



Comhairle Contae  
Ros Comáin  
Roscommon  
County Council



# MANAGEMENT REPORT



## FEBRUARY 2021

**Roscommon County Council**  
**Revenue Account Income & Expenditure Summary by Service Division**  
**Management Accounts Summary to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

	EXPENDITURE		INCOME		NET
	Expenditure Incurred up to 28/02/2021	Adopted Full Year Budget	Income Receivable up to 28/02/2021	Adopted Full year Budget	Actual Overall Surplus/ (Deficit)
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing & Building	766,668	7,477,004	897,375	8,242,177	130,707
Road Transport & Safety	1,380,878	24,494,642	63,554	17,446,380	(1,317,324)
Water Services	598,468	7,613,827	990,042	7,521,282	391,574
Development Management	267,537	7,258,004	553,210	2,178,034	285,673
Environmental Services	243,226	5,972,794	94,094	958,825	(149,132)
Recreation & Amenity	278,372	4,343,863	86,357	554,200	(192,015)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	20,115	654,744	63,836	257,532	43,721
Miscellaneous Services	1,046,526	5,275,773	160,489	2,429,372	(886,037)
Central Management Charges	1,602,430	0	109,763	0	(1,492,667)
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	2,112,352	12,677,652	2,112,352
	<b>6,204,220</b>	<b>63,090,653</b>	<b>8,739,636</b>	<b>63,090,653</b>	<b>2,535,416</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 28<sup>th</sup> February 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	12,684,445	707,950	23,203	14,689,867	3,165,876	11,523,991	17,400	22%	8%
<b>Rents &amp; Annuities</b>	394,360	862,385		(637)	1,257,381	782,491	474,890		62%	64%
<b>Housing Loans</b>	145,193	37,741			182,934	38,368	144,566		21%	36%

**Recourse to Overdraft;**

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

## PLANNING DEPARTMENT

### Forward Planning

Work continued in February to finalise the proposed Draft Plan, including engagement with consultants undertaking various specialist studies / reports, and with the graphic designer. An informal virtual workshop / meeting was held with Members on February 5<sup>th</sup> at which the draft Core Strategy and Settlement Hierarchy was detailed, as well as information provided on areas of key policy change.

### Development Management and Planning Enforcement Activity

The table below summarises Development Management activity in February. A total of 46 valid planning applications were received, representing a significant proportional increase from the same period in 2020, when 29 valid planning applications were received. Decisions issued on 30 planning applications, of which 27 were grants of permission.

#### **Development Management Statistics**

Period	Activity	Roscommon North	Roscommon South	Totals
<b>February 2021</b>	Valid app	23	23	<b>46</b>
	Extension of Duration	0	3	<b>3</b>
	DED	9	2	<b>11</b>
	Pre-planning meeting	11	4	<b>15</b>

#### **Enforcement Activity**

Period	Activity	Countywide Totals
<b>February 2021</b>	New enforcement case	11
	General letter	9
	Warning letter	7
	Enforcement notice	2
	Closed case	8
	Legal proceedings	0

### Unfinished Housing Developments (UHD)

In accordance with Covid 19 related public health restrictions, construction activity nationally was required to cease on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January and the only estate on which works were permitted to be undertaken was Silveroe, in Boyle which was designated by The Housing Agency as an essential project in which construction work is permitted to continue during Level 5 restrictions.

## ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT PROMOTION

### Local Enterprise Office:

- **Trading On Line Vouchers (TOVs):**  
Seven applications have been received and approved to-date. Clients who received TOV approval in 2020 and whose deadline date is approaching were followed up. Once received, claims are being processed in a timely fashion. The funding has reverted to 50% as of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021.
- **Evaluation & Approvals Meeting:** Took place on Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> February. One project was approved for grant-aid.
- **Client Stimulus Scheme:** A condition of this Scheme is that clients who received refunds (38 in total) must have agreed 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 crises. 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. An eTender document is being prepared at present, to comply with procurement requirements. This initiative will be completed with client reports received by the LEO under stipulated headings by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021.
- **Microfinance:** 3 applications was received and sent to MFI in February, ie 4 Y-T-D. 2 approved; 1 pending; 1 declined. Work continues on the promotion of this source of finance.
- **Training:** The 1<sup>st</sup> tranche of training to support the business community is underway and places are in demand and training is being well attended.
- **Local Enterprise Week:** Takes place virtually between 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> March. A schedule of Events has been organised, including 10 Spotlight Events. The Tánaiste, Leo Varadkar, launched the Event on 15<sup>th</sup> February. National & local advertising took place thereafter. All offerings promoted by LEO Roscommon were in demand with places filling up quickly.
- **Remote Mentoring:** Brexit & Business Advice Clinics have been held. All bookings were taken via the LEO website online booking system. These continue to be offered on the LEO online booking system.
- **Enquiries:** Appropriate support provided on an ongoing basis.
- **Student Enterprise Programme:** Second level schools made their mini-company selections for the Co Final. The LEO appointed judges, sent them the mini-business reports and marking scheme. Judging has been completed, ready for the virtual Co Final which has been arranged for Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm. The national event is scheduled to take place remotely on 16<sup>th</sup> May.
- **National Enterprise Awards:** The Awards Ceremony took place virtually on the 11<sup>th</sup> February. Roscommon based business Lidán Designs took home the national Future Focus Award.
- **Promotion:** All LEO supports were promoted on the LEO website and on various social media platforms.
- **Sites at Ballyboughan:** 2 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 the feasibility studies will be completed by the 12<sup>th</sup> March.

# COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT

## Healthy Ireland

- An extension has been offered to recipients of Healthy Ireland Funding. This will allow an additional 6 months for activities to be completed and monies to be spent. The deadline is now December 31<sup>st</sup> 2021.
- All applicants who accept this extension will receive an addendum to their contract to reflect this.
- Under the Keep Well campaign, Pobal have advised that local authorities will be allowed to roll out activities and spend monies provided up until June. The previously deadline for completion of the campaign was March, however, current restrictions have made it difficult to roll out planned activities across the country. Reporting on the campaign will still take place at the end of June as planned.

## **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: with regard to the preparation of Age Friendly Care Packs to be distributed to the most isolated throughout the County. (Reps: RCC, HSE, AGS, RLP).

## LEADER:

- Article 48 checks are ongoing
- LEADER Admin Return for December was completed.
- LEADER Payment made for Q1 and Q2 2021
- 6 LEADER claims paid in February

## Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

An online LCDC meeting took place on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February 2021 via Microsoft Teams. Some of the key agenda items discussed were as follows:

- New nominees were approved to the LCDC Grants Committee
- SICAP 2020 Annual Performance Review was approved
- SICAP 2021 Annual Plan was approved
- Transitional LEADER Programme 2021-2023 was discussed

## Joint Policing Committee (JPC)

An online JPC meeting took place on the 8<sup>th</sup> of February 2021 via Microsoft Teams. Some of the key agenda items discussed were as follows:

- JPC Annual Report for 2019 and 2020 was approved
- Report from An Garda Síochana was provided
- Report from Local Authority was provided in relation to:
  - a. Review of Roscommon JPC Standing Orders
  - b. Roscommon JPC Strategic Work Plan 2015– 2020

- Property Marking Scheme update was provided
- Update on Covid-19 response in Co. Roscommon was provided

## **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.

## **Social Inclusion**

### **Age Friendly Programme:**

- AF Tablet Devices distributed to Nursing Homes throughout the County as part of the Keep Well Campaign and the HSE's Digital Support Grants.
- OPN Committee Meeting Attended.
- OPN Committee Members have signed up to attend AF Digital Training with the Library.
- AF Work plan for 2021 agreed in conjunction with the OPN and submitted to AF Ireland.

### **Comhairle na nÓg:**

- Roscommon CNN chosen as 1 of 10 Comhairle to host a Youth Climate Conversation in relation to the Climate Action Plan 2021.

## **SICAP**

- SICAP Annual Plan 2021 and Annual Performance Review 2020 was approved at LCDC meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> February

## **Pride of Place**

- Pride of Place Liaison Officers Meeting took place on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2021 via Zoom. Items discussed were application process, timelines, categories, judging and awards night for Pride of Place 2021.

## **Heritage**

- **Farming Rathcroghan EIP:**

A request for quotations for the provision of Community Archaeology Services to the project was advertised on 08.02.21 with application deadline of 1<sup>st</sup> March, subject to confirmation of Heritage Council funding.

