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**29 June 2009**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ATTENTION: CHIEF REPORTERS  
CIVIC REPORTERS

### **Shadbolt delighted at unqualified audit**

Invercargill Mayor Tim Shadbolt is delighted that the Invercargill City Council today adopted its Ten Year Plan (Towards 2019), which included an unqualified audit report.

Mr Shadbolt said that an unqualified audit means that the Auditors were satisfied that the city has demonstrated good practice for a council of its size; used underlying information assumptions that were reasonable; and the forecast information performance measures in the Plan were appropriate.

“This is a culmination of three years’ of hard work by elected representatives and staff to ensure that asset management plans and activity plans for Council’s activities were reviewed and updated, that financial modelling was undertaken and that Council had consulted with the community on the key issues in the Plan.

“A total of 365 written submissions were received from members of the public and these focussed mainly on the seven key issues. Councillors appreciated hearing the views of the community because they provided comment on the key issues and raised additional matters for consideration.

“Councillors were also very aware of the concerns in the community relating to the proposed rates increases and have tried to balance improving the levels of services provided to ratepayers with keeping rates at an affordable level,” he said.

Mr Shadbolt said the newly adopted Ten Year Plan sets a solid foundation on which the Council can plan and progress over the next ten years. In 2010 and 2011 Council will be adopting Annual Plans which will use the Ten Year Plan document as their base, he said.

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"Although the overall rate increase will be 7.9%, the average increase in residential rates is 5.1%."

ENDS.

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