



Comhairle Contae  
Ros Comáin  
Roscommon  
County Council



# MANAGEMENT REPORT



**SEPTEMBER 2019 - QUARTER 3**

**Provisional Revenue Account Activity up to 30/09/2019**

	EXPENDITURE		INCOME		NET
	Expenditure Incurred up to 30/9/2019	Adopted Full Year Budget	Income Receivable up to 30/9/2019	Adopted Full year Budget	Actual Overall Surplus/(Deficit)
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing & Building	4,372,782	6,432,331	5,784,604	6,610,726	1,411,822
Road Transport & Safety	14,896,003	21,626,277	7,182,699	15,798,962	(7,713,305)
Water Services	4,632,338	7,555,705	4,823,688	7,279,000	191,350
Development Management	3,798,136	6,249,355	2,393,296	1,566,387	(1,404,839)
Environmental Services	3,524,472	5,552,626	359,205	913,329	(3,165,267)
Recreation & Amenity	2,502,242	4,045,888	509,725	593,772	(1,992,517)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	364,859	704,781	280,008	283,349	(84,851)
Miscellaneous Services	3,382,278	4,845,538	1,919,587	1,797,375	(1,462,691)
Central Management Charges	1,327,102	-	110,867	-	(1,216,235)
LPT/PRD	-	-	6,810,820	10,216,200	6,810,820
Rates	-	-	11,707,326	11,953,400	11,707,326
	<b>38,800,212</b>	<b>57,012,501</b>	<b>41,881,825</b>	<b>57,012,501</b>	<b>3,081,613</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.

**Provisional Capital Account Balances by Programme as at 30/9/2019**

<b>Programme Group</b>	<b>01/01/2019</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Transfers</b>	<b>30/09/2019</b>
<b>Housing &amp; Building</b>	1,786,620	(5,950,007)	5,216,961		1,053,574
<b>Road Transport &amp; Safety</b>	2,542,243	(9,796,955)	10,123,833		2,869,120
<b>Water Services</b>	212,134	(962,176)	483,680		(266,361)
<b>Development Management</b>	7,634,030	(3,198,028)	3,639,596	15,663	8,091,261
<b>Environmental Services</b>	194,788	(407,869)	298,761		85,680
<b>Recreation and Amenity</b>	368,190	(1,004,119)	125,450		(510,480)
<b>Agriculture, Education, Health &amp; Welfare</b>	37,540	(19,182)	65,244		83,602
<b>Miscellaneous Services</b>	6,232,439	(861,719)	24,184		5,394,904
<b>Totals</b>	<b>19,007,984</b>	<b>(22,200,055)</b>	<b>19,977,709</b>	<b>15,663</b>	<b>16,801,301</b>

**Debt Collection %'s as at 30/9/2019 with comparatives.**

<b><u>Debt Type</u></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	11,707,246	1,106,279	(125,734)	12,382,183	8,609,723	3,772,460	259,379	71%	65%
<b>Rents &amp; Annuities</b>	414,000	3,838,281	-	19,983	4,232,299	3,763,164	469,135	-	89%	88%
<b>Housing Loans</b>	139,376	205,609	-	-	344,985	221,765	123,220	-	64%	45%

**Recourse to Overdraft:**

There has been no recourse to overdraft in the third quarter of 2019

**Provisional Balance Sheet as at 30/9/2019**

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Operational	231,588,402	231,700,563
Infrastructural	1,615,664,454	1,615,664,454
Community	11,547,611	11,547,611
Non-Operational	1,431,971	1,431,971
	<b>1,860,232,438</b>	<b>1,860,344,599</b>
<b>Work-in-Progress and Preliminary Expenses</b>	<b>12,042,363</b>	<b>5,792,763</b>
<b>Long Term Debtors</b>	<b>7,449,814</b>	<b>7,158,838</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Stock	-	-
Trade Debtors & Prepayments	5,991,500	7,138,852
Bank Investments	14,298,011	18,798,012
Cash at Bank	2,350,112	54,414
Cash in Transit	21,795	134,484
	<b>22,661,418</b>	<b>26,125,763</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Bank Overdraft	-	-
Creditors & Accruals	2,707,108	7,289,741
Finance Leases	-	-
	<b>2,707,108</b>	<b>7,289,741</b>
<b>Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)</b>	<b>19,954,310</b>	<b>18,836,022</b>
<b>Creditors (Amounts greater than one year)</b>		
Loans Payable	29,126,126	29,014,576
Finance Leases	-	-
Refundable Deposits	1,034,257	1,280,080
Other	1,016,940	1,016,940
	<b>31,177,323</b>	<b>31,311,596</b>
<b>Net Assets / (Liabilities)</b>	<b>1,868,501,601</b>	<b>1,860,820,626</b>
<b>Represented By</b>		
Capitalisation	1,860,232,438	1,860,344,599
Income WIP	10,009,566	5,338,198
Specific Revenue Reserve	-	-
General Revenue Reserve	3,158,030	189,834
Other Balances	(4,898,433)	(5,052,004)
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>1,868,501,601</b>	<b>1,860,820,626</b>

## Planning Section Management Report - Quarter 3

### Forward Planning

#### **Athlone Regional Centre Joint Urban Area Plan – Preparatory Work**

As part of the initial preparatory phase of the future Urban Area Plan for the Regional Centre of Athlone, as designated in the National Planning Framework, tenders were sought in Q2 for the preparation of an Economic Strategy for Athlone. The Economic Strategy is intended to serve as a blueprint for the future development of the regional centre of Athlone to 2040, and its overarching purpose will be to inform and drive the economic, social and physical development of Athlone. It is intended to promote increased employment and enterprise opportunities in Athlone and its hinterland, and is expected to deliver an ambitious, distinct and wholly achievable vision for the regional centre over the next 20 years. A total of 5 tender proposals were received. An evaluation team (comprising of officials from both Roscommon and Westmeath County Councils) was established in Q3 to undertake a detailed evaluation of the tenders received. Notifications were issued in respect of the outcome of the tender process in September.

#### **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, and a detailed submission is in preparation. 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 Q3 2019. A total of 145 valid applications were received over the three-month period, representing a marginal increase from the previous quarter, in which 139 valid planning applications were received. A total of 113 decisions were made on planning applications in Q3, of which 10 were refusals (representing a refusal rate of just over 7%). Demand for pre-planning meetings remained consistently high, and the number of meetings facilitated mirrored the previous quarter.

Period	Activity	Roscommon North	Roscommon South	Totals
Q3 2019	Valid app	67	78	145
	Invalid app	11	26	37
	Extension of Duration	1	2	3
	Refusal	5	5	10
	DED	5	2	7
	Pre-planning meeting	22	29	51

## Enforcement Activity

Period	Activity	Countywide Totals
Q3 2019	New enforcement case	19
	Warning letter	5
	Enforcement notice	2
	Closed case	14
	Legal proceedings	0

New planning enforcement complaints have typically averaged 4 per month to date in 2019. August was the exception to this, with new planning enforcement complaints rising to 10, with the majority of those emanating from members of the public. A small proportion of the overall new cases in Q3 were as a result of either observation by Planners in the course of their duties or from reports from officials in other sections of Roscommon County Council. The number of cases closed increased significantly relative to previous quarters. This was the result of personnel resources being dedicated specifically to planning enforcement activity and the consequent progression to conclusion of a number of older cases.

## Unfinished Housing Developments

A range of activity continued to be undertaken in Q3 as part of the continuing initiative to resolve unfinished housing developments. Despite Q3 including the traditional summer holiday period for the construction industry, there was nonetheless evidence of a wide range of activity on-going at a number of unfinished developments throughout the county.

At various stages over the three-month period developers were on site in developments in Roscommon town, Tulsk and Rooskey. Contractors appointed under RCC's Framework continued to progress site resolution works (predominantly surfacing and public lighting) in developments in Boyle, Ballaghaderreen, Rooskey, Frenchpark, Knockcroghery, and Ballinagare. In addition, contractors appointed under the Framework also commenced works of a more substantial nature on a further site in Boyle in July 2019, with work continuing there at present.

Following their conclusion of one programme of work earlier in the year, semi-skilled workers employed directly by Roscommon County Council commenced activity on a new programme of work in September. The work is primarily minor snagging in order to achieve the satisfactory completion of developments. The programme of works relates to 11 housing developments across a number of settlements – Boyle (1), Monksland (2), Ballaghaderreen (1), Cootehall (2), Ballinagare (2), Frenchpark (1), Tulsk (1) and Scramoge (1).

As a result of various works in unfinished developments reaching a satisfactory conclusion, schedules for 7 developments were referred to Irish Water in Q3 as part of the Taking in Charge process. The developments referred are in Ballaghaderreen, Monksland, Rooskey, Cootehall, Tulsk and Ballinlough.

