

NFLA Policy Briefing No.209



Date: 20th November 2020

Subject: Summary of key points and actions from the NFLA Steering Committee web-based meeting for its 40th anniversary, 6th November 2020

1. Introduction to the meeting

The NFLA Steering Committee Chair, Councillor David Blackburn, welcomed all to the NFLA Steering Committee. Councillor Blackburn encouraged members to also stay on for the accompanying special webinar to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the NFLA.

2. The covid-19 outbreak and future meetings / ongoing work of the Secretariat

The NFLA Secretary reported that a dangerous 'second wave' of the Covid-19 virus is taking place across all four areas of the NFLA. Local lockdowns have been implemented in parts of England and Scotland, and national 'circuit or fire break' lockdowns are now in place in some ways across all four NFLA Forums. This meant social distancing is likely to be in place through the winter and potentially into spring 2021. The Steering Committee agreed that meetings should remain online for the foreseeable future.

Given the considerable effort that it had taken to develop events for the 40th anniversary of the NFLA and a planned webinar with Mayors for Peace in early December, and the slower rate than usual in processing NFLA affiliation fees (due to business support challenges which all Councils have been facing), the Steering Committee agreed that its 2020/21 AGM should be held on the 29th January 2021.

The Steering Committee agreed to the following work programme for the next few months:

- To put particular effort in supporting the 40th anniversary webinar and webpages of the NFLA after the Steering Committee meeting, and actively support a high-profile webinar with the Mayors for Peace European Chapter and ICAN on the 4th December.
- The next round of NFLA National Forum webinars and business meetings will be set up in February and March 2021.
- There is ongoing consideration of holding a special webinar with relevant groups on the new nuclear issue, given that it is at a pivotal juncture this winter. This may be looked at in mid to late January 2021.
- To produce NFLA briefings on Councils and the green recovery, a 100% renewable strategy, Beaufort's Dyke and radiation risks, Brexit and energy implications, the transport of nuclear materials, nuclear emergency planning, nuclear policy stakeholder engagement, a Mayors for Peace briefing on the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and a special briefing giving a potted history of 40 years of the NFLA
- To process and finalise the payment of NFLA 2020/21 affiliation fee invoices as quickly as possible, in order to consider the future funding of the NFLA in these immensely difficult financial times for local government across the UK and Ireland.

Action: To approve this work plan for the NFLA Secretariat for the period from November 2020 to the end of January 2021.

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT VOICE ON NUCLEAR ISSUES:
40 YEARS WORKING FOR A RENEWABLE, SAFE & PEACEFUL FUTURE**

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3. **NFLA Forums progress and the NFLA's 40th anniversary**
NFLA All Ireland Forum webinar, 25th September

The NFLA All Ireland Forum Sustainable Energy Forum held its autumn meeting on the 25th September. Around 30 councillors and officers took part in it. The keynote speaker was the Irish Climate Change Minister Eamon Ryan, who gave his views on how the government will prioritise green recovery and low carbon energy policies. He took part in a useful Q & A session. Also speaking were staff from Derry and Strabane Council on their climate change adaptation plans, Tim Deere-Jones on a report of a near miss incident between the main Belfast – Cairnryan passenger ferry, and the NFLA Secretary looked at Sellafield, deep waste repository and related developments. The presentations are on the NFLA website. A response has also been done for Irish Councils on the transboundary impacts of Sizewell C, and a report is being put together about the issues around Beaufort's Dyke in the Irish Sea. The green recovery report will also be used to encourage new Irish members to join. The presentations from the webinar are on the NFLA website: <https://www.nuclearpolicy.info/presentations/nfla-all-ireland-sustainable-energy-forum-energy-policy-webinar-25th-september-2020/>

NFLA Scotland business meeting and webinar, 22nd October

The NFLA Scotland Forum held its autumn business meeting and a short webinar on the 22nd October. Attendance was a little disappointing but affected by the half term break. The business meeting considered a report by the NFLA Scotland Policy Advisor, an update by the NFLA Secretary and from CND Scotland staff. A short webinar allowed the NFLA Policy Advisor to look in more detail at the state of the Hunterston B reactors and wider concerns of the AGR fleet. The presentation and the reports are on the NFLA website: <https://www.nuclearpolicy.info/presentations/nfla-scotland-forum-online-meeting-22-october-2020/>

