



National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC)
Final Minutes of the Meeting – Wednesday 11th January 2023 at 11:30 a.m.

Venue: Conference Room, Custom House, Dublin

Attended by:

Chairperson: Michael McCarthy

Members: Brian Cawley Noel Harrington
Fiona Quinn Niall Quinn
Declan Breathnach

Secretariat: Claire Gavin Alan McDermott
John Goldrick

Apologies: Ciarán Hayes Margaret Lane

1. Minutes & actions of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting of 22nd November were approved.

2. Declaration of conflict of interest

No conflicts of interest were raised.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Consideration of Stage 2 meeting with Dublin City Council

The Board believed that the meeting with Dublin City Council was a productive one. In particular, one board member highlighted the quality of the questions prepared by the Secretariat and that much work had gone into their preparation. It was suggested that unused questions from the Stage 2

meeting could be fully utilised by forwarding them to the Council for their later reply. It was also noted that a number of topics were covered by the board that related to the prepared questions.

5. Work Programme:

CHAIR: Scrutiny meeting/report update

The Chair outlined that Stage 1 scrutiny meetings will be held with Kildare, Mayo and Longford from February onwards. It was also noted that in December 2022 three further Scrutiny reports consisting of Wexford, Galway City and Leitrim County Councils had been uploaded to the NOAC website should board members wish to review them.

Local Government Governance, Efficiency and Reform Working Group (WG1): Update

The WG held its last meeting on 14th December 2022 and it was noted that certain pieces of work were agreed upon at this meeting. These included the review of the Regional Assembly monitoring reports, the ongoing reviews of Corporate Plans, engagement with elected members and continued work on Service Level Agreements. It was seen as useful that future engagement would take place with the EPA and other agencies and departments to identify future work priorities. It was noted that for the review of the monitoring reports that the WG would look at Terms of Reference and for Service Level Agreements it would possibly look at leisure centres to start the work in question.

WG2 (PI): Update (PI Report, Chair of Working Group, Workshop meetings)

It was noted that Ciaran Hayes is the new Chair of this WG and that as part of the work on Performance Indicators, there will be an in-person guidelines seminar for data coordinators of local authorities on 8th March in the offices of the LGMA. An invite to any board member who was interested in attending was extended.

WG3: (CCS) Update

The WG met on 10th January, at which the LGMA presented on its preliminary results of the National Customer Service Survey. There was concern noted regarding the oversight NOAC has on the Customer Survey, given that there are no clear parameters. In particular, the WG feels it doesn't have the necessary expertise in this area and independent guidance is needed to carry out data analysis of the results that will be contained in the survey report due to be published in March 2023. It was also suggested that a clear terms of reference with respect to the role of NOAC and the LGMA on the Customer Survey should have been in place. One of the themes the LGMA alluded to in its presentation was value for money and the WG felt it would need to consider this and its measurement. The LGMA have asked the WG for input on the 2023 survey by March. Finally, the Communications Strategy was adopted by the Board in December 2022. A plan will need to be developed and resourced as well as a budget put in place for it.

6. Work Programme for 2023-2024 Update

This item will be discussed with the Chairs of the WG at a meeting later today. The NOAC Strategy and Work Programme will need to be agreed and then published on the NOAC website.

7. Diary for 2023 Update

A calendar of events, meetings and important pieces of work was circulated to the board which should allow for greater awareness of ongoing work as well as meetings of the board and working groups. With regards the Stage 2 meetings, it was noted that the logistics of the hybrid meetings did not work smoothly at the last Corporate Planning event and that it may be worthwhile having in-person board meetings when Stage 2 scrutiny meeting(s) are scheduled for the same day. It was agreed that it would be appropriate to have Stage2 meetings when the in person meetings take place.

8. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is set for Wednesday, 15th February and this will be online.

9. AOB – Discussion on subscribing to LGiU newsletter and input to LGiU/AILG leaflet

It was noted that members of the Secretariat met with representatives from the LGiU in December 2022. The LGiU outlined that it has recruited a number of researchers which they suggested could be used by NOAC to carry out work. The Secretariat advised that it would forward on a link for members to sign up if they wished and this could provide useful information.

Additionally, it was noted that in a WG1 with the AILG on 12th October, the AILG were interested in NOAC creating a leaflet on its remit and work which could be shared with the AILG's elected members. For training purposes, this would be an opportunity for promoting the NOAC website and reports and would allow the local authority members to become more familiar with NOAC.

Furthermore, NOAC will be appearing before a session of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on 17th January to discuss the Public Spending Code Report 2021 and the NOAC Local Authority Performance Indicator Report 2021. NOAC will be represented by the Chair and two board members, in conjunction with Secretariat staff on the day.

As part of an update on the recruitment of a board member, NOAC is currently going through the PAS process. It was noted that this can be a lengthy and, currently, NOAC is waiting for this to be advertised.

The meeting was brought to a close.

Agenda Item No:	Subject	Action
1.	Minutes and actions of previous meeting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agreed to, and will be published on the website.
2.	LGiU	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Circulate details on how to sign up to the LGiU newsletter

