

PLANNING STATEMENT

Abermorlais Solar PV Carports, Merthyr Tydfil (CF47 8AN)

1. Introduction

This Planning Statement has been prepared in support of a planning application for the installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) carports at Abermorlais Car Park, Merthyr Tydfil.

The proposal comprises the installation of two cantilevered solar carport structures over an existing surfaced car park, together with associated electrical infrastructure.

2. Site and Proposal Overview

The application site comprises an existing urban car park serving the Civic Centre, located within the defined settlement boundary of Merthyr Tydfil.

The development will:

- utilise previously developed land
- retain the existing use as a car park
- introduce a lightweight, elevated structure
- provide approximately 101.5 kWp of installed renewable energy capacity

The proposal results in minimal physical change to the site and maintains existing access, circulation, and parking function.

3. Planning Policy Context

The proposal aligns strongly with national and local planning policy objectives.

Planning Policy Wales (Edition 11)

The development supports key objectives relating to:

- decarbonisation and renewable energy generation
- sustainable use of land
- climate resilience

Future Wales: The National Plan 2040

The proposal accords with the national strategy by:

- delivering renewable energy infrastructure
- making efficient use of existing urban land
- contributing to the transition to a low carbon economy

Local Development Plan

The development is consistent with Local Development Plan policies supporting:

- renewable energy generation
- sustainable design
- development within settlement boundaries

4. Key Planning Considerations

Design and Visual Impact

The carports are of an appropriate scale and appearance within the urban context. The open-sided, lightweight structure minimises visual impact and integrates with existing car park infrastructure.

Flood Risk and Drainage

A Flood Consequences Assessment confirms the site lies within Flood Zone 1 (low risk) and the development is appropriate.

Surface water will be managed via a Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS), with detailed design to be approved separately by the SuDS Approval Body (SAB).

Highways and Access

There is no change to site access or circulation. The development maintains safe and effective use of the car park.

Amenity and Environmental Impacts

A Glint and Glare Assessment confirms no impacts on surrounding receptors. The proposal does not give rise to adverse impacts in terms of noise, ecology, or residential amenity.

5. Sustainability Benefits

The proposal will:

- generate approximately 92.8 MWh of renewable electricity annually
- reduce carbon emissions by approximately 17.9 tonnes CO₂ per annum
- support the Council's decarbonisation objectives

The development represents an efficient use of existing land to deliver renewable energy infrastructure without additional land take.

6. Conclusion

The proposed development represents a sustainable and policy-compliant form of development that delivers clear environmental benefits.

It:

- accords with national and local planning policy
- has minimal environmental and visual impact
- maintains the existing function of the site

Accordingly, the proposal should be supported and planning permission granted.