

New Chair of Culture North East Appointed

Olivia Grant OBE has been appointed the new chair of Culture North East. The appointment is for four years from January 2003.

Olivia Grant is currently the Chair of the County Durham Learning and Skills Council, Chairman of the Council of the University of Newcastle, Chair of the Northern Cultural Skills Partnership (NCSP) and a member of North Music Trust. She was the Chief Executive of Tyneside Training and Enterprise Council (TEC) for 12 years until March 2001. In that role she led a project on behalf of all the region's TECs to identify the training and skills needs of the cultural sector in the North East. The outcome of the project led to the establishment of the NCSP. Mrs Grant is involved with a wide range of organisations in both a non-executive director and a voluntary capacity. These include Port of Tyne Authority, Newcastle Building Society and as Vice President of Newcastle upon Tyne Council for Voluntary Services. She was awarded the OBE in 1995 for services to training. Ms Grant holds no other public appointments and has not undertaken any political activity in the last five years.

Notes to Editors

1. Regional Cultural Consortia were set up in each region in 1999 to provide an independent advisory body to ensure that culture and creativity have a strong voice at regional level.
2. Consortium Chairs receive remuneration of £190 plus expenses per day, capped at two days per month, for work outside formal consortium meetings.
3. The Chairs are appointed by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. Each Chair is responsible for determining the overall size of their board and takes primary responsibility for appointing members. Consortium boards have a core membership of around 12 and a mechanism for co-opting people with specialist skills or knowledge on to the consortium on an ad hoc basis. The Chairs have responsibility for ensuring that the board has a cross-spread of cultural interests and regional partners, including local business interests.