

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?

Invercargill continues to grow and be a safe, clean and vibrant city where young people and their families want to settle, work and retire.

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

A safe and secure community environment.
Better communication with Southland District Health Board
That all infrastructures support the growth and safety of our city and that the amenities are accessible to all and cost is not a barrier

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

Continue to prompt the growth of the city and ensure that the implementation policies set by management do not put up any barriers to new business initiatives.

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

Reviewing and ensuring that all amenities upgrading and maintenance of same are carried out in a timely and cost effective Manner.

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

Yes, if this is going to benefit the ratepayers and residents and are in the best interests of the City

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?

There must be accountability to the rate payers and if Debt must be raised to enable projects to continue then it has to be sustainable and not be a burden on the ratepayers in the future.

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

We should be looking to make sure that the land in the city boundary is already being used for the purposes it is zoned for and ensure that any vacant land is used first before freeing up more land.

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

We all have a responsibility to make sure that we use our resources wisely

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?

Councillors should only be paid for the meetings attended.

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?

Each case needs to be looked at individually and the benefit it will provide to the city and the ratepayers of the future.

Core or strategic assets are our Sewage Electricity Rooding and the Parks recreational grounds etc We need to be continually looking at the city and assessing the needs of the community and the future population. There needs to be a better alignment with other Local authorities and the Southland District Health Board and NGO's as the health of the community will only be at its best when the infrastructure supports the best outcomes for the whole community. Council has a responsibility to make sure this happens.

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

Yes strongly agree with this but there must be good governance and best business practice and no conflicts of interest

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

Yes Local government needs to look at the whole of the region and work in a manner that will provide the best cost effective service and amenities to its wider population. All authorities need to work collaboratively.

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

As above local authorities should continually be monitoring the progress made and ensuring the voice of the population is heard and listened to.

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

Have an open door policy and listen to the needs of the community.
Foster a better working relationship with other authorities especially the SDHB to ensure that Invercargill and its surrounding areas are a safe and clean place to raise a family and spend our retirement years

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?

Yes but this also needs to be monitored closely and all factors taken into account when setting the rates.

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?

No

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

These have to be relevant to services provided.
I am concerned that some of the costs for amenities are a barrier to access for many families for example the swimming pool (Splash Palace)

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

Yes No

Comment

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

Promoting the city and a great place to live, working with other authorities to encourage people to come and work in the province. Our workforce in the future will be one of our big concerns. Attracting people with the skills needed must be a priority.

Continuing to support other organisations around the growth of young people coming and staying in our city ie: SIT, YMCA and the other training facilities.

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

Attracting people to work in Invercargill

Promotion of the city as a great place

Maintaining our infrastructure

Working collaboratively with authorities in the promotion of a safe, vibrant and healthy community

Ensuring our city is safe for all residents

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