

Nuclear Free Local Authorities

briefing



Date: 22nd April 2014

No.121

Subject: Summary of NFLA Steering Committee, Leeds Civic Hall, 28th March 2014

1. Introduction

The NFLA Steering Committee was opened by the NFLA Chair, who welcomed all to Manchester Town Hall. There was also a formal welcome to Leeds Civic Hall by the Executive Member for the Environment at Leeds City Council, Councillor Stewart Dobson, who reiterated the Council's continuing support for the work of the NFLA, and of the warm co-operation with Councillor David Blackburn, NFLA English Forum Chair and Leeds NFLA representative.

2. National NFLA Forum meetings

The NFLA Secretary provided an overview of the work of the NFLA Forums:

NFLA Scotland Forum –

NFLA Scotland held a business meeting and AGM in Glasgow City Chambers on the 7th February. The NFLA Scotland Policy Advisor gave a presentation on a wide range of nuclear policy issues. There was considerable discussion by members around the NFLA's stance on the Dalgety Bay issue, submarine dismantling, alternatives to nuclear power, progress with SCCORS and CND Scotland's Walk for Peace series of meetings and events. The AGM re-elected Councillor Bill Butler of Glasgow City Council and Councillor Bill Brown of Renfrewshire Council as its Convener and Vice Convener. The AGM also approves NFLA Scotland's financial report and membership rates for 2014/15.

The next NFLA Scotland meeting will be held in Clydebank Town Hall, West Dunbartonshire on the 25th April.

NFLA Welsh Forum –

The NFLA Secretariat has organised a joint public meeting with the groups People against Wylfa B (PAWB), Friends of the Earth Cymru and CND Cymru in the Celtic Royal Hotel, Caernarfon in Gwynedd on the 22nd March. This public meeting focussed on proposed nuclear new build at Wylfa, provide an overview of the Fukushima disaster and its implications for UK nuclear sites and look at the alternatives to new nuclear build. Over 80 people attended the meeting and it received positive media coverage. The presentations are on the NFLA website.

NFLA English Forum –

A joint NFLA English Forum / Steering Committee has been organised to take place after the NFLA Steering Committee on the 28th March in Leeds Civic Hall. The NFLA Secretariat has recruited Dr Ian Fairlie to speak on the radiation issues around the shale

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gas fracking process, and Professor Dave Webb, CND National Chair, to talk about progress with the Trident replacement issue in the UK. Former Cornwall County Council Head of Climate Change Stephen Cirell is also talking about the development of local authority energy service companies.

NFLA All Ireland Forum –

Newry & Mourne District Council have kindly agreed to host the next NFLA All Ireland Forum meeting on the 11th April in its Council Offices. There will be one hour business meeting to discuss with NFLA Irish representatives the implications of major local government re-organisation and consider the key issues which Forum members want the NFLA to pursue in Ireland. A following 90 minute seminar will also be held with speakers from the Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland, Friends of the Earth Ireland and the NFLA Secretary.

Agreed: To note the report and encourage NFLA members to attend Forum meetings.

3. Nuclear new build

The NFLA Secretary provided an update on a wide range of issues around the proposed development of new nuclear power stations.

Proposed new build at Hinkley Point and European Commission inquiry -

A detailed joint submission with Stop Hinkley and the Cities for a Nuclear Free Europe (CNFE) was prepared by the NFLA Secretariat and approved by the January NFLA Steering Committee meeting. It has been converted into a NFLA New Nuclear Monitor with a draft media release. It was formally submitted to the European Commission on the 11th March and can be found on the NFLA website. The submission has received a very favourable response in the CNFE network, has been recommended by many European NGOs as a template for their own response and is a well argued and considered approach for the Commission to take into account.

