The 2021 Annual Report presented to the NFLA AGM 4 Feb 2022

The Chair and SC convey especial thanks to former Secretary Sean Morris, and adviser Pete Roche for their services.

1. Organisation, staff and services

1.1 NFLA Steering Committee meetings

These were held on 26 March, 4 June, 10 September, and 3 December.

The minutes can be found at:

https://www.nuclearpolicy.info/briefings/nfla-policy-briefing-223-minutes-from-the-nfla-steering-committee-web-based-meeting/


At the meeting of the NFLA Steering Committee on 10th September members were able to thank Sean Morris for his long service over 13 years as NFLA Secretary.

Meetings continued to be held virtually because of the Covid-19 virus. Fortunately, elected members and officers now have significant experience of accessing meetings online, and it is now working generally well. Two advantages of an online format are that it is cheaper for the organisation to run and more accessible for elected members who may be otherwise precluded from attending because of the time needed to travel and the attendant costs.

1.2 Membership

Current membership in 2021/22 has remained stable. The NFLA Secretariat is actively following up Councils in England and Ireland that are showing interest in joining the NFLA. The financial pressures being put on all Councils due to the Covid-19 pandemic could have an impact on membership in 2022/23. All council members need to be pro-active in supporting ongoing membership in the next financial year.
1.3 **Finance**

The financial report for 2020/21 is attached at Agenda Item 4. As ever, the previous Secretary was careful to run a prudent budget, added by exclusions on travel and the move to online meetings. One other logistical challenge in this financial year has been it has taken longer to progress invoices due to most finance staff in member authorities working from home. As noted above, future years will remain difficult across local government as budget pressures may well continue, and this needs to be factored in for the NFLA’s work programme.

1.4 **Staff and Advisers**

**Sean Morris** was the NFLA Secretary until September 2021. **Pete Roche** stood as interim until **Richard Outram** was appointed to post in late November 2021. The post is split 80% NFLA and 20% Mayors for Peace / Manchester City Council and comprises three roles NFLA Secretary, Mayors for Peace Chapter Secretary, and Principal Policy Officer leading on peace and anti-nuclear work for Manchester City Council.

The NFLA Secretary comes under the management of Manchester City Council’s City Policy Unit. Line management support is provided by **Peter Norris** whilst **Jacqueline Scoular** and **Vanda McKeown** provide administrative support and financial management. The NFLA website is maintained (for a fee) by **Graham Stein** of ‘Textlynx’ Communications.

Expert research and consultancy work have been provided to the NFLA Scotland Forum and the NFLA Steering Committee by the NFLA Scotland Policy Adviser, **Pete Roche**. Since 2016, the NFLA All Ireland Sustainable Energy Forum has also nominated **Dr Paul Dorfman** to be its representative at the Irish Environmental Protection Agency’s Radiation Issues Committee. This process continues.

A small number of independent consultants have also provided submissions and support to the NFLA in 2021 as required, particularly **Tim Deere-Jones**, **Dr David Lowry**, **Professor Andrew Blowers**, **Professor Stephen Thomas** and **Dr Ian Fairlie**.

Administrative support and advice to the NFLA Secretary has been provided by the NFLA Scotland Secretary, **Cathy Birrell** and the NFLA All-Ireland Sustainable Energy Forum Secretary, **Eamonn Keaveney**. The NFLA Secretary services the NFLA England and NFLA Wales Forums.

*It is recommended that the AGM record its appreciation for the services provided during the last year by the staff and advisers of the Steering Committee and Forums.*
1.5 **NFLA Steering Committee Services**

The following services for member authorities are maintained by NFLA staff and advisers:

*Policy Advice*
The services of experienced and expert consultants are retained or commissioned in pursuit of policy work and in the preparation of NFLA briefing materials.

*Research and Information*
Briefings and publications on nuclear issues affecting local authorities are regularly dispatched to nominated Councillors and Officers. A monthly newsletter is also provided to NFLA members.

