NFLA Newsletter

News from the Nuclear Free Local Authorities

NFLA Secretariat
c/o PO Box 532
Town Hall Manchester
M60 3NY
s.morris4@manchester.gov.uk
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 Admin: Gemma Harris

NFLA England Forum Chair:
Councillor Ralph Pryke

NFLA All-Ireland Forum Chair:
Councillor Michael Carr

NFLA All-Ireland Forum Secretary:
Steven Cooper

NFLA Scotland Convener:
Councillor Euan McLeod

NFLA Scotland Secretary:
Cathy Birrell

NFLA Scotland Policy Advisor:
Pete Roche

NFLA Wales Forum Chair:
Councillor Stephen Churchman

Mayors for Peace Dev't Officer:
Peter Burt

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NFLA website:
http://www.nuclearpolicy.info

Mayors for Peace website:
http://www.mayorsforpeace.org

NFLA / NGO meeting with DECC

The NFLA Secretary joined with other nuclear NGOs for an ‘engagement’ meeting with senior UK Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) staff, nuclear regulators and NDA staff in London.

A robust meeting considered the Government’s actions to facilitate a new nuclear build programme and deal with the wider radioactive waste legacy issues.

A whole raft of consultations will be put forward by the end of the year, including a re-consultation of a suite of national energy policy statements. The NFLA and NGOs asked searching questions of the officials and sought clarifications on issues such as nuclear subsidies.

It was agreed to hold a follow-up meeting at which the Energy Minister Charles Hendry will be invited. It was agreed by the NGOs to meet to discuss wider strategy on new build.

NFLA / Mayors for Peace November events announced

A number of international civic leaders will join the NFLA to celebrate its 30th anniversary on November 4th and 5th.

Led by the Mayor of Nagasaki; Mayors from Ypres, Hanover, Malakoff, Glasgow, Biograd na Moru, Granollers & Malakoff will attend, with a Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Board meeting on the 5th November.

The day before will see the opening of a Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-bomb exhibition at the People’s History Museum, dedication of a civic plaque and launch of the Manchester City Centre Peace Trail.

In the evening, civic dignitaries, NFLA members and Mayors for Peace will attend a civic reception held by the Lord Mayor of Manchester in the Town Hall.

Places for the reception are limited – please contact the NFLA Secretariat to register for this important landmark in NFLA’s history.
Glasgow joins Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision leadership

Following the NFLA Scotland business meeting - which discussed the 2011 Scottish elections - a UK Mayors for Peace Working Group meeting was held.

The meeting agreed to develop ways to increase membership and funds and push for all UK members to hold annual Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-bomb memorial events. The meeting also celebrated the decision by Glasgow City Council to accept an invitation to join the executive committee of the Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign.

The Deputy Lord Provost signed the invitation letter and declared his support that Glasgow join with Manchester to develop the Mayors for Peace across the UK.

Photos from the event are available from the NFLA Secretariat.

NFLA English Forum raise nuclear emergency planning issues

At the September NFLA English Forum seminar, held in Manchester, members and officers heard of a number of concerns in the area of nuclear emergency planning.

Mention was made that the Ministry of Defence have reminded councils of their arrangements in the event of a nuclear weapons convoy incident – just after a NFLA letter sent to them raising concerns of gaps in knowledge.

The huge logistical issues involved in responding to a ‘dirty bomb’ terrorist incident were also highlighted.

Concerns over the safety of radioactive material shipments across the Irish Sea were reiterated in detail.

Finally, the NFLA Secretary noted the need for greater training and awareness for emergency planning officers in this area.

Further NFLA research on this is to follow.

NFLA consultation responses on new build and exemptions

The NFLA Secretariat has provided detailed briefings and model responses to member authorities to respond to two important consultations.

A detailed NFLA briefing raises a number of real concerns on the Environment Agency’s initial view on the waste issues from new nuclear reactor designs.

And a second NFLA briefing looks at proposed exemptions under ‘Environmental Permitting’ Regulations. It notes concerns of more low level radioactive waste going to Council landfill sites.

See the website for more information.

Letters to the press in September 2010:

All are on the NFLA website.

- NFLA’s energy policy is sensible and can be achieved
- NFLA supports people of Scotland’s view on new nuclear
- Energy Island Wales does not require new nuclear
- Shocking gaps in nuclear exercise need plugging
- Nuclear subsidies – to give or not to give?
- Sizewell closure shows the folly of new nuclear build
- Blair’s right about the costs of Trident replacement
NFLA / KIMO lobby Ministers at OSPAR meeting

The joint NFLA / KIMO paper on radioactive discharges into the Irish Sea was officially raised by the KIMO Secretary at the OSPAR Commission’s recent ministerial meeting in Norway.

The joint paper raised concerns suggesting that discharges from the Irish Sea would increase in the decade, contrary to the agreement made by the UK Government.

The Irish and other governments were lobbied prior to the meeting and the issue will be pursued at future meetings. A response from the UK Government questioned the NFLA’s findings. The NFLA and KIMO will robustly challenge its response to the paper.

The October NFLA All-Ireland Forum will take this debate forward to inform Irish Councils on these key issues.

Other news in brief

**NFLA / KIMO Ireland seminar** – The NFLA All-Ireland Forum has opened registration to its seminar on radioactive discharges into the Irish Sea. The Irish Environment Minister has been invited as the keynote speaker.

**NFLA Wales holds autumn seminar on economics of new build** – Paul Dorfman and Tim Richards are amongst the speakers at the NFLA Wales seminar in Ceredigion. This will be on the subject of financing nuclear new build. Further details in the October newsletter.

**Aldermaston fire** – The Observer has noted that the recent fire at the nuclear weapons factory was more serious than claimed. The NFLA are following this up with the HSE.

**Only 18% support new build in Scotland** – a Scotsman poll notes. A NFLA letter celebrated the poll.

Forthcoming meetings

**NFLA All Ireland Forum, Swords, Fingal, 22nd October.**

Official opening of Hiroshima-Nagasaki exhibition, PHM, Manchester, 4th November.

**NFLA Steering Committee & NFLA 30th anniversary, Manchester, 4th November.**

Mayors for Peace Executive meeting, Manchester, 5th November.

**NFLA Scotland Forum – Perth, 19th November.**

**NFLA Wales Forum – Aberystwyth, 25th November.**