

Comhairle Contae Ros Comáin Roscommon County Council



110

2020

Annual Report

Tuarascáil Bhliantúil



Our Vision

Working with you, working for you.

Our Mission

Ensuring, through collaboration and the provision of strong leadership in partnership with the community, that County Roscommon is an attractive, inclusive, prosperous and vibrant place to live, invest, work and visit.

Above: Boyle Chieftain

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Introduction from Cathaoirleach and Chief Executive

This Annual Report is a testimony to the resilience, commitment and professionalism of the Elected Members, management and staff of Roscommon County Council who, despite the unprecedented challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, provided leadership, expertise and innovative solutions to ensure both an appropriate response to Covid-19 challenges and continuity of Council services to the citizens and communities of our county.

2020 was a year like no other in living memory. Covid-19 plunged the world into an unprecedented health crisis. It has caused widespread illness, extraordinary human suffering and a dramatic loss of human life. Its economic disruption has been devastating resulting in considerable threats to businesses and peoples' livelihoods. Its social impact is un-paralleled. Quite simply, Covid-19 up-ended the way we live our lives as lockdowns, social distancing and other restrictions became the norm. These measures have given rise to isolation, loneliness and anxiety which is having a significant psychological impact on much of the population. It is with this backdrop in mind that we present this Annual Report for 2020.

As part of its immediate response in March 2020 to the challenges posed by the Covid-19 crisis, Roscommon County Council, in partnership with principal response agencies and community and voluntary groups, came together to form the Community Response Forum. Its primary role was to co-ordinate the delivery of targeted supports and assistance to vulnerable members of society. In addition, the Council, together with An Garda Síochána, established a 24/7 Community Support Response Helpline to support the actions of the forum. Over €105k of Covid-19 Emergency Funding was also allocated by the Council to community and voluntary organisations who were responding to the crisis. Business supports included payment of €8.2m in Restart Grants to 871 local businesses and rates waivers, totalling €4m, which were granted to 1,413 businesses. The Council's Fire Service co-ordinated the West Regional Major Emergency Management Group's multi-agency response to the crisis whilst its Civil Defence volunteers were actively involved in transporting test samples for the HSE and assisting the Blood Transfusion Service. These interventions, which fostered tremendous collaboration and solidarity to tackling the pandemic, no doubt contributed immensely to limiting its impact.

Unsurprisingly, the Covid-19 crisis presented considerable risks to the continuity of Council services. Consequently, the Council updated its Business Continuity Plan to mitigate these risks. The Council also relied heavily on modern information and communications technologies and its own Digital Transformation Programme to ensure service continuity. In line with government recommendations and public health advice, remote working arrangements were made possible by providing employees with secure devices and access to the Council's network. Communication platforms were used extensively by employees to facilitate business meetings. My Online Services, which was launched by the Council at the outset to the pandemic, provided a portal whereby customers could access a growing number of online services provided by the Council anywhere, at any time, from any device. These initiatives have helped restrict the disruption to Council services to the absolute minimum. Covid-19 may have temporarily changed the way we do business. However, Council business continued to operate efficiently and effectively throughout the year.

There is no doubt that 2020 brought out the best in us. This Annual Report presents the Council with an opportunity to highlight its many achievements throughout the year despite extreme adversity. It is with great pride that we can report that Roscommon County Council continued to develop infrastructure throughout the county. Major housing, roads, water and wastewater projects were either significantly advanced or completed. For example, 24 housing units were added to Council's housing stock in 2020; tenders were received for the procurement of a contractor to design and build the *Ballaghaderreen to Scramogue Road Project* and Evria approval was obtained for the *Roscommon Town Main Drainage Project*. Considerable work and public consultation was undertaken on the *Roscommon County Development Plan 2021-2027*. This plan sets out the Council's overall strategy and vision for the proper planning and sustainable development of the county over the next 6 years. The Council's *Corporate Plan 2019-2024*, was also adopted at the outset to 2020. It sets out the Council's strategic framework for action over a 5-year period taking into consideration key elements of national policy and local needs. Both the *Roscommon County Development Plan 2021-2027* and *Corporate Plan 2019-2024* will play a vital role in driving our recovery from Covid-19.

Obviously tourism has been one of the sectors most affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Tourism and regeneration projects offer support to recovery in this sector. Projects carried out by the Council in 2020 included on-going assistance to the *Ireland's Hidden Heartlands* programme, the *Spire Quarter Roscommon Historic Towns Initiative, Town and Village Renewal Schemes* and the development of outdoor recreational facilities such as completion of the *Boyle to Lough Key Cycle Corridor* and the *Monksland Way* in Athlone.

2020 was a very busy year for the Local Enterprise Office. It continued to promote County Roscommon as a location for business and inward investment. In addition, it was required to address the huge uncertainties presented by Covid-19 and Brexit. Support for businesses included grant approvals and both *Trading Online Vouchers* and *Business Continuity Vouchers* which facilitated many businesses to continue to trade in these difficult times. A strong focus was also placed on getting businesses Brexit-ready in 2020 through the provision of Brexit mentoring, customs workshops and helping businesses identify and compete in alternative export markets.

Covid-19 has demonstrated the fragility of our world. It has brought to the forefront other risks such as climate change and the urgent need to rebalance the human relationship with the natural world. Roscommon County Council is committed to the climate change agenda. Its Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 represents a proactive step in the process of responding effectively to threats posed by climate change. Significant progress was made in progressing measures and actions contained in this strategy in 2020. This progress included the introduction of an electric vehicle to the Council's fleet. Roscommon County Council will continue to transition to a more sustainable model in future for the selection of vehicles and fuel types.





We wish to express our upmost gratitude to the Elected Members; the Corporate Policy Group; chairpersons and members of Strategic Policy Committees and Municipal District Committees; the Management Team and staff of Roscommon County Council for their resilience, flexibility, dedication and overall magnificent efforts throughout 2020. We would also like to offer our most sincere thanks and appreciation to the many statutory and nonstatutory agencies and voluntary and community organisations with whom the Council collaborated for their invaluable contributions and immense co-operation during the year. Covid-19 has taken a terrible toll. Our deepest sympathies are extended to those who have experienced loss and suffering. However, hope lies ahead. A vaccination programme is underway which offers the potential to a gradual return to some form of normality. We can look forward with confidence to 2021 and beyond to the Council continuing to deliver on its mission of 'ensuring through collaboration and the provision of strong leadership in partnership with the community that County Roscommon is an attractive, inclusive, prosperous and vibrant place to live, invest work and visit'.

Cllr Laurence Fallon Cathaoirleach Roscommon County Council

Mr. Eugene Cummins Chief Executive Roscommon County Council

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Elected Members of Roscommon County Council

Boyle Municipal District



Cllr. Valerie Byrne

Non-Party





Cllr. John Cummins Fianna Fáil

Cllr. Tom Crosby Non-Party





Cllr. Liam Callaghan Cllr. Michael Mulligan Fine Gael Sinn Féin

Cllr. Joe Murphy Fianna Fáil



Roscommon Municipal District



Cllr. Marty McDermott Cllr. Anthony Waldron Non-Party Non-Party



Cllr. Nigel Dineen Non-Party



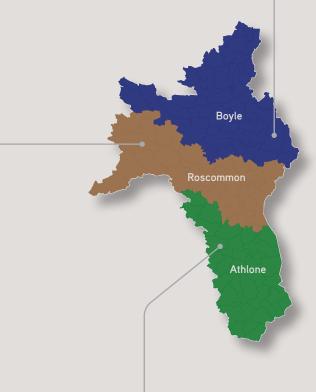
Cllr. Paschal Fitzmaurice Fianna Fáil



Cllr. Orla Leyden Fianna Fáil



Cllr. Kathleen Shanagher Non-Party



Athlone Municipal District



Cllr. Ivan Connaughton Cllr. Laurence Fallon Fianna Fáil Non-Party



Cllr. John Keogh Fianna Fáil



Cllr. Donal Kilduff Non-Party



Cllr. John Naughten Fine Gael



Cllr. Tony Ward Non-Party



Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs)

Economic Development and Enterprise Support (including Tourism, Culture and Libraries) SPC

Councillors -

- > Cllr. Orla Leyden (Chairperson)
- > Cllr. Ivan Connaughton
- > Cllr. Joe Murphy
- > Cllr. Kathleen Shanagher
- > Cllr. Valerie Byrne
- > Cllr. John Keogh
- > Cllr. Tom Crosby
- > Cllr. Nigel Dineen
- > Cllr. Liam Callaghan

Sectoral Nominations

- > Mr. John Mee, Business/Commercial
- > Mr. Liam Murray, Development/Construction
- Ms. Susan Gaynor, Community/Voluntary Public Participation Network (PPN)
- > Mr. Michael Ewing, PPN
- 4 meetings of this SPC were held on 19th February, 1st July, 21st October and 16th December 2020. Issues considered included:
- > Training on the Role of the SPC
- > Work Plan 2020
- > Tourism Programme 2020
- > Climate Change
- > Local Enterprise Office Programme
- Impact of Covid-19 on Community & Enterprise, Regeneration, Tourism, Culture and Library Services
- > Just Transition Update
- Ireland Hidden Heartlands Destination Recovery Taskforce Update
- > Update on Library Services

- > Rural/Urban Regeneration Development Fund
- > Sustainable Development Goals and Work of the SPC
- > Innovation and Remote Working Hub Updates
- > Arts Centre Opportunities to Engage Remotely
- > Update on Fáilte Ireland Review of Tourism Signs in the County
- > Planet Youth Initiative Presentation
- > Preparing for Post Covid, Rebuilding but Different
- > Update on Local Economic and Community Plan
- Housing, ICT and Rural Water SPC

Councillors -

- > Cllr. John Cummins (Chairperson)
- > Cllr. Liam Callaghan
- > Cllr. Paschal Fitzmaurice
- > Cllr. John Keogh
- > Cllr. Joe Murphy
- > Cllr. Tony Ward
- > Cllr. Marty McDermott
- > Cllr. John Naughton
- > Cllr. Anthony Waldron

Sectoral Nominations

- > Ms. Monica Mahon, Trade Union
- > Mr. Alex Connolly, Development/Construction
- > Mr. Jim O'Connor, Agriculture/Farming
- > Mr. Vincent Moran, Community/Voluntary PPN
- > Ms. Margaret Mulligan, Social Inclusion

3 meetings of this SPC were held on 13th February, 1st July and 10th December 2020. Issues considered included:

- > Grant Application
- > Housing Programme 2020
- > Acquisition
- > National Childcare Scheme
- > Derelict Houses for Sale
- > Approved Housing Bodies Forum
- > Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme

