

Draft Minutes of the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) Meeting

Tuesday 15 January 2019 at 10.00 am

Venue: Withdrawing Room, Custom House, Dublin 1

Attended by:

Chairman Michael McCarthy

Members Tara Buckley
Martina Moloney
Dave Holohan
Connie Hanniffy
Sharon O'Connor
John Buckley
Michael McGreal

Secretariat: Lisa Clifford
Claire Gavin
Neill Dalton
Colin Flood

Apologies: Paul Lemass
Colleen Savage

Roscommon County Council attended from 10.45am:

Eugene Cummins - Chief Executive
Martin Lydon – Director of Services
Greg O'Donnell – A/Senior Executive Officer

Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed by the members subject to minor amendments.

A member raised a concern in respect of a decision made at the last meeting. The Chair agreed to meet with this member, and an absent member of the Commission who had an interest in the same decision, at a later date to discuss the decision.

Declaration of any conflicts of interest

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

Update on the Performance Indicator Report 2018

The Performance Indicator Sub Group circulated, for the approval of the Board, the draft Performance Indicator Guidance 2018 for local authorities which has been amended and updated as appropriate from 2017. .

The Chair of the Sub Group confirmed it had received a proposal from the CCMA regarding changes to H3/H4 indicators the previous day and the Sub Group will meet directly after the Board meeting to consider same. The Chair asked the members to approve the content of the guidance as is and to give the subgroup authority to agree the outcome of this indicator and the C4 indicator and issue the final guidelines via email to all NOAC members for approval.

The Members agreed and the Chair asked the members to reply promptly as the guidelines need to issue to local authorities and the LGMA as soon as possible. Members were advised that a workshop of local authority PI co-ordinators will take place on 15th February. .

Update on NOAC Reports 10 and 12

The Secretariat confirmed that the LGMA were preparing a report in response to the NOAC query on these reports. These reports are not yet completed, but they should be available for the next NOAC Meeting.

Update on the Good Practice Event 2019

The Chair gave a brief synopsis of the presentations proposed for the event and invited all NOAC Board Members to attend the event. The Chair requested that those members in a position to attend should let the Secretariat know as soon as possible. Following a request from the Chair, a member agreed to chair one of the sessions at the event.

Communications Strategy

The Chair advised the Board in respect of a meeting he had with an officer of the Communications Section of the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government to discuss a Communication Strategy for NOAC. They discussed the role of NOAC, the requirement for public awareness of the

work of NOAC and the expertise that the Communications Unit would be able to provide to NOAC in developing their own strategy. The Chair advised that the collaboration with the Department's Communications Unit would not impact NOAC independence in any way and that only advice and assistance would be sought on developing communication plans for report publication. The content of NOACs publications would remain solely a matter for NOAC.

A member stated that any publications issued by NOAC should feature the NOAC logo and that consideration should be given to how often and what NOAC is communicating.

The members reiterated that any communication made on behalf of NOAC must be made through the Chair to ensure a united vision.

The Chair advised that the draft Communication Strategy will be circulated to the Board for approval in the future.

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Sub Group Review

It was asked that the membership, work plan and remit of the various NOAC Sub Groups be revisited by the Board. It was suggested that the Board consider the work plan of the Local Government Audit Service to avoid duplication with their work.

New Performance Indicator

A member of the Board enquired on the possibility of introducing a new performance indicator. The indicator would be based on the value for money rating of each local authority. It was advised that this indicator may not be possible to accurately collect. Notwithstanding this, there are several value for money based indicators in the Performance Indicator report at the moment including the cost of Fire, Libraries and Planning services.

Public Spending Code

The updated letter to be issued to Chiefs Executives to begin the Public Spending Code process was circulated to the Board for approval. The changes were agreed and the letter will be issued to local authorities by the Secretariat.

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Profile Meeting with Roscommon County Council at 10.45am

The Chief Executive and two members of the management team of Roscommon County Council attended the meeting.

A separate note on this engagement will be prepared and provided to Roscommon 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 Roscommon 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.

The next meeting date is 5 March 2019.