



**NFLA Secretariat,
City Policy, Level 3,
Town Hall Extension,
Library Walk,
Manchester, M60 2LA.**
s.morris4@manchester.gov.uk
Tel: 00 44 (0)161 234 3244

NFLA SC Chair & the NFLA
English Forum Chair
Councillor David Blackburn

NFLA/MFP Chapter Secretary
Sean Morris

NFLA All-Ireland Forum Chairs
Councillor Karen McKeivitt (NI)
Councillor David Healy and Cllr
Colette Connolly (RoI –
interim)

NFLA All-Ireland Secretary
Sheena McEldowney

NFLA SC Vice-Chair (England)
Councillor Sean Chaytor

NFLA Scotland Convener
Councillor Feargal Dalton

NFLA Scotland Vice-Convener
Councillor Audrey Doig

NFLA SC Vice-Chair (Scotland)
Councillor Bill Butler

NFLA Scotland Secretary
Cathy Birrell

NFLA Welsh Forum Chair
Councillor Ernie Galsworthy

NFLA Welsh Forum Vice-Chair
Councillor Sue Lent

NFLA Policy Advisor
Pete Roche

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Websites / partner links:

NFLA:

<http://www.nuclearpolicy.info>
(Also links to Facebook and Twitter)

CNFE: <http://www.cnfe.eu>

MFP: <http://www.mayorsforpeace.org>

KIMO: <http://www.kimointernational.org>

ICAN: <http://www.icanw.org>

ICAN UK: <http://www.ican-uk.org>

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Hinkley C & Covid-19 – still building despite lockdown

The ongoing and unprecedented national and global lockdown to limit the spread of the covid-19 virus has seen all public meetings and events cancelled, possibly going well into 2020.

One of the anomalies in the UK lockdown is the ongoing permitting of construction projects,

subject to 2m 'social distancing' rules.

This has allowed EDF to continue construction of the Hinkley Point C site. NGOs & the NFLA have raised real concerns over the public health implications of such actions.

After early photos since the public lockdown have shown a crowded

catering area and full queues for buses to the site, numbers of workers have reduced from 4.2k to 2,000.

NGOs and the NFLA have met with the ONR and the UK Government and remain highly concerned that construction is continuing. A joint NGO / NFLA statement is on the NFLA website.

Mayors for Peace August Conference postponed to 2021

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 outbreak and lockdown, Mayors for Peace has decided to postpone their plans to hold the 11th Executive and General Conference in Hiroshima this August.

This follows the postponement until early 2021 of the UN Review Conference of the

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki have issued a joint statement calling on renewed diplomacy to encourage nuclear disarmament, which the NFLA fully supports.

All Mayors for Peace members, including Hiroshima and Nagasaki, are considering how

they will hold local events to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the first use of nuclear weapons and the end of the Second World War.

A European Mayors for Peace Working Group is still moving forward with work, including a new website and looking at future events. A Chapter progress report will be published in May.

NFLA media releases,

April 2020:

(on NFLA website)

- NFLA supports Earth Day statement on climate change, pandemic and nuclear weapons
- Joint NGO / NFLA statement on Hinkley C construction
- NFLA calls for post Covid-19 green stimulus
- NFLA supports EU letter supporting no finance for new nuclear
- NFLA submits response to EDF Hinkley dredging application

NFLA STEERING COMMITTEE TO APPROVE 3 NEW NFLA REPORTS

The NFLA Steering Committee will be meeting on the 1st May to discuss all aspects of the NFLA as it moves forward.

It will be considering and approving three new reports that will be published in early May – a review of nuclear emergency planning, how Councils are tackling the climate emergency & Covid-19 and its aftermath for policy-makers. These will be profiled in detail in the May NFLA Newsletter.

NFLA meets ONR to challenge Hunterston B reopening

The NFLA Secretary, Dr Ian Fairlie and Rita Holmes of the North Ayrshire Radiation Monitoring Group met with the Deputy Chief Nuclear Inspector and the Lead Inspector for Hunterston B to discuss the ongoing closure of the two remaining operating reactors and

whether they will restart.