A total of 14 developments reached the milestone of being capable of being taken in charge and resolutions were passed at Municipal District meetings in Q3 for the Taking in Charge of the following developments:

- Roscommon town - Aran Court, Grecian View, Antogher Court

- Boyle – Cois Abhainn
- Ballaghadereen – Hollywood Grove
- Castlerea - The Meadows
- Monksland and Bellanamullia – River Village, Burnbrook
- Strokestown – Forge Hill
- Ballinlough - Slí na Srutháin
- Tarmonbarry - Cluain Bawn
- Cootehall – Lindenwood, Oakport
- Ballinameen – Coill Rua.

## **Economic and Development Promotion Management Report - September 2019**

### **Local Enterprise Office:**

- 149 enquiries were recorded.
- 2 Business Advice Clinics were held with 16 participants.
- 1 TOV Information Session took place with 10 participants.
- Promotion of Brexit supports continued and one Brexit Advice Clinic was held with 9 participants.
- 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 2<sup>nd</sup> level schools in the county have had their initial school visit.
- Primary School Enterprise Awareness Workshop: primary schools in Co Roscommon have been contacted and to-date 910 schools have signed up.
- Autumn/Winter training has commenced, booking is online via LEO Roscommon website.
- All LEO supports are being promoted on the LEO website and on various social media platforms.
- 3 businesses were supported at the Ploughing in Carlow.
- Meetings took place ref 'Taste of the Lakelands' Event which will take place on Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> October in St Mary's Hall and grounds, Lanesboro, which is being supported by LEOs Longford and Roscommon.
- A LEO Projects Evaluation Meeting took place on the 18<sup>th</sup> with financial support approved for 3 businesses and one project was endorsed and recommended to Enterprise Ireland for Agile Innovation funding.

### **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 met with Rikki Conneely, IDA Regional Executive, on the 25<sup>th</sup> re IDA attracting investment to Roscommon.

### **USEFE:**

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

### **Tourism Development and Promotion:**

#### **Regional Projects:**

- **USEFE:** Next meeting on 11th October for USEFE Tourism – to agree Angling Competition and Trade show attendance.
- **IHH:**
  - Meeting with FI, OPW, National Monuments and Fáilte Ireland on Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> to discuss Deirdre Black Consultants Draft Rathcroghan Report.
  - To agree a date with Sarah McCarthy on workshop to review King House.
- **IWAK:** New Laudamotion airline’s flights announced from IWAK to Palma Majorca in Spain from 2020 onwards.
- **Taste of Island:** Taste of the Lakelands being held on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2019 in Lanesborough. Michelle Fallon partaking in Social Media training provided by Failte Ireland for the event.
- **Ruritage EU Project:** First Partner meeting to be held in Appignano del Tronto on the 29th-30th October 2019.
- **Destination Towns:** Application made to Failte Ireland for Destination Town for Boyle.

#### **County Projects:**

- **Coillte Steering Group:** Connor English, Coillte, proposed forming Steering group for Co Roscommon to include RCC, LEADER and RRO. Will hold first meeting in October.
- **Walks:**
  - Met with Eilish Canty (RRO) and Óisín Naughton, Inland Fisheries, to agree the Castlerea Section of Suck Valley Way repairs.
  - Attended opening of Castlerea Demesne Walks by Minister Ring.
- **Marketing and Promotion:** Attended the
  - 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:** 11 festival paid to date. Reminder email issued to all to claim funding by end of October.

- **Social Media:** Met with Michelle Fallon to agree competition for Ploughing and Blog content for website. Also doing the publicity for Taste of the Lakelands.  
**Website:** Events updated.
- **Outdoor Recreation: (2018 Scheme):**
  - **Sliabh Bawn:** Procurement completed on Signage. Awarded to Signiatec. Designer has amended site Map. Quotes received on binoculars and counter. Resurfacing of roadways complete - Playground to be installed mid Oct.
  - **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.
- **Marketing Training:** Attended Failte Ireland Marketing Training.
- **Failte Ireland Website scheme:** King House approved for Failte Ireland website investment. Carried out statistic review of present site with consultants.
- **Creative Ireland:** Proposal to develop Wheel on Bus with Lough Key under Creative Ireland 2020.

#### 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:

- **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. Nora Owen, former Fine Gael politician who served as Minister for Justice from 1994 to 1997 and Deputy Leader of Fine Gael from 1993 to 2001, gave a lecture on 17<sup>th</sup> September to a large crowd. Another lecture by Dr Eilis Ward, lecturer in the School of Political Science and Sociology, NUIG on the life of Hannah Greally on 20<sup>th</sup> September was poignant. Dr Sorcha O'Brien of Kingston School of Art, UK, gave the final lecture on 23<sup>rd</sup> September and spoke about 'Electric Irish homes: researching women, rural electrification and domestic appliances'. Many of the county's ICA groups and historical groups attended a number of lectures. There were a number of guided tours during September including a tour to the Roscommon Historical and Archaeological Society and to a number of post primary schools from the county and region.
- **Culture Night:** There were 16 events this year across the county celebrating Culture Night which took place on 20<sup>th</sup> September. The events included evenings of traditional music and song, writing and poetry, art and photography in Strokestown, Boyle, Keadue, Ballaghaderreen, Frenchpark, Athleague, Knockcroghery, Roscommon town and Castlereagh. There were events in the libraries with Down Syndrome Ireland and music, song and dance in the Sacred Heart Hospital, Roscommon.

- **Douglas Hyde Conference:** ‘The Road to Democracy’ took place on 27<sup>th</sup> September in the Northern and Western Regional Assembly Conference Rooms, Ballaghaderreen with over 70 people in attendance. This decade of centenaries programme looked at the important events of 1919, the founding of Dáil Eireann, the outbreak of the War for Independence, the role of Royal Irish Constabulary, the visual culture of the period, the collections of the military archives and brigade reports and events in County Roscommon of the period.
- **Artists in Schools:** The Artists in Schools Programme began in primary schools Cloverhill, Cloonbonniffe, Taughmaconnell and Tulsk. This will see an artist visit the school once a week, for 3 months, to work with the pupils on an arts project.
- **Music Generation:** A loan scheme for music instruments has begun with new instruments being lent to members of the Roscommon County Youth Orchestra (RCYO). Weekly classes have begun with RCYO in Ballaghaderreen with Brass, Boyle with Woodwind and Roscommon with Strings. An outreach brass programme has begun in a primary school in Lecarrow.

#### Arts Centre:

- September saw the launch of the Autumn/Winter schedule and the commencement of a new programme of events in the workshop space which includes weekly Adult Acting Classes, Sean Nos, Ceili, Brush & Barrel Dancing classes, Baby Bugs and Beat Buddy Babies music classes. Roscommon County Youth Theatre’s weekly sessions also re-commenced.
- Two long-term initiatives for older audiences – Elderberries dance troupe and the Songbirds choral group also re-formed after the summer break with over 40 older people taking part each week in these classes in the new workshop space.
- Our summer theatre company in residence “Fregoli” shared new theatre works in development with audiences in the new workshop space under the working title “I Salute Magpies”. It is hoped that this summer residency, funding dependent, will lead to a year-long residency by the company at the centre in 2020.
- The workshop space has also now become a home for the Roscommon Choir, who are renting the space for their weekly sessions for both youth and adult choir members every Thursday evening.
- The WAR exhibition continued in the gallery space with a series of guided tours of the show being provided to secondary school students by the War artists as part of the Creative Ireland programme.
- As part of Culture Night Roscommon, WAR artist Noel Molloy gave a live performance entitled “Whatever Happened to Baby Jane” in the gallery space, attended by 20 people
- Just under 1500 people attended performances during the month of September, which included 6 performances of “Grease” by the students of Roscommon Community College.
- An application for funding for 2020 was made this month to the Arts Council for €112,880 – an increase of €37,880 on 2019’s grants of €75,000. The increase in funding was sought to support the further development of the Centre’s programme for 2020. Funding decisions will be announced in December.

# Community & Economic Development Section Management Report - Quarter 3

## LCDC Related Activity

### LCDC Meeting July:

- SICAP Mid-Year Review approved by LCDC members
- Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) Shed applications recommendation approved by LCDC members
- Terms and conditions for distribution of additional €5m LEADER Funding outlined to LCDC members.

### LCDC Meeting September:

- Content of LCDC Review Report outlined to LCDC members
- Content of Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities: A five-year strategy to support the community and voluntary sector in Ireland 2019-2024 outlined to LCDC members

## LEADER:

- Article 48 checks are ongoing on new projects and project claims.
- 32 payments made to promoters totaling €1,003,74.74.
- 15 Projects paid in full.
- Monthly Admin Returns and payments to LEADER Company are ongoing.