NFLA English Forum webinar, 23rd October

The NFLA English Forum held its autumn webinar on the 23rd October. This focused on how Councils are looking to develop policies and projects in tackling the climate emergency. There were an encouraging 25 attendees for this webinar. It included a presentation on what may happen next after the disappointing failure of Nottingham's and Bristol's energy companies from a policy consultant, Mark Bramah, who used to work for Robin Hood Energy. Polly Cook of Leeds City Council and David Houliston of Manchester City Council provided an overview of the work each council has done on its climate emergency plans. Councillor Sean Chaytor briefly outlined plans for the Humber Zero Carbon Industrial Cluster. The presentations are on the NFLA website: <https://www.nuclearpolicy.info/presentations/nfla-english-forum-webinar-on-local-energy-effective-strategies-23-october-2020/>

NFLA Welsh Forum webinar, 30th October

The NFLA Welsh Forum's autumn seminar focused on four issues of real interest to Forum members. The webinar began with a presentation from Thomas Pitt, a young CND Cymru activist who talked about the work of ICAN and encouraged Welsh Councils to pass resolutions on the TPNW. Tim Deere-Jones gave a detailed overview of the issues within the 'Geiger Bay / Hinkley mud' campaign. Neil Crumpton of PAWB considered new nuclear build issues in North Wales. Dan McCullum from Egni Cooperative Energy concluded the webinar with a positive talk about the low carbon energy projects they are undertaking with a number of South Wales Councils. Over 25 delegates attended the webinar. The presentations are on the NFLA website: <https://www.nuclearpolicy.info/presentations/nfla-welsh-forum-webinar-prospects-for-nuclear-energy-policy-developments-in-wales-30th-october/>

NFLA 40th anniversary – proposed joint webinars and other actions to take

November 5th, 2020 is the 40th anniversary of Manchester's 'nuclear free city' declaration that started the process of establishing the NFLA.

A special web page on the NFLA website and the Manchester City Council websites has been created and will be launched on the 5th. It includes images from the early days of the NFLA provided by the National Peace Museum. The NFLA Secretary has also developed a special 40th anniversary webinar which will profile some of the early history of NFLA, celebrate its partnerships with the likes of CNFE, KIMO International, Mayors for Peace and leading NGOs

like ICAN and CND. The webinar will take place after the Steering Committee and members are encouraged to attend it. The webpage can be found at:

<https://www.nuclearpolicy.info/news/40th-anniversary-of-the-nfla/>

The second part of that commemorations is the development of a joint international webinar with the Mayors for Peace European Chapter and ICAN and is being held on the 4th December. This will consider the state of peace and security in Europe (as Manchester and others did in 1980 in making their original resolutions then), supporting Council resolutions for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and considering ways to promote peaceful and safe cities. It will include several prominent speakers including the Mayors or former Mayors from Oslo, Barcelona, Manchester, Granollers, Grigny and Braga, as well as the CEO and Campaigns Director of ICAN and a leading speaker from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. The event has the full support of ICAN, Mayors for Peace Europe and the Mayors for Peace Secretariat in Manchester. It will be held on Zoom and streamed live on YouTube. The flyer and an Eventbrite registration link can be found at:

<https://www.nuclearpolicy.info/news/nfla-report-cost-effective-renewable-electricity-system/>

Actions: To welcome the recent NFLA National Forum webinars. To encourage attendance at special events linked to the 40th anniversary of NFLA. To successfully process affiliation fee invoices. To be aware of the deep financial problems affecting all Councils and consider what it may mean for the NFLA.

4. New nuclear

The NFLA Secretary reported that the development of new nuclear reactors is coming to a critical juncture at the moment, as the sector is actively lobbying the UK Government over considerable financial support to assist the building of large and small nuclear fission reactors, whilst also encouraging the creation of an experimental nuclear fusion reactor.

