



## **Archive Sector Review: stakeholder briefing 3**

27 March 2009

In 2008 the Society of Archivists (SoA), National Council on Archives (NCA), and the Association of Chief Archivists in Local Government (ACALG) commissioned a review of the representative structure of the archives and records management sector in England and Wales.

Following the review, SoA, NCA and ACALG agreed to discuss a merger of the three separate organisations into a single body.

The third cycle of meetings to discuss the proposed merger has now been completed. The Project Board, and Communications, Governance and Membership groups have met for a third time to progress work on the practical detail of drawing together the three bodies into one responsive, inclusive organisation.

### ***Governance***

Having already agreed some broad principles, at the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting the Governance group looked in more detail at management structure and decision-making authority. The role of the future CEO was developed in more detail, as was the role and activity level of the Management Committee.

Elected Councillors would all have defined portfolios but these would be broad in order to reflect policy needs. Council would have ultimate authority on the strategic and business plans. A draft committee structure was discussed, to serve as an interim until the new organisation could determine longer term requirements. It would draw on structural elements of all three of the current organisations.

Flexibility will be important during the process. This is especially so with multifarious reporting and contributions to consultations. ACALG, NCA and SoA all have groups used to contributing to reports and consultations. Their views need to be sought, recognised and melded into the new body's responses.

It was agreed to discuss finance at the next meeting.

### ***Membership***

The Membership Group has further developed its model for membership bandings. A paper on "Proposed new membership structure" was discussed and agreed with a few amendments.



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It was noted there would still be a reduced membership rate for the retired and unwaged. Overseas members will also be a category as per the existing SoA category.

The group considered also considered how the existing CARN reader ticket could be included as part of the Affiliate membership package as a benefit.

### ***Project Board***

The Board determined that the Governance Group consider what portfolios the new Council will need, but not necessarily to produce a definitive list of portfolios.

The Membership Group is to be asked to clarify some questions about where national archives organisations would be placed in the membership structure and further explore the differences between Institutional and Corporate Not for Profit membership.

The Membership Group is also asked to consider how to make the Affiliate membership a low cost way of gaining mass support for the new body, and to indicate the relative cost differentials for the new membership categories.

The last cycle of initial meetings will take place over the next few weeks and the Memorandum of Understanding should be produced by the end of April.

We wish to circulate this briefing as widely as possible, so if you would like to add someone's details to our circulation list, please contact the Society of Archivists ([membership@archives.org.uk](mailto:membership@archives.org.uk)).

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