- > Midlands Energy Retrofit Programme
- > Draft Roscommon County Council Homeless Implementation Plan
- > Digital Transformation Online Rents App
- > Group Water Scheme Source Protection Pilot Project
- > Refusals of Local Authority Houses

Planning, Environment, Climate Change and Corporate Governance SPC

Councillors -

- > Cllr. John Naughten, Chairperson.
- > Cllr. Laurence Fallon
- > Cllr. Tom Crosby
- > Cllr. Paschal Fitzmaurice
- > Cllr. Orla Leyden
- > Cllr. Kathleen Shanagher
- > Cllr. Anthony Waldron
- > Cllr. Michael Mulligan
- > Cllr. Donal Kilduff

Sectoral Nominations

- > Mr. Ned O' Connor, Agriculture/Farming
- > Mr. Gareth Scahill, Community/Voluntary
- > Ms. Hannah Mole, Environment
- > Mr. Ciaran King, Development/Construction
- > Mr. Sean Mahon, Business/Commercial
- > Ms. Fiona Fallon, Trade Union

2 meetings of this SPC were held on 16th September and 10th December 2020. Issues considered included:

- > Taking in Charge of Housing Developments Policy
- > Bye-Laws for the Control of Dogs
- > Report from Climate Change Sub-Committee
- Update on Work Programme for 2020 -Environment & Assets, Climate Action & Energy and Corporate
- > Litter Management Plan

- > Review of Casual Trading Bye-Laws
- Motion to add Anne Marie McKay (O'Connell) to the Sub-Committee on Climate- Action
- > Bye-laws for Loughnaneane Park
- Circular WP06.20 Transposition of the Circular Economy Legislative Package

Roads Transportation and Emergency Services SPC

Councillors

- > Cllr. Nigel Dineen, Chairperson
- > Cllr. Valerie Byrne
- > Cllr. Ivan Connaughton
- > Cllr. John Cummins
- > Cllr. Laurence Fallon
- > Cllr. Donal Kilduff
- > Cllr. Michael Mulligan
- > Cllr. Marty McDermott
- > Cllr. Tony Ward

Sectoral Nominations

- > Ms. Mary Clifford, Business/Commercial
- > Ms. Rebecca Dobson, Environment
- > Mr. Trevor Hunt, Community/Voluntary
- > Mr. Matthew Dwyer, Development/Construction

4 meetings of this SPC were held on 12th February, 23rd July, 8th September and 8th December 2020. Issues considered included:

> Cemetery Bye-Laws

- > Local Improvement Scheme
- > Enforcement of Building Control and the Construction Products Directive
- > United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 2030
- > Broadband
- > Athlone to Galway Greenway
- > Building Control

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HOUSING, IS & DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION, PLANNING AND FINANCE DIRECTORATE

Housing and Building



Acquisition and Construction Programme

The Housing Department is committed to delivering the actions set out under the Social Housing Strategy 2020 and Rebuilding Ireland: Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness.



BATHROO



In 2020, Roscommon County Council completed the following under the *Acquisition and Construction Programme*:

- > Turnkey construction of 12 houses at Silveroe, Boyle;
- Construction of 4 houses in the Monksland area, Athlone;
- > Purchase of 8 single dwellings in various locations.

Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)

Approved Housing Bodies have a key role in the delivery of social housing. The *Capital Advanced Leasing Facility* is one of the main capital funding streams for the supply of social housing through Approved Housing Bodies. To-date these bodies have delivered 57 houses under the scheme.

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Leasing Options

Repair and Leasing Scheme (RLS)

This scheme is aimed at owners of vacant properties who cannot afford the repairs needed to bring their property up to the standard required to rent it out. Roscommon County Council has 3 social housing tenancies in Roscommon town on the *RLS*.

Long-term Leasing

This form of social housing provision widens the options for increasing the supply of social housing. Roscommon County Council leased 5 properties from private owners on a long-term basis and a further 32 units under Rental Accommodation Scheme type lease agreements during 2020.

Mortgage to Rent (MTR)

This scheme enables homeowners in mortgage difficulty switch from owning their home to renting their home as social housing tenants. 23 applications for *MTR* support have been processed by Roscommon County Council and the Housing Agency to date. Departmental approval was granted for 7 applications in 2020 and these applications were fully processed and completed by the Council via Approved Housing Bodies (3 tenancies) and Home for Life (4 tenancies).

Assessments and Allocations Housing

The Annual Social Housing Needs Assessment which counts the total number of households qualified for social housing each year, was finalised on 7th December 2020. At that time there were 313 applicants (excluding



transfers) on the approved housing list. There were 690 transfer applicants on the list, the majority of which are accommodated in private rented accommodation via *HAP* and *RAS*. 118 properties were offered to qualified social housing applicants in 2020 resulting in 72 tenancy agreements.

Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)

Roscommon County Council continues to provide private rented accommodation financial support to those who have a long-term housing need through the *RAS*. At the end of 2020 there were 388 households receiving support through this scheme. 283 households were in private rented accommodation and 105 in accommodation provided by Approved Housing Bodies.

Figure 1: Private Rented Tenancies



Housing Assistance Payment Scheme (HAP)

The *HAP* scheme continues to provide housing support to people with a long-term housing need. 142 applicants were accommodated via the scheme in 2020. This brings the total number of applicants accommodated through the scheme to 716 since its introduction in December 2016.

Standards for Rented Residential Property

Inspections of private rented dwellings continued to be carried out in 2020 under the Housing (Standards for Private Rented Houses) Regulations 2017. Details are set out in Table 1.

Table 1: Inspections of Rental Residential Property

Total number of inspections carried out	456
Number of dwellings deemed compliant	120
Number of improvement letters issued to landlords	336

Homelessness

Roscommon County Council provides a range of responses to homelessness in accordance with the *West Region Homelessness Action Plan.* A total of 34 households presented for homeless services in 2020, 27 of which required short-term accommodation. 14 households availed of social housing support through local authority and Approved Housing Body housing and through the *HAP* and *RAS* schemes.

Tenant Purchase Scheme

The *Tenant Purchase Scheme* was published under the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014. 29 applications were received in 2020.15 offers of sale were made in 2020 and 8 sales have been closed.

Housing Loans

Roscommon County Council received 17 Rebuilding Ireland home loan applications in 2020. 11 Ioan applications were approved during 2020 and 10 Ioans were drawn down from the Housing Finance Agency.

Sale of Private Sites and Rural Houses

The last available site in Ardsallaghmore, Roscommon was sold in 2019. Il sites at Forest View, Boyle were re-advertised in July 2019 at a reduced price of $\in 10,000$. No applications were received in 2020 to purchase sites at Forest View. 5 derelict rural houses were sold during the year.

Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024

The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 was adopted at the June 2019 Plenary Council Meeting. In line with the programme, the Council has a number of projects at various stages including proposed developments at Bri Chaoilinne, Harristown, Castlerea and Cluain Airne, Lanesborough Rd., Roscommon. 5 Traveller families were accommodated in standard social housing and a further 4 families were accommodated on halting sites in 2020.

Housing Maintenance

The Housing Department received 1,234 maintenance calls and spent \in 559,144.73 on response maintenance works in 2020. This equates to an average of \in 453.10 per call out.



Voids Programme

38 units were funded by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under the 2020 Voids 'July Stimulus' Programme. Funding amounted to \in 361,025.

Approximately 96.5% of local authority stock is tenanted at any given time and a further 2% accounts for natural turn-over (percentage of stock between tenancies). The remaining 1.5% of the housing stock is not likely to return to productive use as these units are intended for sale (deemed to be derelict and in areas of low demand).

Housing Grants

Funding allocated to County Roscommon for 2020 amounted to \leq 1,157,814 (80% Government Department funded and 20% Roscommon County Council funded). Despite Covid-19 restrictions, the Council processed 90% of the full allocation. \leq 204,309.35 was spent on adaptations to 10 Council houses under the *Disabled Persons Grants* for local authority stock.

Table 2: Housing Grant Schemes

Scheme	Total Grants Approved	Value of Grants Approved
Housing Grant for People with a Disability	58	€492,253.20
Housing Mobility Aid Grant	30	€151,953.71
Housing Aid for Older People	69	€352,748.46



National Housing Strategy for People with a Disability 2015-2019 (extended)

A Housing and Disability Steering Group for County Roscommon was established in Roscommon in 2014. The *Strategic Plan for Housing Persons with Disabilities* was prepared by the Council's Housing Department and the plan is consistent with the *National Strategic Plan for Housing Persons with Disabilities*. The Disability Steering group held 3 meetings in 2020. A total of 40 people with a disability received social housing support through local authority housing, Approved Housing Body housing, HAP, RAS and leased properties in 2020.

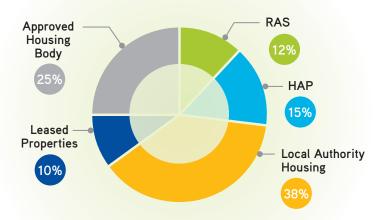


Figure 2: Disability Allocations Breakdown

Estate Management

The Housing Department continues to promote good estate management practices which encourage pride of place and result in vibrant sustainable communities. The following took place in 2020:

- > 28 incidents of anti–social behavior were received and matters resolved;
- 3 Tenancy Warnings were issued to local authority tenants for anti-social behavior;
- 1 Possession Order was received through the District Court for illegal occupancy;
- > The Housing Liaison Officer had regular engagement with litter wardens and the community.

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Information and Communication Technologies



The Information Systems and Digital Transformation Department is headed up by the Head of Information Systems and is supported by the ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) Operations, Digital Transformation and GIS (Geographic Information Systems) Teams.

ICT Operations

The ICT Operations Team provides a service delivery platform and technical support for all Council departments, ensuring that equipment and information, as necessary, is readily available to deliver an efficient service to the Council's clients and customers.

In 2020, a significant amount of resource time was consumed with implementing appropriate responses to the Covid-19 pandemic. These responses required mobilisation of staff to provide new technology solutions for remote working and community supports. The ICT Operations Team implemented secure connections to the corporate network and also provided staff with up-to-date managed devices to facilitate connections from remote working locations. This afforded staff the opportunity to work from home, having access to all Council systems, which ensured that services to the public were not affected. The ICT Operations Team also facilitated the provision of equipment which allowed for the setting up of a community support helpline which is available to the public 24/7 throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. This service ensures the availability of help for all citizens of the county should the need arise.

The ICT Operations Team also continued to utilise and build on the services which are available through Microsoft's 365 platform. This approach enables secure access to corporate systems and information from any location on secure managed devices. It also assists in allowing Council staff to work in new ways and reduce the carbon footprint by decreasing the requirement for physical devices.