Both the Commission's January letter, and its updated March 2014 letter to the UK Government, raised considerable concerns over the EDF strike price deal. The Competition Commissioner Joaquin Almunia's March 2014 letter to the UK Government said the deal could constitute "illegal" state aid, adding the Commission felt it was "difficult to argue" such a large amount of public funding for the new Hinkley Point reactors is justified. The letter also noted that it was not a 'best value', affordable deal and that there is enough evidence to argue that the UK Government could find other nuclear power station operators who could fund new reactors at much lower cost than the UK Government – EDF strike price deal. A final Commission view is expected around summer 2014. EDF have put off their final investment decision for the Hinkley Point project until July 2014.

NFLA response to UK Justification consultation on Hitachi's ABWR proposed for Wylfa and Oldbury –

The NFLA Secretariat has developed a response to the UK Government's consultation to legally 'justify' the Nuclear Industry Association's application for building the Advanced Boiling Water Reactor (ABWR) design at the sites Wylfa and Oldbury. This response is consistent with the NFLA's similar responses to previous justification exercises that the benefits of new nuclear do not outweigh significant health and economic risks. The Steering Committee approved and welcomed the NFLA Secretariat draft response.

Russian proposed deal with UK Government on building new nuclear stations -

A March report in 'The Guardian' noted that the UK Government have been in further talks with the Russian state nuclear company Rosatom about development of its VVER reactor design for a new nuclear reactor in the UK. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the UK and Russian Governments in September 2013 to take these discussions further forward. The Steering Committee agreed that the NFLA Secretariat should monitor this development.

Agreed: To note the report. To approve the NFLA Secretariat submission to the UK Government consultation on justification for the ABWR design.

4. **Radioactive waste management**

The NFLA Secretary outlined the key issues NFLA is involved with in relation to UK / Scottish Government policies on radioactive waste management.

Managing Radioactive Waste Safely (MRWS): DECC consultation –

DECC have now published a summary of the 719 responses it has received to the consultation. The most noteworthy issue that arises from the summary of responses is that a majority of respondents disagree with DECC's suggestion that District Councils solely take the decision-making authority role, rather than in conjunction with County Councils. Copeland and Allerdale Councils say they "broadly support" this revised approach, albeit with countywide consultation, while Cumbria County Council and Cumbria Association of Local Councils (CALC) said the county should be a part of the overriding decision.

DECC are expected to give their response to the consultation in the summer and a White Paper is expected to be published around September 2014.

PAC final report on Sellafield –

The Sellafield operators, Nuclear Management Partners (NMP), should have their contract terminated if performance does not improve, according to the Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee (PAC). In its final report published in February, the PAC noted the final bill for decommissioning of the Sellafield site had risen to more than £70bn. The report noted that progress at cleaning-up the Sellafield site has been poor, with missed targets, escalating costs, slipping deadlines and overall weak leadership. The report concluded that the NMP consortium was to blame for many of the escalating costs and the PAC noted they could not understand why the NDA extended the consortium's contract last October.

Sellafield overseas waste contracts consultation –

The UK Government has published a consultation on proposals to allow the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) to manage by means of interim storage and disposal any small quantities of overseas origin oxide fuels that are either not economic to reprocess or cannot be reprocessed in the THORP facility before it closes in 2018. This approach would permit the NDA to close out the remaining overseas contracts in a cost-effective and timely way, providing more certainty over the future plans for THORP and for the future decommissioning of the Dounreay licensed site. The Steering Committee agreed that a response to the consultation should be developed by the Secretariat, and a NFLA Radioactive Waste Policy Briefing be produced with a model response for NFLA members.

Dalgety Bay contamination –

In a March 1st response to a Parliamentary question from local Dalgety Bay MP Gordon Brown, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) have given a broad timeframe to their work on cleaning up the radioactively contaminated beach site. The MOD preferred sequence of events and timeframe for clean-up of the Dalgety Bay includes:

- The MOD will develop a more detailed risk assessment (DQRA) to define the most appropriate management option, taking account of the views that were provided by SEPA and Public Health England at a recent meeting on 6 February.
- The MOD will then define and develop a proposal for an appropriate long-term management solution informed by the PHE and DQRA contribution by the end of June 2014.
- SEPA will assess the wider implications of implementation on stakeholders and the local community, starting from June 2014.
- At the same time the MOD will establish the extent to which the Department may fund the management solution and agree with SEPA and other parties an appropriate management model for overseeing any remediation and subsequent transition to the "normalised" management arrangements.

