

# Nuclear Free Local Authorities

# briefing



Date: 27<sup>th</sup> September 2012

No.101

Subject: Summary of NFLA Steering Committee meeting, Manchester, 21<sup>st</sup> September 2012

## 1. Introduction

The Steering Committee was opened and chaired by the NFLA Chair, Councillor Goodall, who welcomed all to Manchester Town Hall.

Councillor Goodall particularly welcomed Baillie Thomas from Glasgow City Council, Councillor Lent from Cardiff City Council and Councillor Gardner from Edinburgh City Council to their first NFLA Steering Committee meeting.

## 2. National NFLA Forum meetings

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

### NFLA Scotland Forum –

The NFLA Scotland Forum met in Glasgow City Chambers on 31<sup>st</sup> August. Following the local elections a number of vacancies existed on the Forum's Committee and Baillie Thomas of Glasgow City Council was duly elected as its new Convener. Councillor Brown from Renfrewshire Council was elected as Forum Vice Convener and Councillor McDonald was elected as NFLA Steering Committee Vice Chair (Scotland).

The meeting discussed a detailed report on all Scottish nuclear developments from the NFLA Scotland Policy Advisor and approved a NFLA Policy Briefing on the future development of Scottish energy policy. An afternoon seminar considered some of the key nuclear issues in Scotland with the NFLA Scotland Policy Advisor providing an overview of Scottish radioactive waste policy. Stuart Hudson from SEPA gave a presentation on its work in alleviating radioactive contamination at Dalgety Bay and Dounreay. The NFLA Secretary profiled the NFLA Scotland energy report and John Ainslie of CND Scotland provided an overview of its report 'Disarming Trident'.

### NFLA English Forum –

The NFLA English Forum was holding a joint seminar with the NFLA Steering Committee commemorating International Peace Day on 21<sup>st</sup> September in Manchester Town Hall. The seminar would consider the international proliferation regimes for nuclear and uranium weapons. The Forum is also co-operating with Manchester City Council in a special ceremony for the UN International Day of Peace. Both events directly followed the Steering Committee meeting and were made open to all Committee members. The NFLA Secretary thanked Manchester City Council for its support and hosting of these events. The presentations from the seminar will be placed on the NFLA website.

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### **NFLA All Ireland Forum –**

The NFLA All Ireland Forum will be holding its next seminar in Downpatrick Civic Centre on the 12<sup>th</sup> October. The seminar will follow on from previous meetings by considering the implications of a UK new nuclear build programme on Ireland and promoting Irish Councils becoming more involved in the promotion of renewable energy. Speakers include the South Down MP Margaret Ritchie, Ciara McMahon from the Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland, the NFLA Secretary and a speaker from the Belfast-based Action for Renewables consultancy.

The NFLA All Ireland Forum Chairs and Secretary, and the NFLA Secretary, are also meeting with officials from the Republic of Ireland Government's Environment Department to discuss concerns over the UK new nuclear programme and the Government's response to it. The NFLA Secretary also confirmed that Galway City Council has joined the organisation following a resolution passed at its September full Council meeting.

### **NFLA Welsh Forum –**

The NFLA Welsh Forum will be holding a seminar in Cardiff County Hall on the 24<sup>th</sup> October. The seminar will consider the Welsh Assembly energy inquiry report, the PAWB 'Ynys Mon Manifesto', new nuclear developments at Wylfa and Hinkley Point and consider if Milford Haven could be used as Trident submarine base. Confirmed speakers include Rhodri Glyn Thomas AM, Carl Clowes from PAWB, the NFLA Secretary and Dr Kelvin Mason from Cardiff University. The seminar flyer has gone out to all councillors in Wales.

***Agreed: To note the reports and encourage attendance at autumn meetings. To welcome Galway City Council as a NFLA member.***

### **3. Membership recruitment and administration issues**

The NFLA Secretary reported on contacts that were being made with a number of Councils to consider NFLA membership following local elections in May. As noted above, Galway City Council has joined the NFLA and North Lanarkshire Council have also agreed to restore paying their annual affiliation fee. A number of other Councils are in the process of considering membership.

A discussion also took place as to how the NFLA should take advantage of different forms of social media to enhance its presence. Facebook, Twitter, Linked-in and website improvements were all mentioned and discussed. A proposal to consider individual membership was also discussed. In both cases it was agreed that the NFLA Secretary put forward options for approval at the NFLA AGM on the 7<sup>th</sup> December.

