



Nuclear Free Local Authorities Steering Committee

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NFLA Media release - for immediate release, 26th July 2013

NFLA pays tribute to Councillors Mike Rumney and Allison Hunter, former representatives, who have sadly died

The Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) pays tribute to Councillor Mike Rumney, its former UK & Ireland Chair, and Councillor Allison Hunter, one of its former Glasgow City Council nominated representatives, who have sadly died in the last few days.

Councillor Rumney was a Fife Labour Councillor for just under 20 years and its representative to the NFLA from 2000 - 2009. He was the Chair of the NFLA's Steering Committee from 2006 – 2008. Previous to that, Mike was the Vice Chair (Scotland) of the NFLA Steering Committee.

Mike Rumney was a very effective political leader of the NFLA and was strongly committed to its aims and objectives of seeking suitable alternatives to nuclear power, opposing new nuclear build, finding a long-term solution to radioactive waste management policy and seeking nuclear disarmament and a nuclear weapons free world.

For many years Mike was Fife Council's representative to the Ministry of Defence's Submarine Dismantling Project and was committed to finding a safe, sustainable and publicly acceptable solution to the management of redundant nuclear powered submarines based at the Rosyth base.

Mike was a lively personality with a great sense of humour. He will be sadly missed by his former NFLA colleagues. The NFLA sends its deepest sympathy to his family and colleagues on Fife Council. (1)

The NFLA were also very sad to hear of the death of Councillor Allison Hunter of Glasgow City Council.

Councillor Hunter was Glasgow's ex-officio NFLA representative from 2007 – 2012 and provided great support to the continued cross-party development of the NFLA in Scotland.

A Glasgow SNP Councillor since 2007, Councillor Hunter was also Leader of the SNP Group on the Council in 2011 – 2012. A passionate supporter of nuclear weapons disarmament, Councillor Hunter was also highly active in CND Scotland for over three decades and a leading member of the organisation in Scotland.

Allison was a very gracious and friendly personality who was liked by all who came into contact with her. The First Minister of Scotland, Alex Salmond, said: "Allison will be sorely missed, not just by her countless friends in the SNP but right across the political spectrum." (2) The NFLA sends its deepest sympathy to her family and colleagues on Glasgow City Council. (3)

A minutes silence will be held for both Councillor Rumney and Councillor Hunter at the forthcoming NFLA Scotland and NFLA Steering Committee meetings.

NFLA Chair, Councillor Mark Hackett said:

"It is with much sadness that I hear of the untimely deaths of two councillors that were long-standing and passionate advocates of the NFLA. My deepest sympathies go to the family, friends and colleagues of both Councillor Rumney and Councillor Hunter. I am sure both of them would want us to continue to pursue moves for a nuclear weapons free world and the phasing out of nuclear power and

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I can guarantee that we will remain the key local government voice on nuclear issues. On behalf of the NFLA I know Mike and Allison will be sorely missed by all who knew them.”

NFLA Scotland Convenor, Councillor Bill Butler said:

“I have known Councillors Allison Hunter and Mike Rumney for many years and both were impressive Scottish politicians committed to helping their local communities and the causes they believed in. Glasgow and Fife Councils are much the lesser for their untimely deaths. They were great advocates of the NFLA Scotland Forum and we will continue to campaign in the way they would like us to for improvements to nuclear safety, a phasing out of nuclear power and a nuclear weapons free world.”

Ends

Further information - Sean Morris, NFLA Secretary - 0161 234 3244 or 07771 930196.

Notes to editors:

- (1) ‘Tributes paid after death of Dunfermline councillor Mike Rumney’, Fife Courier, 26th July 2013 <http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/local/fife/tributes-paid-after-death-of-dunfermline-councillor-mike-rumney-1.115257>
- (2) Quoted in theglaswegian.co.uk, 24th July 2013.
- (3) ‘Senior members of Glasgow City Council have responded to the death of Cllr Allison Hunter’, Glasgow City Council, 24th July 2013 <http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=10373>

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