Date: 3rd December 2021
Subject: Minutes from the NFLA STEERING COMMITTEE WEB-BASED MEETING

## Attendees:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Authority</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Councillor David Blackburn</td>
<td>Leeds City Council, NFLA English Forum Chair/ SC Chair</td>
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<td>Councillor Bill Butler</td>
<td>Glasgow City Council, NFLA SC Vice Chair Scotland</td>
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<td>Councillor Audrey Doig</td>
<td>Renfrewshire Council, NFLA Scotland Vice Convener</td>
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<td>Councillor Eddy Newman</td>
<td>Manchester City Council, NFLA English Forum Vice Chair</td>
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<td>Councillor Sean Chaytor</td>
<td>Hull City Council, NFLA English Forum Vice Chair</td>
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<td>Councillor Sue Lent</td>
<td>Cardiff City Council, NFLA Welsh Forum Vice Chair</td>
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<td>Councillor John Akker</td>
<td>West Mersea Town Council</td>
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<td>Councillor Siobhan Currie</td>
<td>Fermanagh &amp; Omagh District Council</td>
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<td>Councillor David Barratt</td>
<td>Fife Council</td>
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<td>Councillor Kate Thomas</td>
<td>Newport City Council (in an individual capacity)</td>
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**Also in attendance:**

- Richard Outram: Manchester City Council, NFLA SC Secretary
- Pete Roche: NFLA Scotland / SC Policy Advisor
- Cathy Birrell: NFLA Scotland Secretary (part of the time)

**Apologies:**

- Councillor Feargal Dalton: Glasgow City Council, NFLA Scotland Convenor
- Councillor Ernie Galsworthy: Merthyr Tydfil Council, NFLA Welsh Forum Chair
- Councillor Karen McKevitt: Newry, Mourne & Down DC, All Ireland Forum Co Chair
- Councillor Martin Budd: Hull City Council
- Councillor David Key: Edinburgh City Council
- Councillor Russell Imrie: Midlothian Council
- Councillor John Alexander: Dundee City Council
- Councillor Linda Turner: Fife Council
- Arabelle Bentley: Shetland Islands Council / KIMO Secretary (was connected for a few minutes only)
- Eamonn Keaveney: Newry, Mourne & Down DC, NFLA All Ireland Secretary

NB Former Councillor Gavin Corbett, Edinburgh City Council, is no longer an elected member

1. **Welcome from the NFLA SC Chair and introductions**

The NFLA Steering Committee Chair, Councillor David Blackburn, welcomed all to the NFLA Steering Committee which was being held as a video conference on the Microsoft Teams platform.

The Chair especially welcomed Cllr John Akker from West Mersea Town Council and the new NFLA Secretary, Richard Outram, to their first meeting.

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT VOICE ON NUCLEAR ISSUES:**
**41 YEARS WORKING FOR A RENEWABLE, SAFE & PEACEFUL FUTURE**
Apologies were taken and then the Chair asked Councillor attendees to introduce themselves for the benefit of new NFLA Secretary, Richard Outram.

2. **Introduction of new NFLA Secretary, Richard Outram**
   For the benefit of members, Richard Outram outlined his twenty years of service in local government with Oldham Council in the fields of work and skills, housing, and policy advice. He has also previously served as a Councillor with a unitary authority and on his local parish council.

   In addition, Richard is a recent First Class Honours’ graduate of the Peace Studies Department at the University of Bradford, and until the end of October 2021, in addition to his council work, he was also employed part-time by Yorkshire Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament leading on the nuclear ban communities campaign with local authorities in the region. He has a particular interest in renewable energy co-operatives, being an investor / member in several across England and in Northern Ireland.

3. **Introduction to the Work Plan 2022**
   Richard outlined some ideas for the key themes for the next work plan and members engaged in a general discussion.

   A paper on the ideas will be circulated with these minutes.

   The key comments, especially for themes and activities, are highlighted below, including those comments made during members’ introductions.

   **Expand NFLA membership**

   Cllr Currie: Consideration could be given to having a presence at political party conferences, through fringe meetings and stands, or by articles to party magazines to promote NFLA membership.