## Regeneration Team

- **Urban Regeneration Development Fund**  
Roscommon Public Realm Enhancement Project:

Considerable revisions have been made to Roscommon Public Realm on foot of the submissions and questionnaires which were returned. As a result, a new Part 8 has been advertised. The closing date for submissions is 6<sup>th</sup> of November 2019.

### **Rural Regeneration Development Fund**

#### Castlerea Hub Extension:

A consultant has been appointed to carry out the detailed design works for the extension to Castlerea Hub. A start – up meeting will take place in October.

### **Roscommon Outdoor Recreation**

#### Loughnaneane Park:

The new decking and drainage works are complete. A contractor will be appointed to carry out surfacing works in October. Murray & Associates have prepared drawings for the outdoor amphitheatre and shall prepare pricing documents.

Sculptor has commenced work on the 5 unique art pieces. Information on the trail is currently being prepared and information boards procured.

### **Monksland Town & Village**

#### Monksland Urban Park:

The site location report prepared by Murray & associates was presented to Monksland Town Team. The town teams preferred option is Daneswell Business Park. Council staff to look at the zoning of this site

### **Roscommon Town & Village Renewal Scheme**

#### Roscommon Castle:

A bat and swift survey has been completed. Meetings have taken place with lighting designer and the OPW. A ministerial consent application has been made for lighting the castle.

### **Athleague Town and Village Renewal Scheme**

Athleague Community & Economic Plan was launched by Minister Ring on September 21<sup>st</sup> and the local group made a presentation on the process involved and outcomes included in the Plan.

### **Historic Towns Initiative**

A total of 9 houses are currently being worked on with improvements to the street facing façade, slipped tiles, gutters, spliced wood repairs and painting.

The DAHG and Heritage Council visited the project in September and are very satisfied with progress.

### **Boyle Cycle Corridor**

Work has commenced on the development of the cycle corridor linking Boyle town and Lough Key Forest & Activity Park

### **RoscommonBound Website**

Work is nearing completion on the website which will be part of the launch of the Diaspora strategy.

## **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.

### **Social Inclusion Related Activity**

#### **SICAP:**

- Following approval of the Mid-Year review all SICAP payments made to the LDC for 2019

### **Healthy Ireland**

Health & Wellbeing Steering Committee assessed and recommended 16 No. Applications for HI Funding – Applications with Pobal for decision.

### **Play Day & Recreation Week 2019**

Successful Play Day held in Lough Key Forest Park in September. Grant claim submitted to the DCYA for drawdown of payment.

### **National Age Friendly Coordinators meetings**

Next Meeting to be held in November.

### **Bike Week**

Successful Bike Week held. Grant monies received from the DTTAS.

### **Comhairle na nOg**

Roscommon Comhairle na nÓg holding its AGM on Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> October 2019 in Castlerea Enterprise Hub.

### **Heritage**

#### **National 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.

#### **Built Heritage Investment Scheme & Historic Structures Fund**

Progress reports on projects funded under these schemes were submitted to Department of Culture Heritage & the Gaeltacht. Site visits commenced to inspect works.

#### **County Roscommon Heritage Forum**

The third meeting of the year took place in King House/Boyle Library.

## **Farming Rathcroghan EIP**

John Cronin & Associates were appointed to provide archaeological services to this project, funded by the Heritage Council.

## **Library Services Update – Management Report – Q3 2019**

Roscommon County Council Library Service provides a range of resources and services throughout a network of branch libraries and through the mobile library service.

The Summer Stars reading programme was very successful, with more than 1300 children taking part this year from all over the county. This is a more than 50% increase on the numbers who took part in 2018 and the children read a combined total of almost 10,000 between them over the school holidays.

The mobile library has been very busy throughout the summer and since July has added Athleague to the list of stops. The mobile also made an appearance at Play day in Lough Key Forest Park on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September in conjunction with Roscommon County Childcare Committee

In July, Mr Seán Canney TD, Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development, Natural Resources and Digital Development, announced Dormant Accounts Fund funding to provide library supports to communities and individuals at risk of being socially excluded, marginalised or disadvantaged. Following an application process, Roscommon County Library was awarded €21,375 to deliver projects in Ballaghaderren. One project is a multi-agency early literacy project and the other is working with teenagers to develop digital literacy skills while exploring the services of local libraries in a video production and editing programme.

Libraries hosted a number of events for Heritage Week and Culture Night and an extensive programme of events is underway across the county for the Ros na nÓg Children's Book Festival for the month of October.

Collaboration with other agencies is very important to the delivery of library services to the community. The Library Service has collaborated with the Roscommon County Childcare Committee on the delivery of the Rossie Reader's Toddler group in Roscommon Branch Library. Other collaborations between the GRETB, Foróige, the HSE, TUSLA and others have taken place this quarter. An interesting collaboration which is currently being explored involves the use of digital technology and the new 3D printer which was recently installed in the Roscommon Branch Library IT Suite.

# HOUSING BUSINESS UNIT

## Management Report – Q3, 2019

### 1.0 Homelessness & Housing Allocations

#### 1.1 Homelessness:

A range of responses to homelessness in accordance with the West Framework Homelessness Action Plan are in place. The Western Region Homeless Action Plan 2019-2022 has been prepared by the lead Council (Galway City Council) with input from the other authorities in the region.

26 = homeless cases presented in Q3, 2019

13 = cases required short-term accommodation in Q3, 2019

#### 1.2 Housing Assessments & Allocations:

Housing Needs Assessment was completed in June, 2019; following assessment 349 households (net of transfers) were deemed qualified for social housing at the time.

364 = applicants (excluding transfers) on the approved housing list at end of Q3, 2019

574 = applicants are currently in private rented accommodation

34 = offers of accommodation made in Q3, 2019

20 = new tenants appointed/allocated in Q3, 2019

5 = AHB Tenants appointed in Q3, 2019

7 = refusals recorded in Q3, 2019

#### 1.3 Refugee Applicants:

All families nominated by the Department of Justice for settlement under Roscommon's 2018 settlement programme have been accommodated. The Department of Justice has indicated that it expects RCC to house two more families under the 2018 resettlement programme. RCC has offered to house one additional family but no details or names have been provided to date and the Implementing Partner's contract expires in mid-November, 2019.

### 2.0 Social Housing Rental Accommodation Market

#### 2.1 Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS):

Financial support continues via the RAS Scheme for those applicants who have a long-term housing need. As of 30 September, 2019, there are 392 households receiving support (298 private rented and 94 in voluntary housing).

#### 2.2 Housing Assistance Payment (HAP):

Roscommon County Council is working closely with the Community Welfare Officers in the Department of Social Protection to continue the transfer of Rent Supplement recipients to the HAP Scheme. As of 30 September, 2019, there are 402 social housing applicants in receipt of HAP.

### **2.3 Repair & Lease Scheme (RLS):**

- 63 = applications were received and were assessed since the scheme was rolled out in Q1, 2017; the majority of the applications related to properties outside areas of need/demand or were remote rural dwellings in poor condition
- 9 = applications are under further consideration; however, some of these have unresolved planning issues; one application for a 2-bed in Roscommon town is currently progressing
- 3 = number of lease agreements RCC has entered into under the RLS (two 1-bed apartments and a 4-bed house in Roscommon Town)

### **3.0 Provision of Additional Social Housing Units**

#### **3.1 LA Build (including turnkeys & PPP):**

Summary of projects in progress:

- Zoning of RCC lands in Roscommon Town is under review with regard to future housing needs, including social, affordable and private housing needs. Potential acquisition of lands in areas of high demand is also under consideration.
- 10 turnkey units at Lisroyne Ct., Strokestown – Works almost complete, scheduled for delivery in Q4, 2019
- Three 2-bed units at Cloonfad on HSE site - Stage 4 approval granted, construction to commence Q4, 2019
- 7 units at Cluain Fraoigh, Roscommon - Stage 3 approval granted, stage 4 approval due October 2019; construction due to commence in Q4, 2019
- 2 Units Old Tuam Road (CPO) – Stage 3 approval granted; tender process underway and construction is due to commence in Q1, 2020
- 9 units at Longford Td. - Project on hold and is under review
- 12 units Silveroe, Boyle – Conveyance of unfinished units almost complete; tender for completion works is in progress and successful contractor has been identified
- 18 units Meadowbrook, Ballyleague – Stage 2 approval granted, tender process is scheduled for Q4, 2019
- 8 units Elphin Street, Strokestown – Awaiting stage 2 approval from DHPLG; Part 8 planning process to commence Q4, 2019
- PPP Bundle 2 at The Walk (53 units) - Tender award and start of construction phase is scheduled for Q4, 2019 with delivery of units in 2021

#### **3.2 Housing Association Activity:**

- Tuath proposal for 35 units at Cloongowna, Monksfield, Athlone – Submitted for Department approval; awaiting signed agreement between Tuath and the developer
- Cooperative Housing Ireland CALF proposal for 10 units at Castle View Apartments (Block B) was approved by the Department in April, 2019; conveyancing is well advanced and it is expected that these 10 units will be available for allocation in Q4, 2019
- A second proposal for 10 units at Block A (fronting onto Castle Street) received Department approval in May, 2019; these units require some post acquisition works and are expected to be available for allocation in 2020
- Tuath CALF proposal for 3 units in Woodstream (14, 15 and 16), Castlerea received Department approval in June, 2019; these units are now occupied

### **3.3 LA Acquisitions (including Buy & Renew):**

Approximately 27 acquisitions are progressing with 17 sales completed in Q3, 2019.

