

The work of the Nuclear Free Local Authorities in 2019 39 Years as the Local Government Voice on Nuclear Issues

Annual Newsletter 2019

**NFLA, c/o City Policy,
 Manchester City Council, Level
 3, Town Hall Extension, Albert
 Sq, PO Box 532, M60 2LA.**
s.morris4@manchester.gov.uk
Tel: 00 44 (0)161 234 3244

NFLA SC & English Chair:
 Councillor David Blackburn

NFLA Secretary:
 Sean Morris

NFLA All-Ireland Co Chairs:
 Councillor John Trainor and
 Councillor Malcolm Noonan

NFLA All-Ireland Secretary:
 Sheena McEldowney

NFLA Scotland Convenor:
 Councillor Feargal Dalton

NFLA SC Vice-Chair – Scotland
 Councillor Bill Butler

NFLA Scotland Secretary:
 Cathy Birrell

NFLA Scotland Policy Advisor:
 Pete Roche

NFLA Welsh Forum Co-Chairs:
 Councillor Ernie Galsworthy
 and Councillor Sue Lent

Useful website Links:

NFLA: <http://www.nuclearpolicy.info>
 (includes links to NFLA Facebook & Twitter)
Mayors for Peace: <http://www.mayorsforpeace.org>
KIMO: <http://www.kimointernational.org>
CNFE: <http://www.cnfe.eu>
ICAN-UK: <http://www.ican-uk.org>
ICAN global: <http://www.icanw.org>



The founding meeting of the European Mayors for Peace Chapter with NFLA representation

NFLA SC Chair's Introduction

This Annual Newsletter provides NFLA member authorities with a general summary of its work throughout 2019.

The year was dominated by the Brexit debate across the UK & Ireland. The decisive December election now means the UK will leave the EU in 2020 and a transition period will

begin. NFLA will keep a close eye on the implications of this across its policy areas.

2019 was also the year of the 'climate emergency' resolution and local government taking a greater role in the need to reduce carbon emissions. NFLA has provided lots of support and advice to all of its

member authorities.

A European Mayors for Peace Chapter was agreed upon and will develop in 2020 - the 75th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic weapon attacks and the 40th anniversary of NFLA. I commend our work to you.

Cllr David Blackburn
NFLA SC Chair

Contents:

Chair's introduction	1
Who NFLA interacts with	2
Consultation responses	2
NFLA Steering Committee	2
NFLA Forums in 2019	2/3
Nuclear power debate	4
Radioactive waste	4
Nuclear weapons progress	4
International networks	5
Secretariat / alternatives	5
NFLA and NGOs	6
Priorities for 2020	6

NFLA approaches 40 years of determined campaigning

The NFLA was set-up in November 1980 and is both a respected and a cogent local authority voice on all aspects of nuclear & energy policy.

In 2019 it provided a high quality support service for its member local authorities by both responding to nuclear policy issues and being pro-active in influencing the national and wider

international nuclear & energy agenda.

To achieve this, NFLA works closely with groups like the Mayors for Peace, KIMO International, Cities for a Nuclear Free Europe, ICAN-UK and a large number of regional, national & international anti-nuclear disarmament & environmental groups.

It interacts with the LGA NuLEAF & the COSLA SCCORS radioactive waste groups, national & international government agencies, key nuclear regulators, the NDA and RWM.

The following pages, and the NFLA website, outline some of this work in more detail and the core policy debates.

Mayors for Peace Briefings in 2019:

All can be found on the NFLA website.

No 20: TPNW Council resolutions and Hiroshima Peace Legacy Ambassadors.

No 21: Manchester Chapter meeting and Basel Peace Forum

No 22: NPT Review Conference and international progress

No 23: 3,000 European members and Chapter progress report

No 24: Hiroshima and Nagasaki ceremonies

No 25: Chapter meeting for International Peace Day

No 26: European Chapter is established

New Nuclear Monitor Briefings in 2019:

All can be found on the NFLA website.

No 55: NFLA model response to Irish Councils on Wylfa B

No 56: Submission to Sizewell C Stage 3 consultation

No 57: Prospects for SMRs in the UK and globally

No 58: The financing of new nuclear energy

No 59: Submission to Sizewell C Stage 4 consultation

The many organisations NFLA interacted with in 2019

On behalf of its members, the NFLA interacts with a large body of organisations on all aspects of nuclear policy.

