



**National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC)**  
**Final Minutes of the Meeting – Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2022 at 10 a.m.**

**Venue:** Remote Meeting via WebEx Meeting Platform

**Attended by:**

Chairperson: Michael McCarthy

Members: Philomena Pool Ciarán Hayes  
Margaret Lane Fiona Quinn

Secretariat: Claire Gavin Alan McDermott  
Nason Fallon John Goldrick  
Valerie Longmore

Apologies: Declan Breathnach  
Brian Cawley Noel Harrington

Not in attendance: Niall Quinn

In accordance with the requirement in paragraph 4.9 of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies to have two meetings per annum without the Secretariat present, the first part of the meeting was held in the absence of the Secretariat.

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

The minutes of the previous meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> October were approved.

**2. Declaration of conflict of interest**

No conflicts of interest were raised.

### **3. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **4. Work Programme Updates**

#### **Local Government Governance, Efficiency and Reform Working Group (WG1)**

An in-depth update was provided on WG1 regarding the NOAC Strategy and Work Plan day of 14<sup>th</sup> November. Additionally, a short overview was given regarding the WG1 meeting with the AILG on the 14<sup>th</sup> October which included an invite to the NOAC Chair for an AILG Conference in March 2023. The next major event, to be hosted in conjunction with WG3, is the Corporate Planning workshop, which is scheduled to be held in the Custom House on the 30<sup>th</sup> November.

#### **Performance Indicators Working Group (WG2)**

The Performance Indicator Report was published on the 4<sup>th</sup> November 2021. The Working Group Chair expressed her appreciation to the Secretariat for the work done on the report. Despite no formal PR, the report has gained widespread coverage, including in the Irish Times, the Examiner, the Northside People (newspaper) and in the media in Mayo and Kildare. It was noted that there is an increasing level of work on the trend analysis within the report. This year, an editor was engaged and there could be merit in this and the engagement of a data analysis expert early in the process for the 2022 report. This will be considered by the Working Group and will be subject to budget availability.

The NOAC Chair acknowledged the good work undertaken by the Working Group members and the Secretariat in getting this comprehensive report published.

#### **The Communications and Customer Survey Working Group (WG3)**

An update was provided by the Secretariat who advised that the Good Practice seminar was held on 25<sup>th</sup> October. Attendance numbers were impressive, with over 300 online attendees registered and approximately 60 people at the live event. Very favourable feedback was received on the topics and presentations, the venue of Kilkenny Castle and being part of Innovation Week. It was noted that it would be good to have the venue and the innovation week exposure continued again next year. The Secretariat will produce a report of the event, highlighting what worked well and outlining any proposed improvements for the future. The board acknowledged the work carried out by the Secretariat for their input into what was a successful seminar. In relation to the Communications Strategy, it was advised that it was near conclusion and it would be anticipated that it would be before the board shortly. Finally, details of the forthcoming Corporate Governance event was mentioned as this was a joint WG1 and WG3 event.

## **Financial Management and Performance Working Group (WG4)**

The Public Spending Code 2021 draft report had been circulated and now required approval from the board to publish and send to DPER. The report involved a large amount of data crunching before publication. It contains the details for all the obligations of local authorities in spending public money and involves a five step process, with each of these steps having been examined.

It was outlined that with the self-assessment checklists, some of the scores are ranked as a one. It was questioned as to whether the board or another forum should be examining the details of this. This will be discussed further in a future meeting of this Working Group.

One member advised that some links contained in the report were no longer valid. The Secretariat agreed to review and contact the necessary local authorities to ensure all links were accurate. On that basis, the Public Spending Code 2021 was approved by the board.

## **5. Stage 2 meetings**

Three stage 2 meetings were carried out this year, with Galway City, Leitrim and Wexford County Councils. It will be necessary to carry out a further two stage 2 meetings in early 2023.

## **6. Work Programme for 2023**

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

## **7. Date of next meeting**

In line with the agreement in the Work Plan meeting in May 2022, the Secretariat advised that it would be providing a full year calendar of meetings for 2023 and advised based on members' preference future meetings are to take place on either a Tuesday or Wednesday. The Secretariat will send out proposed dates for 2023 and will update accordingly. The planning for WG meetings will also be carried out with the aim to have at least one meeting per quarter.

## **8. Any Other Business**

It was outlined that the Communications Strategy is well advanced at this stage. Also, the next item of note is the Corporate Planning event, scheduled for 30<sup>th</sup> November.

**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"> <li>Agreed to, and will be published on the website.</li> </ul>
4.	Work Programme – WG3: (CCS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Secretariat will produce a report of the event, highlighting what worked well and outlining any proposed improvements for the future.</li> </ul>
4.	Financial Management and Performance Working Group (WG4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Within the Public Spending Code, self-assessment checklists will be examined by WG4.</li> <li>The Secretariat will revert to the local authority I.T. teams and cc the internal auditors, to rectify some links within the document.</li> <li>The Public Spending Code was approved by the board and will be published by the Secretariat.</li> </ul>
7.	Dates of future meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Secretariat will issue proposed dates for the 2023 board meetings.</li> </ul>