Digital Transformation

The Digital Transformation Team is responsible for the delivery of a digital transformation programme of works for the organisation, with the aim of providing quality and accessible online services that are efficient, engaging and which meet with citizens' expectations. This team's programme of work for 2020 included the development of 27 different online services. This programme was a key factor in offering customers easy and efficient access to Council services during the Covid-19 pandemic.

My Online Services was launched in February 2020. This online portal allows customers to avail of the growing number of online services provided by the Council. Customers register to use online services such as reporting issues, applying for grants or making payments. 1,940 customers registered as self-service customer users on *My Online Services* in 2020. This allowed them to access Council services 24/7 from anywhere on any device.

Business process improvements are also continuing through the roll out of online services. Roscommon County Council administered over €9m funding through Covid-19 Business Restart Grants and Community Grants, using online processes that generated considerable savings in staff time, postage and printing. Roscommon County Council has almost 5,000 customers registered on its customer services platform.

GIS

The GIS Team maintains and develops the systems required to provide Council staff and members of the public with access to map-based information. These systems include tools to both view and collect location-based information. For example, in 2020, the GIS Team built a web-based *Covid-19 Community Support Services Map* to enable members of the public to find community groups providing support services in their area.

A number of teams within the Council have taken advantage of GIS applications for mobile devices to gather data in the field more quickly and efficiently. These teams have worked with the GIS team to build digital surveys that help improve field data collection processes.

With more data being gathered in the field, it is important that improved reporting on this data is also available. 2020 saw the introduction of Power BI reporting to complement existing GIS dashboards and provide decision-makers with the tools they need to view and assess information quickly. The GIS Team has developed a number of web-based reports to display key metrics in a simple and useful manner.

The GIS Team also completed an upgrade of the Council's internal web mapping applications to provide both an improved user experience and a more secure web environment to work in.

Development Incentives and Control

This service covers the following functions of the Planning Department under the Planning and Development Acts:

- 1. Development Management
- 2. Planning Enforcement
- 3. Forward Planning

Development Management

573 planning applications were received by Roscommon County Council in 2020. Details of the outcome of these applications are presented in Table 1:

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Applications Received	453	511	526	665	671	573 ¹
Decisions to Grant	275	333	340	433	410	331
Decisions to Refuse	43	33	32	34	46	51
Refusal Rate	9.5%	9%	8.6%	7.8%	11.2%	15.4%
Number of Appeals	9	7	16	13	16	17
Appeals upheld by An Bord Pleanála	5	4	7 ²	6	9 ³	114

Table 1 Planning Applications 2015-2020

1 Includes valid and invalid planning applications; excludes S.42 extension of duration applications and Roscommon County Council Part 8 development proposals.

- 2 Figures for 2015 2017 are as per previous Annual Reports and reflect the number of decisions upheld at the time of Annual Report preparation.
- 3 2018 and 2019 appeal statistics have been updated to reflect all appeal decisions.
- 4 2 of the 17 appeals lodged in 2020 were subsequently withdrawn. Of the remaining 15 cases, 13 have been determined to date, with the decision of the Council being upheld in 11 (85%).

A total of 223 pre-planning meetings were held in 2020.

Planning Enforcement

Planning enforcement encompasses enforcement activity, resolution of unfinished housing developments and collection of development contributions.

Enforcement Action

It is an offence to carry out unauthorised development. The information below reflects the various stages of enforcement activity pursued by the Council in 2020 in relation to alleged unauthorised development in accordance with Part VIII of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

- > Warning Letter: Roscommon County Council served 37 Warning Letters.
- > Enforcement Notice: Roscommon County Council served 5 Enforcement Notices.
- > Legal Action: Legal action was initiated by Roscommon County Council in 1 enforcement case.

Resolving Unfinished Housing Developments

There were approximately 132 housing developments in County Roscommon which had not been taken in charge in 2020, with the majority of those being unfinished to some degree.

The Unfinished Housing Developments Team continued working to resolve unfinished housing developments in the county through on-going engagement with relevant parties to agree and implement site resolution plans. 17 housing developments were taken in charge in 2020.

Collecting Development Contributions

Development contributions are levied on planning applications in accordance with the adopted *Development Contribution Scheme 2014*. Details for 2019 and 2020 are presented in Table 2.

Table 2: Development Contributions 2019 and 2020

Development Contribution Scheme	2019	2020
Contributions invoiced	€1,023,710.55	€770,886.50
Contributions received	€714,676.65	€506,354.26



Forward Planning

Preparation of the Roscommon County Development Plan 2021 – 2027

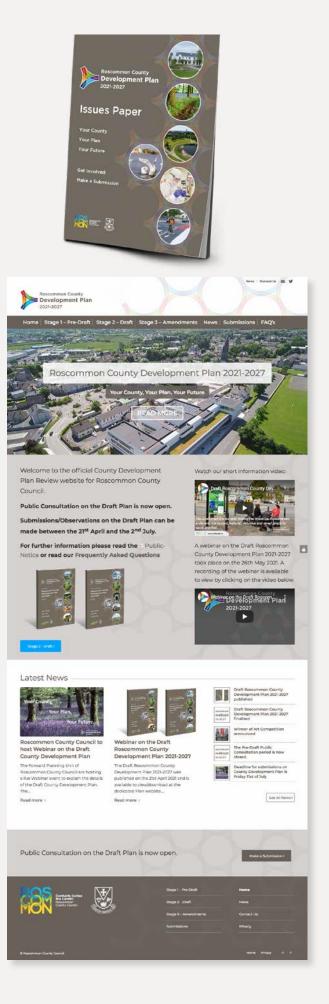
In accordance with Section 11 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), the statutory process of reviewing the County Development Plan was required to commence within 13 weeks of the adoption by the Northern and Western Regional Assembly (NWRA), on 24th January 2020, of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy. Formal pre-draft public consultation on the Draft Roscommon County Development Plan 2021 -2027 commenced on 27th March 2020, with the publication of the Issues Paper. In advance of this, a workshop took place in early March, attended by Elected Members, the Management Team and Planning Department officials, to discuss and consider a range of strategic issues relating to the preparation of the Draft Roscommon County Development Plan 2021 - 2027.

A purpose built website for the *Roscommon County Development Plan* (www.rosdevplan.ie) proved to be an invaluable means of communications and consultation during periods in 2020 when Covid-19 restrictions were in place. Social media was also used to highlight public consultation opportunities. Pre-draft public consultation workshops took place at the end of July in Roscommon, Monksland, Boyle, Castlerea, Ballaghadereen and Strokestown.

Following the conclusion of the pre-draft public consultation process, the *Chief Executive's Report* on *Submissions Received on the Pre-Draft Consultation* was issued to Elected Members in September 2020. A Special Meeting of the Council was convened on 12th November 2020 at which members formally considered the report and issued a direction to the Executive to formally commence the preparation of Draft Roscommon County Development Plan 2021 – 2027.

Covid-19 Impacts on the Planning System in 2020

The Covid-19 pandemic resulted in the introduction of the Emergency Measures in the Public Interest (Covid-19) Act 2020. This legislation resulted in the inclusion of a new provision (Section 251A) into the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). As a consequence, time periods relating to planning matters were extended by 8 weeks. This had an impact on the timeframes for the processing of planning applications and also resulted in the pre-draft public consultation period on the *Draft Roscommon County Development Plan 2021 – 2027* being significantly extended.



Finance

The Finance Department is responsible for the following;

- > Financial Management and Oversight;
- > Accounts Receivable including Motor Tax;
- > Accounts Payable and Procurement;
- > Internal Audit;
- > Production and Publication of Financial Information including the Annual Budget and the Annual Financial Statement.

Financial Management

The County Council operates a Revenue Account for day to day current income and expenditure and a Capital Account for longer term project related income and expenditure such as the provision of infrastructure and assets including roads, housing schemes, land and buildings.

The level of expenditure for the Revenue Account for 2020 was €71.3m while for the Capital Account the expenditure was €45.5m.

Key Points related to Financial Activity in 2020

- A surplus of €17k was delivered on the Revenue Account;
- The Capital Account reported a cumulative credit balance of €23.4m;
- The cumulative general reserve at the end of 2020 stands at €218.8k;
- > A combined total of €116.8m for Revenue and Capital was expended on delivering services to the citizens of Roscommon;
- The payroll function continues to operate through a Service Level Agreement as a shared service hosted by Laois County Council;
- > 97% of invoices from suppliers were paid within 30 days during 2020 which is in line with the previous year.

Covid-19 Financial Supports

The Covid-19 pandemic resulted in a number of financial supports being provided to local businesses and the Council from Government. The following are the impacts on the 2020 Revenue Account:

- > €8.2m in Restart Grants were paid to 871 local businesses through the Development Management heading;
- 806k was reimbursed to the Council for loss of income and increased expenditure;
- A rates waiver totalling €4m was put in place for 1,413 businesses. The Council subsequently received these rates directly from the Government.

Revenue Collection

The following table summarises revenue collection performance since 2015:

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Rates	68%	89%	86%	83%	91%	93%
Rent	93%	91%	92%	91%	92%	89%
Housing Loans	62%	76%	55%	56%	58%	75%

Percentage collections in relation to rates and housing loans were down due to Covid-19 when compared to the previous year. Roscommon County Council is committed to working with all customers to resolve issues in relation to the payment of Council charges.

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Statement of Comprehensive Income (Income & Expenditure Account Statement) for Year Ended 31st December 2020

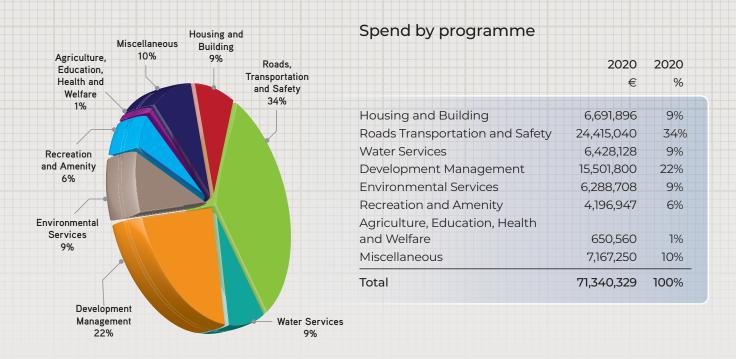
The Income and Expenditure Account Statement brings together all the revenue related income and expenditure. It shows the surplus/(deficit) for the year.