The NFLA Secretariat will continue to liaise closely with Fife Council to ensure a close monitoring of this matter.

Update on NuLEAF and SCCORS–

NuLEAF (Nuclear Legacy Advisory Forum) are meeting next on April 9th in London, but unfortunately this meeting clashes with the Submarine Dismantling Project stakeholder meetings, which the NFLA Chair and NFLA Secretary are already committed to attend. The NFLA Secretary will ensure full comments are provided to the NuLEAF Secretary prior to the meeting.

The SCCORS (Scottish Councils Committee on Radioactive Substances) Secretariat is still seeking another Council to take over from North Ayrshire. The NFLA Secretary has contacted the current SCCORS Secretary to provide an overview of the Secretariat's role, which will be sent on to NFLA Scotland members when provided, for their consideration.

MOD Submarine Decommissioning Project (SDP) –

The shortlist of five sites being considered for hosting intermediate level waste from decommissioned nuclear submarines was announced in early February. They are Chapelcross, Sellafield, Capenhurst in Cheshire, Aldermaston and Burghfield.

The NFLA Secretary and NFLA Chair have been invited to a MOD stakeholder workshop on this shortlist in Penrith on April 9th. The NFLA Secretary has also agreed with NFLA Scotland to provide a response on the proposed decommissioning of the Rosyth site, which is being developed by the NFLA Scotland Policy Advisor.

Agreed: To note the report. The NFLA Secretary to develop a response to the UK Government on overseas waste contracts.

5. Mayors for Peace update

The NFLA Secretary outlined progress in NFLA's co-operation with the Mayors for Peace weapons issue.

Mayors for Peace International Development -

As of March 1st 2014, 5,912 towns and cities were members of Mayors for Peace in 157 countries. It is likely that the organisation will pass the 6000 member milestone imminently.

The Secretary General of Mayors for Peace, Yasuhiro Komizo, represented the Mayors for Peace Executive Board at a number of important events in recent months. This includes a meeting with senior United Nations Disarmament staff and with American members of Mayors for Peace, taking part in a Fukushima Prefecture Memorial Garden event, participating and speaking at the UN Conference on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons in Mexico, and attending the 60th anniversary commemoration event of the first American nuclear weapon test in the Marshall Islands.

Mayors for Peace will be sending an international delegation to the NPT Preparatory Conference in New York in April 28th – 30th 2014. As is usual, there are plans to meet with Ambassadors and UN officials, hold a side event at the conference and be part of the NGO presentation to the conference. Given that a board meeting of Mayors for Peace will take place in June, and that there will be 3 major international Mayors for Peace events / conferences in 2015, the closeness of local and European elections and budgetary considerations means that Manchester are not planning to attend this conference in preference for involvement in the full Review Conference in 2015. The NFLA Secretary will take part in a Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign General Meeting via Skype on April 4th 2014.

The Mayors for Peace Executive Board have been invited to hold a meeting by the Mayor of Sarajevo in City Hall on June 7th 2014. This meeting will be held around a weekend of activities by a large number of international NGOs in Sarajevo in conjunction with the centenary commemorations of the First World War. It is anticipated that Manchester City Council will be fully represented at the meeting and associated events, probably by the NFLA Secretary and NFLA Chair in their role as Manchester's Mayors for Peace representatives.

Mayors for Peace UK and Ireland development -

The NFLA Secretary is in the process of developing a strategy paper for how to take forward the launch of an effective UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter that can complement the NFLA, but is separate from it. It is planned to have this ready for discussion at the next NFLA Steering Committee meeting.

