

**To: The Cathaoirleach and Each Member of Roscommon County Council**

**Date: 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2019**

**Re: Management Report August, 2019**

Dear Cathaoirleach and Members,

As part of the on-going governance of the Local Authority, Section 136 (2) of the Local Government Act 2001 as inserted by section 51 subsections (3) and (4) of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 places an obligation on the Chief Executive to prepare monthly management reports, in relation to the performance of his or her executive functions during the preceding calendar month, including implementation of policy or other matters required by the council in the exercise of its reserved functions, and the provision of services by the council, and shall on the set day (4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month) furnish a copy of the management report to each member of the local authority.

I refer to circular letter LG 18/2014 which contains the guidelines on the preparation of the monthly management reports. The monthly management reports are intended to assist the elected members discharge their governance responsibilities.

The attached management report for August, 2019 has been prepared in accordance with Circular LG18/2014 and policies which have been adopted by Roscommon County Council are currently being implemented throughout the organisation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. Kelly', written over a horizontal line.

Deputy Chief Executive



Comhairle Contae  
Ros Comáin  
Roscommon  
County Council



# MANAGEMENT REPORT



**AUGUST 2019**

**Roscommon County Council**  
**Revenue Account Income & Expenditure Summary by Service Division**  
**Management Accounts Summary to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019**

	EXPENDITURE		INCOME		NET
	Expenditure Incurred up to 31/08/2019	Adopted Full Year Budget	Income Receivable up to 31/08/2019	Adopted Full year Budget	
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing & Building	4,001,778	6,432,331	5,142,122	6,610,726	1,140,345
Road Transport & Safety	12,387,695	21,626,277	6,631,157	15,798,962	(5,756,538)
Water Services	4,281,826	7,555,705	4,339,153	7,279,000	57,327
Development Management	3,514,888	6,249,355	2,164,125	1,566,387	(1,350,763)
Environmental Services	3,102,254	5,552,626	347,672	913,329	(2,754,582)
Recreation & Amenity	2,290,773	4,045,888	485,586	593,772	(1,805,186)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	300,506	704,781	271,547	283,349	(28,959)
Miscellaneous Services	3,257,538	4,845,538	1,781,428	1,797,375	(1,476,110)
Central Management Charges	644,609	0	54,640	0	(589,969)
Local Government Fund/General Purpose Grant	0	0	6,810,820	10,216,200	6,810,820
Pension Levy	0	0	0	0	0
Rates	0	0	7,819,113	11,953,400	7,819,113
	<b>33,781,866</b>	<b>57,012,501</b>	<b>35,847,363</b>	<b>57,012,501</b>	<b>2,065,497</b>

**Note 1;**

The Central Management Charge is allocated one month in arrears. The costs included in the Central Management Charge are distributed among Divisions A-H and include costs from Area Offices, Corporate Affairs, Corporate buildings, Finance, Human Resources, IT Print & Post Room Services, Pension & Lump Sums.

**Summary of Major Collections as at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019**

<b>Debt Type</b>	<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>Accrued</b>	<b>Vacant Property Adjustments</b>	<b>Write Off</b>	<b>Total for Collection</b>	<b>Collected</b>	<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>Specific Doubtful Arrears</b>	<b>% Collection</b>	<b>% Collection Previous Year</b>
<b>Commercial Rates</b>	1,906,949	11,728,590	1,033,301	94,546	12,507,693	8,057,600	4,450,094	260,229	65%	65%
<b>Rents &amp; Annuities</b>	414,000	3,411,823		19,983	3,805,840	3,350,226	455,615		88%	88%
<b>Housing Loans</b>	139,376	190,158			329,535	206,568	122,967		63%	45%

**Recourse to Overdraft;**

There has been no recourse to overdraft during the month of August 2019

## Planning Section Management Report – August 2019

### Forward Planning

#### Northern and Western Regional Assembly – Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy

The Northern and Western Regional Assembly (NWRA) published their *Proposed Material Alterations of the Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy* on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2019, with the public consultation period scheduled to run until October 11<sup>th</sup>. Work has been on-going within Roscommon County Council in examining the proposed material alterations, following which a detailed submission will be prepared. Communication has also taken place between planning officials in Roscommon County Council and Westmeath County Council in relation to the content of the RSES which is of mutual significance to both Authorities, in particular where it relates to Athlone as a regional growth centre.