***Agreed: The NFLA Secretary will provide an options report on use of social media and individual NFLA membership.***

### **4. Nuclear new build**

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

#### ***Hinkley Point C planning application –***

The NFLA Secretary noted that the National Infrastructure Directorate had completed its consultation process on EDF's planning application for a proposed new nuclear power station at Hinkley Point in Somerset. It would now take three months to consider its verdict which it would then send to the UK Energy Secretary of State for final approval. The three local Councils around the Hinkley Point site have agreed a £100 million package for local infrastructure improvements should approval be given. Media reports suggest EDF is looking for a strategic partner to help fund a new reactor. A major public demonstration and meetings are planned to take place by local groups opposed to nuclear new build at the site around the weekend of October 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>. The NFLA Steering Committee agreed that the NFLA Secretariat develop a submission to the Environment Agency on environmental permits around a new build site.

### ***Generic Design Assessment process for new reactors –***

The NFLA Secretariat has been co-operating with the publicising of an updated assessment by the influential and independent civil engineering consultancy Large & Associates. Large & Associates have considered all of the available documentation with the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) / Environment Agency's Generic Design Assessment (GDA) for the two proposed new build designs – EDF-Areva's EPR and Westinghouse's AP-1000.

Both designs have received interim approval from the Office for Nuclear Regulation and the Environment Agency, though the AP-1000 design is now on hold given the decision by RWE and E-on to pull out of developing new nuclear reactors at Wylfa and Oldbury. John Large's assessment of the GDA outlines that 28 of the 32 outstanding issues in the GDA have not yet been dealt with by EDF-Areva for the EPR design. It appears highly unlikely that the original deadline of completing the GDA process by the end of 2012 will not be met, and even the anticipated later date of March 2013 remains an ambitious target. Nuclear new build at Hinkley Point will not be able to go ahead until full approval is given through the GDA process. The Large & Associates report also highlighted concerns over openness and transparency given the explanation of two issues that have been 'resolved' have not been publicised on the ONR website.

### ***UK Government draft Energy Bill and investment decisions on new nuclear build***

A key issue for the development of new nuclear power facilities will be a stable funding mechanism and the potential availability of public funds and assistance to electricity utilities. The UK Coalition Government has an agreed policy of 'no public subsidy' for a new nuclear programme and has published a draft Energy Bill which outlines proposed reforms of the electricity market to assist with price certainty and the development of new nuclear reactors.

The Parliamentary Energy & Climate Change Select Committee have published their concerns over the process and the potentially too high 'strike price' that may be granted to nuclear utilities to guarantee its viability. It is expected the UK Government's draft Energy Bill will go to Parliament in the autumn. The Chief Executive of Scottish and Southern Energy has publicly stated his concern that nuclear power will receive too high a strike price and this will equate to considerably higher electricity bills to pay for it. In the NFLA's view this is an effective public subsidy.

The NFLA Secretary also noted a speech given to the CBI by the Energy Secretary Ed Davey. He argued that the Energy Bill was not a hidden subsidy to the industry and the Bill had not been made unnecessary with the continuing campaign over what its advocates claim are vast untapped shale gas deposits in the UK, which they argue should be prioritised. In his speech he said: "that there will "be no public subsidy for new nuclear power, unless similar support is made available for other types of low-carbon generation". However, the Minister did note that price incentives would be structured differently for the kind of base-load power offered by nuclear power plants compared with the more variable energy offered by wind farms. In the reshuffle of the Cabinet, the new Environment Secretary, junior Energy Minister and Welsh Secretary are all publicly opposed to the development of wind farms in their own constituencies and are enthusiastic supporters of new nuclear reactors.

### ***Wylfa and Oldbury -***

The closing date for a buyer for the 'Horizon' consortium to develop new nuclear reactors at Wylfa in Anglesey and Oldbury in Gloucestershire is expected to be announced shortly. Media reports suggest a number of consortiums are interested in taking over the sites.

