

September 2008

Arts Council England – East England Chair Appointment

Margaret Hodge, Minister for Culture has agreed to appointed Jon Cook as East England Regional Chair for a term of four years from 8 September 2008 to 7 September 2012.

Biographical Notes

Jon Cook is Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Professor of Literature, and Director of the Centre for Creative and Performing Arts at the University of East Anglia. The Centre hosts the Spring International Literary Festival at UEA and the Visiting Writers' series at the Savile Club in London. The focus of his teaching and research has been on Romantic and Modern Literature. He has supervised a large number of PhD students on subjects in modern literature, literature and philosophy and creative and critical writing and was convenor of the MA in Creative Writing at UEA from 1986-1996. He has taught at universities in the United States, Europe and India, most recently, as a Hurst Visiting Professor at the University of Washington. He is on the international advisory board of the Amsterdam School of Cultural Analysis, a member of the Arts and Humanities Research Council Peer Review College and a Literature advisor to the British Council. His recent publications include *Poetry in Theory* (2004) and a biographical study, *Hazlitt in Love* (2007). He played an active role in establishing the New Writing Partnership, a literary organisation based in Norwich.

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. This appointment attracts a remuneration of £6170, reasonable travel and subsistence may be claimed.
3. The appointments process was carried out in accordance with the code of practice of the Commissioner for Public Appointments. Appointments are made on merits and political activity plays no part in the selection process. Jon Cook has not undertaken any political activity during the past five years.