Manchester was the starting point for a 'Bike for Peace' cycling tour which is going around the world in 90 days. This Norwegian group approached the NFLA Chair and NFLA Secretary in Hiroshima and the aim of the 2014 tour is to promote the aims of the Mayors for Peace in campaigning for a nuclear weapons free world. Annual 'Bike for Peace' tours have been taking place since 1978. Bike for Peace has formal support from the Mayors for Peace Secretariat for this year's tour.

The official opening of the tour took place on the morning of 15th March 2014 with a launch event at Manchester Town Hall with speeches from the Lord Mayor of Manchester, a former Prime Minister of Norway, Mayor Thore Vestby (a fellow Vice President of Mayors for Peace) and the Bike for Peace President Tore Naerland. Successful events were also held in Coventry and London. Bike for Peace also plan to visit Scotland on the final leg of the global tour with stops in Dundee, Helensburgh, Glasgow and Edinburgh.

Agreed: To note the report and welcome co-operation with Bike for Peace. The NFLA Secretary to ascertain involvement in Mayors for Peace's international meetings in 2014.

6. Nuclear Weapons update

The NFLA Secretary provided an overview of various issues relating to the nuclear weapons disarmament debate.

NET independent inquiry on the UK's national defence needs and its international nuclear disarmament responsibilities –

The NFLA Chair and NFLA Secretary attended a very useful event in Portcullis House, Westminster on February 11th which launched the Nuclear Education Trust report on the UK's national defence needs and its international nuclear disarmament responsibilities.

The five key recommendations of the report were:

- The next UK Strategic Defence Review should take a more rigorous needs-based approach, reflecting more clearly and separately on both the likelihood and the impact of risks to the UK's security, as well as its foreign policy requirements and responsibilities.
- UK Government should focus on utilising its world diplomatic skills, rather than its world military reach, to reduce its security threats and promote disarmament including attending conferences on nuclear weapons, helping secure definitive progress at the P5 meeting in China, publicly supporting a Nuclear Weapons Convention and taking further independent action as appropriate.
- As a signatory to the NPT, the UK Government should seek an independent legal opinion on whether the proposed modernisation of Trident is outside its legal obligations.
- There needs to be a much deeper and wider public and parliamentary debate about whether to maintain and modernize UK nuclear weapons in an era where no external threat to the UK exists.
- The UK's defence procurement decisions – including for Trident replacement – must follow on from the conclusions to the next Strategic Defence Review.

2nd International Conference on humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, Mexico

The second UN Conference considering the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons was held in Nayarit, Mexico on the 13th – 14th February 2014. There was a substantial presence from both the Mayors for Peace and ICAN-UK at the Conference, and both updated the NFLA Secretariat of the key actions from the Conference. 146 states took part in the Conference. There was also a substantial civil society presence at the conference. The 'P5' members of the UN Security Council – UK, USA, Russia, France and China – stayed away from the Conference and were widely criticised for doing so. The Chair of the Conference argued in his closing speech that the discussions had continued to bring momentum to those

states wishing to seek more dynamic disarmament at the 2015 NPT Review Conference. The Chairman was warmly supported for linking the 2015 NPT Conference with the 70th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic weapon bombings. Austria agreed to host a follow up conference which will be held in Vienna in November 2014.

Dounreay Vulcan test reactor radiological concerns -

On March 6th the UK Defence Minister Philip Hammond made a statement to Parliament to inform it that in January 2012 low levels of radioactivity had been detected in cooling water surrounding a prototype reactor core at the Naval Reactor Test Establishment (NRTE) at Dounreay. No radioactivity should have been in the cooling water and the reactor was shut down for much of 2012 while investigations were carried out.

Radioactivity is believed to have entered the reactor cooling water through a microscopic breach in a small area of the metal cladding that surrounds one fuel element within the core of the reactor. It is not yet clear why this breach occurred. The Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) and the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) were informed of the incident late in 2012 but were advised that the information should be held on a 'need to know' basis for national security reasons. The Scottish Government, the Dounreay Stakeholder Group, and Westminster and Holyrood Parliaments were not informed of these problems and have raised considerable public disquiet about this.

