



Comhairle Contae
Ros Comáin
Roscommon
County Council



MANAGEMENT REPORT



November 2019

Roscommon County Council
Revenue Account Income & Expenditure Summary by Service Division
Management Accounts Summary to 30th November 2019

	EXPENDITURE		INCOME		NET
	Expenditure Incurred up to 30/11/2019	Adopted Full Year Budget	Income Receivable up to 30/11/2019	Adopted Full year Budget	Actual Overall Surplus/ (Deficit)
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing & Building	5,476,614	6,432,331	7,030,924	6,610,726	1,554,309
Road Transport & Safety	23,453,449	21,626,277	14,435,416	15,798,962	(9,018,034)
Water Services	5,776,658	7,555,705	5,939,820	7,279,000	163,162
Development Management	5,170,892	6,249,355	3,173,002	1,566,387	(1,997,890)
Environmental Services	4,365,150	5,552,626	732,070	913,329	(3,633,080)
Recreation & Amenity	3,370,239	4,045,888	675,823	593,772	(2,694,416)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	533,073	704,781	351,748	283,349	(181,326)
Miscellaneous Services	4,290,608	4,845,538	2,453,613	1,797,375	(1,836,995)
Central Management Charges	2,009,316	0	152,499	0	(1,856,818)
Local Government Fund/General Purpose Grant	0	0	8,513,525	10,216,200	8,513,525
Pension Levy	0	0	0	0	0
Rates	0	0	10,695,307	11,953,400	10,695,307
	54,446,000	57,012,501	54,153,746	57,012,501	(292,254)

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 30th November 2019

Debt Type	Opening Balance	Accrued	Vacant Property Adjustments	Write Off	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Balance	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection	% Collection Previous Year
Commercial Rates	1,906,949	11,666,836	1,211,391	154,912	12,207,483	9,577,324	2,630,159	233,226	80%	79%
Rents & Annuities	414,000	4,694,836		19,950	5,088,887	4,644,465	444,422		91%	92%
Housing Loans	139,376	343,680			483,057	363,210	119,847		75%	53%

Recourse to Overdraft;

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

Planning Section Management Report – November 2019

Forward Planning

Vacant Site Levy

In 2018, processes were undertaken in relation to the identification of Vacant Sites (liable to attract a vacant site levy under the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015), the subsequent issuing of statutory notifications and the placing of sites on the Vacant Site Register. A total of 30 sites were included on the register in 2018, and therefore become liable for the first payment of the vacant site levy in January 2020. All 30 sites included on the Register were re-inspected in November 2019, in order to establish whether or not there had been any change in their condition during the preceding year. Work was undertaken at 4 sites and they no longer constitute Vacant Sites, and were accordingly removed from the Vacant Site Register on 25th November 2019. In accordance with Section 15(4) of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015, Notices of Demand for Payment of the Vacant Site Levy issued to the owners of the remaining 26 vacant sites, and included notification of the statutory entitlement to appeal the Demand to An Bord Pleanála, under Section 18 of the Act.

Vacant Homes Activity

Further to the identification of vacant homes in a number of settlements (identified as part of the cyclical survey work which has been carried out by Roscommon County Council since late 2017) and subsequent engagement between property owners and the Vacant Homes Officer, in conjunction with other relevant sections of the Council, recent progress includes the acquisition by RCC of a property in Beechlawn, Monksland, which will become available for social housing in 2020. Negotiations have also been undertaken in relation to the potential acquisition of another long term vacant property in Monksland.

Dialogue was also on-going in November with a number of vacant home owners in Boyle, where properties were identified as potential candidates for the Boyle Pilot Repair and Lease Scheme. As a result of this process, a number of property owners have currently engaged consultant architects / engineers with a view to identifying the extent of works necessary to bring the properties up to appropriate rental standards and achieve compliance with Building Regulations.

Development Management and Planning Enforcement Activity

The table below summarises Development Management activity in the Planning Section in November. A total of 51 valid applications were received in November, which is comparable to the numbers received in the previous month (54). Decisions were made on 37 planning applications, of which 5 were refusals. Demand for pre-planning meetings was comparable across the 'Roscommon North' and 'Roscommon South' planning areas and meetings were facilitated within 1-2 weeks of receipt of the request.

