

CITY & COUNTY OF SWANSEA

CABINET

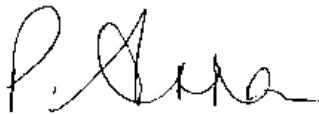
At: Committee Room 2, Civic Centre, Swansea

On: Tuesday, 6 May 2014

Time: 5.00 pm

AGENDA

- d Submission of a Planning Application in respect of proposed Change of Use of Former Caer Street Toilets. **1 - 4**



Patrick Arran
Head of Legal, Democratic Services & Procurement
Monday, 28 April 2014

Contact: Democratic Services: - 636820

Agenda Item 9.d

Urgent Report of the Cabinet Member for Place

Cabinet – 6 May 2014

SUBMISSION OF A PLANNING APPLICATION IN RESPECT OF PROPOSED CHANGE OF USE OF FORMER CAER STREET TOILETS

Purpose:	To seek Cabinet Authority for the submission of a Change of Use planning application.
Policy Framework:	Council Constitution
Reason for Decision:	To enable officers to apply for planning permission in order for the Council to support its initiative to reduce crime and disorder and to support the Healthy Cities initiative.
Consultation:	Legal, Finance & Access to Services
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that:- 1) Approval is given for the submission of a planning application for change of use of the former Caer Street toilet block, to permit its use as a “Help Point Plus” Community Safety facility.
Report Author:	Jeff Davison
Finance Officer:	Kim Lawrence
Legal Officer:	Patrick Arran

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 For the past two years a “Help Point” facility has been operated from a vehicle based at Castle Square on key identified nights, led by Council Community Safety Staff.
- 1.2 The purpose has been to provide a positive intervention to reduce crime, disorder and fear of crime, to reduce demands upon the Emergency Services and to promote the aims of the Healthy Cities initiative.
- 1.3 The reason for the urgency associated with this report is that the project needs this support in order to progress through design and into implementation. The Police and Crime Commissioner Office has had external funding for the capital elements of this project, and requirements

of the auditors of the PCC are that the funds are allocated for spend before the end of May 2014.

2.0 Help Point Plus Initiative

2.1 As a result of the success of the Help Point initiative the Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales has offered funding to improve and expand the service provided to date.

2.2 The funding offered is specified to cover development costs to transfer the service to an appropriate building, and to operate the service on Wednesday and Saturday nights for the next two years.

2.3 The recently closed former public toilet building in Caer Street, City Centre, is now available for an alternative use. Due to its location, existing hygiene facilities, and potential for adaptation at low cost, the building has been identified as an ideal site for the proposed "Help Point Plus" facility.

3.0 Benefits

3.1 The transfer of the Help Point service from a temporarily located vehicle to a permanent, well located site provides the opportunity for a significant improvement in the level of service which can be provided to vulnerable or distressed individuals.

3.2 The provision of better lighting, hygiene and privacy enable enhanced facilities for medical and other staff on site, and provides the opportunity for increased positive impact on issues related to the Night Time Economy in the city centre.

3.3 The significant improvement in service provision will also strengthen the planned bid for Purple Flag status in the current year.

3.4 The adaptation of an existing building in the city centre, with appropriate infrastructure, access arrangements and potential for use within a short timescale enables a significant cost saving to be produced as compared to adaptation of other buildings in the vicinity.

3.5 The status of the building, within Council ownership provides advantages in relation to both management and sustainability of the facility, enabling the possibility of valuable contribution to the Healthy Cities/ Healthy Nightlife agenda, and the existing highly effective partnership arrangements in the Night Time Economy

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 The cost of adaptations required to the building are funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner to a maximum of £20,000. This is anticipated to be sufficient to meet the full cost.

