

Aldous, Catherine (Senior Planning Officer)

From: Arnall, Guy
Sent: 06 February 2026 13:44
To: Aldous, Catherine (Senior Planning Officer)
Subject: 25/1017 & 26/0027 - Civic Centre Godfrey Road Newport NP20 4UR (LBC and FULL applications)

Hi catherine

Re: LISTED BUILDING CONSENT FOR THE INSTALLATION OF 69NO. 500-WATT PV PANELS, 1NO. 25KW INVERTER, 69NO. OPTIMISERS AND ACCOMPANYING ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM & INSTALLATION OF 69NO. 500-WATT PV PANELS, 1NO. 25KW INVERTER, 69NO. OPTIMISERS AND ACCOMPANYING ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

Proposals

Newport Civic Centre is a Grade II* listed “*striking quasi-Italianate style*” civic building of high architectural and historic significance, which occupies a prominent position within the city. The asset is listed “...as a well-designed and well-preserved major civic building, designed by a prominent early C20 architect, with a scheme of C20 municipal decoration comparable in Wales only to the murals of Frank Brangwyn at Swansea Guildhall.”

The area impacted by these proposals is the flat roof above Level 4 of the west wing. Following the recent re-roofing of this area (see LBC 25/0126), further proposals now comprise the installation of sixty-nine photovoltaic panels, together with associated optimisers, a 25kW inverter and ancillary electrical equipment.

As outlined within the HIS which accompanies this report, these proposals form part of a wider strategy to improve the long-term sustainability of the Civic Centre. The building is currently served by ageing and inefficient gas-fired boilers, and the introduction of on-site renewable energy is intended as a first step towards a more sustainable and lower-carbon energy system, in line with Welsh Government targets for a net-zero public sector.

Material Impact

The panels are proposed to be mounted on a self-ballasted system, avoiding any penetration of the historic roof structure and ensuring that the installation is fully reversible. Associated cabling will utilise existing routes where possible and, elsewhere, be wall-mounted using stainless fixings into the jointing of the brickwork only, thus minimising disturbance of historic fabric. The proposed inverter will be similarly affixed to the wall. A satisfactory structural assessment has been undertaken and confirms that the roof can safely accommodate the additional loading (see *Civic Centre Newport L4W Roof PV Loading Assessment*). Material impact will be very low, allowing for straightforward future reversibility.

Visual Impact

In this instance, I would conclude that there is little benefit in CGI mock-up of the proposed as suggested by the C20 Society, due to the very limited nature of the available viewpoints as assessed from walking the site.

Due to the scale of the asset, surrounding topography, and high boundary wall with associated mature tree-line along Fields Road, the only potential viewpoint for the proposed is from the corner of the junction between Clytha Park Road and Fields Road (as identified within the HIA) - and a small number of private properties which surround this point.

Considering that the PV panels are proposed to be set substantially below the parapet height (see dwg CC-DR-A-(**)-01 Rev. P1) and that they (and their fittings) will be formed in dark, non-reflective material, it is considered that their visibility will be low, an impact further mitigated by the limited nature of said available viewpoints.

Conclusion

Overall, I agree with the conclusions of the submitted Heritage Impact Statement. The proposals are proportionate, carefully considered and conservation-led, and they represent a sensitive response to the challenge of introducing renewable energy within a highly significant listed building. The limited heritage impact is, in my view, outweighed by the public and environmental benefits, which in turn help to secure the continued viable use and stewardship of Newport Civic Centre. Subject to the works being carried out in accordance with the submitted details and below conditions, the special architectural and historic interest of the GII* listed asset will be preserved.

Conditions applicable to both Applications

For the avoidance of doubt, all proposed PV panels shall be the *Nexa TOPCon N-type*, with black-finished cells and frame.

Reason: To safeguard the character and appearance of the listed building, in accordance with Section 96(2) of the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2023 and Policy SP9 of the Newport Local Development Plan 2011 – 2026.

For the avoidance of doubt, all supporting frames for the approved PV panels will be *ValkQuattro Solar Ramp for 4 Panels*, finished in black.

Reason: To safeguard the character and appearance of the listed building, in accordance with Section 96(2) of the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2023 and Policy SP9 of the Newport Local Development Plan 2011 – 2026.

For the avoidance of doubt, all components of the self-ballasted mounting system (*ESDEC FlatFix Fusion*) shall be finished in black wherever available.

Reason: To safeguard the character and appearance of the listed building, in accordance with Section 96(2) of the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2023 and Policy SP9 of the Newport Local Development Plan 2011 – 2026.

Conditions for the LBC only:

Although 'hot works' (defined as any activity or process that generates a source of ignition through a flame, heat or a spark and including cutting, welding, brazing, soldering, hot air, the use of blow-lamps and other equipment producing heat or naked flames, and lighting fires in hearths) shall be avoided unless there is absolutely no alternative, should any such hot works be required, they shall not be commenced until such time as a method statement relating to all hot works has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The works shall thereafter be undertaken in accordance with the approved details.

Reason: To ensure that due regard is paid to protecting the special architectural and historic interest and integrity of the building in accordance with Section 96(2) of the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2023 and Policy SP9 of the Newport Local Development Plan 2011 – 2026.

For the avoidance of doubt, all fixings into masonry shall be formed in stainless steel and located into the jointing of the brickwork only.

Reason: To safeguard the character and appearance of the listed building, in accordance with Section 96(2) of the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2023 and Policy SP9 of the Newport Local Development Plan 2011 – 2026.

Note

The LBC application may not be determined under my delegated powers, and therefore Cadw will need to be notified. Please also add the following to the conclusion of the LBC report:

This conclusion is consistent with the advice received from a named Building Conservation Officer with the appropriate Cadw LBC delegation: Guy Arnall.

Many thanks,

Guy Arnall

Prif Swyddog Treftadaeth / Principal Heritage Officer
Swyddog Dirprwyedig (Adeiladau Rhestredig) / Delegated Officer (Listed Buildings)

Adfywio a Datblygu Economaidd / Regeneration and Economic Development
Cyngor Dinas Casnewydd / Newport City Council

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