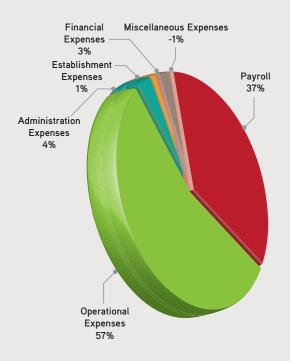
Expenditure by Division	Gross Expenditure 2020 €	Income 2020 €	Net Expenditure 2020 €	Net Expenditure 2019 €
Housing and Building	6,691,896	8,267,248	(1,575,352)	(1,796,591)
Roads, Transportation and Safety	24,415,040	17,040,013	7,375,027	6,792,252
Water Services	6,428,128	6,430,901	(2,774)	(111,341)
Development Management	15,501,800	11,633,300	3,868,500	3,366,969
Environmental Services	6,288,708	1,036,011	5,252,696	4,548,794
Recreation and Amenity	4,196,947	760,753	3,436,194	3,137,294
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	650,560	308,989	341,571	329,422
Miscellaneous Services	7,167,250	7,456,902	(289,652)	1,803,900
Total Expenditure/Income	71,340,329	52,934,118		
Net cost of Divisions to be funded from Rates and Local Property Tax			18,406,210	18,070,699
Rates			12,425,769	11,653,614
Local Property Tax			10,817,612	10,216,230
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year before Transfers			4,837,171	3,799,144
Transfers from/(to) Reserves			(4,820,107)	(3,787,237)
Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year			17,063	11,907
General Reserve at 1st January			201,740	189,833
General Reserve at 31st December			218,803	201,740

Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet) as at 31st December 2020

	2020 €	2019 €
FixedAssets	€	€
Operational	240,502,218	235,735,117
Infrastructural	1,615,664,454	1,615,664,454
Community	13,057,384	13,058,803
Non-Operational	1,311,287	1,311,287
	1,870,535,343	1,865,769,661
Work-in-Progress and Preliminary Expenses	11,551,921	7,387,308
Long Term Debtors	8,259,017	7,655,511
Current Assets		
Trade Debtors & Prepayments	10,698,159	5,484,196
Bank Investments	27,171,804	22,487,368
Cash at Bank	335,861	255,037
Cash in Transit	252,871	156,058
	38,458,695	28,382,659
Current Liabilities		
Creditors & Accruals	15,132,751	6,305,631
	15,132,751	6,305,631
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)	23,325,944	22,077,028
Creditors (Amounts greater than one year)		
Loans Payable	29,004,119	29,021,716
Refundable Deposits	942,375	960,875
Other	1,458,294	1,356,124
	31,404,789	31,338,715
Net Assets / (Liabilities)	1,882,267,436	1,871,550,793
Represented By		
Capitalisation	1,870,535,343	1,865,769,661
Income WIP	8,927,286	6,525,993
General Revenue Reserve	218,803	201,740
Other Balances	2,586,004	(946,601)
Total Reserves	1,882,267,436	1,871,550,793

Revenue Budget Expenditure





What money was spent on

	2020 €	2020 %
Payroll	26,692,577	37%
Operational Expenses	40,436,581	57%
Administration Expenses	2,634,439	4%
Establishment Expenses	370,101	1%
Financial Expenses	1,786,482	3%
Miscellaneous Expenses	-579,851	-1%
Total	71,340,329	100%

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ROADS & TRANSPORTATION, EMERGENCY SERVICES, BUILDING CONTROL AND HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTORATE

Roads, Transportation and Safety

The Roads and Transportation Unit is responsible for the delivery of programmes and services which include National and Non-National Road Maintenance and Road Improvement Schemes; Road Safety Programmes; Bridge Maintenance and Improvement Works; Maintenance of Arterial Drainage; Flood Alleviation Works; Burial Grounds; Abnormal Load Permits; Declaration of Public Roads; Extinguishment of Rights-of-Way; Local Improvement Schemes; Community Involvement Schemes; Temporary Road Closures; Approval of Bus Stop Locations; Speed Limits; Fleet and Machinery; Road Opening Licences and Parks and Amenities.

Road Network

Roscommon County Council is responsible for the maintenance and improvement of the road network in the county. Works in 2020 included road construction and maintenance; bridge rehabilitation; drainage works; the carrying out of safety and traffic management measures; the implementation of community involvement and local improvement schemes; footpath repairs and the provision of public lighting. Funding for these works was received from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (DTTAS), Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) and the Council's own resources.

Table 1: County Roscommon Road Class and Length

Road Class	Length (Metres)
Motorway	20,220
National Primary	83,792
National Secondary	147,705
Regional	375,896
Local Roads	3,396,007
Total All Roads	4,023,320

Table 2: County Roscommon National and Non-National Roads Funding Allocations 2020

Funding Source	Works	2020 Funding
Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (DTTAS)	Regional and Local Road Reconstruction and Maintenance, Bridges, Drainage Works, Safety Schemes, Community Involvement Schemes	€17,612,347
Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII)	National Primary and Secondary Routes	€22,695,636
Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD)	Non-Public Roads Local Improvement Schemes	€355,100
Roscommon County Council's own resources	Regional and Local Roads / Public Lighting	€2,049,600
Total		€42,712,683

National Road Projects

The Ballaghaderreen to Scramoge Road Project is approximately 34km in length and extends from the east tie-in point of the N5 Ballaghaderreen By-pass to Scramoge and bypasses Frenchpark, Bellanagare, Tulsk and Strokestown. The crosssection is to a Type 1 single carriageway standard. An Bord Pleanála approved the scheme and associated Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) in January 2019. CPO notices were served on all persons listed in the CPO and land negotiations are progressing. Land and property valuation services and legal services to assist with land acquisition were procured. Various advance / enabling works and services contracts procured in advance of the main construction contract, including archaeology, asbestos survey, fencing, tree felling and hedgerow removal, topographical surveys and geotechnical investigations are substantially complete. Diversion of ESB apparatus continues. Technical consultants have been appointed to assist in progressing the project through the tender and construction stages. In addition, an independent project supervisor for the Construction Stage (PSCS) was appointed for the duration of the advance / enabling works and services contracts. Procurement of a contractor to design and build the scheme commenced in January 2020 with tenders received in December 2020.

The **N4 Carrick-on-Shannon to Dromod Project** involves the provision of a transport solution which may include a new bridge crossing of the River Shannon to relieve the significant traffic congestion on the N4 through Carrick-on-Shannon. The extent of the project includes a 20 km section of the N4 national primary route extending from Drumharlow townland in County Roscommon to Faulties townland in County Leitrim. A Section 85 Agreement under the Local Government Act is in place between Roscommon and Leitrim County Councils. Under the Section 85 Agreement Leitrim County Council is the 'Lead Authority'. Leitrim County Council appointed Ove Arup & Partners Ireland Ltd. (Arup) to progress the project through Phases 1 to 4 of the TII Project Management Guidelines in February 2020.

Phase 1 (Concept and Feasibility) was completed in July 2020 and following TII approval, Arup commenced Phase 2 Constraints & Option Selection.

To date, traffic data has been procured and preliminary ground investigation data is being procured to inform the option selection process. Initial route options are currently being developed.

The N60 Oran Road Realignment Project involves the realignment of approximately 3.4km of the N60 National Secondary route including 1.7 km of offline construction and 1.7 km of online widening to Type 1 single carriageway standard. The land acquisition process is substantially complete with approximately 95% of cases settled. Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. commenced the Stage (ii) - (iv) Archaeological Resolution Contract in September 2017 and completed site works in April 2018. The Stage (iv) reporting of the archaeological services contract was completed in November 2020. Following the completion of the detailed design, the main construction contract was tendered in November 2018. The contract was subsequently awarded to Wills Bros. Ltd. on 9th April 2019 and site works commenced in April 2019. The Certificate of Substantial Completion was issued to Wills Bros. Ltd. in September 2020, closing out the main construction contract works including the alteration of the local road network at Dunamon Junction. Roughan & O'Donovan Consulting Engineers continue to administer the main construction contract on behalf of Roscommon County Council.

Eastbound View of completed N60 Road Project.

The scope of the N61 Ballymurray to Lecarrow (Knockcroghery) Road Project comprises the realignment and improvement of approximately 14km of the N61 National Secondary Road extending from Newtown townland north of Ballymurray to Killiaghan and Gort townland south of Lecarrow. The project will involve the bypassing of Knockcroghery village and is likely to involve either the avoidance of or grade separation from the Dublin to Westport/ Ballina Railway line. Following a procurement process Roughan and O' Donovan – AECOM Alliance (ROD-A) Consulting Engineers were appointed in January 2019 to advance the project through Phases 1 to 4 of the TII Project Management Guidelines. ROD-A have progressed the project through the constraints and option selection phases with the second public consultation on Stage 2 Route Options held in November 2019. The assessment of the route corridor options continued throughout 2020 and culminated with the identification of Route Corridor C-3 as the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor. A virtual online consultation process commenced on the 14th December 2020 presenting this corridor along with other relevant project information to the public on the dedicated project website www.N61Roscommon.ie.

The **N61 Coolteige Phase 1 Road Project** involved the realignment and improvement of approximately 3km of a section of National Secondary Road on the northern outskirts of Roscommon Town predominately to Type 1 single carriageway standard. The land acquisition process is ongoing on foot of the approved CPO. Archaeological resolution field works were completed in November 2016 and the preparation of the project monograph detailing the excavation of multivallate enclosure complex located at Ranelagh has commenced. The main construction contract executed by Wills Bros. Ltd. is complete.

The **N61 Tulsk to Clashaganny Road Realignment Project** is a minor national road improvement project which seeks to address the seriously deficient section of N61 between Tulsk village and Clashaganny which is approximately 4km long. To date Phases 1 and 2 of the project development have been completed and Phase 3 (Design & Environmental Evaluation) is currently underway. The identified Preferred Route Corridor generally follows the existing route corridor with localised improvements and avoids significant archaeological, geotechnical and hydrological constraints.

National Road Pavement Projects

During 2020, works were completed on the N5 Tulsk Surface Replacement Scheme, the N60 Castlerea South Pavement Overlay and the N5 Carrowntoossan to Tulsk Scheme. Work commenced on the N60 Castlerea Pavement Overlay (Phase 2) in November 2020 and is scheduled for completion in 2021.

Roads Works Programme – Non-National Roads

Over 400 separate projects on regional and local roads were completed in all engineering areas under the 3 Municipal District Road Works Schemes 2020 with funding from the DTTAS and the Council's own resources.

Community Involvement Schemes (CIS)

An allocation of €358,650 under *CIS* was provided from the DTTAS over the 2-year period 2019/2020. The grant assistance must be matched by a minimum 15% from the community for eligible works including general maintenance, drainage works, pavement works and footpaths on public roads.

Local Improvement Scheme (LIS)

The Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) operates the *LIS* for the improvement of local non-public roads. The scheme of priorities for 27 roads was approved by DRCD in 2020 with grant funding of \in 349,691. The local contribution is an integral part of the scheme. DRCD proposed a contribution of 10% for eligible roads with up to and including 5 residents and 15% for those with 6 or more residents. At the September meeting of the Roads, Transportation and Emergency Strategic Policy Committee, it was agreed to reopen the scheme. In December 2020, the Council advertised for expressions of interest, subject to funding becoming available from DRCD in 2021.

