

10.3 2026-27 Fees and Charges

Report To:	Council
Meeting Date:	Thursday, 26 February 2026
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Purpose

To present to Council the draft 2026-27 Fees and Charges and to seek approval of the draft 2026-27 Fees and Charges full schedule document in preparation to consult with the community.

Recommendation

That the Council:

- a. Receives and notes the 2026-27 Fees and Charges Report (Resolve # 2026-46).
- b. Approves the draft 2026-27 Fees and Charges full schedule document in preparation for public consultation using the special consultative procedure under the Local Government Act 2002.

Executive Summary

Council is required to adopt the Fees and Charges before the Annual Plan to ensure that all the relative changes are in place to support the preparation of the Annual Plan. It also enables the preparation of files for charges to be issued for payment effective 1 July of the following year.

Council is required to use the special consultative procedure set out in section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002, when setting or amending any fees and charges under the following legislation:

- Resource Management Act 1991 (s36); and
- Food Act 2014 (s205)

Council is also proposing changes to the following fees and charges:

- Dog Control and Registration
- LIM reports
- Solid Waste - Transfer Station
- Plaza Theatre
- Water & Sewer Connections
- Financial Contributions
- Cemetery

Staff consider the matters and recommendations in this report comply with the Council's legal requirements and its Significance and Engagement Policy.

An assessment against Council's Significance and Engagement Policy on the decision to amend these fees has been completed. The overall level of significance is low, however, there are known public interest levels and potential impacts on the community (in whole or in part). Given this, and that some

fees and charges already require mandatory consultation, staff also recommend undertaking broader consultation on the full 2026–27 Fees and Charges schedule.

Context

Fees and Charges are reviewed and adopted annually to ensure that users are fairly contributing to the cost of operations, and the Fees and Charges align to legislative requirements and to Council's Revenue and Finance Policy.

Discussion

The following changes to fees and charges require public consultation:

Resource Management/Planning Fees. (Section 30, page 25)

- Planning fees have not changed for 2 years. Hourly rate increased by 5% to \$210
- Most deposits / minimum fees for planning services increased by an average of 5%
- Cancellation of building line restriction fee
- New fee added to the schedule for Fast Track Legislation requirements as not previously required
- New fee for Objection to Consent Conditions - waived if objection successful

Environmental Health Fees (Section 11, page 12)

- Fees have not increased for 2 years. An updated analysis of costs to provide this service have been reviewed and identified that we aren't charging enough for the service.

The following changes to fees and charges will be included as part of the public consultation due to the nature of these charges:

Public Aquatic Facilities (Pools) (Section 39, page 34)

- Some fees not increased for 2 years
- New fee for wellness area in refurbished South Waikato Indoor Pool facility

Building Consents (Section 4, page 4)

- Change to fees for Project Information Memorandum's (PIM) to cater for more complex applications
- Inflation adjustment to other fees

Dog Control and Registration Fee (Section 10, page 10)

- 15% to 28% increase to impounding fees to help recover part of the cost of impounding
- Inflation adjustment to other fees including registration

Land Information Memoranda (LIM) reports (Section 17, page 16)

- An updated analysis of costs to provide this service have been reviewed and identified that we aren't charging enough for the service.
- 20% increase in fee for standard LIM. No increase to fee for urgent LIM

Solid Waste - Transfer Station (Section 33, page 28)

- Removal of refuse bag disposal fee as we have had the wheelie bin option for waste disposal, for those who receive the service, in place for over four years so this charge was no longer relevant. Standard fees based on weight to apply for consistency
- Minimum fee for general waste increasing from \$10 to \$12
- Minimum fee for green waste increasing from \$5 to \$6

Plaza Theatre (Section 34, page 29)

- Fees adjusted to better align with charges at the Sports & Events Centre facility as they are similar in nature and operation when utilised.

Sewer and Water connections (Sections 32 and 45, pages 28 and 39)

- The cost of analysis and/or design for services is currently included in resource consent fees
- New fee described to enable separate charging if required - actual & reasonable cost

Financial Contributions (Section 12, page 14)

- Financial Contributions are set based on a formula in the District Plan. Asset valuation changes result in the following:
- 2% decrease in Financial Contribution for Roothing
- 2.8% increase in Financial Contribution for Car Parking
- 9.2% increase in Financial Contribution for Reserves
- 21.8% increase in Financial Contribution for Water Supply
- 21.9% increase in Financial Contribution for Wastewater

Cemetery (Section 6, page 7)

- Child weekday internment (burial) fee increases from \$640 to \$955
- Contractor's charges for child burial increased in 2025 when contract renegotiated to reduce adult costs. Child cost not passed on at the time.

The specific fee and charge change areas referenced above, have been highlighted in the index of the attached draft 2026-27 Fees and Charges schedule for easy reference.

Where there is no specific fee and charge change noted above, the standard basis of increase for those fees and charges is based on a consumer price index (CPI) inflationary rate of approximately 2.3% to 2.7%, dependent on the fee or charge type.

Options

N/A

Linkage to Strategic Plan Priorities

N/A

Consultation (Internal and External)

The Resource Management Act 1991 and the Food Act 2014 require that changes to fees set under those Acts undergo public consultation using the special consultative procedure as set out in s83 of the Local Government Act 2001. Other fees and charges described in this report will be included in the same consultation.

A full schedule of all fees and charges for 2026-27 will be available during the consultation period.

It is recommended that Council proceed with standard communications and engagement methods to promote the draft 2026-27 Fees and Charges for consultation. Methods may include but are not limited to the Council website, social media platforms, Antenno, flyers, print advertising, email networks, public events and general and targeted drop-in sessions. A Consultation Document highlighting the key changes (either significant increase, or high public interest or both) will be constructed in line with the detail noted in this report.

Date	Action
February 2026	
Thursday 26 Februar	Council meeting - report for approval to consult on the draft 2026-27 Fees and Charges
March 2026	
	Consultation opens for four weeks on draft 2026-27 Fees and Charges
April 2026	
	Consultation closes on the draft 2026-27 Fees and Charges
May 2024	
	Hearings and Deliberations on the draft 2026-27 Fees and Charges
Thursday 28 May	Council Meeting to adopt the draft 2026-27 Fees and Charges

Financial Considerations

The changes proposed will allow the Council to generate revenue consistent with the Annual Plan and meeting regulatory and policy requirements.

Risks

If the attached documents are not approved for public consultation and the timeline is delayed, there will be an impact on staff ability to charge revised fees and charges in time for the next financial year.

Significance & Engagement Policy

Staff have considered the key considerations under the Significance and Engagement Policy and have assessed that the overall significance is low.

Reference

Attachment - Draft Fees and Charges 2026-27 - ECM 698484

Attachments

1. ECM_698484_Draft 2026-27 Fees and Charges