*Representation*
NFLA staff and advisers contribute their expertise to a number of Government and other nuclear policy advisory panels and committees.

*Liaison*
A wide network of contacts is maintained with international agencies, parliaments, devolved assemblies, local government associations, local authorities, professional bodies, regulatory agencies, public interest groups, non-government organisations (NGO’s) and the press and media to assist in the development of policy advice.

*Website and Press Information Service*
An electronic press information and distribution service is maintained. The NFLA website has been completely overhauled and provides a comprehensive repository of NFLA reports, briefings, press releases and forthcoming events. Since August 2018, the NFLA has had a Facebook and Twitter presence.

*Seminar Organisation*
Events are regularly organised to provide opportunities for NFLA members to receive briefings, share experience, and develop policy.

*Enquiry Point and Media Release Centre*
Requests for information about Nuclear Free Local Authorities and policies are regularly received from journalists, interested non-member authorities, members of the public and other researchers. These are answered as fully and promptly as resources permit. Press releases and letters to the media were also sent out on a very regular basis throughout the year.

2. **NFLA National Forums**

2.1 **NFLA Scotland**
The NFLA Scotland Forum has continued to operate successfully throughout 2020/21 with Cathy Birrell of Glasgow City Council as the Secretary and Pete Roche as its Policy Adviser. The Forum is well represented across Scotland and has a number of enthusiastic member and officer contacts. Membership has been maintained. All affiliation invoices have been paid.
Councillor Feargal Dalton of Glasgow City Council is the Convenor of NFLA Scotland and Councillor Audrey Doig of Renfrewshire Council is the Vice Convenor. Councillor Bill Butler is the NFLA Steering Committee Vice-Chair for Scotland.

The Forum held a business meeting on 11 February 2021, where there was a presentation on Scottish nuclear policy developments from Pete Roche, NFLA Scotland Policy Advisor and a written report on defence diversification in Scotland from NFLA Secretary, Sean Morris. There were also reports from CND Scotland and the Beyond Nuclear Conference.

The Forum held its AGM on 18 March to discuss core representatives and finances. Cllr Feargal Dalton and Cllr Audrey Doig were re-elected as Convener and Vice Convener of the group. Cllr Bill Butler was re-elected as NFLA Steering Committee Vice Chair. A financial report was also approved. The short meeting also allowed a discussion on recent issues, including a detailed letter to the Scottish Government, Hunterston B issues and Dalgety Bay remediation delays.

There was a further business meeting on 25 June where there was a thorough discussion on all aspects of Scottish nuclear and renewable policy, including the welcome decision by Glasgow City Council to pass a resolution supporting the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, progress in the closure of the Hunterston B reactor and remediation of the Dalgety Bay site. and it was agreed to ask the Policy Advisor to develop a report on Just Transition issues.

A planned short webinar after the business meeting highlighted the NFLA’s reports on the climate emergency and nuclear transportation and provided an update from Don’t Bank on the Bomb Scotland on nuclear weapons divestment. It was agreed to look to set up a meeting between the Forum Convener / Vice Convener and the new lead on nuclear policy in the Scottish Government. There was also a discussion on developments at SCCORS with one of its Co-Chairs, Councillor Michelle Campbell.

The Forum also met again on 10 September where updates were again received from Pete Roche and Sean Morris.

In addition, the NFLA Scotland Policy Advisor remains the nominated NFLA representative to the Scottish Government’s nuclear sites stakeholder forum. Councillor Butler is NFLA Scotland’s representative to the Scottish Parliament’s Cross-Party Group on Nuclear Weapons.

NFLA Scotland has also kept in close contact with the COSLA group, the Scottish Councils Committee on Radioactive Substances (SCCORS), which is now administered by NFLA member, Renfrewshire Council; as well as with KIMO International, which is administered by NFLA member, Shetland Islands Council. It also invites CND Scotland to its Forum meetings.