Footpath Repairs Programme

As part of the Risk Mitigation Measures, funding was received from Irish Public Bodies. Defects and hazards are being continually recorded and defective footpaths throughout the county are being repaired on an ongoing basis. The Roads Department is coordinating with utility providers identifying defective chambers etc.

In 2020, Roscommon County Council continued to engage paving contractors to replace defective footpath sections and install tactile paving where required. Works were limited in 2020 due to Covid-19 restrictions. However essential works were carried out in Ballaghaderreen and Roscommon town.

CFRAM (Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme)

The objective of the *CFRAM Programme* is the identification and design of flood relief schemes to alleviate the risk of flooding. Under the programme, Athlone, Roscommon, Athleague, Castlerea, Boyle and Cortober were assessed for flood risk. Works are proposed at all the towns with the exception of Castlerea.

On the County Westmeath side of Athlone, works are under construction and the appointment of consultants is being considered for flood defence works at Bogganfin, Athlone on the County Roscommon side.

Leitrim County Council is the lead authority for works proposed in Carrick-on-Shannon and Cortober and consultants have been appointed to progress the design of flood defence works. The constraints study was completed in 2020 and ground investigation is being advanced.

Roscommon, Boyle and Athleague were not included in the first traunch of drainage schemes being progressed by the Office of Public Works.

Burial Grounds

Cemetery Capital Works

Fairymount Cemetery was completed in early 2020 and work has commenced on a design for an extension to Kilbegly Cemetery. A Part 8 planning process is required to confirm the development.

Cemetery Improvement and Maintenance Scheme

€35,000 was allocated to the 2020 *Cemetery Improvement and Maintenance Scheme*. Grants were awarded to 93 voluntary groups under the scheme.

Abnormal Load Permits

Operators transporting a vehicle or load that falls outside of the limits allowed by the Road Traffic (Construction Equipment and Use of Vehicles) Regulations 2003 must obtain a permit for its movement. Local authorities operate a permit system for abnormal loads where conditions regarding weight, height and dimensions apply on all or part of journeys not on routes covered by the Garda Síochána scheme. 93 Abnormal Load Permits were issued in 2020.

Road Opening Licences

Every excavation made in a public road or footpath requires a Road Opening Licence. All applications for licences to open the public road are lodged through the central portal with the Road Management Office (www.rmo.ie). The Roads Department processes the licenses for County Roscommon from this portal and attaches conditions and fees to the licence. The total number of new licence applications submitted to Roscommon County Council in 2020 was 375.

Road Safety Programme

Low Cost Safety Improvement Works

In 2020, 14 Safety Improvement Schemes were completed on regional and local roads throughout the county from a specific DTTAS grant of \in 321,906 for low cost safety measures. The Council also receive additional funding for specific schemes on national routes.

Road Safety Office

AXA Roadsafe Roadshow

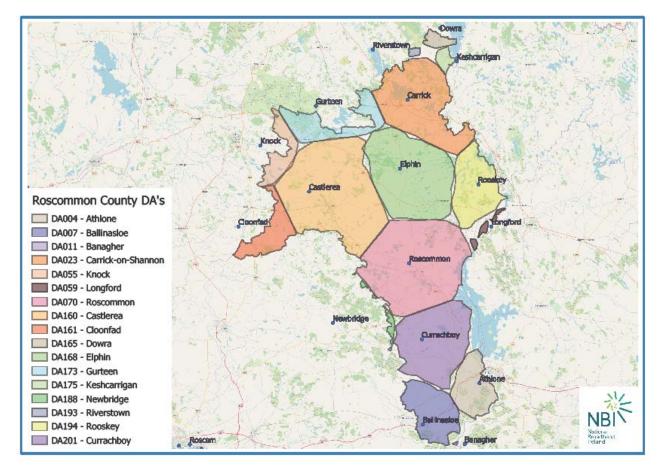
The AXA Roadsafe Roadshow in partnership with Roscommon County Council, An Garda Síochána and Local Emergency Services delivered a hardhitting road safety message to approximately 300 students at the Roscommon Arts Centre on 26th February 2020. The show depicted what happens with driver inexperience and overconfidence with the aim to educate and highlight the various safety skills young people need before they get behind the wheel of a car.

Broadband Office

National Broadband Plan

On 19th November 2019, the Government signed the contract with National Broadband Ireland (NBI). NBI will deliver the contract by breaking down the country into Deployment Areas, (DAs). NBI began initial surveys in County Roscommon in April 2020 and has made the following progress to December 2020:

- > Ballinasloe DA is currently being built with a completion timeline of Quarter 3, 2021;
- Roscommon DA has been surveyed and designed. It will begin the build in Quarter 1, 2021;
- Athlone DA has been surveyed and designed. It is planned to begin the build in Quarter 2, 2021;
- Castlerea DA is due to begin survey in Quarter 2, 2021 with build timeline to be confirmed;
- Longford DA- survey completed, with design for sign off;
- Carrick-On-Shannon DA survey completed, with design for sign off.



National Broadband Plan Deployment Map

County	Total Premises	NBP Intervention Premises (Amber)		Commercial Operator Premises (Blue)	%
Roscommon	39,345	19,126	49%	20,219	51%

Table 3 High Speed Broadband Rollout

High speed broadband will be delivered to every premises in Ireland through a combination of commercial and state investment. Table 3 provides an overview of the total number of premises per county that are in the commercial area (BLUE) and the State's Intervention Area (AMBER).

OpenEir Rollout

OpenEir has completed its 300k rollout in County Roscommon, having passed 5,746 premises. This includes 434 additional premises. OpenEir is rolling out a fixed network investment programme in the larger towns in County Roscommon. Boyle, Cortober, Castlerea are complete. Roscommon is 60%, complete with completion due in June 2021. All homes covered will be able to obtain GB (Gigabit) Broadband.

Broadband Connection Points (BCPs)

BCPs are primarily community centres and schools in the amber area, where high speed broadband will be made available to the public within the first year of the rollout of the *National Broadband Plan*.

Roscommon's BCPs are located at Tawnytaskin, Gortaganny, Cam, Dangan, Drumboylan, Creeve, Kiltoom and Tulsk DigiHub. A number of schools will also benefit from high speed broadband.

7 out of 8 sites are set up with required infrastructure and are connected to high speed broadband. The sites have internal and external WiFi so the public can access high speed broadband in the car park. Some sites have been used by students and remote workers.

Funded under two Accelerated Town and Village Renewal Schemes, total value \in 49,284, the BCPs now have office desks, chairs, interactive whiteboards, printer, social distancing desk screens and signage. The launch will take place in early 2021.

Tulsk DigiHub: Funding was received under the Rural and Regional Development Fund as part of a joint scheme led by the Western Development Commission, working to create *Digiwest* – a Western Region Network of Rural Digital Working Hubs. Tulsk DigiHub is now complete with equipment and furniture installed for up to 20 customers. High



Members of Aughrim Kilmore Development Association at Dangan Community Centre.



Interactive digital screen available for presentations, training and conferences.

speed broadband is now connected and has been used by remote workers. An online booking system and launch is due in early 2021.

WIFI4EU: Roscommon was successful in receiving approval for 4 vouchers of €15,000 under the *WiFi4EU* initiative, with matched funding by the Department of Rural and Community Development. The vouchers will be used to install WiFi equipment in various public spaces throughout the county. The contract has been tendered and installation will take place in 2021.

Digital Strategy

A *Digital Strategy* will be completed in 2021 taking into account the requirements for remote working and additional digital services highlighted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Health and Safety

Roscommon County Council continues to implement the provisions of the local authorities *Safety Management Systems*. This implementation will be carried out by the ongoing review of current systems, implementation of the rigorous health and safety inspection programme and the completion of the work programme. Communication and consultation with employees will be carried out and health and safety training of employees will be facilitated as required. Employees will be supported to implement safe systems of work. Liaison with the Health and Safety Authority (HSA), Irish Water and other stakeholders will continue as appropriate.

The Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act, 2005 requires employers, their representative management and employees alike to consider health and safety as a joint responsibility.

The 2020 work programme included:

- Continual monitoring of the Safety Management System by the Health and Safety Officers through ongoing inspections of works completed by direct labour and client inspections;
- Awarded ISO45001 (formal Safety Management System) Certification for the Fire Service;
- Development and revision of the Council's existing safety management system documentation including health and safety policies;

- Development and delivery of an Occupational Health, Welfare and Staff Wellbeing Programme;
- Attendance at regional and national health and safety meetings;
- Continual co-operation with external parties such as the Health and Safety Authority and Irish Water;
- Monitoring of existing contractor control procedures;
- Continuous improvement in the Council's communication and cooperation process e.g. Safety Management Committee meetings, Municipal District Coordinator meetings and liaison with safety representatives;
- Continued development and delivery of Manual Handling and Health and Safety Induction Training Programmes;
- Development and implementation of Covid-19 procedures and policies;
- Continued compliance with the statutory duty for third party inspections of Council owned lifting and work equipment.

Emergency Services

Fire Service, Emergency Management and Civil Defence

Fire Services and Emergency Management

Roscommon County Council manages the delivery of a 24-hour emergency fire and rescue service for County Roscommon. It also provides a range of fire safety, enforcement and emergency management services.

Fire Service Operations

Fire service operations are delivered through an NSAI accredited OHSAS 18001:2007 Occupational Health and Safety Management System.

Fire brigade units employing a total of 45 part-time retained fire-fighters from Roscommon Town, Ballaghaderreen, Boyle, Elphin and Strokestown were alerted 289 times during 2020. Brigades from Ballinasloe and Athlone were also alerted 70 times to incidents in South Roscommon. In addition, fire brigade units from Mountbellew, Claremorris, Ballyhaunis, Charlestown, Drumshanbo, Carrickon-Shannon and Lanesboro attended emergency incidents in County Roscommon during 2020.

Community and Enterprise Fire Safety Activity

Fire safety inspections were carried out on a range of premises including licensed premises, residential care facilities, pre-schools, community centres, petrol stations and other commercial enterprises.

Planning referrals for commercial developments, registration of fire arms and explosives stores and Dangerous Substances Regulations licenses (petrol stores) were also dealt with.

Commercial & Community Licensing of Places of Entertainment

Notice of applications for licences or certificates of registration is provided for under fire services and licensing legislation. In total Roscommon Fire Service received 33 licensing applications in 2020. It is required to provide fire safety reports following inspection for Circuit and District Court licence applications for public entertainment premises.

Emergency Management

The Fire and Civil Protection Unit facilitates the preparation of the *Major Emergency Plan* and associated response by Roscommon County Council in cooperation with other response agencies (Gardaí and HSE Ambulance Service).

