



NFLA Secretariat  
c/o PO Box 532  
Town Hall Manchester  
M60 3NY  
[s.morris4@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:s.morris4@manchester.gov.uk)  
[nfla@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:nfla@manchester.gov.uk)

Tel: 0161 234 3244  
Fax: 0161 274 7397

NFLA UK & Ireland Chair:  
Baillie George Regan

NFLA UK & Ireland Secretary:  
Sean Morris

NFLA England Forum Chair:  
Councillor Ralph Pryke

NFLA All-Ireland Forum Chairs:  
Councillor Michael Carr (North)  
Councillor Ollan Herr (RoI)

NFLA All-Ireland Forum  
Secretary: Steven Cooper

NFLA Scotland Convenor:  
Councillor Euan McLeod  
NFLA Scotland Vice Convenor:  
Councillor Audrey Doig

NFLA Scotland Secretary:  
Cathy Birrell

NFLA Scotland Policy Advisor:  
Pete Roche

NFLA Wales Forum Chair:  
Councillor Stephen Churchman

NFLA Wales Vice Chairs:  
Councillor Ed Bridges  
Councillor Ray Davies

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NFLA website:  
<http://www.nuclearpolicy.info>  
Mayors for Peace website:  
<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org>  
KIMO website:  
<http://www.kimointernational.org>

## NFLA determines 2011 strategy

The NFLA held its 2010 AGM (deferred from November due to the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary events), its opening Steering Committee of the year, a finance meeting and a special seminar on low level radiation and health.

The AGM re-elected Baillie George Regan as the NFLA's Steering

Committee (SC) Chair and confirmed all NFLA National Forum Chairs as SC Vice Chairs.

The Finance Committee meeting considered in detail how to respond to the major financial economies affecting local government.

The Lord Provost of Dundee kindly provided



NFLA former chair Councillor Mike Rumney, Dundee Lord Provost John Letford and NFLA Chair Baillie George Regan, Dundee City Chambers, NFLA AGM

a civic reception to welcome all NFLA members to the city.

The Steering Committee discussed a number of detailed reports on new nuclear build issues, radioactive waste, radioactive safety standards, Mayors for Peace, nuclear weapons and nuclear submarine dismantling.

## NFLA responds in detail on national energy policy statements

The NFLA has responded in detail to the UK Government's re-consultation on its suite of National Policy Statements (NPS) on energy and specifically new nuclear build.

The response, which can be found on the NFLA website, has 15 detailed points of concern.

Key points made relate

to a concern over the push for an 'all-electric society' by 2030, which is a key part of the NPS. The NFLA advocate rather an imaginative and innovative renewable energy mix, increased Council-led energy efficiency measures and the real need to tackle fuel poverty.

Concerns over health, safety, radioactive

waste management, emergency planning and financial costs are all outlined. The NFLA also raised concerns over public subsidies and who will fund new nuclear build.

The UK Government will consider all responses before determining its final statements, which will have to be approved by Parliament.

NFLA 2011 SERVICE PLAN

Approved this month by the NFLA Steering Committee is its Annual Service Plan, outlining and summarising all NFLA work for 2011.

It provides NFLA members and other readers with all the information that it requires on how the NFLA will be involved in the debates on nuclear energy, the managing of radioactive waste and the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

It has 10 key objectives for the year. It will be downloadable from the NFLA website shortly, and can be used by groups if seeking to encourage Councils to consider membership.

Letters to the media in January 2011:  
*(All emailed to NFLA members.)*

- Many are sceptical that new nuclear reactors will be built on time
- What would be the real nuclear clean-up costs?
- Nuclear accident caps and public subsidies
- Nuclear weapon site safety risks unacceptable

Low-level radiation and health – should we be worried?

As part of the Dundee meetings, a special NFLA seminar was held to consider the health and medical effects of low level radiation on the human body.

