

Nuclear Free Local Authorities briefing



Date: **20 November 2001**
Subject: **Summary of NFLA AGM, City Chambers, Glasgow, 26 October 2001**

1. Annual Report

The Annual Report recapped the range of services which the NFLA Steering Committee continues to provide for member authorities; NFLA press and promotional work within the previous 12 months; the range of briefing materials and reports prepared by the Secretariat, advisers and externally commissioned experts; and the main activities throughout the year which had been carried out in pursuance of NFLA policy priorities. These included research, policy analysis and advice to promote sustainable approaches to future radioactive waste management; research and legal work to reduce hazards at nuclear reprocessing sites at Sellafield and Dounreay; action to challenge discharge authorisations at a number of nuclear sites; and other consultative and advisory work. Increasingly NFLA staff and advisers were engaged with government departments and regulators, and the nuclear industry and its agencies, in dialogue and advisory work to develop publicly acceptable policies.

Additionally, a good deal of work was undertaken in the past year through consultation and research to inform proposals for NFLA reorganisation. This work continues. It was recognised that change is needed in the NFLA approach within local government so that its voice continues to be heard.

2. Financial Report

In Financial Year 2000/2001 a surplus of £11,500 was reported. This arose from income for specific project work to be undertaken in the current financial year. The AGM agreed to increase affiliation rates to take account of the projected inflation of 3% in FY 2002/2003. Member authorities are asked to note the revised rates below and make budgetary provision in FY 2002/2003:

<u>Population</u>	<u>Affiliation Fee</u>
over one million	£4,420
500k - one million	£3,158
200k - 500k	£1,888
100k - 200k	£1,158
up to 100k	£ 729

Rates for Joint Fire Authorities and Fire and Civil Defence Authorities are 50% of the above.

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT VOICE ON NUCLEAR ISSUES



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3. **Membership**

The AGM received a report detailing membership at October 2000 and at October 2001. In that period membership had fallen from 99 local authorities to 88. The NFLA Secretary reported that the organisational review was addressing this matter.

4. **Election of Chair and Vice Chairs**

There was no change. Councillor Ken Wyatt, Rotherham MBC, was nominated and confirmed as NFLA Chair to the 2002 AGM. Councillor George Regan, Dundee City Council, was nominated and confirmed as NFLA Vice Chair (Scotland). Councillor Bill Risby, Manchester City Council, was nominated and confirmed NFLA Vice Chair (England). Welsh members will hold their Annual Meeting in the New Year. Councillor Peter Lloyd, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council continues as NFLA Vice Chair (Wales) through to the next Wales Forum Annual Meeting.

5. **Resolutions**

Two resolutions were carried (23 authorities present):

1. **Attacks on America**

This Annual General Meeting:

- *unreservedly condemns the appalling attacks on America and fully supports all lawful efforts to apprehend and bring to justice the conspirators behind the terrible crimes in New York and Washington;*
- *is alarmed and appalled by the potential consequences of the targeting of nuclear power stations and other nuclear facilities anywhere;*
- *agrees with the UN Secretary General's 17 September statement that "Making progress in the areas of nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament is more important than ever in the aftermath of last week's appalling terrorist attack on the United States."*
- *calls for an urgent national review of all civil industrial hazards, including nuclear sites, and of effective measures to prevent attacks on these facilities.*

2. **Sellafield Mox Plant**

This Annual General Meeting

- *deplores the decision of Ministers to authorise the Sellafield MOX Plant;*
- *remains convinced there is no economic or environmental justification for this decision;*
- *believes this decision will exacerbate nuclear proliferation ;*
- *is most concerned that transport of MOX fuel presents unquantifiable risks of attack, diversion, seizure or accident and consequential impacts on communities, including those of member authorities, on or adjacent to transport routes; and*
- *instructs its officers to convey this resolution to relevant Ministers, Political Representatives, opinion-formers and other agencies.*

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