### **3.4 Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018:**

The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 was adopted in the June Council meeting. Capital schemes progressing under the programme include:

- Torpan Beg Extension of 4 units – Stage 3 approval granted but subject to two current tenants who have requested transfers (i.e., they wish to leave this estate) accepting offers of alternative accommodation
- 2 Lough Road post fire reconstruction project – Awaiting stage 3 approval

### **3.5 Sale of Sites and Rural Houses:**

- It is proposed to advertise the sale of 6 rural houses in Q4, 2019. 2 rural houses are currently at an advanced stage of conveyancing.
- The sale of 11 low cost sites at Forest View, Boyle were advertised in Q3, 2019 with a reduced purchase price of €10,000 per site. No applications were received.

### **3.6 Tenant Purchase:**

The Tenant Incremental Purchase Scheme was published under the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014. At the end of Q3, 2019 there were:

130	=	applications received to date
73	=	offers made to date
53	=	offers accepted to date
22	=	sales completed to date

### **4.0 Private Rented Accommodation Standards**

Inspections of private rented dwellings continue to be carried out under the Housing (Standards for Private Rented Houses) Regulations 2019.

- 365 inspections were carried out as of 30 September, 2019, 174 of which were follow-up inspections required to address issues arising from previous inspections.
- Target for 2019 is 447 inspections.

### **5.0 Management of Existing Housing Stock**

#### **5.1 Energy Efficiency Programme (retrofitting existing stock):**

The RCC Submission for the 2019 Energy Efficiency Works Programme included for:

- Phase 1 works on 49 homes are now complete.

- Surveying of potential units earmarked for phase 2 works under way in Q4, 2019. Funding for phase 2 energy works likely to involve a matching local authority contribution of more than 50%. Phase 2 will be to survey and up-grade/rationalise heating systems and replace old single glazed windows and doors.

## **5.2 Voids Programme:**

RCC are progressing with 2 voids in 2019. Partial grant funding is approved and works are scheduled to be completed in Q4, 2019. Remaining voids/derelicts are in isolated rural locations with low or no demand. These properties will be sold unless a specific demand presents in the meantime.

## **5.3 Casual Vacancy Works (pre-letting works)**

A total of 16 houses were refurbished due to normal turn-over of properties in Q3, 2019 at a cost to date of €120,000.00 (excluding any outstanding payments).

## **5.4 Housing Maintenance**

RCC Housing received 285 maintenance calls in Q3, 2019 and billed expenditure on maintenance works during the quarter was €76,690.53.

## **5.5 Housing Grants (including Improvement Works in Lieu)**

Confirmation has been received from the Department for the 2019 allocation (Private Grants) which is €1,076,963, an increase of €37,413 on 2018. This comprises of a DHPLG contribution of €861,570 and the Council's contribution of €215,393.

The 2019 budget for Housing Aid for Older People Scheme and Housing Adaptation for People with a Disability Schemes was 104% committed at the end of Q3, 2019. 197 private grant applications were committed/approved at end of Q3, 2019 and €892,076.43 in payments have been processed to date.

RCC received a grant allocation of €205,002.00 in 2019 towards adaptations & extensions to Council housing stock/improvement works in lieu (this is €109,388.00 less than the 2018 allocation). The Council will contribute additional funds in the amount of €22,778.00 towards this scheme. To date, €376,271.69 has been committed to this scheme (including one IWIL & three extension projects).

## **Water and Waste Water Management Report – Q3 2019**

There is an ongoing extensive Infrastructural portfolio, Capital Programme portfolio and Water Networks portfolio in place for Water and Waste Water schemes in the County. The following is a brief summary of works planned and underway.

### **INFRASTRUCTURE PORTFOLIO:**

#### **Roscommon Town Main Drainage:**

*The key objective of the Roscommon Town Main Drainage project is to address and remove the drivers for the Roscommon Agglomeration being listed on the EU Commission's Letter of Formal Notice 2015 under the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive.* Tobin Consulting Engineers have been appointed as the Clients Representative for the project. Draft Tender documents have now been prepared and are being reviewed by the legal team within Irish Water. The tender documents, once approved, will be issued to a list of contractors on the major civils framework. It is anticipated that the documents will be issued to the contractors by the end of November with a tender period of 12 weeks. Wayleaves and land acquisition negotiations are still ongoing with the hope that all agreements will be in place by the end of November. A Solicitor and Valuer have been appointed on behalf of Irish Water to carry out the land negotiations.

Four individual panning permission applications have been recently submitted at the end of August for pump stations around the town as well as structures within the existing wastewater treatment plant.

Once the tender closing date has elapsed a tender assessment will take place over Q1 of 2020 and approval of the successful contractor and approval of budget will follow on in Q2 2020.

It is expected that construction works in the town of Roscommon will commence in July of 2020.

#### **Boyle WSS Extension to Grangemore RWSS:**

This project involves extending the recently upgraded Boyle RWSS supply southward to the Grangemore RWSS and ultimately to allow the decommissioning of the Cavetown WTP. AECOM and Jennings O'Donovan Consulting Engineers have been appointed for the project. All wayleaves and compensation arrangements to landowners affected are in place. A Tender process took place in late 2018 and the successful contractor Source Civil Engineering Ltd were appointed as the successful contractor. The contract was signed in November 2018 and construction commenced in February 2019. At present, the project is well under way and all of the pipework is in the ground. Tie-in work at reservoirs has been complete. Mechanical and Electrical work has commenced at the reservoirs and pump houses. It is anticipated the water from Rockingham Springs currently feeding Boyle Ardcarne water supply scheme will be in circulation in the Grangemore water supply scheme by Mid November. A final completion date after safety files and O&M manual handed over will be in place by end of December 2019.

A series of weeks of sampling and testing in the Grangemore network will take place in the months of October and November in order to demonstrate that the new water being supplied by the Boyle Regional water supply scheme is in compliance with drinking water standards which ultimately will lead to the last remaining scheme within county Roscommon currently on the EPA RAL list being removed.

### **Ballaghadereen WWTP:**

The Ballaghadereen WWTP has been included under the 2017-2021 Investment Plan for assessment of its primary and secondary treatment processes. The current plant is at risk in terms of UWWTD compliance, overloading and failure to provide adequate capacity for growth. Ryan Hanley has been appointed as Employers Representative for the Project. An asset survey report has been issued. A final feasibility study report has been issued to Irish Water Assett planning in September to develop a suitable upgrade to the facility. Once finalised this proposed upgrade will be put forward for WIAC (Water Investment Appraisal Committee) approval in the final quarter of 2019 and once approved the employers representative will develop a detailed design (Q2/Q3 of 2020).

### **Monksland and Boyle Drainage Area Plans:**

The preparation of a Drainage Area Plan and Wastewater Source Control Study has been undertaken in Monksland and Boyle to accurately estimate the condition of the existing networks and the flow and load arriving to the Wastewater Treatment works. This Drainage Area Plan work has been carried out by Nicholas O'Dwyer Consulting Engineers together with McCloys Water and Environmental Consulting Engineers. There are four stages to the DAP Process: Stage 1: Scoping and Data Gathering, Stage 2: Surveying and Modelling, Stage 3; Risk Assessment and Needs identification and Stage 4: Strategy, Optioneering and Future Solutions Design. Stage 1 and 2 of the process have been completed.

The manhole and sewer CCTV survey are complete for both Towns and the Flow and Load Survey in Monksland and the Flow and Rainfall Survey in Boyle are also complete. The Model build for the networks on both Towns is complete. A Technical Solution Development Report was issued for both locations in June 2018. The Process Optimisation Report for Monksland was completed. On foot of the above a scope of upgrade works at Monksland was prepared which includes the provision of new inlet works, storm tank and storm water overflow chamber and also a telemetry upgrade. Site Investigation work undertaken for the Monksland WWTP in early 2018. A procurement exercise was then undertaken to carry out the above works in Monksland WWTP. A Contract was then signed in December 2018. The successful contractor Glan Agua Ltd, commenced site construction works in February 2019. This programme of work is due to be completed by the end of Q4 2019.

