

Minutes of the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) Meeting
Tuesday 13th March 2018

Venue: Main Conference Room, Custom House, Dublin 1

Attended by:

Chairman Pat McLoughlin
Members Tara Buckley
Paul Lemass
Martina Moloney
Colleen Savage
Connie Hanniffy
Sharon O'Connor
John Buckley
Michael McGreal

Secretariat Lisa Clifford
Claire Gavin
Neill Dalton
Colin Flood
Jason Kennedy

Apologies Dave Holohan

Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

The Chair welcomed the group and gave Lisa Clifford the opportunity to introduce the new members of the secretariat. The contribution made by Diarmuid O' Leary and Sheila McMahon previously to the secretariat was noted. The Chair also mentioned that a shortlisting process is underway by PAS to find his replacement and should be completed next month.

The minutes of the last meeting and the minutes of the meeting with Offaly County Council were accepted by the committee.

Declaration of any conflicts of interest

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest from the group.

NOAC structure and resourcing

It was noted that the NOAC secretariat was significantly strengthened with the new members. It is intended that they will work closely with Niamh Larkin and would continue to be an independent section.

John Buckley requested that a note be prepared that set out the projects that the Commission have in progress and the resources now assigned to those. The Secretariat advised that this would be provided at the next meeting. The discussion closed with the agreement that the Chairs of the subgroups would identify other projects that need to be undertaken so that resources requirements could be identified.

Draft NOAC Annual Report 2017

The Draft NOAC Annual Report 2017 was distributed to the group. It was noted that the report was easy to go through and provides a good flavour for the work. It was planned to circulate the report to councils and to issue a press release also. The press release should highlight the key findings such as improvements or new programs etc. It was suggested that the reports should contain a consistent style, so readers would recognise them as a NOAC report. It was also suggested that a section on impact should be included. It was confirmed that the group was happy with the content of the report, although Collen Savage said she would have a small change that she would be sending through.

Meeting with Cork County Council

The meeting began with the Chair welcoming Cork County Council to the meeting.

The Chair welcomed the Chief Executive and her management team to the meeting. The Chief Executive circulated an overview briefing document about the Council and their activities. These included how the council is governed, economic development, community development, housing and infrastructure. She also explained how the Cork City boundary was to be expanded and their population would rise from 125,000 to 205,000.

The Cork County Council team then proceeded to answer questions from the NOAC members. The topics ranged from customer service, finances, housing, performance indicators and economic development.

The Chair then thanked the Chief Executive and her team for coming in to meet with NOAC and for providing valuable insight into the work of the Council. A separate note on this engagement will be prepared and provided to Cork County Council in the context of NOAC's Local Authority profiling exercise.

Update re Customer Survey Project, Performance Indicator 2017, Internal Audit Survey & Financial Performance sub-group project.

The customer survey project will be presented at the next meeting. It will also be presented to the LGMA and the findings will be circulated to the attendees of the workshops. Claire and Collen will be to discuss further.

Since the last meeting the definitions have been agreed on the performance indicators. Guidelines will be issued and the LGMA will be updating LG returns. A seminar will take place on the 23rd of March.

The Financial Performance sub-group may have their meeting on the same day and look into publishing their report.

The Internal Audit Survey is nearly completed. Recommendations must be added in and it is hoped to be complete for the next meeting.