

January 2007

CULTURE NORTH EAST - CHAIR REAPPOINTMENT

David Lammy MP, Minister for Culture has reappointed **Olivia Grant OBE DL** as Chair of Culture North East, the regional Cultural Consortium for the North East of England, for a second term of four years from 9th January 2007 to 8th January 2011.

Olivia Grant is Pro Chancellor and Chairman of the Council of the University of Newcastle upon Tyne. She is Honorary Vice President for Newcastle Council for Voluntary Services and Vice Chairman of Newcastle Building Society. She has been influential in the regeneration of the North East through her involvement in the strategic development of education, training and skills provision. For 12 years she was Chief Executive of Tyneside Training and Enterprise Council where she identified the training needs of the cultural sector in the North East, following which she was the inaugural Chair of the Learning and Skills Council in County Durham. She was awarded an OBE in 1995 for her services to training. She currently sits on the Executive of the North East Assembly, representing 'cultural interests' and is a Deputy Lieutenant of Tyne and Wear.

Olivia has undertaken no political activity in the past five years

Notes to Editors:

1. In 1999 the Department for Culture, Media and Sport established a Regional Cultural Consortium in each of the English regions outside London to champion the whole spectrum of cultural and creative interests in the regions, including tourism and sport.
2. The consortiums have responsibility for implementing their regional cultural strategy and have a role in central policy making, regional data collection and research. In October 2004 the Consortiums changed from being advisory bodies to executive Non-Departmental Public Bodies (NDPB's).
3. Olivia Grant's first term as Chair of the board ran from January 2003 to 8th January 2007.
4. This reappointment has 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.