

Response to Public Petition 9 January 2024

Thank you for your petition.

We have a responsibility to ensure we're getting a good market rate for the use of public land and facilities. The income generated from these concessions supports the maintenance of Bristol's parks and harbourside, and after 14 years of central government austerity, local government budgets are under pressure.

Bristol has around 25 concessions operating and providing a successful offer. We want to continue to support the sustainability of these businesses, many of them small and start up enterprises. We must balance this with the need to secure value for council taxpayers.

Businesses are asked to include the amount you're willing to pay per year for the use of that pitch. The proposed financial contribution will be looked at alongside the wider business offer. There is an evaluation to fairly ensure we award concessions to business that meets the policy aims and values of the Council, not just focusing on price. We will therefore consider the social value of offers, including where they benefit the local economy. The criteria used to select the successful concessionaires will consider the quality of the offer, the proposed business model, where the concessionaires will buy their supplies, how they fit into the local area/community and their approach to staffing.

The current contracts were originally procured in 2018 and let from April 2019. To allow the market to stabilize after the pandemic and the resulting increase in living expenses, the contracts were extended for 12 months in 2022 and 2023.