



Comhairle Contae
Ros Comáin
Roscommon
County Council



MANAGEMENT REPORT



OCTOBER 2019

Roscommon County Council
Revenue Account Income & Expenditure Summary by Service Division
Management Accounts Summary to 31st October 2019

	EXPENDITURE		INCOME		NET
	Expenditure Incurred up to 31/10/2019	Adopted Full Year Budget	Income Receivable up to 31/10/2019	Adopted Full year Budget	Actual Overall Surplus/ (Deficit)
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing & Building	4,980,824	6,432,331	6,445,381	6,610,726	1,464,557
Road Transport & Safety	18,807,558	21,626,277	11,001,002	15,798,962	(7,806,556)
Water Services	5,263,536	7,555,705	5,465,494	7,279,000	201,958
Development Management	4,642,945	6,249,355	2,669,796	1,566,387	(1,973,149)
Environmental Services	4,017,625	5,552,626	480,897	913,329	(3,536,728)
Recreation & Amenity	2,941,832	4,045,888	609,577	593,772	(2,332,255)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	458,457	704,781	289,166	283,349	(169,291)
Miscellaneous Services	3,828,075	4,845,538	2,147,182	1,797,375	(1,680,893)
Central Management Charges	771,024	0	61,816	0	(709,208)
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	9,726,661	11,953,400	9,726,661
	45,711,877	57,012,501	47,410,499	57,012,501	1,698,622

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 31st October 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	11,671,914	1,126,070	144,278	12,308,515	9,180,210	3,128,305	251,761	76%	76%
Rents & Annuities	414,000	4,265,720		19,983	4,659,737	4,264,431	395,306		92%	89%
Housing Loans	139,376	329,401			468,778	347,377	121,401		74%	51%

Recourse to Overdraft;

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

Planning Section Management Report – October 2019

Forward Planning

Northern and Western Regional Assembly – Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy

In response to the public consultation on the Northern and Western Regional Assembly (NWRA) *Proposed Material Alterations of the Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy* (which ran from 4th August to October 11th 2019), a detailed submission was made by Roscommon County Council. In addition to the inclusion of commentary on proposed material alterations of relevance to all county, the submission also included detailed comment on the Proposed Material Alterations to Athlone, as a regional growth centre. The content of this element of the submission was endorsed by Westmeath County Council and represents the collective views of both Authorities in respect of Athlone.

Development Management and Planning Enforcement Activity

The table below summarises Development Management activity in the Planning Section in October. A total of 54 valid applications were received, representing an increase from the previous month (47). Decisions were made on 40 planning applications, of which 3 were refusals (i.e. a refusal rate of 7.5%). To date, two of the three applications refused have been appealed to An Bord Pleanala. Demand for pre-planning meetings was comparable across the ‘Roscommon North’ and ‘Roscommon South.’

Period	Activity	Roscommon North	Roscommon South	Totals
October 2019	Valid app	26	28	54
	Invalid app	6	4	10
	Extension of Duration	1	0	1
	Refusal	1	2	3
	DED	1	0	1
	Pre-planning meeting	12	11	23

Enforcement Activity

Period	Activity	Countywide Totals
October 2019	New enforcement case	8
	Warning letter	2
	Enforcement notice	2
	Closed case	4
	Legal proceedings	0

Unfinished Housing Developments

A range of activity continued to be undertaken in October as part of the continuing initiative to resolve unfinished housing developments. Contractors appointed under RCC's Framework continued to progress site resolution works in 5 developments in Boyle, Strokestown (2), Tarmonbarry and Knockcroghery. In addition, developers continued work on two sites in Roscommon town.

