

January 2009

## **Arts Council England – Yorkshire Regional Chair Reappointment**

Barbara Follett, Minister for Culture, Creative Industries and Tourism, has re-appointed Janet Barnes as Arts Council England Yorkshire Regional Chair for a second term of four years from 1 February 2009 to 31 January 2013.

### **Biographical Details**

Janet Barnes is Chief Executive of York Museums Trust and has been a museum and art gallery professional for over 30 years. Previously Director of the Crafts Council, Janet Barnes has also worked at Sheffield Galleries and Museums. During her time at Sheffield, she opened the Ruskin Gallery and Ruskin Craft Gallery, which housed the educational collection of John Ruskin. She is currently a Director of the Guild of St George who initiated the very successful Campaign for Drawing and a Director of Visit York. She has been a member of the Yorkshire Regional Arts Council since its inception in 2002.

### **Background**

1. Arts Council England develops and promotes the arts across England, acting as an arms length body from the Government. DCMS recently announced an increase in funding for Arts Council England by 3.3% above inflation over the next three years, taking its total grant in aid to £467m in 2010-11. In addition, Arts Council England is expected to have £500m to distribute from the National Lottery between 2009 and 2012. This provides the bedrock of support for the arts in England.
2. The reappointments have been made in accordance with the OCPA Code of Practice. Reappointments are made on merit and political activity plays no part in the selection process. Janet has not undertaken any political activity during the past five years.