NFLA SC endorses key reports

The NFLA Steering Committee held its summer meeting in Manchester Town Hall and discussed all the areas of nuclear policy it is involved with.

The Steering Committee approved a number of policy reports, including the Secretariat’s report on how Council’s can develop more comprehensive local energy policies via Energy Service Companies (ESCOs).

The Committee approved a discussion paper on supporting the establishment of a UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter.

The Committee agreed that the Secretariat should develop policy reports on Trident replacement and the 2015 UK election, nuclear safety & nuclear emergency planning, and progress with the Fukushima incident.

The Committee also agreed a submission should go to the Irish Government’s Energy Green Discussion Paper & the ONR’s consultation on safety assessment principles.

NFLA Chair leads Mayors for Peace delegation in Sarajevo

The NFLA Chair and the NFLA Secretary, representing the city of Manchester, attended the AGM of the Mayor’s for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign, held in Sarajevo, Bosnia.

The meeting was held around the ‘Sarajevo Peace Weekend’, at which thousands of delegates from around the world took part.

In the absence of the Mayors for Peace President, the NFLA Chair was asked to chair the meeting in Sarajevo City Hall. The meeting agreed the 2020 Vision Campaign’s key projects, progress report & annual budget. A meeting with Bosnian Mayors was also held, and two workshops within the ‘Peace Event’ programme provided for a very useful discussion.

In late June, Mayors for Peace Secretary General Yasuhiro Komizo attended the official Sarajevo First World War centenary event and planted a tree from the seeds of A-bomb affected trees located in Hiroshima Peace Park. The delegation also helped in opening the ‘Making Peace’ exhibition in Sarajevo’s Academy of Fine Arts.
NFLA submits views on Welsh radioactive waste policy

The NFLA Secretariat has submitted its detailed response to the Welsh Government’s review of its policy on managing high activity radioactive waste. In its response to the Welsh Government, the NFLA argue that it should adopt a similar policy to the Scottish Government of ‘near site, near service’ storage of waste rather than the UK policy of developing a deep underground radwaste repository.

The NFLA report also notes that the Welsh Government has plenty of time to consider its policy and advocates it considers why UK policy has so often stumbled. The NFLA response is on its website.

NFLA responds to Scottish draft renewable heat policy

The NFLA Secretariat has submitted its response to the Scottish Government review of its draft renewable heat policy. The NFLA response welcomes the direction of travel of the Scottish Government’s policy and agrees with it that a cost effective way to fully decarbonise the heat sector by 2050 is achievable.

Scotland has the most ambitious CO2 emission cut targets in the UK & Ireland, with a related target to decarbonise most of its heat sector by 2050. To do this, NFLA argues the Government has to be even bolder. It advocates seeking a higher annual target. NFLA advocates that the Scottish Government cooperates with Scottish Councils in developing local district heating & geothermal schemes. It also calls for the UK & the Irish Governments to do likewise. The response is on the NFLA website.

NFLA plans its upcoming national Forum meetings

The four NFLA Forums have begun planning for their late summer / autumn meetings.

NFLA Scotland has proposed to Highland Council to hold a meeting and seminar in Inverness.

The NFLA English Forum is looking to hold a seminar in Oxford on nuclear weapons issues and the NFLA Welsh Forum will meet in Cardiff on Welsh nuclear matters.

The NFLA All Ireland Forum will also meet in October to discuss key nuclear / energy issues.
Bike for Peace tour in Scotland commences in mid July

Final preparations are taking place for the Norwegian group 'Bike for Peace' to make a tour of Scotland in mid July.

The group, formally supporting the nuclear weapons free work of NFLA and Mayors for Peace in 2014, will start its tour in Edinburgh City Chambers. Plans are in place for civic visits to Dundee, Perth, Stirling, Paisley and Glasgow.

A special bike event to view the Faslane Trident nuclear base is planned, along with a meeting with a Scottish Government Minister.

A civic reception in Glasgow City Chambers to celebrate its hosting of the Commonwealth Games and Glasgow's lead role in the NFLA and Mayors for Peace is also being organised.

Around nine Norwegian Mayors are taking part with Bike for Peace staff & professional cyclists.

NFLA reports planned over the summer

During the summer recess the NFLA Secretariat will remain hard at work developing its agreed policies.

It will formally launch a discussion paper to all NFLA and Mayors for Peace members seeking their views on the development of a UK & Ireland chapter, with plans to hold an October meeting in Manchester.

A report looking at concerns over nuclear security and nuclear emergency planning will also be developed.

Progress and issues relating to Fukushima and nuclear safety is to be developed into a policy briefing.

And in July, the NFLA will meet with the IMO Secretary General to discuss its report on nuclear material shipments.

The NFLA’s local energy policy report will be sent widely across UK & Irish local authorities urging them to develop more definitive projects.

Forthcoming meetings of interest to NFLA members

**Bike for Peace global tour in Scotland, 16th – 19th July**

**NHLA Scotland, Inverness, 15th August (location tbc)**

**NFLA SC, Town Hall, Manchester, 3rd October**

**UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Working Group, Town Hall, Manchester, 3rd October**

**Dates and locations for NFLA England, Wales and All Ireland Forum meetings will be announced shortly.**