

## 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 will be a busy progressive city, with a growing population fuelled by a strong primary sector, international flights, energy driven investments and other commercial activity. A city where young people see employment and investment opportunities.

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

- Councils investment in land to be zoned heavy industrial.
- A strong and united Council
- Must keep Invercargill as a progressive city.

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

- Quick and effective processing of resource consent
- Quick and effective processing of building consents
- Rates increased kept to a minimum
- Pro active Council
- Gasworks Investment
- Co Operation between Councils

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

- Water treatment plant increased capacity
- Industrial land
- International Airport
- Continued upgrade of City Centre
- Encourage fair competition

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

yes, this is the way of the future.

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?

Council should use debt for large capital expenditure so future generations pay for the benefits.

Council could comfortably increase its debt for the appropriate projects.

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

This is not a council role except for low cost pensioner housing as at present.

Private developers should increase housing starts.

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

Climate change is a real threat.

The world is moving to carbon neutrality and council must take appropriate steps.

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?

Council remuneration is currently fixed by the High Salaries Commission except for Hearings.

This shall continue.

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?

Council should only own trading enterprises which have a public ownership element such as airports, water, or gas, generally means for ratepayers, eg electricity, forestry,

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

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

- Greater Co Operation between Councils and Shared Services will create better outcomes and less cost.

Noting have sharp change in accordance with recommendations in of Noting Review Committee

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

Combine local authority services deliver when appropriate. Amalgamations may not be successful. Need to retain political autonomy.

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

- Push for efficiencies in service delivery.  
- Work co-operatively with other councils.  
- Continually review the service and need for a service.

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?

No - this is not realistic, rate of inflation does not reflect the rate of inflation in service delivery, eg cost of reading increased 12% and 17% a year activity.

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?

Differential is a tool used by councils to subsidise residential rates. The rating review committee recommends they be abolished.

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

Support user pays and fees.

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

Yes  No

Comment

encourage efficient use of a scarce resource.

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

- upgrade CBD constantly.
- keep vibrant
- promote ownership of land by corporates.

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

- Urban Waste Water treatment.
- Airport upgrade.
- increase of revenue ex trading enterprises
- Population Growth.
- Energy Investment and infrastructure
- Heavy Industry zoned land.

Name of person completing questionnaire:

Norman Elder

Date:

24/9/07

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Thank you for your time and responses.

Please return this survey to:

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