### ***European Cities Network –***

The NFLA Chair and the NFLA Secretary will attend a meeting of a new 'European Cities Network against Nuclear Power'. The initiative has been developed by Vienna City Council and political support has been given to it by cities like Hannover, Frankfurt, Antwerp, Dublin, Nicosia and Bergen. The meetings on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> September will allow discussion over future co-operation on a network which is looking at influencing policy at the European Commission and European Parliament level. Vienna had started the initiative following the

Fukushima incident and it has two clear aims – to seek in the medium-term a ‘nuclear free Europe’ and to promote the alternatives of renewable energy and energy efficiency. The meeting will also include the launch of a new exhibition ‘Uranium mining in and for Europe’ at which a number of MEPs will also be in attendance. The Steering Committee welcomed this new European initiative.

***Agreed: The NFLA Secretariat to develop a response to the Environmental Agency consultation on environmental permits for a proposed new nuclear reactor at Hinkley Point. To welcome the development and co-operate with the new European Cities Network led by Vienna City Council.***

## **5. Fukushima and nuclear safety**

The NFLA Secretary provided an update on the state of the stricken Fukushima nuclear reactors and wider issues around nuclear safety standards.

### ***International Convention on Nuclear Safety –***

A key part of the post-Fukushima development of nuclear safety involved discussing European ‘stress tests’ of civil reactors and all other international reports of safety checks on nuclear reactors following the Fukushima disaster. These reports were discussed at the International Convention on Nuclear Safety held at the International Atomic Energy Authority headquarters in Vienna in late August. The Convention on Nuclear Safety aims to legally commit all participating States operating land-based nuclear power plants to maintain a high level of safety by setting international benchmarks to which signatory states subscribe. It covers matters such as emergency planning and the siting of nuclear facilities. The UK Government and the ONR attended this meeting.

Discussions at the conference were expected to inform and shape UK nuclear emergency planning arrangements, which are currently in a state of flux following the Fukushima accident. The Department of Energy and Climate Change is currently reviewing its ‘Consolidated Guidance’ on nuclear accidents – the national-level guidance provided to all organisations required to have plans in place for dealing with a nuclear emergency in the UK. Arrangements for the size of emergency planning zones around nuclear installations and for allowing ‘extendibility’ of these zones, should the need arise, are under consideration as part of the review. (See Item 8 below).

However, despite considerable public interest in nuclear safety issues arising from the Fukushima accident and discussions at previous meetings on the need for openness and transparency in the nuclear industry, no non-government organisations were permitted to attend the meeting, even as observers. It is not clear therefore if, and when, the key learning points from this meeting will be made public.

### ***ONR NGO Forum –***

The next meeting of the ONR NGO Forum will be held on November 6th. This meeting is likely to have a consideration of nuclear emergency planning issues. The Steering Committee agreed that the NFLA Secretary should attend it.

### ***Fukushima update -***

The NFLA Secretary outlined to the Steering Committee current progress in dealing with the effects of the disaster in the Fukushima area. The report noted that there remains considerable concern over the safety of Reactor No.4. The US nuclear engineer Arnie Gunderson has told members of the Japanese Parliament and officials from TEPCO that the risks of a fire at the reactor if it ‘boils dry’ of water remain very pressing. He has urged TEPCO and the Japanese Government to urgently bring in international expert assistance to find ways to alleviate this ongoing problem.

Though agreeing it in a more diluted form, the Japanese Government has moved forward in a potential phasing out of nuclear power in Japan by 2030. The expected general election later in 2012 is likely to see nuclear power being a pivotal election issue.

Around Fukushima continuing concerns remain over the effects of the Fukushima disaster on the marine environment and the fish and shellfish being caught in the area. Huge problems remain in dealing with contaminated water, materials and waste on the site and where to take it. Further health monitoring on children has also been announced by the Japanese Government.

***Agreed: To note the report. The NFLA Secretary to attend the next ONR NGO Forum meeting in November.***

## **6. Alternatives to nuclear energy**

The NFLA Secretary provided an update on plans to update the 2011 NFLA energy reports for England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

The NFLA Secretary, in liaison with the NFLA Scotland Policy Advisor, has published a detailed report on the future development of Scottish energy policy. It includes an analysis of how the Scottish Government is moving forward in developing a wide renewable energy mix, microgeneration and energy efficiency. The NFLA report welcomed positive moves in this area and encouraged even greater ambition, particularly in bringing forward the date for the closure of existing nuclear reactors in Scotland. The report particularly focuses on the potential for developing geothermal energy in Scotland, increased district heating schemes, anaerobic digestion systems and noting issues around renewable heating and sustainable transport. The report is on the NFLA website.

