

Archives matter to everyone because they are our collective memory. They enable individual and organisational accountability, make access to history possible, and support good governance by allowing us to learn from collective experience.

Everything we do will be driven by our core concerns for the sustainable preservation and growing accessibility of archival records.

## Together, better.

### Our responsibilities are to:

- provide single leadership for the sector in England
- inform policy development
- support services to strengthen and develop
- deliver our obligations under the Public Records Act and the Historical Manuscripts Commission Warrant.

### To achieve this we propose the following goals for our work:

- Excellence thrives and is celebrated in the sector.
- More people, of all ages and backgrounds, benefit from and are inspired by archives, on site and online.
- Services are secure, sustainable, resilient and innovative.
- The workforce is diverse, highly skilled and has strong leaders.
- Archive services work together to provide an effective national network of provision.

The National Archives is a working archive with networks across government and as such brings a unique set of understanding, experience and tools to its new responsibilities:

### Knowledge

We hold a wealth of information in the National Register of Archives and our standards schemes. Through our website we will share best practice across the sector and beyond and demonstrate the difference archives make to individuals, communities and organisations.

### Standards

In partnership with the National Records of Scotland, the Welsh Government, the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, the Scottish Council on Archives, Archives and Records Council Wales and the Archives and Records Association, we will lead the development of the new Archives Accreditation standard, as outlined in Archives for the 21st Century in Action.

### Programmes

We will bring archives together, maximising opportunities of scale – for example through the digitisation consortium – and develop innovative practice through initiating projects, such as our current web archiving work with local authorities. Our funding to the Archives and Records Association to deliver activity for the sector will continue.

### Staff

We have a highly motivated and skilled team, with a diverse range of expertise. The team will evolve and adapt to new roles and we will supplement this with a number of engagement managers, providing a named contact for every major collecting institution.

### Partners

The National Archives will build influence across government and work with identified partners to encourage new thinking and initiatives in the sector, deliver key projects, refresh Archives for the 21st Century and ensure archives are embedded in the wider cultural offering delivered by Arts Council England.

### Funding

Our funding advice and guidance will continue, together with sourcing funding for targeted areas of development such as the cataloguing grants programme. In addition, we will explore opportunities for increasing philanthropy.

### Communications

Our website holds a significant amount of information and guidance. We are reviewing and adding to this to reflect our new ways of working.

### As part of our work, we will:

- consult and engage continuously to ensure our actions are informed by understanding and provide regular opportunities for feedback
- use all the tools at our disposal to achieve outcomes that are in the best interests of archives and their users
- act as a critical friend offering advice, guidance, support and a challenging voice to services and their parent bodies

A number of our team are attending the conference. Please take this opportunity to speak with us and discuss our new approach.