Stage 3 of the DAP was recently completed at a workshop in June and a final report was issued. Interventions will be developed in Stage 4 of the DAP Process in consultation with Irish Water.

### **CAPITAL PROGRAMME PORTFOLIO:**

#### **Inlet Works, Sludge & Storm Programme:**

Upgrade to the Inlet, Storm and sludge process at Termonbarry WWTP has being included in the programme. JB Barry has been appointed as Consulting Engineers. A Conceptual Design is complete. A technical options report has been reviewed and approved. Irish Water asset planning have reviewed the report and the following works have been approved: New inlet works, a storm tank and replacement of the old sludge tank with a larger sludge tank together with associated mechanical and electrical works and upgrades. This work will form part of a project bundle that Irish Water will roll out Q2 2020. The tender process is ongoing. It is hoped that a successful contractor will be appointed in January 2020 with work on the ground commencing in Q2 2020.

Planning Permission will be required for the structures proposed. A pre planning meeting has taken place and an application has just recently been submitted to the planning authority.

### **National Certs of Authorisation Programme (NCAP):**

RPS Consulting Engineers were appointed and are currently gathering data for site assessment and site options report for 15no. Sites in County Roscommon. The assessment is based on the impact the asset has on the environment rather than plant condition. Lecarrow, Croghan, Bellanagare, Cloonfad & Ballintober WWTP are identified as high impact sites. Roscommon County Council staff have engaged with RPS and have provided detailed information on each of the plants that have been examined under this programme. A draft site assessment report on each of the above locations has been reviewed in Q2 2019 and commented on by Roscommon County Council Operations engineers. RPS are in the process of preparing technical options reports for each of the sites based on the recommendations contained in the site assessment reports. It is expected that the technical options reports will be circulated for review and comment at the end of Q4 2019. It is anticipated that a programme of works will be rolled out for these sites from 2020-2021.

### **Lead Mitigation Programme:**

The aim of this programme is to provide Ortho Phosphate dosing in up to 200 WTPs countrywide by end 2019 as an interim measure for lead mitigation. The long-term solution is to remove all public side lead services by 2026. The permanent solution to have zero lead in the water supply by 2026. Five sites have been prioritised in Co. Roscommon as follows. North Roscommon WTP, Rockingham WTP, Ballinagard WTP, Killeglan WTP, Longford Springs WTP. The first site to be rolled out is North Roscommon WTP. EPS Ltd has been appointed and a detailed design is in progress.

### **Water Treatment Programme.**

A Regional Water Treatment programme is underway in the North and West Region. The overall programmed completion date is June 2020. There are 12no. sites in the North West Region included in the programme. Mount Talbot – Four Roads Water Treatment Plant is included in the programme. EPS Ltd have been awarded the regional contract with a total value of €8million. Advance works are completed. Raw water data gathering is in progress. This data will assist in the final scope for the plant upgrade. Some source protection works will progress in the coming months.

### **Reservoir Refurbishment Programme.**

A contract has been awarded for the major repairs works to reservoirs. Lissacurkia and Fairymount reservoirs are included in this programme. The works when complete will address major Unaccounted for Water issues.

### **Advance Investigation Works Programme.**

This is a €1.5million regional programme. Mechanism for carrying out investigation works to include as part of upcoming tenders, optimise existing treatment processes and to gather data which will aid decisions on future treatment plant upgrades. Castlerea WTP is included in this programme. Coffey Water Ltd have been appointed for the North West Region. Site assessment is complete and filter assessments are to be carried out.

### **Access to Heights and Edge Protection Programme.**

This is a regional programme aimed at addressing medium and high-risk items identified in HSQE audits. There are 15no. Locations in Roscommon included in the programme. EPS Ltd have been appointed to carry out the works. Works have commenced in Fairymount Reservoir, Boyle WWTP, Kiltrusten Intermediate Reservoir and Ballyfarnan WWTP. The remainder of the sites will be completed during 2019.

### **Storm Water Overflow Assessment Programme.**

Jacobs/Tobins appointed by IW to deliver this regional programme. A review of current list of WWTP's and storm water overflows carried out. There is no programme currently in place.

### **Waste Water Pumping Stations and Rising Mains Capital Maintenance Programme.**

Jacobs have been appointed by IW to deliver this regional programme. A review of the top 10 priority pumping stations and top 3 priority rising mains has been carried out. There is no programme currently in place.

## **WATER NETWORKS PORTFOLIO:**

### **Water Network Framework Programme:**

Irish Water has rolled out a Water Network Portfolio under its Capital Investment Plan 2017 to 2021. Works intended to be rolled out under this programme include:

- New mains and service laying.
- Back yard lead replacement.
- DMA establishment.
- Pressure management.
- Resolution of shared services.
- First fix.
- Lead services.

### **Water Networks Rehabilitation Programme.**

#### **Contract Works:**

Farrans Ltd are the appointed regional contractor to undertake works on behalf of Irish Water. New Water Main and lead services replacement is nearing completion in Ballaghadereen. Water main replacement is completed at Emmoo.

#### **Direct Labour Works:**

A number of direct labour works are due to commence in the coming weeks as follows. Lead Replacement works in Lisnamult, bulk water meter installations on semi private group water schemes and replacing back yard services at locations around the county.

Tranche 5 proposals for the next investment phase has been submitted and is under consideration by Irish Water.

### **Find and Fix Programme:**

This is a two-year programme targeted at DMA's with high UFW figures. This work commenced in late Q2 of 2018 with a regional contractor (Farrans) appointed by Irish Water to deliver this programme of work. Farrans have also been tasked with examination of DMA'S establishment and they have employed the services of Jacobs Consulting Engineers to carry out this work. Under this programme, it has been agreed between Irish Water and Roscommon County Council that the local authority could form their own direct labour crew made up of a leak detection operative and two other operatives to carry out Find and Fix in other water supply zones and DMA'S (District Metering Areas).

The Find & Fix scheme involves leak detection crews undertaking surveys using sounding equipment on footpaths and other public areas. At present, the contractor has been working in a number of

District Metering Areas (DMA's) within the Ballinlough Water Supply Zone which is fed from Garanlahan Reservoir now supplied by the Lough Mask Water Supply Scheme. The contractor (Farrans) have also commenced Find and Fix works in North Roscommon RWSS in particular Ballaghaderreen.

Target Leakage reduction has been achieved in a number of DMA's and are now closed and handed back to the operations caretakers. Other DMA'S are still been investigated and in some cases have been split into sub DMA's to assist in leakage reduction process. Roscommon County Council Direct labour crew are currently working in the Lisbrock supply scheme in South Roscommon and have recently moved over to the Mount Talbot Supply. This ongoing find and fix work has resulted in a reduction of unaccounted for water within county Roscommon and will continue to do so over the lifetime of the programme.

#### **First Fix Programme.**

Farrans Construction has been appointed by IW to carry out works under this programme. The duration depends on the take up by customers who will avail of the scheme. Letters have been issued to customers with meter usage <1M3/day. Farrans Construction will undertake the find and fix for customers who wish to avail of the scheme.

#### **Non-Domestic Meter Replacement.**

Farrans Construction have been appointed by IW to carry out works in the programme Matched meter exchanges have been completed. Surveys of unmatched meters are ongoing.

#### **Leakage Management System.**

A new leakage management system called Net base, is currently being rolled out to all LA's. Crowder Consulting Engineers were appointed by IW to roll out Netbase nationally. The new system will facilitate a consistent method of carrying out water audits establishing unaccounted for water in all LA's. Roscommon Co. Co. staff has spent a number of months collaborating with Crowder Consulting Engineers gathering network data, Net base is now live in Roscommon. Training has yet to be provided to relevant staff. The system will be used to generate water audit reports.

#### **Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme 2019-2021**

The Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government introduced the *Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme 2016–2018*, which was the first multi-annual funding framework approach for the Rural Water Programme. This marked the transition to a scheme-specific funding approach, from the previous annual block grant funding approach. That transition will be completed in the funding cycle for 2019-2021 with all measures now becoming scheme or project based.

The objective for this cycle is to provide enhanced funding certainty for priority investment needs to support the implementation of proper planning and sustainable development in rural areas. This is to assist in meeting the requirements of the Drinking Water Directive in relation to rural water supplies and to support the delivery of measures identified in the *River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021* to meet the objectives of the Water Framework Directive.

The 2019-2021 funding cycle of the multi-annual programme consists of eight measures (most are further broken into sub-measures). These measures reflect the key challenges currently facing the rural water sector in respect of funding support. In particular, the measures have been more expressly focused around a 'multiple barriers' approach, from catchment to consumers (source – treatment - distribution), to prevent the contamination of, and ensure that, drinking water is safe and meets quality parameters of the Drinking Water Regulations on a consistent long-term basis.