The NFLA Chair has given his delegated support to a joint NGO letter to the Chief Executive of the ONR seeking to know why it and SEPA did not inform other authorities of the incident, despite both having a formal and well publicised policy of openness and transparency. The NFLA Secretary and Peter Burt of Nuclear Information Service have also advised NFLA member Shetland Island Council of a letter to the nuclear which:

- supports the Scottish Government's action to remove Crown exemption from environmental and nuclear licensing regulation for Ministry of Defence nuclear sites;
- asks why the Dounreay Stakeholder Group was not told about the incident, and for an explanation of how security grounds could prevent the matter being discussed in 2012 but allow disclosure in 2014;
- asks 'who knew what' within the regulatory agencies and express concern that regulators did not press the Ministry of Defence to disclose the matter to the public in the interests of openness and transparency and confidence in the nuclear industry.

Radioactive waste management concerns at AWE Aldermaston and Burghfield facilities-

The Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) has announced that it is considering enforcement action against the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) for failing to treat radioactive waste accumulating at the Aldermaston site, despite being ordered to take action as long ago as 2007. AWE was issued with a legally binding Licence Instrument in March 2007 requiring it to reduce in volume and encapsulation of 1000 drums of intermediate level radioactive waste by February 2014. The Licence Instrument aimed to ensure that hazardous untreated waste – known as 'higher activity waste' - which is too highly contaminated with radioactive material for disposal in existing facilities could be stored safely in a passive form over the long term. The Licence Instrument has now expired without its requirements being met.

Walk for Peace – Scottish Parliament to Faslane, April 2014 –

CND Scotland has approached NFLA Scotland members to support its 'Walk for Peace' which is raising issues over nuclear weapons in Scotland and takes place in April. It will involve a group of activists walking from the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh to the Faslane nuclear weapons base. Special meetings are also planned in Currie, Bathgate, Coatbridge, Glasgow and Dumbarton. NFLA Scotland members are involved with some of the events.

Agreed: To note the report. To support the Walk for Peace in Scotland.

7. Fukushima and nuclear safety

The NFLA Secretary provided a report on progress with nuclear safety and the safe control and decommissioning of the damaged reactor site at Fukushima, Japan.

Fukushima third anniversary Parliamentary event –

On March 10th in the UK Parliament a well attended public meeting around the third anniversary of the Fukushima disaster was held. The NFLA Secretary had helped to facilitate some of the speakers of this event organised by CND. Speakers came from the groups Kick Nuclear, NCG, NWA and the Swiss based group Green Cross International.

The NFLA Secretary also met with staff in Green Cross, along with CND General Secretary Kate Hudson and independent nuclear analyst David Lowry to discuss future co-operation, particularly around the Fukushima issue. Green Cross is a large international environmental NGO that was originally founded by Mikhail Gorbachev, who remains its patron. Discussion took place around looking at trying to organise a major public event later in 2014, or for the fourth anniversary, which could include contributions from Mikhail Gorbachev, possibly former Japanese Prime Minister Naoko Kan and a prominent UK politician. Green Cross is considering this suggestion and other areas of co-operation.

On the 1st – 8th October 2014 Green Cross will again be organising a Fukushima study tour. This will meet with prominent politicians, academics, NGOs and evacuees. It will also involve a tour of the Fukushima site. Green Cross is willing to pay 50% of the costs of this tour, which would leave a fee of around £800 for the visit. NFLA and other groups are assisting Green Cross to encourage prominent UK-based Parliamentarians, journalists and academics to go on the tour. The Steering Committee agreed to consider potential involvement once further information is forthcoming.

