

Nuclear Free Local Authorities (Scotland) – Member Appointment**Report by John Blair, Director, Resources****1 Purpose of Report**

This report invites the Council to appoint an elected member to serve on Nuclear Free Local Authorities (Scotland) and through that on Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA).

2 Background**2.1** At its meeting on 13 August 2013, the Council unanimously approved the following notice of motion by Provost Wallace, countersigned by Councillor Bennett, concerning NFLA:-

“At recent meetings of Midlothian Council, we have called on the UK Government to scrap the Bedroom Tax and severely restrict pay-day loan companies as they directly impact on the poorest in society. In view of the recent spat in the Conservative/Liberal Democrat coalition on whether the UK should have three or four nuclear weapon laden submarines, and the obscene costs associated with this illegal weapon, this Council acknowledges that:

- 1. The use of nuclear weapons would be a crime against humanity.*
- 2. The UK government has an obligation to disarm as a signatory of the International Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.*
- 3. The £100bn plus for the replacement of Trident could be put to better use in alleviating the poverty that blights more and more of our people through the actions of successive UK Governments.*
- 4. All the UK's nuclear weapons are sited only 30 miles away from Scotland's biggest centre of population and should be removed as soon, and as safely, as possible.*

On this basis, this Council resolves to affiliate to the Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) which has developed strong international links throughout the world with other local authorities to end nuclear proliferation and the arms race.

The NFLA also attempts to influence Scottish Government policies when dealing with specific Scottish Nuclear and energy matters such as radioactive waste problems, as we have at Dounreay and Dalgety Bay. 10 Scottish local authorities are current members, as listed below.

We welcome the intervention of Gordon Brown in attempting to get the MoD to pay for the clean up of Dalgety Bay.

Current Scottish Members

*Glasgow
Edinburgh
Dundee
Fife
Perth and Kinross
Renfrewshire
North Lanarkshire
West Dunbartonshire
Western Isles
Shetland Isles”*

2.2 Full year membership of NFLA in 2013/14 is £1,265. This includes an affiliation fee of £340 to NFLA (Scotland). However, as the Council has joined part way into the year, the pro-rata membership (inclusive of affiliation fee to NFLA (Scotland)) is at the reduced figure of £800.

- 2.3** The Secretary of NFLA (Scotland) has advised that Midlothian Council is entitled to appoint one member to serve on NFLA (Scotland). Through that body this person will also receive invites to attend each NFLA meeting, either as a delegate or substitute delegate of NFLA (Scotland).

3 Report Implications

3.1 Resource

The pro rata membership fee for NFLA, including affiliation to NFLA (Scotland), is £800 in 2013/14.

3.2 Risk

There are no risks arising from this report.

3.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation

Themes addressed in this report:

- ☒ Community safety
- ☒ Adult health, care and housing
- ☒ Getting it right for every Midlothian child
- ☒ Improving opportunities in Midlothian
- ☒ Sustainable growth
- ☐ Business transformation and Best Value
- ☐ None of the above

3.4 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

Not applicable.

3.5 Adopting a Preventative Approach

Not applicable.

3.6 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

Not applicable.

3.7 Ensuring Equalities

An EqIA is not required.

3.8 Supporting Sustainable Development

The work of NFLA aims to assist local government in meeting its commitment to sustainable development, environmental protection and public safety.

3.9 IT Issues

Not applicable.

4 Recommendation

The Council is invited to appoint an elected member to serve on NFLA (Scotland) and through that on NFLA.

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