

Harbour still says 'no' to incinerator

COUNCIL officials have been urged to send a clear message that a €150m toxic incinerator should not be located in Cork Harbour.

By RONAN BAGNALL

County Manager Martin Riordan is preparing a report for An Bord Pleanála to outline the effects of the incinerator on the environment and development of the harbour.

Indaver has lodged a planning application for a €150 million waste incinerator at Ringaskiddy.

The latest application, which includes incinerators for hazardous and municipal waste, comes under the remit of An Bord Pleanála's

strategic infrastructure section.

Harbour area councillors put pressure on management yesterday for the report to "reflect the views of the people."

Cobh-based councillor, John Mulvihill, said: "The views of people in the area have not changed. We are still opposed to that incinerator.

"Cork harbour has been a dumping ground for far too long."

Councillor Paula Desmond said an incinerator could destroy plans to develop the harbour as the

centrepiece of Cork's tourism strategy.

She said the Cork Area Strategic Plan (CASP), which guides the development of the county, would be violated by the proposal.

"CASP sees that area as a designated area for tourism and water-based activity.

"The public is very anxious this proposal should not go ahead. The location has already suffered greatly over the years," added Cllr Desmond.

The manager's report will be presented to councillors on February 9 for further discussion.

Councillor Noel Collins added

that the effects of living beside an incinerator were unclear.

"The lower harbour has become the dumping ground for rejects of other regions," he added

Indaver says the project would generate 300 jobs during the three-year construction phase and the facility would employ around 50 people.

The company insists it will benefit the Cork region by helping it meet its obligations under the Landfill Directive, which requires a massive diversion of municipal waste from landfill to other more environmentally friendly technologies.