The report was profiled at the NFLA Scotland meeting and the Scottish Government have confirmed it will be considered within its own review of energy policy. The Scottish Government has also agreed to meet the NFLA to discuss its report and wider energy policy.

The NFLA report will also be used as a template for similar reports on England, Wales, Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland over the next few months. In discussion, Steering Committee members welcomed the report and the emphasis on showing the wide variety of renewable energy sources that should be encouraged.

***Agreed: To welcome the report and produce further reports on energy policy for England, Wales and Ireland.***

## **7. Radioactive waste management**

The NFLA Secretary provided a report on developments in radioactive waste management policy.

### ***NDA Stakeholder Dialogue –***

The Steering Committee agreed that the NFLA Chair and the NFLA Secretary would attend the next annual meeting of the NDA National Stakeholder Dialogue. It will take place in Manchester on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> October.

### ***Consultation on plutonium and developments at Sellafield –***

The NFLA Secretariat had responded to a DECC / NDA consultation on the justification for developing a new facility to reprocess plutonium at Sellafield.

They key parts of the NFLA consultation include:

- This consultation is premature while the NDA is looking at alternatives to the MoX route.
- If the NDA can investigate reactor-based alternatives to the MoX route, it should also re-examine plutonium immobilisation as requested by the Chair of the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
- There should be an examination of the health implications of using MoX fuel in conventional reactors, including during accidents, before proceeding with the construction of a MoX fuel fabrication plant, otherwise we could find that we have produced a fuel which cannot be licensed for use in UK reactors. Such an examination could take the form of a pre-licensing procedure and examination of the safety case for using MoX in an EPR and/or AP1000 reactor.

- A Justification exercise based on underestimated costs will not give a reliable result. The Government should examine the reasons for the cost overruns of the American MoX programme.
- The lack of maturity of the immobilisation option is a poor argument given that there is substantial literature on how to do it. The Government should be prepared to pioneer this new technology in any case for the benefit of global non-proliferation efforts.
- The Candu option offers no advantage over the MoX Fuel option and the PRISM option threatens to keep plutonium in circulation and encourage the spread of the plutonium fuel-cycle and hence nuclear proliferation around the globe.
- There has been a lack of research and development into the problems likely to be encountered in managing spent MoX Fuel. The waste implications of all plutonium management options should be examined.

#### ***Developments at Dounreay -***

An overview of continuing concerns around radioactive particles found on nearby beaches and the sea floor near the Dounreay facility was given to the Steering Committee. These were discussed in detail at the NFLA Scotland seminar in Glasgow.

The NFLA also remains concerned over the expected commencement of rail transports of 'breeder fuel' and 'exotic fuels' from Dounreay to Sellafield. Media interest is high in the interest and the NFLA Scotland Policy Advisor is being interviewed for a BBC Scotland documentary on the issues around these potential transports.

#### ***West Cumbria Managing Radioactive Waste Safely (MRWS) consultation -***

A decision on whether Copeland, Allerdale and Cumbria Councils will proceed to the next stage of searching for a suitable site in the area for a deep-underground radioactive waste repository in the county is expected to be made in early October. The NFLA response to the MRWS consultation concluded that the three Councils should not go further ahead with this process due to a large number of technical and scientific uncertainties in developing a deep-underground repository, and the unsuitability of the geology of West Cumbria. The local MP has suggested in the media that the Councils will vote against moving forward, but it is more likely that a postponement in its decision may take place to seek further information and clarification. There has been a large amount of local opposition to hosting a repository in Cumbria.

In a separate development, over 60% of local residents in Shepway in Kent have voted against the Council putting the area forward as a location for a deep-underground radioactive waste repository.

#### ***Dalgety Bay contamination -***

The radioactive contamination of parts of Dalgety Bay beach in Fife has been a major issue of local concern in the area. The radioactive particles arise from painted radium dials and other materials from Second World War fighter planes that used to be hosted at a former airfield site at Dalgety Bay. The site was cleared and the planes buried, but substantial retail and residential development has seen parts of the site being disturbed and increased amount of radioactive particles rising to the surface. So far about 2,000 radioactive particles have now been recovered, far more than originally estimated by the Ministry of Defence. The MOD have now agreed to complete a thorough survey of the area, which is due to be completed in 2013. This matter was also discussed in detail at the NFLA Scotland Forum seminar with useful additional contributions from a Fife Council Officer. The NFLA will continue to monitor progress with this incident in co-operation with Fife Council. The NFLA is investigating if a further dozen MOD owned sites are of concern.

