
**PROFILES OF
CANDIDATES**
FOR ELECTION TO
CHRISTCHURCH CITY
COUNCIL 2022

Carl BROMLEY

Independent - I Hear I Care

QUESTION 01:

If elected to Council, how will you ensure that you are able to make an informed decision that considers the interests of the business community?

Genuine, authentic, regular consultation. Listening to you as the experts, and working together to get business pumping.

QUESTION 02:

What are your main priorities if elected to the Christchurch City Council?

Weekly public face-to-face consultative meetings by the Mayor and monthly public face to face public meetings with all city councillors.

Establish an Urgent Response and Needs Team (URNT - Rate payers and businesses have 'URNT THIS')

This team will be deployed to cut through red tape and attend to business and community need urgently.

Too many basic and simple, but important tasks are left excusably too long.

We must be a council that is responsive to business and community need and effective.

QUESTION 03:

Do you have any business-specific priorities or policies that will contribute towards ensuring we have a strong local economy?

Fast-tracking consents, and licensing to get business pumping.

Reducing inner city car parking costs, and free weekend council parking to stimulate a return to inner city business.

Listen to the experts: i.e. those in business. Work together on sensible solutions.

Use common sense and balance when it comes to ideological narratives. Ruthlessly evaluate the issues of 'sustainability/climate legislation' with ALL THE SCIENCE, and not destroy business for ideological positions that are not reality based.

QUESTION 04:

What do you see as the role and priorities that the Christchurch City Council has in facilitating economic growth?

Serve the business community. Remove policy and legislation that inhibits growth, productivity and innovation. Introduce local incentives to businesses to stimulate growth.

QUESTION 05:

If you could immediately change one action or policy of the Christchurch City Council to better enable business growth or remove a barrier to doing business, what would it be?

End Mandates. But, in all prudence and honesty, I would need to hear from the business community to hear what is the greatest barrier for business growth, and together, remove it.

QUESTION 06:

What do you view as the three biggest challenges facing the business community throughout the next year, and how will you respond to them if elected?

1 - Autonomy. Too many bureaucratic hoops to jump through. I would advocate cutting all possible 'red tape' and supporting businesses to thrive. Again, this would need to happen in close consultation with the business community.

2 - Central Govt and Global Ideology taxing business ie. irrational climate change tax, and demands on business infrastructure and policy.

3 - As with the first two, I would need to here from you the experts to really identify these issues. I am open to hearing, and understanding from you, and supporting you to do all within my power to see businesses thrive. When businesses thrives, NZ thrives.

Mark CHIRNSIDE

Chirny for Mayor

QUESTION 01:

If elected to Council, how will you ensure that you are able to make an informed decision that considers the interests of the business community?

Primarily I'm a young business owner. That's how I identify myself. I network with a huge number of people in businesses of various sizes around Christchurch, and I take a huge and enthusiastic interest in how businesses tick, particularly small businesses like mine.

People who know me trust me to listen, they trust me to learn. I want to be a mayor that everyone can relate to, everyone can work with, and that everyone can feel represented by.

QUESTION 02:

What are your main priorities if elected to the Christchurch City Council?

Engagement is number one. It's first and foremost about bringing new and young people into politics. If only 41% of people vote (as was the case last time), it's hard for us to have a representative Council, and it's hard for the Council to make decisions with the confidence of their constituents.

Number two is growth. I want Christchurch to grow, I want Christchurch to intensify, to be a more active, vibrant city that does not become an urban sprawl. However, we have to make sure infrastructure can support intensification, and I don't think we should intensify in a random, uncontrolled way.

Thirdly, accountability. The Council needs to be accountable to constituents and businesses when its own shortcomings/delays/failures result in harm. This means direct compensation.

QUESTION 03:

Do you have any business-specific priorities or policies that will contribute towards ensuring we have a strong local economy?

I strongly believe in solving problems through public-private partnership. Where a problem exists, Council needs to pro-actively identify businesses that are helping to solve it, and reach out to them and truly engage with them about what they need to do more of what they're doing.

QUESTION 04:

What do you see as the role and priorities that the Christchurch City Council has in facilitating economic growth?

The Council foremost has to get out of the way. I strongly believe in less red tape where it's possible, but also we have to facilitate communities that facilitate growth. This means more efficient public transport options, intensification that grows the city gradually outwards from the centre, and incentivizing a variety of attractions that inspire people to get out and spend after a couple years where that's been discouraged.

QUESTION 05:

If you could immediately change one action or policy of the Christchurch City Council to better enable business growth or remove a barrier to doing business, what would it be?

I want to flatten out the process for consents, licences and permits. The process needs to be faster, it needs to be simpler, and it needs to be more fair. There's such a huge disparity between some businesses who have access to a lot of certainty simply because they have the right connections, and others who have none.

We could also look at additional fast tracking for businesses, activities and events that provide significant community value.

QUESTION 06:

What do you view as the three biggest challenges facing the business community throughout the next year, and how will you respond to them if elected?

The growing labour shortage, lack of activity in the city, and a general sense of uncertainty. The labour shortage in particular is going to be hard to contend with, but I think we can increase activity and give extra certainty by reducing red tape and getting Council out of the way where possible.

Drucilla KINGI-PATTERSON

Independent

QUESTION 01:

If elected to Council, how will you ensure that you are able to make an informed decision that considers the interests of the business community?

Maintain a working relationship with the local business community

QUESTION 02:

What are your main priorities if elected to the Christchurch City Council?

lobby on the three water business model as its effect on financial and health costs will escalate unless it is modified and monitored.

QUESTION 03:

Do you have any business-specific priorities or policies that will contribute towards ensuring we have a strong local economy?

To establish the Friends of Te Kaha Multi Arena to establish community and business events to fundraise for arena to try and keep project on budget and promote tourism.

QUESTION 04:

What do you see as the role and priorities that the Christchurch City Council has in facilitating economic growth?

To work with a number of business organizations and communities to get better economic outcomes for the region

QUESTION 05:

If you could immediately change one action or policy of the Christchurch City Council to better enable business growth or remove a barrier to doing business, what would it be?

Marketing logo Christchurch the garden city of dreams, promote our architecture and its rebuild plus market Christchurch for screen industry and blue economy.

QUESTION 06:

What do you view as the three biggest challenges facing the business community throughout the next year, and how will you respond to them if elected?

Many workers are also carers of Adults or Disabled many are skilled workers you need 24 hour clock, part time workers recognized, additional training many courses require you full time which just does not work.Promote concept its okay to be a late bloomer and do study par time, some will require maybe the first 6 weeks one to one.computers,grammar, math,driving plus university study eg animation,law. You also need to market better to older workers one to one, speed job dating plus training workshops to catch skilled workers allowing other staff to take a brake,retrain,up skill, travel.

Phil MAUGER

Let's Get Stuff Done

QUESTION 01:

If elected to Council, how will you ensure that you are able to make an informed decision that considers the interests of the business community?

Practical experience is key. I've run our family business for more than 20 years and worked in the city for over 45 years. I have now resigned from that business to focus on running for Mayor. I know what it's like to do business in Christchurch and I want my kids and grandkids to be able to continue working and doing business here in the future.

As a mayor I want to spend more time out in the community, listening to people and understanding what's happening - then taking those views back to the Council table. I'm not focused on just pushing paper, I want to understand what's happening and identify where we can support economic development in Christchurch.

I am looking forward to reading the Chambers' Business Expectations of Local Government which will outline key expectations that the business community has identified for the next term of local government. This will be an important document and will help to inform the Council decision making.

QUESTION 02:

What are your main priorities if elected to the Christchurch City Council?

My number one priority is to rebuild people's trust in Council. To do this, I have six policy areas I believe can help our city:

- Regain ratepayers' confidence in the Council
- Look after our Environment
- Make Christchurch an even better place to live
- Keep rates affordable and reduce debt
- Deliver core services better
- Fix our roads and footpaths

QUESTION 03:

Do you have any business-specific priorities or policies that will contribute towards ensuring we have a strong local economy?

Council needs to be here to support businesses operate. One of my six focus areas is delivering our core services better. All businesses know the challenge and uncertainty when faced with delays or roadblocks - so a priority for me is working to identify where we have the power to make changes and remove roadblocks. And when people need the Council to fix things, we do it.

Consenting times is a good example. We need to reduce wait times for building consents in Christchurch. After talking with builders and council staff, I realised overtime limits on staff was a potential roadblock for faster consents. So I pushed to allow consenting staff overtime to reduce processing times. Delivering core services better, such as improving consent times helps support a strong local economy.

QUESTION 04:

What do you see as the role and priorities that the Christchurch City Council has in facilitating economic growth?

Economic development is vital if we are going to ensure there are opportunities for our kids and grandkids in the future. The Council can support economic growth by delivering our core services better and keeping our rates affordable - two key factors in helping businesses operate in the city.

The Council must also continue to invest in ChristchurchNZ, the city's economic development agency, which identifies and develops economic development plans and promotions that help deliver sustainable economic growth for Christchurch.

As Mayor I will support ChristchurchNZ to deliver on its priorities, especially increasing the attractiveness of Christchurch to key audiences such as new businesses and workers

QUESTION 05:

If you could immediately change one action or policy of the Christchurch City Council to better enable business growth or remove a barrier to doing business, what would it be?

There are plenty of things to change, but my main priority is to lead and foster a 'can do' approach across Council. I have heard from many people - not just businesses - that when they work with our neighbouring Councils they feel encouraged and asked "how can we make this happen?". But we have gained a reputation for being a barrier and always pointing out obstacles. This reputation has trickled down from the Council table.

I want to foster an approach that when someone comes to Council wanting to do something in the city, we show them how they can do it rather than all the reasons it cannot be done. So changing our mindset and approach to working with people who want to get stuff done is the main thing I'd like to change to help economic development.

Continued on next page.

QUESTION 06:

What do you view as the three biggest challenges facing the business community throughout the next year, and how will you respond to them if elected?

I think the three biggest issues across Canterbury are:

1. Inflation increase
2. Rising Interest rates
3. Labour shortages

These are national issues, but Council can still work to help soften the impact of these on businesses and households alike.

To take on inflation and interest rates, Council can work to keep rates affordable. This requires us to reduce debt and go through our books line by line to prioritise spending.

To attract more workers to Christchurch we need to focus on making Christchurch the best place to live, work and raise a family in New Zealand. That means ensuring our facilities are world class, our environment is looked after and we are delivering our core services better - it's only once we get the basics right that we can look to improve.

David MEATES

Listens, Leads and Gets Results

QUESTION 01:

If elected to Council, how will you ensure that you are able to make an informed decision that considers the interests of the business community?

Partner with iwi, business, education groups and other stakeholders to help solve some of the big challenges and realise the opportunities Christchurch and Bank Peninsula have available by leveraging off the expertise and commitment to make this city the best it can possibly be.

Actively promote our city locally and internationally as a place to access and attract a skilled workforce, our centres for academic excellence and a supportive environment for research and innovation.

QUESTION 02:

What are your main priorities if elected to the Christchurch City Council?

After a decade of major challenges we are beginning to re-emerge, crafting and owning our vision of what the next decade can bring if we work together. I will listen, help us move beyond politics to help build a strong collaborative style that gets things done for our city. All councillors need to be working collaboratively in the interests of the city rather than narrow political and self interested silos.

QUESTION 03:

Do you have any business-specific priorities or policies that will contribute towards ensuring we have a strong local economy?

Engage in a meaningful way with the business sector as to how we work together, how we celebrate and make visible the innovations in business, health, research, technology, agriculture and community groups across our city and region.

QUESTION 04:

What do you see as the role and priorities that the Christchurch City Council has in facilitating economic growth?

Partnership and collaboration is the key. The Council needs to create an enabling environment so that business and innovation can thrive.

QUESTION 05:

If you could immediately change one action or policy of the Christchurch City Council to better enable business growth or remove a barrier to doing business, what would it be?

Christchurch has some amazing businesses that at present are not a part of our narrative as a city. We need to change that.

The Council needs to be a champion for business and our region.

QUESTION 06:

What do you view as the three biggest challenges facing the business community throughout the next year, and how will you respond to them if elected?

Having a compelling narrative as a city so we can attract the talent we need to enable the region to thrive.

Staff recruitment and retention.

Making a high wage economy a reality.

QUESTION 01:

If elected to Council, how will you ensure that you are able to make an informed decision that considers the interests of the business community?

A little bit an early but I consider to meet with them after elected to get answer together.

QUESTION 02:

What are your main priorities if elected to the Christchurch City Council?

An understanding about work at the Council and other arms to operate.

QUESTION 03:

Do you have any business-specific priorities or policies that will contribute towards ensuring we have a strong local economy?

No comment yet.

QUESTION 04:

What do you see as the role and priorities that the Christchurch City Council has in facilitating economic growth?

Few thing but a still too early to say.

QUESTION 05:

If you could immediately change one action or policy of the Christchurch City Council to better enable business growth or remove a barrier to doing business, what would it be?

Registered focus to remove to grow business.

QUESTION 06:

What do you view as the three biggest challenges facing the business community throughout the next year, and how will you respond to them if elected?

- . Make a perfectly
- . Maje a strong A/S work
- . An understanding of economics and increasing factors, and experience of budget.

THE WIZARD OF NZ

Independent

QUESTION 01:

If elected to Council, how will you ensure that you are able to make an informed decision that considers the interests of the business community?

By opposing the rapid politicisation of all communication in the state controlled mass education and mass media institutions being deliberately carried out by the political parties in NZ. To put it simply "Go Woke, Go Broke!"

