

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?
In 2011 Invercargill will be a positive, vibrant, expanding city. The business base will be diversified
Rates will have increased by no more than the inflation rate over the last 3 years. We will know by then if there is going to be an oil boom and will be ready for it.

2. Name three key issues that you support and will campaign on?
The ICC should facilitate business growth and diversity
Open government unless very compelling reasons
Careful budgeting to minimise rates increases

3. Please outline the specific initiatives you will support to ensure that Invercargill has a business friendly environment.
Regular dialogue with the business community to ascertain their requirement
Regulation paperwork, permits etc that are the responsibility of the ICC should be handled in as user friendly way as the law permits

4. Name five key priorities you see for infrastructural investment in the city over the next five-years.
I feel that for the most part the infrastructure of the city is good.
Having said that, work does need to be done at Clifton, especially if new businesses will be using those facilities
We should also always be aware of unforeseen opportunities and problems

that will arise.

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

Yes, but if it's straight business then Council should leave it to the business community.

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 is good for balancing out costs of major investments over future generations. However, this debt must also be serviced and so must be balanced against the size of rates increases.

I think the ICC debt level is about right at the moment

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

Yes, but with due regard for urban sprawl and as long as most empty serviced sections in the city boundaries are first utilised.

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

Climate change is happening. The ICC should be aware of the ramifications when dealing with appropriate matters

Carbon neutrality? I know it's trendy, but I have to be convinced.

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?

A fixed annual fee consistent with attending a fixed % of meetings.

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?

If it's a business venture, it should be left to the business community.

Core assets are essentials, generally will not run at a profit, and include things such as the library, parks, museums, roads etc.

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?

More amalgamation to be encourage. There will be economies of scale

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

I am all in favour, as long as savings can be shown to result.

Combining service delivery should in time result in a movement towards amalgamtions.

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

As a new councillor... Listen, question and learn

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. Whilst we must support growth, we must also realise that there are a large number of ratepayers on low or fixed incomes.

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

User pays is very hard to justify in rates terms. It would be impossible to split equitably

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

Monies collected should for the most part be used to run the departments that collect them.

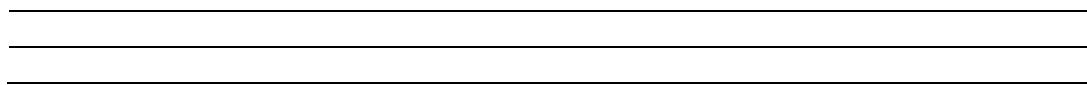
18. Do you think the community should pay for its own water on a user pays basis?

Yes No

Comment

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

See question 3



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

Maintain and increase current growth and optimism

Ensure infrastructure can keep pace with growth..Oil?

No more "Cliftons"

Minimise rates increase as far as possible

More open government

Name of person completing questionnaire: Tom Sawyer

Date: 20/9/07

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Thank you for your time and responses.

Please return this survey to:

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By XXXXXXX 2007