   Cllr Akker: Reported that West Mersea TC was only brought into membership through attendance at a meeting held by NFLA at Colchester. Felt that nuclear is a very hot topic in East Anglia because of Sizewell and Bradwell. Willing to ‘sense test’ support for NFLA in other neighbouring councils and would like to see a regional conference to build support next year. NFLA needs a strategy for the South of England and should incorporate an appeal to youth and to councils with an interest in renewables.

   Cllr Blackburn: Oxford and Reading Councils are former members that could be appealed to through a local event featuring the prevalence of nuclear transportation in the area.

   **Format of Meetings**

   Cllr Blackburn: Would like when COVID-19 permits to move to hybrid format, to enable participants to join online but there are issues around efficiently managing these.

   Cllr Butler: Hybrid is certainly way forward as it allows wider participation. Focus in agenda on renewables will attract new audience. Councillors from non-member authorities expressing an interest in the work of NFLA should be invited to join meetings as guests prior to full membership.

   Cllr Currie: When managing hybrid meetings suggested taking contributions from room first and then from participants in the ‘virtual’ room second. As all attendees there because of mutual interest, rather defending a political position, this should be a practical approach that is non-contentious. Felt inviting guest speakers a good idea, and that more focus on renewables was needed.

   Pete Roche: Outlined how Sean Morris had taken key points for his presentation from the NFLA newsletter, used these in his PP presentation and sent this to Pete to upload. Sean had talked to presentation and watched for raised hands and hat comments to prompt the Chair.
Discussion on the various nuclear technology, energy efficiency and small-scale renewables would be good issues for future meetings.

**Key themes and activities**

**Holding regional events**
- Cllrs Chaytor and Blackburn: One for East Yorkshire / Humber side around GDF
- Cllr Blackburn: One in Oxford/Reading re nuclear transportation
- Cllr Akker: Regional conference for East Anglia

**Respond to consultations**
- Cllr Akker: Looks impressive and makes use of NFLA expertise which local councils do not have

**Just Transition**
- Cllr Butler: Must endorse Just Transition in order to have any prospect of getting trades union support and ‘bring working people with us’. Unions focus on jobs provided by nuclear power and nuclear weapons programmes; we need to show that there are attractive, well-paid jobs available through renewables.
- Cllr Blackburn: Even in nuclear dependent communities many industry jobs are inaccessible to local people as they are highly skilled. Renewables have potential to create more entry-level jobs for those communities.
- Pete Roche: JT must also be about improving public transport as a travel option as electric vehicles prohibitively expensive for poorer people.

**Countering the nuclear = low carbon myth**
- Cllr Newman: ‘Real danger that ‘nuclear is part of the zero/low carbon solution’ is a myth that is getting more traction and needs to be countered.
- Cllr Currie: ‘Need to get message out that nuclear is NOT the answer. Councils in NI however have little power to act on climate change agenda as most responsibility with the NI Assembly.

**Ireland**
- Cllr Currie: Insulation a big issue in North. Demilitarising the Irish Sea – looking at the impact if accidents / contamination there. Need to engage with All Ireland Sustainable Development Forum.

**Action:** NFLA Secretary to incorporate these points into the work plan and to circulate draft paper with minutes to members for further comments.

**4. Annual General Meeting:** It was agreed that this be an online meeting and that the Secretary canvas members for their preference for Fri 21st Jan, Fri 28th Jan and 4th Feb, 10.30am start.

The Chair raised the issue that he will have completed his third annual term in office and that normally after three years at the forthcoming AGM a new Chair would be elected.

Cllr Butler suggested that in the current circumstances, with a new NFLA Secretary, it may be advisable for the current Chair to continue in the role for one more year.

Cllr Newman felt that the role of Chair should do to a Scottish or Irish Forum member.

It was agreed that the final decision would be made at the forthcoming AGM.

**Action:** NFLA Secretary to canvas members on preferred date for AGM.

**5. Date of next Steering Committee meeting**
Tbc – will be AGM

Richard Outram, NFLA Secretary 9.12.21