#### Development Management and Planning Enforcement Activity

The table below summarises Development Management activity in the Planning Section in August. A total of 54 valid applications were received, representing an increase from the previous month (44). Decisions were made on 29 planning applications, of which only 1 was a refusal (i.e. a refusal rate of 3.5%). While similar numbers of new planning applications were submitted in both the 'Roscommon North' and 'Roscommon South' planning areas in August, there was also a significant increase in demand for pre-planning meetings in the 'Roscommon South' planning area.

Period	Activity	Roscommon North	Roscommon South	Totals
August 2019	Valid app	24	30	54
	Invalid app	3	8	11
	Extension of Duration	1	0	1
	Refusal	1	0	1
	DED	1	0	1
	Pre-planning meeting	4	18	22

#### Enforcement Activity

Period	Activity	Countywide Totals
August 2019	New enforcement case	10
	Warning letter	0
	Enforcement notice	2
	Closed case	4
	Legal proceedings	0

In comparison to all preceding months in 2019, there was a substantial rise in the number of new enforcement cases – rising from an average of 4 per month to 10 new cases in August, the majority of which arose from complaints received from members of the public.

## **Unfinished Housing Developments**

Despite the early part of August being the traditional summer holiday period for the construction industry, a range of work continued to be undertaken at various unfinished housing developments as part of the on-going initiative to resolve unfinished housing developments. Contractors appointed under RCC's Framework were engaged in various works (predominantly surfacing and public lighting) at developments in Boyle, Ballaghaderreen, Roosky, Frenchpark, Knockcroghery and Ballinagare. A developer also continued his programme of site resolution activity at a development in Roscommon town.

As a result of various works having reached a satisfactory conclusion in 2 developments in Monksland, schedules were referred to Irish Water as part of the Taking in Charge (TIC) process.

Further to receipt of notification from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, at the end of July, of a new multi annual funding initiative entitled *"Residential Estates with Developer Provided Water Services Infrastructure – Funding Bids for Multi-Annual Developer Provided Water Services Infrastructure Resolution Programme"* the UHD team have been working to determine candidate developments to submit as part of the funding bid. An officer from the UHD team also attended the DHPLG's national workshop on the initiative.

# Economic and Development Promotion Management Report – August 2019

## Local Enterprise Office:

- 134 enquiries were recorded.
- 1 Business Mentor Clinic was held with 8 participants.
- 1 TOV Information Session took place.
- Promotion of Brexit supports continued.
- Ongoing one-to-one mentoring for the business community took place.
- On-site mentoring commenced as part of the Lean for Business Programme.
- Student Enterprise Programme: All 2<sup>nd</sup> level schools in the county were contacted offering support to get involved at Junior, Intermediate and Senior levels.
- Primary School Enterprise Awareness Workshop: primary schools in Co Roscommon were contacted and to-date 6 schools have signed up.
- Autumn training offering finalised and on the LEO Roscommon website and being promoted on social media sites.

## Vacant Sites:

- Ongoing advertising of available sites continues.

## Funding Opportunities:

- RRDF and REDF applications have been submitted for funding for the development of the Centre in Monksland for Enterprises.

## Enterprise Development Plan to 2020:

- Strategic Objective 4 “Enhancing the Growth Potential of Ag Tech in the West” is being undertaken by the 3 LEOs in the West.

## USEFE:

- A Jobs Fair towards the end of 2019 is being discussed and will possibly be held in Co Roscommon.

## Tourism Development and Promotion:

### Regional Projects:

- **USEFE:** Presentation by Angling Promoters on proposal for an Angling Competition in 2020. To be brought to Steering Group for discussion.
- **IHH:** Awaiting report from Deirdre Black Consultants and proposal to FI to develop a Master Plan for Rathcroghan.
- **IWAK:** Weekend Tourism Information officer commenced. 3 staff now employed at arrival information centre.

- **Taste of Island:** Taste of the Lakelands meeting held to discuss funding received and potential dates.
- **Ruritage EU Project:** Forwarded details for next partner meeting and partook in online meeting.

