

Cabinet Meeting: Monday, 09 December 2024

Question from: C Wilkinson

Question to: Councillor Dacre

Will Cabinet investigate why officers approved an incinerator in Sowerby Bridge that will be harmful to human health and the environment?

In their decision notice, officers say there are no technical reasons why it shouldn't be passed, but in objector's comments there are a multitude of technical issues identified including those from a retired incinerator engineer. Additionally, officers have accepted weather data from Bingley and Leeds-Bradford Airport as representative of the incinerator site, when the meteorological office has said that the site is unusual, impossible to model and prone to inversions.

Also do Cabinet now agree that they should have taken this decision to protect the inhabitants of Sowerby Bridge.

In response

The reasons for approving the Permit and the conditions attached to the Permit are set out in papers available on the Council website (as referred to in the question). The papers explain why the particular air quality monitors were used.

The decision on the Permit is one delegated to Officers under the Council's Constitution.

The papers refer to the regulatory regime which governed the consideration of the application.

Had a decision been taken, which was not consistent with these regulations, the Council and Council Taxpayers would have been exposed to the risk of Court costs from disappointed parties.

The Incinerator will not start operating until all the pre-conditions are met and the operating conditions will be monitored by the Council as set out in the papers.