



Comhairle Contae  
Ros Comáin  
Roscommon  
County Council



# MANAGEMENT REPORT



**APRIL 2021**

**Roscommon County Council**  
**Revenue Account Income & Expenditure Summary by Service Division**  
**Management Accounts Summary to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

	EXPENDITURE		INCOME		NET
	Expenditure Incurred up to 30/04/2021	Adopted Full Year Budget	Income Receivable up to 30/04/2021	Adopted Full year Budget	Actual Overall Surplus/ (Deficit)
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing & Building	2,108,725	7,477,004	4,313,570	8,242,177	2,204,845
Road Transport & Safety	4,094,378	24,494,642	1,092,510	17,446,380	(3,001,868)
Water Services	1,830,480	7,613,827	2,207,534	7,521,282	377,054
Development Management	1,627,515	7,258,004	1,143,376	2,178,034	(484,139)
Environmental Services	1,832,748	5,972,794	171,989	958,825	(1,660,759)
Recreation & Amenity	1,012,024	4,343,863	184,879	554,200	(827,145)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	109,967	654,744	77,636	257,532	(32,331)
Miscellaneous Services	2,670,551	5,275,773	720,740	2,429,372	(1,949,811)
Central Management Charges	1,138,017	0	82,018	0	(1,056,000)
Local Government Fund/General Purpose Grant	0	0	3,608,564	10,825,200	3,608,564
Pension Levy	0	0	0	0	0
Rates	0	0	4,217,716	12,677,652	4,217,716
	<b>16,424,404</b>	<b>63,090,653</b>	<b>17,820,531</b>	<b>63,090,653</b>	<b>1,396,126</b>

**Note 1;**  
The Central Management Charge is allocated one month in arrears. The costs included in the Central Management Charge are distributed among Divisions A-H and include costs from Area Offices, Corporate Affairs, Corporate buildings, Finance, Human Resources, IT Print & Post Room Services, Pension & Lump Sums.

**Summary of Major Collections as at 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

<b>Debt Type</b>	<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>Accrued</b>	<b>Vacant Property Adjustments</b>	<b>Write Off/Waivers</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>	2,736,574	12,663,479	820,254	909,891	13,669,909	5,251,760	8,418,148	17,400	38%	23%
<b>Rents &amp; Annuities</b>	394,360	1,736,470		(1,604)	2,132,433	1,718,912	413,522		81%	76%
<b>Housing Loans</b>	145,193	79,071			224,264	79,717	144,547		36%	48%

**Recourse to Overdraft;**

There has been no recourse to overdraft during the month of April 2021

## PLANNING DEPARTMENT

### Forward Planning

A significant milestone was reached in April as part of the process of preparing the *Roscommon County Development Plan 2021 – 2027*, with Members agreeing the content of the Draft Plan at a Special Meeting of the Council on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2021. Following this, the period of public consultation on the *Draft Roscommon County Development Plan* commenced on 21<sup>st</sup> April, and is scheduled to run until 2<sup>nd</sup> July.

### Development Management and Planning Enforcement Activity

The table below summarises Development Management activity in April. A total of 41 valid planning applications were received, which is generally comparable to the preceding monthly figures since the beginning of 2021. Decisions issued on 47 applications, of which 43 were grants of planning permission.

### **Development Management Statistics**

Period	Activity	Roscommon North	Roscommon South	Totals
<b>April 2021</b>	Valid app	27	14	<b>41</b>
	Extension of Duration	0	2	<b>2</b>
	DED	3	3	<b>6</b>
	Pre-planning meeting	15	10	<b>25</b>

### **Enforcement Activity**

Period	Activity	Countywide Totals
<b>April 2021</b>	New enforcement case	8
	General letter	7
	Warning letter	9
	Enforcement notice	1
	Closed case	20
	Legal proceedings	0

### Unfinished Housing Developments (UHD)

Due to a period of significant Covid 19 related restrictions on construction activities since January, work continued on just one site in Boyle (Silveroe) in the early part of April, as the project was designated by The Housing Agency as an essential project, and as such a project construction work was permitted to continue during the restrictions. With the gradual easing of restrictions on construction activity from April 12<sup>th</sup>, contractors commenced work in four other unfinished housing developments in Boyle.

Two contracts were awarded for the undertaking of a range of site resolution works in the Boyle Municipal District (at developments in Cootehall, Croghan and Cortober) and in the Athlone Municipal District (for three developments in Monksland).

## ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT PROMOTION

### Local Enterprise Office:

- **Trading On Line Vouchers (TOVs):**  
24 applications have been received and approved to-date. Clients who received TOV approval in 2020 and whose deadline date is approaching are being followed up. Once received, claims are being processed in a timely fashion. Funding on offer reverted to 50% on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021. There are two Remote Trading Online Voucher Information Seminars available to book on the LEO Roscommon Website on May 19<sup>th</sup> and June 30<sup>th</sup>.
- **Evaluation & Approvals Meeting:** An Evaluation Meeting took place on Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> April. 3 projects were successful in securing funding.
- **Client Stimulus Scheme:** A condition of this Scheme is that clients who received refunds (38 in total) must have agreed beforehand to complete a project focused on driving key themes such as Competitiveness, both Operationally and Green, Capability across Leadership, Innovation, Strategic Finance and new Market Development which will support the mitigation of the effects of the Covid-19 and Brexit. The intention is that the funding and associated projects will provide businesses with a platform from which they can sustain and grow, thereby contributing to the recovery of the Irish economy. The closing date for submitting tenders via eTenders, in order to form a Panel, was Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> April. Tenders were received from 67 consultants and they will be assessed in May. This initiative is to be completed with client reports received by the LEO under stipulated headings by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021.
- **Microfinance:** 4 applications received and sent to MFI Y-T-D, 2 approved; 1 pending; 1 declined. Work continues on the promotion of this source of finance.
- **Training:** Training to support the business community is ongoing and well received.
- **EMPOWER Growth Programme:** This Programme is run by the GMIT iHubs, supported by LEOs in Roscommon, Galway, Mayo, Leitrim, Sligo & Donegal. It is provided for females with established businesses looking to grow and scale their enterprise. The closing date for receipt of applications was 30<sup>th</sup> April at 12noon. Four applications have been received from Roscommon based businesses.  
**Remote Mentoring:** General one-to-one mentoring is ongoing. Brexit & Business Advice Clinics were held and continue to be offered on the LEO online booking system. All bookings are taken via the LEO website online booking system.
- **Enquiries:** Appropriate support provided on an ongoing basis.
- **Student Enterprise Programme:** The closing date for receipt for all submissions to the National Final was Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> April. The LEO assisted Rust Busters from Castlerea Community School with their National Final Submission. The National Final takes place virtually on Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> May.
- **National Enterprise Awards:** The next Awards will take place in 2022.
- **Promotion:** All LEO supports were promoted on the LEO website and on various social media platforms.
- **Sites at Ballyboughan:** 4 Enquiries ongoing.
- **Just Transition:** 3 applications successful. Feasibility Study for the Boardwalk project successful, and two more Feasibility Studies for Cloontuskert Ballyleague Visitor Centre and Organic Farm and Cloontuskert Ballyleague Bog Heritage Train were successful with a total fund of €242k approx. Tender documents for 2 of the Feasibility Studies have been completed.
  - **EI – LW** has met with Meabh Conaghy, the new West Region Manager, who has also joined the LEO Projects Evaluation Committee.
  - **IDA:** LW is keeping the line of communication open between IDA, CE & Senior Management of RCC in the hope of encouraging FDI to Roscommon.

# COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT

## Healthy Ireland

- No decision has been made by Pobal yet in respect to the request for additional funding to continue two Healthy Roscommon projects until the end of the year.
- Pobal have announced that a progress and financial return on Healthy Ireland Fund activities will be due on July 31<sup>st</sup> 2021.
- Pobal have also given a deadline of July 31<sup>st</sup> 2021 for the final return of all financial and progress reports relating to the Community Resilience Fund – Keep Well Campaign.

## **Wellness Campaign:**

- **Conversations in Portrait:** RCC are engaging with 8 participants in the Keep Well **Conversations in Portrait** – 3 in Nursing Homes, 5 at home –
- Preparation ongoing by the Community Forum Sub-Group: Staying Connected/Managing Your Mood: 400 Age Friendly Care Packs distributed to the most isolated throughout the County. (Reps: RCC, HSE, AGS, RLP).

## LEADER:

- Article 48 checks are ongoing
- 4 LEADER claims paid in April

## Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

An online LCDC meeting took place on the 21<sup>th</sup> April 2021 via Microsoft Teams. Some of the key agenda items discussed were as follows:

- LECP Review
- Filling of casual vacancy on the SICAP Sub Committee Group
- Approved allocation of COVID Emergency Fund Round 2
- Financial Report provided on programme from Financial Partner
- Implementation update received on programme from Implementing Partner
- Report on 1st Targeted Call for Projects 2021 under Co. Roscommon LEADER Transitional Programme

## Joint Policing Committee (JPC)

- No JPC meeting took place in April 2021. Meetings are held quarterly.