The economy of NZ is dying on its feet due to Government legislation that is politically motivated and frequently deliberately slanted. By using my considerable experience in many fields, intelligence, very high public profile and my 50 year success in making fun of mediocre opponents I am the only Mayoral candidate likely to make any difference to the course of a ship of state that is headed towards the rocks.

QUESTION 02:

What are your main priorities if elected to the Christchurch City Council?

Publishing a Newspaper and Website to compete with The Press which is completely controlled by the Stuff Monopoly and its links to the global elite preparing to launch their Great New Reset. Look at their success in destroying the US Economy.

QUESTION 03:

Do you have any business-specific priorities or policies that will contribute towards ensuring we have a strong local economy?

I have many proposals to boost the confidence of local people to solve their own problems. Avoid dependency on experts and especially those chosen by the bullies in Wellington. A South Up campaign led by the world famous Wizard of NZ would be good therapy for a city that has been trashed by a fanatical killer, mother nature, Chinese manipulators of the World Health Organisation, racist academics with their snouts in the trough, and haters of the dreams of our founders, have brought our spirits down. Depressed people drain economies dry.

QUESTION 04:

What do you see as the role and priorities that the Christchurch City Council has in facilitating economic growth?

A huge economic crisis is at our doors. Keep the rates down by stopping vanity projects by bureaucrats and keeping their amateur hands off the levers of our national government in order to keep the power to run their own essential services. Councils are not made up of risk taking entrepreneurs they are simple minded inexperienced bureaucrats or dangerous glory seeking 'heroes of the people'

QUESTION 05:

If you could immediately change one action or policy of the Christchurch City Council to better enable business growth or remove a barrier to doing business, what would it be?

Immediately disband CHRISTCHURCHNZ

QUESTION 06:

What do you view as the three biggest challenges facing the business community throughout the next year, and how will you respond to them if elected?

- 1/ INFLATION
- 2/ GOVERNMENT OVERREACH AND CRONYISM.
- 3/ MANIPULATION OF ECONOMIC INVESTMENT THAT IS CONTRARY TO THE NATIONAL INTEREST.

Peter WAKEMAN

Independent

QUESTION 01:

If elected to Council, how will you ensure that you are able to make an informed decision that considers the interests of the business community?

Listening to the community.
Taking into account submissions and advice from Council and Councilors.

QUESTION 02:

What are your main priorities if elected to the Christchurch City Council?

Christchurch needs cheaper housing. Christchurch has approximately 2000 people on the emergency housing waiting list. The cost of housing effects people's spending power in the community and the ability to employ staff. The Government needs to fund housing capabilities for short-term or long-term use. An affordable multi-storey building with housing, food and security is important.

QUESTION 03:

Do you have any business-specific priorities or policies that will contribute towards ensuring we have a strong local economy?

The more cost-effective the Council is and the Council-owned lines company, the lower fees they can charge leaving more money in the pockets of people to spend money in Christchurch. Christchurch Airport's plan for a new international airport near Wanaka raises the question of will it come at the expense of the needs for Christchurch?

QUESTION 04:

What do you see as the role and priorities that the Christchurch City Council has in facilitating economic growth?

The Council is already involved in that area. Affordable housing is necessary for people to be able to afford to live and work in Christchurch. Making Christchurch an enticing city to live and work in long term will contribute to positive economic growth.

QUESTION 05:

If you could immediately change one action or policy of the Christchurch City Council to better enable business growth or remove a barrier to doing business, what would it be?

Make sound Council decisions that take in to account all the information in the long-term aspects. I would reverse the Three Waters legislation.

I would oppose the Government's Three Waters Legislation to take Christchurch's water infrastructure at below cost – which would be promoting apartheid and bureaucracy without accountability. Funding is the issue. This could change the state of the Christchurch City Council's balance sheet and thereby increasing our borrowing costs and requiring further rate increases.

QUESTION 06:

What do you view as the three biggest challenges facing the business community throughout the next year, and how will you respond to them if elected?

1. Inflation which is out of control due to a low exchange rate and high fuel prices as well as increased labour costs. Personally, I am getting an electric car.
2. Councils and people are under financial pressure so wise decision making for cost effective solutions are required.
3. Getting political pressure to put on the Government to give Christchurch City Council debt-free money to fund some of the stadium and climate change response as it is beyond the resources of most rate payers to meet the future costs through rate increases.

QUESTION 01:**If elected to Council, how will you ensure that you are able to make an informed decision that considers the interests of the business community?**

Small business is the backbone of a local economy and I want to see the regulatory environment shaped to support prosperity. I have a background as an analyst in the investment banking sector, which is fundamentally about informed decision making. I also have extensive experience working in supply chain management, started up an import and distribution business on the side, and maintain an investment portfolio across a range of asset classes. These have all given me a reasonable grounding in understanding the needs of business and how it can support communities.

QUESTION 02:**What are your main priorities if elected to the Christchurch City Council?**

We need investment in infrastructure that helps us future-proof the city, particularly against the impacts of climate change. We need to ensure our funding model is sustainable and takes an investment approach. We need to focus these things into making Banks Peninsula and Christchurch the best possible city to live work and play.

QUESTION 03:**Do you have any business-specific priorities or policies that will contribute towards ensuring we have a strong local economy?**

I believe we have the most liveable city in New Zealand, which makes it an attractive place for skilled workers, and it will get better. We can enhance that with Rapid Mass Transit public transport, which both improves the way we get around and reduces demand on our overloaded road network, as well as our environment. We can't do too much about the easterly, but we can create a city that attracts people with high-calibre skills who want to live in a low emission city with great facilities, which in turn grows the rating base and our investment potential.

QUESTION 04:**What do you see as the role and priorities that the Christchurch City Council has in facilitating economic growth?**

Council needs to walk alongside our businesses and see them as a partner and not a customer, or worse a cash cow. We need to support facilities and services that are comparable or even outdo similarly sized cities internationally to improve the economic wellbeing of our citizens. The rebuild gave us an opportunity to do that and we must market ourselves accordingly, and leverage that to keep our rates down. Council has a huge role in positioning our city within that market, and in reducing the administrative burden on small business that curtails innovation.

QUESTION 05:**If you could immediately change one action or policy of the Christchurch City Council to better enable business growth or remove a barrier to doing business, what would it be?**

Smash the leadtimes for council-related paperwork.

QUESTION 06:**What do you view as the three biggest challenges facing the business community throughout the next year, and how will you respond to them if elected?**

Changes in our way of working
Skills shortages
Co-ordination between agencies and stakeholders

The most reasonable response would be to reach out to all of our councillors and figure what we can and what we can't directly influence and set a plan accordingly, and then get to work on advocacy for the other things. We will need to be nimbler in how we implement planning changes to respond to need.

Nigel HARRISON
Independent**QUESTION 01:**

If elected to Council, how will you ensure that you are able to make an informed decision that considers the interests of the business community?

I come from a Business Background spending most of my Life in Senior Management positions in Printing and Manufacturing ,I have a back ground in operational excellance.

QUESTION 02:

What are your main priorities if elected to the Christchurch City Council?

Building a strong economy and achieving a win win with Bio diversity.

QUESTION 03:

Do you have any business-specific priorities or policies that will contribute towards ensuring we have a strong local economy?

The Focus for the Peninsula is around making the Peninsula a Tourist must do.

QUESTION 04:

What do you see as the role and priorities that the Christchurch City Council has in facilitating economic growth?

Making it a great visit experience for Tourists.

QUESTION 05:

If you could immediately change one action or policy of the Christchurch City Council to better enable business growth or remove a barrier to doing business, what would it be?

Down grade the Priority spend on bike lanes.

QUESTION 06:

What do you view as the three biggest challenges facing the business community throughout the next year, and how will you respond to them if elected?

Good well trained employees, affordable accommodation, international Marketing.

Libby ORNSBY

Best for Banks Peninsula

QUESTION 01:

If elected to Council, how will you ensure that you are able to make an informed decision that considers the interests of the business community?

I have considerable networks in the Canterbury Business Community. My being on council will ensure those voices will be heard and ideas considered in planning and decision making.

QUESTION 02:

What are your main priorities if elected to the Christchurch City Council?

As far as the business community goes the Council could do more to ensure smooth processes and less hurdles for those prepared to invest in the City. A culture change to empower staff, so they feel safe to make decisions and take ownership. We need to deliver the basics well and restore trust in the Council and its decision making process. We need to spend rate payers money sensibly.

QUESTION 03:

Do you have any business-specific priorities or policies that will contribute towards ensuring we have a strong local economy?

CCC consenting processes needs to be streamlined, we need to complete facilities that bring people to our city and create offerings that make them want to stay longer. We also need to ensure ChristchurchNZ have tangible measurable outcomes being delivered in line with our strategy.

QUESTION 04:

What do you see as the role and priorities that the Christchurch City Council has in facilitating economic growth?

The council need to look at what is stifling growth and remove unnecessary obstacles. It needs to make doing business easy, facilitate and access. Council needs to take a more permissive approach to planning and investment in the City.

QUESTION 05:

If you could immediately change one action or policy of the Christchurch City Council to better enable business growth or remove a barrier to doing business, what would it be?

The forced congestion in and around our city centre. This is affecting business sustainability, stifling growth and causing frustration.

QUESTION 06:

What do you view as the three biggest challenges facing the business community throughout the next year, and how will you respond to them if elected?

Business and private investment has built our City, we need to acknowledge this. Challenges we will be facing in this next term will be the economic slowdown, interest rate increases, as well as a skills shortage. As a city we need to look at how we market ourselves and make it easy for new businesses to establish and operate in Christchurch. We need to make it easy to do business here from an investors point of view and this starts with Council and its desire to remove as many unnecessary hurdles as possible.

Victoria (Tori) PEDEN
Your Voice for Banks Peninsula**QUESTION 01:**

If elected to Council, how will you ensure that you are able to make an informed decision that considers the interests of the business community?

Make sure the advice given from staff has all basis covered, and keep my mind open to any deputations/ feedback from the community, that includes the business community.

QUESTION 02:

What are your main priorities if elected to the Christchurch City Council?

Environmental impact/protection, Community Wellbeing, Smart Spending.

QUESTION 03:

Do you have any business-specific priorities or policies that will contribute towards ensuring we have a strong local economy?

Destination management plan completion. We need this for the peninsula and the city to make sure we are supporting all business especially with visitors. Vital infrastructure is maintained, supported and advocated for. Support all business by making sure red tape is not holding anyone back.

QUESTION 04:

What do you see as the role and priorities that the Christchurch City Council has in facilitating economic growth?

Destination Management Plans support our tourism industry, so visitors want to come to the city and spend time in the place we call home.

QUESTION 05:

If you could immediately change one action or policy of the Christchurch City Council to better enable business growth or remove a barrier to doing business, what would it be?

Make the consenting processes easier to achieve, support businesses in making sure regulations are followed but also give them support. Should a building WoF need changes, make it simple to do/ sort, simple fixes should not be made a nightmare.

QUESTION 06:

What do you view as the three biggest challenges facing the business community throughout the next year, and how will you respond to them if elected?

Climate change/ weather events, flooding can have a detrimental impact to businesses, make sure their is resilience in the business and in the community. The multi use arena is built, this is going to generate jobs in the area, and inject more vibrancy into the city, make sure this is delivered. Labour shortages, help businesses attract the right staff needed to fill vital roles.

Jeremy SMITH**QUESTION 01:**

If elected to Council, how will you ensure that you are able to make an informed decision that considers the interests of the business community?

Informed decisions are about talking and discussing all issues that pertain to decision making with all aspects of the community

QUESTION 02:

What are your main priorities if elected to the Christchurch City Council?

1. Make decisions We need a decisive and timely decision capability in the CCC
2. Get a youth response to support regeneration of indigenous forests and pest free capture by employing them as action groups.
3. Get rid of bad tasting chemicals from our drinking water by fixing our water infrastructure
4. Allowing Dogs on buses and more dog parks

QUESTION 03:

Do you have any business-specific priorities or policies that will contribute towards ensuring we have a strong local economy?

1. Get rid of red tape that slows down development
2. Allow local business to develop beyond current limitations

QUESTION 04:

What do you see as the role and priorities that the Christchurch City Council has in facilitating economic growth?

1. Stop delaying development
2. Remove cultural and group think policies
3. Support and encourage worker placement

QUESTION 05:

If you could immediately change one action or policy of the Christchurch City Council to better enable business growth or remove a barrier to doing business, what would it be?

Get rid of unnecessary red tape that just focuses on feelings rather than actuality.

QUESTION 06:

What do you view as the three biggest challenges facing the business community throughout the next year, and how will you respond to them if elected?

1. Climate change
2. RMA
3. Housing

We have to accept that the world is challenged by environmental conditions but it is a cyclical evolution that we as humans have to sort so any business or impact has to focus on sustainability and encourage and venture that supports nature.

Kelly BARBER

Independent for Burwood

QUESTION 01:

If elected to Council, how will you ensure that you are able to make an informed decision that considers the interests of the business community?

I've spent my whole career working in the private sector and see it's success as inextricably linked to the success of our city and our country.

QUESTION 02:

What are your main priorities if elected to the Christchurch City Council?

To support the drive of those who want to make Christchurch a world class place to live, work and play. Council needs to make sure we are doing our part and focus on providing the infrastructure necessary to achieve this.

QUESTION 03:

Do you have any business-specific priorities or policies that will contribute towards ensuring we have a strong local economy?

We need to consider incentives and make it easy to do business here, to bring the events, the buzz and the excitement back to our city. CCC should have a goal to have a significant event happening every weekend in our city. Our calendar should be packed. Our first questions should be 'what is your vision and how do we help make this happen?'

QUESTION 04:

What do you see as the role and priorities that the Christchurch City Council has in facilitating economic growth?