Period	Activity	Roscommon North	Roscommon South	Totals
October 2019	Valid app	27	24	51
	Invalid app	1	5	6
	Extension of Duration	0	0	0
	Refusal	2	3	5
	DED	1	0	1
	Pre-planning meeting	8	10	18

Enforcement Activity

Period	Activity	Countywide Totals
November 2019	New enforcement case	5
	Warning letter	3
	Enforcement notice	0
	Closed case	4
	Legal proceedings	0

Unfinished Housing Developments

A range of activity continued to be undertaken in November as part of the on-going initiative to resolve unfinished housing developments. Similar to previous months, developers continued work on two sites in Roscommon town. In addition, semi-skilled workers, employed directly by Roscommon County Council, were engaged in works at three developments – one each in Monksland, Barrybeg and Rooskey.

Two developments were also progressed towards taking in charge - schedules for Ascaill Eoghain in Cruby Hill, Roscommon were referred to Irish Water for consideration, while The Plains, Ballinagare was at a further stage of the process, being referred to the Roads Section for Taking in Charge. *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 – November 2019

Local Enterprise Office:

- 120 enquiries were recorded.
- 2 Business Advice Clinics were held with 14 participants.
- 6 people availed of the TOV Information Session.
- Promotion of Brexit supports continued.
- Ongoing one-to-one mentoring for the business community took place.
- On-site mentoring continues as part of the Lean for Business Programme.
- Student Enterprise Programme: All 9 second level schools received support.
- Primary School Enterprise Awareness Workshop: Visits took place to 11 primary schools and the closing date for the slogan challenge competition was the 29th. The winning school will be selected early in the new year.
- The Autumn/Winter training programme is nearing completion.
- All LEO supports are being promoted on the LEO website and on various social media platforms.
- Minister for European Affairs, Helen McEntee visited the LEO on 4th and met with staff and clients.
- Louise Ward & Enda Cannon visited Agritechna Expo in Germany with representatives of LEOs Mayo & Galway. Two clients from Roscommon were supported in attending, ie Errol Auchmuty, Lecarrow and Adrian Keegan Tractor Sales, Athleague.
- USEFE Operational Group Meeting was held.
- An Innovation Voucher Clinic was held on the 20th with 10 participants.
- 18 businesses from Roscommon have applied for the Productivity Challenge Voucher of €2,500 each (closing date was 22nd). €500,000 allocated nationally to support small businesses improve operational efficiencies and productivity.

Vacant Sites:

- Ongoing advertising of available sites continues.

Funding Opportunities:

- RRDF application successful for Monksland Innovation Centre. Awaiting outcome of REDF application from Enterprise Ireland's announcement on 20th December.

Enterprise Development Plan to 2020:

- Strategic Objective 4 "Enhancing the Growth Potential of Ag Tech in the West". The report has been completed and will be presented to the committee in January.

IDA:

- HoE has had a meeting with Rikki Conneely, IDA Regional Executive, IDA re: attracting investment to Roscommon. A portfolio of lands is currently being prepared and a grow remote event will be held in 2020.

USEFE:

- A Jobs Fair is scheduled for March 2020.

Tourism Development and Promotion:

Regional Projects:

- **USEFE:** Agreed to go back to Angling Competition proposers and seek additional information on investment return. Next meeting Dec 9th.
- **IHH:**
 - Workshop held with Sarah McCarthy and Fáilte Ireland representatives on future of King House. Suggestion of Feasibility Study to look at its potentials. Sarah McCarthy to forward transcript from workshop to Majella Hunt for discussion with management.
 - Tourism Officers, RRO and Heritage Officer met with Ireland Hidden Heartland to discuss the development of commercial networks in IHH region.
- **IWAK:** Financial contribution paid for staffing of 3rd member for summer.
- **Taste of Island:** following up with FI for the final requirements for submission of application for funding.
- **Walks Brochure:** Quote sought for 2020 edition of the Walks Brochure to include National Famine Way, Lung Lough Gara Way, Monksland Walk and Boyle to Lough Key Cycleway.

