



ASSOCIATION
OF CHIEF ARCHIVISTS
IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Archive Sector Review: Stakeholder briefing 9

14 October 2009

Discussions about the possible merging of the Society of Archivists (SOA), National Council on Archives (NCA) and Association of Chief Archivists in Local Government are now well advanced. Good progress has been made and the three bodies are looking closely at the role and purpose of the merged body. The draft Mission and Vision of the merged body has now been released to members of the negotiating bodies for their comments. In brief the Vision for the Merged Archival Organisation (MAO) is:

- To be the lead body for archives, records management and archives conservation ('recordkeeping') in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland.
- To include practitioners in archives, records management, archive conservation, archive learning, research and outreach, and all related recordkeeping functions, as well as users, owners and the wider community of those with an interest in records and archives.
- To foster, promote and seek to broaden the care, management, access to and use of records and archives by everyone for the effective functioning of governance and administration; for education and enjoyment; for posterity and the public interest.
- To be a membership organisation both for professionals and others with an interest in archives including owners and users.
- To represent the interests of the British and Irish sector internationally.

Its mission is divided into three co-equal parts: Professionalism, Advocacy and Inclusion. Draft Articles of Association are also under consideration. The major issues are incorporating governance and membership structures.

The Group is now working on the strategic priorities for the merged body for 2010 to 2013. This is informed by the SOA's and the NCA's strategic plans. However, its major emphasis is how the creation of a new body will deliver a new approach and areas of activity to deliver more benefits for the Sector as a whole.

The name for the new body will be developed when the detail of the purpose and structure of the new body has been agreed. At that point the nature of the organisation will be much clearer and therefore it will be easier to create a suitable 'brand'. With regards to structure, the importance of developing workable regional bodies has been noted.



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The next update will be issued in early November.

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