

Report No:	RCN11-12-02
File No:	A506
Date:	7 December 2011
Decision Required	

REPORT SUMMARY

Report to: Mayor and Councillors
Meeting Date: 15 December 2011
Report Author: Sandra Hartley – Executive Officer, Strategic Development
Subject: **Changes to Schedule of Charges**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Under the Local Government Act 2002 the Schedule of Charges is a method by which Council can set fees for the recovery of some costs associated with its services. This Schedule is reviewed annually and once approved by Council it is included in the Draft Long Term Plan (or Draft Annual Plan), and the public have the opportunity to submit on its contents during the public consultation period. Council considers all submissions to the Draft Long Term Plan, makes any changes, and adopts the Plan which will come into effect on 1 July that year.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the staff recommendations are accepted and the Schedule of Charges be adopted for inclusion in the Draft Long Term Plan 2012-2022.

DRAFT RESOLUTION

THAT Council receives report number RCN11-12-02 Changes to Schedule of Charges; and

THAT the Schedule of Charges as outlined in Appendix One to this report be approved for inclusion in the Draft Long Term Plan 2012-2022

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1. Purpose

- 1.1 To seek Council approval for changes to the Schedule of Charges for inclusion in the Draft Long Term Plan 2012-2022.

2. Background

- 2.1 Under the Revenue & Financing Policy Council can set a Schedule of Charges to recover some costs associated with Council services. Some of these charges are set by statute (e.g. Sale of Liquor Act 1989), others are set by Council. Council staff annually review these charges and recommend any changes, additions/deletions to Council. After Council consideration, the Schedule of Charges is adopted and put in the Draft Long Term Plan (or Annual Plan), which in turn is released for public consultation.

3. Comment/Discussion

Staff recommend the following changes to the Schedule of Charges:

3.1 General

Most fees and charges have been inflation adjusted, including the hourly charge-out rate, which has increased from \$134.00 to \$138.00.

Those fees that have not been increased reflect that staff consider the existing fee to be reasonable for the service provided, or in some instances costs have reduced.

The attached Schedule of Charges shows in red the changes from the 2011/2012 Schedule and has two columns; the first outlines the current charges and the second outlines the proposed charges from 1 July 2012.

Both columns are included so Councillors can see the proposed increases. The column showing the current charges will be deleted when the Schedule is included in the Draft Long Term Plan.

3.2 Community Services

- Cemetery charges have been inflation adjusted.
- Library charges remain the same as 2011-2012.

3.3 Engineering

- Most fees have been inflation adjusted.
- New fee for Tarakohe Boat Ramp Barrier Arm is proposed - \$6.00 per use.
- New fee for Pohara Boat Club Members is proposed - \$65.00 per person.

3.4 Corporate Services

- Fees transferred to CD have been reduced from \$35.00 to \$15.00 (under Building Control).
- All other fees remain the same as 2011-2012.

3.5 Environment & Planning

- Most fees have been inflation adjusted.
- Non-notified application including a subdivision increased to \$1,200 deposit (was \$900)
- Non-notified application for hearing increased to \$5,000 (was \$2,000).
- New Building Consent Authority Accreditation fee \$10.00 per consent.
- New PIM/TAN re-check fee \$160.00.
- Deletion – Change of use application.

4. Financial/Budgetary Considerations

- 4.1 Increasing fees reduces the amount required to fund activities from General Rates or Targeted Rates. The proposed changes are reflected in the draft department budgets.

5. Options

- 5.1 Adopt the Schedule of Charges

That Council adopts the proposed Schedule of Charges for consultation as part of the Draft Long Term Plan 2012-2022.

This is the recommended option.

5.2 Amend the Schedule of Charges

Council can amend the proposed charges on a fee by fee basis. However staff have carefully considered all changes, and accordingly this is not a recommended option.

6. Significance

- 6.1 This is not a significant decision according to the Council's Significance Policy. However, the level of charges is important to residents and businesses that pay these cost, therefore, Council includes these within the relevant years plan as part of the consultation process.

7. Recommendation/s

- 7.1 That the staff recommendations are accepted and the Schedule of Charges be approved for consultation and inclusion in the Draft Long Term Plan 2012-2022.

8. Draft Resolution

THAT Council receives report number RCN11-12-02 Changes to Schedule of Charges; and

THAT the Schedule of Charges as outlined in Appendix One to this report be approved for inclusion in the Draft Long Term Plan 2012-2022

Attachment:

Appendix One: Schedule of Charges