### County Projects:

#### Tourism Brand: Editorials in OPW Heritage Magazine and Hotpress

- ☞ **Walks:** Met with Eilish Canty (RRO) and Conor English, Coillte to review the Castlerea Section of Suck Valley Way. Also met with Cloonlarge group to review their signage on walk and signs required.
- ☞ **Promotional:** Advertising Article in Irish Rail, Hotpress and Roscommon People magazine.
- ☞ **Walks:** Attended the Castlerea Rose Festive Walk to Clonalis along Suck Valley route.
- ☞ **2019 Festival and Events:** Successful Castlerea Rose and O'Carolan Harp Festival held.
- ☞ **Percy French 100 Anniversary:** Met with group to discuss arrangements for centenary year.
- ☞ **Social Media:** Michelle Fallon highlighting weekend activities for the visitor.
- ☞ **Website:** Events updated.
- ☞ **Outdoor Recreation: (2018 Scheme):** Met with Coillte to agree the signage required and the new map design. Quotes sought for binoculars.  
**(2019 scheme):** Awaiting announcement in regard to Measure 1 of the scheme.

### **Publicity & Media:**

- **Publicity Material:** Promotional merchandise purchased.
- **Social Media:** Information from attractions and communities being updated on a daily basis. Enterprise Department has agreed to co-ordinate Council Social Media usage for Arts, Heritage, Economic Development, Social Inclusion and Community Section. Ongoing.
- **Events Calendar:** Enterprise Department approving events and promoting through numerous channels and contacts. GIS Officer has promoted in Local Authority News publication. Calendar advertised on 2 local papers and also through social media advert.

### **Arts Office:**

- **Decade of Centenaries Commemorative Programme:** The *national exhibition entitled 'Women in Politics and Public Life 1918 to 2018 – a Pop-Up Museum'* continued to engage the interest of members of the public. A number of structured/guided tours took place to promote awareness with details in the press and elsewhere during August. Ellen O'Malley Dunlop, Chairperson of the National Women's Council of Ireland and Sarah Barnes, daughter of late Monica Barnes, activist and politician and Fine Gael TD both spoke at a lecture session on 26<sup>th</sup> August. Monica Barnes was a co-founder of the Council for the Status of Women (now the National Women's Council) in 1973. More tours and lectures are planned for September and this will include tours for post primary school students from a number of schools.
- **Creative Ireland:** A Roscommon based artist, Flin Keane, who is a ceramics artist, began work in the Autism Unit in the CBS Post Primary School, Roscommon. The artist will work



with the students in the Autism Unit and the TY students in the development of a mosaic and ceramic wall in the sensory garden of the Unit. The work will take a number of months.

Students from post primary schools across the county have been meeting with six Roscommon based artists who are exhibiting their work in the Roscommon Arts Centre currently. The students invited by the Arts Office are taking part in workshops with the artists and are learning about the artist, their work and their inspiration. TY students and arts classes are attending the workshops.

The Margaret Cousins commemorative commission, which was awarded to visual artist Eimear Walshe, was opened in King House on 25<sup>th</sup> August.

- **Douglas Hyde Centre:** Work began on the refurbishment of the Douglas Hyde Centre in Portahard. This includes the design of an interactive, modern and multidimensional exhibition highlighting the life and legacy of the first President of Ireland.
- **Chapbook Award:** Rory Duffy was the recipient of the Chapbook Award for 2019. This award in the sum of €500, has been established to assist Roscommon writers with the costs associated with publishing a modest collection of poems (15 – 20) or a compact collection of short stories (3 – 6). Mr. Duffy will publish a collection of poems.

#### **Arts Centre:**

- August's programme at Roscommon Arts Centre included the opening of the WAR exhibition by artists Frances Crowe, Anne Rigney, Noel & Dymrna Molloy, Honor Fitzgerald & Joe Cunniffe in the new gallery space. The exhibition is the % for Art project to coincide with the opening of the Centre.
- Artist supports were provided to Ronan Brady & Aisling Ni Cheallaigh, who spent two weeks re-developing their show "How to Square a Circle" for a national tour, that includes the Dublin Fringe Festival. Roscommon Arts Centre has supported the development of this work and the opening night of the tour took place in the arts centre in August.
- Hatch participant Karl Quinn made a welcome return to the arts centre in August to begin work on "Trolley & Dolly" a new work for young audiences that we supported last year and which will be performed at the centre in October as part of the Lollipops Festival.
- Our summer Playmaking, playwriting programme for children continued this month, with practitioner Maisie Lee working with a group of 7 young playwrights aged 9 – 12, as together they develop short plays that will be performed by professional actors both at Roscommon Arts Centre and Backstage Theatre Longford as part of the autumn programme.