Both an Energy White Paper and a full response to the UK Government's Revenue Asset Base consultation are still awaited and expected in late November / by the end of 2020. A National Infrastructure Strategy may be a part of that. All have been delayed for some time as many relevant government staff have been transferred over the past few months into Covid-19 duties. The severe economic problems that has been generated by the Covid-19 outbreak adds further complication to the UK Government's response, as there are many parts of the economy that require central government support, and debt levels have reached heights comparable only with the Second World War.

The nuclear industry has lobbied the UK Government hard over the last few months, amidst growing alarm within the sector that the cheaper cost of renewables is changing the debate markedly. UK Government Ministers have said support for new nuclear will be within the Energy White Paper, but it is not clear what the level of that support for 'large' nuclear like Hinkley Point, Sizewell C and Bradwell, 'small' modular nuclear reactors at other sites like Sellafield Moorside, Wylfa and Trawsfynydd, or an experimental nuclear fusion reactor will be. All arguably would require billions of pounds of public investment, at a time when the UK Government has a long list of competing demands.

An overview of each site was provided:

- **Sizewell C** – the National Infrastructure Commission has started its consideration of the proposed Sizewell C reactor, and the NFLA has registered as an interested party. EDF has added in some additional changes to the project and it is likely that there will be some form of public consultation around them. They may arise from the scepticism of local Councils in Suffolk and local MPs. EDF admit as well that Sizewell C is likely not be completed until as early as 2034. Any positive impact it may have on reducing carbon emissions by 2040 or 2050 remain limited given the carbon emissions created in the construction phase. The NFLA Secretariat has also responded to a separate policy process where the UK Government has been consulting with neighbouring states on the transboundary risks of Sizewell C, which it argues is low. The NFLA has sent a model response to this consultation to Irish Councils, with assistance from Attracta Ui Bhroin of the Irish Environmental Network, arguing there are a number of severe accident and health risks from the proposed

site. This can be found on the NFLA website - [https://www.nuclearpolicy.info/wp/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/NFLA New Nuclear Monitor No63 Irish Councils Sizewell EIA.pdf](https://www.nuclearpolicy.info/wp/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/NFLA_New_Nuclear_Monitor_No63_Irish_Councils_Sizewell_EIA.pdf).

- **Bradwell B** – the majority-owned Chinese CGN development at Bradwell has encountered significant early problems as it tries to move forward. The NFLA and many other negative responses were put into the first round of local consultation on the proposals, particularly in the areas of climate change, coastal erosion and emergency planning. Nearby Colchester Borough Council passed unanimously a resolution to oppose the Bradwell B development, and the local Maldon Council has now twice rejected a planning application to create boreholes on the proposed site, over concern to the local area. NFLA is engaging with both Councils encouraging them to link in with it. The wider tensions between the UK and China could also lead to a review of the development in the medium term.
- **Wylfa B** – whilst Hitachi has pulled out of financing and developing a proposed new nuclear reactor at the Anglesey site, it has not stopped the supporters of it looking for alternative developers or finance for it. A decision on the planning application was deferred for the second time and will now take place at the end of December. Some media reports have suggested the restored US nuclear firm Westinghouse may be interested, and others the Korean company Kepco. Rolls Royce has also suggested it could be a site for small modular nuclear reactors.
- **Hinkley Point C** – construction continues on the initial structures on the site, as reports again emerge on how the reactors could be financed. A major row has now taken place over plans to protect fish by constructing acoustic fish deterrents. EDF have sought to remove these plans arguing that CEFAS, that does marine testing in the area, has said it is not required. The Environment Agency disagrees and has initiated a consultation on the matter, whilst EDF takes legal action on it. NFLA has supported a Stop Hinkley response to this, partially written by Pete Roche, and is monitoring the issue.
- **Small modular nuclear reactors at Moorside / Trawsfynydd** – these two sites, and possibly others, have been put forward by Rolls Royce as potential lead sites for hosting small modular nuclear reactors. There has been a plethora of reports and much lobbying for this technology, with a recent webinar hosted by NuLEAF as well, showing significant interest from nuclear site Councils. Whilst it is often suggested that SMRs would be cheaper than large nuclear, that may not be the case, given the technology still needs to be developed, and a large supply chain is also required. NFLA will continue to monitor the issue and recommends members watching a Beyond Nuclear USA webchat on this issue, which can be found on its website.