As a result of various works in unfinished developments reaching a satisfactory conclusion, the following 10 developments were referred to RCC Roads Section for Taking in Charge:

- Ashburton Grove, Ballaghaderreen
- Hillview, Ballinlough
- Lime Grove, Ballinlough
- Oaklawn, Ballinlough
- Caradrum, Boyle
- Cuilmore Cove, Cootehall
- Cois na hAbhainn, Croghan
- Millstream, Elphin
- Slí an Choiste (Phase 1) Monksland
- Slí an Choiste (Phases 2 & 3) Monksland

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 – October 2019

Local Enterprise Office:

- 197 enquiries were recorded.
- 2 Business Advice Clinics were held with 15 participants.
- 2 people availed of the TOV Information Session.
- Promotion of Brexit supports continued and one Brexit Advice Clinic was held with 5 participants. A training/information day was held on the 21st entitled 'Preparing Your Business for Customs'.
- 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 nine 2nd level schools in the county have had their initial school visit from the LEO with some having had a 2nd visit.
- Primary School Enterprise Awareness Workshop: 11 primary schools in Co Roscommon have signed up.
- Autumn/Winter training is ongoing.
- All LEO supports are being promoted on the LEO website and on various social media platforms.
- Blas na hEireann took place in Dingle 3rd – 5th October with LEO Roscommon supporting Best in County. Castlemine Farm won 'Best in Farmers Market' along with other Awards; Carty Meats won 'Best in County' along with several other Awards and Waldron Meats won several Awards.
- A very successful Taste of the Lakelands Event took place on Sunday, 13th October in St Mary's Hall and grounds, Lanesboro, which was supported by LEOs Longford and Roscommon.
- National Women's Enterprise Day took place across all Regions on the 17th October. LEO Galway took the lead this year in organising the Galway/Roscommon/Mayo Regional Event in the Meyrick Hotel, Galway City. The theme was 'Making It Happen'. Roscommon's ambassador was Carmel Gavin, The Curtain Centre, who spoke about establishing, sustaining and expanding her business over the past 20 years, including adjusting her offering during the recession.

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.

IDA:

- HoE has had a meeting with Rikki Conneely, IDA Regional Executive, IDA re: attracting investment to Roscommon.

USEFE:

- A Jobs Fair is scheduled to take place on Monday, 30th December, in Longford.

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:**
 - Meeting Sarah McCarthy on workshop to review King House 14th Nov.
 - Tourism Officer meeting set for 19th Nov.
- **IWAK:** Additional brochures provided.
- **Taste of Island:** Taste of the Lakelands held on 13th October in Lanesborough. Claim to be submitted to FI for funding.
- **Ruritage EU Project:** First Partner was held in Appignano del Tronto on the 29th-30th October. Represented the National Famine Way at the meeting.
- **Destination Towns:** Application made to Failte Ireland for Destination Town for Boyle. No decision yet received.

County Projects:

- **Coillte Steering Group:** Met with Connor English, Coillte, RCC and RRO on 1st October for first Coillte Steering Group meeting. Next meeting to be held Jan 2020.
- **Marketing and Promotion:** Attended:
 - National Ploughing Championships in Carlow – very good feedback and interest, especially in the Walks.
 - 50 Plus Tradeshow in Galway - queries on group visits.
 - Quotes sought for 4 seasonal promotional videos for tourism website.
- **2019 Festival and Events:** 19 festival paid to date. Reminder email issued to all.
- **Social Media:** Halloween blog completed.
- **Website:** Events updated and Blog added. Met with JDK design to review website progress to date – 7,000 visitors since June.
- **Outdoor Recreation: (2018 Scheme):**
 - **Sliabh Bawn:** claim to be submitted to Dept for funding by end of Nov.
 - **Suck Valley:** Extension sought to end Nov to complete project – marketing and 2 bridges to be installed.
- **(2019 scheme):** Awaiting announcement in regard to Measure 1 of the scheme.
- **Failte Ireland Website scheme:** King House approved for Failte Ireland website investment. First workshop held

Publicity & Media:

- **Publicity Material:** Promotional bags 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:** Choral workshops with the 30 members of the 'Forget Me Not Community Choir' finished in the Monksland Community Centre. These workshops have been held in the centre since the beginning of 2019. The members include people from St Hilda's Athlone, (St. Hilda's voluntary services in Athlone, provide comprehensive quality services to people with mild, moderate and severe intellectual disabilities), local mental health services, local nursing homes, and also some members of the community who are not linked to any of these groups.
- **Artists in Schools Programme:** Work continued with the artists who are working in the 4 primary schools and pre-schools.
- **Writing Workshops in Post Primary Schools:** Three hour writing workshops on November 2nd and November 16th are scheduled with post-primary schools to take place in the county library buildings. The facilitator is writer Brian Leyden.

