

**Minutes of the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) Meeting
Tuesday 5 March 2019 at 10.00 am**

Venue: Withdrawing Room, Custom House, Dublin 1

Attended by:

Chairman Michael McCarthy
Members Martina Moloney
Dave Holohan
Constance Hanniffy
Sharon O'Connor
Michael McGreal
Colleen Savage

Secretariat: Lisa Clifford
Claire Gavin
Neill Dalton
Ken Doyle

Apologies: Paul Lemass
Tara Buckley
John Buckley

Tipperary County Council attended from 11.00:

Joe McGrath - Chief Executive
Clare Curley - Director of Services
Liam McCarthy - Head of Finance
Ger Walsh - Senior Executive Officer

Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed by the members.

Minutes of Meetings with Kerry, Roscommon and Westmeath County Councils

The minute of the meetings with Kerry and Westmeath were approved. The Secretariat advised that an incomplete version of the draft minutes of the meeting with Roscommon had been circulated in error. The correct version will be circulated to members for approval in the next week.

Declaration of any conflicts of interest

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

Annual Report 2018

Following discussion, the members, subject to any final amendments, approved the draft version of the annual report. The members agreed that any final comments or amendments on the draft report would be sent to the Secretariat by 15 March; after this date, the report will be considered final.

Sub-Group Review

A discussion was held on the structure and Terms of Reference of the NOAC sub-groups. It was agreed to look at the structure of the sub-groups, examine if all groups are still required and to reflect on the sub-group structure regarding the ongoing purpose of NOAC. The Chairpersonship of each group would also be considered as part of the review. To facilitate this review process it was suggested, and agreed, that a half day facilitated workshop for NOAC members would be held.

The review is to include NOAC's remit over Regional Assemblies, reviewing local authority corporate plans, the NOAC work programme, funding of LEO'S and their service level agreements. Details of venues and options will be made available to members for consideration at the next meeting.

Performance Indicator Report 2018 update

The tender for the desktop publishing contract for the Performance Indicator report is to issue this week. It is expected that this will improve the overall layout of the report and make it more readable. An update was given on the recent Performance Indicator workshop held with local authorities and the on-going work in answering queries on the indicators for 2018. The Chair of the subgroup confirmed it was meeting with the LGMA after the NOAC meeting to discuss procedures for the development of the 2018 report.

Customer Survey update

The Secretariat advised that the second phase of the customer survey is currently taking place. IPSOS have agreed to meet with the subgroup on 30 April 2019 to review the results of the survey. It is intended that the report would be ready for the NOAC members to consider at the May meeting and the full report is expected to be published in June. It was agreed that when the third phase of surveys is complete that a national report be produced to compare the findings for all local authorities.

Update on Reports 10 and 12

The CCMA's response to NOAC Report 12: NOAC Local Authority Housing Management and Maintenance Review and NOAC report 10: NOAC Private Rented Sector Review, was circulated to the members and noted.

Good Practice Event review

An update on the Good Practice Seminar was given by the Secretariat. The event was held in Kilkenny Castle on 26th of February 2019 and was attended by 86 personnel. With the exception of one, all local authorities were represented at the event, as were members of NOAC, NOAC Secretariat, the LGMA, IPA, and staff from the Local Government Audit Service. Minister of State John Paul Phelan opened the event and noted that he remains supportive of NOAC and its remit in having oversight of the local government sector.

It was noted that while all the presentations were very good, and the work put in to hosting the event jointly with the CCMA and LGMA remains important, the presentations on the day did not include any information on the costs savings or the benefits accrued from the ideas, or indeed the costs involved in implementing the ideas. It was agreed that this could be teased out further at the facilitated session being planned, which was discussed earlier in the meeting.

It was also noted that at the event, the lack of a NOAC logo was apparent and it was agreed that the design of a logo is to be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

Any Other Business

It was agreed that the three recently published reports by the Local Government Audit Service's Value for Money Unit would be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

Meeting with Tipperary County Council at 11.00am

The Chief Executive and three members of the management team of Tipperary County Council attended the meeting.

A separate note on this engagement will be prepared and provided to Tipperary County Council in the context of NOAC's local authority profiling exercise. This, along with the other profile meetings reports, will be published on the NOAC website in due course.

The Tipperary County Council profile meeting discussed and questioned a wide range of topics from housing, performance indicators and economic development. The Chair then thanked the Chief Executive and his team for attending and providing valuable insight into the work of the Council.