te kaunihera ā-rohe o
matamata-piako
district council

Statement of Proposal

Draft Fees and Charges 2023/24

DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION 14/03/2023 – 14/04/2023

This is a proposal to review our Fees and Charges 2022/23 (Fees) under the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA). We are proposing some amendments and asking the community for submissions to assess support/objections so any alterations can be considered before Council adopt the Fees and they come into effect on **1 July 2023.**

Background

Council is consulting on the Fees using section 83 (special consultative procedure) of the LGA. This covers the requirement to consult in a way that gives effect to the principals of consultation of the LGA.

Purpose

The purpose of consultation is to assess public support/objections so any alterations can be considered before Council adopt the Fees.

What are the Fees?

Fees are either total or partial cost recoveries for certain services. The proportion of costs intended to be recovered for any given activity is set out in Council's Revenue and Financing Policy, which influences the level of Fees set for a service. The Fees cover a wide range of our activities, from infrastructure to building consents and more.

Reason we review Fees

We review our fees and charges annually as part of our Annual Plan or Long Term Plan process. This ensures fees and charges are kept up to date and reflect actual and reasonable costs and to make sure additional processes and new costs are fully covered. By reviewing the fees and charges alongside the Annual Plan or Long Term Plan it enables us to consider the impact of any changes to fees and charges to our budgets.

Rationale for increases

We aim to recover some or all of the costs we incur when providing certificates, approvals, permits or consents, or carrying out inspections, where there is significant private benefit. If these costs are not charged to the user, the only other practicable option available is for us to recover the costs through general rates revenue, which is a charge on all ratepayers. We consider that seeking a reasonable fee or charge from the person who requires a specific service is the most appropriate option. We also need to pass on increases in our costs, and we generally rely on inflation data from Business and Economic Research Ltd (BERL) when looking at increases of this nature. Fees and charges are also adjusted to match the same level as other Councils and to reflect the actual cost of service delivery.

Our overall policy for funding our activities is set out in our Revenue and Financing Policy in the Long Term Plan 2021-31, this includes the rationale for why activities are funded in certain ways. Overall we aim to fund our activities as follows:

Activity	**Funding**
Carparks and Street Furniture	General rates 100%
Cemeteries	General rates 30-60% Fees and charges 40-70%
Housing	User charges 100%
Rural Halls	Targeted hall rates on varying bases for each of the rating areas 80%.

	Fees and charges on varying bases for each of the rating areas.
Corporate/General Property	General rates 80-90% Fees and charges 10-20%
Libraries	General rate 90-99% Fees and charges 1-10%
Parks and Tracks	General rates 90-100% Fees and charges 0-10%
Pools and Spas	General rates 50-70% 30-50%
Public Toilets	General rates 100%
Recreation Facilities and Heritage	General rates 85-90% Fees and charges 10-15%
Animal Control	General rates 20% Fees and charges (including fines) 80%
Building Consents and Monitoring	General rates 40-60% Fees and charges 40-60%
Health	Licence processing – 100% user pays Enquiries/complaints/enforcement – 100% funded by rates
Alcohol	Licence processing – fees set by legislation Enquiries/complaints/enforcements – 100% funded by rates
Noise Control	100% funded by rates
Resource Consents and Monitoring	Planning resource consents processing and monitoring – 100% user pays Enquires/complaints/enforcement – 100% funded by rates
Roading	Subsidy – as determined by Government agency Council has resolved to allocate interest earned from the Power New Zealand fund to the Roading activity to reduce the rate requirement. Council will determine the budgeted interest allocation on an annual basis. General rates – balance of funding
Waste Management Facilities	2021/22-2022/23 General rate 35%-55% Fees and Charges 45%-65% - transfer station fees. 2023/24-2023/31 (new contract in 2023/24) General rate 55%-75% Fees and Charges 25%-45% - transfer station fees.
Kerbside Collection Services	2021/22-2022/23 Targeted rate 50%-70% on a uniform basis for serviced properties Fees and Charges 30%-50% - rubbish bag sales 2023/24-2023/31 (new contract in 1st September 2023) Targeted rate 90-100% on a uniform basis for serviced properties Fees and charges 0%-10%
Stormwater	General rates 10-16% Targeted rate on a uniform basis for serviced urban areas 84-90%

