

**NOAC Board Meeting
Final Minutes
Wednesday 6th December at 10.30am**

Venue: In person in Custom House and via WebEx

Attended by:

Chairperson: Michael McCarthy

Members:	Declan Breathnach	Brian Cawley
	Noel Harrington	Fiona Quinn
	Kathleen Holohan	Margaret Lane
	Miriam McDonald	

Secretariat:	Claire Gavin	Deirdre Byrne
	Joan Comiskey	John Goldrick
	Valerie Longmore	

Apologies: Ciarán Hayes

1. Minutes & actions of previous meeting

An error was noted at the start of page three, where the last meeting was recorded to have taken place in September, the month in question was in fact November. The minutes with the amendment are agreed and signed off.

2. Declaration of conflict of interest

As the Stage 2 Scrutiny meeting with Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council was taking place immediately after the board meeting, a number of board members noted that they live in, or have previously lived in the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown area and one member worked for Dún Laoghaire/ Rathdown County Council in the past.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Work Programme:

Update from the Chair

The Chair advised that all Stage 1 Scrutiny meetings have now been completed, as the final meeting took place with Kilkenny County on 5 December. The meeting was productive and interesting matters were raised, the main focus being the local authority's response to the Ukrainian crisis. It was noted that 49% of the Ukrainian community in Kilkenny is employed, with a third participating in volunteer activities. There are four remaining Stage 2 Scrutiny meeting to take place in the new year, with consideration being given to holding two or three on the same day.

WG1 (LGGER) Update

The Chair of Working Group noted that it last met on 22 November. This meeting was attended by the Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR), to discuss the findings of its report on Regional Assembly monitoring reports. A summary of the findings and the report will be presented at the next board meeting. The next steps are being considered, including sending the report and/or summary findings to the Minister from the Chair of NOAC with a covering letter if appropriate. In terms of publishing the report, the Chair of WG1 will discuss this with the Chair of WG3 in the new year.

It was noted the ICT Strategy of local authorities will be discussed at the next WG1 meeting in the new year.

Following a presentation by the Chair of WG1 on the review of local authority leisure centre SLAs at the Audit Committee in October, further consideration will be given to holding a small event with relevant stakeholders and experts in this area.

Working is progressing well on the Review of the Implementation of Corporate Plans and an update on this will be provided at the next board meeting

WG2 (PI) Update

In the absence of the Chair, the Secretariat provided an update. The Working Group last met on 28 November. Work on the Guidelines for the Performance Indicator Report 2023 is progressing at present. The Guidelines will be published and a hard copy will be distributed to Data Co-ordinators at the workshop on 27 February 2024. On review of the guidelines for the 2023 report, it has been agreed that the use of text boxes containing significant dates and a variety of FAQs will be helpful and user friendly. The Chair of WG2 will meeting with DECC, the LGMA and the Department of Transport on 6 December, to discuss the possibility of new climate change indicators. This should help with the linking of the LPT with the PIs further in the future.

WG3 (CCS): Update

The Chair of the Working Group advised that it last met in November. A survey was issued to the local authorities on how they measure customer service. The closing date for this survey is 19 December, and to date 11 responses have been received. A weekly reminder is being issued to each of the outstanding local authorities. A review of the results will be carried out by the Chair before the meeting with the Chair of the Corporate Committee of the CCMA in January 2024.

WG4 (FMP): Update

The Chair of the Working Group advised that work on the Internal Audit report is progressing. The Working Group will meet to discuss it in January 2024.

5. Date of next meeting

The Secretariat will circulate calendar reminders to members for the proposed 2024 meeting dates. It was noted that consideration will be given to holding two of the planned board meetings off-site in 2024.

6. Discussion on Value for Money re Rates Report

The draft report from the Local Government Audit Service (LGAS) was circulated in advance of the meeting. It is a fact-based report, which does not make any recommendations. An observation will be made by the board recording the significance of the sums of money involved and that any money being lost is not desirable. It was also expressed that while during Covid the VFM reports were fact based and a return to reports with recommendations would be preferable.

7. Discussion re Mayor of Limerick Bill 2023.

It was noted that the Bill is at Report Stage in the Dáil on 13 December and will then progress to the Seanad. The Bill will divide the functions of the local authority between a directly-elected Mayor and a Director General, which will replace the role of Chief Executive. The local authority are welcoming the change. In terms of the potential impact on NOAC, it does not appear that it will cause any major change to the Commission's role.

8. AOB.

The Chair and board members asked that the Secretariat pass on their congratulations to Alan McDermott (Secretariat) and his wife on the recent birth of their baby daughter.

The meeting was brought to a close.

Agenda item no.	Subject	Action
1.	Minutes and actions of the previous meeting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agreed, to be published on the website once the amendment on page 3 is completed.
5.	Date of next meeting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Secretariat will send calendar reminders to members for the proposed 2024 meeting dates.
6.	Value for Money re Rates Report.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Secretariat to record the note suggested by the board.