



## Better for business in the south Bringing together the OSEA and the OCC

### Process for proposed merger

Driven by a desire to create a single business membership organisation that could provide a strong, unified voice for business in the South, the OCC and OSEA Boards signed an MOU to consider a merger of their organisations.

A committee comprising Board members from both organisations was set up to explore and consider the way forward. This included seeking legal and accountancy advice and developing the necessary documentation required for Boards to approve the proposal and present to members.

As a result of this process, both OCC and OSEA Boards now seek their respective members' support to progress a merger of the two organisations. If supported by members, the two boards will form a new incorporated society called "Business South" with OSEA and OCC as foundation members.

The timeframe for members to consider and vote on this proposal is as follows:

	OSEA	OCC
11 September	Send out the Special General Meeting (SGM) information to members	Send out the Special General Meeting (SGM) information to members
21 September	First SGM	
30 September		SGM
21 October	Second SGM	
22 October	Inform members of the outcome	Inform members of the outcome
1 November	First day of the new entity (if approved)	First day of the new entity (if approved)

Over time the operations of both OSEA and OCC will be transferred to the new entity. Initially retaining both foundation entities (OSEA and OCC) will allow for operations to be consolidated in a considered and measured way, ensuring members' needs and expectations are met continuously throughout.

For the first 12 months of operations OCC and OSEA, along with the new entity Business South, will be governed by an interim, single board which will act as a transition board. The transition board will be established once member approval for the merger has been confirmed. An equal number of directors from both OSEA and OCC will form the transition/inaugural board of Business South and assume governance responsibility for both OSEA and OCC. Each organisation's current board will be responsible for selecting the individuals they wish to serve on the transition board.

The transition board will be responsible for overseeing the transfer of operations from both OSEA and OCC to Business South. One of their first priorities will be the appointment of a CEO to take operational responsibility for the merger. The key focus of this role will be delivering the board's vision of a unified culture, strongly representing all members' interests while seamlessly providing the services and support members have come to expect from their Chamber and Employers Association.

It is proposed that the merger of operations will be completed prior to the inaugural AGM of Business South to be held in October 2021.

Members will elect all Business South board positions as part of the 2021 board elections and AGM process as defined in the new organisation's constitution. A board of eight people will be elected at that time, with the provision for the board, once elected, to appoint up to a further three individuals should they believe additional expertise is needed.

9 September 2020