Actions: To monitor the Sizewell C public inquiry and the Steering Committee welcomed the transboundary response for Irish Councils. To continue to work with groups opposing such developments and consider an early 2021 joint webinar.

5. Radioactive waste

The NFLA Secretary gave an overview of its policy work on radioactive waste management.

UK & Scottish Government reviews of waste and decommissioning strategies -

At a NuLEAF meeting, a speaker from the UK Government confirmed that it was developing a full update of UK Radioactive Waste Management Policy. It was also reported at the meeting the Scottish Government were doing the same as a response to update their different policy. The Steering Committee agreed that the NFLA Secretary and NFLA Scotland Policy Advisor should work together on clarifying with the Scottish Government these plans and find out why no Scottish Sites Meetings have been held for some considerable time.

Deep waste repository update -

As previously noted, Copeland Council's Executive Cabinet has now become the first to publicly start talks with Radioactive Waste Management (RWM) to investigate hosting a repository and taking this process further. At the NFLA All Ireland Forum, the NFLA Secretary and councillors raising concerns that putting part of a repository off the coast and under the Irish Sea is not being ruled out. Irish councillors and the Steering Committee requested that this issue be closely monitored.

It is understood other Councils and landowners remain interested and are still in discussion in private with RWM. The NFLA Secretary has taken part in the first meeting of the RWM Exchange, which will try and develop a discussion with those groups most sceptical about the construction of such a repository. The Steering Committee welcomed this new policy process.

Internationally, there has been some progress with a similar project in Sweden, in that the municipality where a repository may be built, Forsmark, voting to go ahead with the development. The area has been heavily dependent on jobs in the nuclear sector, so it is not a big surprise. The Swedish court system is still considering a legal case over the robustness of the cooper canisters which would store waste.

NDA Strategy 4 development, stakeholder engagement and Sellafield issues –

The NFLA has submitted a detailed response (on its website) to the NDA's consultation on its draft strategy for 2012-25. The NFLA Secretary also facilitated a workshop on the matter with the NDA and NGO representatives on the 4th November. The consultation closes on the 8th December. The NFLA response to this consultation can be found at:

https://www.nuclearpolicy.info/wp/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Rad_Waste_Brfg_83_NDA_Strategy_4_consultation.pdf

The five key points the NFLA made in its response are:

- In the absence of any agreement between the NFLA and the NDA on nuclear waste management in general and the waste hierarchy in particular, NFLA think it is incumbent on the NDA to provide stakeholders at each of its sites with an inventory of waste already present, and which will be produced during the decommissioning process, along with its likely proposed destination. This can provide easier understanding and comparison to the NFLA demand that if any part of a nuclear site is proposing to allow unrestricted use, it must be able to show that doses to members of the public will be of the order of 0.01mSv or less per year. This process should allow local authorities which are expected to host waste management facilities off-site – such as landfill sites, and local authorities on transport routes - to be part of the conversation.
- Any proposals for the management of Higher Activity Waste (HAW) in near-surface facilities needs to follow the Scottish policy of requiring that facilities are monitored and have a capability to retrieve waste packages if necessary.
- It is noted that Sellafield Ltd could be allowed to increase certain discharges for a certain length of time, in order to carry out a particular decommissioning task, provided it has submitted an acceptable Best Available Technique (BAT) case. Unfortunately, it is not clear from the document whether any superior abatement techniques have been rejected on, for example, cost benefit grounds, or what research is going on so that discharges to the sea can be further reduced. This flexible approach should require the NDA to regularly consult stakeholders and members of the public on the use of BAT.
- We hope the NDA, in conjunction with EDF Energy, will seriously consider an early AGR decommissioning project for Hunterston B.
- The NDA should recommend to Government that it drops the idea of re-using plutonium as Mixed Oxide (MOX) fuel.

The Steering Committee welcomed this detailed response and encouraged it to be sent to Councils.

