



Report to: Development Committee

Subject: **Intention to seek tenders for the provision of Catering, Bars and Restaurant service at Belfast Waterfront Hall**

Date: 9 April 2013

Reporting Officer: John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470

Contact Officer: Jacqui Owens, Operations Manager, ext 1401

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The Committee will be familiar with the existence of a concession services contract held by Mount Charles Catering since August 2006 for the provision of catering, bars and restaurant service at Belfast Waterfront Hall. At their meeting on 21 January 2012 the Committee approved the extension of the current contract up to a limit of September 2013. The contract at this date of termination will have been extended twice taking it to 2 years beyond the upper limit of the original term. These extensions were granted for the purposes of maintaining continuity of service whilst the Waterfront management team explored the potential for development of a convention centre on the site.

2	Key Issues
2.1	Whilst final designs are not available as yet for the convention centre development the outline programme for construction (subject to funding) is now clear and predicts opening of the extended Waterfront facility in early Spring 2016. It is anticipated that the comprehensive hospitality and catering demands of such a facility will differ from the current provision and therefore a service contract would be tendered in the winter of 2015.
2.2	Advice from legal services and the procurement team suggests that it is both feasible and desirable to procure a supplier to provide the catering service for the interim period of 2 years between the termination of the current contract in September 2013 and the letting of that new and potentially larger scale contract in September 2015.

2.3	It is the intention of the management team to evaluate the tender on the basis of both quality and the value of the financial return to the council. With the financial and operational capacity of the potential contractors established at the initial stage of the tender process it is the intention to appoint the contractor making the most economically advantageous offer.
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3	Resource Implications
3.1	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Officers are mindful of the opportunity this tender presents to improve on the return offered by the current contract terms. - The current contract includes the supply by Belfast Waterfront of large scale pieces of catering equipment such as ovens and dishwashers. The inventory process required as part of the tender exercise may show a requirement to upgrade key pieces of equipment. It is anticipated that this would be covered from annual revenue budgets.

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	There are no Equality and Good Relations Considerations attached to this report.

5	Recommendations
5.1	<p>It is recommended that the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Authorise the Director, under the scheme of delegation, to undertake a tender process for the provision of catering, bar and restaurant service for Belfast Waterfront Hall. - Under the same scheme authorise the Director to appoint the contractor making the most economically advantageous offer, assuming they have during the process, demonstrated their financial and operational ability to deliver a quality service.

6	Decision Tracking
<p>It is anticipated the procurement exercise will conclude with evaluations in the month of July and the Director will seek approval for appointment of the successful contractor at the earliest opportunity in August 2013.</p> <p>Timeline: August 2013 Reporting Officer: Jacqui Owens</p>	