- **Built Heritage Investment Scheme & Historic Structures Fund:**

Heritage Office provided advice and information to people working on applications for these grant schemes. Application deadline for both schemes was 26<sup>th</sup> February. Applications are now being assessed in accordance with the scheme criteria.

- **Spring into Heritage Bucket List:**

RCCs Autumn Heritage Bucket list concept was revised, in collaboration with Heritage Officers nationwide, into a #SpringintoHeritage Bucket List, in support of the #keepwell campaign. This sets out 30 simple ways to experience heritage in spring. See

<http://www.roscommoncoco.ie/en/Services/Community/Heritage/In-this-together-Roscommon-Heritage-Online/Spring-into-Heritage-bucket-list/>

This A4 sheet is being shared on RCC , The Heritage Council, Ryan Tubridy Show and Heritage Officers social media nationwide. It is available in Irish too and both versions have been emailed to all primary schools in the county. Ryan Tubridy gave the list great praise on his RTE1 Radio show, you can listen to his comments here it's about 7.30 minutes in <https://www.rte.ie/radio/radioplayer/html5/#/radio1/21912786>.

The initial Heritage Council & Ryan Tubridy Show facebook posts alone got over 600 shares, so the list has been well received nationwide.

- **Heritage Research Bursary**

The 2021 bursary was advertised and publicised as much as possible with an application deadline of 1<sup>st</sup> march. Follow up contact was made with third level colleges & contact throughout the month to promote the bursary.

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

The Irish Archaeological Field School have been commissioned to devise and deliver an online training course 'Know Your Locality' which will focus on the geology, archaeology and history of the county of Roscommon delivered through five online tutorials. This course will be advertised in March.

- **Royal Sites of Ireland**

Rathcroghan forms part of the serial Royal Sites of Ireland World Heritage project, and its application to the Tentative List is being coordinated by Tipperary County Council. The Steering group met online to discuss progression of the application to the World Heritage Tentative List.

- **Heritage Office 20 Year Review**

The RCC Heritage Office will be 20 years in operation in August. A review was carried out of the tangible outputs delivered over the 20 years. This is timely, as it should serve to inform the preparation of the next County Heritage Plan which must be carried out this year. Funding can be summarised as follows:

19 x booklets/posters have been produced

6 x guides/guidebooks have been produced

6 x seminars have been held

15 x training projects

19 x awareness raising projects

12 x data gathering projects

22 x different school's projects - 284 schools took part - this indicates high rate of schools return to take part in as many heritage projects as they can.

10 x conservation projects/conservation reports



25 x conjectural reconstruction drawings

19 x National Heritage Week annual event co-ordination and promotion

23 x architectural conservation grant schemes administered

## Tourism

### Regional Projects:

- **IHH Network:** Athlone and Carrick resilience Plan Meetings held. €30,000 allocated toward each of the 3 IHH zones for immediate response to tourism crisis for improved imagery portfolio, mapping, Cruise information.
- **WWI:** TEAMS meeting held to review WWI signage along the Blueway – ongoing

### County Projects:

- **Major Attractions Marketing fund:** awarded to 5 major attractions in county in place of Roscommon tourism attendance at Tourism trade events
- **Tourism trade:** All information on training and supports from FI and LEO forwarded to tourism trade
- **2020 Festival and Events:** Agreed delay on call for applications until End March, when more information available in regard to events under COVID restrictions
- **Social Media:** continuing weekly. Social Media training online Training held with Leitrim tourism.
- **Marketing** – Shannonside interview of Planning for holidays 2021. *Ireland Co by Co* series for US TV cable network – we have agreed to develop programme on Roscommon. Filming of the Attractions and Activities in the county to take place in mid-May.
- **Roscommon Tourism Network** – TEAMS meeting to be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March
- **Photograph Portfolio** – additional winter imagery added to portfolio
- **Meitheal 2021** – No Las being permitted to partake in FI Meitheal 2021 as significantly less buyers partaking compared to previous years.
- **ORIS 2020** – letter of agreement signed and returned

### King House

- Remaining Closed under Level 5 restrictions.
- Service Contract on Lift maintenance awarded for 2021
- Staffing Duties and handbooks agreed
- Review of Leases on going

### 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 met once in February and will continue 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.

