



Comhairle Contae  
Ros Comáin  
Roscommon  
County Council



# MANAGEMENT REPORT



**JANUARY 2021**

**Roscommon County Council**  
**Revenue Account Income & Expenditure Summary by Service Division**  
**Management Accounts Summary to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021**

	EXPENDITURE		INCOME		NET
	Expenditure Incurred up to 31/01/2021	Adopted Full Year Budget	Income Receivable up to 31/01/2021	Adopted Full year Budget	Actual Overall Surplus/ (Deficit)
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing & Building	324,817	7,477,004	438,790	8,242,177	113,973
Road Transport & Safety	572,118	24,494,642	28,555	17,446,380	(543,562)
Water Services	300,690	7,613,827	457,071	7,521,282	156,381
Development Management	(92,406)	7,258,004	35,837	2,178,034	128,243
Environmental Services	128,532	5,972,794	107,435	958,825	(21,096)
Recreation & Amenity	130,117	4,343,863	84,090	554,200	(46,027)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	(28,381)	654,744	5,452	257,532	33,833
Miscellaneous Services	192,558	5,275,922	91,004	2,429,518	(101,554)
Central Management Charges	737,415	0	54,941	0	(682,474)
Local Government Fund/General Purpose Grant	0	0	0	10,825,200	0
Pension Levy	0	0	0	0	0
Rates	0	0	1,065,976	12,677,652	1,065,976
	<b>2,265,460</b>	<b>63,090,800</b>	<b>2,369,152</b>	<b>63,090,800</b>	<b>103,692</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 31<sup>st</sup> January 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>	1,493,662	12,791,713			14,285,375	1,594,231	12,391,144	45,768	11%	2%
<b>Rents &amp; Annuities</b>	394,360	437,446		(442)	832,247	386,248	446,000		46%	46%
<b>Housing Loans</b>	104,764	127			104,891	18,663	86,228		18%	29%

**Recourse to Overdraft;**

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

## PLANNING DEPARTMENT

### Forward Planning

A Special Meeting of Roscommon County Council took place on 12<sup>th</sup> November, at which Members formally considered the *Chief Executive's Report* on submissions received during the pre-draft public consultation period of the *Roscommon County Development Plan 2021 – 2027*. In accordance with Section 11 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), Members issued a direction to the Executive to formally commence the preparation of the Draft Plan.

### Development Management and Planning Enforcement Activity

The table below summarises Development Management activity in November. A total of 41 valid applications were received – the same number as received in October. Decisions issued on 44 planning applications, of which 36 were grants of permission.

#### **Development Management Statistics**

Period	Activity	Roscommon North	Roscommon South	Totals
<b>November 2020</b>	Valid app	24	17	<b>41</b>
	Extension of Duration	1	1	<b>2</b>
	DED	5	3	<b>8</b>
	Pre-planning meeting	16	10	<b>26</b>

#### **Enforcement Activity**

Period	Activity	Countywide Totals
<b>November 2020</b>	New enforcement case	8
	General letter	6
	Warning letter	4
	Enforcement notice	0
	Closed case	6
	Legal proceedings	0

### Unfinished Housing Developments (UHD)

Development activity continued on a number of unfinished housing developments in November. Contractors engaged by Roscommon County Council were at work in four developments in the county – one in Roscommon town, one in Boyle and two in Ballyleague. Developers continued to progress work in six developments, of which three were in Roscommon town, and one each in Monksland, Frenchpark and Tarmonbarry.

Following on from schedules being considered by Irish Water in October as part of the initial stages of the taking in charge process, Lakeview Heights in Boyle was progressed to Roads for taking in charge in November.

## ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT PROMOTION

### Local Enterprise Office:

- **Trading On Line Vouchers (TOVs):**  
A total of **249** applications for TOVs were approved in 2020. (A total of **240** TOVs have been approved with 90% funding since the funding was changed from 50% to 90%). A business which obtained a Voucher previously was eligible to apply for a second Voucher, if considered appropriate. The max grant remains at €2,500. A number of remote Information Seminars were held to facilitate clients wishing to apply as this is compulsory prior to making an application, with the next one is scheduled for the 21<sup>st</sup> of January 2021. Demand for this scheme locally and nationally in 2020 was unprecedented. The 90% grant assistance ceased on December 31<sup>st</sup> 2020. The scheme has now reverted back to 50% matched funding from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2021. There are currently 21 TOV'S to be graded that came into the LEO from December 23<sup>rd</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> 2020 to meet the 90% offer deadline. If all 21 TOV's submissions are approved, the total approved for 2020 will be 270.
- **Business Continuity Vouchers:** The total number of applications received was 233, with 186 being eligible for funding. Each voucher is worth up to €2,500 in third party consultancy costs and can be used by companies and sole traders to develop short-term and long-term strategies to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic. All vouchers were processed.
- **Client Stimulus Scheme:** Its purpose is to sustain eligible businesses through the provision of a cash stimulus to support operational costs and enhanced engagement with their LEO. The funding was provided through an immediate cash contribution to support liquidity and can be used to cover ongoing operational costs, for example, utilities, insurance, refurbishment or for measures to ensure employee and customer safety. It effectively meant that clients still trading and who complied with LEO stipulated criteria around refundable aid, current number of employees being under 10, tax status, etc., and who paid back 30% of their grant in refundable format between 2016 – 2019 got a refund of that amount, with a minimum of €1,000. A total of 38 payments were made totalling €193,103 which was funded through EI.
- **Microfinance:** 25 microfinance applications have been made with 13 successful, 5 withdrawn and 5 unsuccessful and 2 pending.
- **Training:** A Brexit Customs Workshop took place on 4<sup>th</sup> and a SYOB course ended on the 8<sup>th</sup>. A TOV Seminar took place on the 9<sup>th</sup>. The 1<sup>st</sup> tranche of training to support the business community during 2021 was finalised and went live on the LEO website online booking system. A LEO Brexit Support Line was set up to operate from Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> December to Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2021 from 9am – 5.30pm each day, with Brexit Business Advisors on hand to provide advice and assistance.
- **Remote Mentoring:** A Brexit Mentor Clinic took place on the 8<sup>th</sup> and a Business Mentor Clinic on the 10<sup>th</sup>. All bookings were taken via the LEO website online booking system.
- **Enquiries:** Appropriate support was provided.

- **Student Enterprise Programme:** This programme is ongoing in remote format with 8 of the 9 second level schools in the county engaging. A total of 443 students are involved. Date/format of the County Final has yet to be finalised. The National Final will be held virtually on the 14<sup>th</sup> May.
- **National Enterprise Awards:** The current plan is for an Awards Ceremony to take place online on the February 11<sup>th</sup> 2021. Assessment of Applications took place in mid- November. Roscommon LEOs entry is Lidán Design.
- **Promotion:** All LEO supports were promoted on the LEO website and on various social media platforms.
- **Sites at Ballyboughan:** 3 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 €300k approx.

# 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 November was completed.

## Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

- No meeting took place in January 2021

## 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 Programme Managers Meeting Attended.
- AF Inter-Departmental Meeting held (Housing & IT); Membership being developed.
- Terms of Reference for OPNs transition under the LA on a trial basis, agreed and signed off on.
- AF Rep on CRF Sub-Committee.

## **Comhairle na nÓg:**

- Comhairle 2020 Annual Report submitted to DCYA together with Annual Funding Request Application for 2021.

## **SICAP**

- SICAP Sub Committee meeting was held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021 with regard to SICAP Annual Performance Review 2020.
- Q1 Payment for SICAP was drawn down and payment for January and February forwarded to RIDC.

## **Tidy Towns and Amenity Grant Scheme 2020**

- This scheme is now complete and final grant payments processed.

## **Heritage**

- **Farming Rathcroghan EIP:**

Funding application has been submitted to the Heritage Council for the 2021/2022 Field Monument Advisor/Community Archaeologist element of this project.

- **#natureisgoodforyou:**

This series of radio 'infomercials' which started in November on Midwest Radio & on Shannonside FM, in conjunction with the Heritage Offices of Mayo & Longford CoCos, is a national radio campaign in support of the keep well campaign. The radio phase of this project finished in January. The infomercials can continue to be shared on RCC social media. Requests are still flowing in for the 'Gardening for Biodiversity' books and the Heritage Office will continue to supply these.

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

The application deadline for both schemes was extended until 26<sup>th</sup> February and the schemes were re-advertised in paper, website, social media, heritage office mailing list and to all who had enquired during the past year. Roscommon has been allocated an additional 10K under the BHIS (allocation for 2021 now 70K). The HSF includes a pilot scheme for Vernacular Structures, Historic Shopfronts & Historic Irish Language Shopfronts.