Fukushima update –

The ongoing problems in making safe and cleaning up the stricken Fukushima nuclear reactors continue. In 2014 alone this has included:

- The much-troubled Advanced Liquid Processing System, designed to remove radioactive contaminants from water at Fukushima, has broken down yet again after break-downs in June, July, September, October and December 2013;
- A black sea bream, caught 37 kms from the Fukushima plant, registered 12,400 becquerels/kg of radioactive caesium – 124 times the safety standard for foodstuffs;
- TEPCO is re-analysing 164 water samples collected last year because previous readings “significantly undercounted” radiation levels;
- TEPCO temporarily suspended the removal of spent nuclear fuel rods from reactor Number 4 after a cooling system failed;
- TEPCO said water samples from an observation well contained the highest levels of radioactive caesium detected so far in groundwater at the site; and
- A storage tank overflowed, spilling about 100,000 litres of contaminated water. “We are deeply embarrassed that this sort of unacceptable event would occur,” said TEPCO executive vice-president Zengo Aizawa.

Concerns over ageing nuclear reactors –

A Greenpeace International report has raised safety concerns over the continuing life extensions being approved across the EU to operating nuclear reactors. 98 of Europe’s 151 operating reactors are over 30 years old, 7 of them alone over 40 years old. An article on the report is attached as Appendix 1. EDF is trying to extend the life of its existing reactors by at least 8 years. Each has to be approved by the ONR, but to date, all previous applications have been approved.

As the NFLA Secretariat has previously pointed out, in spite of upgrades and repairs, the overall condition of nuclear reactors deteriorates in the long term. The likelihood of an accident and the amount of potential complications also increases. Nuclear reactors contain components that cannot be replaced, including the reactor pressure vessel and the containment, whose condition deteriorates over time. While replacement of old components may reduce some risks, it also introduces new ones: for example, in some cases large components are replaced by breaking through the reactor’s containment, as a result of which the strength of this vital protective structure is inevitably impaired.

Agreed: To note the report. To consider the Green Cross study tour to Fukushima when further information is provided.

8. Alternatives to nuclear energy

The NFLA Secretary provided a report on developments in pursuing effective alternatives to nuclear power.

NFLA Policy Briefings on renewable energy -

Over the past two years the NFLA Secretariat has developed a whole suite of well researched documents for member authorities on various aspects of energy policy highlighting the benefits of renewable energy, microgeneration and energy efficiency. The NFLA Secretariat is now developing a Policy Briefing encouraging Councils to consider developing 'Energy Service Companies' and 'Energy Trusts'. Glasgow, Birmingham, Nottingham and Bristol City Councils in particular have been developing this type of initiative and the NFLA Secretary is liaising with officers from these Councils to develop further information. It is hoped to have the report ready for the next NFLA Steering Committee.

Energy targets and cuts to the ECO –

The Government's decision in late 2013 to implement cuts to 'green taxes' and the Energy Company Obligation (ECO), and extend the length of the time to implement energy efficiency schemes, is calculated to have a major negative impact on the amount of homes insulated under such projects. UK Government official figures, which the Opposition argued had been hidden away in other statistics, suggest more than 440,000 fewer homes will get help to bring down long-term energy costs through more efficient boilers and insulation schemes. The watering down of the ECO allowed for cuts of £30 - £35 in electricity bills to partially offset major price increases in utility prices in winter 2013. Estimates calculated by the Government shows 2.26 million households would have got help under the ECO scheme by 2016, but this figures has now dropped to 1.82 million households.

Update on solar energy -

According to the think tank Solar Portal, by the time of the UK general election in May 2015, the UK solar PV industry is expected to have installed a cumulative PV capacity of more than 7GW. This would correspond to 35% of the 20GW by 2020 target of the UK Government. 2.5GW is expected to be installed in 2014 and a further five years at that rate will get the industry to the 20GW mark. This rapid rate of increase was considered highly unlikely just a few years ago. The rate could even increase in future years.

Agreed: To note the report.

9. Low level radiation and health issues

The NFLA Secretary provided a short report on progress with issues relating to low level radiation and health.