## CLÁR

- Work in ongoing with Community Groups as they prepare tenders and quotations for commencement of work on their projects for 2020 CLÁR funded projects.
- Closing date for acceptance of applications for CLÁR 2021 was 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021.
- 16 Applications were received under Measure 1
- 18 Applications were received under Measure 2
- Assessment of applications was taking place for submission of 10 applications under both measure to Department of Rural and Community Development before 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021

## Social Inclusion

### **Age Friendly Programme:**

- AF Care Pack distributed to the most isolated throughout the County as part of Keep Well Campaign.
- Possibility of an Age Friendly Walkability Audit of a route in Roscommon Town being progressed.
- County Roscommon Accessibility/Make Way Day Committee Meeting attended.
- Review of AF Strategy progressing.

## SICAP

- SICAP Q2 payment and VAT for 2020 was paid to RIDC in April 2021

## Tidy Towns & Amenity Grant Scheme 2021

- Tidy Towns & Amenity Grant Scheme 2021 closed on Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021.
- **89** applications were received of which **87** were deemed eligible
- A list of Recommended Allocations was approved at April Council Meeting
- Letters of Grant Offer issued

## Pride of Place 2021

The County Roscommon Pride of Place Competition 2021 was advertised with a closing date of 12<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

## Heritage

- **Community Monuments Fund 2021:**

7 applications were received from the public and they were assessed in accordance with the scheme criteria. 6 applications were submitted for consideration to the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage – 5 from community groups and 1 from Roscommon County Council.

- **Built Heritage Investment Scheme:**

11 BHIS projects were approved for funding totalling 72k and letters of offer were sent out to all applicants.

- **Know Your Locality – Free online course**

This online course was fully booked out. The course concluded on 06.04.21.

- **#KnowYour5K**

Weekly social media posts continue to encourage participation in the #Knowyour5k initiative. This initiative is an unfunded part of the RCC Keep Well campaign.

- **Royal Sites of Ireland World Heritage Tentative List Application:**

4 x Steering/Sub group meetings took place to develop the project website and consultation survey and progress the tentative list application under the guidance of Dr. Christopher Young. Letters of support for the tentative list application will be required from the Chief Executive and Cathaoirleach. This project is being co-ordinated by Tipperary County Council.

- **County Roscommon Heritage Forum:**

Q2 meeting was held on 14.04.21 on TEAMS

- **RCC Actions for Pollinators**

It was agreed at the Plenary meeting that RCC would sign up as a partner to the Ill-Ireland Pollinator Plan. More work is needed to encourage Roscommon County Council staff to take on actions for pollinators in their day to day work programmes. There are 30 actions to choose from many of which are free or cost neutral. Reducing the frequency of mowing grass is a very simple one where this action can be implemented. Using pollinator friendly plants in any landscaping projects is another action that could be encouraged by management.

### Tourism

Museums opening permitted from 10th May

### **Regional Projects:**

- **Outdoor Dining Fund:** T&C drafted and online application process agreed for fund with RCC IT. Schema will be open for applications until Sept
- **IHH Network:** Athlone and Carrick resilience Plan Meetings via TEAMS.

### **County Projects:**

- **Arigna Mining:** Fáilte Ireland Landscape Architect meeting to discuss potential for outdoor experience development at Arigna Mining Experience
- **Social Media:** continuing weekly – EXPLORE ROSCOMMON theme for summer 2021
- **Marketing** – agreed a summer marketing scheme and seeking quotes from communications managers. Website review/update for 2021 season ongoing
- **ORIS 2020** – request for quotes for videos to be produced in Summer and Autumn send out.
- **ORSI 2019** – Preparation for Knockranny Wood audit completed

### **King House**

- Interviews held for Temporary Curator via TEAMS
- Agreed proposal on new Exhibition for Maureen O Sullivan

### **Destinations Town – Boyle**

- Works on hold under Level 5

### **Covid 19 Initiatives:**

- **Roscommon Community Response Forum:**

As part of the Governments response to the COVID-19 crisis, Roscommon County Council in partnership with principal response agencies and community and voluntary groups have come together to form the Community Response Forum to lead the co-ordination of the COVID-19 community supports and resilience. The Forum brings together a number of organisations to identify vulnerable groups and individual in Roscommon and to ensure delivery of targeted social care supports and assistance to vulnerable groups and individuals.



The Forum continues to meet to discuss and resolve matters utilising the expertise contained within this multi partnership team.

- **Community Support Response Helpline:**

Roscommon County Council in partnership with An Garda Siochana and Roscommon Leader Company have set up a 24-hour Freephone community support response help line to assist in the delivery of targeted social care supports and assistance to vulnerable groups and individuals.

## **Arts Office**

### **Artists**

- Artist in Schools resumed for Term 3.
- Bealtaine Festival planning for month of May.

