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‘An exciting local business opportunity’

Council calls for interest in aquatic centre café business

Those interested in running a café business at the Caroline Bay Aquatic Centre are being asked to put their names forward to the Timaru District Council.

Expressions of interest close on Wednesday August 31 for the management and operation of the centre’s café, which would capitalise on an estimated 250,000 to 300,000 visits to the aquatic centre each year, district services manager Ashley Harper said.

The café is seen as a prominent feature in the new complex, which is scheduled to open to the public in July next year.

Operators would be able to offer a wide range of catering facilities internally including special events, as well as day-to-day food and beverage fare in well-appointed café surroundings on the ground floor.

Mr Harper said the café offered “an exciting local business opportunity”.

“The facility is an integral part of the centre and we are looking for a provider who can include healthy food options in their menus,” he said.

The café, which will not be licensed to serve alcohol, will focus on aquatic centre services to the community for all age groups. It would be open to suit the needs of the guests of the aquatic centre.

Mr Harper said catering for the early morning aquatic and fitness centre users before they continued on to work during the week would be a key café function.

A choice of business lease terms were being offered, Mr Harper said.

“We are calling for preferred term options – either five years, plus five years, or three plus three, plus three.”

The plant and café fit-out also carried choices.

“The contractor could fit the café and kitchen out themselves, or the council could, depending on the negotiated agreement between the successful applicant and the council.”

Mr Harper said the selection process would be rigorous, covering two stages. The first was the calling for registrations of interest. The second would be an invitation to the selected registrants to submit a tender.

“From there the final choice would be made.

“The information supplied in the first process will be used to identify caterers who are committed to the values of supplying quality food and service consistent with the overall concept of the facility as a destination,” Mr Harper said.

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