

June 2006

Advisory Council for Libraries - Librarians appointed

The Culture Secretary Tessa Jowell has re-constituted the Advisory Council for Libraries and has appointed six librarians as members commencing 22 May 2006.

These will be followed by the appointment of a similar number of non-librarians to the ACL. These posts will be advertised shortly.

The librarian members are:

Martin Molloy OBE has been reappointed for a third term of one year until 21 May 2007. Martin is currently a Chief Officer for Derbyshire County Council and has a large background in libraries which includes President of the Society of Chief Librarians from 2002 to 2005. He is President of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP) for 2006/2007. Martin has also had a great deal of board experience and is currently Chair of several committees which includes Committee for Public Library Statistics (CIPFA), The Reading Agency and is a member of the Advisory Board for the Department of Information Studies at Sheffield University and similarly at the University of Loughborough. Martin has been requested to act as interim Chair of the Advisory Council until a new Chair is appointed.

Catherine Blanshard has been reappointed for a third term of two years until 21 May 2008. As Leeds City Council's Chief Officer for Arts & Heritage, Catherine is responsible for the City's arts, museums, galleries and libraries as well as a wide range of cultural events. Catherine has also a background in teacher training having begun her career in Hertfordshire Schools Library Service working with both public and schools libraries and supporting young people develop their imagination and information skills.

Michele Jones has been appointed for a three year term until 21 May 2009. Michele has worked in libraries since 1973 when she joined Colchester Borough Council as a trainee librarian. Michele is the Libraries Manager for Essex County Council and she leads a team of some 800 staff delivering services through 73 libraries and 16 mobiles. She has recently been involved in two MLA sponsored Peer Reviews. Although the bulk of her career has been within libraries, Michele has also worked in education where she was Head of Governor Services for Essex LEA.

David Lightfoot has been appointed for a four year term until 21 May 2010. David has been Lancashire's County Librarian since 1998. David is currently Chair of the Public Library User Committee and a member of the Committee for Public Library Statistics. He has previously served as Treasurer for the Society of Chief Librarians on the Resource Sounding Board and he was a member of the Advisory Board for the Library Information Statistics Unit of Loughborough University. David was also Deputy Chair of the Museums Libraries and Archives North West Council until 2006

Pauline Palmer has been appointed for a three year term until 21 May 2009. Pauline has been Wiltshire County Council's Assistant Director for Libraries and Heritage since 1996 and was previously the Principal County Librarian of Avon County Council. Her areas of responsibility include libraries, archives, museums, archaeology, conservation and the arts. She is currently the Chair of the South West Association of South West Chief Librarians. She has previously served on the South West Regional Cultural Consortium.

David Ruse is appointed for a four year term until 21 May 2010. David Ruse is Director of Libraries and a member of the Corporate Management Board at Westminster City Council. David is also a Board member of Lifelong Learning UK and the Society of Chief Librarians. David has extensive experience in libraries and local government, having previously worked for The Library Association, Berkshire County Council, Bath Libraries and the London Boroughs of Barking & Dagenham and Havering.

Notes to Editors

- 1) The ACL is the Secretary of State's statutory advisory body on library matters.
- 2) The posts do not attract a remuneration package. However reasonable expenses will be paid.
- 3) The appointments and 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.