



Comhairle Contae
Ros Comáin
Roscommon
County Council



MANAGEMENT REPORT

JULY 2021

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

	EXPENDITURE		INCOME		NET
	Expenditure Incurred up to 31/07/2021	Adopted Full Year Budget	Income Receivable up to 31/07/2021	Adopted Full year Budget	Actual Overall Surplus/ (Deficit)
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing & Building	4,062,582	7,477,004	7,878,421	8,242,177	3,815,839
Road Transport & Safety	11,529,705	24,494,642	3,587,887	17,446,380	(7,941,818)
Water Services	3,378,219	7,613,827	3,375,420	7,521,282	(2,799)
Development Management	3,757,319	7,258,004	2,374,932	2,178,034	(1,382,387)
Environmental Services	3,203,556	5,972,794	286,478	958,825	(2,917,077)
Recreation & Amenity	2,100,667	4,343,863	390,603	554,200	(1,710,064)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	271,069	654,744	162,403	257,532	(108,666)
Miscellaneous Services	4,723,515	5,275,773	2,394,730	2,429,372	(2,328,785)
Central Management Charges	788,372	0	55,103	0	(733,269)
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	7,376,093	12,677,652	7,376,093
	33,815,003	63,090,653	31,490,634	63,090,653	(2,324,368)

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 July 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	12,655,062	928,900	1,862,606	12,600,130	8,994,458	3,605,672	17,400	71%	40%
Rents & Annuities	394,360	3,073,601		(1,604)	3,469,565	3,070,352	399,213		88%	86%
Housing Loans	145,193	136,739			281,932	140,320	141,612		50%	62%

Recourse to Overdraft;

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

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Forward Planning

The public consultation period on the *Draft Roscommon County Development Plan 2021 – 2027* concluded on 2nd July. A total of 160 submissions were received, the majority of which were received in the latter days of the 10-week consultation period. Analysis of the matters raised in the submissions was on-going throughout July, in order to inform the preparation of the Chief Executive's Report on the submissions received.

Development Management and Planning Enforcement Activity

The table below summarises Development Management activity in July. A total of 60 valid planning applications were received, which is similar to the number received in June (57). Decisions issued on 60 applications, of which 58 (96%) were grants of planning permission. Of those, 12 applications related to retention permissions.

Development Management Statistics

Period	Activity	Roscommon North	Roscommon South	Totals
July 2021	Valid app	32	28	60
	Extension of Duration	1	1	2
	DED	3	2	5
	Pre-planning meeting	13	9	22

Enforcement Activity

Period	Activity	Countywide Totals
July 2021	New enforcement case	11
	General letter	5
	Warning letter	5
	Enforcement notice	0
	Closed case	14
	Legal proceedings	1

Unfinished Housing Developments (UHD)

A range of activity continued to be undertaken in July as part of the continuing initiative to resolve unfinished housing developments. Contractors appointed under either RCC's Framework or by bondholders were engaged in site resolution works a total of 8 developments – 3 in the Boyle Municipal District, in Cortober, Cootehall and Croghan, and 5 in the Athlone Municipal District, all of which were in the Monksland area.

ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT PROMOTION

Local Enterprise Office:

- **Trading On Line Vouchers (TOVs):**
34 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 the 4th August.
- **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:** 7 applications received and sent to MFI Y-T-D, with 6 successful 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 585 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 12th & 26th August. A total of 285 people have availed of mentoring Y-T-D.
- **Enquiries:** Appropriate support provided on an ongoing basis.
- **Student Enterprise Programme:** Planning is underway for the 2021/2022 Programme.
- **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
- 5 LEADER claims paid in July
- May Admin Monthly Returns submitted
- LEADER Payment for Q3 and Q4 paid to RIDC

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

- An online LCDC meeting took place on the 28th July 2021 via Microsoft Teams. Some of the key agenda items discussed were as follows:
 - Adoption of the Strategic Plan for the Development of Community Sport and Recreational Facilities in Roscommon Town
 - SICAP Mid-Term Review 2021
 - Community Enhancement Programme 2021 – Approvals

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.