NuLEAF and SCCORS update -

The next NuLEAF meeting will be on the 9th December and NFLA members will attend it. There is a special NDA workshop on the 20th November on its Integrated Waste Management plans which NuLEAF members have been invited to. The NFLA Secretary has been asked to speak at it on NFLA views in this area. The Steering Committee welcomed the NFLA's involvement in these meetings.

The NFLA Secretary has offered to meet with the SCCORS Co-Chairs to discuss its progress, but to date this offer has not been taken up, and the group remains largely inactive at the moment. This matter will be pursued with NFLA Scotland members.

‘Geiger Bay / Hinkley mud update -

The NFLA Secretary has engaged actively with a new campaign called ‘Geiger Bay’ which is campaigning against the dumping of as much as 780,000 tonnes of sediment from the Hinkley Point site to the offshore Cardiff Deep Grounds. A full and welcome debate was held in the Senedd in late October and ministers were keen to note that the application would only be approved if it was deemed safe for the environment. EDF has also offered to consult on its environmental plans around this. An expert panel is advising the Welsh Government of radiation health and environmental issues around the plans and whether there are any public health concerns. The campaign group is calling for an independent environmental assessment and are also talking to a legal firm about a judicial challenge. NFLA Welsh Forum members welcomed the broad work of the Geiger Bay group.

Dalgety Bay / Submarine dismantling delays –

It was confirmed in August that there would be a further delay to the remediation work to the Dalgety Bay shoreline, where radioactive particles from the radium dials of dumped military aeroplanes continue to be found. Delays in agreeing to the final licences for the work has been blamed by the Ministry of Defence. The work will now begin in spring 2021. The South and West Fife Area Committee received an update on 7th October, but the MOD did not attend it, leaving an update on the issue to be made by SEPA. SEPA stated they were disappointed by the lack of communication and confirmed that they had received no application and no paperwork from the MOD on the permitting required to proceed with works. NFLA issued a media release deploring the delays. This can be found at:

<https://www.nuclearpolicy.info/news/nfla-concerned-lack-communication-ministry-defence-dalgety-bay-contaminated-shoreline/>

Actions: To note the report. To welcome the detailed response to the NDA Strategy 4 consultation.

6. The UK leaving the EU and impacts on nuclear & energy policy

As recent disagreements have emerged between the UK Government and the European Union, the possibility of a ‘no deal’ Brexit still very much remains. It was a focal factor the NFLA noted in its response on the Sizewell C transboundary response.

As noted, in the area of nuclear regulation, plans are in place for a new UK domestic nuclear safeguards regime will come into force in January 2021. It will be run by the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR), which already regulates nuclear safety and nuclear security in the UK.

As a priority, the NFLA Secretariat is planning a short briefing in November to summarise the core issues that remain in reference to nuclear issues, the Irish electricity market and interconnectors and the economic damage it could do in relevant policy areas. The Steering Committee noted it was important to monitor these matters.

Actions: To produce a short briefing clarifying what a ‘no deal’ Brexit may mean for nuclear policy and the Irish Single Electricity Market.

7. Climate change, green stimulus and alternatives to nuclear power

NFLA climate emergency and Covid-19 reports -

In May, the NFLA released a detailed progress report on how Councils should tackle the climate emergency. This report has been welcomed and disseminated widely.

Green recovery -

The NFLA Secretariat has developed a detailed new draft report on local authorities and the green recovery, which also outlines central governments responses across all the governments of the UK and Ireland. The Steering Committee considered and approved the report, welcoming the amount of detail within it.

An additional report is being developed with it that considers strategies to create 100% renewable electricity programmes across the UK and Ireland.

Actions: To approve the NFLA's green recovery report and 100% renewables report and request that the Secretariat disseminate it as widely as possible.

8. Mayors for Peace

The Mayors for Peace issued a detailed statement out, co-signed by the Lord Mayor of Manchester, which welcomed the 50th ratification of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) on the 24th October, which means it will enter into force in January 2021. The statement calls on those states that have not supported it to start engaging with this new process as it enters into force.

