



JOHN ROBSON on Tauranga City Council...

Last week I promised to help voters make a more informed choice in the coming Council elections.

Which begs the question: what qualifies me to make that promise?

After all, to most of you that recognise my name, I'm just another City Councillor.

And many would agree with Massey University local government specialist Andy Asquith that your typical councillor would "have trouble putting their shoes on the right feet in the morning".

Well, I'm not your typical Councillor.

In 1988, with a Management degree, and five years of OE, I started my career in management consultancy – which Careers NZ describes as helping organisations "solve their problems, become more efficient, or develop and implement strategy".

It goes on to describe the personal qualities of a management consultant as:

- excellent communicator who can relate to people at all levels
- fast learner

- analytical with problem solving skills
- self-motivated and able to deal with a fast-paced work environment
- resilient and able to cope with stress
- methodical, organised, good time manager
- able to work in a team, but also provide leadership and motivation.

These qualities are similar to those that Local Government New Zealand say are required of the ideal Councillor.

Now, there will be many claims of personal qualities and successful careers during the election campaign – and you should be sceptical. After all, there is no independent vetting of such claims.

So it is fair to ask: was I actually any good as a management consultant?

Well by one measure at least: Having worked on six continents with some of the world's largest companies, I retired in 2000 - aged 41.

Next week – a successful management consultant's view of Tauranga City Council.

John Robson