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:

- AF Programme Managers Meeting attended
- Review of AF Strategy progressing.

Migrant Integration Strategy:

- Social Inclusion Measures/CYPSC meeting attended
- Migrant Integration Steering Committee & Working Group meetings held
- Development of Strategy progressing.

Misc:

- **Comhairle na nÓg:** – Launch of National Comhairle 5 Year Development Plan attended.
- **Nat. Play Day:** – Successful County Play Day held on 3rd July 2021 in conjunction with Roscommon County Child Care Committee.

SICAP

- SICAP 2021 Mid-Term Review was held in July and approved by LCDC

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.

- **Rahara Church Conservation project:**

Procurement process underway for appointment of contractors.

Tourism

Many attractions/activities now opening on phased basis and many restaurants offering outdoor dining.

Regional Projects:

- **IHH Network:** Sharon on the Shannon was recorded in Keadue, Baysports and Strokestown house.

County projects

- First on site meeting with SLR consultants held on site at Hodson Bay

County Marketing:

- **Social Media:** continuing weekly update of EXPLORE ROSCOMMON theme for summer 2021
- **Marketing:** summer marketing 2 weeks in July highlighting Activities throughout Roscommon is now complete. This included articles in Irish Independent (travel supplement) Western people, Kerry man, Sligo Westmeath and radio advert on Midwest, Highland radio,

IRadio and ocean FM. In additional media posted the newly produced Activities video to their individual social media pages.

- **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

- All 4 projects are ongoing

ORIS 2021 – Measure 3

- Working with Arigna Energy valley Co Ltd. RCC submitted a Measure 3 application to DCRD for the development of an *All Inclusive Energy Discovery Park* in Arigna. Planning Permission process on going.

Destinations Town – Boyle

- Works commenced on the lighting elements – pedestrian bridge.

Outdoor Dining Fund:

- online application process open for applications (both outdoor dining and more recently Public houses). To date 29 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 ad then close for winter season

Douglas Hyde

- Centre opened end June and will remain open until Sept 12th Sept with 2 Tour Guides.

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

An exhibition of newly commissioned work by artist **Anna Spearman** took place in July. **“Loose Parts”**. The work draws on the theory of Loose Parts developed by Simon Nicholson in 1971. This theory promotes the importance of open ended and creative play in early childhood experience. This is achieved through the provision of ‘loose parts’- objects or materials which can be moved, combined, redesigned, reimagined, taken apart and put back together in multiple ways. In the context of this exhibition, ‘loose parts’ can be taken to designate objects and materials with no prescribed function or meaning, whose assembled form is only one of many possible configurations. An accompanying video to support the exhibition was released, together with a Critical Textin response to the show, all of which can be viewed online at: roscommonartscentre.ie

Community Project: Playing on the Radio:

The radio play project with members of Roscommon Drama Group continued in July with rehearsals taking place via zoom. Working with professional actor and Roscommon native Enda Oates, the group are in rehearsal for “The Tinkers Wedding” and “Spreading the News”, both of which will be performed live as radio plays at the end of September at the centre as well as being recorded for broadcast. This project has been made possible by Creative Ireland funding.

Fregoli Theatre Company

Phase 2 of the residency took place over the summer months with a street performance in July of “Angels” and “Castle Tales”, two site-specific events taking place as part of Boyle Arts Festival. The company also delivered a week-long workshop programme for primary and second level students at the EROC centre in Ballaghaderreen which 52 young people participated in outdoor sessions daily.

Artist Supports:

Studio 21: Our summer studio space initiative commenced in July with 4 artists in residence at the centre for periods of between 2 & 4 weeks, availing of both studio and rehearsal space. Professional artists working in all disciplines were invited to apply via an Open Call and the programme continues until the end of September.

Strategic Developments:

Work continued in July on both the **Audience Development & Strategic Plans**, with a number of sessions with staff – both plans are being funded via Arts Council Capacity Building Grants, with first drafts due for completion in September.