CCC can play a crucial role in establishing a more positive environment for economic growth by incentivising investment and working together with the private sector to promote the city.

QUESTION 05:

If you could immediately change one action or policy of the Christchurch City Council to better enable business growth or remove a barrier to doing business, what would it be?

Free buses into and out of the city on weekend nights.

QUESTION 06:

What do you view as the three biggest challenges facing the business community throughout the next year, and how will you respond to them if elected?

Many of our young people heading overseas, Interest rate rises and ongoing skill/staffing issues. NZ is seen as a great place to visit/live and I'd like to see our city take advantage of this and open its arms to more young migrants.

Michelle LOMAX

Labour

QUESTION 01:

If elected to Council, how will you ensure that you are able to make an informed decision that considers the interests of the business community?

As a small business owner myself, and lawyer by training, I understand the challenges of business, especially small business.

QUESTION 02:

What are your main priorities if elected to the Christchurch City Council?

- Regular community engagement via monthly clinics
- Safe roads, footpaths and infrastructure – slowing traffic in some areas, extending Prestons Park Drive, repairing broken roads and dangerous footpaths, flood remediation
- Protecting community assets like libraries, pools and parks
- Prudent council spending, including mitigating the impact of the Stadium and ensuring it's an asset we can all enjoy

QUESTION 03:

Do you have any business-specific priorities or policies that will contribute towards ensuring we have a strong local economy?

I believe all my priorities benefit the business community, as what helps residents can also help business. A strong community is good for the business community.

QUESTION 04:

What do you see as the role and priorities that the Christchurch City Council has in facilitating economic growth?

- Providing a city that is business friendly, with facilities and services comparable to other international cities of this scale.
- Ensuring rates increases are kept a reasonable level to manage cost of living pressure on residents.
- Making sure that Christchurch is promoted domestically and internationally as a great place to visit and live, attracting visitors and new residents.

QUESTION 05:

If you could immediately change one action or policy of the Christchurch City Council to better enable business growth or remove a barrier to doing business, what would it be?

Remedy the delay in obtaining building consents currently happening in Christchurch, and streamline the process for the construction industry.

QUESTION 06:

What do you view as the three biggest challenges facing the business community throughout the next year, and how will you respond to them if elected?

- International economic pressures post-pandemic and from the fallout from the war in Ukraine.
- Our continued recovery from Covid, we need to provide some certainty in uncertain times.
- Collaborating better with regional councils to plan and invest in shared infrastructure together.

Mike WILSON
A True Independent**QUESTION 01:****If elected to Council, how will you ensure that you are able to make an informed decision that considers the interests of the business community?**

As with any non-government organisation (NGO) representing sections of the community, a strong partnership is required so that the needs of that organisation are taken into account on policies that can directly, or indirectly affect them.

Networking with the local business communities is a must. A partnership with the Chamber of Commerce, for the greater Christchurch area, would also ensure that the interests of the business community are taken into account.

QUESTION 02:**What are your main priorities if elected to the Christchurch City Council?**

The make-up of the Council, after these elections, will determine how the Council will proceed over the next three years.

I want to minimise the effect that Central Government, which is currently Labour, has over the Christchurch area.

Currently People's Choice (Labour) appear to control the Council.

The current Council stymies economic growth. My main priority therefore is to endorse and promote proposals that lead to a "Good strong economy, led by business, which will have good positive community outcomes." (Chamber of Commerce CEO Leanne Watson – interview with Chris Lynch)

To achieve this, my next priority is for proposals to be debated in an open and transparent manner with expert opinion provided, both for and against proposals, so that an informed decision can be obtained.

QUESTION 03:**Do you have any business-specific priorities or policies that will contribute towards ensuring we have a strong local economy?**

The Burwood Ward has a very large Red Zone which has yet to be developed in any meaningful way. The development of this area will provide a vast range of benefits, to the city as a whole, especially the business sector.

One such project, currently before Council, is the development of a 1.8km rowing stretch from Kerrs Reach through to the Avondale Bridge, creating a water-bound Eco-sanctuary and promote a spawning ground for whitebait.

This is one development that would enhance commercial, sporting and ecological benefits. The estimated cost, as of October 2021, is \$20 million – cheaper and with far more benefits than the recent \$22 million Harewood cycleway.

For more information read this article: <https://www.stuff.co.nz/the-press/news/126497744/plan-for-christchurchs-avon-river-wouldboost-sporting-access-and-create-new-island>

QUESTION 04:**What do you see as the role and priorities that the Christchurch City Council has in facilitating economic growth?**

As a priority the Council needs to become more efficient and effective within their own administration. Ensuring the right infrastructure is in place to support that growth.

Currently the Council promotes the development of cycle ways, which is estimated to cost \$300 million over 10 years, above roads and infrastructure in the East, which is yet to be mitigated 11 years after the earthquakes.

QUESTION 05:**If you could immediately change one action or policy of the Christchurch City Council to better enable business growth or remove a barrier to doing business, what would it be?**

Apart from easing restrictive 'red tape' I would put all cycleway projects on hold until such time that the Council can afford this luxury. Cycle ways do not support businesses, they hinder them.

Continued on next page.

QUESTION 06:

What do you view as the three biggest challenges facing the business community throughout the next year, and how will you respond to them if elected?

1. Keeping Party politics out of Council.

Councillors should provide their reasons for or against a proposal and show that they have consulted with their communities and/or the affected parties.

2. Cutting back spending on frivolous 'feel good' ideological expenditure.

By insisting that rigorous debates are held on issues where expert advice is required, both for and against the issue, as, often the best way forward is somewhere in the middle.

3. Remove Christchurch City Council from Local Government NZ.

LGNZ is just another bureaucratic layer between Council and Central Government that is of no benefit to the Council. The Three Waters debacle is a prime example.

Colleen FARRELLY
Independent**QUESTION 01:**

If elected to Council, how will you ensure that you are able to make an informed decision that considers the interests of the business community?

By gathering information, reading, asking questions and listening to those in business. I have had 30 years working in the field of business advisory and am experienced in complex problem solving.

QUESTION 02:

What are your main priorities if elected to the Christchurch City Council?

To ensure we have well-informed decision making and are accountable for our actions. We must live within our means. I can interpret the story behind the numbers and am also future-focused in my thinking. What I stand for is fiscal responsibility – it may be dull but it matters.

QUESTION 03:

Do you have any business-specific priorities or policies that will contribute towards ensuring we have a strong local economy?

To simplify compliance. I have a rule at home that if new “stuff” comes into the house then something old should leave. I would like to see this happen with rules and regulations so they don't grow to ever increasing size and complexity. Keep it simple, remove outdated rules.

QUESTION 04:

What do you see as the role and priorities that the Christchurch City Council has in facilitating economic growth?

It seems the right time to hit pause, and not to limit economic growth. We are recovering. Our business leaders have been through massive challenges and now it is time to grow a better future – they are the life-blood that helps us all to thrive.

QUESTION 05:

If you could immediately change one action or policy of the Christchurch City Council to better enable business growth or remove a barrier to doing business, what would it be?

Slow down, there has been too much change too fast.

QUESTION 06:

What do you view as the three biggest challenges facing the business community throughout the next year, and how will you respond to them if elected?

This is a question we need to ask of the business owners. If elected I will work with the CeCC to survey the business community and hear what is frustrating them. During my campaign I will be door-knocking and asking the same question.

Keir LESLIE

The People's Choice - Labour

QUESTION 01:

If elected to Council, how will you ensure that you are able to make an informed decision that considers the interests of the business community?

I'll be available to meet with and discuss issues with the Chamber, with businesses, and I'll make sure that Council consultation processes engage with businesses.

QUESTION 02:

What are your main priorities if elected to the Christchurch City Council?

- 1- Delivering on environmental regeneration across the Opāwaho and Port Hills.
- 2- Delivering on mass rapid transit, including a light rail network to unlock jobs and housing.
- 3- Being a prudent steward of council finances and resources to invest in our future.

QUESTION 03:

Do you have any business-specific priorities or policies that will contribute towards ensuring we have a strong local economy?

Mass rapid transit and investment in transport infrastructure to unclog streets and open up jobs + housing markets. Building resilient infra that reduces Christchurch's exposure to climate risk.

QUESTION 04:

What do you see as the role and priorities that the Christchurch City Council has in facilitating economic growth?

The primary role of the City Council + CCHL is ensuring that there's the right infrastructure and housing set up so that businesses can rely on having quality infrastructure - roads, airport, port, power, broadband, public transport incl light rail, etc - coupled with smart planning to keep housing costs down and allow for businesses to grow and hire staff at reasonable pay while ensuring there's a good supply of commercial land at reasonable cost - and to do this without overburdening businesses with rates either now or in the future by underinvestment.

The next role of Council is to partner with education and central government to enable Christchurch firms to build on existing strengths whether that's in the high tech manufacturing space, in the agri-tech space, or in education. This is about having a proactive approach to support business excellence.

Finally, Council has a tourism promotion and events role.

QUESTION 05:

If you could immediately change one action or policy of the Christchurch City Council to better enable business growth or remove a barrier to doing business, what would it be?

Move to a land value based rating system for commercial land to remove penalties for investing in the city!

QUESTION 06:

What do you view as the three biggest challenges facing the business community throughout the next year, and how will you respond to them if elected?

1 - ongoing supply chain challenges and global economic shocks coming from twin impact of Ukraine and the ongoing effects of the pandemic

2 - managing an inflationary environment with consumer concerns over the cost of living

3 - the impact of increasing housing costs as part of inflationary pressures

Council should focus on doing the basics right, investing in infrastructure, and working with business to encourage business excellence. There will inevitably be difficult periods of the economic cycle but council needs to remain focussed on providing long term vision.

Alexandra DAVIDS

Independent

QUESTION 01:

If elected to Council, how will you ensure that you are able to make an informed decision that considers the interests of the business community?

Be engaged and connected with our business community. There needs to be better communication with the business community and I would make sure it occurs especially with important issues on the table.

QUESTION 02:

What are your main priorities if elected to the Christchurch City Council?

Building trust with the council through more open, transparent and regular communication is my main priority, along with getting our basics right the first time, for example rather than sealing roads and then have them dug up a short time later have contractors aware of what works are due in the schedule. This saves money for the ratepayers and unneeded upheaval for businesses and residents alike.

QUESTION 03:

Do you have any business-specific priorities or policies that will contribute towards ensuring we have a strong local economy?

In the Central Ward we have many new housing developments and I want to see us working harder with our residents to create greater connections with our local businesses for a thriving central city.

QUESTION 04:

What do you see as the role and priorities that the Christchurch City Council has in facilitating economic growth?

Making process more streamlined. We unfortunately hear all too often of council process holding up investment in our city and it is time to change that.

QUESTION 05:

If you could immediately change one action or policy of the Christchurch City Council to better enable business growth or remove a barrier to doing business, what would it be?

Council need to look at their consenting process so that we are not hindering process but enabling growth for business's and for the city as a whole.

QUESTION 06:

What do you view as the three biggest challenges facing the business community throughout the next year, and how will you respond to them if elected?

Higher interest rates, a shortage of stock, product and supplies and more people working from home. As council we are not solely responsible for the success of business in our city but we can most definitely help and work alongside the business community for better outcomes. We need to make consenting more streamlined, have better channels of communication and make sure we are making our hubs appealing and easily accessible to the community to make them a place where people want to go and spend time.

QUESTION 01:

If elected to Council, how will you ensure that you are able to make an informed decision that considers the interests of the business community?

While the business community will largely be pleased the stadium is proceeding; we didn't always do a great job in the last term of Council of involving the Chamber and the CCBA when it came to policy changes. Next term I want to change this.

QUESTION 02:

What are your main priorities if elected to the Christchurch City Council?

I want to secure a commitment from Council and Central Government to begin work on a light-rail network. To ensure we don't end up with the type of gridlock Auckland has. Investing in this type of infrastructure will grow and maintain our productivity.

QUESTION 03:

Do you have any business-specific priorities or policies that will contribute towards ensuring we have a strong local economy?

We also need to ensure our economic development agency ChristchurchNZ is well supported to attract people to live and visit. Maintaining a diverse and high calibre local talent pool is crucial for the future strength of our businesses.

QUESTION 04:

What do you see as the role and priorities that the Christchurch City Council has in facilitating economic growth?

Unsurprisingly, as the Central ward Councillor I'm focused on an accessible and vibrant CBD when it comes to facilitating economic growth.

QUESTION 05:

If you could immediately change one action or policy of the Christchurch City Council to better enable business growth or remove a barrier to doing business, what would it be?

I'm sure there are a great many consenting and regulatory processes that could be simplified.

QUESTION 06:

What do you view as the three biggest challenges facing the business community throughout the next year, and how will you respond to them if elected?

Our continued recovery from Covid will present an ongoing challenge, alongside International economic pressures and the cost of living everywhere.

Collaborating better with regional councils to plan and invest in shared infrastructure together.

Stephen MCPAIKE

Independent

QUESTION 01:

If elected to Council, how will you ensure that you are able to make an informed decision that considers the interests of the business community?

If elected I will always use all the information I have available to make an informed decision that benefits the majority of residents and businesses not one or the other.

QUESTION 02:

What are your main priorities if elected to the Christchurch City Council?

If elected my main priorities are to see tree cover increase, the CBD see a growth with businesses and residents, to see that roads in the CBD and surrounding areas have the best accessibility for all modes of transport (Car, Bus, Tram, Cycles, Scooters etc) with causing little issues for each mode of transport as possible.

QUESTION 03:

Do you have any business-specific priorities or policies that will contribute towards ensuring we have a strong local economy?

I do not have a policy in this area but I am a strong believer that elected members should be vocal in promoting Christchurch in all forms of media.

