



Comhairle Contae
Ros Comáin
Roscommon
County Council



MANAGEMENT REPORT

AUGUST 2021

Roscommon County Council
Revenue Account Income & Expenditure Summary by Service Division
Management Accounts Summary to 31st August 2021

	EXPENDITURE		INCOME		NET
	Expenditure Incurred up to 31/08/2021	Adopted Full Year Budget	Income Receivable up to 31/08/2021	Adopted Full year Budget	Actual Overall Surplus/ (Deficit)
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing & Building	4,464,830	7,477,004	8,476,853	8,242,177	4,012,023
Road Transport & Safety	12,519,995	24,494,642	6,161,771	17,446,380	(6,358,224)
Water Services	3,684,698	7,613,827	4,282,567	7,521,282	597,869
Development Management	4,178,825	7,258,004	2,742,422	2,178,034	(1,436,404)
Environmental Services	3,424,949	5,972,794	358,245	958,825	(3,066,704)
Recreation & Amenity	2,423,262	4,343,863	431,058	554,200	(1,992,203)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	319,965	654,744	169,799	257,532	(150,166)
Miscellaneous Services	4,822,043	5,275,773	2,619,749	2,429,372	(2,202,293)
Central Management Charges	1,494,861	0	119,323	0	(1,375,537)
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	8,420,403	12,677,652	8,420,403
	37,333,428	63,090,653	37,390,755	63,090,653	57,327

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

Summary of Major Collections as at 31st August 2021

Debt Type	Opening Balance	Accrued	Vacant Property Adjustments	Write Off/Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Balance	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection	% Collection Previous Year
Commercial Rates	2,736,574	12,640,937	941,642	1,858,726	12,577,143	9,445,652	3,131,491	17,400	75%	41%
Rents & Annuities	394,360	3,514,030		(1,604)	3,909,994	3,480,181	429,812		89%	87%
Housing Loans	145,193	158,862			304,055	161,982	142,073		53%	64%

Recourse to Overdraft;

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

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Forward Planning

Following the conclusion of the public consultation period on the *Draft Roscommon County Development Plan 2021 – 2027* in early July, work continued throughout August on the analysis of the matters raised in the submissions, in order to inform the preparation of the Chief Executive's Report on the submissions received. In some instances, the analysis necessitated a number of site inspections (for example in respect of structures suggested for inclusion on the Record of Protected Structures), as well as further examination on the ground of lands which were the subject of submissions concerning zoning. Further work was also undertaken by consultants engaged to prepare the various related environmental reports and the Housing Need Demand Assessment, in response to matters raised in submissions on the Draft Plan.

Development Management and Planning Enforcement Activity

The table below summarises Development Management activity in August. A total of 39 valid planning applications were received. This was a significant reduction on the numbers submitted in preceding months and is most likely attributable to it being the height of the traditional summer holiday period. Decisions issued on 36 applications, of which 32 (88%) were grants of planning permission.

Development Management Statistics

Period	Activity	Roscommon North	Roscommon South	Totals
August 2021	Valid app	15	24	39
	Extension of Duration	0	0	0
	DED	3	2	5
	Pre-planning meeting	9	7	16

Enforcement Activity

Period	Activity	Countywide Totals
August 2021	New enforcement case	6
	General letter	20
	Warning letter	9
	Enforcement notice	0
	Closed case	11
	Legal proceedings	1

Unfinished Housing Developments (UHD)

Despite August being the traditional holiday period in the construction industry, contractors engaged under either RCC's Framework or appointed by bondholders continued to progress site resolution works at a total of 11 developments throughout the county. Of those, 3 were in the Roscommon Municipal District (1 in Roscommon town and 2 in Castlerea), 3 were in the Boyle Municipal District (in Cortober, Cootehall and Croghan), and the remaining 5 were all in the Monksland area, in the Athlone Municipal District.

ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT PROMOTION

Local Enterprise Office:

- **Trading On Line Vouchers (TOVs):**
36 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 1st January 2021. Remote Trading Online Voucher Information Seminars are held regularly, with booking accepted via the LEO website. The next Seminar takes place on 9th Sept.
- **Evaluation & Approvals Meeting:** The next Evaluation Meeting has been scheduled for Friday, 24th September.
- **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. Tenders were received from 67 consultants, assessed and a Panel formed. All clients have been matched with a suitable mentor and the work is underway and in a small number of cases, completed. This initiative is to be completed with client reports received by the LEO under stipulated headings by 31st December 2021.
- **Microfinance:** 9 applications received and sent to MFI Y-T-D, with 6 successful, 2 pending and 1 declined. Work continues on the promotion of this source of finance.
- **Training:** Training to support the business community is ongoing and well received. A total of 605 participants to-date have been facilitated.
- **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, with the next ones scheduled for 16th and 30th Sept. A total of 292 people have availed of mentoring Y-T-D.
- **Enquiries:** Appropriate support provided on an ongoing basis.
- **Student Enterprise Programme:** The Principals & Business Teachers in each of the 9 second level schools in the county have been contacted offering facilitation of the 2021/2022 Programme. It is envisaged that the delivery will be a blended approach, always adhering to Government Covid-19 Guidelines.
- **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:** 3 sites are under consideration at Ballyboughan and 3 sites remain for sale in Castlerea.
- **Just Transition:** Tenders have been awarded for the 2 successful feasibility studies to be completed by end of the year.
- **EI:** LW continues to work 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

- Pobal have confirmed additional funding of €30,568 to facilitate the continued employment of the Healthy Ireland Coordinator and the Social Prescribing Project worker for the extended HIF Round 4 period (July 2021 – Jan 2022).
- Financial and progress reports were submitted to Pobal on July 30th 2021. These reports reflected all activities and spend that took place under round 3 of the Healthy Ireland Fund (HIF) between July 1st 2020 and June 30th 2021.
- Financial and progress reports were also submitted to Pobal on July 30th on all Keep Well activities and all spend under the Community Resilience Fund. This was for the period November 1st 2020 – June 30th 2021.
- Partners are continuing to deliver health and wellbeing activities under the HIF. All activities and spend under HIF Round 3 must be completed by December 30th 2021.

Wellness Campaign:

- The Keep Well Campaign concluded on the 30th of June 2021. Roscommon County Council and the LCDC delivered 17 different programmes/ activities under this campaign funded by the Community Resilience Fund.
- Over 7000 individuals directly benefited from activities under this campaign. Individuals received resource packs and information directly to their homes, engaged in online events and programmes and were supported through the community call line.
- The Keep Well Campaign and all of its activities and key messages were promoted with the wider community through extensive media campaigns on local radio and newspapers.

LEADER:

- Article 48 checks are ongoing
- June Admin Monthly Returns submitted

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

- No Meeting held in August

CLÁR

- Work in ongoing with Community Groups as they complete their projects for CLÁR 2020 funded projects. 3 projects have been completed and paid to date.
- The following 7 projects were approved by DRCD under CLÁR 2021 at a total cost of €269,412.
 - St. Mary's NS, Strokestown
 - Enterprise Killtullagh CLG
 - Camcloon National School
 - Clonown NS
 - Croghan NS
 - Ballymoe & District Angling Club
 - St. Brigid's NS, Dangan

Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) 2021

- The Department allocation for this scheme was €133,301
- Under Grants up to €1,000 a total of 26 applications were received
- Under Grants in excess of €1,000 a total of 51 applications were received.
- 77 applications were received via my online services.
- As per department guidelines for assessment of projects the following were approved for funding:
 - Small scale grant of €1,000 or less, a total of 37 applications were awarded funding totalling €39,990.30
 - Grants in excess of €1,000 a total of 29 applications were awarded funding totalling €93,310.70.
- As per department guidelines, all applications received in relation to grants towards reopening (covering costs of utility bills) were fully funded in line with the terms of the scheme.
- The groups awarded funding under this scheme are now carrying out their works as per project approved and payments are being issued as works are completed.

Social Inclusion Unit:

Age Friendly Programme:

- Review of AF Strategy progressing.
- Living Today; Remembering Yesterday' Booklet with extra funding from CRF.

Migrant Integration Strategy:

- Development of Strategy progressing.