FIRE

IRE

Roscommon County Council led the West Regional Major Emergency Management (MEM) Group's coordination of the response by the HSE, Gardaí and Roscommon, Mayo and Galway City & County Councils to the Covid-19 crisis.

Civil Defence

The Roscommon *Civil Defence Development Plan* 2017 – 2019 sets out Roscommon County Council's strategic objectives for Civil Defence. This plan identifies the various programmes and activities of the Civil Defence Services Unit and how its volunteers will continue to support communities and organisations in County Roscommon.

The availability of highly trained Civil Defence volunteers to provide medical support enabled local sports and community events to go ahead during 2020. They also continued to provide weekly waterways patrols and assistance to an increasing number of boating incidents on the River Shannon.

Civil Defence volunteers were also actively involved in supporting the Covid-19 response through transporting test samples for the HSE, assisting Irish Blood Transfusion clinics and facilitating patient transfers for respite and treatment appointments.

Building Control

Roscommon County Council is the statutory Building Control Authority for County Roscommon and administers the Building Control System.

The Building Control Regulations 1997 – 2015 (BCRs) provide for matters of procedure, administration and control for the purposes of securing the implementation of and compliance with the requirements of the Building Control Regulations. These Regulations apply generally to new buildings and to existing buildings which undergo an extension, a material alteration or a material change of use.

Commencement Notices

In 2020, the Building Control Unit processed 169 Commencement Notices for 216 new buildings. These Commencement Notices are submitted in 4 different types (depending on the works) which are:

- > Opt Out Commencement Notices;
- > Commencement Notice with Documentation;
- > Short Form Commencement Notices;
- > 7-Day Notices.

The level of one-off dwelling houses 'opting out' of the opportunity to register a Certificate of Compliance on Completion with the Building Control Authority remains high at 91 (54% of all Commencement Notices).

Fire Safety Certificates

Roscommon County Council, as a Building Control Authority, processed 38 new applications for Fire Safety Certificates under building control legislation during 2020, down 25% on 2019 figures.



Building Control Compliance Site Inspection.

Disability Access Certificate

A Disability Access Certificate is a certificate granted by the Building Control Authority which certifies compliance of the design of certain works with the requirements of Part M of the Building Control Regulations e.g. new buildings (except dwelling houses) and some extensions to and some material alterations to buildings (except dwelling houses).

A Disability Access Certificate is required in respect of certain prescribed works to buildings other than dwellings (but including apartment buildings) in so far as the requirements of Part M apply and which commence or take place on or after 1st January 2010. Where a Fire Safety Certificate is required for any works, a Disability Access Certificate is also required.

Roscommon County Council received 24 applications for Disability Access Certificates during 2020, down 25% on 2019.

Other Enforcement Activity

In addition to Roscommon County Council's statutory functions under Building Control legislation, it is also the designated enforcement authority for the purposes of ensuring compliance with other legislation as follows:

- Marketing of construction products in line with European Union (Construction Product) Regulations 2013 (SI No. 225 of 2013); Appendix I;
- Building Energy Rating Certificates for buildings in line with the European Union (Energy Performance of Buildings) Regulations 2012 (SI No. 243 of 2012); Appendix II;
- Registration of multi-storey buildings for the purposes of the Local Government (Multi-storey Buildings) Act 1988.

Digitisation

Roscommon County Council's Building Control Unit successfully transitioned from a traditional paper based application service for Commencement Notices, Fire Safety Certificates and Building Control inspections to a 100% digital paperless platform during 2020.

Human Resources

The Human Resources (HR) Department promotes and supports a culture of quality customer service through workforce planning, recruitment and selection of staff, training and development, performance management, leadership development, staff welfare, development and delivery of agreed HR policies and procedures, maintenance of a stable industrial relations environment and the creation of an equitable, consultative and supportive working environment.

Workforce Planning

Roscommon County Council recognises that its employees are the most valuable resource within the organisation. They play a crucial role in the achievement of its corporate and business objectives and are a key resource fundamental to the delivery of change. The HR Department deploys, develops and manages its workforce to meet the challenges of an evolving working environment and to provide an efficient and effective service to the public. In 2020, the HR Department had to face the challenge of continuing to provide its services during the Covid-19 pandemic and had to find new ways to ensure that staff and customer needs were being met. The recruitment process was moved entirely online during the year and all interviews were conducted remotely which meant that there were no delays in the filling of essential posts. The total number of staff employed by Roscommon County Council at 31st December 2020 was 465.

Performance Management

The cornerstone of the Council's Integrated Performance Management System is its Corporate Plan. The Corporate Plan is the foundation for generating Annual Service Delivery Plans, Business Unit Plans and Individual Performance Plans. These plans establish goals, targets and timeframes to ensure that every employee in the organisation contributes effectively to delivering a quality service to the public.

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Staff Training and Development

Roscommon County Council is committed to the training and development of staff through a diverse range of training and development opportunities, leadership development programmes and further education opportunities to ensure that employees have the knowledge, expertise, competencies and skills to achieve the Council's goals and objectives. A comprehensive and equitable training and development programme was delivered by the HR Department during 2020.

The Public Service Stability Agreement 2018-2020

The Public Service Stability Agreement (PSSA) is an extension of the Lansdowne Road Agreement and governs pay and related matters (including the former 'pension levy'). It came into effect on 1st January 2018 and ran until 31st December 2020.

Public service reform is a key priority for Government. Ongoing change is critical to ensuring that the public service can adapt to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing environment. This next phase of public service reform will focus on ensuring strategy and policy formulation is robust, forwardlooking and joined-up. Recognising that the success of our public service begins with our people, it will look to develop our people within strengthened organisations. There will be a strong emphasis on improving outcomes for citizens, improving engagement with customers and working to improve accessibility of services and the quality of services. To support the delivery of more efficient and cost-effective services, new approaches to services and also to the better use of our data will be embedded. Evaluation skills in policy making will be strengthened and value for money in spending decisions supported.



Industrial Relations

The HR Department works with unions and staff representatives to achieve and maintain positive employee relationships and is committed to the promotion of a good industrial relations environment.

Attendance Management

The Council's Attendance Management Policy helps to provide for a working environment which maximises and motivates employee attendance. This policy aims to reduce absenteeism and results in improved service delivery and reduced costs. The percentage of working days lost to sickness absenteeism in 2020 was 3.33%.

Labour Activation Measures

The Council has facilitated two graduates under the *Graduate Recruitment Programme* in the areas of Economic, Enterprise & Business Development and Communications & Marketing in the Local Enterprise Office. The aim is to ensure that at the end of the programme each of the graduates will have enhanced their skills and competencies in their chosen area of expertise.



TOURISM, COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE, SPECIAL PROJECTS & REGENERATION, ARTS AND LIBRARIES DIRECTORATE

Tourism

The COVID-19 pandemic had an immense effect on the tourism sector in 2020. However, Roscommon Tourism continued to work with the tourism trade to showcase the county as a tourist location.



Marketing and Media

Roscommon Tourism attended the *Holiday World Show* trade exposition to showcase County Roscommon. Editorial advertisements were produced in *Go West Magazine, Roscommon Herald* and in the *Ireland of the Welcomes* US magazine. Roscommon Tourism continued to maintain its website and associated social media platforms throughout 2020.

Roscommon Walks Book

The second edition of the *Roscommon Walks & Cycleways* book was published together with a video highlighting 5 trails within the county.





Launch of Roscommon Walks & Cycleways Book Sinead O'Brien (Healthy Ireland); Cllr. Laurence Fallon (Cathaoirleach, Roscommon Co. Council); Claudette Collins (Tourism, Roscommon Co. Council); Ciara Keogh; Alan Collins and Rían Dowd.

Tourism Networking

2 Tourism Trade County Networking Events were held in early 2020 where stakeholders received an update on tourism development and services available from the Local Enterprise Office.

Festival and Events Scheme

A total of 50 applications were approved. However unfortunately, due to Covid-19 restrictions, only a small number of events proceeded.

Ireland's Hidden Heartlands

Virtual meetings for the 3 zones of Ireland's Hidden Heartlands (Upper, Middle and Lower Shannon) were held in 2020. In response to the crisis imposed by Covid-19 on the tourism industry, Ireland's Hidden Heartlands established *Destination Recovery Taskforce* for each of the 3 zones. The *County Boundary Signage Project* for Ireland's Hidden Heartlands will be completed in 2021.

Inter-agency Development

Roscommon County Council continued its commitment in 2020 to the development of interagency projects including Lough Ree UNESCO, Ireland's Hidden Heartlands and Coillte.

Douglas Hyde Interpretative Centre and King House

These amenities were opened for a limited period only in 2020 due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Funding

Roscommon County Council was awarded grant funding for the following projects in 2020:

Scheme	Location	Amount
Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (Measure 1)	4 projects	€59,846.00
Carbon Tax Fund – Greenway Feasibility	Athlone to Tarmonbarry	€100,000.00
Destination Towns – Fáilte Ireland	Boyle	€470,715.00

Community and Enterprise

The Community and Enterprise Department provides support for the County Roscommon Local Community Development Committee (LCDC). It also leads Roscommon County Council's involvement with and encouragement of community initiatives, the arts and heritage throughout the county.

Joint Policing Committee (JPC)

2019 was an election year for local authorities, which meant that all committees set up under local authorities were reconstituted. This included the JPC, which saw a change in local authority members for the lifetime of the Council and also the appointment of a new Chairperson. Roscommon JPC has 25 members consisting of 13 Council members, 2 Oireachtas members, 6 community sector members, 2 Garda representatives and 2 local authority officials. The impact of Covid-19 slowed the process for the establishment of the new JPC which resulted in no meetings taking place in 2020.

Public Participation Network (PPN)

Roscommon PPN is the main link through which the local authority connects with the community, social inclusion and environmental sectors without prejudice to other consultation processes. The aim of its structures and processes is to facilitate and enable the public and organisations to articulate a diverse range of views and interests within the local government system. The PPN has representation on the LCDC, JPC Committee and Strategic Policy Committees.

Community and Amenity Grants Scheme 2020

A total of €60,000 was allocated to the *Community* and *Amenity Grants Scheme* in 2020. Grants ranging from €500 to €1,500 were awarded to 89 projects.

In addition to the above funding, each successful recipient of an amenity grant in 2020 received extra funding as Council members reallocated approximately €27,000 from their 2020 training budget to groups in County Roscommon in recognition of their hard work and commitment to their communities during the Covid-19 pandemic.



Kilteevan Tidy Towns who were Runner-Up in their category "Creative Place" at the IPB Pride of Place 2020 Virtual Awards Ceremony in association with Co-operation Ireland.