2.2 NFLA English Forum

Membership to the NFLA English Forum has stayed the same. The English Forum Secretariat has been maintained by the NFLA Secretary. Councillor David Blackburn is Chair of the Forum and Councillor Sean Chaytor of Hull City Council is its Vice Chairs.
On 5 March, The NFLA English Forum held an informative and well attended webinar with over 45 participants looking at issues with new nuclear, the nuclear legacy and a green recovery. Speaking on new nuclear were Pete Wilkinson from Together Against Sizewell C and Alison Downes from Stop Sizewell C on the local environmental and financial concerns with building a third Sizewell reactor. Professor Andy Blowers also provided a brief update on the Bradwell B project. Tony Bosworth and Ruth Balogh of Friends of the Earth outlined climate change concerns over building a deep coal mine in West Cumbria. NFLA Policy Advisor also outlined a detailed NFLA report that looks at the coal mine and the new process to consider hosting a deep underground radwaste repository. The report is a critical analysis of both developments and is a must read.

The NFLA Secretary and English and Welsh Forum members also attended meetings of the Nuclear Legacy Advisory Forum (NuLEAF), the LGA special interest group on radioactive waste and nuclear decommissioning.

2.3 NFLA Welsh Forum
The NFLA Welsh Forum has maintained its membership in 2021. The Welsh Forum Secretariat has been maintained by the NFLA Secretary. Councillor Ernie Galsworthy of Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council is the Chair of the Forum with Councillor Sue Lent of Cardiff City Council the Vice Chair.

The NFLA Welsh Forum held its spring webinar on the 9th April. The keynote speaker was Professor Steve Thomas. He outlined the prospects for small modular nuclear reactors in Wales. The meeting focused a lot on the impact of the Hinkley Point C site. First, Tim Deere-Jones outlined a joint submission to the MMO on an EDF application to dump dredged mud at a site in Somerset. Max Wallis from the ‘Geiger Bay’ group talked of their work and concerns over dredged mud being dumped at Cardiff Deep Grounds. Katy Attwater and Allan Jeffrey from Stop Hinkley outlined their concerns over EDF seeking not to create acoustic fish deterrents at the Hinkley C sites. NFLA Secretary Sean Morris profiled its new report on tackling the climate emergency in a post-pandemic ERA.

After the meeting, the NFLA Secretariat submitted its report on nuclear fusion to councillors in the Vale of Glamorgan and Pembrokeshire after both councils decided to express an interest to host an experimental nuclear fusion reactor.

Sadly, in October 2021, Councillor Phil White who formerly represented Bridgend County Council on the NFLA died of Covid-19.

2.4 NFLA All Ireland Sustainable Energy Forum
Membership of the NFLA All Ireland Sustainable Energy Forum has remained level. Eamonn Keaveney of Newry, Mourne and Down Council is the Forum Secretary. Councillor David Healy of Fingal County Council, and Councillor Karen McKevitt of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council are co-chairs of the Forum.

The NFLA All Ireland Forum Sustainable Energy Forum held its spring webinar on the 16th April with 25 attendees. Speakers included Grattan Healy, the Chair of the Irish Wind Farms Association, who outlined his personal views on progress with the development of the technology across Ireland. Attracta ui Bhroin from the Irish Environment Network outlined its support for offshore wind, provided all sensitive marine environmental sites were protected. Tim Deere-Jones talked about Beaufort’s Dyke and nuclear / toxic wate issues with the area being considered for a bridge or
tunnel link between Northern Ireland and Scotland. The NFLA Secretary talked about on local energy issues and the climate emergency, with Pete Roche talking on the potential for an undersea underground waste repository and links to the Cumbria coal mine development.

Following the meeting, the NFLA Secretariat submitted a detailed response to the Irish Government’s Climate Conversation and the Irish Climate Change Advisory Council.

The Secretariat sadly reported the death of its first Forum Co-Chair, former Newry, Mourne and Down Councillor Michael Carr, after a long battle with cancer.

