

COUNCILLORS REPORT ON CONFERENCE WHICH THEY ATTENDED

REQUIRED TO BE COMPLETED UNDER SECTION 142(5) (f) and (fa) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001

Organiser of Conference (NFLA) in association with Newry Mourne Council  
Name of Conference Nuclear Risk & Energy opportunities - which direction should Ireland go  
Location of Conference Newry & Mourne Council Offices, Monaghan Rd.  
Date of Conference 27th March 2015.

Summary of Conference Content

Summary of Conference Content  
Nuclear Free Local Authorities

The Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) All Ireland Forum's spring 2015 seminar and business meeting allowed councillors, council officers and interested groups to discuss in detail some of the key energy issues affecting Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, and the positive role the NFLA are playing in this debate.

The seminar explored four energy issues of real interest to councillors, council officers and community groups, including:

Irish coastal authorities have been consistently concerned about the *Sellafield nuclear power plant*. Also, the risks of the Sellafield site were investigated, and questions posed for example; should Irish Councils remain concerned about them?

It was also noted, that there has been talk from the Republic of Ireland Government of considering in its future energy mix the possibility of developing *small-scale nuclear reactors*, and therefore abandoning its 'nuclear free' policies. Are such reactors viable and should they be considered as part of the energy mix on the island of Ireland? One example given was money point power station as a venue for small nuclear development.

It was argued that, *renewable energy* could, and should, be developed on a large scale across Ireland, with one of the windiest climates in Europe, and containing a long coastline for tidal and wave power. However, development of some larger projects has been beset with opposition from local community groups. Can the potential of renewable energy be realised and how can community support for such projects be delivered? Furthermore, this was discussed in groups and Myths challenged around cost associated with these developments being too high for example.

The *development of community energy* in Ireland is an additional way to promote decentralised local low carbon energy bringing local authorities and local communities into the equation. What scope is there for the development of community energy across the island of Ireland and what role could local government play with it? These concepts were explored and their potential impacts were shared, as well as evidence base to support contentions...

Signed: 

THIS FORM TO BE SUBMITTED WITH CLAIM FORM FOR TRAVEL AND SUBS

COUNCILLORS REPORT ON CONFERENCE WHICH THEY ATTENDED

REQUIRED TO BE COMPLETED UNDER SECTION 142(5) (f) and (fa) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001

Organiser of Conference NUCLEAR FREE LOCAL AUTHORITIES

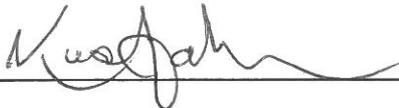
Name of Conference N.F.L.A. ALL IRELAND SPRING 2015 MEETING

Location of Conference NEWRY

Date of Conference 27<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2015

Summary of Conference Content

DISCUSSION OF SMALL NUCLEAR REACTORS  
PRESENTATION ON SELLAFIELD &  
THE RISK TO IRELAND  
DETAILED DISCUSSION ON RENEWABLE  
ENERGY, ON SHORE & OFF SHORE  
WIND SECTORS AS WELL AS MARINE  
TECHNOLOGIES - CLIMATE CHANGE ACT 2008  
2009 EU RENEWABLE ENERGY DIRECTIVE  
2014 40% GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION AND  
27% RENEWABLE ENERGY BY 2030

Signed: 

THIS FORM TO BE SUBMITTED WITH CLAIM FORM FOR TRAVEL AND SUBS