The NFLA Secretary has been working with the European Mayors for Peace Chapter Secretary and the Campaigns Advisor of ICAN on a joint webinar that can promote all 3 organisations, support the ICAN Cities Appeal / TPNW resolutions and the need to promote safe, resilient and peaceful cities. This high-profile event will take place on the 4th December and will include presentations from the Mayors of Oslo, Barcelona, Braga, Granollers, Cllr Newman in his role as former Lord Mayor of Manchester, and the current Lord Mayor of Manchester. It will also include presentations from the ICAN CEO Beatrice Fihn and the ICAN Campaigns Director, as well as a senior researcher with the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. The flyer will be going out before the Steering Committee meeting, and all members are strongly encouraged to attend.

A Chapter recruitment campaign has started. It is first focusing on Irish (north and south) and London local authorities, and will then look at English, Welsh and Scottish Councils. Voluntary invoices are also being sent out shortly.

Hastings Borough Council has passed a resolution to support the TPNW / ICAN Cities Appeal. Other Councils have it on their agenda in the next few weeks. The NFLA Secretary is aware that a number of Councils are also looking to pass resolutions in the new year. In the NFLA Welsh Forum a presentation was provided to encourage Welsh Councils to pass TPNW resolutions, and it was agreed for the NFLA Secretary to send model resolutions to councillors.

Actions: To welcome the upcoming joint webinar on the ICAN Cities Appeal and peaceful cities.

9. Nuclear weapons and defence nuclear safety *NPT and the TPNW -*

On the 23rd and 24th October, UN Day, the states of Jamaica, Nauru and Honduras became the remaining three states that took the ratification of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons to the milestone of 50 states. This means that the TPNW will now enter into force in 90 days at the United Nations – January 22nd, 2021. This milestone was celebrated in a special Zoom meeting organised by ICAN and several leading supporters of the Treaty in Geneva, which the NFLA Secretary attended.

There are a number of other states who are likely to ratify the TPNW over the next three months. The milestone was covered widely in the global media, but there was little about it in the UK media. It will though change the disarmament debate at the UN. The fact that the United States Government contacted ratifying states to encourage them to reverse their decisions just a few days before the 50th ratification suggests there is increasing nervousness amongst those opposed to the TPNW. For supporters of disarmament like the NFLA it gives a real fillip for the wider movement and brings a new momentum for the future.

Due to the ongoing issues with Covid-19, the NPT Review Conference planned for May 2020 has been moved again now to August 2021. This will allow for the momentum for the TPNW to increase prior to when the NPT is held again.

Ongoing international tensions on nuclear weapons -

The United States launched a nuclear test of its 'Minuteman' weapons, probably in reaction to the 50th ratification of the TPNW. The outcome of the US Presidential election on the 3rd November will clearly play a major role in how the difficulties over disarmament talks in recent

years move forward in the future. There remains stalemate between the US and Russia over the START Treaty and tensions remain in reference to Iran, North Korea and China.

Divestment of pension funds from nuclear weapons and fossil fuels –

NFLA has been contacted by a coalition of groups that, following on from the TPNW entering into force, want to challenge banks and pension funds to change their policies and divest from nuclear weapons and fossil fuel investments. The Steering Committee approved supporting this initiative.

Royal Navy officer sent home after being found drunk on a Trident submarine -

A Royal Navy officer has been sent home from the US after reporting to take charge of a submarine's Trident nuclear missiles while unfit for duty. Lt Cdr Len Louw is now under investigation at Faslane naval base in Scotland amid reports he had been drinking heavily. Apparently, his colleagues raised concerns when the weapons engineering officer arrived for work on HMS Vigilant last month. Media reports claimed the submariner was "staggering drunk" when he came on board the £3bn vessel. The Trident submarine HMS Vigilant was docked at a US naval base at the time. An investigation is now underway, but this is quite a concerning incident.

Actions: To note the report and continue to monitor the issues. To welcome the 50th ratification of the TPNW and work with Mayors for Peace and other like-minded organisations. To support a new initiative encouraging banks, pension funds and Councils to divest from investments in fossil fuels and nuclear weapons.