3. Organisational Development

3.1 Membership development

The NFLA Secretariat has prioritised membership retention and recruitment. This has been more complicated in 2021 due to meetings having to move from face-to-face to online. That membership has stayed stable in the year has been welcome, though it has not been as easy to meet councillors from non-member authorities. There has been some specific requests over NFLA membership which the Secretariat is actively following up.

3.2 Policy Briefings and NFLA newsletters

Regular NFLA Policy Briefings for members have been produced and circulated widely to promote NFLA policy. In 2021 these have included General briefings, New Nuclear Monitor, Radioactive Waste briefings and Mayors for Peace briefings, as well as frequent media releases and letters to the media.

These can all be found on the website under https://www.nuclearpolicy.info/category/news/

The NFLA Secretariat also produced monthly newsletters, an annual newsletter summarising all NFLA work with photos.

These can be found on the website at https://www.nuclearpolicy.info/category/newsletters/

3.3 Events, meetings and seminars

In addition to the events and seminars noted above, NFLA Staff and Advisers (with assistance from Forum Secretaries, officers and councillors in member authorities) delivered or attended a wide range of events, meetings, and seminars in 2021 including:

- 7 October - A webinar on ‘Nuclear power and its impact on wildlife’, organised by the NFLA, Beyond Nuclear, and CND with speakers Jonathon Porritt, Craig Bennett, and Juliet Davenport, and poetry from actor Diana Quick, moderated by Linda Pentz Gunter.
• 6 October - A webinar on ‘The Work of the NFLA – particularly on Nuclear Transport’ to Highlands Against Nuclear Transport. Presentation by Sean Morris, ex-NFLA Secretary.

• 26 April - International Nuclear Risk Assessment Group launch of report Risks of Lifetime Extensions of Old Nuclear Power Plants, moderated by Dr. Paul Dorfman, Honorary Senior Researcher UCL Energy Institute, University College London.

• 25 April - A special webinar jointly organised with NFLA to mark the Chernobyl 35th anniversary with, Professor Kate Brown, of MIT in the US whose book has highlighted the core impacts of the disaster and Irish writer Darrah McKeon talking on his Chernobyl novel, ‘All That Is Solid Melts Into Air’. Linda Walker from Chernobyl Children’s Project talking about their humanitarian projects in Belarus. A reading will also be given by the actor Maxine Peake of the book ‘Voices from Chernobyl' by Svetlana Alexievich, which won her the Nobel Prize in Literature.

• 12 March - A CNFE, the Alliance of Regions, Mayors for a Nuclear Power Free Japan and the NFLA joint seminar on ‘Fukushima Nuclear Catastrophe – Ten Years Later’. Presentation by Sean Morris, NFLA Secretary on Emergency Planning.

3.4 Engagement with Outside Agencies and Partners

The NFLA Secretariat continues to liaise with the Governments of the UK, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, with nuclear regulators and the nuclear industry on behalf of its four national Forum members on a wide range of civil and military nuclear matters.

The NFLA Secretariat also participates in meetings and events organized by the BEIS Nuclear Forum, NuLeaf, NDA, ONR, the Radioactive Waste Management Exchange, and Ministry of Defence, and responds robustly to consultations conducted by BEIS, the NDA and others on nuclear matters.

These activities are detailed in the Progress Reports delivered at Steering Group meetings and outlined in the Monthly Newsletters.

The outside engagement of the NFLA Scotland Forum is detailed in Section 2.1.

In Northern Ireland, the NFLA has been engaged with the work of the Northern Ireland Renewable Industry Group, and in the Republic of Ireland, Dr Paul Dorfman continues to represent the NFLA at meetings of the Environmental Protection Agency’s Radiation Advisory Committee.

