



<b>Report to:</b>	Development Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Intention to seek tenders for the provision of Catering, Bars and Restaurant service at Belfast Waterfront Hall
<b>Date:</b>	17 September 2013
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
<b>Contact Officers:</b>	Jacqui Owens, Operations Manager, ext 1401

<b>1</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	At its meeting on 9 April 2013 the Committee authorised 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.
1.2	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 their current contract up to a limit of 30 September 2013.
1.3	This extension to 30 September 2013 was 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.

<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	Final designs are still not available for the convention centre development though the outline programme for construction (subject to funding) is now clear and predicts opening of the extended Waterfront facility mid 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 and the letting of that new and potentially larger scale contract.
2.3	Unfortunately delays have been encountered in finalising the tender specification as a result of identifying the construction effect on business continuity and facility availability and as a result it is now necessary to request a 3 month extension to

	the current Mount Charles contract from 30 September 2013 until 31 December 2013.
2.4	Legal and procurement advice has been sought and it has been agreed that in the circumstances a 3 month extension is appropriate.

<b>3</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
3.1	None

<b>4</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Considerations</b>
4.1	There are no relevant equality and good relations implications attached to this report.

<b>5</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
5.1	<p>It is recommended that the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Approve the 3 month extension of the current Mount Charles Contract from 30 September 2013 to 31 December 2013</li> <li>- That the Council seek tenders for the provision of Catering, Bars and Restaurant service at Belfast Waterfront Hall for a 2 year period from 1 January 2014 until 31 December 2015 on the same basis and terms as approved at the Development Committee on 9 April 2013</li> </ul>

<b>6</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
<p>It is anticipated the procurement exercise will conclude with evaluations in the month of November and the Director will seek approval for appointment of the successful contractor at the earliest opportunity in December 2013.</p> <p>Timeline: December 2013 <span style="float: right;">Reporting Officer: Jacqui Owens</span></p>	