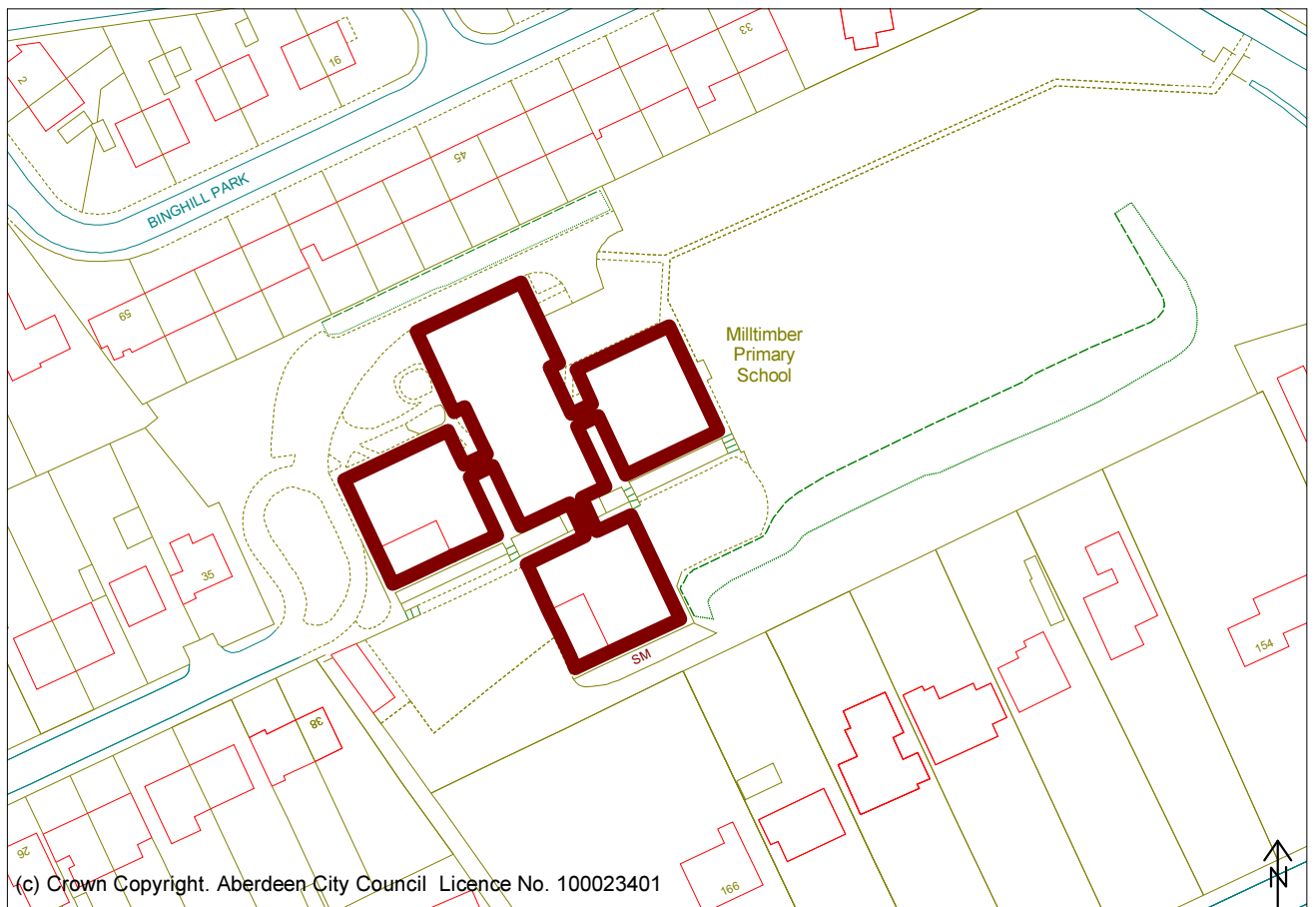


MILLTIMBER PRIMARY SCHOOL,  
MONEARN GARDENS, MILLTIMBER

THE INSTALLATION OF SOLAR  
PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) PANELS ON 3  
ROOFS OF THE SCHOOL BUILDINGS.