Unlike the disengaged UK Government, the NFLA continues to work positively with our partners on the continent in Cities for a Nuclear Free Europe, the Alliance of the Regions and with KIMO International. CNFE and the Alliance of Regions includes cities / regions from Austria, Germany, Norway, Cyprus, Belgium, the Netherlands, Italy, Switzerland, UK, Republic of Ireland, Croatia, Macedonia, Greece, and Bosnia. With our partners, the NFLA continues to interact with the European Parliament, European Commission and European governments on EU nuclear policy.
3.5 Engagement with Mayors for Peace

NFLA has worked closely with the Mayors for Peace since its creation in 1982. Mayors for Peace is led by the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and it campaigns for the elimination of nuclear weapons. At the end of 2021 it has exceeded 8,000 members. Manchester City Council is a Vice President and Lead City of Mayors for Peace. Since 2015, it has organised meetings of the UK and Ireland Chapter of Mayors for Peace, which the NFLA Secretary services as the Chapter Secretary.

Other Mayors for Peace events held in 2021 included:

- On 21 October an international webinar was organized jointly by the Mayors for Peace European Chapter, NFLA and ICAN on preparing for the TPNW States Parties Conference, currently scheduled for March 2022 in Vienna. This was addressed by speakers from Irish, Malta and Vatican governments, Mayors, and speakers from the International Committee for the Red Cross and the International Peace Bureau. The TPNW States Parties Conference Chair, H.E. Ambassador Alexander Kmentt gave the webinar’s keynote address.

- From 6 – 9 August, many events were held amongst UK/Ireland Chapter members to commemorate the 76th anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings. Notable were those held in Dublin, Hebden Royd, Keighley, London, Leeds, Manchester, Bradford, Lerwick, Llandudno, Glasgow, Paisley, and Dundee. In Edinburgh, a major ‘Peace Crane’ exhibition was opened at the Peace & Justice Scotland Centre, containing 140,000 cranes.

- On 7 July, 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 in 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 produced a report on the meeting, which is on the NFLA website.

It is hoped that the Executive can meet in Vienna in March 2022 and the General Conference in Hiroshima in August to mark the 40th anniversary of the establishment of Mayors for Peace.

- On June 10, a European Chapter meeting of Mayors for Peace was held. The June board meeting formally agreed the Chapter’s legal statutes, its operational plan, its website and social media plan and a statements protocol. It is anticipated that, Covid circumstances permitting, the new Chapter can be formally launched in Vienna during the First Meeting of the States Parties in March 2022.

- On 26 March, a Mayors for Peace Chapter meeting. The UK and Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter held its spring webinar on the 26th March. The well attended
meeting was opened by the Lord Mayor of Manchester and it was chaired by Cllr Eddy Newman. The Chapter Secretary outlined progress with the Mayors for Peace at the cross-national, European and global level.

Rebecca Johnson of ICAN outlined its policy work and the campaign to encourage Councils to pass resolutions on nuclear weapons and divestment. Anna Lubelska talked about the ‘Peaceful Schools’ initiative and Ulrike Eckhart of Manchester’s twin city of Chemnitz outlined its Day of Peace in early March. Richard Outram of Oldham Council (now the new Mayors for Peace Chapter Secretary) also profiled its gingko seed peace project.

Throughout the year, the NFLA / Chapter Secretary was in active discussion through web-based meetings with other European Lead Cities of Mayors for Peace to discuss greater cooperation, which led to the creation of the European Chapter, as noted above. Several Mayors for Peace Policy Briefings were also published.

The ICAN Cities Appeal continues to grow and 24 towns and cities in the UK have now passed resolutions calling on the UK Government to sign the TPNW. The new Mayors for Peace / ICAN Secretary led on this workstream for Yorkshire CND with some success. Increasing the numbers in 2022 will continue to be a priority.

### 3.6 Engagement with Manchester City Council

As the host authority of the NFLA, the NFLA Secretary engages closely with staff and councillors in Manchester City Council. The NFLA Secretary is contracted to promote the Council’s peace policies, which include its support of Mayors for Peace, interaction with local peace groups and relevant events.

The NFLA Secretary also takes on some limited duties to support Manchester City Council’s international relations work, which links in to some extent with work on Mayors for Peace. The NFLA Secretary also engages with staff in the Council, Manchester Climate Change Agency and Greater Manchester Combined Authority in assisting the development of its low carbon and energy policies, due to the national support NFLA provides in promoting decentralised energy.

