10.2 2025-26 Fees & Charges Adoption Report

Report To:	Council
Meeting Date:	Wednesday, 28 May 2025
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Authorised by:	Executive Manager Business Support

Purpose

To seek adoption of the 2025-26 Fees and Charges.

Recommendation

That the Council:

a. Receives and notes the 2025-26 Fees and Charges Adoption Report

b. Adopts the Fees and Charges 2025-26 (attached as Appendix 1) to take effect from 1 July 2025.

Executive Summary

Fees and Charges for 2025-26 are required to be adopted by the end of May 2025 in order to comply with the requirement to advertise dog registration fees during the month of June, and to enable invoices to be issued for Environmental Health fees due for payment from 1 July 2025.

As part of the 2024-34 Long Term Plan process, in 2024, all Fees and Charges were reviewed to ensure that they covered the cost of providing services - where it was reasonable to do so. As required by the Local Government Act 2002 and the Revenue and Financing Policy, consideration was given to the cost to provide services, the beneficiaries of services provided, ability to pay and community outcomes to arrive at appropriate fees & charges for Year 1 of the LTP.

An update on Fees and Charges for 2025-26 was provided to Council at the 30 April 2025 meeting. Final 2025-26 Fees and Charges are now presented for adoption.

The majority of Fees and Charges require an increase to cover inflation. Due to rounding and the need to ensure fees and charges are set at amounts that are simple to collect, some fees and charges may not increase or may increase by slightly more or less than inflation. Any significant changes are described in the discussion section of this report.

Context

The majority of Fees and Charges are set by Council under the Local Government Act 2002. Some Fees and Charges are set by Council under other Acts such as the Resource Management Act, Dog Control Act, Food Act or Building Act.

Some fees charged by Council are set by Central Government giving Council no discretion over the amount of these fees or charges. While these fees and charges are not set by Council, they are included in the Fees and Charges schedule for information purposes.

Discussion

The changes to the Fees and Charges for 2025-26 are not considered significant and do not require public consultation. Some changes to the fees and charges were included in the 30 April 2025 report to Council. These details and further information are provided as follows:

Solid Waste. In addition to inflation impacting costs, Central Government has increased the National Waste Levy by $5 + GST per tonne.

Building Consents - a change in structure to Objection software fees (previously known as Alpha One).

Environmental Health - the Ministry for Primary Industries has set a new Food Business Levy of $66.13 that Councils must collect and forward to them. Councils can also charge a collection fee of $11.13.

Water Supply - In line with the increase in water supply costs and the targeted rate for water supply included in rates, the charge for water supply based on metered consumption increases from $1.50 per cubic metre to $1.75 per cubic metre including GST. Minor changes to Tanker filling station charges.

Swimming Pools - Due to temporary closure of the Tokoroa Indoor pool, some fees have been removed, and some fees have not been increased due to changed level of service.

Pensioner Housing - As resolved at the Council Meeting of 31 July 2024, Pensioner flat rentals are increasing to the amounts proposed at that time.

Compliance - A new fee for the 3 yearly inspection and certification of pool fencing is to apply in instances where the inspection confirms compliance with regulations at the first visit. The existing fee applies where the first inspection reveals non-compliance and additional work, and a second inspection is required.

Liquor Licensing - An Urgent Processing Fee for Special Licenses has been included to cover the additional cost of late applications and support the requirements of Section 137 of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012.

Resource Management Act - The RMA requires that changes to Fees and Charges set under the RMA are consulted on before adoption. Central Government, via the Fast Track Approvals Act, states that Territorial Authorities may be required to undertake work in relation to Fast Track applications and can charge for the work. Staff are seeking information from the EPA regarding charges and charging systems. This may require public consultation at a later stage therefore to avoid multiple consultation, fees and charges set under the RMA are not being changed at this time.

Food Act - The Food Act requires that any change to fees and charges set by Council under the Food Act require public consultation. To avoid multiple consultation fees and charges set under the Food Act are not being changed at this time.

Options

N/A

Linkage to Strategic Plan Priorities

These Fees and Charges support Council's overall operations and its strategic direction. They also reflect the Council's stated intention and relative consideration for greater use of a beneficiary pays philosophy for Council services.

Consultation (Internal and External)

N/A

Financial Considerations

The adoption of the 2025-26 Fees and Charges is required to support the financial operations of Council and ensure alignment with Council's Financial Strategy.

Risks

Not adopting the 2025-26 Fees and Charges will mean Council operations will have a shortfall that would need to be met from rates revenue.

Significance & Engagement Policy

The 2025-26 Fees and Charges movements or changes from prior year have not been considered as significant, so no consultation has taken place.

Reference

2025-26 Fees and Charges

Attachments

1. Final 2025-26 Fees and Charges