QUESTION 04:

What do you see as the role and priorities that the Christchurch City Council has in facilitating economic growth?

Christchurch City Council has a role of facilitation the infrastructure of bringing residents and shoppers into business areas. Council needs to invest into this more to improve accessibility for everyone.

QUESTION 05:

If you could immediately change one action or policy of the Christchurch City Council to better enable business growth or remove a barrier to doing business, what would it be?

I would like to see the reintroduction of free parking for an hour a day and the reduction in price for there after. A big barrier I am hearing is the cost of Inner City parking.

QUESTION 06:

What do you view as the three biggest challenges facing the business community throughout the next year, and how will you respond to them if elected?

The Cost of Living Crisis and Covid has changed the world in how we shop and live. It also changed how we think over night. These two issues will continue to play a part of our lives next year but if I am elected I would promote business areas around Christchurch as much I can. How will I respond to unknown issues, I will listen to all communities and make sound decisions based on the information I have.

QUESTION 01:

If elected to Council, how will you ensure that you are able to make an informed decision that considers the interests of the business community?

Building and keeping close relationships with all relevant parties and enabling an open line of communication.

QUESTION 02:

What are your main priorities if elected to the Christchurch City Council?

Restoring a community focus and protecting our assets with a mindset of tackling general wellbeing to try and reduce the crime rate.

QUESTION 03:

Do you have any business-specific priorities or policies that will contribute towards ensuring we have a strong local economy?

The first hour should be free in the city to promote quick turnover of general shoppers or people heading out to grab lunch. It encourages people to head in to the CBD and stimulate business.

QUESTION 04:

What do you see as the role and priorities that the Christchurch City Council has in facilitating economic growth?

To initiate meetings with CBD owners and discuss problems, hardships, solutions so recognizing what needs to be done what resources have they got, what help has been given what mental health and wellness continues to affect family and business so council are able to facilitate and correct concerns to improve economic growth.

QUESTION 05:

If you could immediately change one action or policy of the Christchurch City Council to better enable business growth or remove a barrier to doing business, what would it be?

Provide and establish more car parks remove obstacles such as kerbs and canals.

QUESTION 06:

What do you view as the three biggest challenges facing the business community throughout the next year, and how will you respond to them if elected?

1. Parking
2. Infrastructures
3. Transport

By removing bike lanes fix the roads. All buses totally free! Making access and mobility to CBD more effective and efficient

Celeste DONOVAN

Independent - Let's Make Waves

QUESTION 01:

If elected to Council, how will you ensure that you are able to make an informed decision that considers the interests of the business community?

Since my election last year, I have focused on supporting the local business sector and providing access to appropriate Council resources to support its growth.

I have worked to close the communication gap between residents, businesses, and the council. In the Coastal ward, I meet regularly with local businesses and associations to gather feedback and to investigate ways that business and council can work together for the good of the city.

I have been working closely with ChristchurchNZ to develop initiatives aimed at boosting local business in New Brighton and additional support for those impacted by the wastewater treatment plant. I also advocated at Council for the introduction of a covid business support package, including reducing costs and red-tape for businesses and providing more access to outdoor space for dining or socialising through use of parklets.

QUESTION 02:

What are your main priorities if elected to the Christchurch City Council?

Climate change is the most significant challenge we face as a city. I believe we need to show leadership as a city to future-proof our infrastructure and to create a better future for Christchurch and Banks Peninsula. We need greater collaboration across central government, local authorities, and the business community to drive the implementation of our climate strategy, towards the creation of a low-emissions, climate-resilient city.

QUESTION 03:

Do you have any business-specific priorities or policies that will contribute towards ensuring we have a strong local economy?

I support the development of creative and adaptive solutions to support business to managing the ongoing disruption from covid.

QUESTION 04:

What do you see as the role and priorities that the Christchurch City Council has in facilitating economic growth?

We need a clear plan to adapt and mitigate climate impacts on the city. I will be advocating for council to apply a climate lens to all future council activities, including working with local businesses and enterprise as we plan for a transition to a low emission, climate resilient economy.

We need to plan appropriately for future urban growth. I support the implementation of the MDRS and NPS-UD with a focus on providing high quality housing and affordable housing with a focus on walkable and liveable neighbourhoods. This includes the addition of quality medium density housing around suburban commercial centres such as New Brighton mall, to encourage people to shop locally and support local businesses.

We need to create opportunities for positive, climate friendly urban development and economic prosperity. I support the role of ChristchurchNZ in leading urban development projects aimed at boosting local business and economic prosperity across the city. This requires adequate funding and good collaboration between local neighbourhoods, council, government organisations, developers, investors, and community groups to create opportunities and drive innovation.

QUESTION 05:

If you could immediately change one action or policy of the Christchurch City Council to better enable business growth or remove a barrier to doing business, what would it be?

It's important to develop innovative and more agile approaches to supporting local business and help our economy thrive. This includes providing more flexibility in some planning regulation, such as allowing more use of public spaces for outdoor dining. One example is the use of parklets, which can temporarily transform parking spaces into vibrant public spaces built for people to sit, dine, and socialise. The benefits include improving the street experience, bringing more life to the street, and providing a low cost and simple and proven solutions for businesses to operate in a safe way.

Continued on the next page.

QUESTION 06:

What do you view as the three biggest challenges facing the business community throughout the next year, and how will you respond to them if elected?

The three biggest challenges in my opinion are, climate change, covid and staff recruitment and retention.

To fully address the climate crisis, we need proactive, and solutions focused climate adaptation planning. I support working with local businesses to reduce their environmental footprint and investing in the rapidly growing and innovative green economy. This includes working with ChristchurchNZ, the Canterbury Employers' Chamber of Commerce, local business association and other stakeholders to support and drive climate innovation in Christchurch.

Many businesses have already faced significant challenges with covid. I will advocate for further collaboration between local businesses, council, and central government, to develop the right tools and support to help businesses thrive in the face of further disruption. This includes looking at supporting businesses through support and mentoring, reducing fees for specific activities improvements to key transport corridors to make visiting key activity centres appealing, and making our public spaces pedestrianfriendly and attractive to visitors.

We can help attract and retain talent, by making Ōtautahi Christchurch the best place to live and work. This means working with our communities to adapt and plan for climate change, to prepare for future challenges such as climate change and covid disruption. Together, we can make Christchurch a destination to work and play by creating liveable, walkable, and green neighbourhoods, with good public transport, high quality and affordable housing, and a vibrant local economy.

James GOUGH

Independent Citizens

QUESTION 01:

If elected to Council, how will you ensure that you are able to make an informed decision that considers the interests of the business community?

First and foremost, business is the community. Too often the two are pitted against each other, a la “business versus the community”, when in reality they are one and the same as prosperous businesses will fuel prosperous communities, and vice versa. I come from a private enterprise background primarily in property, corporate governance, and asset management. In addition to my own background, I regularly connect with wide array of key business and community stakeholders.

I bring my own experiences and practical understanding along with a broad network base of local stakeholders who are as passionate about Christchurch’s success as I am.

QUESTION 02:

What are your main priorities if elected to the Christchurch City Council?

An enabling council that welcomes investment and is easy to do business with – a solutions focused attitude whereby how things can happen is the default setting as opposed to finding reasons why they cannot.

Further to this, I want to see the core fundamentals done well (roads, footpaths, water infrastructure, parks, playgrounds & regulatory services), a focus to spend smarter (CAPEX & OPEX) while reducing our levels of debt, looking after our environment, and a focus on reducing the unsustainable rates increases on our residents and businesses

QUESTION 03:

Do you have any business-specific priorities or policies that will contribute towards ensuring we have a strong local economy?

The mantra for Christchurch MUST be: “Welcome to Christchurch. We want your investment. How can we help?” The ‘red carpet’ should be rolled for investment. Ensuring repeat customers is generally a more successful strategy than prospecting for new customers. We are fortunate in Christchurch to have such a strong base of innovate, capable and committed investors ready and willing to positively contribute to our local economy so long as they are afforded the decency to be encouraged, valued and enabled. Christchurch must be a place where investment is welcomed, assistance is forthcoming,

success is celebrated, and bureaucracy is buried.

Consenting times is a key area where the status quo is woefully below par and will require a greater focus to rectify.

QUESTION 04:

What do you see as the role and priorities that the Christchurch City Council has in facilitating economic growth?

Ensuring Christchurch is an affordable place to live and do business by curbing our unsustainable rates rises is a start, along with delivering core services better, however visitor and investor attraction is also key. Council itself should continue to invest in ChristchurchNZ, the city’s economic development agency to develop economic development plans, promotions and events that help deliver sustainable economic growth.

QUESTION 05:

If you could immediately change one action or policy of the Christchurch City Council to better enable business growth or remove a barrier to doing business, what would it be?

I believe the council has not got the balance right with its transportation priorities – specifically the anti-car approach is doing possibly irreparable harm to local businesses; it is packaged under a suitability guise, yet the sustainable viability of our local businesses seems to be less important. I am very much in favour of planning for a sustainable future, however it cannot be driven ‘at all costs’ while the pressing needs of today are ignored.

QUESTION 06:

What do you view as the three biggest challenges facing the business community throughout the next year, and how will you respond to them if elected?

Rising interest rates, cost of living crisis, and labour shortages would round out my three biggest challenges facing business over the next year. The council cutting its own cloth accordingly – just as households and businesses are – is paramount if it is to play a lead role in curbing the impacts of rising interest rates the pressures associated with the rapidly escalating cost of living. Attracting people to Christchurch by ensuring it is the best place to live, work, invest and visit is essential if we are to realise our full potential.

Colin MEURK

Independent

QUESTION 01:

If elected to Council, how will you ensure that you are able to make an informed decision that considers the interests of the business community?

Regular consultation with The Chamber (and Christchurch NZ) as the principal representatives of City Business and futures enterprise; apply understanding of joined-up complex systems - recognising that Ecology and Economics have the same Greek root word (oikos the home) and indeed are convergent holistic concepts that must understand processes and dynamics and importantly can anticipate the future and take whatever precautions are needed to ensure long term sustainability and resilience.

QUESTION 02:

What are your main priorities if elected to the Christchurch City Council?

Engage with all stakeholders, young people, and iwi to co-design a visionary future for the city that can cope with anticipated challenges ahead.

Raise the profile and branding of the City as a go-to place for Urban Nature, Cultural diversity, Arts & Music, and Enterprise - to stimulate the local economy.

QUESTION 03:

Do you have any business-specific priorities or policies that will contribute towards ensuring we have a strong local economy?

Set up enhanced connections between town and gown (to synergise enterprise theory, development and practice); pressure central govt to provide fairer share of public transport investment to the South; engage with other southern councils to promote a Super South brand and demand more head offices of govt agencies are located in the South; promote the natural and cultural assets of the city (e.g. CHCH360Trail as first Urban Great Walk) to attract long stay visitors, energy and business to the City.

QUESTION 04:

What do you see as the role and priorities that the Christchurch City Council has in facilitating economic growth?

Local government must fairly engage with all stakeholders and clearly the local enterprise and business are key to the prosperity of the region. We must increasingly transition to a more sustainable,

equitable, circular economy that addresses the multiple challenges ahead of us. It is not however a matter of accepting the inevitability of certain outcomes, but rather it is responsible governance to have a precautionary plan in case conditions deteriorate. Local government must therefore have suitably trained/knowledgeable people at the Governance Table who can analyse, predict and design futures fit for purpose. This ensures the gate keepers of the city have the broadest understanding and can spot problems before they are out of control.

QUESTION 05:

If you could immediately change one action or policy of the Christchurch City Council to better enable business growth or remove a barrier to doing business, what would it be?

Economic analysis will determine the discrepancy between transport and head office investment in north and south islands, in order to take the argument to central Government to demand a fairer share - and establish better career paths and economic opportunity in the Super South instead of it all bleeding to the north.

QUESTION 06:

What do you view as the three biggest challenges facing the business community throughout the next year, and how will you respond to them if elected?

1. Geopolitical instability of supply, markets, covid, and reduced surplus per capita. Requires facilitation of entrepreneurship (enhanced town and gown connections), provide stronger leadership to act as a model locally and globally (we were the New York Times place to watch - but i don't think anyone is watching anymore);
2. Loss of social cohesion through financial pressures, housing and identity crisis, and consequent scape-goating of out-groups. Needs more compassionate leadership, social and hostel housing, and availability of productive work.
3. Unpredictable climate events for which we need to develop greater resilience structurally, economically and socially, with measurable progress towards carbon neutrality targets

Paul LONSDALE
Independent Citizens**QUESTION 01:**

If elected to Council, how will you ensure that you are able to make an informed decision that considers the interests of the business community?

I currently work within the business community advocating on their behalf. Governance, executive management, urban development, and communication are my strengths; I am the only Halswell candidate who has a proven track record of successfully fighting for communities around the Council table and working within the business community. My skillset is tailored to understand business interests and needs.

QUESTION 02:

What are your main priorities if elected to the Christchurch City Council?

1. Cap unsustainable rate rises through smarter spending and better cash management.
2. Get our basics right by improving our core services, roads footpaths water infrastructure etc.
3. Regaining trust with our community by working for our people, listen to our people, being accessible, and helping deliver on a future that Christchurch deserves.

QUESTION 03:

Do you have any business-specific priorities or policies that will contribute towards ensuring we have a strong local economy?

Reduce council bureaucracy, minimise compliancy costs and our city needs to strengthen its offer and how we present ourself to the rest of New Zealand through its ratepayer funded economic and marketing agency.

QUESTION 04:

What do you see as the role and priorities that the Christchurch City Council has in facilitating economic growth?

