



August 2007

Advisory Council on Libraries – Public Librarian Appointments

Tony Durcan and Nicola Parker have been appointed as Public Librarian Members of the Advisory Council on Libraries. Their terms of appointment will run from 11th July 2007 to 10th July 2011.

Tony Durcan has been Head of Culture, Libraries and Lifelong Learning at Newcastle City Council since 2002. His first years in Newcastle were focused on improving a weak service; within 3 years he moved the service to excellent status. In 2003 he took responsibility for the Adult and Community Education Service and in 2006 became responsible for Arts in Newcastle. His current role includes leading the development of Newcastle's library buildings, including the construction of a new city library. He is a member of the DCMS Libraries and Adult Learning Group and of the Core Cities Libraries Group. Tony is accredited as an Improvement and Development Agency Peer Reviewer, and in 2004 led the first Peer Review of East Sussex Library Service. He is an External Examiner for Northumbria University's master's programme. Tony has recently been appointed as President of the Society of Chief Librarians.

Tony has undertaken no political activity in the past 5 years.

Nicola Parker is Head of Library and Information Services at Manchester City Council, and is currently leading a change management process which has seen significant improvements in performance and a building programme to replace or refurbish libraries and archives provision. Previously, Nicola worked in the London Boroughs of Newham and Havering, before moving to Manchester in 2000 as District Manager of the Library Service and then Assistant Director in 2003. Nicola is a Trustee of the Reading Agency, and a Member of the NW Executive of the Society of Chief Librarians. Previously, she was the national Chair of the Association of Senior Children's and Education Librarians (ASCEL), and Chair of the National Children's Public Library User Survey Group (PLUS). She is a Trustee of Girlguiding Cheshire Forest and Chair of Finance and Grants – representing 7,000 young women across Cheshire.

Nicola has undertaken no political activity in the past 5 years.

Notes to Editors:

1. The Advisory Council on Libraries (ACL) is an advisory Non Departmental Public Body (NDPB) established under the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964. Members of the ACL are required to give advice to DCMS Ministers through the chair or the DCMS Secretary, on matters relating to public libraries in England.
2. These appointments have been made in accordance with the OCPA Code of Practice. Appointments are made on merit and political activity plays no part in the selection process.