Ongoing effects of Chernobyl disaster on local environment in Belarus -

A major biological study based in the exclusion zone around the stricken Chernobyl plant has suggested that radioactively contaminated trees in the area are not decomposing properly. The study also notes how the ongoing radioactive contamination is also affecting animals located in and around the exclusion zone.

Effects of Fukushima disaster on public health in North East Japan –

The WISE March Newsletter provided an overview of Fukushima health effects:

- A 2013 World Health Organisation report concluded that for people in the most contaminated areas in Fukushima Prefecture, the estimated increased risk for all solid cancers will be around 4% in females exposed as infants; a 6% increased risk of breast cancer for females exposed as infants; a 7% increased risk of leukaemia for males exposed as infants; and for thyroid cancer among females exposed as infants, an increased risk of up to 70% (from a 0.75% lifetime risk up to 1.25%).
- A Stanford University study that estimates "an additional 130 (15-1100) cancer-related mortalities and 180 (24-1800) cancer-related morbidities".

- An estimate of 1000-3000 cancer deaths by physicist Ed Lyman (based on an estimated collective whole body radiation dose of 3.2 million person-rem to the population of Japan).
- an estimate of around 3000 cancer deaths, from radiation biologist and independent consultant Dr Ian Fairlie.
- Indirect deaths must also be considered, especially those resulting from the failure of TEPCO and government authorities to develop and implement adequate emergency response procedures. A September 2012 editorial in Japan Times noted that 1632 deaths occurred during or after evacuation from the triple-disaster; and nearly half (160,000) of the 343,000 evacuees were dislocated specifically because of the nuclear disaster.
- A January 2013 article in The Lancet notes that “the fact that 47 per cent of disaster related deaths were recognised in Fukushima prefecture alone indicates that the earthquake-triggered nuclear crisis at the Fukushima power plant caused extreme hardship for local residents.”
- In Fukushima Prefecture, 1656 people have died as a result of stress and other illnesses caused by the 2011 disaster according to information compiled by police and local governments and reported last month. That number exceeds the 1607 people in Fukushima Prefecture who were drowned by the tsunami or killed by the preceding earthquake.
- “The biggest problem is the fact that people have been living in temporary conditions for so long,” said Hiroyuki Harada, a Fukushima official dealing with victim assistance, “People have gone through dramatic changes of their environment. As a result, people who would not have died are dying.”

Agreed: To note the report.

10. Nuclear emergency planning and nuclear materials transportation

The NFLA Secretary provided a report of activity it was undertaking in the area of nuclear emergency planning.

DECC NGO Forum sub-group on nuclear emergency planning –

The NFLA Secretary will be attending the next meeting of this sub-group on 3rd April.

Involvement in European Economic and Social Committee inquiry into crisis communications around nuclear sites -

The NFLA Secretary spoke at the European Economic and Social Committee’s special conference on crisis communications around nuclear sites. The NFLA Secretary argued for a greater level of engagement with the public, for the necessity of increased openness and transparency in the nuclear sector and for considering the innovative use of new forms of media. The Conference provided an excellent opportunity for the NFLA Secretariat to engage on an important subject at the European level.

Nuclear transportation concerns –

The NFLA Secretary has published a Policy Briefing giving an overview of concerns with the transportation of nuclear materials by sea on a type of ‘roll on, roll off’ vessel which does not seem to be covered by the same level of strict guidelines as, for example, MOX shipments from Sellafield. The briefing uses the example of the fire on the *Atlantic Cartier* as the basis of this briefing. The NFLA Secretary has sent this briefing to the RMT and Nautilus trade unions for further consideration and cooperation. It is also being sent to the UK and Irish Governments and devolved governments and the Transport Select Committee.

Agreed: To note the report.

11. Date of next NFLA Steering Committee meeting

The next Steering Committee meeting is planned for ***Friday 27th June in Manchester Town Hall from 11am – 1pm***, followed by a tour of the NFLA archive in the reopened Manchester Central Library.