Arts Centre:

- October was an exceptionally busy month at Roscommon Arts Centre with 48 events taking place in total.
- For the first time this year, the Lollipops Children's Festival re-focused on family rather than school audiences, with 7 events taking place over two weekends in October and carrying on into the mid-term break. The 2019 programme included performances, workshops and a literary event for families.
- The second Creative Ireland "Tradoodle" event took place to coincide with the Lollipops Festival. This year's event transformed the foyer into a drop-in art space for families and included workshops in sean nos, shadow puppetry, tin whistle and traditional singing. The event concluded with a trad music session in the foyer, open to both young and adult players. An estimated 186 people took part in Tradoodle events.
- The ongoing Creative Ireland project with Backstage Theatre in Longford came to a conclusion with the "Playmaking" event in both venues. 13 plays written by young playwrights in both Roscommon and Longford were performed by adult professional actors at events which were attended by 150 people.
- The WAR exhibition closed and Anthony Keigher's "Very Famous Art to Colour In" exhibition opened. This inter-active exhibition is a result of the 2018 Arts & Disability commission, which saw the artist work with clients of the Brothers of Charity in Roscommon.

- The workshop space continues to host a series of ongoing events with 27 workshops taking place as part of Roscommon Arts centre's own programme of events in October and weekly sessions also take place in the space with Roscommon County Youth Theatre and both Cor Comain choirs.

Community and Economic and Development Section Management Report - October 2019

Community & Economic Development Section Management Report

October 2019

Healthy Ireland

- Healthy Ireland application being considered by Pobal on behalf of Department of Health.

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.

Heritage

- **Rathcroghan Master Plan:**
A meeting took place on 22nd October between representatives of Fáilte Ireland and other stakeholders to discuss preparation of a Master Plan for Rathcroghan archaeological complex.
- **Seminar on the Care & Conservation of Historic Graveyards:**
A seminar took place on 23rd October and over 40 people attended. Several expert speakers delivered lectures. This project was funded by the Heritage Council.
- **Launch of www.roscommoncoco.ie/cemeteries:**
A new cemeteries map viewer was launched on 23rd October. This will serve as a central portal for all information relating to cemeteries in Co. Roscommon. This project was funded by the Heritage

Council.

- **Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2019:**

A recoupment claim was made to the Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht for €60,000 funding for 9 projects carried out under this scheme. The scheme generated total project spend of €127,233 and generated 575 days of skilled employment in the county.

- **Historic Structures Fund 2019:**

Three recoupment claims were made to the Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht for a total of €52,000 for 3 projects carried out under this scheme. In total the scheme generated a total spend of €74,331 and generated 210 days of skilled employment in the county.

Regeneration Team

- **Urban Regeneration Development Fund**

Roscommon Public Realm Enhancement Project: The Part 8 to be brought to Municipal District members for consideration in December. Work with consultant on detailed design ongoing.

Rural Regeneration Development Fund

Castlerea Hub Extension: Detailed design of new units ongoing.

Roscommon Outdoor Recreation

Loughnaneane Park: Works to existing boardwalk/decking and footpath drainage works completed. Working with Murray & Associates on design of the outdoor amphitheatre. Sculptures for the Sculpture Trail being produced.

Monksland Town & Village

Monksland Urban Park: Part 8 advertised and to be brought to Municipal District members for consideration in December

Roscommon Town & Village

Roscommon Castle: Bat and swift survey is completed. Review with National Parks and Wildlife

ongoing prior to applying for planning and Ministerial consent to light the Roscommon Castle.

Historic Towns Initiative

Main Street, Boyle:

Works to properties on Main St., Boyle completed

Residential Occupancy Pilot

Update on work being progressed provided to Department of Rural and Community Development.

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.