Wastewater	Fees and charges through trade waste agreements. The balance of funding after fees and charges will comes from either: General rate 0-6%, or Targeted rate on a per pan basis (using a scale of charges) for serviced urban areas 94-100%. Factors – properties connected Properties able to connect but not connected Council will determine the actual percentages within the allowable range on an annual basis.
Water	Targeted rates from metered water (including residential and from industry). The balance of funding after metered water will come from either: General rates 0-6%, or Targeted rate on a uniform basis for serviced urban areas 94-100% Factors – properties connected Properties able to be connected but not connected Council will determine the actual percentages within the allowable range on an annual basis.
Civil Defence Emergency Management	General rates 100% Exacerbator charges where possible
Communications and Events	General rates 100%
Community Leadership	General rates 100%
Strategies and Plans	General rates 100%

What are the key changes to Fees?
The majority of the Fees are proposed to remain the same or increase by inflation which is information supplied by Business and Economic Research Ltd (BERL) and then rounded.

There are some Fees proposed to change, these key changes are outlined below:

- Cemeteries
  - Monument installation application fee has increased from $50 to $70 to align with other Councils.

- General Property
  - Decrease in Council boardroom hire fees from $330 to $60 to align with room hire fees in Recreation and Heritage.

- Libraries
  - Proposal to cease overdue fines on all rentals, DVD/non books, adult books, and reference and overnight loan issues.

- Recreation and Heritage
  - Creation of a new fee for group historical activities facilitated by Firth Tower staff. This fee will replace the previous per person fee for 'Additional facilitated activities'. New fee will better reflect actual cost.
  - New additional cleaning fee of $120 for events to cover office and premise cleaning charges.

- Public camping to be closed, with commercial camping only granted by permission from MPDC.
- Change in booking fee structure for Matamata-Piako Civic and Memorial Centre, Silver Fern Farms Events Centre, and Morrinsville Events Centre.

- Building Control
  - New fee of $535 for free standing solid fuel heaters. Fee includes cost of admin, accreditation, alpha 77, and processing and inspection costs.
  - New fee of $535 for Insulmax insulation. Fee includes cost of admin, accreditation, alpha 77, and processing and inspection costs.

- Licencing Fees
  - Increases in fees for health licences, food control plans, and national programmes to reflect actual cost.

- Resource Consents
  - Increases in regulatory planning charges to reflect actual cost.
  - New regulatory planning charge of $195 per hour for senior development engineer planning services.
  - New deposit fee of $1,500 for boundary adjustments.
  - Proposal for Land Transfer Plan Approval fees to be split into three tiers - Land Transfer Plan Approval 0-5 lots ($400); Land Transfer Plan Approval 6-10 lots ($600); Land Transfer Plan Approval 11 or more lots ($750).

- Roading
  - Increase in additional supervision cost for overweight/high productivity vehicle permit applications from $150 to $275 to reflect actual cost.
  - Increase in application costs for private roading events (non road closure) from $52 to $120 to reflect actual cost.
  - Increase in charges for road closures (not requiring calls for submissions) for private events/utility works from $350 to $490 to reflect actual cost.
  - Increase in charges for corridor access requests for project work exceeding 28 days. Proposal to increase charges from $381 to $500. To reflect actual cost.
  - Increase in application fees (including all inspections) for stock underpasses from $648 to $900 to reflect actual cost.

- Rubbish
  - MPDC official rubbish bags and wholesale bags only to be available until 31st August 2023.
  - Proposal to remove separate fees for recycling wheelie bins and to incorporate fees into targeted rates.
  - Kerbside collection fees to be included in targeted rates.

- Strategies and Plans
  - Proposal to no longer make available hard copies of the District Plan, maps, and development manuals.

- Customer and Info Services
  - Fees for Urgent Land Information Memorandums to increase from $360 to $450 to align with neighbouring councils.
  - Fees for standard business/industrial establishment Land Information Memorandums to increase from $375 to $500 to align with neighbouring councils.

- Fees for urgent business/industrial establishment Land Information Memorandums to increase from $475 to $650 to align with neighbouring councils.
- New Rates Refund Fee of $50 for any request for refund of any credit balance on the rates account.

