

briefing



Date: 18 November 2002

No. 27

Subject: **Summary of NFLA AGM, The Centre, Slough, 18 October 2002**

1. Election of Chair and Vice Chairs

The NFLA Steering Committee has a new Chair. Councillor **Ken Wyatt**, Rotherham MBC, stood down after three years at the helm and Councillor **George Regan**, Dundee City Council, was elected unopposed to lead NFLAs through to the 2003 AGM. Cllr Regan's appointment as Chair opened up a vacancy for NFLA Vice Chair (Scotland) and this was filled by Councillor **Mike Rumney**, Fife Council. The AGM also confirmed Councillor **Bill Risby**, Manchester City Council as NFLA Vice Chair (England) and Councillor **Peter Lloyd**, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council as NFLA Vice Chair (Wales), through to the 2003 AGM.

2. 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 carried out in pursuance of NFLA policy priorities. These included research, policy analysis and advice to member authorities in response to:

- the DTI Energy Policy consultation document;
- the DTLR (as it was) 'Major Infrastructure Projects' planning policy consultation;
- the ongoing DEFRA and devolved administration radioactive waste management policy development process;
- the DTI consultation on new institutional arrangements for managing £48 billion liabilities of BNFL and the UK Atomic Energy Authority;
- the Environment Agency's Sellafield site radioactive discharges consultation;
- continuing concern about nuclear transportation and the implications of plutonium (MOX) fuel production at Sellafield;
- developments at Dounreay in northern Scotland;
- new research on depleted uranium hazards;
- European Commission proposals to prevent the loss of radioactive sources;
- development of guidance for the remediation of radioactively contaminated land;
- preparatory work for NFLA representation at the public inquiry into BNFL proposals for decommissioning the Trawsfynydd nuclear station;
- assisting MoD with policy advice for long term management of decommissioned nuclear submarines;
- and advice to the Local Government Association about the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2001 and scope for improving nuclear site emergency planning.

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NFLA staff and advisers also continue to work closely with government departments, regulators, the nuclear industry and its agencies, in pursuance of practical policies to minimise nuclear hazards. A 4th joint UK and Irish Councils conference on nuclear hazards was hosted by Pembrokeshire County Council last March. And NFLA organisational work culminated last July with a seminar in London to introduce a proposal for a new Local Authorities Nuclear Policy Advisory Service.

3. **Financial Report**

In Financial Year 2001/2002 the Secretary reported a deficit of £24,370. This had been anticipated because specific project income received in 2000/01 was spent in 2001/02. Nonetheless, in order to maintain current NFLA services and policy work it was estimated that an additional £20,000 p.a. would be required and NFLA staff are now implementing programmes (i.e. extending NFLA associate links to Irish Councils and promoting the Local Authorities Nuclear Policy Advisory Service amongst non NFLA councils) to create new income streams with a view to bringing income and expenditure into line during financial year 2003/04.

On the advice of Manchester City Council Treasurer's Department the AGM agreed to increase NFLA affiliation rates by 3% in the coming financial year to take account of projected inflation. Member authorities are asked to note the revised rates below and make budgetary provision in FY 2003/2004:

<u>Population</u>	<u>Affiliation Rate</u>
over one million	£4,575
500k - one million	£3,269
200k - 500k	£1,954
100k - 200k	£1,199
up to 100k	£ 755

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

4. **Membership**

The AGM received a report detailing membership at October 2001 and at October 2002. In that period membership had fallen slightly from 85 to 81 authorities.