County Projects:

- **Marketing and Promotion:** Attended:
 - 50 plus show in RDS Dublin
- **2019 Festival and Events:** 19 festivals paid to date. Reminder email issued to all.
- **Social Media:** Halloween blog completed.
- **Website:** Events updated and Blog added.
- **Outdoor Recreation: (2018 Scheme):**
 - **Sliabh Bawn:** final invoices paid and final application made to Dept for the full amount of funding allocated.
 - **Suck Valley:** Extension sought to complete project as delays due to weather and Rural Recreation Officer out on sick leave.
- **Outdoor Recreation: (2019 scheme):** All 4 projects applied for under Measure 1 approved.
- **Ballyleague T&V:** Application submitted to Dept for the final drawdown of funding. Signage approved and installed by TII.
- **Faillte Ireland Website scheme:** King House approved for Failte Ireland website investment. Second workshops held on script writing and target audience.

Publicity & Media:

- **Publicity Material:** Promotional pen and merchandise purchased for trade shows.
- **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:

- **Writer Mentorship Programme:** A mentor Brian Kirk, has been assigned to an emerging writer, Neil Tully, for 2019. The idea of the programme is that mentees will have direct access to the knowledge and expertise of an experienced practitioner in their chosen field of literature. The Writer Mentorship Programme is designed to support the development of emerging and established Roscommon writers who have identified particular gaps in their knowledge and expertise. The programme achieves this by providing funding to a leading professional to help the applicant make the next steps in their development. The mentor will provide an objective critique and feedback on the writer's work and/or assist her or him in the development of a specific writing project. This is the first year of this particular programme. The programme will be evaluated and this will inform the programme in 2020.
- **Creative Ireland:** All Creative Ireland funded projects for 2019 completed by end of November and funding has been drawn down from Dept.
- **Artists in Schools Programme:** Work continued with the artists who are working in the 4 primary schools and pre-schools. This project is due to be completed by end of December.
- **Roscommon County Youth Theatre:** celebrated 20 years in operation with a Reception and Display in the foyer of Aras An Chontae during the month.
- **Writing Workshops in Post Primary Schools:** Three hour writing workshops took place during the month for post-primary schools in the county library buildings. The facilitator is writer Brian Leyden.

Arts Centre:

- Thirty-one events in total took place this month at Roscommon Arts Centre, attended by just over 2,000 people.
- The performance programme included an eclectic mix of music and theatre from both professional and local groups with 8 sell-out shows in total, including 3 sell-out performances by Roscommon Drama Group of "Forbidden Fruit" by Tom Costello.
- Fregoli Theatre Company made a welcome return with a unique theatre project entitled "The Fregoli Heart Project" which featured performers from the direct provision centre in Galway and a local youth group.
- Branar Theatre Company's production "Rockin Rhymes" which received the support of Creative Ireland Roscommon came to fruition with a national tour that included a performance at Baboro International Children's Festival and Roscommon Arts Centre.
- Anthony Keigher's exhibition "Very Famous Art to Colour" closed and the Roscommon Visual Artist Forum Award recipient for 2019, Susan Mannion's show "Fading into another Dusk" was opened with a reception and talk by Sarah Searson, Director of the Dock Arts Centre.
- The new "Primary Colours" Visual Art Education workshop was launched with both the Gaelscoil and Kiltrustan National schools both visiting the arts centre for a free guided tour of Xnthyony's exhibition and a hands-on workshop responding to the work, both delivered by artist and facilitator Naomi Draper on our behalf.

The workshop space continues to host a series of ongoing events with 16 workshops taking place as part of Roscommon Arts centre's own programme of events in October and weekly sessions with Roscommon County Youth Theatre and both Cor Comain choirs.

Community and Economic and Development Section Management Report - November 2019

Healthy Ireland

- All queries and further information requests sent to Pobal – still awaiting decision on Strand 3 of HI Funding Application.

LEADER:

- 36 payments made to promoters totaling €1,186,602.64
- 18 Projects paid in full.
- Monthly Admin Returns and payments to LEADER Co. are ongoing.

