ShareSoc Survey Report

The AGM papers sent to all members included a survey on members' attitudes towards further co-operation with ShareSoc. The results of the survey were announced at the AGM and informed the discussion there.

You may remember there were three questions, asking your attitude to increasing co-operation with ShareSoc on three different levels, defined as:

'continue to co-operate'
'co-operate wherever possible in pursuit of our common aims'
'co-operate wherever possible in pursuit of our common aims with the hope of an eventual merger'

87 members responded to the survey - 15% of membership. The voting was as follows:

		Agree	Disagree	Undecided
1	Continue to co-operate	81	3	3
2	Co-operate wherever possible	67	11	9
3	Aim for an eventual merger	55	17	15

The meeting was also attended by UKSA member Mark Northway, ShareSoc Chairman, and there was a helpful and constructive discussion. Advised both by this and the survey we will continue to develop the relationship, particularly on the policy front.

The point was made at the meeting that ShareSoc and UKSA have similar aims but rather different styles. ShareSoc pursues shareholder advantage without distinction, with an emphasis on smaller companies (which after all is where many of the corporate sins are committed); UKSA is more focussed on promoting the private shareholder as a force for economic and social good, thus benefitting all of society. These slightly different aims embrace a large overlap in campaigning activity, particularly – currently - the denial of shareholder rights to private investors.

As yet there do not seem to be enough advantages to be gained from a full merger, certainly not enough to overturn the quite strongly held objections from some members, but I wouldn't like to say that this is set in stone for the future.

John Hunter