



ASSOCIATION
OF CHIEF ARCHIVISTS
IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Archive Sector Review: Stakeholder briefing 10

February 2010

The merger discussions between the Society of Archivists (SoA), the National Council on Archives (NCA) and the Association of Chief Archivists in Local Government (ACALG) are now almost finished. The big news is that, after much discussion, the name of the organisation will be the Archives and Records Association (United Kingdom and Ireland), referred to here as the ARA.

The final elements of the ARA are now falling into place. All legal issues have now been resolved. The final draft of the Articles of Association was approved by the Board which will now be sent to the Charity Commission and the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator. The final draft of the Bye Laws was also approved by the Board.

A draft Service Level Agreement with The National Archives and MLA, the current funders of the NCA, has been commented on by those organisations and is now being redrafted. The SLA would run for three years from June 2010.

On strategic priorities, the Strategic Plan has now been signed off by the Project Board. However, structures are still being developed with regard to stakeholder engagement and regional activity. By the end of its first 3 years the ARA will have:

1. a strategic development plan in place for the following five years and will have completed the key inheritance projects from its founding organisations
2. a public profile that recognises the ARA as the lead voice of the sector, representing all our members and promoting the value of what they do across the archives and record-keeping sector.
3. a strong, effective and independent relationship with government, national and international sector stakeholders
4. strong and clearly defined relationships with other bodies in the sector, based on the continuing approach of merger for mutual support and development
5. a programme of education, training and continuing professional development which all members of ARA can participate in at the appropriate level for them.
6. a strong nationally and regionally based structure with local programme development
7. a robust governance structure based on flexibility, innovation and delegated decision making
8. a developed and attractive range of benefits for all categories of membership and an increasing number of members



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9. the active support of the members of its founding organisations
10. a sustainable core funding base and a strategy for broadening and increasing that base
11. an enhanced programme for developing and supporting professional standards and training to promote the 21st century archive workforce, based on equality and diversity
12. a framework of standards, best practice and professional methodology, supported by a comprehensive programme of sponsored academic and professional research, flexible and responsive professional education, and standards of professional conduct and ethics.

Consultant Sharon Hedges will be researching with members to finalise the national and regional offer of events and activities that will be offered by the ARA. She will also draft a paper outlining the benefits of the merger. Meanwhile, John Hall Associates have started researching the merger proposals with members to identify any outstanding issues that need addressing.

The parties will forward details of merger proposals to all their members, with a view to voting on a single proposal to merge at extraordinary general meetings in April for the SoA and NCA, and an AGM in March for ACALG. If the proposal was passed the legal process of establishing the new body would be complete by 1 June 2010.

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Communications Group
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