1. Being an enabler and not letting bureaucracy get in the way of moving the city forward.
2. Ensure that where council can and does contribute, that it is areas that provides a springboard for private investment.

QUESTION 05:

If you could immediately change one action or policy of the Christchurch City Council to better enable business growth or remove a barrier to doing business, what would it be?

Attitude - A can do council that looks for ways to help and that offers solutions rather than hurdles.

QUESTION 06:

What do you view as the three biggest challenges facing the business community throughout the next year, and how will you respond to them if elected?

1. Staff shortages
2. People working from home
3. Further tightening of the economy

The Council is one of the largest employer in the city and they engage a large number of contractors. The Council needs to encourage all its staff to come back to the office, and encourage its contractors to have their staff back in the offices too.

The Council could also ease up on some of its compliancy costs and bureaucratic processes to help reduce business costs in the short to medium term.

Lobby Government to ease boarder restrictions to allow more migrant workers through our boarders and to start a process to dismantle the many covid restrictions that are still in place.

Andrei MOORE
Independent**QUESTION 01:**

If elected to Council, how will you ensure that you are able to make an informed decision that considers the interests of the business community?

Taking the time to listen to the business community. This will often need to involve proactively taking the time to knock on their doors rather than waiting for submissions to come through.

QUESTION 02:

What are your main priorities if elected to the Christchurch City Council?

- Addressing and managing growth in Halswell, ensuring our road and footpath infrastructure is up to scratch and keeping up with growth
- Getting our spending under control
- Improving transparency at Council, starting with making the voting records of Councillors available online as well as making more briefings public
- Improve communication from Council, including the use of language that residents are actually able to understand.

QUESTION 03:

Do you have any business-specific priorities or policies that will contribute towards ensuring we have a strong local economy?

The Halswell Ward is home to 2800 businesses (2019 data) and I commit to establishing a monthly/bi-monthly forum with business owners in the area for the purpose of networking, connections and ensuring I am in touch with the needs of businesses in the area.

QUESTION 04:

What do you see as the role and priorities that the Christchurch City Council has in facilitating economic growth?

The role is an important one. Without businesses there aren't jobs and without jobs there aren't incomes to pay Council's rate bills. Council's role is quite simply to enable and empower businesses to get on with doing business rather than getting in the way.

QUESTION 05:

If you could immediately change one action or policy of the Christchurch City Council to better enable business growth or remove a barrier to doing business, what would it be?

I am very concerned at the excessive amount of restrictions imposed on central city hospitality businesses such as early closing times. I don't believe it's Council's job to tell paying customers when they need to go to bed.

I'm also concerned at the excessive restrictions on concerts at the new multi-use arena, including a limit on the number of concerts per year. This does nothing to inspire confidence for a sector that has struggled through Covid more than most.

We need to ensure we have the balance right to ensure we have a vibrant, business and people friendly central city for us to truly rebuild Christchurch.

QUESTION 06:

What do you view as the three biggest challenges facing the business community throughout the next year, and how will you respond to them if elected?

Uncertainty with Covid 19 - including staff shortages, illnesses and the potential of new strains.

Uncertainty with economic challenges - including inflation, cost of living and consumer confidence.

Uncertainty with global challenges - including supply chain issues.

The best thing Council can do is provide certainty wherever possible to businesses which is critical in these uncertain times (eg. providing more certainty to central city businesses as mentioned above.)

Prawindra MUKHIA

Independent

QUESTION 01:

If elected to Council, how will you ensure that you are able to make an informed decision that considers the interests of the business community?

All my decision making is for the public interest. I will make sure that there has been representation from all the affected stakeholders, this includes the business community, and that they are well engaged. My decision will be based on both a cost- benefit analysis and on how well the business case is aligned to the council's strategic plan. If necessary, I will seek the opinion of subject matter experts.

QUESTION 02:

What are your main priorities if elected to the Christchurch City Council?

1. Address current issues in Halswell and the impact of new housing developments and rapid population growth
2. Introduce the requirement of reporting on sustainability (carbon footprint, impacts to air, land, and waste minimization) for all projects
3. Establish Sustainable Program for Innovation Collaboration with Youth (SPICY)

QUESTION 03:

Do you have any business-specific priorities or policies that will contribute towards ensuring we have a strong local economy?

My business specific priorities and policies focus on those areas where Christchurch has competitive advantage, education, tourism, innovation and technology. My areas of interest include international connection and business, especially with Asian countries.

QUESTION 04:

What do you see as the role and priorities that the Christchurch City Council has in facilitating economic growth?

Council role is vital for promoting business and economic growth by making the city a great place for people to live, to work, to do business and to invest.

The priorities for the council for economic growth are attracting major business events, supporting businesses to meet the climate change challenge, encouraging innovation, supporting sustainability, and facilitating urban development projects.

Some have said that the role of Council should be more facilitating than regulating. If that means working alongside people, organisations, and businesses to find ways of ensuring economic growth, then I'm 110% on board with that.

QUESTION 05:

If you could immediately change one action or policy of the Christchurch City Council to better enable business growth or remove a barrier to doing business, what would it be?

Once again, this relates to the way in which the Council interacts with business. Council should work alongside business as a facilitator. Personally, I would quickly engage with the business community to understand the critical issues and the impacts, and discuss solutions.

QUESTION 06:

What do you view as the three biggest challenges facing the business community throughout the next year, and how will you respond to them if elected?

The three biggest challenges in my view are:

1. Economic sustainability
2. People - shortage of skilled people, retaining staff
3. Innovation – products, services, processes

My response would be to engage with the business community to develop plans on ensuring economic growth, make working in Christchurch more attractive, skill development for retaining staff, encouraging more use technologies and innovation.

Fiona BENNETTS**QUESTION 01:**

If elected to Council, how will you ensure that you are able to make an informed decision that considers the interests of the business community?

I will listen to individual businesses and business associations both through the usual engagement processes and by direct contact to ensure their voice is heard.

QUESTION 02:

What are your main priorities if elected to the Christchurch City Council?

Rapidly reducing greenhouse gas emissions by increasing transport options such as safe cycleways and faster and more reliable public transport services.

Increasing carbon sequestration and access to green spaces by creating corridors of native plants throughout the city.

Increasing public participation in local and national democratic processes such as voting and consultations through increased sharing of pertinent information.

QUESTION 03:

Do you have any business-specific priorities or policies that will contribute towards ensuring we have a strong local economy?

I would love to rejuvenate Bishopdale Mall with local businesses and activities that bring people together.

I would restrict the number of big box retail outlets in each suburb to ensure local businesses can thrive.

QUESTION 04:

What do you see as the role and priorities that the Christchurch City Council has in facilitating economic growth?

Continual growth is a myth. The planet has limits, and we are very nearly at breaking point. CCC has a role in helping NZ reduce greenhouse gas emissions to ensure we have a safe planet to live on in the future. Climate action is non-negotiable. Business as usual will lead to a climate catastrophe. We all need to change the way we live to protect what we have. Supporting local business is climate action.

QUESTION 05:

If you could immediately change one action or policy of the Christchurch City Council to better enable business growth or remove a barrier to doing business, what would it be?

I don't know enough to answer this question.

QUESTION 06:

What do you view as the three biggest challenges facing the business community throughout the next year, and how will you respond to them if elected?

Supply chain issue due to wars and climate change, staff shortages, and increasing costs.

I'm not sure how much the governance of the City Council can do, but I will look into how to support local businesses.

Drucilla KINGI-PATTERSON
Independent**QUESTION 01:**

If elected to Council, how will you ensure that you are able to make an informed decision that considers the interests of the business community?

Maintain a working relationship with the local business community

QUESTION 02:

What are your main priorities if elected to the Christchurch City Council?

lobby on the three water business model as its effect on financial and health costs will escalate unless it is modified and monitored.

QUESTION 03:

Do you have any business-specific priorities or policies that will contribute towards ensuring we have a strong local economy?

To establish the Friends of Te Kaha Multi Arena to establish community and business events to fundraise for arena to try and keep project on budget and promote tourism.

QUESTION 04:

What do you see as the role and priorities that the Christchurch City Council has in facilitating economic growth?

To work with a number of business organizations and communities to get better economic outcomes for the region

QUESTION 05:

If you could immediately change one action or policy of the Christchurch City Council to better enable business growth or remove a barrier to doing business, what would it be?

Marketing logo Christchurch the garden city of dreams, promote our architecture and its rebuild plus market Christchurch for screen industry and blue economy.

QUESTION 06:

What do you view as the three biggest challenges facing the business community throughout the next year, and how will you respond to them if elected?

Many workers are also carers of Adults or Disabled many are skilled workers you need 24 hour clock, part time workers recognized, additional training many courses require you full time which just does not work.Promote concept its okay to be a late bloomer and do study par time, some will require maybe the first 6 weeks one to one.computers,grammar, math,driving plus university study eg animation,law. You also need to market better to older workers one to one, speed job dating plus training workshops to catch skilled workers allowing other staff to take a brake,retrain,up skill, travel.

Rob GRAY

Independent

QUESTION 01:

If elected to Council, how will you ensure that you are able to make an informed decision that considers the interests of the business community?

First and foremost I would consult the local business community. I wouldn't be able to make any informed decisions without ensuring the input of those who are investing in our city, i.e. business investors and developers.

QUESTION 02:

What are your main priorities if elected to the Christchurch City Council?

Decisions based on common sense and in consultation with local businesses.

QUESTION 03:

Do you have any business-specific priorities or policies that will contribute towards ensuring we have a strong local economy?

Self-sustainable city: a network of reliable local goods and service providers

QUESTION 04:

What do you see as the role and priorities that the Christchurch City Council has in facilitating economic growth?

The council should be encouraging and activating the local community to support local businesses.

QUESTION 05:

If you could immediately change one action or policy of the Christchurch City Council to better enable business growth or remove a barrier to doing business, what would it be?

Rather than the Christchurch City Council using consultants from outside of our region or country for that matter I would be looking to our local business district first and foremost with regards to infrastructure or any major reform of the city. Also, the easing of any unnecessary 'red tape'.

QUESTION 06:

What do you view as the three biggest challenges facing the business community throughout the next year, and how will you respond to them if elected?

In my opinion I feel that some of the red tape that

is required by the council for potential business innovators who want to bring a fresh approach to the city needs to be reviewed.

Yes, there needs to be a structure in place for safety reasons but I know of a number of people who wanted to broaden the spectrum of what could be achieved in Christchurch especially with ideas from overseas only to be pipped at the final hurdle.

The second challenge I feel is the changing landscape of our central city business district.

One example of this is the number of car-parking options being limited in the city by bike lanes being built and prioritised over carparks with only six per cent of the region using them, culminating also in the sky rocketing costs of on-street parking. Presently being considered are 'congestion and toll charges' which will only exacerbate the problem, i.e. another hurdle to people visiting the inner city.

I see this as another major hurdle especially with regards to tourists traveling into the city providing revenue. Limited parking options stifle business growth in the city.

Yet again I will vote against continued restructuring of the city centre without consulting the business district about what they actually want to see in the growth of our city.

The third biggest issue in my opinion is frankly the overspending by council on what they want to see in the future rather than what the city needs right now! This has been highlighted by the fact that, 11 years after Christchurch's first earthquake our city's roads are still in a state of disrepair.

We still have crumbling buildings about the city that should have been demolished and rebuilt on years ago and there are large pockets of land throughout the city that aren't being utilized for urban or business growth.

As I mentioned earlier, bike lanes are being built throughout the city at a cost of millions of dollars and a new stadium is finally being built at a cost that will more than likely rise to a billion dollars by completion and the total cost will never be replenished by our city for generations.

City rates will increase by 54 percent within the next 10 years. How will I respond, it's obvious, we need to cut the outlandish expenditure of the present council and bring common sense and prudent spending to the council going forward.

Sara TEMPLETON

Strong Communities; Sustainable Future

QUESTION 01:

If elected to Council, how will you ensure that you are able to make an informed decision that considers the interests of the business community?

By ensuring early engagement on proposals that may impact businesses, by maintaining my membership of the Institute of Directors and continuing professional development, and by continuing to build relationships in the business community.

QUESTION 02:

What are your main priorities if elected to the Christchurch City Council?

In Ōtautahi we know all too well how disruptive natural and man-made disasters are and the impact they have. My main priority is to address the impacts of climate change that we know are coming so that our communities, environment and economy can adapt and thrive.

QUESTION 03:

Do you have any business-specific priorities or policies that will contribute towards ensuring we have a strong local economy?

Council needs to work closely with businesses to transition to a low carbon economy. I'd like to see more forums and workshops take place to help businesses understand why the changes are needed and how we can help each other and the city thrive as our world changes.

QUESTION 04:

What do you see as the role and priorities that the Christchurch City Council has in facilitating economic growth?

I do not believe that economic growth should be an end in itself, but that it should serve its people and that a more holistic measure of prosperity should be used. The City Council provides a wide range of public realm spaces and amenities, both on and off street parking, events and attractions and other supports to businesses. We also have ChristchurchNZ to promote and support Christchurch and the business communities and it needs to be funded appropriately to do so.

QUESTION 05:

If you could immediately change one action or policy of the Christchurch City Council to better enable business growth or remove a barrier to doing business, what would it be?

Much easier access to public realm for seating etc outside businesses and pocket parks in carparks. These have all proven really successful for businesses in other cities as many people are wary of sitting in enclosed spaces with others.

QUESTION 06:

What do you view as the three biggest challenges facing the business community throughout the next year, and how will you respond to them if elected?

1. Staff recruitment and retention – Continue to create high quality public realm that enables the retention and attraction of talent and do what we can to provide low-cost sustainable transport options to take the pressure off residents
2. Uncertainty over potential covid disruption – Provide low cost or free use of public realm for hospitality to lower the risk of transmission.
3. Increased likelihood of extreme weather events – Continue our mahi to both mitigate and adapt to climate change to lower these risks and subsequent impacts.

