



NFLA Secretariat
 c/o PO Box 532
 Town Hall, Manchester
 M60 2LA
s.morris4@manchester.gov.uk
nfla@manchester.gov.uk

Tel: 0161 234 3244

NFLA UK & Ireland Chair
Councillor Mark Hackett

NFLA UK & Ireland Secretary
Sean Morris

NFLA All-Ireland Forum Chairs
Councillor Michael Carr (North)
Councillor Mark Dearey (RoI)

NFLA All-Ireland Secretary
Sinead Trainor

NFLA English Forum Chair
Councillor David Blackburn

NFLA Scotland Convenor
Councillor Fariha Thomas

NFLA Scotland Secretary
Cathy Birrell

NFLA Scotland Policy Advisor
Pete Roche

NFLA Wales Forum Co-Chairs
Councillor Ray Davies
Councillor Ed Bridges

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Website Links:

NFLA: <http://www.nuclearpolicy.info>
Mayors for Peace: <http://www.mayorsforpeace.org>
2020 Vision: <http://www.2020visioncampaign.org>
KIMO: <http://www.kimointernational.org>
ICAN-UK: <http://www.ican-uk.org>



The Lord Provost of Edinburgh and Japanese Pro-Consul look at the Hiroshima-Nagasaki exhibition at its launch at Edinburgh Library

Centrica pulls out of new nuclear

In early February the owner of the energy utility British Gas, Centrica, announced that it would withdraw its 20% stake in the consortium to build new nuclear power stations in Hinkley Point and Sizewell with EDF.

This is a further big blow to the new nuclear project.

The decision now puts more pressure on EDF to get an effective 'strike price' of various financial guarantees from the UK Government to proceed with an investment decision in new nuclear build, and encourage other utilities from the likes of China and Russia to partly finance it.

NFLA issued a media

release noting concern over media reports of a proposed 'strike price' of £100 MWh for reactors guaranteed for 40 years by Government. Reports suggest the EU may also need 2 years to approve any deal as to whether it conforms to state aid rules. A delay until 2015 on the project could impact on EDF's final investment decision.

After Cumbria's 'no' where next for radwaste storage?

The decision by the Cabinet of Cumbria County Council to not go ahead with the next stage of the process of finding a site for an underground waste repository has been ratified by councillors.

This followed a request to 'call in' the decision to the Council's Environment Scrutiny Committee.

The Leader of Copeland and Allerdale Council met with the UK Energy Minister Baroness Verma and it was confirmed that the West Cumbrian process was at an end. Increased resources to improve existing radwaste storage at Sellafield were agreed upon.

This now leaves a major question mark as to how

national radioactive waste policy will be pursued in the future.

The matter was discussed at the late February DECC NGO Forum meeting, where groups told Baroness Verma of the need for enhancing community trust in the process. Groups also urged the Government to move away from new nuclear.

NFLA media releases
February 2013:
(On NFLA website.)

- Nuclear new build and EU state subsidies issue – new build is unfeasible but renewables should not suffer at its expense
- NFLA renewables report shows how we can 'keep the lights on'
- NFLA calls for an alternative radioactive waste management policy

RADIATION LEAK ON
HMS TIRELESS –
HOW DID IT HAPPEN
AND WHAT ARE THE
RISKS?

In mid February it was reported that the nuclear reactor of the submarine HMS Tireless was found to be leaking.

It was towed from the Faslane base in Scotland down the Irish Sea for urgent repairs in Plymouth Devonport.

The NFLA is greatly concerned over the health and safety risks of this incident and is liaising with other groups and lobbying UK and Irish politicians to clarify the actual risk. It is also developing a policy briefing for member authorities.

Nuclear weapons non-proliferation – a key issue for 2013

A meeting of the UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Working Group, to which the NFLA co-operates with, was held in Tower Hamlets Town Hall to discuss changes to Mayors for Peace and plans for 2013.

