
EARLY APPROVAL OF PUBLIC HEALTH CHARGES

1. Purpose of report

This report requests the early adoption of a range of specific charges relating to health licensing and dog registration activities.

2. Executive summary

A range of public health fees relating to the annual registration of health businesses and for dog registration are required by legislation to be paid by owners/operators by 1 July annually.

The movement in annual registration of licensing fees are required to be approved by Council and implemented by officers by the end of April to ensure adequate time for owners/operators to make payment and receive re-registration by statutory deadlines.

3. Recommendations

Officers recommend that the Strategy and Policy Committee:

- 1. Receive the information;*
- 2. Approve the increase in health and dog registration fees (as per Appendix One) to take effect from 1 July 2013;*
- 3. Note that the early approval of health and dog licence and registration fees is necessary in order to allow customers to be notified in sufficient time to be fully paid up and registered (as legally required) by 1 July 2013.*

4. Background

The City Communities business unit is seeking early approval of a range of fee increases in order to meet legislative requirements for registration for activities by 1 July 2013.

The proposed changes have been considered and approved by the FAR working party. Information was provided by Officers in order to satisfy the FAR working party as to the necessity and the appropriateness of the proposed fees.

5. Discussion

5.1 Increase in Health Licence Fees

Food premises registration and health licenses are legislatively required to be paid by 30 June each year in order for the owners/operators of those businesses to legally operate their premises. In order to meet this deadline a number of internal processes and system changes are required prior to applying fee changes. The Draft Annual Plan process would not allow this time for changes to be made, customers notified and payment to be made by customers before the 30 June deadline.

If early approval and implementation does not occur, then Council will not be able to apply the new fees for the current registration year, with implementation having to wait until 1 July 2014.

5.2 Increase in Dog Fees

Similarly to food and health registration, dogs are required by legislation to be registered by 1 July each year. In order to meet this deadline a number of internal processes and system changes are required prior to applying fee changes. Given that final approval of the Draft Annual Plan occurs in late June, the draft Plan process would not allow this time for changes to be made, customers notified and payment from customers before the 30 June deadline.

It would also mean that there is an increased risk of Responsible Dogs Owners (RDOs) technically failing to meet the conditions of being an RDO. This would affect over 2500 dog owners.

5.3 Consultation and Engagement

Officers have assessed the fee setting provisions in the Dog Control Act 1996 and the Health (Registration of Premises) Regulations 1966. This legislation does not require public consultation to set fees, however fees must be set by resolution of Council. Dog fees are required to be publicly notified at least once in the month preceding the start of the registration year.

5.4 Long-Term Plan Considerations

Approval of the attached fees is consistent with the funding ratios to be achieved in 2013/14 in the Revenue and Financing policy.

6. Conclusion

The proposed fees covered by this paper are those public health fees that must be approved early and outside the Draft Annual Plan process. These fees do not cover all fee changes approved by the FAR working party, only those where early approval is necessary in order enable customers/ applicants to meet legislative registration requirements.

The fees being sought for early approval are to enable dog owners or food premise owners to be informed of the new fees and be paid up in time to meet legislative requirements. The proposed changes enable the cost of activities to be fairly charged to the users of those activities.

All other public health fees will be subject to the full Draft Annual Plan consultation process.

Contact Officer: *Alison Curtis, Public Health Manager.*

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1) Strategic fit / Strategic outcome

The paper supports Council activities as a regulator under the Health Act 1956 and Dog Control Act 1996, and its role as a regulator of public health activities

This paper supports the Council outcomes:

People-centred city - To make Wellington a safe city that is better able to cope with change.

Dynamic central city - To make the central city a safe place for people to live work and play.

2) LTP/Annual Plan reference and long term financial impact

The activities as regulator are undertaken by the City Communities Business Unit under activity 5.3.3 and are funded under project C478

3) Treaty of Waitangi considerations

N/A.

4) Decision-making

This is not a significant decision. FAR considered a number of options and reflects the views and preferences of those with an interest in this matter.

5) Consultation

a) General consultation

Council is not required under legislation to consult on this matter. Communication strategies with those affected parties will be implemented to ensure applicable changes are understood.

b) Consultation with Maori

N/A.

6) Legal implications

This report meets Council's statutory obligations.

7) Consistency with existing policy

This report is consistent with existing applicable policy including the Dog Control Policy and the Public Health Bylaw.

APPENDIX 1

APPENDIX ONE (to be amended subject to FAR)

Schedule of Fees requiring Early Approval

Public Health Regulations

Animal Control	Current Fee	Proposed Fee
Registration per animal		
Entire	\$165.00	\$170.00
Neutered/spayed (with proof)	\$118.80	\$122.50
Working dogs	\$48.00	\$50.00
Approved responsible owner	\$57.00	\$59.00
Health Licensing and Inspection	Current Fee	Proposed Fee
Annual Licence for registered food premises		
Excellent grade	\$180.00-\$595.00	\$185.00-\$615.00
Very Good grade	\$300.00-\$840.00	\$310.00-\$865.00
Ungraded	\$360.00-\$1,080.00	\$370.00-\$1,110.00
Ungraded – high risk	\$480.00-\$1,845.00	\$495.00-\$1,900.00
VIP registration and verification	\$470.00-\$1,795.00	\$485.00-\$1,850.00
Health licence		
Small clubs (min. food prep)	\$150.00	\$155.00
Unregistered eating houses	\$210.00	\$215.00
Annual Licence for registered premises		
Animal boarding	\$240.00	\$250.00
Camping grounds	\$240.00	\$250.00
Hairdressers	\$125.00	\$130.00
Mortuaries/Funeral Directors	\$150.00	\$155.00
Offensive Trades	\$300.00	\$310.00
Poultry farm/Piggeries	\$150.00	\$155.00
Annual Licence		
Pools: commercial pools/spas	\$240.00	\$250.00
Saunas only	\$105.00	\$110.00