Kim MOSS

The People's Choice - Labour

QUESTION 01:

If elected to Council, how will you ensure that you are able to make an informed decision that considers the interests of the business community?

It's important to engage early with businesses on proposals that may impact them, including consulting, partnering and working alongside them

QUESTION 02:

What are your main priorities if elected to the Christchurch City Council?

Investing in addressing the impacts of climate change to ensure our residents and businesses can adapt and thrive.

Work towards having living streets, free swimming lessons and creating Otautahi as a City in a Park so that residents want to stay, work and play here

QUESTION 03:

Do you have any business-specific priorities or policies that will contribute towards ensuring we have a strong local economy?

Investing in Rapid Mass Transit and public transport will enable residents to safely travel for work and/or study and remove any distance/cost barriers.

QUESTION 04:

What do you see as the role and priorities that the Christchurch City Council has in facilitating economic growth?

By ensuring that our city is business friendly with ease of access, a range of public spaces, parking, events and experiences.

Investing in promotion of our city so that residents in Otautahi, across Aotearoa and internationally want to visit.

QUESTION 05:

If you could immediately change one action or policy of the Christchurch City Council to better enable business growth or remove a barrier to doing business, what would it be?

Ensuring our businesses have easy access for consumers with a suitable public transport system and appropriate parking facilities - not just within the CBD but across the city.

QUESTION 06:

What do you view as the three biggest challenges facing the business community throughout the next year, and how will you respond to them if elected?

Our ongoing recovery from the impacts of Covid - we need a reliable Council who will support residents and businesses that are impacted by the economic pressure.

Climate change - increasing our native flora and investing in public transport - we need to work towards reducing our carbon footprint. The extreme weather events disrupts our local businesses across the country have shown us that we need to act now.

Working in partnership with surrounding councils - we need to collaborate more with our regional councils and surrounding district councils so we can invest in our infrastructure and future together.

Mark PETERS

Independent For Hornby

QUESTION 01:

If elected to Council, how will you ensure that you are able to make an informed decision that considers the interests of the business community?

I will look to engage with business groupings and associations to hear from them and ensure informed decisions are made on my behalf.

QUESTION 02:

What are your main priorities if elected to the Christchurch City Council?

Ensuring trust in Council and its processes is rebuilt. Ensure that Council budgets are worked through line by line to ensure as a City we are getting value for money and look to find ways to lower the rates burden on ratepayers.

Look to work with fellow Councillors and staff to identify silly rules that get in the way of common sense development and progress for Christchurch.

Push back on Government for the current proposals for 3 Waters and Intensification.

Get back to basics and ensure they are delivered well for ratepayers.

Work to improve our neglected city roads and footpaths to ensure we have safe environments to live and work in.

QUESTION 03:

Do you have any business-specific priorities or policies that will contribute towards ensuring we have a strong local economy?

We need to ensure Christchurch is the best place to do business in with good value for money to businesses.

I would like to see a buy local policy introduced to Council to ensure we invest our rates dollars back into the local economy rather than export the rates dollars elsewhere unnecessarily

QUESTION 04:

What do you see as the role and priorities that the Christchurch City Council has in facilitating economic growth?

Christchurch has an integral role in facilitating economic growth in our City. Reducing compliance costs and unnecessary red tape should be a priority as well as a Buy Local priority.

QUESTION 05:

If you could immediately change one action or policy of the Christchurch City Council to better enable business growth or remove a barrier to doing business, what would it be?

Introduce a Buy Local priority to reinvest rates dollars into our local economy

QUESTION 06:

What do you view as the three biggest challenges facing the business community throughout the next year, and how will you respond to them if elected?

Rising interest rates, shortage of labour, and tightening of spending by customers, will likely be some of the biggest challenges. I will need to look to work with other Councillors and Staff to find ways to ensure we work effectively with the business community to support them through these challenges, teamwork is vital so we can all succeed together.

Carl BROMLEY

Independent - I Hear I Care

QUESTION 01:

If elected to Council, how will you ensure that you are able to make an informed decision that considers the interests of the business community?

Genuine, authentic, regular consultation. Listening to you as the experts, and working together to get business pumping.

QUESTION 02:

What are your main priorities if elected to the Christchurch City Council?

Weekly public face-to-face consultative meetings by the Mayor and monthly public face to face public meetings with all city councillors.

Establish an Urgent Response and Needs Team (URNT - Rate payers and businesses have 'URNT THIS')

This team will be deployed to cut through red tape and attend to business and community need urgently.

Too many basic and simple, but important tasks are left excusably too long.

We must be a council that is responsive to business and community need and effective.

QUESTION 03:

Do you have any business-specific priorities or policies that will contribute towards ensuring we have a strong local economy?

Fast-tracking consents, and licensing to get business pumping.

Reducing inner city car parking costs, and free weekend council parking to stimulate a return to inner city business.

Listen to the experts: i.e. those in business. Work together on sensible solutions.

Use common sense and balance when it comes to ideological narratives. Ruthlessly evaluate the issues of 'sustainability/climate legislation' with ALL THE SCIENCE, and not destroy business for ideological positions that are not reality based.

QUESTION 04:

What do you see as the role and priorities that the Christchurch City Council has in facilitating economic growth?

Serve the business community. Remove policy and legislation that inhibits growth, productivity and innovation. Introduce local incentives to businesses to stimulate growth.

QUESTION 05:

If you could immediately change one action or policy of the Christchurch City Council to better enable business growth or remove a barrier to doing business, what would it be?

End Mandates. But, in all prudence and honesty, I would need to hear from the business community to hear what is the greatest barrier for business growth, and together, remove it.

QUESTION 06:

What do you view as the three biggest challenges facing the business community throughout the next year, and how will you respond to them if elected?

1 - Autonomy. Too many bureaucratic hoops to jump through. I would advocate cutting all possible 'red tape' and supporting businesses to thrive. Again, this would need to happen in close consultation with the business community.

2 - Central Govt and Global Ideology taxing business ie. irrational climate change tax, and demands on business infrastructure and policy.

3 - As with the first two, I would need to here from you the experts to really identify these issues. I am open to hearing, and understanding from you, and supporting you to do all within my power to see businesses thrive. When businesses thrives, NZ thrives.

Pauline COTTER

The People's Choice - Labour

QUESTION 01:

If elected to Council, how will you ensure that you are able to make an informed decision that considers the interests of the business community?

Stay connected to the business community via the Central City Business Association, and the various business associations around the city, welcoming their comments and views on what is best for business. Working collaboratively is essential.

QUESTION 02:

What are your main priorities if elected to the Christchurch City Council?

Climate change is top of the list and reducing our carbon footprint is crucial. Supporting a fit for purpose public transport system, which is affordable, frequent, quick and electric will help reduce emissions and prepare us for future population growth, along with encouraging walking and cycling by providing safe options. Continuing support and funding for the Community waterways partnership to clean up our waterways, and continue funding in the LTP for our drinking water improvement programme, and our stormwater systems. Supporting Christchurch as a City in a Park vision, to develop Christchurch as tourist destination where the business community benefits from both local and overseas visitors.

QUESTION 03:

Do you have any business-specific priorities or policies that will contribute towards ensuring we have a strong local economy?

The public realm that ensures accessibility for all is highly important to enable local businesses to thrive and contribute to a strong economy.

QUESTION 04:

What do you see as the role and priorities that the Christchurch City Council has in facilitating economic growth?

The role of the Council is to partner with the private sector to ensure our local economies are vibrant and successful. The Council is tasked to deliver Urban planning, and economic development in conjunction with ChristchurchNZ.

QUESTION 05:

If you could immediately change one action or policy of the Christchurch City Council to better enable business growth or remove a barrier to doing business, what would it be?

One desirable action would be to find a way to incentivise the development of vacant or derelict land in the central city and suburban centres.

QUESTION 06:

What do you view as the three biggest challenges facing the business community throughout the next year, and how will you respond to them if elected?

Three huge challenges are recovery from the pandemic, increased costs of living and operating business, and tourism recovery.

My response would be to ensure rates increases are no higher than they need to be, and that the Council, in conjunction with ChristchurchNZ contributes within its areas of responsibility to a positive operating environment.

QUESTION 01:

If elected to Council, how will you ensure that you are able to make an informed decision that considers the interests of the business community?

Stay connected! My experience as a business owner for more than 25 years also helps but talking to business owners, employees, the general public is so important. Staying inside a bubble in the civic offices is not a great way to stay informed and connected.

QUESTION 02:

What are your main priorities if elected to the Christchurch City Council?

Ensuring there is strategic and effective planning for the future of the city (business, housing, transport, environment and three waters being the main issues). We can't do things on the fly, and we must be more innovative and aspirational.

QUESTION 03:

Do you have any business-specific priorities or policies that will contribute towards ensuring we have a strong local economy?

Do we actually have a business specific policy or plan? I understand from speaking to business people in ChCh that they feel there is no strategy for the development and growth of the city - encompassing residential and business. What are our economic goals? They should be clear and well promoted.

QUESTION 04:

What do you see as the role and priorities that the Christchurch City Council has in facilitating economic growth?

The key role is as a facilitator and catalyst, in my opinion. I believe we need to strengthen the relationships with Wellington - govt.

This is the role of ChChNZ - I'd like to ensure they are doing the best they can, that they are funded and resourced workforce-wise, appropriately

QUESTION 05:

If you could immediately change one action or policy of the Christchurch City Council to better enable business growth or remove a barrier to doing business, what would it be?

Assess whether CCC is fit for purpose in 2022 and beyond. Reduce bureaucracy, and increase common-sense and effectiveness.

QUESTION 06:

What do you view as the three biggest challenges facing the business community throughout the next year, and how will you respond to them if elected?

Positively promoting ChCh, communicating an economic plzn for ChCh, and restoring faith and pride in CCC.

QUESTION 01:

If elected to Council, how will you ensure that you are able to make an informed decision that considers the interests of the business community?

I will make myself available to support and stay connected to the business community, where needed, so they are well represented and I am informed on all relevant matters.

QUESTION 02:

What are your main priorities if elected to the Christchurch City Council?

Reaching and representing the general public and getting everyday people involved and caring about the city again with the idea of protecting our assets and building a community that supports local first.

QUESTION 03:

Do you have any business-specific priorities or policies that will contribute towards ensuring we have a strong local economy?

Support local first, I would really like to set up a local network of trades and services that the locals can use first. goals? They should be clear and well promoted.

QUESTION 04:

What do you see as the role and priorities that the Christchurch City Council has in facilitating economic growth?

The council should be promoting and advocating for local spending. I think the parking fees in the city should be reduced or a short period of free parking to promote and gain people back in the CBD

QUESTION 05:

If you could immediately change one action or policy of the Christchurch City Council to better enable business growth or remove a barrier to doing business, what would it be?

Cutting red tape, halting and redesigning bike lanes to stop the eradication of vital parking and keep the much needed access to businesses.

QUESTION 06:

What do you view as the three biggest challenges facing the business community throughout the next year, and how will you respond to them if elected?

CHALLENGE: Climate change crisis narrative which may result in harsh restrictions and regulations adversely affecting the smooth functioning and development of business.

RESPONSE: Ensure that the council's response is based upon a sound and reasonable understanding of the local situation.

CHALLENGE: Loss of the local voice of the elected authority, i.e. Christchurch City Council.

RESPONSE: As the democratically-elected representative body, the council should express, decide and enact those measures that are both relevant and beneficial to Christchurch City, by way of consultation, and in collaboration with both the business sector and residents (- without perceived political persuasion..?)

CHALLENGE: Supply Chain Issues - due to a multitude of complex factors worldwide.

RESPONSE: Although being a global issue with many countries impacted, we could soften the blow locally by setting up manufacturing and supplying with a mindset of being as self sustainable locally as much as is reasonably possible.

Yani JOHANSON

The People's Choice - Labour

QUESTION 01:

If elected to Council, how will you ensure that you are able to make an informed decision that considers the interests of the business community?

By listening to the concerns raised, reading submissions, and working with Christchurch NZ to address issues that impact on the business community.

QUESTION 02:

What are your main priorities if elected to the Christchurch City Council?

- fixing broken infrastructure and improving basic maintenance across the city, but especially in the east
- sorting out the permanent fix for the Wastewater Treatment Plant and relocating the Organics Processing Plant
- getting greater transparency and more localised service delivery to that the Council is open and efficient.

QUESTION 03:

Do you have any business-specific priorities or policies that will contribute towards ensuring we have a strong local economy?

- Support for cultural and creative industry sectors
- Stop increasing car parking charges in the central city
- Be mindful of the increased costs
- Encourage innovation and entrepreneurship
- Have a city that is good at the basics, that is well maintained and has a great quality of life.

QUESTION 04:

What do you see as the role and priorities that the Christchurch City Council has in facilitating economic growth?

To increase local prosperity and address economic inequity by utilising its resources and expertise via Council and Council owned organisations to develop and facilitate partnerships with industry that make a positive difference

QUESTION 05:

If you could immediately change one action or policy of the Christchurch City Council to better enable business growth or remove a barrier to doing business, what would it be?

Review and modify the An Accessible City (Central City Transport Plan) as it is an expensive waste of money producing gridlock and difficulty for people wanting to access along with causing disruption to central city businesses.

QUESTION 06:

What do you view as the three biggest challenges facing the business community throughout the next year, and how will you respond to them if elected?

- cost increase pressures
- supply chain issues
- labour shortages

Work with Christchurch NZ to support local suppliers and producers and have a workforce development plan.