### **Music**

- **Music Generation Roscommon** online lessons. Rock & Pop in partnership with Foroige/Youthreach in Roscommon town, Strokestown, Castlerea, Monksland and VTOS Boyle. Roscommon Young Carers Project. Early Years at Family Resource Centres. Youth Orchestra in Roscommon town, Ballaghaderreen, Boyle. Traditional Programme in Castlerea, Frenchpark, Strokestown. School programmes online at Primary and Post Primary levels.
- **King House Piano Commission** by composer Ryan Molloy. Music composed, rehearsals in progress. 4 musicians, 1 project manager. In partnership with Contemporary Music Centre and Boyle Arts Festival.

### **Film**

#### **WRAP II and SLR Film**

- Creative Heartlands: Film Development Officer (part-time) has commenced and purchase of equipment.
- Film Liaison: Mike Hourigan continues to assist in coordinating the advancement of the film sector within the region as the local point of contact for production companies, producers, directors, locations managers. Film prep work in Boyle to commence filming in July.

#### **Roscommon County Youth Theatre**

Term 3 of online programme and 'In Conversation' Series

**Observances Arts Programme** with EROC and Ballaghaderreen Community. Part-funded by RCC Social Inclusion & Healthy Ireland. Artists Julie Griffiths & Vukasin Nedeljković.

#### **Literary Development Programme**

- Roscommon New Writing Award open for submissions
- Chapbook Bursary open for applications
- Writer Mentoring Programme open for applications
- Funding for Strokestown International Poetry Festival - Poetry Film

### **Creative Ireland**

- Creative Ireland 18 projects via Arts Office, Arts Centre, Heritage Office, Tourism Office, Library incl Cathaoirleach's Award.
- Successful application to Creativity in Older Age Fund €16,000: Artist Laura Earley - A creative exploration of positive ageing amongst the farming community with a particular focus on the Roscommon Livestock Marts.
- *Cruinniú na nÓg* planning for Saturday 12th June. Ireland's national day of free creativity for children and young people – and entire families. 17 online and outdoor events organised by Arts Office, Library, Roscommon Arts Centre, Music Generation Roscommon and Roscommon County Youth Theatre.

### **Keep Well**

- Forget Me Not Choir
- Conversations in Portrait – 8 portraits completed (1 couple)

### **Roscommon Arts Centre**

The last of the online Spring programme of events concluded in April as the centre moved from programming online to focus on artists supports & developing future projects, the launch of its new Kaleidoscope Creative Learning Programme, the re-opening of the gallery space in the venue and the development of its new Audience Development Plan.

**Yours Sincerely, Patrick De Witt:** the correspondence project with internationally acclaimed author Patrick De Witt and 15 older members of the community came to a conclusion with a zoom session between the author and participants

**My Dear Friend:** the launch of a follow-up correspondence project between local participants and care homes in the County which will take place as part of Roscommon Arts Centre's Bealtaine programme.

**Poetry Day Event:** A Callout to young poets to write poems which opened with the words "I Hope..." For Poetry Day 2021, garnered over 100 responses. Virtual poems cards were then created for each poet by Roscommon Arts Centre in time for Poetry Day.

**Songbirds:** The launch of the virtual Songbirds/Bealtaine initiative took place with Cathy Jordan, with sessions due to take place throughout May.

**Commencement of Fregoli Theatre Company residency:** This month,

Fregoli have now embarked on Phase 1 of their 3 Phase residency: "Professional Development" for 8 company residents: a series of workshops both at the arts centre and via zoom with a range of arts practitioners and companies to allow artists to develop their own practice

**Installation of first exhibition of 2021: Barbara Kenevicz: 'Tools for Well Being'** : a series of sculptural arrays by the artist that spring from an intrigue for moments where the human body and other matter, such as crystals, stones, oils and plants come into proximity for the purposes of healing and wellbeing. Her exhibition at Roscommon will see the site specific development of the artists 'Scapes' formations.

**An Ant Called Amy:** support for the rehearsal and recording of new work for Cruinniu na nOg on-site by Julie Sharkey. The work will be shown in June via Roscommon Arts Centre’s website

**Playing on the Radio:** Work has begun with actor Enda Oates on the new project which will commence in June with members of Roscommon Drama Group. “Playing on the Radio” is a series of short radio plays directed by Enda Oates and produced by Roscommon Arts Centre. Working with local performers from The Roscommon Drama Group, the series will be recorded on site at the centre and, subject to restrictions, the work will also have performed in front of live audiences as radio plays later this year.

**Kaleidoscope Creative Engagement Programme:** Much of April was spent researching and developing the programme content for the school’s edition of the new Kaleidoscope programme, which will be launched for schools in May/June.

**Review of Programme:** In depth review of Spring programme (report produced) to monitor engagements and to inform future programming at centre was undertaken in April.

**Audience Development Plan:** with support from an arts consultant, the research phase of new audience development plan, which all staff are contributing to is continuing this month – this plan is due for completion in early Summer 2021.