Consultation has taken place with the Group Water Scheme sector in Roscommon to identify works in line with Department guidelines. A funding bid proposal of €3,112,797 for the 2019-2021 funding cycle of the multi-annual programme has been submitted to the Department for consideration as follows:

2019 - €755,097, 2020 - €1,283,350 and 2021 - €1,074,350

The eight funding measures are:

- **Measure 1 - Source Protection (Group Water Scheme Sector- A funding request of €351,150 has been submitted in respect of the period 2019-2021. The 2019 funding request is €129,450.**

This measure is aimed at protecting the raw water source of existing group water schemes thus contributing to the safety of water users through the ability of the scheme to sustainably achieve compliance with the water quality parameters of the Drinking Water Regulations on a consistent long-term basis. This is a new stand-alone measure – source protection was formerly covered under Measure 2(e) of the 2016-2018 multi-annual programme as part of the measure ‘Enhancement of existing schemes’,

- **Measure 2 - Public health compliance (Group Water Scheme Sector): A funding request of €914,408 has been submitted in respect of the period 2019-2021. The 2019 funding request is €218,408.**

This measure is aimed at improving water quality in existing group water schemes, through upgrading of their treatment facilities, so that the schemes can sustainably achieve compliance with the parameters of the Drinking Water Regulations on a consistent long-term basis,

- **Measure 3 - Enhancement of existing schemes including water conservation (Group Water Scheme Sector): A funding request of €1,451,125 has been submitted in respect of the period 2019-2021. The 2019 funding request is €291,125**

This measure supports projects to make existing group water schemes more efficient in their operation (e.g. water conservation and network upgrades, including storage) and contributing to good water quality on a consistent sustainable long-term basis,

- **Measure 4 – New Group Water Schemes:** This measure supports social and economic development in rural towns and villages and their hinterlands by providing new group water schemes where public water supply schemes or individual/private wells are not the most viable option,

**No funding request has been submitted under this Measure**

- **Measure 5 – Transition of Existing Group Water Schemes and Group Sewerage Schemes to the Public (Irish Water) Water Sector: A funding request of €247,000 has been submitted in respect of the period 2019-2021. The 2019 funding request is €22,000**

This measure enables existing group water schemes and existing group sewerage schemes, where they wish to do so and with the agreement of Irish Water, to transition to the public water sector (Irish Water),

- **Measure 6 - Community Connections (Water and Wastewater): A funding request of €69,113 has been submitted in respect of the period 2019-2021. The 2019 funding request is €44,113**

This measure facilitates the continued expansion of the coverage of piped water supplies and central wastewater collection systems by extension off the public (Irish Water) network,

- **Measure 7 - Innovation and Research: A funding request of €80,000 has been submitted in respect of the period 2019-2021. The 2019 funding request is €50,000**  
This measure is aimed at issues in the rural water sector which, given the major transition of water services in Ireland, require new and innovative approaches and solutions,
- **Measure 8 - Individual wells (more commonly known as private or household wells) and on-site wastewater treatment systems (more commonly known as septic tanks):** This measure is aimed at allowing householders that are dependent on these services to obtain funding support for their improvement. As funding under this measure is demand-led, there was no requirement to identify funding requirements for this measure in the funding bid.

In 2016, with the transition from the previous annual block grant-based funding to multi-annual funding focusing on schemes/projects, the Department established a bids evaluation panel – the Expert Panel – to assist the Department with its evaluation of bids from local authorities. It is intended for the 2019-2021 funding cycle to continue with the above bids evaluation approach. The Panel will make recommendations to the Department on the suitability of schemes/projects for funding based on objective criteria. The Department will consider the recommendations of the Panel and approvals will be made by the Minister. It is expected that funding approval will be forthcoming from the Department very soon.

#### **SUBSIDY -Payable towards the Operational Costs of Group Water Schemes Providing Water for Domestic Use:**

With effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2018, the subsidies have been increased, streamlined and new incentives introduced for smaller schemes. This is intended to bring greater equity and fairness to ensure that domestic users on group water schemes receive comparable benefits to those receiving their water supply from Irish Water.

**Annual Subsidy** - An annual subsidy per house is available to group schemes for the operational cost of providing domestic water. Annual subsidies in the sum of €381,885 have been paid to Group Water Schemes to end of Q3 2019.

**Operational and Maintenance Subsidy** – This subsidy is payable towards Operational and Maintenance (O&M) costs associated with “bona fide” Design/Build/Operate (DBO) contracts for group schemes that have their own water treatment facilities. O&M subsidies have been paid in the sum of €176,917 to Group Water Schemes to the end of Q3 2019.

#### **INDIVIDUAL WELL GRANTS:**

The funding for Individual Well Grants is demand led and applications continue to be processed for those who do not have access to an alternative water supply in their area. The maximum grant available is €2,031.58 or 75% of the cost of the work, whichever is the lesser. To the end of Q3 a total of 15 applications for the upgrade of individual wells have been received with 12 receiving Provisional Approval for financial support. Grants have been paid on 6 completed applications in the sum of €10,330.08 in Q3 2019.

**Note:** Notification of funding for 2019 has been circulated via CircularL2/19, dated October 14<sup>th</sup> 2019.

## Corporate Affairs – Management Report Q3 2019

### Register of Electors

The annual revision of the Draft Electoral Register commenced in Q3 2019. A total of 22 field workers will visit all houses in the county in the 101 Polling Districts to update the register. The Draft Register will be published on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2019.

### Exhibitions/Events

Roscommon County Council hosted the exhibition '100 years of Women in Politics and Public Life, from 1918 to 2018', for a three-month period commencing in July. This significant national exhibition shines a spotlight on the stories of women, who have contributed significantly to Irish political and public life over the past century – on the challenges they faced and the obstacles they overcame. The exhibition not only looks at women nationally but also the contribution made by women locally in politics and public life.

The exhibition, which was launched by former President Dr Mary McAleese on 17<sup>th</sup> July, comprised of over 100 panels of artefacts and memorabilia telling the story of a century in a clear, vibrant and interactive way. The exhibition was curated by historian Sinéad McCool and supported by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht/Commemorations Unit as part of the Decade of Centenaries programme. A series of structured guided tours and lectures took place as part of the promotion and public awareness raising for the exhibition.

### Control of Dogs

Roscommon County Council held a successful free microchipping event on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September at the Civil Defence Building, Roscommon town. The aim of the event was to promote responsible dog ownership and to raise awareness of the importance of microchipping.

## Environment Department Management Report – Q3

### WASTE MANAGEMENT AND ENFORCEMENT

#### National Inspection Plan

Under the Water Services Act 2007 as amended, a minimum of 35 sites are required to be inspected by Roscommon County Council in 2019. In September fifteen households were notified of inspections which are due to commence in October 2019

#### Complaints

The Environment Section continues to deal with litter/pollution complaints on a daily basis. All complaints are recorded and every complaint is investigated. Set out below are the complaints received in quarter 3 2019. During this period 167 complaints were received, 137 were investigated and 201 complaints were closed.

Complaint Type	Athlone	Ballaghaderreen	Boyle	Castlerea	Roscommon	Strokestown	Total
Water	2	2	2	2	1		9
Waste	4	6	2	6	4	2	24
Noise				1	1		2
Litter	22	19	19	14	27	14	115
Air	5	6		2	2	2	17
	33	33	23	25	35	18	167

## Anti-Dumping Initiative 2019

Approval of a maximum grant of €94,500 was received in respect of five projects under the above initiative. An additional Bulky Goods Collection was held on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at Hodson Bay, Athlone. 77.82 tonnes of bulky goods were collected over the 5 collection dates together with 894 mattresses and 299 bed bases. These collections were funded by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment under the Anti Dumping Initiative 2019

## Bye-Laws for the Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste 2019

At its meeting of 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2019 Roscommon County Council made Bye-Laws to regulate and control the segregation, storage and presentation of household and commercial waste within its functional area. These Bye-Laws repeal Roscommon County Council Storage, Presentation & Collection of Household Waste Bye-Laws 2008. There is a provision for the imposition of a fixed payment of €75 in respect of a contravention of the Bye-Laws.

These Bye-Laws will come into effect on the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2019 and an awareness campaign, funded under the ADI 2019 will be rolled out at this time.

## ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

### Fashioning for the Future

A number of Fashioning for the Future Events encouraging more sustainable shopping habits to prevent textile waste were held in quarter 3. These events were funded under the LAPN

### Dog Microchipping Event

Roscommon County Council, in an effort to promote responsible dog ownership offered free microchipping to 200 dogs in the County. This event took place at the Civil Defence Building, Lanesboro Road, Roscommon on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2019. A Responsible Dog Ownership Guide was also published which also includes information on the Green Dog Walker Initiative – which is a non-confrontational, friendly way to change attitudes about dog fouling. These leaflets are available at public libraries and on Roscommon County Councils website

## 2019 Community Environment Action Fund

This Fund was previously known as the Local Agenda 21 Environmental Partnership Fund (LA21/LEPF). This grant scheme is a process which facilitates sustainable development at community level. Projects should contribute to developing sustainable local communities. Eligible projects are those that will support and complement, at a local level, national environmental policies such as those on Waste, Biodiversity, Climate Change, Air, Water and Sustainable Development. Roscommon County Council was notified of a grant in the amount of €9,775.00, this will be match funded by Roscommon County Council giving a total available of €19,550. This grant scheme was advertised and by the closing date of 27<sup>th</sup> September 2019, 62 applications were received. Applications will be adjudicated on in Q4 2019

## Assets and Energy – Management Report – Q3

### ASSETS

- Update of Building/Land Assets being reviewed for forwarding to OPW for inclusion on National Property Register
- PIR (Property Interest Register) Roscommon for all Building / Land Assets ongoing
- Full listing of RCC Assets across all Sections ongoing
- Housing Assets being reconciled with iHouse
- Ongoing Administrative / Technical involvement with Leases, Acquisitions and Disposals of RCC Assets
- Policy documents approved for:
  - Disposal of Land/Property
  - Acquisition of Land/Property
  - Property Asset Management Plan

### ENERGY

- **Public Sector Energy Partnership Programme –**
  - Agreement signed on 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 - new Partnership Support Manager, Noel Gilbride, assigned to Roscommon County Council
  - Energy Action Plan 2019 – implementation ongoing
- **Grant Applications –**
  - BEC Application for King House, Boyle and Dillon House, Ballaghaderreen being prepared for submission in 2020
- **Optimising Power @ Work Programme –**
  - Submission in respect of Aras an Chontae accepted  
Monitors installed in June, 2017 and ESB Networks data connection complete / monitoring ongoing – OP@W Mentor, Colm O’hAonghusa, reviewing monthly and subject to data commissioning / verification

- Monitors installed to 5 no. Buildings in Roscommon Town and ESB Networks data connection complete / monitoring ongoing with support from ResourceKraft - subject to data commissioning / verification
- **Energy Monitoring & Reporting (M & R) 2017 –**
  - Data for 2018 – Part 1 submitted by 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2019 and Part 2 submitted by 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2019.
  - Currently at 27.7% (provisional) of targeted 33% energy efficiency improvement by 2020, based on 2018 energy usage

## **PUBLIC LIGHTING**

- Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) Funding Applications successful in respect of Public Lighting (PL) Upgrades in:
  - 9 no. separate locations in Co. Roscommon (438 no. PL's) and
  - 4 no. separate locations in Co. Roscommon (38 no. PL's) based on cost reductions on the above 9 no. Schemes
  - Total LED upgrade = 476 no. PLs
  - Retrofit of PLs in progress/practically complete
- RCC-funded Project of retrofit of 1,230 no. PLs throughout Co. Roscommon approved in sum of €550,000.00 ex. VAT – commencing in Q4 2019
- Updates to DeadSure Inventory and UMR Database in preparation for National LED Upgrade – ongoing
- Taking-in-Charge of Estates (Public Lighting) – in conjunction with Planning and Roads Sections

## **CLIMATE ACTION**

- Draft RCC Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019 – 2024 - prepared, issued for Public Consultation, submissions reviewed and updated Strategy adopted by Members of Roscommon County Council at September Plenary Meeting of 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2019

## Roads and Transportation – Management Report – Q3

### National Roads

**N5 Ballaghaderreen–Scramoge:** The Ballaghaderreen to Scramoge Road Project is 33.4km in length and extends from the east tie-in point of the N5 Ballaghaderreen By-pass to Scramoge and bypasses Frenchpark, Bellanagare, Tulsk and Strokestown. The Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) was made on 11 December 2017. The application for Development Consent and for confirmation of the CPO and associated documentation was submitted to An Bord Pleanála (ABP) on 20 December 2017. The closing date for receipt of submissions to ABP was 6 March 2018. ABP made a request for additional information and same was submitted to the Board on 7 June 2018. Following an Oral Hearing convened by An Bord Pleanála ('The Board') in October 2018 the Board approved the scheme and confirmed the CPO in January 2019. CPO notices have been served on all persons listed in the CPO and land negotiations have recently commenced. The procurement processes in respect of land & property valuation services and legal services to assist with land acquisition are substantially completed. Various works and services contracts are being procured in advance of the main construction contract including archaeology, fencing and hedgerow removal and geotechnical investigations. In addition, the procurement of technical consultants to assist in progressing the project through the tender and construction stages has been completed.

**N60 Oran Road Realignment Project** involves the realignment of approximately 3.4 km of the N60 National Secondary route including 1.7 km of offline construction and 1.7 km of online widening to Type 1 single carriageway standard. The land acquisition process is currently ongoing. To date approximately 70% of the land cases have been settled. Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. commenced the Stage (ii) – (iv) Archaeological Resolution Contract in September 2017 and completed site works in April 2018, Stage (iv) reporting is ongoing. The detailed design and preparation of the main construction contract tender documents were completed in Q4 2018. The main construction contract was tendered on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2018. The latest date for submission of tenders was the 20<sup>th</sup> December 2018. The tender assessment process was completed in Q1 2019 and the Contract was awarded to Wills Bros Ltd. on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2019. Site works commenced in April 2019 and are ongoing. Roughan & O'Donovan Consulting Engineers are administering the construction contract on behalf of Roscommon County Council.

**N61 Ballymurray to Knockcroghery Road Project:** This project comprises the improvement of the N61 National Secondary Road between Ballymurray and Knockcroghery which will incorporate a bypass of Knockcroghery village. Work has commenced on the initial planning phases of the project. A range of environmental and technical specialists have been appointed and the Concept and Feasibility, and Options Selection phases of the Planning and Design of the project are underway. The Constraints Public Consultation was held in March 2018. Roughan & O' Donovan was appointed as Engineering Consultants in December 2018 following a procurement process using TII's Framework Agreement for Consultancy Services. The planning stages of the project are currently being progressed including finalisation of constraints study and commencement of the route option selection process.

**N61 Coolteige Phase 1 Road Project** involves the realignment and improvement of approximately 2.9km of a section of National Secondary Road on the northern outskirts of Roscommon Town predominately to Type 1 single carriageway standard. The land acquisition process is ongoing on foot of the approved CPO. Archaeological resolution field works were completed in November 2016. Post excavation archaeological works are ongoing. The main

construction contract was awarded to Wills Bros Ltd. on 14 December 2017. Works commenced on site in Q1 2018 and are complete. The Defects Period expires in April 2020.

**N61 Tulsk to Clashaganny Road Realignment Project** involves the realignment of approximately 4.5km of the N61 National Secondary route from north of Tulsk village to Clashaganny. Various environmental specialists have been procured in order to assist in the development of the project from concept through to the completion of the EIA/EAR & The Statutory Processes. Work is continuing on the planning phases of the project. The Constraints Study has been completed and a number of indicative route corridor options have been identified.

**National Road Pavement Projects:** Works have been completed on N60 Castlerea South, N61 Corroy, N61 Athlone Road, N63 Athleague, N5 Frenchpark and N60 Castlerea South to Ballymoe. Works are substantially complete at N5 Tulsk. Works have commenced on N60 Castlerea Town.

### **Non-National Roads**

Works are ongoing in all areas on Regional and Local Roads (over 300 schemes), Drainage Works (44 schemes) and Winter Maintenance (National and Non-National Roads) from the 2019 allocation of €14m from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (DTTAS). Low Cost Accident Remedial Measure Schemes for 2019 are almost complete and an application for funding for 2020 was submitted to DTTAS in Q3. The 2019 Non-National Bridge Rehabilitation programme is substantially complete and an application for 2020 funding under the Bridge Rehabilitation Grant was submitted in Q3 2019.

### **Local Improvement Scheme 2019**

The Department of Rural and Community Development, DRCD, operates the Local Improvement Schemes for the improvement of local non-public roads. In February 2019 Roscommon County Council received a Grant Allocation of €355,104. The scheme of priorities for 21 roads was approved by the DRCD in 2019. All LIS works are complete. In 2018 Roscommon County Council had in excess of 200 applications on the waiting list for county Roscommon. There are 50 Schemes remaining on the waiting list amounting to €650,000.

### **Community Involvement Schemes 2020-2021**

DTTAS have provided for grant assistance which must be matched by a minimum 15% from the community for eligible works including general maintenance, drainage works, pavement works and footpaths on public roads. Expressions of Interest was advertised in September for 2020-2021 scheme. 6 applications were received and returned to DTTAS. Roscommon County Council will be informed of the allocation in Q4.