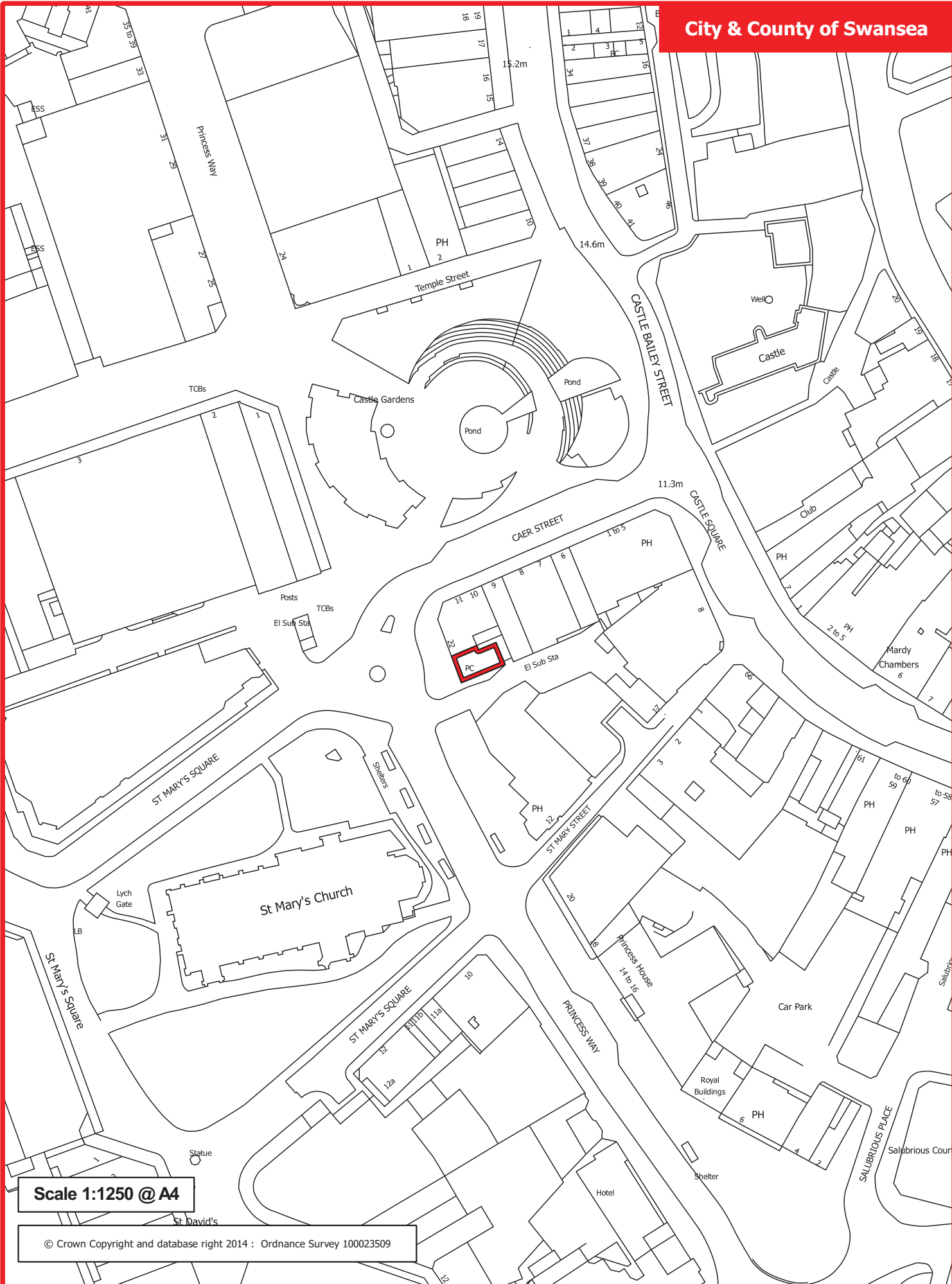
- 4.2 A further £60,000 for 2014-15 and £60,000 for 2015-16 is to be provided by the Police and Crime Commissioner to meet the full operating costs of the facility. Therefore there are no financial implications associated with this report.
- 4.3 Approval of this proposal would prevent the Council from disposing of this site and generating a potential capital receipt in the next two years.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

Background Papers: None.

Appendices: Appendix A – location map



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