10. Civil nuclear safety, Fukushima update

Hunterston B restart and the wider AGR fleet -

The NFLA has been concerned for some time about the safety of EDF's aging Advanced Gas Reactor (AGR) fleet. The oldest of them is Hunterston B and Hinkley Point B at over 40 years old. The others are Dungeness, Heysham, Hartlepool and Torness.

After the last Steering Committee meeting, the NFLA developed a detailed briefing on the AGR fleet. It argued the Hunterston B and Hinkley Point B should be closed forthwith due to the level of keyway root cracking. It also argued the other sites would close earlier than their planned closure dates for similar reasons.

In August and September, Reactors 3 and 4 at Hunterston were given permission to restart for a period of around six months. EDF would then like to see both reactors restarted for a further six months before they close down at the end of 2021. The NFLA Scotland Policy Advisor provided an analysis of the core weaknesses of the Hunterston B and other AGR reactors at the October NFLA Scotland Forum meeting, which can be found on the NFLA website. NFLA will continue to monitor these matters and promote its concerns whenever the opportunity arises.

Fukushima update -

An anticipated decision on permitting contaminated water on the Fukushima site into the Pacific Ocean has been deferred again at short notice. It appears the Japanese Government is supportive of the move but concerned about the international reaction to such a decision. Greenpeace Japan issued a report saying such dumping could have a profound effect on marine wildlife and could affect the health of coastal communities. The South Korean Government has also stated its public opposition to the dumping. NFLA is in close links with Japanese environmental groups and will monitor the issue.

Actions: To note the report. To consider further research over Hunterston B and the AGRs fleet.

11. Nuclear emergency planning and transport

The NFLA Secretary is reworking detailed reports on progress with Councils implementing offsite emergency plans and on nuclear transport. The sheer amount of work has got in the way of completing both reports, but this has become a real priority to complete. The Steering Committee urged the reports to be completed before the end of the year.

Actions: To note the report. New NFLA Policy Briefings to be published shortly.

12. Date of next Steering Committee meeting

This is planned as a web-based meeting for *Friday 29th January from 11am – 12.30pm. It will also include the NFLA AGM for 2020/21.*

13. Special NFLA 40th anniversary webinar

Directly following the NFLA Steering Committee was a NFLA special webinar that commemorated the 40th anniversary of Manchester City Council's 'nuclear free' declaration that led to the creation of the organisation.

Speaking at the webinar were:

- The NFLA Steering Committee Chair, Councillor David Blackburn
- Manchester City Council's NFLA and Mayors for Peace representative, Councillor Eddy Newman, who was a signatory of the 1980 resolution.
- Bob Overy, a former Principal Emergency Planning Officer of Leeds City Council, who was heavily involved in the successful campaign to end nuclear war civil defence planning towards peacetime emergency planning for conventional hazards.
- Stewart Kemp, a former NFLA Secretary, who considered the development of the NFLA in its first two decades and the importance of the Chernobyl disaster in its engagement on nuclear energy and radioactive waste matters.
- Kate Hudson, Executive Director of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND), who outlined the importance of NFLA 'nuclear free' declarations and their positive role in the ongoing campaign for a nuclear weapons free world.
- David Reinberger, Lead Officer for the Vienna-led Cities for a Nuclear Free Europe (CNFE), who noted the close relationship between CNFE, NFLA and the Alliance of Regions for the Phasing-out of Nuclear Power in Europe, that came out of the European response to the Fukushima disaster.
- Councillor Norman MacDonald, former Chair of the Lerwick-based KIMO International, who provided an overview of the close partnership with NFLA on marine radioactivity issues and on representing them at the OSPAR Commission Radiation Substances Committee.
- Tomihisa Taue, the Mayor of Nagasaki and Chair of NFLA Japan, provided a video message on the close relationship between the two organisations and how Japanese Councils had been strongly encouraged by the work developed in the UK and Ireland. He called for that cooperation to continue.
- Sean Morris, NFLA Secretary, conclude the webinar by outlining the NFLA's current work programme and how it remained highly relevant within local government.

Presentations and additional information on the NFLA 40th anniversary can be found on the NFLA website: <https://www.nuclearpolicy.info/news/40th-anniversary-of-the-nfla/>