In 2019 these included:

The UK Government

– BEIS, MOD, Foreign Office, DEFRA, Parliamentary Select Committees, MPs & Lords.

Republic of Ireland Government – Foreign Affairs, Environment and Energy Departments, TDs & Senators.

Devolved Governments in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Regulatory bodies – ONR, FSA, SEPA, NDA, PHE, CoRWM, EPA,

NRW, COMARE and the Environment Agency.

LA groups – Mayors for Peace, CNFE, Alliance of Regions, KIMO, NuLEAF, & SCCORS.

International bodies

– Euro Commission & Parliament, the OSPAR Commission, IMO, IAEA and the United Nations.

NFLA Steering Committee work throughout 2019

The NFLA Steering Committee (SC) is the main decision-making body of the UK & Ireland organisation.

It met in February, June and September. Its December meeting has been rescheduled to January 2020 due to the UK general election taking place.

Reports considered at these meetings include updates on new nuclear build, radioactive waste policy, nuclear safety, low level radiation and health, climate change and the alternatives to nuclear power, nuclear security, nuclear transportation and nuclear emergency planning.

A key part of the work is to respond to all relevant consultations.

Updates on nuclear weapons policy, defence diversification strategies and Mayors for Peace are also provided.

Such work will continue in 2020. These meetings are in Manchester.

NFLA English Forum seminars in Manchester, Leeds & Essex

In 2019, the NFLA English Forum held 4 seminars for its member authorities. In February, and September, the Forum hosted two joint seminars with the UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter.

In June the Forum held a seminar in Leeds on climate change and local energy actions.

In October the Forum held a joint meeting with four other anti-nuclear NGOs in

Colchester on new nuclear & alternatives to it.

Its next meeting will be a March 14th event on the environmental concerns over Sizewell B, being held in Suffolk.



Senior members of the NFLA All Ireland Sustainable Energy Forum launch it at Kilkenny Town Hall



Professor Steve Thomas speaking at the NFLA Welsh Forum in Menai Bridge



Participants at Manchester's Hiroshima Day ceremony in Manchester Museum – over 50 such events were held in the UK and Ireland



The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Leeds, the NFLA Chair and Secretary and the Deputy Leader of Leeds City Council with Professor Paul Rogers of Bradford University, who gave the 2019 Leeds International Peace Lecture



Ross Greer MSP, the NFLA Scotland Policy Advisor, the NFLA Scotland Vice-Convenor and Dr Ian Fairlie at the NFLA special seminar on Hunterston B in the Scottish Parliament

NFLA All Ireland Sustainable Energy Forum is formed

The NFLA All Ireland Forum provides an innovative cross-border consideration of energy issues impacting on Ireland.

A special meeting held in Kilkenny Town Hall in March decided, due to Ireland's 'nuclear free' status, that it should focus more of its remit

on supporting sustainable energy policies and projects in Ireland. It was agreed to rename it to the NFLA All Ireland Sustainable Energy Forum.

It met in Dublin City Hall in October and it looked at best practice in promoting renewables across Ireland. A

number of specific reports have also been published.

Regular contact with the Irish Government has taken place through Dr Paul Dorfman, the NFLA representative to the EPA RIC.

The next meeting will be in March in Newry.

NFLA Scotland meetings in Glasgow, Dundee & Fife

NFLA Scotland met four times in 2019.

It met in Glasgow in February and November holding a business meeting on Scottish nuclear and renewables policy.

Business meetings were also held in June and September in Dundee

and Dunfermline. The Dundee seminar looked at its energy policies, divestment strategies and the ICAN Cities Appeal. The Dunfermline seminar looked at Fife's energy policies, Hunterston B & Scottish nuclear weapon road transports.

A special event for

MSPs on Hunterston B was held in the Scottish Parliament, along with joining in a special event on International Peace Day.

The Forum receives invaluable advice from its Policy Advisor Pete Roche. Its next meeting will be in Glasgow on 24th January 2020.

NFLA Welsh Forum meetings in Menai Bridge & Swansea

The NFLA Welsh Forum held two very well attended meetings in Wales.

In April it held a meeting with WANA, PAWB & CADNO in Menai Bridge.

