Manchester City Council and the NFLA has decided to appoint Richard Outram as its new Secretary, to work on nuclear policy for it and connect with its partners like Mayors for Peace, KIMO & CNFE.

The current Secretary Sean Morris moves on to a new seconded post with the Manchester Climate Change Agency. Sean has worked with the NFLA since 1998, and as NFLA Secretary since 2008.

Richard has worked with Oldham Council for over 20 years with experience in housing, regeneration and corporate policy, engaging in one of the political group offices. In addition, in the past two years he has worked for Yorkshire CND in lobbying councils, MPs and faith leaders to support the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons; and completing a Peace Studies degree at Bradford University.

Interim arrangements for NFLA are in place until Richard formally starts.

**NFLA Steering Committee approves need for COP26 report**

The NFLA Steering Committee met on the 10th September to discuss all of its core workstreams and thank Sean Morris for his long service over 13 years as NFLA Secretary.

There was a long discussion over radioactive waste policy, given news that Lincolnshire County Council was expressing an early interest to follow two Cumbria Councils in the process to find a deep underground radioactive waste repository.

The NFLA has also met with staff in the NDA and RWM to discuss issues with the LGA and COSLA groups NuLEAF and SCCORS, and wider policy issues.

All of the NFLA reports produced over a busy summer were approved. In October, Pete Roche will respond for the NFLA with a response to the UK Government's National Policy Statement consultation and a report on prospects for the upcoming COP26 conference. A report of the SC meeting is on the NFLA website.
Wildlife and new nuclear webinar – over 130 signed up

An upcoming webinar that will consider the impacts of new nuclear reactors and climate change on many sensitive wildlife sites has already got over 130 people signed up.

The webinar will take place on the 7th October and is organised by the NFLA, Beyond Nuclear, GM CND and Chernobyl Children’s Project UK.

Prominent speakers at this high-profile event are Jonathon Porritt, the CEO of the Wildlife Trusts Craig Bennett and the former CEO of ‘Good Energy’ Juliet Davenport. The actress and activist on Sizewell C, Diana Quick, will be reading the poem ‘The Bittern’ at an event moderated by Linda Pentz Gunter of Beyond Nuclear.

To register for what should be a fascinating meeting go to this GMDCND weblink: https://gmdcnd.com/wildlife

Full speaker programme being confirmed for TPNW webinar

NFLA, ICAN and Mayors for Peace Europe are also pleased to announce the speaker programme for another October webinar, this time on plans for the first States Parties meeting of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

Taking place on the afternoon of the 21st October, this webinar will consider how states, civil society and local government are planning for it. The TPNW meeting is in March at the UN in Vienna.

Amongst the confirmed speakers are Cardinal Tomasi of the Holy See, the Mayor of Hiroshima, the Deputy Mayor of Hannover, Beatrice Fihn of ICAN, Helen Durham of the ICRC, & Masako Wada a hibakuska from the Peace Boat group.

The final details of other speakers will be confirmed shortly. A flyer and registration details are now on the NFLA website.

NFLA Scotland hold September meeting

The NFLA Scotland Forum meeting held a useful meeting to outline future priorities.

The NFLA Scotland Policy Advisor provided a detailed report of all key Scottish nuclear and energy policy matters. The NFLA Secretary and CND Scotland also provided reports.

A meeting with the Scottish Government is also being planned. NFLA Scotland is taking part in an online meeting with the Scottish Parliament’s Cross-Party Group on Nuclear Weapons & ICAN on 21st September.
Hinkley dredging & fish deterrents – the core concerns

Cooperation with core groups and councils dismayed at the MMO decision to allow the dredging of sediment from the Hinkley Point C site to an area off Portishead Bay continues.

There is deep dismay that thousands of tonnes of mud will be dumped in the area, and what the impact this may have on marine wildlife. NFLA will continue to pursue this issue with them.

NFLA has also published a detailed analysis on the recent public inquiry into EDF's request not to build acoustic fish deterrents that may protect fish and marine wildlife from the cooling pipes of a Hinkley C reactor.

Environmental groups noted huge concerns that billions of fish could die over the full 60 years operation of the reactor. The detailed NFLA report can be found on its website.

The need for Just Transition and divestment

The NFLA’s latest reports on Just Transition and divestment appear timely with the publication of a detailed TUC report concerned that as many as 660,000 jobs are under threat if the UK and devolved governments do not prepare for climate transition.

As the world prepares in Glasgow, there is concern that the UK is not putting enough resources into a green recovery from Covid-19 and preparing for the major changes that arise out of moving away from fossil fuels and nuclear power.

NFLA encourage all councillors and council officers to read its two reports which analyse the need for detailed preparations that allow for climate fairness and a just transition from one sector to another.

There is also a real need for Council Pension Funds to align their policies to both promote renewable energy and encourage disarmament from nuclear & other controversial weapons.

Both reports are on the NFLA website homepage.

Forthcoming dates or meetings of interest to NFLA members

Joint webinar on the biodiversity impacts of new nuclear plants, 7th October

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

NFLA Steering Committee and AGM, December 3rd (likely to be online)