Roscommon Gaels GAA All Stars who were Runner-Up in the "Community Youth Led Initiative" at the IPB Pride of Place 2020 Virtual Awards Ceremony in association with Co-operation Ireland.

Pride of Place Competition 2020

Roscommon County Council nominated 3 community groups to the 2020 *All-Island Pride of Place Competition*. The groups that represented County Roscommon were Ballaghaderreen Men's Shed, Kilteevan Tidy Towns and Roscommon Gaels GAA All Stars. The results of the competition were announced at a virtual awards ceremony held on 21st November 2020. Kilteevan Tidy Towns and Roscommon Gaels GAA All Stars were awarded a runner-up prize in their respective categories.

Community Enhancement Programme

The Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and administered by LCDCs in each local authority area. In June 2020, Roscommon County Council was allocated €55,997 and 96 applications were received. Roscommon LCDC awarded funds to 27 community groups.

Community Enhancement Programme 2020 Fund for Community Centres and Community Buildings

Under the July 2020 stimulus package, Joe O'Brien TD, Minister of State for Community Development and Charities at the Department of Rural and Community Development, announced details of €5 million funding for community centres and facilities. This funding was administered under the *CEP*. It was targeted at measures that seek to stimulate local economies while enhancing facilities in disadvantaged areas. Roscommon County Council was allocated €113,318 and 39 applications were received. Roscommon LCDC awarded funds to 22 community groups.

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 came together to form the *Community Response Forum* to lead the coordination of Covid-19 community supports and resilience. The forum ensures delivery of targeted social care supports and assistance to vulnerable groups and individuals in County Roscommon. The forum met on 19 occasions in 2020 and will continue to meet regularly to discuss and resolve issues.

Community Support Response Helpline

Roscommon County Council in partnership with An Garda Síochána and Roscommon Leader Company set up a 24/7 Freephone community support response helpline to assist in the delivery of targeted social care supports and assistance to vulnerable groups and individuals during the Covid-19 pandemic. The helpline successfully dealt with 4,744 calls in 2020.

Covid-19 Emergency Fund

The Covid-19 Emergency Fund was allocated by the Department of Rural and Community Development through each local authority to fund community and voluntary organisations who are responding to the Covid-19 crisis. A total of \in 106,692 was allocated to Roscommon County Council.

County Roscommon Town Teams

The Town Teams initiative was set up by Roscommon County Council, as part of the new enhanced role for local authorities in the areas of community, economic and enterprise development, as envisaged under the Local Government Sectoral Strategy to Support Economic Recovery and Jobs (2012), the Action Programme for Effective Local Government (Putting People First) (2012) and the Local Government Act 2014. This has led to an expanded role for local authorities beyond their traditional remit to focus on areas such as community and economic development and promotion.

Town Teams comprise representatives of different sections of the community and work with retailers, local businesses, the community/voluntary sector, key agencies and service providers to develop new innovative initiatives to reinvigorate their towns.

The *Town Teams* programme is financially supported by Roscommon County Council on an annual basis and teams are free to seek and source other funding. All funds go towards enhancing growth and prosperity within each team's area.

Leader Programme 2014-2020

The LEADER Programme 2014-2020 is financed by the Irish Government under the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 and by the EU under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe Investing in Rural Areas. LEADER supports private enterprises and community groups who improve quality of life and economic activity in rural areas. The Transitional LEADER Programme will come into effect on 1st April 2021. It will bridge the gap between the wind-up of the current LEADER Programme 2014-2020 and the start of the next EU programme.

CLÁR 2020

A total of €309,144 was allocated to 8 schools and communities under the *CLÁR 2020* programme. Due to the impact of COVID-19 on communities, support was given for the enhancement of existing and/or the development of new accessible community recreation areas where people can socialise outdoors in safe community spaces. The following table provides details of the funding that was awarded under the *CLÁR 2020* programme.

Name of Group	Funding
Ballintubber Development Association Ltd.	€37,690.00
Ballymurray National School	€50,000.00
Clooneyquinn National School Killina Catholic Church	€45,000.00
Rahara National School	€13,500.00
Brusna Voluntary Community Development	€34,218.00
Elphin GAA Club	€50,000.00
Kiltrustan Sports and Social Club	€44,097.00
Tumna Shannon Development Company	€34,639.00

Roscommon Social Inclusion Unit (SI Unit)

The SI Unit continues to embed social inclusion in the corporate body of the Council and continues to collaborate with other external organisations and agencies through structures such as the Roscommon LCDC.

Recreation

Due to Covid-19, the SI Unit adapted the roll out of its social inclusion events in 2020 to incorporate an online approach. Online events included *National Virtual Play Day* with over 600 children and adults attending. The annual *National Bike Week* was also adapted and rolled out in conjunction with Roscommon Sports Partnership, which strict adherence to Government guidelines in respect of social distancing.

Age Friendly

The SI Unit is responsible for administering the implementation of the *Age Friendly Strategy*, including the Age Friendly Working Group and County Alliance. The SI Unit continues to support members of the Roscommon Older Peoples Council (OPC). During 2020 a number of Age Friendly initiatives were progressed including the successful soft launch of the *Boyle Age Friendly Town Strategy* in August, with aims to improve the quality of life of older adults living in Boyle by engaging them in shaping and enhancing their own community.

During the year an Age Friendly Housing Technical Specialist was appointed to provide advice to Council staff; Elected Members; private sector developers who have an interest in providing agefriendly housing; Approved Housing Bodies who have an interest in providing housing for older people and members of the public who may need advice on right sizing or adapting their own dwellings in accordance with age friendly universal design principles.

Comhairle na nÓg

Roscommon Comhairle na nÓg is also facilitated by the SI Unit. Comhairle na nÓg hosted its first online AGM in 2020. In March, the Comhairle Committee successfully e-launched a drugs education booklet entitled *'Bury Drugs Not Your Dreams'* which caught the attention of the Irish Second-level Students Union (ISSU). This resulted in the ISSU's Education and Welfare Officers inviting Roscommon Comhairle na nÓg to collaborate with them on a new drug education resource for national distribution to every second-level school in Ireland.

Science Week

Science Week 2020 was rolled out by the SI Unit in conjunction with the Science Federation of Ireland. This consisted of a number of online science experiments being made available to all national schools throughout the county.

Sports Development Officers

Roscommon County Council, through the SI Unit, continued to contribute towards the work of the FAI Development Officer, GAA Development Officer, the LGFA Development Officer and a Rugby Development Officer. Part of the core objectives of the work of Sports Development Officers is to promote social inclusion through sport by working with schools, clubs, social inclusion groups and community groups and developing programs with Roscommon Sports Partnership in the area of disability. During 2020, the Sports Development Officers adapted their work programme in order to work with groups in an online setting.

Healthy Roscommon

A Healthy Roscommon Officer has been appointed by Roscommon County Council. 17 health and wellbeing programmes were funded as key actions under the *Healthy Ireland Fund*. They are being delivered in collaboration with 12 partner organisations. These programmes will continue until the end of the grant period (December 2021).

The roll out of actions under the *Healthy Roscommon Plan* continued in 2020. In October, a total of €30,000 was allocated to 8 different community and voluntary groups as part of the *Healthy Ireland Community Mental Health Fund Small Grants Scheme*.

Heritage

The Heritage Office, in conjunction with the County Roscommon Heritage Forum, works to implement the *County Roscommon Heritage Plan 2019-2021* which sets out the strategic heritage goals for the county.

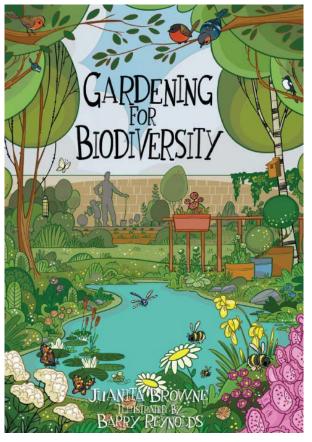
Activities undertaken by the Heritage Office included the following:

- > Táin March Festival: 6 schools took part in a virtual project which was funded by Creative Ireland.
- 'The Guided Tour' Series: This series featured Roscommon Castle, Roscommon Abbey and Elphin Windmill. It can be viewed on Roscommon County Council's Youtube page. The series was funded by Creative Ireland.
- > Farming Rathcroghan European Innovation Partnership (EIP): Support for this project which is funded by the Heritage Council continued in 2020.
- Conservation Specifications for Masonry Ruins: Rahara Medieval Church and the Owen O'Conor Mausoleum, Ballintubber was supported through funding from the Heritage Council.
- > #MysteriousMonuments, #knowyour5k, #Biodiversityinyour5k and Autumn Heritage Bucket List initiatives were carried out in support of the #InThisTogether and #KeepWell campaigns.



A selection of work from Threen National School -Táin March Festival.





'Gardening for Biodiversity' book.



- > National Heritage Week: 4 videos were commissioned. These can be viewed on Roscommon County Council's Youtube page.
- > National Biodiversity Action Plan Projects funded by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. These included:
 - > **Gardening for Biodiversity Book:** Free copies were posted to interested persons throughout the county.
 - One Change for Biodiversity Pollinator and Biodiversity advice for community groups: 6 groups participated in this initiative.
 - > Pollinator Infomercials: In support of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan, 9 radio 'infomercials' on how people can take action to help pollinators. This formed part of #inthistogether campaign.
 - #natureisgoodforyou: 5 radio 'infomercials', in support of the #keepwell campaign.
 - > County Roscommon Swift Survey: Swift populations exist in Roscommon town with 44 active nests, followed by Boyle and Ballaghaderreen with 14 and 12 nests respectively. The key to ensuring a future for swifts in the county is to protect existing colonies which act as a source population.



County Roscommon Swift Survey - request for information on swift sightings.



Re-thatching of Carnadoe Cottage which was supported by BHIS funding.

- Funding schemes administered on behalf of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht included:
 - Community Monuments Fund 2020: €65,356 was allocated to 5 projects which generated 171 days of skilled employment in the county;
 - > Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS): €60,000 was allocated to 10 projects. The scheme generated a total project spend of €180,064.18 and generated 393 days of skilled employment in the county;
 - > Historic Structures Fund (HSF): €40,000 was allocated to 2 projects. The scheme generated a total project spend of €50,396 and generated 152 days of skilled employment in the county;
 - > July Stimulus Funding HSF/BHIS Additional Funding: €17,929 was allocated to 2 projects. The scheme generated a total project spend of €35,858 and generated 117 days of skilled employment in the county.



Kilteevan Graveyard Committee has been working to conserve the masonry ruins of Kilteevan Church and Mausoleum. Works were funded under the Community Monuments Fund in 2020.