## **Tourism**

Level 5 restrictions have resulted in the closure of all hospitality since 26<sup>th</sup> December 2020

### **Regional Projects:**

- **IHH Website Scheme:** Review of new website on going

### **County Projects:**

- **Tourism Trade Networking (IHH)** – Athlone and Carrick workshops held on Collaborative messaging and communications for the 'Destination Sell'
- **2020 Festival and Events: Agreed delay on call for applications until End February/March, when more information available in regard to events under COVID restrictions**



- **Social Media:** continuing weekly.
- **Outdoor Recreation: (2020 scheme):** 6 projects approved in Roscommon, 4 of RCC applications including, Boyle to lough Key Cycleway, NFW, Counters and Video Marketing.
- **Roscommon tourism network** – all information received from Fáilte Ireland being relayed to all trade
- **Photograph Portfolio** - winter imagery added to portfolio

### **King House**

- Work on preparation of Erwin Exhibition on hold until post level 5 Restrictions
- New Heating Boiler installed
- Approved for €10,000 under COVID T&V, for Victorian Event

### **Destinations Town – Boyle**

- Landscape procurement carried out and awarded.

### **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 twice in January 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 fund will be administered through the structures used for the Community Enhancement Programme, in order to ensure there is sufficient flexibility to allow funding to be targeted to where it is needed in each Local Authority area.
- The funding, under the COVID-19 Emergency Fund, is in recognition of the important role played by community and voluntary organisations across the country as we head towards the Christmas period. It will enable groups to embrace the Government's 'Keep Well'

campaign which focusses on the themes of staying connected, switching off and being creative, and minding your mood.

- It brings the total funding provided under the COVID-19 Emergency Fund to €4.2 million in 2020.
- Roscommon LCDC received an allocation of €43,815 for round 2.
- The application is now online and the closing date is set for the 19<sup>th</sup> of February at 1pm.

## **Arts Office**

### **Artists**

- Artist Bursary Scheme advertised.
- Artist Training Sessions via zoom, with focus on Artists in Schools programme supports.

### **Music**

- **Music Generation Roscommon** online lessons in partnership with Roscommon Youth Services. In The Quad and Boyle Music Hubs. Youth Orchestra lessons online. School programmes online.

### **Film**

**WRAP II** Scheme in negotiation as part of SLR Film Project Consortium.

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**

Recruitment of new members for new term of online programme. Development of new website.

### **Creative Ireland**

- Culture Team planning for 2021 ongoing – 20 projects incl Open Call.
- Decade of Centenary submission to Department incl Open Call, Library Digital Resources, Artist Commission, curation of Connaught Rangers exhibition in collaboration with CR Association.

## **Roscommon Arts Centre**

With Level 5 restrictions still in place, Roscommon Arts Centre has responded with a mini Spring Season of free online engagements for the public to enjoy which will run from January until March.

The public can engage with the programme via Roscommon Arts Centre's Facebook Page and/or [www.roscommonartscentre.ie](http://www.roscommonartscentre.ie). Each project has a release date/time but can be viewed at times throughout the week most suitable to the individual, with most engagements lasting a maximum of 15 minutes.

As part of the initiative, Roscommon Arts Centre invited John Wynne, Gerry Boland and Minte Wolde to curate projects developed in-house in music, literature and dance, providing paid opportunities to 16 Roscommon arts practitioners. Coupled with this, we invited Kyle Riley to deliver weekly music sessions for families and our 2021 visual artists to contribute to art packages for the public to engage with at home. Projects launched in January include:

**“The Reel Thing: Lunchtime Tunes”** a different Roscommon musician performs 3 tunes a daily, every day for a week a time via Facebook at lunchtime over an eight-week period.

**“The Story Writers”**: a six week programme of short stories written and read by Roscommon writers online.

**“Sit Down and Dance”**: a weekly chair based gentle dance/exercise programme for older people to participate in at home – 75 nursing/care homes in the region have also been contacted, inviting them to avail of this online programme.

**“Little Folk Music”** a weekly Facebook Live music session for young families

**“Material Encounters”** art packages are being developed to be sent out to people at home to enjoy. Participating artists in the 2021 visual art programme are working with curator Naomi Draper to fill the packs with different art materials

This rolling programme of events, will continue to be added to and developed as we respond and adapt to periods of restrictions and the safe re-opening of the centre.