Mike DAVIDSON
Independent**QUESTION 01:**

If elected to Council, how will you ensure that you are able to make an informed decision that considers the interests of the business community?

By ensuring all decisions I make are in the best interest of Ōtautahi-Christchurch, including the business community. I will continue to engage with local businesses and ensure that the business community are included as a key stakeholder for Council and engaged with early.

QUESTION 02:

What are your main priorities if elected to the Christchurch City Council?

Strong communities, healthy environment and climate action. Ensuring that Ōtautahi-Christchurch moves towards being a more sustainable city will create better long-term outcomes for both the city and businesses.

QUESTION 03:

Do you have any business-specific priorities or policies that will contribute towards ensuring we have a strong local economy?

My focusing on having a sustainable city will strengthen the local economy as it will be more resilient to the shocks and stresses of climate change. A sustainable city also needs to include sustainable economic growth and development.

QUESTION 04:

What do you see as the role and priorities that the Christchurch City Council has in facilitating economic growth?

The Council needs to adequately fund ChristchurchNZ as its economic development agency to be effective in facilitating sustainable economic growth. Additionally Council needs to ensure it invests in projects that help to support future growth, this is why I supported Council's investment in the stadium

QUESTION 05:

If you could immediately change one action or policy of the Christchurch City Council to better enable business growth or remove a barrier to doing business, what would it be?

A more streamlined approach to enable businesses to turn on-street car parking spaces outside their business into parklets or other uses of public realm.

QUESTION 06:

What do you view as the three biggest challenges facing the business community throughout the next year, and how will you respond to them if elected?

The cost of living – Continue working towards a transport system that provides people with good low-cost transport options.

On-going impacts of covid - Promote Ōtautahi-Christchurch as a city that is open to locals and visitors alike.

Impacts of climate change (eg. more frequent rain events causing disruption). Continue working on progressing Council's climate change mitigation and adaptation programmes.

Victoria HENSTOCK

Your Local Independent Community Voice

QUESTION 01:

If elected to Council, how will you ensure that you are able to make an informed decision that considers the interests of the business community?

I will build and maintain constructive working relationships within the business community and actively seek out their views on matters as they arise.

QUESTION 02:

What are your main priorities if elected to the Christchurch City Council?

Rebuild public trust and confidence in Council. Improve community input into decision making - listen more and rethink how the Council engages with the public.

Get the basics right - improve accessibility for all by fixing roads and footpaths, deliver core services more efficiently and fix the broken consenting system.

Spend smarter - review priorities and curb wasteful spending, be clever with our assets and reduce debt.

Protect our environment by investing in affordable and achievable climate action appropriate for Christchurch balancing the needs of now and the future. 1. Our initiatives must be inclusive and co-designed with local communities, not forced upon them without proper engagement.

QUESTION 03:

Do you have any business-specific priorities or policies that will contribute towards ensuring we have a strong local economy?

I'd seek fresh input from the business sector into the operating environment, and infrastructure needed to help the cities economy thrive. Eg a working group or high level think tank.

I am opposed to the some of the initiatives proposed in the Draft Christchurch Transport Plan which appear to be out of touch with our local environment. Congestion taxes, increased parking costs, closing roads and penalties for employers providing car parks for staff will cripple the operation of business in the city.

I am also opposed to the penalty payments to be imposed on developers / owners of vacant land. CCC should work with developers not penalise them. If it weren't for our developers we wouldn't have a city centre!

QUESTION 04:

What do you see as the role and priorities that the Christchurch City Council has in facilitating economic growth?

The Council should be an enabler for local business to thrive across all sectors. To encourage growth and vibrancy in our city centre the Council must improve travel networks through out the city. CCC must listen to the needs of the business community not restrict them by dictating the operating environment.

QUESTION 05:

If you could immediately change one action or policy of the Christchurch City Council to better enable business growth or remove a barrier to doing business, what would it be?

Revisit the Draft Christchurch Transport Plan and seek early input from city business leaders. Accessibility is vital to business success. Our transport initiatives must be inclusive and co-designed with all sectors of the community including business and not forced upon them without proper engagement.

QUESTION 06:

What do you view as the three biggest challenges facing the business community throughout the next year, and how will you respond to them if elected?

Accessibility across the city.
Lack of vibrancy in our central city.
Delays with the CCC consenting system.

Revisit the Draft Christchurch Transport Plan and adopt a more inclusive engagement model to more appropriately reflect the local operating environment.

Better engage with central city business owners to co-design growth initiatives for the central city.

Review the consenting system to identify the road blocks and streamline the process.

Mark CHIRNSIDE

Chirny for Mayor

QUESTION 01:

If elected to Council, how will you ensure that you are able to make an informed decision that considers the interests of the business community?

Primarily I'm a young business owner. That's how I identify myself. I network with a huge number of people in businesses of various sizes around Christchurch, and I take a huge and enthusiastic interest in how businesses tick, particularly small businesses like mine.

People who know me trust me to listen, they trust me to learn. I want to be a mayor that everyone can relate to, everyone can work with, and that everyone can feel represented by.

QUESTION 02:

What are your main priorities if elected to the Christchurch City Council?

Engagement is number one. It's first and foremost about bringing new and young people into politics. If only 41% of people vote (as was the case last time), it's hard for us to have a representative Council, and it's hard for the Council to make decisions with the confidence of their constituents.

Number two is growth. I want Christchurch to grow, I want Christchurch to intensify, to be a more active, vibrant city that does not become an urban sprawl. However, we have to make sure infrastructure can support intensification, and I don't think we should intensify in a random, uncontrolled way.

Thirdly, accountability. The Council needs to be accountable to constituents and businesses when its own shortcomings/delays/failures result in harm. This means direct compensation.

QUESTION 03:

Do you have any business-specific priorities or policies that will contribute towards ensuring we have a strong local economy?

I strongly believe in solving problems through public-private partnership. Where a problem exists, Council needs to pro-actively identify businesses that are helping to solve it, and reach out to them and truly engage with them about what they need to do more of what they're doing.

QUESTION 04:

What do you see as the role and priorities that the Christchurch City Council has in facilitating economic growth?

The Council foremost has to get out of the way. I strongly believe in less red tape where it's possible, but also we have to facilitate communities that facilitate growth. This means more efficient public transport options, intensification that grows the city gradually outwards from the centre, and incentivizing a variety of attractions that inspire people to get out and spend after a couple years where that's been discouraged.

QUESTION 05:

If you could immediately change one action or policy of the Christchurch City Council to better enable business growth or remove a barrier to doing business, what would it be?

I want to flatten out the process for consents, licences and permits. The process needs to be faster, it needs to be simpler, and it needs to be more fair. There's such a huge disparity between some businesses who have access to a lot of certainty simply because they have the right connections, and others who have none.

We could also look at additional fast tracking for businesses, activities and events that provide significant community value.

QUESTION 06:

What do you view as the three biggest challenges facing the business community throughout the next year, and how will you respond to them if elected?

The growing labour shortage, lack of activity in the city, and a general sense of uncertainty. The labour shortage in particular is going to be hard to contend with, but I think we can increase activity and give extra certainty by reducing red tape and getting Council out of the way where possible.

Tyla HARRISON-HUNT

The People's Choice - Labour

QUESTION 01:

If elected to Council, how will you ensure that you are able to make an informed decision that considers the interests of the business community?

As a small business owner myself, I believe it is important that our businesses across Ōtautahi Christchurch are supported and enabled through meaningful resourcing to help build skills, digitization and consultation. Our business community are the backbone of our economy in our city, and with that, meaningful engagement needs to happen. Our people need to be heard, considered and engaged in everything that relates to them. This would mean consulting with local businesses on major changes that affect them. We must always put our resident's needs at the forefront of future planning.

QUESTION 02:

What are your main priorities if elected to the Christchurch City Council?

Regarding our business community:

- Improving local engagement and processes at the governance and organisational level. This means quicker action on issues!
- Investing in infrastructure that futureproofs the city, our residents and local business for climate change.
- Keep a close eye on council spending to ensure rates are spent on the things that matter to our residents.

QUESTION 03:

Do you have any business-specific priorities or policies that will contribute towards ensuring we have a strong local economy?

Rapid Mass Transit:

Will be a game changer for how our city functions, providing access to our businesses all over the city actioning climate change, providing more jobs and lightening the load on our roads.

- Meaningful and constant engagement with our businesses to assist in transitioning to a digitised business environment, providing workshops and public meetings to address issues our local businesses have.
- Provide information and resourcing to assist organisations in going carbon neutral.
- Strongly push for maintenance and repair works to be completed quickly (and quality assured) so businesses can go back to 'business as usual'.

QUESTION 04:

What do you see as the role and priorities that the Christchurch City Council has in facilitating economic growth?

- Providing a business-friendly city with facilities and services comparable to other international cities of this scale.
- Ensuring rates increases are kept to a reasonable level to manage the cost of living pressure on residents.
- Making sure that Christchurch is promoted domestically and internationally as a great place to visit and live, attracting tourism and new residents to maintain our economic growth.
- Again, providing meaningful workshops from leaders in their fields to assist businesses in innovating and changing with the times to improve business.

QUESTION 05:

If you could immediately change one action or policy of the Christchurch City Council to better enable business growth or remove a barrier to doing business, what would it be?

Provide a meaningful action plan that is built by businesses and for businesses. There isn't currently an appropriate plan that reflects this.

BONUS Policy: Within every hub such as Riccarton centre, we should be building greenspaces and places that give our visitors a place to connect where our local providers are wrapped around these areas. This includes free wifi, food providers, boutiques and other awesome businesses.

QUESTION 06:

What do you view as the three biggest challenges facing the business community throughout the next year, and how will you respond to them if elected?

- International economic pressures and their effect on the cost of living everywhere.
- Our continued recovery from covid, we need to provide some certainty in uncertain times.
- Collaborating better with regional councils to plan and invest in shared infrastructure.

Fiona JONES
Independent**QUESTION 01:**

If elected to Council, how will you ensure that you are able to make an informed decision that considers the interests of the business community?

By consulting any business or people that will be directly impacted by a decision made. Get their opinions and solutions so they have say and input in the final outcome.

QUESTION 02:

What are your main priorities if elected to the Christchurch City Council?

1. Be accountable and listen to the people and not pick and choose what submissions to go for but what the people need or want.
2. Against chlorination of the water. Lack of consultation for the rate payers and have their feedback consulted is a big concern.
3. To have lower rates, by cutting out excess spending, cut out unnecessary spending and better budgeting.

QUESTION 03:

Do you have any business-specific priorities or policies that will contribute towards ensuring we have a strong local economy?

No set policies at the moment but there needs to be cuts to excess spending and cut out unnecessary expenditure on things that are not required and focus on the needs, hopefully this will be able to bring a rates decrease and help the local businesses.

QUESTION 04:

What do you see as the role and priorities that the Christchurch City Council has in facilitating economic growth?

The council can support economic development by helping create and keep stable, jobs in the community. The council can help the local economy by changing how planning consents are done, zoning bylaws or changes some taxes on local business.

QUESTION 05:

If you could immediately change one action or policy of the Christchurch City Council to better enable business growth or remove a barrier to doing business, what would it be?

Be able to offer free parking for people in the city to be able to get people to the business's.

QUESTION 06:

What do you view as the three biggest challenges facing the business community throughout the next year, and how will you respond to them if elected?

Biggest challenges are 1) Covid restrictions/impacts, 2) Parking, 3) Rates/Taxes for business. Would like to work out ways to be able to give some cuts to business/s to keep on employees and to keep money flowing to help all of Christchurch

QUESTION 01:

If elected to Council, how will you ensure that you are able to make an informed decision that considers the interests of the business community?

In the spirit of complete honesty and transparency, I have no business experience. I won't spin this or seek to diminish this. I understand, therefore, that to make informed decisions in these areas I have to listen to those with actual experience and actively seek advice. This isn't out of a lack of competency. Instead, an acknowledgement that to make decisions that will positively impact the business community, I will be ready to collaborate and bring people together who can provide the business experience required in relevant decision making.

QUESTION 02:

What are your main priorities if elected to the Christchurch City Council?

Increasing community safety, lobbying for strong and sensible infrastructure investment, taking real climate action, increasing council trust and accountability, and pushing for result oriented spending.

QUESTION 03:

Do you have any business-specific priorities or policies that will contribute towards ensuring we have a strong local economy?

No. However, I welcome proposals by business leaders to boost the local economy and will investigate them in good faith and then lobby for implementation if they appear appropriate. I recognise the extreme importance of a strong local economy, and value ideas from leaders with experience in this area.

QUESTION 04:

What do you see as the role and priorities that the Christchurch City Council has in facilitating economic growth?

I believe the City Council plays a very active role in facilitating economic growth - especially considering the Council owns many entities that contribute to economic growth. They should also be prioritising the facilitation of growth from entities in the private sector to also contribute to economic growth.

QUESTION 05:

If you could immediately change one action or policy of the Christchurch City Council to better enable business growth or remove a barrier to doing business, what would it be?

Connect more with local business leaders, and give them greater inclusion in decision making processes. The lack of accountability and interest from council to listen to the community (including the business community) is extremely unfortunate. I believe that including business, more, in decision making is a good start to repairing this weakening link between council and business in Christchurch.

QUESTION 06:

What do you view as the three biggest challenges facing the business community throughout the next year, and how will you respond to them if elected?

Rising business costs, worker shortages, and economic stagnation. Many of these issues cannot be solved by Council alone. However, the City Council play a very key role in creating a city that is very enticing and accessible to visitors and future residents. This will hopefully provide more business for entities operating locally (especially in the hospitality and tourism sectors) and allow for new sources of workers from overseas or elsewhere in the country. Hopefully, these help to boost the local economy and lead to growth once again.

