Mayors for Peace ExecCon agrees a new ‘PX Vision’

The Mayors for Peace held its 12th Executive Conference online and agreed to a new ‘PX Vision’ to take its work forward over this important decade.

The Executive Conference had been delayed from August 2020, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and this meeting had to be held online due to the issues around travel.

17 members of the Mayors for Peace Executive Conference attended, including the Lord Mayor of Manchester, the Council's permanent representative Cllr Eddy Newman and the NFLA Secretary.

The ‘PX Vision’ or its full name, a ‘Vision for Peaceful Transformation to a Sustainable World’, has 3 core objectives – seeking a nuclear weapons free world, realize safe and resilient cities and promote a culture of peace.

The NFLA Secretary has produced a report on the meeting, which is on the NFLA website.

UK Government prepares to remove CGN from new nuclear

The growing tensions between the UK and China looks increasingly likely to see the China General Nuclear (CGN) utility being asked to withdraw its interest in the Sizewell & Bradwell new nuclear projects, according to extensive media reports.

There has been increasing concern, and some concerted pressure from the US Government, over Chinese involvement on the UK’s sensitive infrastructure.

According to UK officials reported in the Financial Times, the government is considering taking a financial stake in the Sizewell site so as to remove CGN from the project. It may use the Revenue Asset Base model to provide taxpayer / billpayer support for the project.

The decision could see the end of the Bradwell site, which is majority owned by CGN. It also puts some serious questions on Hinkley Point C, which CGN has a stake in. The NFLA will monitor this issue and comment accordingly.
NFLA responds to Stormont Committee on NI climate change

The NFLA has put a detailed response into the Northern Ireland Assembly Environment Committee inquiry into the cross-party Climate Change Bill. This is currently going through its early stages.

The NFLA response focuses on the limited powers and resource of the eleven Northern Ireland Councils. This severely limits their involvement in climate change adaptation and mitigation.

With Councils in England, Scotland and Wales developing more comprehensive plans, and the Committee on Climate Change saying local government is essential to carbon ‘Net Zero’, the NFLA argue it is essential for a greater role for Irish Councils.

The NFLA have said the same in the south of Ireland, where a Climate Change Bill is now law. The submission is on the NFLA website.

NFLA publish report on the Just Transition Commission

The NFLA is publishing a detailed analysis of the moves taking place across the UK, Ireland and Europe to ensure a ‘just transition’ of workers to new, green jobs.

The report, requested by the NFLA’s Scotland Forum, focuses on the recent report of the Just Transition Commission for the Scottish Government.

With climate change necessitating a move from fossil fuels to renewable energy, Scotland is particularly vulnerable with its large oil and gas workforce. The Commission has given some excellent recommendations on the training, skills development and other matters of moving such workers into low carbon sectors.

The report looks at similar initiatives of the UK & Irish Governments. It calls on all sectors, including Councils, to be involved. It is on our website in early August.

NFLA join in submission on Civil Nuclear Constabulary

The NFLA has cooperated with a number of other groups to submit a detailed submission to BEIS on its consultation around the proposed expansion and diversification of the Civil Nuclear Constabulary.

The CNC polices all UK nuclear sites. The joint submission is supported by the NGOs BANNG, PAWB, TASC, NWAA, CADNO & Stop Hinkley.

It raises concerns over new proposed restrictions on peaceful protest. It argues for a more limited policing role due to successful hazard reduction. It will be on our website in early August.
NFLA co-organise prominent webinar on wildlife & nuclear

The NFLA is co-organising a high-profile webinar bringing out the impacts of new nuclear and its threat to sensitive wildlife sites.

The webinar, which will be held on the 7th October, includes three prominent speakers including Jonathon Porritt, Craig Bennett (both former CEOs of Friends of the Earth) and the founder of the renewable energy company Juliet Davenport. The meeting will be moderated by Beyond Nuclear’s Linda Pentz Gunter.

The actress Diana Quick, who has been involved in the movement opposing Sizewell C, will also give a short reading at the webinar.

The webinar will support the work of the groups challenging the need for new nuclear, as well as informing those in wildlife groups concerned about climate change. An advert for it will go out widely in August.

NFLA Secretary to move on after 13 years in the post

The NFLA and Mayors for Peace Chapter Secretary Sean Morris has decided to accept a secondment as Policy Lead of the Manchester Climate Change Agency, starting in September.

Sean has been NFLA Secretary since October 2008, having been the NFLA’s English Forum Secretary whilst a Leeds City Council officer from 1999.

Sean thanks all the many lovely comments from members and NGO groups. It has been a real honour and privilege to be the 5th NFLA Secretary in its 41-year history, with many wonderful memories & initiatives.

The advert to replace Sean for the next 18 – 24 months is now on the Greater Manchester Councils job website - https://www.greater.jobs under the Manchester City Council category. It has a closing date of the 20th August.

NFLA and Mayors for Peace are really keen to get a dynamic, talented and informed replacement to Sean, who will help to mentor them into this important role over the next few months.

Forthcoming dates or meetings of interest to NFLA members

Hiroshima and Nagasaki Day ceremonies, 6th and 9th August

NFLA CND, CCP, Beyond Nuclear special webinar on the impacts of new nuclear on sensitive wildlife sites, 7th October

Mayors for Peace, ICAN & NFLA webinar on the TPNW, 21st October

NFLA Forum meetings will be scheduled in the autumn by the new NFLA Secretary