Cabinet Meeting: **Monday, 30 June 2025**

Question from: **David Pugh**

Question to: **Councillor Durrans, Cabinet Member with responsilbity for Public Services and Communities**

QUESTION

Question concerning the Environmental Health report 28th November 2024 on the determination of the Incineration plant at the Belmont site in Sowerby Bridge.
The report does not address the “Concerns the SWIP will not meet the R1 criteria for energy return”.

The incinerator has been described as a state of the art green installation which is designed to recover energy.

The R1 Efficiency Index is a formula to calculate the achievement of a certain level of energy regeneration from the process. The incineration MUST be efficient to comply with the R1 standard. The proposed facility must be classified as performing a “Recovery of Energy” function, and not “Disposal”. The R1 recovery of energy relies on hot air from the incinerator (which burns for 24 hours per day) being connected to a drying machine used to dry waste material. The dryer can only be operated from 7:00 – 18:00 as it is subject to a separate Environmental Permit issued by the Environment Agency, whilst the incinerator is controlled under a permit controlled by the local authority.

The planning permission says that the incinerator can only be operated during the operational hours of the drying plant. “The SWIP shall not be operated in the event that the Drying Plant is not available for use”. The incinerator and the drying plant need to operate together to achieve the recovery of the excess heat generated.
My question is, if the dryer is not available for use at night how will energy be recovered from 18:00 to 07:00?

Response

The Environmental Health report of the 28th November 2024 does not specifically refer to the R1 efficiency index as it is not a requirement of the permit to achieve this specification. The permit does, however, require efficient energy recovery.

CVSH is currently undertaking investigations into the energy recovery process and will not be permitted to operate the SWIP without efficient energy recovery taking place be that through the drying process or other means.