# Community and Economic and Development Section Management Report - August 2019

## Community Enhancement Programme

- The 2019 CEP funding allocation for Co. Roscommon was €133,301.00.
- Roscommon LCDC agreed to ring fence approximately 30% of the funding for grants of €1,000 or less. It was further agreed that the remaining funding should be allocated to projects with a minimum spend of €10,000.
- Strand A (€1,000) – A total of 53 projects sought funding under Strand A. 30 projects are to receive funding of approximately €1,000 each.
- Strand B (€10,000 +) – A total of 46 projects sought funding under Strand B. 9 projects are to receive funding of between €10,000 and €13,000 each.
- An additional Sheds funding stream was announced in June 2019 under the CEP Programme. The total value of this fund for Co. Roscommon was €9,162. The closing date for receipt of applications under this scheme was the 26<sup>th</sup> of July 2019 and all Sheds in the county were notified accordingly.
- The LCDC Sub-Committee met on the 31<sup>st</sup> of July to assess and score the 8 applications submitted under the Sheds scheme.
- 7 applications received funding of between €900 and €2,500 each under the Sheds CEP scheme.

## **Healthy Ireland**

- Healthy Ireland funding advertised with closing date of first week in September.

## **LEADER:**

- 27 payments made to promoters totaling €878,400.87
- 14 Projects paid in full.
- Monthly Admin Returns and payments to LEADER Co. are ongoing.

## **SICAP:**

- SICAP Payments are being processed for Q4 2019.

## Heritage Office

- Heritage Week
  - A County event guide was produced and distributed around the county.
  - Over twenty community groups, organisations and individuals organised more than forty events around County Roscommon to celebrate the rich and diverse heritage that is there for us all to enjoy.

## Regeneration Team

- **Urban Regeneration Development Fund**  
Roscommon Public Realm Enhancement Project: RPS have been appointed lead consultants for the project, two meetings have taken place to further refine the proposal. The Part 8 process shall be completed in September. Advanced survey works are underway in the town to map the existing below ground services.

## **Rural Regeneration Development Fund**

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Castlereagh Hub Extension: Tender documents for consultancy services to carry out design works for the extension were advertised on e-tenders. Closing date is 30<sup>th</sup> of August.

### **Roscommon Outdoor Recreation**

Loughnaneane Park: A contractor has been appointed to replace the existing boardwalk/decking and carrying out footpath drainage works. Murray & Associates are working on documents for the outdoor amphitheatre.

Sculptor has been procured for Sculpture Trail and has held a consultation meeting on the design with the Town Team.

### **Monksland Town & Village**

Monksland Urban Park: A site location options report has been prepared by Murray & associates to determine the most suitable location for the urban park. This shall be presented to the town team on 27<sup>th</sup> August for discussion purposes.

### **Roscommon Town & Village**

Roscommon Castle: A bat and swift survey is currently underway in the park and a report is due in the coming weeks. This shall be reviewed by National Parks and Wildlife prior to applying for planning and Ministerial consent to light the Roscommon Castle.

### Athleague:

Community & Economic Plan completed with final consultation with community during August with copies left in various locations

Launch of plan organised for September 21<sup>st</sup> 2019 by Minister Ring.

### **Historic Towns Initiative**

#### Main Street, Boyle:

Contractor commenced works.

Painting scheme proposed by Conservation Architect agreed with each property owner

Interim report provided to Heritage Council.

## **Residential Occupancy Pilot**

Meeting of pilot towns held in Callan.

Update on work being progressed provided to Department.

## **Applications for 2019 Funding**

### **Outdoor Recreation 2019**

- 4 projects prepared and submitted for funding under Measure 2 of the ORIS 2019.

### **Town and Village Renewal 2019**

- 8 projects prepared and submitted for funding for 2019 TVR.

### **RRDF Category A 2019**

- 1 project prepared and submitted for funding.

## **Roscommon Bound – Global Rossie Strategy**

- Website information completed. Social media links currently being worked on with IT Dept.
- Work in train for organising launch event.