### **Strategic Transport Assessment**

Roscommon Town Sustainable Transport Study: Aecom Consultants carried out a study and this report is being reviewed by Roscommon County Council Roads department.

Athlone Town Study: Westmeath County Council as the lead authority will procure consultants for the Athlone Town Study.

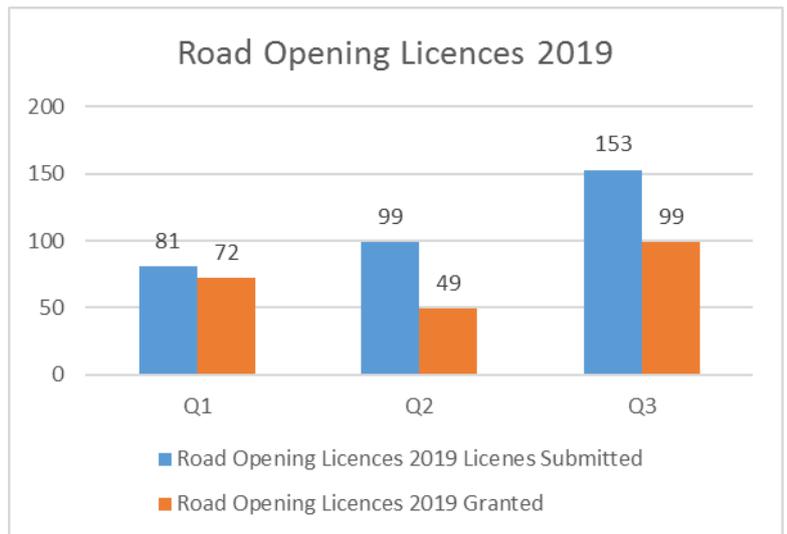
### **National Transport Authority Licences**

The National Transport authority is the body responsible for issuing licences to bus operators for regular bus services, temporary service and special events and concerts. As part of the Licencing process, operators using bus stops and locations in the county must apply to Roscommon County council for permission. 26 Licences have been processed by the Roads department up to end Q3 2019.

### Road Opening Licences

Excavations made in a public road or footpath require a Road Opening Licence. All applications for licences to open the public road are lodged through the central portal with the Road Management Office [www.rmo.ie](http://www.rmo.ie).

Roscommon County Council Roads department processes the licences for county Roscommon from this portal and attaches conditions and fees to the licence. In the year 2018 the Council granted 166 licences. 2019 to date has seen a significant increase in applications to is outlined in the chart.



### Lough Fuinshinagh Scoping Report

Following severe flooding events in 2015/2016 and 2018 approximately 120ha of land was flooded, a number of houses were at risk of flooding and a number of roads were impassable. OPW provided funding under minor flood mitigation works and Roscommon County Council raised roads, installed bund, provided sandbags, provided and maintained pumps, carried out site investigation works and surveys. In 2018 OPW approved the appointment Consultants, Malachy Walsh and Partners to carry out a scoping study. A presentation was prepared for the September 2019 Plenary meeting to outline the findings of the report.

### Broadband Update

Digital Strategy: Work is continuing on the preparation of a Digital Strategy for County Roscommon. Questionnaires were completed by businesses, non-profit organisations and the general public. A joint Business workshop will take place on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2019 to cover all USEFE Counties, namely Roscommon, Longford, Leitrim and Cavan.

WIFI4EU: Roscommon has now been successful in receiving approval for 4 vouchers. Tender documents must now be prepared to carry out the works.

RRDF: Funding was received under the Rural and Regional Development Fund as part of a joint scheme led by Western Development Commission, working with Donegal, Sligo and Mayo, to create *Digiwest* – a Western Region Network of Rural Digital Working Hubs. Roscommon’s location is a vacant unit in Meadow Brook, Tulsk. Refurbishment and equipment fit out is due to commence shortly.

National Broadband Plan: A key milestone was reached in May 2019 with the appointment of a "Preferred Bidder". This is the final step in the NBP procurement process before a contract is awarded. Expected date is now October/ November 2019. This latest Map attached shows progress in the deployment of high speed broadband in the BLUE areas up until the end of March 2019, including those premises passed under the *Eir* Commitment Agreement. *Eir* is now almost complete

its 300K rollout in County Roscommon, having passed 5746 premises. This includes 434 additional premises. As part of their €0.5 billion fixed network investment programme, Eir are currently in Boyle town.

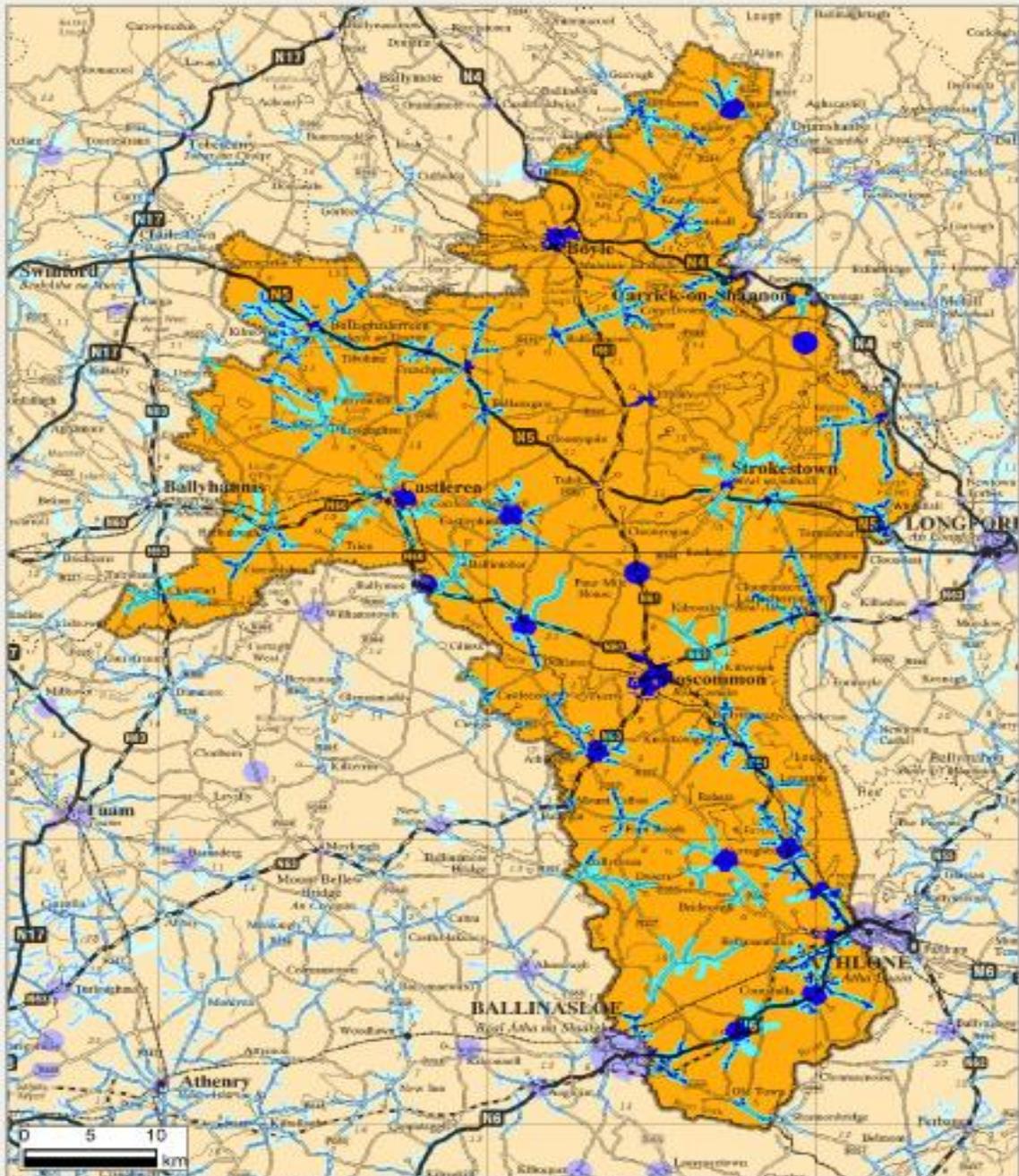


Roinn Cumarsáide, Gníomhaíthe ar son na hAeráide & Comhshaoil  
Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment

# High Speed Broadband Map Roscommon

Q1 2019

National  
Broadband Plan  
County



Produced by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, 2018. Ordnance Survey Licence No. 09 0077219 © Ordnance Survey Ireland/Government of Ireland. Published June 2019

Total Number of Premises in Roscommon	39,131
Same Intervention Area	67%
Commercial Deployment	47%
Commercial Premises Deployment	6%

[www.broadband.gov.ie](http://www.broadband.gov.ie)

