



## National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC)

### Minutes of the Meeting – Tuesday 20 July 2021 at 10am

Venue: Remote Meeting via WebEx Meeting Platform

Attended by:

Chairperson: Michael McCarthy

Members:	Brian Cawley	Niall Quinn
	Mary Hurley	Philomena Poole
	Declan Breathnach	Noel Harrington
	Ciarán Hayes	
Secretariat:	Claire Gavin	John Goldrick
	Colin Flood	

Apologies: Margaret Lane

#### **1. Minutes & actions of previous meeting;**

The minutes of the NOAC meeting of 25 May 2021 were approved.

#### **2. Welcome to the new members and tour de table;**

The Chairperson welcomed the new members, Philomena Poole and Ciarán Hayes, to the NOAC board. He advised that the knowledge and expertise represented by the new members are invaluable to the work of NOAC. The Board and Secretariat introduced themselves and provided their background.

The Chair and NOAC Members wished to warmly congratulate Claire Gavin on her promotion to head of the NOAC Secretariat. The Chair noted that the promotion was welcome and that someone with her knowledge and experience of NOAC's work was invaluable.

**3. Declaration of conflict of interest;**

No conflicts of interest were raised.

**4. Matters Arising;**

There were no matters arising.

**5. Membership of Working Groups**

To expedite the filling of vacant spots on NOAC's Working Groups, it was agreed that the Secretariat would circulate details of the four working groups to the Board Members. The new Members would be asked to notify the Secretariat of their preferences of working group and the current Members were asked to restate their preference.

**6. Work Programme:**

**a) Chair;**

Scrutiny Report Update: The Chair advised that the Scrutiny Report for Sligo County Council and Limerick City and County Council have been published on the NOAC website. He also advised that Stage 1 meetings were completed this month with Meath County Council and South Dublin County Council, with the subsequent Stage 2 meetings with the NOAC Board scheduled for September and October 2021 respectively.

**b) WG1 – Local Government Governance, Efficiency & Reform (LGGER);**

For the benefit of the new members, the working group Chair provided a brief overview of the work of WG1 discussed at their meeting on 18 of June:

- The Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly gave a presentation on the two year monitoring report on the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES). The report once completed will be submitted to NOAC for comment and further engagement with the 3 Regional Assemblies.
- Review of Corporate Plans. The working group went to tender for expertise to review the local authority Corporate Plans 2019-2024. Following 2 tender processes the tender has now been

awarded and work is due to commence shortly. The working group will next meet in September and will update NOAC following this.

**c) WG2 – Performance Indicators;**

Brian Cawley as the only Member of the working group gave an update.

The working group will continue to develop a framework to compliment the Performance Indicators and follow the example from Audit Scotland which encompasses more detail on local authority activity than the current suite of Performance Indicators. The Secretariat will develop a prototype framework, to see if this is useful and to ensure it adds value in the context on the work required.

The reports on the Performance Indicators validation meetings with Cork, Clare and Laois County Councils and the subsequent follow-up have been finalised.

In relation to the communication of the Performance Indicators report 2020, the working group will have an ongoing liaison with WG3 communications.

The outgoing working group members recommended strongly that a single report is maintained but there is an opportunity to develop a narrative around the Performance Indicators report. Two new indicators in relation to Climate Change were agreed and comments from CCMA and LGMA on existing indicators were reviewed. The working group agreed that they will maintain the Performance Indicators more or less as they are but this can be discussed with the new working group members.

Finally, NOAC were advised that the Chair of the Joint Oireachtas Committee had contacted the working group in relation to the timing of the report and requested that it be issued earlier in the year. The working group have provided a response advising that due to data collection and scrutiny of same and the validation visits, the report would be published in September.

**d) WG3 – Communications and Customer Service;**

The Chair of the working group gave an overview and an update of activities following its meeting on the 18 June 2021. The two main updates were:

a. Communications strategy tender and workshop update

Stakeholder mapping: The work was put out to tender and following a review of 2 tenders received the successful supplier was awarded the contract. There was an initial meeting last week to begin the process. Members were invited to attend the stakeholder mapping exercise and details regarding this would be circulated after this meeting.

b. Good Practice Seminar 2021 update

Following discussion with the Secretariat and the LGMA it was suggested that the Seminar would take place during Innovation Week in November. This would give NOAC access to a much broader audience and would not dilute the NOAC message by being part of a larger event. It is scheduled for the 9 November 2021. It is planned to be both an online and face to face event in Kilkenny Castle depending on restrictions at the time. The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage has confirmed his availability to do the opening address. The Secretariat are working on themes and this will be discussed at the next working group meeting.

e) **WG4 – Financial Management and Performance;**

As the WG4 Chair was unable to attend the meeting, the Secretariat Principal Officer gave an update:

- The Secretariat will engage the Institute of Public Administration to run a national audit and risk committee workshop later in the year;
- The Secretariat has followed up with the LGMA in relation to the MyPay report. An update will be provided once LGMA revert;
- The Working Group Chair will meet with the Director of the LGAS in relation to a review of LA Audit Query Findings.

7. **Future Meetings;**

The next NOAC meeting is currently scheduled for 10am, 7 September 2021.

Meath County Council are invited to the next meeting and South Dublin County Council will meet NOAC on 19th October 2021, and have offered to host in Tallaght stadium.

The Secretariat will forward existing 'Save the date' invites to new Board Members

8. **Any Other Business:**

None

**The meeting was brought to a close.**

Agenda Item No:	Subject	Action
1.	Minutes & actions of previous meeting	Agreed and will be published on website
5.	Membership of Working Groups	Secretariat to circulate details of the four working groups to the board members
6b	WG1 – Local Government Governance, Efficiency & Reform (LGGER);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The RSES report once completed will be submitted to NOAC for comment and further engagement with the 3 Regional Assemblies.</li> <li>• Update NOAC on review of local authority corporate plans 2019-2024 following next working group meeting in September.</li> </ul>
6c	WG2 – Performance Indicators;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Secretariat will develop a prototype framework, to see if this is useful and to ensure it adds value in the context on the work required.</li> <li>• In relation to the communication of the Performance Indicators report 2020, the working group will have an ongoing liaison with WG3 communications.</li> </ul>
6d	WG3 – Communications and Customer Service;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members were invited to attend the stakeholder mapping exercise and details regarding this would be circulated after this meeting</li> <li>• Good Practice Seminar 2021 seminar to take place during Innovation Week for 9 November.</li> <li>• It is planned to be both an online and face to face event in Kilkenny Castle.</li> <li>• The Secretariat will work on themes to be discussed at the next working group meeting.</li> </ul>

6e	WG4 – Financial Management and Performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Secretariat will engage the Institute of Public Administration to run a national audit and risk committee workshop later in the year;</li> <li>• The Secretariat has followed up with the LGMA in relation to the MyPay report. An update will be provided once LGMA revert;</li> <li>• The Working Group Chair will meet with the Director of the LGAS in relation to a review of LA Audit Query Findings.</li> </ul>
7	Future Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secretariat to forward existing 'Save the date' invites to new Board Members</li> <li>• Meath County Council are invited to the next meeting</li> </ul>