Misc:

- **Roscommon Comhairle na nÓg:** Allocated extra €5.000 for use on the implementation of a Stakeholder Engagement Plan as per Comhairle na nÓg Five Year Development Plan
- **Nat. Bike Week:** Application made to the Dept. for Funding for County Roscommon Bike Week in conjunction with Roscommon Sports Partnership – Application successful - €5000 Grant Awarded – Bike Week to take place 12th – 18th September 2021.

SICAP

- SICAP VAT for Jan-May 2021 was paid to RIDC

Tidy Towns and Amenity Grants Scheme 2021

- The groups awarded funding under this scheme are carrying out their small scale capital amenity and local enhancement projects currently and payments are being issued as works are completed.

Heritage

- **Royal Sites of Ireland World Heritage Tentative List Application:**
No word back from application yet.

- **County Roscommon Heritage Forum:**

Next meeting due in Q4.

- **RCC Actions for Pollinators**

Requests for publications and signage is ongoing and being distributed on a regular basis.

- **Historic Structures Fund 2021**

Works are ongoing as part of the scheme for 2021

- **National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) Grant 2020-2021**

Funding was secured for 2 x projects:

Invasive Alien Species – Japanese Knotweed €18,826

Biodiversity Awareness - €25,600

These projects must be delivered by Q4.

- **County Roscommon Folklore & Oral History Network:**

The project and its public interface 'The Roscommon Media Archive' is currently being reviewed and updated in conjunction with the County Library Service.

- **National Heritage Week 2021**

Over 25 projects/events were held around the county for #HeritageWeek2021 which took place from 14th to 22nd August. Of these, Library Service organised 3, Arts Office arranged 3, Regeneration Team arranged 1, King House arranged 1, and Heritage Office arranged 7. Heritage Office prepared adverts & substantial press releases on all events for local papers, carried out radio interviews for Shannonside FM & MidWest Radio. Heritage Office provided support to various groups/individuals who needed assistance registering their events/projects online. Projects/events can still be viewed on www.heritageweek.ie

Social media has now become a huge part of the week both in terms of promoting it and also in terms of events & projects now taking place and being shared online and on social media. Analysis of the Facebook insights for the 26 posts which went out during the week itself showed a reach of 75K people, not counting those who engaged with the week on Instagram or twitter and not counting the related posts before & after the week.

The RCC Communications Team are now vital to the success of the week. They have been very helpful and supportive of the week. However, a major problem was caused by the fact that all of the RCC Communications Team were on annual leave at the same time with very short advance notice given at the time when the Heritage Office were preparing posts to promote the week and share all the projects and events. This created a major difficulty and caused a lot of stress and panic to try and get as many social media posts up before all those with access to RCC Social Media went on annual leave. It was not possible to achieve this in the short period of notice given to the Heritage Office. Heritage Officer was given access to RCC Facebook & Instagram at the very last minute and was able to schedule some posts for the period which was not covered by the RCC Communications Team. When RCC Communications Team returned to work, they continued to schedule posts for the remainder of the week.

Continuity of access to RCC social media is now a very important part of National Heritage Week and other particularly busy times such as National Biodiversity Week.

- **Drawing on our Heritage – Digital Exhibition:**

This digital flipbook showcasing over 26 conjectural reconstruction drawings of monuments and sites around Co. Roscommon was launched during National Heritage Week, it can be viewed on www.roscommoncoco.ie/flipper. Analysis of Facebook posts relating to this exhibition during National Heritage Week alone show that they reached over 39K people which is a fantastic reach for a digital exhibition.

- **Rahara Church Conservation project:**

Procurement process underway for appointment of contractors.

Tourism

Regional Projects:

- **IHH Network:** Sharon on the Shannon aired on TG4 in August and featured Keadue, Baysports and Strokestown house.

County Marketing:

- **Social Media:** continuing weekly update of EXPLORE ROSCOMMON theme for summer 2021
- **Marketing:** The 3-minute Video of Roscommon Activities was produced by Mimar Media launched via social media
- **Shannonside Weather** – Roscommon tourism sponsored the Shannonside weather (together with Leitrim Tourism) from June to end Sept, giving great regional exposure.

Funding

ORIS 2020 – Measure 1

- Video production is ongoing on the 4 Trails video by Spicy Dog Media
- Pedestrian Seating has been installed on Boyle Lough Key Cycleway, signage is being purchased.
- Works on the National Famine almost complete – stiles to be installed
- Approval for purchase of counters received and tender awarded

Destinations Town – Boyle

- Works commenced on Pleasure Grounds. Delays due to COVID backlog on the paths but this will commence in Jan 2022.