This looked at North Wales nuclear and renewable energy issues.

In September it held a meeting in Swansea on the Council's energy policies, radwaste issues

and defence diversification policies.

Its next meeting is being planned in Cardiff in March / April on Hinkley Point C and related issues.



Forum panel discussion at the NFLA English Forum in Colchester

NFLA General Policy Briefings in 2019:
All can be found on the NFLA website.

- No 184 – Closure of Hunterston B: A Just Transition and Local Energy Supply
- No 185 – Response to the House of Lords inquiry into nuclear weapons proliferation
- No 186 – NFLA and Mayors for Peace February meeting action points
- No 187 – Climate emergency declarations and LA action
- No 188 – NFLA May meeting action points
- No 189 – Ireland and climate change: the need for a local response
- No 190 – Nuclear emergency planning and changes to the REPPiR regulations
- No 191 – Climate emergency: the next steps, a NFLA manifesto for action
- No 192 – NFLA and Mayors for Peace September meeting action notes
- No 193 – Brexit: what may be the impact of a 'no deal' on energy, climate and nuclear policy?
- No 194 – The top 10 actions for LA climate change action

Nuclear power debate – key obstacles to new build remain

A core part of NFLA work in 2019 remains challenging the UK Government’s assertion of the need for new nuclear build.

The financial weaknesses in these projects has come to the fore, with the Wylfa B project cancelled. This has led to the Government con-

sidering a new ‘RAB’ finance model which NFLA sees as giving a huge and risky subsidy to new nuclear.

The Hinkley Point C has added its base built, but financial issues and problems with a parallel reactor in France pose questions over the project. Sizewell and

Bradwell remain in consideration, and the idea of ‘Small’ Modular Reactors has been challenged by NFLA.

Issues with older nuclear reactors has also come to the fore, particularly keyway root cracks to the Hunterston B plant. Such work will continue in 2020.

Radioactive waste debate – deep repository or near surface?

A key issue in nuclear policy remains the large radioactive waste legacy and how it is to be dealt with.

The NFLA believe that the waste burden still requires much work to make it safe and secure. No new waste should be permitted until long-term solutions

are found by consensus.

In 2019 the UK & Welsh Governments continued in a new attempt to seek a volunteer to host a deep underground radioactive waste repository. By the end of the year there has not been much outward movement though it is likely informal meetings

are taking place. In Scotland, the NFLA Scotland Policy Advisor attends meetings of the Scottish Government’s Project Board implementing its ‘near site, near surface’ policy.

NFLA will continue to interact on these debates within NuLeAF, SCCORS, the NDA & CoRWM.

Nuclear weapons and the Trident replacement debate

The NFLA is heavily involved in the UK and international nuclear weapons debate. NFLA has worked with Mayors for Peace and ICAN to encourage its members to pass resolutions that

support the Nuclear Weapons Prohibition Treaty and oppose Trident replacement.

NFLA also responded in detail to a House of Lords consultation on UK

and global nuclear weapons policy.

Work is also ongoing in the area of defence diversification via a Steering Group chaired by the NFLA Secretary.



The NFLA / Mayors for Peace joint seminar for International Peace Day held in Manchester



Rebecca Johnson of ICAN UK with the Mayor of Oslo and the NFLA Secretary discussing the ICAN Cities Appeal and the Mayors for Peace in Europe

Co-operation with international partner groups

The NFLA has worked closely with a number of international groups in various nuclear policy areas in 2019.

NFLA work closely with the Mayors for Peace, of which Manchester is a Vice President of.

In 2019 the UK & Ireland Mayors, Prov-

osts and Leaders for Peace Chapter held meetings in February and September.

The Executive Board of Mayors for Peace was held in Hanover in November and a European Chapter was founded. This will really help deepen membership across Europe.

NFLA continues to work with Cities for a Nuclear Free Europe, the Alliance of Regions to Phase-out Nuclear Power in Europe and KIMO International on issues of mutual concern with nuclear policy and the marine environment. NFLA also works with ICAN on TPNW work & the ICAN Cities Appeal.

NFLA supports 'climate emergency' work across its Forums

A key part of the work of the NFLA is offering a realistic alternative to nuclear power.