#### ***Update on NuLEAF and SCCORS -***

Both the LGA's Nuclear Legacy Advisory Forum (NuLEAF) and COSLA's Scottish Councils Committee on Radioactive Substances (SCCORS) will be holding meetings and annual elections in October. The NFLA Secretary encouraged Steering Committee members in England, Wales and Scotland to attend these meetings.

***Agreed: To note the report.***

## **8. Nuclear emergency planning**

The NFLA Secretary noted that a detailed NFLA Policy Briefing on nuclear emergency planning had been published and placed on the NFLA website. Member authorities were encouraged to disseminate the report to their own Council Emergency Planning Officers.

The report provides an analysis of the key emergency planning issues that have arisen out of the Fukushima incident and their impact on the emergency planning regime in the UK. The briefing makes a number of significant arguments over a major review of the UK Radiation (Emergency Planning and Public Information) Regulations. The NFLA Secretary is also discussing NGO concerns over nuclear emergency planning with DECC staff and there are plans to incorporate a small number of NGO representatives to discussion groups reviewing UK emergency preparedness arrangements. The Steering Committee welcomed the briefing.

The NFLA Secretary also provided an overview of the international debate over the safety of transporting radioactive materials by sea, particularly for metal recycling in Sweden. The Steering Committee agreed that an updated policy briefing and future seminar on the subject should be developed by the Secretariat.

***Agreed: To note the report and welcome the Policy Briefing. The NFLA Secretary to develop a briefing on the transportation of contaminated steel heat exchangers by sea to Sweden.***

## **9. Radiation and health issues**

The NFLA Secretary reported that a meeting has now been arranged between members of the COMARE (Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment) Secretariat and a number of independent consultants who have critiqued their analysis of the potential effects of low level radiation on human health. This meeting is taking place in mid October.

The NFLA Secretary also provided an overview of a number of health reports raising concerns around the effects of the Fukushima incident on local communities close to the evacuated area. The report also noted that the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first testing of a British atomic weapon will be on October 2<sup>nd</sup> and a special memorial ceremony is taking place at the National Veterans Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire by the British Nuclear Test Veterans Association (BNTVA). The BNTVA's campaign for compensation for illnesses they believe are potentially due to radiation exposure is being reconsidered after being rejected by the Supreme Court. The Steering Committee agreed that a NFLA media release commemorating the anniversary should be developed.

***Agreed: To note the report. NFLA Secretariat to issue press release on BNTVA anniversary.***

## **10. Mayors for Peace and Nuclear Weapons update**

The NFLA Secretary provided an overview of the NFLA's involvement in co-operating with the Hiroshima and Nagasaki-led Mayors for Peace and wider issues in the nuclear weapons debate.

### ***International development of Mayors for Peace -***

As of September 1<sup>st</sup> 2012, 5,400 towns and cities were members of Mayors for Peace in 154 countries. As an organisation that now represents around 1 billion people it is becoming an ever more effective presence in the international discussion over reducing proliferation and the number of nuclear weapons in the world.

The Mayors for Peace Secretariat in Hiroshima has now sent to its Executive Cities a summary of planned developments and reform of the organisation following discussions on how it should be structured and financially underpinned given its dramatic upward growth. Amongst the recommendations are the creation of local 'chapters' of Mayors for Peace and a small

voluntary membership fee. These will be further considered and will be approved at the Mayors for Peace Conference in Hiroshima in August 2013.

#### ***UK and Ireland development of Mayors for Peace -***

There are now 85 members of Mayors for Peace in the UK and Ireland. A meeting of the UK and Ireland Mayors for Peace Working Group will be held later in the year. This meeting will discuss the international developments of Mayors for Peace and how to deepen and increase membership in the UK and Ireland.

#### ***Hiroshima and Nagasaki A-bomb exhibition-***

The NFLA's Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-bomb exhibition has been hosted at Dublin Central Library, Tower Hamlets Town Hall in London and Newcastle Central Library over the summer. The exhibition will be available for hire from September onwards. It will be held in Rotherham later this year and in Edinburgh early in 2013.

