

Cabinet Meeting: Monday, 09 December 2024

Question from: Councillor Issott

Question to: Councillor Durrans

Regarding the Incinerator. It is disappointing that the Cabinet has chosen to delegate the decision on the Environmental Permit to a Senior Officer. This delegation was a deliberate choice by the Cabinet, and it is concerning because Councillors are elected to make decisions, no matter how challenging they may be. This is a dereliction of duty. Whilst as stated by the Council, the Environmental Permit was granted in accordance with the relevant regulations, I would like to know if the Council has sought any external legal advice regarding the possibility of not granting the permit. Additionally, the Council Leader mentioned in a press release the implementation of a monitoring and compliance plan. Please could you clarify how quickly the Council will respond if air quality monitoring indicates levels that could harm human health?

Response

The Council sought advice from a range of sources regarding this application. Not granting the permit was a consideration.

If air quality monitoring indicates levels that could harm human health, then the Council will respond in a proportionate way by taking appropriate action.

The operator will have an obligation under the conditions of the permit to inform the council if emission levels are exceeded for a period of more than 4 hours. On notification of such an exceedance at any time, council officers will ensure that the incineration of waste ceases until the matter is resolved. Similarly, if concerns are raised by local residents, then these will be dealt with in the same way.