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

Meeting of LCDC held 6th November and following agenda items dealt with;

- GRETB Presentation
- SICAP Update
- Regeneration Team Update

Local Action Group meeting held 6th November and following agenda items dealt with;

- Financial report
- LEADER Programme Implementation Update
- Update on Expressions of Interest
- Consideration of recommendations of LEADER Evaluation Committee

Social Inclusion

Science Week;

- Successful Science Week held during November 2019, with 17 Schools approx. attending events. Event were aimed at both Primary and Secondary Schools.

National Age Friendly Coordinators meetings

- Programme Managers Meeting held in November.

Comhairle na nÓg

- Comhairle held it 3rd Annual Intergenerational Event – Tea with Teens in Kilbride during November. This event was organised in conjunction with the Older Persons Network.

SICAP

- SICAP Annual Plan 2020 is being prepared. The SICAP Budget has increased to €616.301 for 2020

Tourism

Regional Projects:

- **USEFE:** Agreed to go back to Angling Competition proposers and seek additional information on investment return. Next meeting Dec 9th.
- **IHH:**
- Workshop held with Sarah McCarthy and Fáilte Ireland representatives on future of King House. Suggestion of Feasibility Study to look at its potential.
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- **Social Media:** Halloween blog completed and received good online interaction.
- **Website:** Events updated and Blog added.
- **Faillte Ireland Website scheme:** King House approved for Failte Ireland website investment. Second workshops held on script writing and target audience.

- **Outdoor Recreation: (2018 Scheme):**
- **Sliabh Bawn:** final invoices paid and final application made to Dept. for the full amount of funding allocated.
- **Suck Valley:** Extension sought to complete project as delays due to unforeseen delays.
- **Boyle Lough Key cycleway:** developing process for logo on going.
- **Outdoor Recreation: (2019 scheme):** All 4 projects applied for under Measure 1 approved.
- **Ballyleague T&V (2017):** Application submitted to Dept. for the final drawdown of funding. Signage approved and installed by TII.

Publicity & Media:

- **Publicity Material:** Promotional pen and merchandise purchased for trade shows in January
- **Social Media:** Information from attractions and communities being updated on a daily basis.

Heritage

Roscommon County Council Pollinator Awards:

- Incorporated as part of the Roscommon County Council Tidy Awards, Pollinator Awards were presented by heritage expert Eanna Ni Lamhna to 3 cemetery committees and three schools for their actions to help pollinators in the county. This is in support of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan. Schools winners were: First - Lisaniskey NS. Second - Ballintieva NS and Third - Keadue NS. Cemeteries winners were: First - Kilroan Old Cemetery Lisacull. Second - Ballintubber Cemetery, Third - Cloontuskert Cemetery. This project was supported by the National Biodiversity Action Plan fund which is operated by the Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht.

King House Masterplan Workshop:

- Participated in a workshop facilitated by Fáilte Ireland to discuss a new masterplan for King House.

Regional Tourism Management Programme – Follow Up Day:

- Participated in a workshop facilitated by Fáilte Ireland.

County Roscommon Heritage Forum Meeting:

- Final meeting for 2019 took place in Arigna Mining Experience.

Farming Rathcroghan EIP Field Monument Advisor/Archaeological Consultancy Services:

- A draft report has been received from the consultants. Discussions on this are ongoing with the Farming Rathcroghan EIP project manager & operational group. The draft report has been submitted to the Heritage Council as part of the Heritage Council funding recoupment claim.

www.roscommoncoco.ie/cemeteries:

- A recoupment claim was submitted to the Heritage Council for their funding towards the new cemeteries mapviewer and the associated projects also carried out as part of this project.

National Biodiversity Action Plan Funding Scheme:

- A recoupment claim was submitted to the Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht for projects carried out under this funding stream. Projects funded were – a wetlands project as part of the Neighbourhood Scheme in Elphin; Green Schools Biodiversity Workshops in conjunction with the Environment Section of RCC, the above mentioned Pollinator Awards which included 17 judging workshops carried out by heritage expert Eanna NiLamhna, and a Pollinators radio infomercial which was aired on Midwest radio & Shannonside FM.