#### ***Trident warhead store at Coulport -***

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has decided to hand over day-to-day operation of the Trident nuclear warhead store at the Royal Naval Armament Depot (RNAD) at Coulport in the West of Scotland to a private sector consortium led by AWE plc, operators of the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) sites in Aldermaston and Burghfield in Berkshire. MoD has signed a 15 year contract to outsource warhead support activities at Coulport and the associated Strategic Weapons Support Building at Faslane at the end of July 2012. The contract is valued at £150 million over its duration, and is scheduled to commence in January 2013.

#### ***AWE Aldermaston court hearing –***

A court hearing brought by the Health and Safety Executive in relation to charges of breaches of health and safety law at the AWE Aldermaston site has been temporarily postponed. The charges relate to a serious fire incident at AWE Aldermaston in August 2010. The hearing was originally scheduled for 6<sup>th</sup> August but will now go ahead on 29<sup>th</sup> November. The hearing has been delayed to give AWE's representatives the opportunity to study documents relating to the case.

#### ***HMS Ambush power range tests and Barrow naval base consultation –***

The ONR have given permission for a series of nuclear reactor tests to go ahead as part of the final commissioning of HMS Ambush, the second 'Astute' class submarine which is currently being built by BAE Systems at Barrow-in-Furness. Power range testing for the new submarine allows the reactor core to achieve criticality for the first time and tests the core and propulsion plant performance. The testing began on 5 July and it is expected to last for several weeks. Before allowing the power range tests to go ahead, the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) had insisted that BAE Systems provided a satisfactory demonstration of their ability to evacuate and account for their staff during an exercise simulating an accident during a testing event.

The Nuclear Information Service (NIS) note that a previous emergency exercise at Barrow – Exercise Indigo, which took place in July 2010 – resulted in “confusion” and demonstrated “extremely poor” procedures according to ONR inspectors. ONR concluded that the company was unable to adequately account for all the personnel evacuated from the danger zone during the exercise, the handling of casualties during the exercise was “poor”, and rescue workers would have been exposed to large doses of radioactivity. As a result, BAE Systems was forced to repeat the exercise. Further emergency planning exercises have also failed to track staff adequately as a result of “anomalies” in the electronic system used by the company to account for personnel. It has taken until March 2012 for the system to be finally demonstrated successfully. Following further checks to ensure that staff involved in testing activities were suitably qualified and experienced, permission was given for the power range tests to go ahead. The NFLA will monitor this progress in liaison with NIS.

The NFLA have also been asked to participate in submitting its views for a study by the Nuclear Education Trust (NET) on economic alternatives to building nuclear submarines at the Barrow dockyard. The NET are asking stakeholders on both sides of the nuclear submarines

debate to participate to ascertain the economic effects on Barrow in the event of closure of the submarines and what alternatives there would be for the dockyard and its specialist technical staff if Trident replacement did not take place. The closing date for this consultation is 24<sup>th</sup> October. The NFLA Secretary is intending to attempt to respond to this consultation, resources permitting, using similar arguments that NFLA have made in the past and during the operation of the former Arms Conversion Project.

***Agreed: To note the report. To encourage member authorities to get more involved in the work of Mayors for Peace and consider hosting the A-bomb exhibition. NFLA Secretariat to submit a response to the NET study on Barrow shipyard.***

**11. Date of next meeting**

The next Steering Committee meeting is planned for ***Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December in Manchester Town Hall from 10am – 12pm.*** This day also includes a NFLA Scotland Forum meeting at 9am, the NFLA Annual General Meeting at 12pm and the NFLA Annual Policy Seminar at 1pm.

**12. International Peace Day event and NFLA Seminar**

Following the NFLA Steering Committee meeting, members attended a special event to commemorate the United Nations International Day of Peace. The event held in front of Manchester Town Hall included a special opening address from Councillor Hackett, Manchester City Council's Mayors for Peace representative, to coincide with a 'Minute of Silence, Moment for Peace' event being held by other Mayors for Peace members across the world. The Lord Mayor of Manchester also formally opened the Manchester Peace Festival and the Manchester Food and Drink Festival.

An afternoon seminar on strategies to reduce proliferation in nuclear and uranium weapons was also held by the NFLA English Forum in co-operation with the NFLA Steering Committee. It included presentations from Peter Burt of NIS, the NFLA Secretary and Doug Weir from the International Coalition to Ban Uranium Weapons (ICBUW). The presentations from this well attended seminar can be found on the NFLA website.

**NFLA Secretariat, 27<sup>th</sup> September 2012.**