For: Aberdeen City Council

Application Ref.	: P120533	Advert	:
Application Date	: 19/04/2012	Advertised on	:
Officer	: Frances Swanston	Committee Date	: 14 June 2012
Ward: Lower Deeside (M Boulton/A Malone/M Malik)		Community Council	: No response received



**RECOMMENDATION: Approve Unconditionally**

## **DESCRIPTION**

Milltimber Primary School is situated at the far east end of Monearn Gardens, to the north of North Deeside Road and to the south of Binghill Park. The school's playing fields are situated to the east of the school. The school building comprises a central block with four 'wings'. The school is single storey with a flat roof. There are trees to the south of the site providing screening to the rears of the properties along North Deeside Road. There is a gentle slope downwards across the site from north to south.

## **HISTORY**

Aberdeen City Council is the first local authority in Scotland to apply for the 'Rent a Roof' scheme and is in the process of installing solar panels on 90 public buildings around the City, which include sheltered housing developments, schools, offices and Council depots. The scheme involves the Council buying the electricity generated by the panels to power Council buildings. 12 of the buildings require planning permission to install the solar panels primarily due to the size/number of the panels involved.

## **PROPOSAL**

Detailed planning permission is sought for the installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) panels on the roof of Milltimber Primary School in three principal locations: to the north, east and west wings of the school. There would be a total of 284 individual panels installed, distributed between the three locations with the larger proportion of panels on the east and west blocks. The solar panels would be joined together in lines and would be fixed to a frame mounting system and would be positioned south-east facing at a tilt of 30 degrees to maximise solar gain. The highest part of the panels would sit approximately 1 metre above the roof.

Each solar panel would measure 1650mm by 941mm with a thickness of 46mm and would appear dark blue in colour.

## **REASON FOR REFERRAL TO SUB-COMMITTEE**

The application site is owned by Aberdeen City Council and therefore the application does not fall within the Council's agreed Scheme of Delegation and requires to be determined by the Development Management Sub-Committee

## **CONSULTATIONS**

ROADS SECTION – No comments.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH – No comments received.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL – No comments received.

## **REPRESENTATIONS**

None.

## **Aberdeen Local Development Plan**

**Policy R8 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Developments** – the development of renewable and low carbon energy schemes is supported and applications will be supported in principle if proposals:

- Do not cause significant harm to the local environment, including landscape character and the character and appearance of listed buildings and conservation areas.
- Do not negatively impact on air quality.
- Do not negatively impact on tourism.
- Do not have a significant adverse impact on the amenity of dwelling houses.

**Policy D 1 Architecture and Placemaking** - To ensure high standards of design, new development must be designed with due consideration for its context and make a positive contribution to its setting. Factors such as siting, scale, massing, colour, materials, orientation, details, the proportions of building elements, together with the spaces around buildings, including streets, squares, open space, landscaping and boundary treatments, will be considered in assessing that contribution.

## **EVALUATION**

Sections 25 and 37(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended) requires planning applications to be determined in accordance with the provisions of the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. Policy R8 states that the development of renewable and low carbon energy schemes is supported and applications will be supported in principle subject to a number of criteria. The proposed solar panels would have some visual impact upon the school building and would be visible from Monearn Gardens and Binghill Park which are 20 metres away. However the visual impact of the panels would be minimal as would be their impact upon the amenity of the wider area. The orientation of the panels reflects the optimum solar gain. Having the panels tilted would increase the visual impact of the panels, but this impact would not be an adverse one.

The agent in supporting information states that the installation of the solar panels would have a positive contribution in raising awareness to the needs of renewable energy. The solar panels would not negatively impact on air quality or on tourism, given their proposed location in accordance with Policy R8.

Therefore in conclusion, the solar panels would have some visual impact upon the school building and wider area, but this would not be detrimental to either visual or residential amenity in accordance with Policy R8. The panels have been sited with due consideration for their context and would make an overall positive contribution to their setting, in accordance with Policy D1 of the Aberdeen Local Development Plan.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**Approve Unconditionally**

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

that the visual impact of the proposed solar (PV) panels would be acceptable upon the appearance of the building and would not detract from the overall visual amenity of the area in accordance with Policy R8, and as such have been designed with due consideration for their context, in accordance with Policy D1 of the Aberdeen Local Development Plan.

**Dr Margaret Bochel**

Head of Planning and Sustainable Development.