The Working Group welcomed the proposed structural and financial

reforms to Mayors for Peace and discussed how a more formalised local 'chapter' could be organised across the UK & Ireland.

The Working Group also welcomed the Mayors for Peace's involvement in upcoming UN nuclear weapon conferences in Oslo and Geneva.

With concerns over nuclear proliferation in North Korea and the Middle East, 2013 could be a very important year in the debate over reducing the amount of nuclear weapons.

There are 85 UK & Irish members of Mayors for Peace & 5,536 members across the world.

NFLA report highlights benefits of non-wind renewables

The NFLA Secretariat has issued a detailed report for Councils on future energy scenarios for the next 2 decades and how a range of renewable energy technologies can assist energy security.

The report notes that wind energy is playing an increasingly important role in the UK and Irish

energy market.

The report analysed a wide and diverse range of non-wind renewable energy sources such as solar, biomass, biofuels and geothermal energy.

The report concluded that, by increasing wind generation coupled with a range of other

renewable sources and energy efficiency, future energy needs will be met and carbon dioxide emissions significantly reduced.

The report and media release can be found on the NFLA website and members should seek to disseminate the report widely.

Edinburgh host H-N exhibition and key NFLA seminar

The NFLA's Hiroshima and Nagasaki A-bomb exhibition opened in the Central Library in Edinburgh at an event opened by the Lord Provost & the Japanese Pro-Consul.

Edinburgh will also be the location of the Abolition 2000 AGM and the NFLA is linking in with this event by holding a special joint seminar with it and Mayors for Peace.

Prominent international figures will be speaking on April 19th at a seminar on key future trends in the nuclear weapons debate. A full programme will be sent out imminently.

NFLA letters to the media, February 2013

(All emailed directly to NFLA members)

- The downside of fracking needs to be looked at by Government and experts
- Nuclear strike price deal could halt the rise of renewables
- We should be expanding new renewables, not new nuclear
- We should abandon the new nuclear option



Lord Mayor of Manchester meets Belarusian Social Protection Minister



Manchester City Council, Belarusian Government & Chernobyl Children's Project delegations at Manchester Town Hall

Spring English, Welsh and Irish NFLA Forum seminars set

The dates and locations of Spring NFLA National Forum meetings in England, Ireland and Wales have now been confirmed.

The NFLA English Forum will hold its next seminar in Manchester on March 22nd. It will be looking at shale gas, radwaste and nuclear

transport issues.

The NFLA Welsh Forum is meeting in Torfaen on April 12th to consider Wylfa, carbon capture & storage, onshore wind and Mayors for Peace in Wales.

The NFLA All Ireland Forum is meeting in Fingal on May 3rd to

consider a RPII report on the risks to Ireland of a UK new nuclear programme. It is also looking at the proposed huge wind farm project planned for the Irish Midlands.

The full seminar flyers for these meetings will be sent out to NFLA members shortly.

NFLA facilitates Belarusian fact-finding delegation meeting

The Lord Mayor of Manchester and senior councillors and officers attended a reception & wider discussion with a Belarusian ministerial delegation considering ways to improve the lives of disabled children and adults in Belarus.

The visit was facilitated

by the Chernobyl Children's Project (CCP) & the NFLA Secretariat.

Since its establishment at a meeting in Manchester Town Hall in 1996, the CCP has undertaken projects to help children and adults affected by the health and social effects of the Chernobyl disaster.

CCP has particularly been seeking to encourage the Belarus Government to improve facilities and policies for disabled children and adults. The delegation to the UK included a Belarusian Minister and senior officials. NFLA was very pleased to help facilitate this important discussion.

Forthcoming meetings of interest to NFLA members

NFLA Steering Committee, 22nd March, Manchester Town Hall.

NFLA English Forum seminar, 22nd March, Manchester Town Hall.

NFLA Welsh Forum, 12th April, Torfaen Town Hall.

NFLA Scotland, 19th April, Edinburgh City Chambers.

NFLA All Ireland Forum, 3rd May, Fingal County Hall.