



## **National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC)**

### **Minutes of the Meeting – Tuesday 11 January 2022 at 10am**

Venue: Remote Meeting via WebEx Meeting Platform

Attended by:

Chairperson: Michael McCarthy

Members: Niall Quinn Ciarán Hayes  
Mary Hurley Margaret Lane  
Noel Harrington Philomena Poole  
Declan Breathnach

Secretariat: Claire Gavin John Goldrick  
George Antonescu Colin Flood  
Darren Browne

Apologies: Brian Cawley

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

The minutes of the NOAC main meeting from 7 December 2021 were approved and they will be published on the website.

**2. Declaration of conflict of interest;**

No conflicts of interest were raised.

**3. Matters Arising;**

There were no matters arising.

#### **4. Work Programme:**

##### **a) Chair;**

Following the Stage 2 meeting with South Dublin County Council on 7 December 2021, the Board will consider and forward any recommendations for the final report to the Secretariat. The minutes of the meeting were agreed. The Meath County Council Scrutiny Report was published in December and is available on the website.

For the 2022 programme, six Stage One Scrutiny visits will be arranged, with the first to be Galway City Council. This meeting will take place remotely given current government restrictions. The Secretariat will circulate proposed dates for these Scrutiny meetings.

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

This working group has not met since the last Board meeting. A working group progress update will be provided at the next NOAC meeting.

##### **c) WG2 – Performance Indicators;**

The Board have agreed the guidelines to be circulated to the local authority data-coordinators for this year's Performance Indicator data collection. For this year's report, an additional indicator will feature covering economic development. The economic sub group of the City and County Management Agency have done a lot of work in developing this indicator. The indicator will focus on the annual spend by local authorities on local economic development per head of population. For this year's report, 2021 data will be treated as a test of the indicator.

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

*Stakeholder mapping exercise:*

The Stakeholder mapping exercise is now complete with the resulting report and infographic to be circulated to the NOAC Board. This will be a resource for NOAC to use and maintain as the Board moves forward. Further discussion will be held as to its publication in the Annual Report and on the website. The next stage in the process will be development of a Communications Strategy. The WG will draw up a tender for this and bring it before the Board for its approval.

*Local Authority Satisfaction Survey:*

The WG have been in contact with the Local Authority Management Agency (LGMA) to ensure as much as possible that the next Local Authority Satisfaction Survey follows the format set by previous iterations.

*Good Practice event 2022:*

Following the 2021 event, the WG held a review. The WG have discussed the possibility of having some element of a build up throughout the year to the main event. For instance, this could be in the form of seminars covering governance strategy and measurement and accountability.

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

The next meeting is scheduled for 19 January 2022. On the agenda for that meeting are discussions of the value for money reports from the Local Government Audit Service (LGAS) and the fleet management questionnaire currently in development.

**5. Dates of next meeting:**

For 2022, the Board agreed the following meeting dates:

- 10am, 1 March 2022; and
- 10am, 5 April 2020

**6. Corporate Governance – Self Assessment Questionnaire**

*Board Self-Assessment Evaluation Questionnaire:*

The six returned responses to date have been compiled and anonymised. Once the outstanding questionnaires have been received, further discussion will take place at the next NOAC meeting. A broader discussion will also take place in-person at a Board away day once restrictions permit.

**7. Any Other Business:**

*Secretariat:*

The Chair reiterated his appreciation to the Secretariat for their continued work during the difficult circumstances of the pandemic and that the Secretariat and Board should meet in-person once restrictions permit. The Board expressed their appreciation to departing Secretariat member Colin

Flood and welcomed new Secretariat member George Antonescu. A further addition in the role of Assistant Principal is expected by the end of January.

*Former NOAC Chair Pat McLoughlin*

The Chair also acknowledged the work of former NOAC Chair Pat McLoughlin who has now retired as Chief Executive of the Alzheimer's Society of Ireland.

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

<b>Agenda Item No:</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Action</b>
1.	Minutes & actions of previous meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agreed and will be published on website</li> </ul>
4a.	Scrutiny Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members are invited to consider and forward any recommendations for the eventual report of the meeting with South Dublin County Council.</li> <li>• A programme of meetings for 2022 has been agreed with the NOAC Chair.</li> </ul>
4d.	Stakeholder mapping exercise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infographic to be circulated to the NOAC Board.</li> <li>• Further discussion will be held as to its publication in the Annual Report and on the website.</li> <li>• A tender will be developed for an external company to support the creation of this strategy.</li> </ul>
5.	Corporate Governance – Self-Assessment Evaluation Questionnaire:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Once the outstanding questionnaires have been received, further discussion will take place at the next NOAC meeting.</li> <li>• A broader discussion will also take place in-person at a Board away day once restrictions permit.</li> </ul>