Outdoor Dining Fund:

- online application process opens for applications (both outdoor dining and more recently Public houses). To date 21 applications have been received. Closing date for submission is 30th Sept.

King House

- 5 Tour guides have been working on rota for summer season
- Will remain open 7 days a week until end Sept and then close for winter season
- Hosted heritage Day with great numbers attending and will host a number of events as part of Culture night
- RRDF Funding – Discussions on going with Connaught Rangers and Shane Forsythe in regard to exhibition development

Douglas Hyde

- Open 5 days/week, will host a music evening for Culture Night on 17th Sept.

Festivals and events

- Boyle Arts festival held a very successful Arts festival (within the permitted restrictions) in August. King House hosted the Main Exhibition, Crossings, features work by 138 artists until the end of August

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 regularly 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

- Ongoing payment of artist bursaries.

Music

- **Music Generation Roscommon** summer programme in hubs and youth settings county-wide.

Film

- **WRAP II**
- 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.
- **Creative Heartlands** in partnership with LEO & Enterprise Ireland. Set up of Film Equipment suites in Sligo, Leitrim & Roscommon. Training for the sector.

Roscommon County Youth Theatre

- Summer Programme

Literary Development Programme

- Awards of Roscommon New Writing Award, Chapbook Bursary, Writer Mentoring.
- Autumn Leaves Broadsheet submissions of poetry, short fiction and non-fiction. Year 2 of this publication to be circulated as a free supplement in Roscommon Herald.

Creative Ireland 18 projects via Culture Team: Arts Office, Arts Centre, Heritage Office, Tourism Office, Library. Ongoing grant payments

Decade of Centenary Commemoration events in Castlerea, Loughglynn, Ballinlough and Knockcroghery supported under Decade of Centenaries Programme.

Culture Night

- Programming for 20 events on Culture Night Friday 17th September with artists and cultural venues.

Local Live Performance Programme Scheme

At the Abbey, Boyle, 14th August

At the Castle, Roscommon, Culture Night 17th September in planning

Roscommon County Council Arts Office in association with Culture Night and the OPW - a dance, music, film, projections and lighting effects event. The event is funded by the Local Live Performance Programming Scheme at the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

Tickets Free – Booking Essential – Covid Guidelines

Planning re **Outdoor Public Space Scheme**

Roscommon Arts Centre

Visual Art

Mick O'Hara's "The Proposition of Objects" exhibition opened in the gallery space in August. Drawing on the ideas of Austrian philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein, O'Hara takes the model of an engine Wittgenstein designed and built and reimagines it in film as a digital model, existing between language and word, yet materialised as computer code. An accompanying video includes Mick

speaking about the work is available to download, along with the responding Critical Text online at: roscommonartscentre.ie

Community Project: Playing on the Radio:

The radio play project with members of Roscommon Drama Group continued in August with the group continuing to meet weekly over zoom for “The Tinkers Wedding” and Spreading the News”.

Artist Supports:

Studio 21: Our summer studio space initiative continued with 2 artists in residence at the centre. A number of artists also used the workshop space this month to rehearse for upcoming performances both in Roscommon and elsewhere.

My Ballybay Rose: The centre has been supporting theatre practitioner Seamus O’Rourke in the development of a new play, which will be a co-production with Backstage Theatre in Longford. Working with director Aaron Monaghan and Livin Dred Theatre Company, this summer the first period of R&D with a cast took place.

Strategic Developments:

Work continued over the summer months on both the **Audience Development & Strategic Plans**, with engagements with stakeholders taking place in August.

A further application was made under the latest round of Capacity Building Grants to The Arts Council and €20,000 was secured to appoint an **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Specialist** to develop an EDI Strategy for the centre going forward and to deliver a small series of projects with communities of interest in 2022. Funding will also be used to make small revisions to box office to improve service with new equipment, the development of the website to include captioning/multi-lingual options and a new orientation video of the centre.

Work has now also commenced on the 2022 Arts Council funding application, which is due for submission in September.