Its policy is that energy needs can be provided by a wide renewable energy mix including wind, wave, district heating, hydro-electric, tidal, CHP and solar sources. This is coupled

with a Councils-led and ambitious energy efficiency programme, battery storage & local energy projects.

2019 saw this issue become much more prescient across local government as over 250 Councils in the UK and Ireland passed 'climate emergency' resolutions.

The wide concerns of the effects of climate change and the need for deep decarbonisation is a core activity now for the NFLA.

In 2019 NFLA produced a number of reports on best practice in decentralised energy across the UK and Ireland which were very well received.

Radioactive Waste Policy Briefings in

2019:

All can be found on the NFLA website.

- No 76 – NFLA Factsheet on the UK radioactive waste debate
- No 77 – RWM site Evaluation consultation response
- No 78 – Sea to Land Transfer of Man Made Radioactivity – an update
- No 79 – The impact of the Magnox Waste strategy at Hinkley Point A
- No 80 – Proposed changes to Sellafeld environmental permits

NFLA Steering Committee Chair, Vice Chairs & Forum Chairs

The NFLA Chair & English Forum Chair is Cllr David Blackburn from Leeds City Council. He will stand again at the NFLA AGM in Manchester. The NFLA SC Vice-Chair is

Cllr Bill Butler of Glasgow City Council.

Forum Chairs in 2019 are Cllr Feargal Dalton in Scotland; Cllr Mark Dearney, and now Cllrs Malcolm Noonan & John Trainor in

Ireland; and Cllrs Ernie Galsworthy and Sue Lent for the Welsh Forum.

Sean Morris has been the Secretary of the NFLA since 2008.



Unveiling of a Hiroshima gingko peace tree at a ceremony in Manchester Metropolitan University

Communication strategy in 2019:

- NFLA submitted over 45 media releases in 2019 across all aspects of nuclear policy. These are on the NFLA website.
- NFLA submitted over 35 letters to the media in 2018 across all aspects of nuclear policy, which were emailed to all its members.
- NFLA has both a Facebook page and a Twitter page. These are already reaching as many as 2,000+ relevant individuals and nuclear policy groups.
- NFLA relaunched with a new logo the NFLA All Ireland Sustainable Energy Forum as a refocus of its work.
- The NFLA website provides a detailed public interface with all of its reports, media releases, presentations and newsletters.

Co-operation with key non-governmental groups

The NFLA co-operates with a number of like-minded groups, where it can, to promote its aims and objectives.

NFLA seminar speakers in 2019 have come from groups like the Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace UK, the Nuclear Waste Advisory Associates, the Nuclear

Consulting Group, CND, ICAN-UK, the Nuclear Information Service and local site groups that are concerned with the development of new nuclear build.

The Secretariat has invited a number of experts advising local Councils on how to develop energy policy.

The NFLA Secretariat attends the BEIS NGO Forum and ONR NGO Forum meetings, NDA & RWM meetings, the Scottish Government’s Project Board on radwaste and a number of one-off nuclear policy meetings. These allow NFLA to have a direct contact with key nuclear policy makers.

Key priorities for the NFLA in its 40th anniversary year

The NFLA’s priorities for 2020 will be discussed at its 2019/20 AGM in Manchester. They are:

- challenging the need for new nuclear build;
- promoting safe long-term solutions for radioactive waste;
- advocating the benefits of decentralised renewable energy solutions to tackle the

- climate emergency;
- advocating further research on the effects of low level radiation;
- raising continuing concerns over nuclear safety issues;
- seeking improvements in nuclear emergency planning standards;
- co-operating with other groups that seek a nuclear power free

- and nuclear weapon free Europe and wider world;
- seeking reductions in airborne and marine radioactive discharges;
- highlighting the need for sound environmental and ethical principles across energy & nuclear weapons policy.

A Service Plan for this will be published shortly.

Joining the NFLA and forthcoming meetings

To join the NFLA please contact the NFLA Secretary for further details on our annual low & value-for-money affiliation rates. Joining NFLA allows all of its members and officers

to attend National NFLA Forum seminars and meetings, as well as four NFLA Steering Committee meetings. All of its research reports are also given first to its member authorities.

Next SC meeting:

The NFLA’s Steering Committee meets next on 31st January 2020 in Manchester. This will include its 2019/20 AGM, held over from December 2019.