



Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Belfast Christmas Continental Market 3 day extension
Date:	19 August 2014
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officers:	Lisa Toland, Head of Economic Initiatives and International Development, ext 3427

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Members to extend the Belfast Christmas Market by 3 days at the end period of the market in 2014 from 18-21 December and in 2015 from 17-20 December when the current contracts ends.
1.2	Market Place Europe Ltd (MPEL) currently has the contract to deliver Continental themed Markets in the grounds of Belfast City Hall during May Spring Bank holiday and Christmas. In December 2012 due to poor trading within Belfast MPEL agreed at very short notice to keep the market on for an extra 3 days to try and entice footfall back into the City Centre. The extra 3 days was granted again last year in 2013 as a thank you for the traders staying on the previous year at very short notice.

2	Key Issues
2.2	MPEL currently has 2 years left on their current contract to supply Continental themed markets.
2.2	MPEL have declared interest in staying the extra few days at this year's Christmas market and again for the Christmas market in 2015 when the current contract ends.
2.3	This has worked well for the last 2 years and meant a lot of the breakdown and cleaning work was carried out while the City Hall was either closed or during a quieter period due to staff taking leave over the Christmas period.
2.4	All extra costs will be paid for in full by the contractor MPEL, with no extra cost to BCC. MPEL have also confirmed they will have adequate 24 hour

	security cover on duty over the Christmas period and will also ensure everything is cleaned and cleared away by 31 December.
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3	Resource Implications
3.1	Income of approx £200,000 for next 2 years.

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	As with other events in the city the Belfast Christmas Market has the potential to bring people from a wide range of backgrounds together and therefore promote good relations.

5	Recommendations
5.1	Members are asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Approve the extra 3 days for the Belfast Christmas market for the periods of 2014 and 2015

6	Decision Tracking
Timeline: September 2014	Reporting Officer: Lisa Toland

7	Key to Abbreviations
MPEL – Market Place Europe Ltd BCC- Belfast City Council	