### **COVID-19 Emergency Fund – Round 2**

- Heather Humphreys TD, Minister for Rural and Community Development, and Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development and Charities, Joe O'Brien TD. announced details of an additional €1.7 million funding to support community and voluntary groups to deal with COVID-19.
- The department allocation for this scheme for Roscommon is €43,815
- At the December 2020 meeting of the LCDC Committee it was agreed to advertise and publish the application as per the department guidelines and per application form. This offered the following options to the applicant:  
Small scale grant of €1,000 or less and Grant in excess of €1,000
- It was agreed that this scheme would be online application which closed 19th of February, 2021 at 1pm.
- Total applications received were 61 via my online services.
- As per department guidelines the LCDC agreed that 30% of the total funds (€13,144.50) be allocated to small scale grants of €1,000 or less with the balance (€30,670.50) to grants in excess of €1,000
- Under Grants up to €1,000 a total of 21 applications were received
- Under Grants in excess of €1,000 a total of 40 applications were received.
- The subcommittee will assess all applications received.

### **Arts Office**

#### **Consideration of Funding Schemes announced by Department TCAGSM and by Arts Council of Ireland**

- In The Open/Faoin Speir 90k
- Creative Places 150k / 40k
- Outdoor Public Space Scheme (capital) 250k
- €5m to local authorities for outdoor live performances (9.3.21)

### **Artists**

- Artist Bursary Scheme – 48 applications received.
- Zooming In - Artist Training & Talks Programme.

## **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.

## **Film**

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

**Creative Heartlands** project: Recruitment of Film Development Officer (part-time) and purchase of equipment.

### **Artist in Schools**

Training for Artists while schools are closed.

### **Roscommon County Youth Theatre**

New term of online programme.

### **Creative Ireland**

- Culture Team planning for 2021 ongoing – 20 projects plus Open Call advertised.
- Cruinniú\_na\_nÓg\_2021 planning including Creative Trail Commission & Cathaoirleach' s Award.
- Decade of Centenary submission to Department incl Open Call, Library Digital Resources, Artist Commission, curation of Connaught Rangers exhibition in collaboration with CR Association.

### **Keep Well**

- Forget Me Not Choir
- Preparation for St Patrick's Day Special on Shannonside – 6 musician interviews and music. Promotional campaign.
- Conversations in Portrait – 8 portraits ongoing

### **Roscommon Arts Centre**

Roscommon Arts Centre mini season of online events continued throughout February via the centre's Facebook Page and/or [roscommonartscentre.ie](http://roscommonartscentre.ie).

The February programme focused strongly on contributions from Roscommon musicians, writers and dancers. Two engagement projects focusing on engaging with older people and families in the community were also launched, one of which had an international dimension attached to it and the launch of "The Mummers Parade" a St. Patrick's Day initiative encouraging people to enter into the age-old mumming tradition at the doors of older relatives and friends within their 5K radius.

**Yours Sincerely, Patrick De Witt:** In lieu of a planned reading at the arts centre as part of our LIVE Network programme, internationally acclaimed author Patrick De Witt has embarked on a seven-week correspondence project with 15 older members of the community. Weekly letter exchanges between the writer and the participants are now underway, with plans for a virtual meeting with the author at the end of the project.

**Material Encounters:** 32 art packages were distributed throughout the county to both old and young in February. The boxes contained materials that some of the 2021 commissioned visual artists currently use and included: masking tape, clay, plaster and balloons. Contributing artists Anna Spearman, Mick O’Hara, Helen Hughes and Barbara Knezevic also provided guidelines on how to work with the materials. A number of participants have now begun to send in images of the pieces created which we are sharing online.

**“The Reel Thing: Lunchtime Tunes”** Musicians featured throughout February as part of the programme initiative were John Carty, John & Dylan Carlos, Mossie Martin and John Kelly.

**“The Story Writers”:** The short stories project continued during February with contributions from writers Louise Cole, John Mulligan, Ann Byrne and Brian Leyden.

**“Sit Down and Dance”:** Mintesinot Wolde’s online chair based dance programme continued with over 100 people engaging weekly with these classes aimed at older people and residents in 19 nursing homes in Roscommon, Mayo, Galway & Leitrim also getting involved.

**“Little Folk Music”** Saturday morning Facebook Live sessions also continued in February with Kyle Riley from Little Folk Music.

Throughout February planning was underway to develop a programme of events for International Women’s Day (March 8<sup>th</sup>) and “Show Reels” an online programme to be rolled out for St. Patrick’s Day.