

Questionnaire for Invercargill city council

Mayoral and Councillor Candidates

Chambers of Commerce southland believe the calibre of the local government candidates is an important issue in the coming local election. We set to identify candidates who support and acknowledge various key actions and policies which will enhance Invercargill as a good city to do business in and which is run effectively and efficiently from a commercial perspective. Responses to the following question will be used by the Chamber to represent our member's interests.

1. Please outline your vision for Invercargill city in 2011?

The awarua commercial development completed with the sale of land not less than cost plus, industry associated with this and beyond up and running, job opportunities created and the associated building and commerce boom

2. Name three key issues that you support and will campaign on?

Rates at 5% or indexed to the CPI

Sewage problems sorted and those supplying excess waste charged

Analysis of councils existing investments, their performance and

Potential to on sell non or poor performers

3. Please outline the specific initiatives you will support to ensure that Invercargill has a business friendly environment.

FAIR RATES, differential may exist, but its should be fair and equitable and determined on facilities and services that provide a distinct advantage to the locations for example in the CBD

4. Name five key priorities you see for infrastructural investment in the city over the next five-years.

Clifton Sewage plant..

Water mains to Bluff

Arterial Highways that support industry

Water supply consistent and improved

Completion of underground wiring reticulation

5. Do you support the use of public private partnerships when council is looking at building, operating or maintaining infrastructure?
YES I support this with the comment that there has to be a clear efficiency and cost advantage to the ratepayer

6. What are your views on the council's use of debt to fund projects? Do you think the council has an appropriate level of debt?
No. There is a case to borrow more to fund projects "ESSENTIAL" to the cities growth. The cost is then spread over generations of ratepayers and will contribute to the easing of rate burdens to present ratepayers.

7. What is your position on whether Council should free up more land for residential housing?
YES with an emphasis on purchases in South Invercargill where possible AND to develop land within the present cities perimeters' and NOT create an extending i.e. towards and past Makarewa

8. What is your position on climate change and carbon neutrality?
Its here its a fact. It has to be addressed and managed. Energy efficiency should be implemented in all areas of council, encouraged in business, and the residential sector.
CARBON = I aspire to neutrality but it's a long process with cost implications that will have to be managed

9. Do you think Councillors should be paid in proportion to the number of meetings they attend, or through a fixed annual fee, or in some other way?
Paid by time, worked and attendance along with substantiated receipts for legitimate council expenses

10. What are your views on Council ownership of non-core assets including trading enterprises of Council i.e. those assets that are not essential to run local government? What do you define as core or strategic assets and why?
Question 18 establishes my views. CORE = Water, Electricity (not expanded with further purchases) Street, Sewage. And essential services

NON CORE = Forestry, expansion of electricity business, Commercial building acquisitions or investments

11. Do you agree that trading enterprises should be governed by a commercial board of directors and such businesses should be run on commercial business basis?

Yes **Comment With perhaps a representative of council acting for the electors, it is NOT essential that this director is in receipt of director fees**

12. Do you consider there is a further need for local government reform? If so, what are you reasons?

YES amalgamation as outlined in following question (13)

13. What are you vies on combining local authority service delivery, and amalgamations with neighbouring authorities?

There is some merit in this.... One would have to be convinced that It did not become an ivory tower with ALL or most form the different authorities taking up position. I would need to be convinced that cost savings would eventuate and that services were not eroded.

14. Name three actions that you will take to ensure Invercargill city delivers better service and value to rate payers and residents?

1. **sale of forestry (non performing) to privatisation**
2. **council services i.e parks and reserves to stick to their core activities and NOT undercut private enterprise in the tender process and thereby lose moneys**
3. **Airport. Inadequacies exist here and the airport company structure needs to be reviewed and better services provided for the public**

15. Would you support a rate target so that council's rates income does not exceed the combined rate of inflation and population growth per year?

Support very much. Priorities should be set in the annual plan, heads of departments made responsible for performances within budget and answerable for non performance

16. Do you support the use of differential rates whereby business rate payers pay more than residential rate payers per dollar of rateable land? If you do, how would you justify this?

IF the services are such that the business sector derives a proven economic benefit then on that basis it is fair

17. What are your views on council use of fees and charges?

Provided that they cover the cost of staff time and motion and incidental legitimate council costs then a small premium is acceptable. Premiums above these criteria are not acceptable and the fee and permit charges should not be seen as a cash cow revenue scheme

18. Do you think the community should pay for its own water on a user pays basis?

Yes

Comment The function of council is to provide essentials to its residents

19. please identify three courses of action you would want to promote to ensure and vibrant C.B.D

PARKING .. More provision without levy increases

INNER CITY SAFETY Hospitality industry (ALL Providers) to provide host responsibility that extends outside their premises

CLEANLINESS responsibility between council and occupiers to

Keep the area's clean (perhaps with an incentive from council)

20. List five key issues that you consider need addressing by the Council in the next three-years

TIWAI Bridge.. More funding from Transit

Commercial land to be sold at no less than COST PLUS small premium

Sale of non performing assets

Better utilisation of moneys in reserve funds

One consistent template that serves to make it easier and efficient for example the issue of permits etc across the whole southland authorities.

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