

NOTE FOR NARTM MEETING 12 MARCH 2011 – FUTURE OF MLA

The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) is to disappear by the end of March 2012.

Some of its functions will be taken over by Arts Council England (ACE). These include the Renaissance in the Regions programme and museum development.

The future shape of Renaissance will not be announced until autumn 2011. There should be consultations with the museums sector during spring and summer 2011 before taking the final decisions. But I have heard nothing about these consultations yet.

Museum Development will also be the responsibility of ACE. The three main areas of national priority (seemingly equating to the major elements of Accreditation 2011) are –

- organisational health (including governance, planning, and communications),
- improving collections management, (including care of collections, collections development and improving access) and
- increasing the number of users and improving the quality of their experiences (including display and interpretation, marketing/promotion and visitor care).

This will also impact on the remit of Museum Development Officers, who will be able to support only museums which are Accredited or working towards Accreditation.

There will be no Hub museums. Instead there will be a smaller number of Core museums, but these will not be related to any specific Region and will not distribute funding to other museums.

£120,000 will be available for Subject Specialist Networks.

Accreditation will continue in an upgraded form, and compliance with Accreditation standards will continue to be monitored. Accreditation 2011 should be launched in October 2011.

Most museums wanting money will have to apply for Challenge funding – no idea yet how that will be operated.

It appears there will be no money for such things as conference bursaries.

Many details have yet to be decided, and several things are as yet unclear, but I will try to keep you posted on what is happening, when I get to know of anything definite.

There seem to be different priorities and funding provision as between the different English Regions. But the above points are common to all Regions.

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Lincolnshire Vintage Vehicle Society
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