

## **PORTLAND YOUTH COUNCIL – INCINERATOR SPEECH**

As members of the Portland Youth Council, we represent young people across the island. 100% of those we have spoken to have told us that they do not want the incinerator built here. Their main reasons being...

It would have a huge impact on the island's ecosystem and environment, including air, land and water, making Portland a less habitable place for plant and animal species. We have incredibly rare species here, some found nowhere else in the world. Why would you risk these for an incinerator that's not needed?

It would also be a major concern for global warming, as large quantities of carbon dioxide would be released into the air. Why would you choose to add to this problem when non-polluting, safe alternatives are available?

It would also make it worse for the people of Portland, who would be breathing in the polluted air produced after the waste had been incinerated. This would affect Portland's youth most because we have a lifetime ahead of us to breath in its toxic, invisible particles. Even more worrying is that the fumes would actually flow through areas of housing where people live. How can any of this be right when we know these particles seriously damage health?

In addition, it would have a negative effect on tourism and potentially lead to a loss of Dorset's World Heritage status. Good tourism has lots of benefits for Portland and could help transform the area for good. If you say yes to the incinerator, you could damage our tourist industry for decades. You would literally be removing yet another industry from the island.

In short, this incinerator is a bad idea. We should be investing in more sustainable energy sources, like offshore wind turbines or hydroelectric generators, which could bring so many more benefits to Portland and its residents.

Those behind the incinerator are doing this out of greed. They think it's ok to hide devastating developments like this in the most deprived areas of England in the hope that no one will care, stand up to it or see how despicable it is. They are wrong. We refuse to accept the incinerator, something that will poison our wildlife, sicken our residents and leave a scar on the lives of 13,500 people.

Portland is a captivating, amazing island that holds a special place in many hearts. It should not be violated, underestimated or thought of as a cheap solution for the ultimate ethical failings of those involved in this form of waste disposal.

This proposal isn't just wrong, it's exploitative and damaging. If we can see this, we are hoping that you can see it too.

Being a young person here is tough enough already. PLEASE DO NOT MAKE IT WORSE BY TAKING OUR FUTURE.