The NFLA Secretary continued to liaise closely with a number of Manchester councillors in 2020 – Councillor Angeliki Stogia (Executive Member for the Environment), Councillor Lufhtar Rahman (Deputy Leader and Executive Member for International Affairs), Councillor Eddy Newman (NFLA, NuLEAF and permanent Mayors for Peace representative), Councillor Tommy Judge (Lord Mayors of Manchester in 2021/22). A number of other Manchester councillors have also attended specific events in the year.

Within this work, the NFLA Secretary also seeks to promote the Council’s peace policies, and future work will include updating the Peace Trail and promoting Manchester as a city of peace.

Work is now complete on a new Manchester City Centre Peace Garden, which will be in Lincoln Square, close to Manchester Town Hall. Two gingko trees from Hiroshima have been planted in the garden, and there is also a memorial to Mayors to Peace. An official memorial to the victims of the Manchester Arena terrorist attack (the Glade of Light) has also recently opened in advance of the fifth anniversary of
the tragedy in May 2022. The NFLA Secretariat continues to work with officials at Manchester Metropolitan University to establish a memorial in a local park to international humanitarian workers killed in service.

The NFLA Secretary has developed close links with Manchester Museum, Manchester University, Manchester Metropolitan University and Manchester Children’s Hospital, who have all taken Hiroshima gingko trees. Plantings remain outstanding.

Elena Tompkins assists the NFLA Secretary on a part-time basis with the Mayors for Peace workstreams.

4. Conclusion

2021 was again a very busy year for the NFLA, despite the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic. The nuclear field is currently incredibly dynamic with regrettably increased support for the nuclear industry and military from the Johnson Government. That the NFLA has been in some way successful in pushing back against the nuclear tide is due in no small part to the energy and commitment of the outgoing NFLA Secretary Sean Morris, the NFLA’s team of expert advisors and the involvement of our elected members and Councils.

The NFLA’s work has grown considerably, and continues to grow, and local work on Mayors for Peace and Manchester City Council has also added to a heavy workload for the NFLA Secretary. The serious financial challenges created by the Covid-19 pandemic will add to these pressures, as nuclear policy, energy policy and international policy will remain busy through 2022.

The NFLA has established a strong and consistent reputation for independence and quality research and it is recognised as a legitimate stakeholder with all the various Governments in the UK and Ireland and across the nuclear and decentralised energy sectors.

Financial and membership development issues will continue remain our top priority. NFLA member councils are asked to remain active in supporting the Secretariat in ensuring ours is a strong voice against the financial waste, folly and madness represented by civil nuclear power, and more so the fearsome nuclear weapons that continue to threaten our civilisation with total annihilation.

It would be remiss of me not to give the last word to long-serving former NFLA and Mayors for Peace Chapter Secretary, Sean Morris. Here are his words from the September 2021 newsletter:

‘NFLA SECRETARY WISHES THE NFLA WELL FOR THE FUTURE

As the fifth NFLA Secretary over its 41-year history, I have been privileged to represent it around the UK and Ireland and further afield. The NFLA has played a focal role in both the nuclear energy and nuclear weapons debates throughout its history.

With the climate emergency now so obvious, it has moved into this debate to call for a push towards decentralised local energy and carbon reduction solutions.
Since 2008, I have represented the NFLA at many stakeholder forums with the UK Government, Office for Nuclear Regulation, NDA, RWM and CORWM. NFLA has also played an important role in the LGA and COSLA groups, NuLEAF and SCCORS. With our international partners CNFE, AOR, KIMO and Mayors for Peace I have attended many meetings across Europe, Japan and at the UN. I wish it well for the future and will fully support the new NFLA Secretary as he takes this work forward.’

Richard Outram, NFLA Secretary, 26th January 2022

Above: the Leeds Nagasaki Day ceremony - NFLA Chair Cllr David Blackburn second from right, outgoing NFLA Secretary Sean Morris on the far left in the photo