

## **A New Home for Nomad**

**A future for Nomad has been secured and a new home has been found thanks to the commitment of the Chairs of Nomad North & Nomad Scotland regional groups.**

Following the statement published in early September 2009, that announced Nomad's closure from its current home at Cambridgeshire County Council (see below), we are extremely happy to update the community and inform you that Nomad has secured a new future.

It is clear that the recent 'Nomad closure' news sparked an extremely supportive reaction from our membership, all of whom are actively involved in delivering mobile and flexible working related change all over the UK. Nomad has been recognised as a valued resource and public opinion is clear that it should not be allowed to disappear.

**The team at Cambridgeshire County Council will be very proud to hand over the reigns and the knowledgebase to the Nomad North & Nomad Scotland Regional Chairs. Nomad North Chair, Ken Eastwood (Barnsley MBC) and Nomad Scotland Chair, Mark Baker (Aberdeenshire Council) are extremely proactive and will push to sustain Nomad into the future, continue to build on its success, and to develop its position as an active national community for mobile & flexible working.**

**Long standing Nomad Board Member, Ken Eastwood (Barnsley MBC) said:**

'I am genuinely excited at the prospect of taking Nomad forward and of building further on the excellent work that has gone before. In my view the future of local government depends upon mobile and flexible working and we need Nomad now more than ever before.

'The many expressions of support received have demonstrated the ongoing interest and mean we can now determine a new strategy to build and develop a thriving Nomad community. I am working on more detailed proposals with potential partners and sponsors and would welcome comments and suggestions from colleagues on future direction.

'I very much hope to give Nomad an even stronger community feel and will be leading an early project to replace the existing website with a modern community site making full use of social media functions including blogs, forums, groups and collaborative workspaces (as well as a catalogue of case studies, toolkits and related documents from the existing site)'

'Working closely with colleagues in Scotland, I believe we can take Nomad forward in a sustainable way and maintain a national identity and recognition for the excellent innovation and practice in local government.

'In recognition of Nomad's past achievements, I must thank all of the original local authority contributors and Cambridgeshire County Council for their hard work to establish and maintain Nomad to this point. Nomad Director, Ian Laughton supported by Programme Manager, Peter Marsden and Communications Manager, Melanie Reed must be credited for their commitment and longevity of service to Nomad and the day to day engagement with the community. Without them Nomad would not have got this far and many hundreds of members would not have received the support they needed.'

The well established Nomad Scotland Forum remains in good hands and its activity and community continues to grow, nurtured by Mark Baker, as the newly appointed chair from Aberdeenshire Council.

**Nomad Scotland Chair, Mark Baker (Aberdeenshire Council) said:**

‘Nomad Scotland has grown into a self sustained group that can now readily support its own activity. As the Worksmart Manager for Scotland’s sixth largest council – I can see that Nomad is an invaluable asset to the public sector, not just in Scotland but the whole of the UK in moving forward with new ways of working.

‘We are continuing, and would encourage engagement and dialogue with the UK as a whole through our current online space on the [Communities of Practice website](#). Register, search ‘Mobile & Flexible Working in Scotland and join the community!

Whilst the work to transfer Nomad to its new home takes place, **the Nomad website will remain online and accessible** – it will not disappear without a substantial notice period. In the future Nomad hopes to launch a new platform, dedicated to the Nomad Community that will significantly build upon the existing website and the best of the ‘Communities of Practice’.

**During the transition and going forward, Ken & Mark welcome your contact.**

**You can email [keneastwood@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:keneastwood@barnsley.gov.uk) and [mark.e.baker@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:mark.e.baker@aberdeenshire.gov.uk) , get in touch and tell them what kind of Nomad you want to see in the future!**

**Notes**

- Nomad will no longer operate from Cambridgeshire County Council as of 6 November 2009. IPR and operations will pass to Nomad North & Nomad Scotland.
- Current contact details will not be available after 6 November. New contact details will be established and advertised on [www.projectnomad.org.uk](http://www.projectnomad.org.uk).
- Melanie Reed, as Nomad Community & Events Facilitator will remain in post, working from the new home at Barnsley MBC.
- Ian Laughton as Nomad Director & Peter Marsden as Programme Manager will no longer be in post as Nomad personnel as at 6 November 2009, all contact should be directed to Ken Eastwood ([keneastwood@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:keneastwood@barnsley.gov.uk)) and Mark Baker ([mark.e.baker@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:mark.e.baker@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)).
- **This above release relates to the following statement released 07 September 2009. (see previous statement on following page)**

*'After six highly successful years Nomad will be ceasing its activity to promote mobile and flexible working in the public sector, as of 06 November 2009. On behalf of the entire Nomad team, past and present, I would like thank you all for your support. Nomad could not have been a success without the interest you have shown, and we hope that you have regarded Nomad as valuable source of information, best practice and experience sharing to enable your organisations to adopt new ways of working and experience the significant benefits change can bring.*

**Why now?**

*Over the past year it has been difficult for Nomad to guarantee a sustainable and secure financial position. Financial constraints on both commercial companies and local authorities alike have made it hard to secure income from sponsorship and events, despite continued interest shown by many individuals, companies and councils.*

*A disappointing situation that has meant Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC), as owner of Nomad, has taken the decision to withdraw financial support and terminate Nomad activity from 06 November 2009 in order to mitigate the risk of draining further resources at the expense of CCC core frontline services.*

**What now?**

**Nomad regional groups & Nomad support service**

*Alongside arrangements to closedown the national Nomad operation, there is active discussion taking place with the established regional groups, Nomad Scotland and Nomad North to see if they wish to continue to manage and sustain any further activity, in some shape or form. It is likely that the groups will be sustained with support of the individuals and councils who are currently managing the activities. Resources to continue to supply individual bespoke support to councils will also be considered through the regional groups.*

**Access to Nomad materials**

*A new and publicly accessible space for the multitude of Nomad materials is also being sought. Meanwhile please do continue to use the Nomad website <http://www.projectnomad.org.uk> to access this information and further updates.*

**The Nomad Legacy**

*Since its start-up in November 2003, Nomad has championed the widespread use of flexible and mobile working in local government. During the past six years flexible working has proved to be key in achieving a better, more effective and more efficient work style for many. Similarly, mobile working has moved from the preserve of a technical vanguard into the sensible way to record, communicate and deploy large sections of the public workforce whose jobs are not in offices but working out amongst the communities they serve.*

*Nomad was originally one of the 22 National e-Government projects and with central government funding developed materials, solutions and best practice for both the technical and non technical aspects of mobile working. Such was the interest that Nomad has continued for a further four years with support from commercial sponsors and participating councils.*

*Over the years, Nomad has built up a large collection of relevant materials, experience and best practice from around the UK and beyond. Being at the centre of the mobile and flexible working movement, Nomad has been widely recognised as a key resource and its work has been made freely available to the public sector.*

*A multitude of Nomad organised events has meant hundreds of delegates have made useful connections and heard from others facing the same trials and experiences. Nomad has also worked with councils individually to help them prepare for the changes ahead.*

*As Director from the outset of the project I'm very proud of what Nomad has achieved and this has been largely through the hard work, interest and commitment of key individuals, councils and supporters. I believe that though much still remains to be done to fully exploit these new ways of working. Nomad has contributed greatly to the progress so far and I hope that this will be maintained as we all seek newer and better ways of maintaining and delivering services.*

*We shall keep you updated with the arrangements as these are finalised.*

*Meanwhile thank you all for your support.*

*Kind regards*

*Ian Laughton  
Nomad Director.'*