Peter SIMMONDS
Independent**QUESTION 01:**

If elected to Council, how will you ensure that you are able to make an informed decision that considers the interests of the business community?

Survey and interview the business community with support from university staff and/or masters and PhD level students, with a view to producing robust, ethically-produced and peer-reviewed results and recommendations that identify core and structural issues and appropriate, long-term solutions that cut costs and produce timely and effective results for business.

QUESTION 02:

What are your main priorities if elected to the Christchurch City Council?

ENSURE Canterbury is a highly attractive place for skilled, talented people to make it their home.
TACKLE Youth Unemployment, Truancy and Crime.
BUILD the Stadium to bring the CBD back to life.
PUSH back against intensive housing.
SUPPORT more job and self-employment opportunities.
PROTECT, activate and enhance our parks.
ENSURE Council meets its net zero emissions target before or by 2030.
ENSURE the city transitions towards a low-emissions economy as soon as possible.

QUESTION 03:

Do you have any business-specific priorities or policies that will contribute towards ensuring we have a strong local economy?

I would work to ensure Canterbury attracts talented, skilled people to fill the widespread vacancies and retains them; improve council processes for lower cost, timely and effective results; I would facilitate the development of more council-Work and Income job schemes to train youth beneficiaries and put them to work; support the running of more job fares for Canterbury; ramp up support and mentoring start-ups with the aim of making Canterbury the start-up capital; improve the way in which business and Work and Income interact.

QUESTION 04:

What do you see as the role and priorities that the Christchurch City Council has in facilitating economic growth?

According to one recruitment firm, the current under-supply of employees is going to be with us or for 2 or 3 years. Council needs to make Canterbury an attractive and attractive option for would be workers, in terms of housing, leisure, transport, green space, activities for children and community activities, as well as for start-up developers and business owners specialising in the growth areas such as AI, GIS, and cyber security. Council also must find ways to improve its processes to make them timely, lower-cost and effective.

QUESTION 05:

If you could immediately change one action or policy of the Christchurch City Council to better enable business growth or remove a barrier to doing business, what would it be?

Support the development of a world-class start-up environment that provides a clear pathway for developers that provides legal, mentoring, mental wellbeing and commercial support. UC's Centre for Entrepreneurship would be the ideal body to advise on such a project and lead in its inception and development. The startup centre could play a key role in attracting the talented, skilled people that Canterbury needs in the long term.

QUESTION 06:

What do you view as the three biggest challenges facing the business community throughout the next year, and how will you respond to them if elected?

Attracting and retaining talented and skilled people; rising costs: insurance costs due to climate events, supply costs brought on global events such as war, and compliance costs, especially related to immigration compliance; local shops and businesses remaining competitive in face of more and more customers sourcing goods online.

Renee WALKER

Independent Citizens

QUESTION 01:

If elected to Council, how will you ensure that you are able to make an informed decision that considers the interests of the business community?

Having worked in economic development, business recovery, local and central government and the corporate sector I have strong connections into the business community locally and nationally. One of the main reasons I am standing is to ensure that the interests of the business community are represented around the Council table.

QUESTION 02:

What are your main priorities if elected to the Christchurch City Council?

- Rebuilding trust and confidence in council in order to return decision making power to the local community (local democracy)
- Connecting community, creative and commercial sectors to create a vibrant and thriving city and region

QUESTION 03:

Do you have any business-specific priorities or policies that will contribute towards ensuring we have a strong local economy?

- Re-establishing business advisory panels and engagement models to ensure the needs and views of local businesses and business owners are heard
- Creating opportunities for collaborative and coordinated planning and prioritisation
- Investigation of public/ private partnership opportunities, leveraging of assets through joint ventures and other commercial opportunities.

QUESTION 04:

What do you see as the role and priorities that the Christchurch City Council has in facilitating economic growth?

CCC has a key role to play in creating a city that people want to work, live and do business in. That means smart and fair capital investment and funding and delivering on projects that attract businesses and people. Projects like the Performing Arts Precinct, the upgrade of Cathedral Square and the build of Te Kaha. The culture of the council needs to change to enable growth. This includes timelier decision making, more efficient processes and a more empowered workforce.

QUESTION 05:

If you could immediately change one action or policy of the Christchurch City Council to better enable business growth or remove a barrier to doing business, what would it be?

The first thing I would do is make CCC 'easy to do business with', therefore making doing business easier. This starts with things like 'Relationship Managers', Advisory Groups and regular engagement opportunities. Business needs to be consulted, not informed; and respected for their contribution to the City.

QUESTION 06:

What do you view as the three biggest challenges facing the business community throughout the next year, and how will you respond to them if elected?

1. Increased cost of doing business due to factors like interest rate rises, cost of fuel, labour shortages, increased health and safety procedures, less efficient business practices (as a result of COVID protocols) and shipping and logistic challenges.
2. Labour shortages and challenges as a result of borders reopening, the 'great resignation' and a changing workforce.
3. Building agile and resilient organisational cultures to enable businesses to deal quickly with disruptions such as COVID-19.

Councils' role in helping businesses is about setting vision, building optimism and being boldly ambitious. All things I have experience in, and am well-known for in the local business sector. Personally, I will leverage my networks and experience to ensure businesses are well-informed and connected, and can plan and prioritise in a structured manner.

Melanie COKER

The People's Choice - Labour

QUESTION 01:

If elected to Council, how will you ensure that you are able to make an informed decision that considers the interests of the business community?

I will talk to local businesses in the Spreydon Ward to see how local decision made around their area affect them.

QUESTION 02:

What are your main priorities if elected to the Christchurch City Council?

My city wide priorities are increasing equity and improving our environment. Examples include free swims and swimming lessons for kids; creating living streets with slower traffic, safer crossings, more trees and parks; and more support for biodiversity initiatives. Locally, the Hoon Hay Community Centre needs a kitchen and modern day facilities.

QUESTION 03:

Do you have any business-specific priorities or policies that will contribute towards ensuring we have a strong local economy?

- * Safeguard our strategic assets from being sold off, such as Orion, Enable and our city's shares in Christchurch International Airport.
- * Continue to support the living wage for Council employees and contractors, as well as those who work for Council's companies.
- * Enhance suburban shopping areas to support local businesses, for example Selwyn St

QUESTION 04:

What do you see as the role and priorities that the Christchurch City Council has in facilitating economic growth?

Christchurch City Council supports economic growth through investment in city-wide assets such as Hagley Oval and the multiuse arena Te Kaha.

QUESTION 05:

If you could immediately change one action or policy of the Christchurch City Council to better enable business growth or remove a barrier to doing business, what would it be?

Council investment in public areas that have not yet recovered after the earthquakes.

QUESTION 06:

What do you view as the three biggest challenges facing the business community throughout the next year, and how will you respond to them if elected?

Gaining and retaining skilled staff, servicing customers to the high levels now expected, and making sure business owners are not overloaded with high work demands, stress and lack of personal life balance.

Ju-Shang (Sam) LU

QUESTION 01:

If elected to Council, how will you ensure that you are able to make an informed decision that considers the interests of the business community?

Stay tuned.

QUESTION 02:

What are your main priorities if elected to the Christchurch City Council?

1. Fight for local democracy .
2. Keep businesses alive by providing easy access to their premises. (preserve those off-street parkings!)
3. simply get the basics right ie. roads and footpaths where most urgently need repairing.

QUESTION 03:

Do you have any business-specific priorities or policies that will contribute towards ensuring we have a strong local economy?

1. Attract businesses to invest in Christchurch.
2. Help businesses to increase productivity
3. Minimise bus lanes and cycleways.

QUESTION 04:

What do you see as the role and priorities that the Christchurch City Council has in facilitating economic growth?

- 1.The balancing of quality and quantity. Good things takes time I know that, but there are times when bureaucracy should ease.
2. Offering commercial rate payer the option to make payments in instalments at a low interest rate like IRD. This would help tremendously on cashflow for businesses regarding size.
3. Enhanced marketing of Christchurch to attract "people".

QUESTION 05:

If you could immediately change one action or policy of the Christchurch City Council to better enable business growth or remove a barrier to doing business, what would it be?

Offer repayment plan on invoice exceeding a certain amount.

QUESTION 06:

What do you view as the three biggest challenges facing the business community throughout the next year, and how will you respond to them if elected?

1. Productivity. (improve procedures and cultivate passion)
2. Covid or equivalent disruptions. (be prepared, financially and human resource wise)
3. Encourage young people not to be tempted to go on the dole. Learn a skill or trade, not just knowledge.

QUESTION 01:

If elected to Council, how will you ensure that you are able to make an informed decision that considers the interests of the business community?

Years of experience as an advisor at Parliament have taught me to look at cost benefit ratios for all issues.

QUESTION 02:

What are your main priorities if elected to the Christchurch City Council?

Dealing with the economic mess created by the \$150 million stadium blowout.

Maintaining Parks and Community facilities.

Highlighting the dubious economic "benefits" of bloated managerial pay scales (Enronesque).

QUESTION 03:

Do you have any business-specific priorities or policies that will contribute towards ensuring we have a strong local economy?

Capping rents (council Housing) so those on lower incomes can spend more money within their communities.

Prioritising free public transport as a way to assist with climate change and put more money into the local economy.

QUESTION 04:

What do you see as the role and priorities that the Christchurch City Council has in facilitating economic growth?

What sort of growth are we talking about when you ask this question. Sustainable growth that supports the local economy and pays living wages is worth supporting.

QUESTION 05:

If you could immediately change one action or policy of the Christchurch City Council to better enable business growth or remove a barrier to doing business, what would it be?

Make Christchurch more pedestrian friendly (Cuba mall style Wellington) and incentivise public transport into the central city through free busses on weekends as a start.

QUESTION 06:

What do you view as the three biggest challenges facing the business community throughout the next year, and how will you respond to them if elected?

1. Ongoing restrictions caused by Covid.
2. Move to shop online for everything which has been accelerated through Covid.
3. The wasteland that is Christchurch's central city. Response. There needs to be more focus put on getting people and businesses back into the Central city.

Sam MACDONALD

Independent Citizens

QUESTION 01:

If elected to Council, how will you ensure that you are able to make an informed decision that considers the interests of the business community?

I regularly engage with the Business Community in my current role. I will continue to do so in order to ensure we can make the Council more enabling.

QUESTION 02:

What are your main priorities if elected to the Christchurch City Council?

The key is for our Council to become enabling, this requires a culture change. In addition to this, we need to focus on delivering the basics well and ensuring that the rates charged to ratepayers are affordable.

QUESTION 03:

Do you have any business-specific priorities or policies that will contribute towards ensuring we have a strong local economy?

Council needs to ensure that our consenting processes are streamlined, we also need to finish the Multi-use Arena. Council need to also ensure that there are tangible, measurable outcomes being delivered from ChristchurchNZ.

QUESTION 04:

What do you see as the role and priorities that the Christchurch City Council has in facilitating economic growth?

Council is a large contributor to the local GDP through its rate take, and subsequent spend - this needs to be efficiently spent.

Council needs to become enabling, this will facilitate growth. This requires a more permissive approach to planning and investment in the City.

QUESTION 05:

If you could immediately change one action or policy of the Christchurch City Council to better enable business growth or remove a barrier to doing business, what would it be?

I would remove the Council's anti-car approach to the City.

QUESTION 06:

What do you view as the three biggest challenges facing the business community throughout the next year, and how will you respond to them if elected?

I think we need to be clear on the Council's role, the Council is a participator in the City but not the key to everything. Business and private investment has built our City. Challenges over the coming year will be the economic slowdown, interest rate increases and I believe a skills shortage with net migration impacting workforces. As a city we need to look at how we lift our population, market ourselves outwardly and make it easy for new businesses to establish in Christchurch. The Council needs to roll out the red carpet to anyone willing to invest in our City and make dealing with Council to achieve this as easy as possible.

QUESTION 01:

If elected to Council, how will you ensure that you are able to make an informed decision that considers the interests of the business community?

Identify the needs and problems by engaging the business community in discussions and brainstorming process, and involve them to solving problems.

QUESTION 02:

What are your main priorities if elected to the Christchurch City Council?

Make sure that everyone has equal opportunity to live and thrive in Christchurch regardless of how long they lived in the city and create a safe environment for everyone especially the small business owners like dairy stores.

QUESTION 03:

Do you have any business-specific priorities or policies that will contribute towards ensuring we have a strong local economy?

A productive, sustainable, and inclusive community that cares about the environment and promote small businesses to sustain the economy.

QUESTION 04:

What do you see as the role and priorities that the Christchurch City Council has in facilitating economic growth?

Christchurch needs to be more inclusive and less discriminative society to retain a stable work force in the city. To be globally competitive, Christchurch will need to maintain a strong reputation to attract and retain workers, investment, business and visitors.

QUESTION 05:

If you could immediately change one action or policy of the Christchurch City Council to better enable business growth or remove a barrier to doing business, what would it be?

Revisit the bureaucratic hurdles that the business owners are facing to deliver a sustainable business model and help to provide tools to achieve their goals in a sustainable way.

QUESTION 06:

What do you view as the three biggest challenges facing the business community throughout the next year, and how will you respond to them if elected?

Supply chain disruptions, finding enough work force and retaining them, commodity price increases are the three main challenges that the business owners might be facing for a few more years.

Create positive cultures and environment to retain the employees and make them feel sense of belonging, use lean business model by focusing on improving processes across the value stream in order to eliminate waste and deliver optimized value to the customer and finally willing to accept the interested people to work for a particular role and provide inhouse training if they lack some abilities. Try to give equal opportunities to refugees and migrants in all job levels to minimise the workforce crisis.