

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 elections. 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 questions will be used by the Chamber to represent our members' interests.

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

To have Strong Economy with Full Employment
A stronger Tourist orientated with a
large multi story Hotel to cater for our
International Airport

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

- ① Im in the process of set up Southern "F"
Loop Trust which will run a stream tourist
Train from Invercargill - Bluff + other Areas of Southland
- ② To promote larger + Clean sourced fresh water
to the City + Region on a whole
- ③ Make the City's Infrastructure more cost effective

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

The Council should need to be encouraged to
be more helpful to Businesses

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

Sewerage + Water + Rating making it cost effective
not over price for what you get + Rail Passenger
Transport from CHCH - Dunedin + International Airport

5. Do you support the use of public private partnerships when council is looking at building, operating or maintaining infrastructure?

Depends if its going to give the City lower Cost
for Infrastructure what will help Hold down Rates

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?

Debt to fund projects of major size's should
be used to spread costs over a longer time instead
of raising rates higher over a short time.

7. What is your position on whether Council should free up more land for residential housing?

If we need the City to grow we need available land
so we need to allow for subdivisions but they need
to be connected to existing services

8. What is your position on climate change and carbon neutrality?

Climate Change could be a 20/30 yr cycle which
we are going into the warmer cycle. But we do
need to look after the Environment eg Pollution.
Carbon neutrality is just myth?
If there is a major climate warming we will need
to build stop banks to keep rising sea level out of
lower lying land Big part of Invercargill

9. Do you think Councillors should be paid in proportion to the number of meetings they attend, or a through a fixed annual fee, or in some other way?

Pay for what they do as this means they attend
the meeting and add part to democracy
and if they don't do a good job they won't
get back next time

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?

These Core assets are good as form of income for Council and also can be used as Surety for loans they may take out for Infrastructure. My concerns is the Very High Fees payed out to members of these Boards.

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

Yes No

Comment

But as I said above Directors Fee appear very High for the size of our Region

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

I did think the 3 local government organizations of ICC - SDC - EnviroSant could merge but after seeing what's been happening over Clifton Waste Treatment I now feel EnviroSant needs to stand alone and have more Teeth

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

Yes I think we could have a more closer working Environment between the Councils with certain Areas but not a total amalgamation as this would make an even bigger Empire to Control

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

More open Council with a lot less Closed door meetings. More Input from Council in trading enterprises. As I said before funding projects over a longer period to lessen Rates. I have a major concern of our Rising Property prices will only add to higher Rates as GV increase

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

If our Rates + Costs keep growing it only ends up by taking cash out of the residents pockets which is less available to be shared around the City Businesses which is not a good outcome

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 Businesses don't pay there share residential rates will go through the roof.

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

Fees + Charges can be used if you want away of reducing the \$ value of rateable land for Businesses. Therefore user pays for services

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

Yes No

Comment

But what is cheaper to administer user pays by meter or as now set charge per House Hold.
Businesses that use larger amounts should be Meter and charged for what they use as this is a way of knowing where it's going and how much is need in the future

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

- ① Bus service which is being used more which will reduce number of cars in CBD. Buses that can be flagged down
- ② If we are not going to use Buses we will need to build another High rise parking Building or 2 in CBD.
- ③ We have fragmented the CBD with outlying Development so I think it's a bit late now!

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

"New"
Sewage = Fresh water = International
Airport = ~~Aviation~~ Industrial land =
Fees paid to Management of Council trading enterprises
Getting More Large Employer Bussinesses to
establis here in the South. Not more of the
Same which only harm's what we have

Name of person completing questionnaire:

Karl Barklew

Date:

12-09-2007

E-mail contact:

edsfarmsupplies@hotmail.com

021 02393648

Thank you for your time and responses.

Please return this survey to:

Chief Executive
Chamber of Commerce Southland

Email: executive@commercesouth.com

Post: PO Box 856 Invercargill 9840

By XXXXXXXX 2007