The far-reaching meeting looked at issues around the level of keyway route cracks, graphite debris and the potential impact of seismic events on the reactors, should they resume operation.

Reactor 3 has been closed for well over a year, and Reactor 4 closed after a short operating period in autumn 2019.

The nuclear regulator is considering an updated safety plan from EDF for restarting the two operators. NFLA will monitor the issue.

NFLA Scotland holds meeting to discuss core policy

The NFLA Scotland Forum held a telephone conference to discuss key nuclear policy and energy policy issues.

The meeting included a detailed overview of all core policy matters from the NFLA Scotland Policy Advisor. Within this report, which will be published on the NFLA

website shortly, was information on the new Periodic Safety Review for the Torness reactor. This will be considered in more detail in the May newsletter.

The NFLA Secretary provided a report on wider issues, as well as outlining the main points that came out of

the ICAN Scottish Roundtable meeting looking at nuclear weapons policy.

Councillors decided to hold another business meeting in late June, which may be accompanied with a webinar, that is being looked at for all 4 Forums.

NFLA, CNFE & Alliance support European 'no' to new nuclear

The NFLA has joined with its European partners, the Cities for a Nuclear Free Europe and the Alliance of Regions for the Phasing-out of Nuclear Power in Europe, in a joint letter

with 53 other groups to the European Commission on energy policy.

The letter, developed by the Nuclear Consulting Group, calls on the Commission to hold its

nerve and not allow financial support for new nuclear. Rather it should continue to support renewable energy. The full letter can be found on the NFLA website.

NFLA letters to the media
March 2020:
(Sent to NFLA members)

- NFLA agrees with Bill Nighy and 60 other prominent figures- Sizewell C is not needed
- Councillors are right – EDF should delay its Sizewell C DCO
- Now is the right time for a post Covid-19 green stimulus
- In a Covid-19 lockdown, it is wrong for work at Hinkley Point C to continue

NFLA NATIONAL FORUM UPDATES:

The **NFLA English Forum** is following up actions from its recent Sizewell C seminar. It has written to Suffolk parish, town, district & county councillors encouraging it to call on EDF to delay its call for a planning inquiry on the Sizewell C reactor.

A webinar is being developed for the **NFLA All Ireland Sustainable Energy Forum** once the new Irish Government is agreed upon, given expected ambitious low carbon targets from it and the Northern Ireland Government.

A webinar is also planned for the **NFLA Welsh Forum** on the 'Hinkley mud' issue & related matters.

NFLA meets with Strathclyde Pension Fund over divestment

The NFLA held a meeting with the CEO of the Strathclyde Pension Fund over the issue of divesting from investments in various companies involved in nuclear weapons.

A number of NFLA members have passed resolutions calling for

such divestment.

In a wide-ranging discussion, the meeting looked at how the Fund seeks to engage with companies involved in the nuclear weapon process and policy commitments it makes at the international level. The Fund is

reluctant to get involved in the divestment debate, but agreed to keep this conversation going and respond in writing to the NFLA. It follows a UK Supreme Court ruling that public pension funds can make policy decisions that could involve divestment in issues around UK defence & foreign policy.

International Energy Agency asserts resilience of renewables

A startling report from the International Energy Agency suggests that renewables will be the most resilient energy source after the Covid-19 outbreak is under control.

The IEA report said the outbreak of Covid-19 would wipe out demand for fossil fuels by prompting a

collapse in energy demand seven times greater than the 2008 slump caused by the global financial crisis.

The IEA note the outbreak has led to the most severe plunge in energy demand since the Second World War. This has badly damaged the fossil fuel sector, while renewable energy

continues to grow.

As a result, renewable energy will play its largest ever role in the global energy system this year, and could help erase a decade's growth of global carbon emissions. This issue is a focus of the NFLA's report on Covid-19 out in early May.

Forthcoming meetings of interest to NFLA members

Due to the Covid-19 outbreak and social distancing rules there will be no NFLA public meetings until further notice.

A NFLA Steering Committee telephone conference will be held on the 1st May. Other video and phone conference meetings are also taking place.

The NFLA Secretariat is investigating video & phone conference facilities as a medium term alternative in place of NFLA seminars.