

February 2007

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON LIBRARIES – NON PUBLIC LIBRARIAN MEMBERS

David Lammy MP, Minister for Culture has appointed Karen Brookfield, Suzanne Enright, Jill Finney, Miranda McKearney, Amanda Ridout as members of the Advisory Council on Libraries, and Michael Thorne as its Chair. Their appointments commenced on the 12 February 2007.

Michael Thorne has been appointed as Chair for a four year term until 11 February 2011. Michael has a PhD in Pure Mathematics; he started his academic career as a lecturer in mathematics at the Universities of London and Wales. He then became Director of the School of Computing and Information Systems at the University of Sunderland, where he was also a Pro Vice Chancellor. He was Vice Principal at Napier University, then became Vice Chancellor at the University of East London, before moving to his current role as Vice Chancellor of Anglia Ruskin University. Michael has served on a number of government committees and is currently a member of the board of the London Thames Gateway Development Corporation and of the Learning and Skills Network. He has authored, co-authored and edited more than a dozen books as well as contributing to a large number of academic papers, newspaper articles and television and radio programmes. Michael has undertaken no political activity in the past five years.

Karen Brookfield has been appointed for a three year term until 11 February 2010. Karen is currently the Deputy Director in the Policy and Research Department at the Heritage Lottery Fund, where she has responsibility for inclusion and learning and museums, libraries and archives. Prior to this, she had a varied career at the British Library, where her positions included Curator in the Scandinavian Section of the Department of Printed Books, Head of Education and latterly Head of Public Programmes, with responsibility for permanent and temporary exhibitions, education services, public events, and visitor services. Karen has undertaken no political activity in the past five years.

Suzanne Enright has been appointed for a two year term until 11 February 2009. Suzanne has extensive experience within the higher education sector. She is currently employed as Director of Information Systems and Library Services at the University of Westminster and was previously Deputy Librarian at Imperial College London. She was Chair of the Society of College, National and University Libraries (SCONUL) for two years (2004-06). She was Secretary to the M25 Consortium of Academic Libraries, working to improve library services within the M25 region, and was a member of the Routes to Knowledge Steering Group, part of the MLA's wider libraries programme. Suzanne has undertaken no political activity in the past five years.

Jill Finney has been appointed for a three year term until 11 February 2010. Jill is Director for Strategic Marketing and Communications at the British Library. Her responsibilities include managing the sales and marketing of the Library's commercial activity, along with press and public affairs. Previously, she was

National Marketing Director at Ernst and Young, managing the product, industries and corporate marketing teams. She has developed her marketing and fundraising skills in a number of organisations including Booker Foodservice, CPC UK (now Unilever) and McDougall's. Jill has undertaken no political activity in the past five years.

Miranda McKearney has been appointed for a four year term until 11 February 2011. Miranda has worked with public libraries for the past 18 years and has helped to start and run three development agencies – Well Worth Reading, The Reading Partnership and LaunchPad – which were merged to form The Reading Agency of which she is Director. The Reading Agency is an independent charity which supports and inspires readers by working with libraries and other partners such as BBC Learning. It created the Summer Reading Challenge, involving 600,000 children and The Vital Link programme, helping adults improve their literacy skills. Previously, Miranda was a member of the Public Lending Right Advisory Committee. She recently received an OBE for services to libraries and education. Miranda has undertaken no political activity in the past five years.

Amanda Ridout been appointed for a two year term until 11 February 2009. Amanda is currently Managing Director for the General Books Group of HarperCollins – responsible for their adult and children's consumer publishing. Before joining the company in December 2001, Amanda was the Managing Director of Headline Book Publishing. She had previously been Sales and Marketing Director of Hodder & Stoughton and Sales Director at Reed Consumer Books. She was a member of the steering group for Love Libraries, a consumer facing library campaign, exploring a new vision of a 21st century library service. Amanda has undertaken no political activity in the past five years.

Notes to Editors:

1. Under the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport has responsibility for ensuring that local authorities in England deliver a comprehensive and efficient library service.
2. The Advisory Council on Libraries (ACL) is an independent body appointed by the Secretary of State under the Act. Members of the ACL are required to give advice to Ministers of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport on matters relating to public libraries in England.
3. These appointments have been made in accordance with the Code of Practice of the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments (OCPA). Appointments are made on merit and political activity plays no part in the selection process.