Keynote speaker was Professor Eric Wright from Dundee University Medical School, who gave an excellent

overview of his research on genomic instability from low level radiation exposure.

Dr John Urquhart presented his own studies on the health statistics taken from British nuclear weapon test veterans and their successor generations. It notes increased

health problems from the veterans of one of the tests – Grapple Y, which suggests this test was detonated at too low a distance from the earth.

A thorough Q & A session followed.

The presentations will be loaded on to the NFLA website shortly.

The costs and liabilities of new nuclear power stations

A continuing element of the nuclear power debate remains whether direct or indirect public subsidies of new reactors will be provided, despite Government assurances to the contrary.

In consultations on a funded decommissioning programme and the waste transfer pricing for

new nuclear reactors the UK Government has announced a £1 billion liability ‘cap’ on utility companies to cover the costs of radioactive waste decommissioning and related issues.

Yet, the cost to BP of the clean-up of the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico was £20bn

alone – a nuclear incident could cost much more to clean up.

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury has also not ruled out use of the Government’s proposed ‘Green Investment Bank’ for funding parts of a new suite of nuclear reactors. The NFLA will continue to take part in this debate.

NFLA seeks meeting with NDA after an end to the NSG

The NFLA is taking part in a consultative exercise with the NDA as to how it will interact with it as a stakeholder following the end of its national stakeholder group events.

The NFLA has requested that the NDA meets the Steering Committee in March to discuss its views on future stakeholder engagement.

Related discussions are also taking place between the NuLEAF and SCCORS groups on their own engagement with Councils on nuclear legacy management issues.

NFLA media releases, January 2011:  
*On the NFLA website.*

- Low level radiation and health – should we be worried?
- NFLA welcomes the creation of local groups coalition



NFLA councillors and staff at civic reception, Dundee Council Chamber



Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-bomb exhibition at Dundee City Chambers, before moving to Wellgate Library



NFLA Chair opens Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-bomb exhibition



NFLA Chair and NFLA All-Ireland Forum Co Chair, Councillor Ollan Herr

## Mayor Akiba to stand down / A-bomb exhibition starts tour

The President of Mayors for Peace, Mayor Tadatoshi Akiba, has announced he plans to step down as Mayor when his term of office ends in April.

Mayor Akiba has been an inspiration to the Mayors of Peace, seeing it develop from 470 cities to over 4700 cities

in January 2011.

The NFLA Chair and Lord Mayor of Manchester have sent letters of best wishes to Mayor Akiba. The work of Mayors for Peace will continue to be developed by his successor, including a major disarmament conference later in 2011.

Meanwhile, the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary A-bomb exhibition that was launched in Manchester in November 2010 has now begun a tour across the UK and Ireland.

It will be in Dundee in February, followed by stays in Clydebank and Newry up to Easter. Contact the Secretary for further information.

## Other news in brief

Westminster seminar – The NFLA is co-operating with the Nuclear Consulting Group and the Association for the Conservation of Energy to develop a seminar at Westminster looking at new build as the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster approaches. Further details to follow soon.

Concerns over Trident – The NIS group have raised concerns that much of the initial financing on Trident replacement may see decisions made on its development much earlier than 2015.

Fire incident at Bradwell – NFLA is writing to the HSE over a major fire incident at the Bradwell nuclear

reactor involving 11 fire tenders where titanium rods being dismantled were accidentally set on fire.

NFLA writes to HSE / EA on safety of new reactors – The NFLA has put in a number of Freedom of Information requests over the safety of the encapsulation facilities of the two proposed new reactor designs.

## Forthcoming NFLA meetings

NFLA Scotland Forum – March 25<sup>th</sup>, Manchester.

NFLA Steering Committee – March 25<sup>th</sup>, Manchester.

Meetings of the NFLA English, Welsh and All Ireland Forums are being timetabled and will be confirmed by email shortly.

Joint NFLA / NCG / ACE seminar, Westminster – date being confirmed and will be finalised for February newsletter .