



ASSOCIATION
OF CHIEF ARCHIVISTS
IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Archive Sector Review: Stakeholder briefing 5

1 May 2009

A critical milestone has now been passed in the process initiated in 2008 by the Society of Archivists (SoA), National Council on Archives (NCA), and the Association of Chief Archivists in Local Government (ACALG) to merge the three separate organisations into a single body to create a strong inclusive voice for the sector.

Within the last two weeks, the governing bodies of the three organisations have all agreed to sign up to a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Further discussions will now be held over the coming months with the aim of completing a merger proposal by the autumn of 2009. Preparatory discussions on key areas of governance and membership have convinced all three organisations that such a major reshaping of the sector is possible from an organisational perspective, and the MoU now commits them to a second set of discussions around future strategic direction as well as finance, operations and legal compliance.

The MoU will now be formally signed by all three bodies and made public through the websites of both the National Council on Archives and the Society of Archivists. Within each organisation there will now be continuing opportunities for all members to make their views known. To help ensure that the new body would be as inclusive as possible, all three organisations are keen to ensure the next round of negotiations will broaden out member involvement (in a manageable way). Feedback from members of all groups is to be encouraged. Outstanding issues, such as how to include institutional members will be addressed, which could result in the formation of a wider assembly or advisory body to bring in the wider user-community organisations.

Next steps

The Project Board has agreed that detailed legal and financial advice will now be taken. This will in turn shape discussions of the future operations and staffing of the new body.

A new group will be set up to reach agreement on key priorities and key areas of work for the new organisation and the development of an interim business plan, forming the basis for merger integration work. The group will comprise 4 nominees from both NCA and SOA and 3 from ACALG. This group will meet by mid-June to determine its Terms of Reference.

Progress so far has been rapid and the aim is to sustain this pace, with the final decision on merger being taken by the membership of the three organisations in the autumn.



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There are links to the Memorandum of Understanding on the following web pages:

<http://www.archives.org.uk/thesociety/memorandumofunderstanding.html>

<http://www.ncaonline.org.uk/materials/mou.pdf>

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).

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