- Swimming
  - Increase in membership fees due to increases in single entry fees.

Analysis of reasonably practicable options
In preparing these fees and charges we have considered three options for reviewing the fees and charges and we would like your thoughts on what we should do.

Option 1 – Adopt the Fees as proposed
The Fees would change to those proposed in the Draft Fees & Charges 2023/24

Advantages	Disadvantages
Reflects our actual cost of service and is consistent with our Revenue and Finance Policy.	Increased fees and charges will mean increased costs to those in the community that use the affected services.
Allows us to recover costs for new services and facilities.	

Option 2 – Status quo
The Fees would remain the same as present (2022/23).

Advantages	Disadvantages
The public are familiar with current fees and charges.	These will not reflect our actual costs of services.
Charges to the community remain the same.	Services with a private benefit (such as building consent processing) may have to be subsidised by rates, which may in turn be inconsistent with our Revenue and Finance Policy.
Costs of new services are provided at no cost to the public.	Does not allow us to recover costs for new services and facilities.

Option 3 – Revoke/lower
Council would revoke or lower the Fees.

Advantages	Disadvantages
The public does not have to pay directly for goods or services or will pay a lower amount.	We will need to recover our costs through rates.
	This would be inconsistent with our Revenue and Finance Policy.

Statutory requirements
Section 150 of the LGA provides for fees or charges to be imposed by us using the principals of consultation. Fees and charges must be prescribed in one of our Bylaws or by using a public consultation process. We are currently undertaking this consultation process and invite your feedback on the proposed fees and charges. The LGA requires that in general fees and charges must not provide an opportunity for us to recover more than the reasonable costs we incur in providing the goods or service to the community.

Other legislation such as the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) gives us the authorisation to charge fees and charges for services provided under that Act, such as processing resource consent applications. Similarly, the Building Act 2004 entitles us to recover the reasonable costs we incur when providing certificates, authorities, approvals, permits or consents, or carrying out inspections.

Setting of the fees and charges must be done in accordance with the principals of consultation or using the Special Consultative Procedure set out in the LGA.

Proposed Fees – from draft to adoption
The views of the community are vital to our success. Therefore, we would like to invite the community to provide submissions on the proposed amendments to the Fees to assist us in the decision making process.

The submission process

Process	Date
Council approve statement of proposal and Fees and Charges for public consultation	8 March 2023
Consult the community	14 March – 14 April
Council hearing (volume of submitters will determine if the meeting is required to run for both days)	3 May & 10 May
Adopt Fees	28 June 2023
New Fees apply	1 July 2023

Where can I find more information?
You can download the 2023/24 Draft Fees and Charges, or any of our other documents we are consulting on at www.mpdc.govt.nz and you can view these documents at our offices or libraries.

How can I have my say?
We actively encourage the community to contribute to the formation of these important documents and it is easy to have your say. Simply make a submission on any/all draft documents and return it to us by 14 April 2023.

You can make a submission:

Online - through our website at www.mpdc.govt.nz
Email - submissions@mpdc.govt.nz
Written - you can simply write your submission as a letter and either drop if off at one of our office or post it to:

Submissions
PO Box 266
Te Aroha 3342

Note: Please be aware that submissions made to Council are public information. Your submission will be used and reproduced for purposes such as reports to Councillors, which are made available to the public and media.

If you advise in your submission that you wish to speak to your submission at the hearing on 3 May 2022, Council staff will contact you (please ensure to provide a day time contact) to arrange a time for you to speak at the hearing (volume of submitters determines if the meeting will run on 10 May also). If you advise in your submission that assistance is required Council is able to offer assistance with special requirements such as New Zealand sign language and audio visual mechanisms.

Office and library locations

- Te Aroha Council Office: Kenrick Street Te Aroha
- Te Aroha Library: Rewi Street, Te Aroha
- Morrinsville Area Office or Library: Canada Street, Morrinsville
- Matamata Area Office or Library: Tainui Street, Matamata

Any questions?

We are here to help - so if you have any questions about the Fees or the submission process please let us know. Just call us on 07 884 0060 and let our friendly Customer Services staff know you have a question about the Fees and Charges 2023/24.

You must have your submission back to Council by 4.30pm, Friday 14 April 2023.