



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Tender for Provision of catering, bars and restaurant services contract for the Belfast Waterfront
Date:	15 February 2011
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen Director of Development ext 3470
Contact Officer:	Tim Husbands Head of City Events and Venues ext; 1400

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	All catering, bar and restaurant services to the Belfast Waterfront are currently provided, under contract, by an external supplier. This contract was awarded after a public tendering exercise to Mount Charles Catering (MCC) in August 2006, for a three year period, with an option to extend for a further 2 years. The 5 year contract is due to expire in September 2011.
1.2	<p>Under the terms of their tender submission MCC pay an annual rental of £10,000 and apportioned share of the venue's rates, calculated on the basis of the percentage share of floor space utilised per metre square. In addition, MCC pay all accounts relating to the provision of mains services, including gas, telephone, electricity and waste disposal.</p> <p>MCC also pay to the Council a rising percentage on income received on the contract in excess of £1 million p.a.</p>

2	Key Issues
2.1	Given that the current contract is due to expire, Members approval is sought to commence a new tender process to appoint for the catering, restaurant and bar services contract at the Belfast Waterfront.
2.2	It should be noted that due to the economic climate, the current catering service provider has experienced a sharp decline in corporate hospitality, and within the past 12 months has observed a significant shift in regards to the type of catering product and service that both conference organisers and the general public who are attending concerts, are demanding.

2.3	It is recommended that in advance of putting the tender out to public advertisement, a full review of the contract specification and product offer should be carried out, which would include hosting a series of Industry focus groups to assist the process.
2.4	In order to facilitate this full review to completion, it is proposed that the contract with MCC be extended for an initial period of six months, with the potential to further extend on a monthly basis for a maximum period of one year.
2.5	As confirmed with both the Council's Procurement Manager, and Legal Services department, since this is a Service Concession contract, and therefore not covered by the EU rules, there would be no legal or procurement issues, or impediments in regards to a proposed extension on the current contract.

3	Resource Implications
	None

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
	There are no equality and good relations considerations

5	Recommendations
	<p>The Development Committee is asked to :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Give approval to allow management to review the current contract specification and catering product in relation to catering, bars and restaurant provision contract at the Waterfront. 2. Approve an extension to the current contract with Mount Charles Catering for an initial period of six months, from the 1 October 2011, with the potential to further extend monthly to a maximum period of one year. 3. Authorise under delegated authority, the Director of Development to appoint the successful applicant at completion of the tender process.

6	Decision Tracking
Further to approval and the completion of the tender process, the Director will appoint a successful applicant.	
Timeline: March 2012	
Reporting Officer: Tim Husbands	

8	Abbreviations
MCC – Mount Charles Catering	