> support the conversion to EVs and roll out of chargers.</p>			
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<p><b>Do you support a full arms embargo and expanded sanctions on Israel?</b></p> <p>We also had 1 question on Palestine as Friends of the Earth, like many others, have been concerned about the human and environmental impact of the conflict.</p>	<p>0 - Policy is to “<u>Back Israel’s right to defend itself from terrorism</u>” and Kemi Badenoch has criticised Labour for suspending some arms exports.</p>	<p>3 – Response from candidate says “In 2024, the Green Party was the first major political party to label the genocide in Gaza a genocide, and we have consistently called for a halt to all arms sales to and military cooperation with the Israeli Government. We support a ban of imports from illegal Israeli settlements in Palestine; independent investigations into war crimes, and the imposition of sanctions on those Israeli Government officials responsible for genocide including Benjamin Netanyahu. We recognise the Israeli government as an “apartheid” state, as defined by international treaties such as the International Convention on Apartheid (1973) and Rome Statute (1998), and we endorse the</p>	<p>1 – Labour has <u>condemned some of the actions of the Israeli government</u> and settlers, has suspended <u>some arms sales</u> (although reports suggest <u>overall sales have increased</u>), and <u>sanctioned Ministers</u> and <u>some settlers</u>. It has also announced the suspension of free trade agreement negotiations with Israel.</p>	<p>3 - <u>The Liberal democrats have spoken out strongly on Gaza</u>, including a halt to all arms sales and sanctions on politicians. They also call for trade with illegal settlements to be stopped and for the suspension of the 2030 roadmap for UK-Israel bilateral relations, which encompasses trade agreement negotiations.</p>	<p>0 - No official party policy but party leader Nigel Farage has said he <u>would not block any weapons exports to Israel</u> if Reform UK came to power.</p>

		<p>Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions campaign, which includes ending favourable trade terms with Israel until the rights of Palestinians are upheld”.</p> <p><u>2024 manifesto also confirms</u> commitment to an end to arms sales to Israel and An urgent international effort to end the illegal occupation of Palestinian land. <u>Has also called for</u> withdrawing all public money from funds with investments in Israel and suspending beneficial trade arrangements with the country</p>			
TOTAL - Environmental measures only	<b>1</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>
Total, including action on Gaza and the West Bank	<b>1</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>0</b>

### Notes

1. The Conservatives and Reform UK have very similar policies when it comes to energy bills.

Both have spoken out against renewables, claiming they are expensive even though [they are cheaper than new gas-fired power plants](#). They have said they want a greater focus on nuclear power, which is a very expensive method for producing electricity ([Hinkley C is guaranteed £130+ for a MWh](#) compared [to less than £100 for new offshore wind projects](#) and [less than £50 for solar farms](#)). They support the use of gas, which they want to increase UK production of.

They have committed to removing carbon taxes from energy bills, of which there are two.

- the [Carbon Price Support](#), which costs householders £10 a year,
- The Emissions Trading Scheme for gas-fired power plants. The cost of this fluctuates and costs to householders depends on proportion of electricity which comes from gas. The total carbon tax paid by the industry is around £1.4 billion - 26 Million tonnes of CO2 emissions in 2024 and a current carbon price of £55 – of which around £0.6 billion would fall on householders, at roughly £20 a year with the rest falling on business and industry. This £1.4 million goes to the Treasury.

There are also [renewable energy support costs](#). These are.

- The remainder of the Renewables Obligation which will be around £30 per year from April 1<sup>st</sup> (the government removed 75% of these costs in the 2025 Autumn Budget).
- Feed in Tariff at £20 per year.
- A Green Gas Levy of £3 per year.
- The Contracts for Difference scheme at £29 per year.

A Conservative or Reform UK Government could easily choose to take renewable energy support costs from energy bills and instead fund them through general taxation. They cannot simply scrap these as they are legally-binding contracts. They have not been clear that they will pay these through general taxation, so until they do it is unclear if they will remove these costs from bills.

It would require EU agreement for a government to scrap Emissions Trading Scheme costs on gas-fired power plants because [Article 392](#) of the UK-EU Trade Deal requires the UK to have an effective carbon-price system covering greenhouse gas emissions from electricity generation, etc. Getting such an agreement is highly unlikely, at least not without opening up a trade dispute with the EU that could potentially lead to UK exporters facing tariffs. It is likely they could get rid of the Carbon Price Support more easily.

2. The Green Party responded to our survey on 16 February. The other parties have been scored based on the national party's published policies and statements. All parties were contacted multiple times, including sending our draft scoring and providing an opportunity for the party to provide additional material to boost their scores.