Special Projects and Regeneration

The role of Roscommon County Council's Special Projects and Regeneration Unit is to develop, co-ordinate and implement projects to facilitate economic development throughout the county. This unit was actively involved in several initiatives and projects during 2020. These included:

Spire Quarter Roscommon Historic Towns Initiative (HTI)

- Roscommon town was 1 of 6 towns that was successful nationally in the HTI scheme which focuses on conservation-led regeneration.
- > 15 properties benefitted under the scheme, transforming the appearance and vitality of Church Street, Roscommon.
- Works included preventative maintenance measures and enhancements to front facing facades.
- > Overall cost was in the region of €200,000.



Castle Lighting, Loughnaneane Park, Roscommon.

Projects in Our Towns

Roscommon

- Loughnaneane Park enhancements which included new surfaces to paths, resolution of drainage issues, new amphitheatre and a Sculpture Trail were completed under the Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme. Coach parking and lighting of the castle were completed with Roscommon Town Team under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme.
- > Detailed design for the Square and Main Street, Roscommon was completed and the construction contract was signed.
- An application under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) was submitted to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in May 2020. This focussed on measures to support a strong town centre and the creation of a cycle route around the town perimeter.
- > €40,000 funding was obtained under the Accelerated Measure of the 2020 Town and Village Renewal Scheme for a number of measures including art installation, marketing and signage.



Amphitheatre, Loughnaneane Park, Roscommon.



Ballaghaderreen

- Funding was approved under Category 2 of the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) for a detailed design of the town centre.
- A number of projects were completed under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme including new landscaping, paving of the Shambles area, development of a Community and Economic Plan, new information boards and design options for the development of the Plots area.
- > €40,000 was obtained under the Accelerated Measure of the 2020 Town and Village Renewal Scheme for a number of measures including festival infrastructure, a new website and marketing of the town.

Boyle

- Initial demolition works on the old Royal Hotel, Boyle were carried out and a detailed design was completed for refurbishment.
- > New footpaths were installed in Main Street under the *Town and Village Renewal Scheme*.
- > Work commenced on *Destination Towns* design and procurement.
- Boyle to Lough Key Cycle Corridor was formally opened and is being widely used.
- > An application was submitted under the RRDF for enhancements to the *Cultural Quarter*.
- > €25,000 was obtained under the Accelerated Measure of the 2020 Town and Village Renewal Scheme for a number of measures including festival infrastructure, new signage and paint works.

Signing of Contracts, Royal Hotel, Boyle.

Castlerea

- > A street façade enhancement project was carried out.
- > New exercise equipment was installed in the Demense and work is ongoing with the Castlerea Town Team in relation to new information boards and signage.
- > Detailed design was completed on the Food Hub.

Monksland, Athlone

- > Detailed design of the Monksland *Life Sciences* and *Soft Landing Space* commenced.
- > €40,000 was obtained under the Accelerated Measure of the 2020 Town and Village Renewal Scheme for a number of measures including festival infrastructure, new signage and storage.

Strokestown

- A street façade enhancement project was carried out following the successful Christmas Market investment under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme.
- > A public realm plan was prepared for the town to support an application to the RRDF.
- > €25,000 was obtained under the Accelerated Measure of the 2020 Town and Village Renewal Scheme for a number of measures including festival infrastructure, new signage and storage.

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Work with Our Villages

Villages successful under the 2018 and 2019 Town and Village Renewal Schemes and the Accelerated Measure of the 2020 Town and Village Renewal Scheme saw much activity taking place. These villages included Athleague, Creagh, Ballyforan, Dysart, Kilteevan, Tulsk, Brideswell, Keadue, Rooskey and Gortaganny as well as other smaller communities who benefitted from the Broadband Connection Points scheme.

Examples of work included installation of new link footpaths in Creagh, Brideswell, Tulsk and Rooskey as well as landscaping and public realm enhancements.

Community and economic plans were started in Elphin and Knockcroghery/Lecarrow.

10 applications for villages were submitted under the 2020 *Town and Village Renewal Scheme* with 8 being successful. These included Dysart, Knockcroghery, Lecarrow, Rooskey, Croghan, Termonbarry and Four Roads.

Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)

Outdoor recreational facilities have never been more important. The Regeneration Unit was busy progressing the following projects during 2020:

- > Completion of the Boyle to Lough Key Cycle Corridor;
- > Completion of enhanced facilities in Loughnaneane Park, Roscommon;
- > Completion of the Monksland Way;
- > Completion of enhancements to Sliabh Bán;
- Initiating works in Rindoon Loop and Judy's Harbour.

Funding was also applied for additional facilities under the *ORIS* scheme 2020.



Johnny Haughey Sculpture, Town and Village Renewal, Athleague.



Nature Chair, Loughnaneane Park, Roscommon.



Cyclists enjoying Boyle to Lough Key Cycle Corridor.

Working with Our Global Rossie Family through Roscommon Bound

A very successful *Clobal Rossie Day* event was held online in July. This provided 3 hours of coverage of all that Roscommon has to offer with interviews from Rossies at home and abroad as well as music, sport and culture showcases.

Global Rossie Day resulted in very high engagement on social media as the event resonates with many who cannot travel home.

Roscommon Bound social media channels continue to grow on Linkedin, Twitter, Instagram and Facebook providing a forum for sharing positive stories and events of interest to Roscommon bound people at home and abroad.



Case Studies







lead more >

Featured Articles



Global Rossie Day – Postponed to 5th July Read more >



Minister Paschal Donohoe Launches Roscommon Bound Global Rossie Strategy What makes a true Rossie?

Funding under Project Ireland 2040

A summary of funding received by the Regeneration Unit in 2020 under *Project Ireland 2040* is provided in the following table:

Scheme	Location	Amount	
Town and Village Renewal Standard Scheme	Various	€800,000	
Town and Village Covid Accelerated Measure	Various	€428,885	
Destination Towns	Boyle	€470,715	
Historic Towns Initiative 2020	Roscommon Town	€165,000	
Rural Regeneration Development Fund (Cat. 2)	Ballaghaderreen	€434,010	
Outdoor Recreation infrastructure Scheme	Cloonlarge and Rinndoon	€400,000	

Roscommon County Council

Local Enterprise Office

The Local Enterprise Office (LEO) acts as a 'First Stop Shop' for anyone seeking information and support on starting or growing a business. The role of LEO Roscommon is to drive the development of local enterprise, putting local micro and small business at the heart of job creation.

LEO supports business start–ups and works to increase the job potential of new and existing micro and small businesses with information, advice, training, mentoring, seminars and selective financial support.



Winners of the County Enterprise Awards 2020 - Lidan Design.

2020 was a very busy year for LEO Roscommon, particularly in light of Covid-19 and Brexit. 178 businesses employing 888 people were supported as a direct result of grants approved for new and existing businesses employing additional staff in County Roscommon. Over 3,000 enquiries were dealt with in the LEO. 2020 saw an increase in participants in training courses, mentoring assignments and mentoring clinics. All of these supports were promoted to, made available for and tailored specifically towards the needs of small, micro and start-up businesses in Roscommon.

LEO engaged with 8 second level schools and 16 primary schools to sow the seed of entrepreneurship at a local, county and national level.

Dedicated programmes which included 'Social Media' and 'Lean for Micro' were designed and delivered to support target groups.

LEO Roscommon had a strong focus on getting businesses Brexit-ready in 2020 and provided Brexit mentoring, customs workshops and seminars. As part of its Brexit response the LEO increased its focus on helping businesses identify and compete in alternative export markets.

As Covid-19 restrictions affected many businesses there was a huge uptake in *Trading Online Vouchers*, which were grant aided at 90%. This scheme facilitated many businesses to continue





Winners of the Student Enterprise Awards County Final 2020 – Leah Hoey and Sol Trundle.

to trade online. Over 270 businesses availed of the scheme. The Government also provided funding for businesses to assist them in planning beyond Covid-19. The *Business Continuity Voucher* was introduced. 233 businesses were supported under this scheme.

The LEO continues to excel in customer care and aims to build on this by delivering high quality and varied services and supports to its ever expanding customer and client bases throughout County Roscommon. Engagement with Enterprise Ireland and the IDA continued throughout 2020 promoting Roscommon as a location for business and inward investment. Roscommon County Council is working towards renovating an Innovation Hub in Monksland, Athlone for micro and small businesses to set up and grow in the area. Industrial sites in Roscommon town are attracting investors into the region and continue to develop. Phase 2 of the planning of micro food units in Castlerea is underway.

Arts

Arts Office

In 2020, the Arts Office continued to support, encourage and nurture the arts with new and existing programmes, developing partnerships and working collaboratively with artists, agencies and communities.

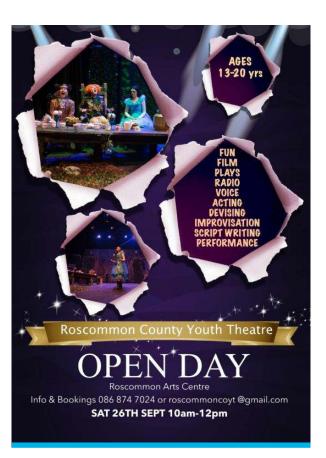
The **Artist in Schools Programme** continued in 2020. 13 artists worked with 30 classes in 18 schools across the county.

Roscommon County Youth Theatre and Music Generation Roscommon programmes were successfully moved online during the year following additional training for facilitators and leaders.

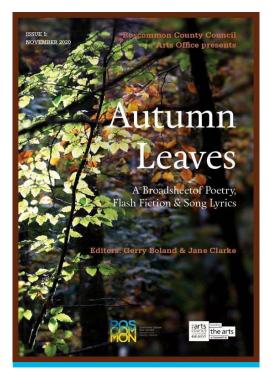


Music Generation Roscommon Saxophone Ensemble with tutor Cathal Roche - rehearsal at King House.

The very successful **Literary Development Programme** engaged with 160 writers. It included the inaugural *Autumn Leaves* Roscommon Broadsheet of poetry, flash fiction and song lyrics, which was circulated as a free insert in the Roscommon Herald in November.



Roscommon County Youth Theatre Open Day.



Autumn Leaves 2020.



Roscommon County Council's Arts Office awarded the *King House Piano Commission* to composer Ryan Molloy, the first in an annual series of music commissions. It is to be premiered during *Boyle Arts Festival 2021*.

A series of free live and online events took place for **Culture Night Roscommon**. This included a film commission in conjunction with the *Decade of Centenaries Programme*, projected onto the buildings of Roscommon Arts Centre, King House, the Douglas Hyde Centre and at the entrance to Strokestown Park House.

In order to support artists at all stages of their careers and in a wide range of contexts and art forms, the Arts Office awarded *artist bursaries*, organised and delivered training and networking events for artists and supported a diverse range of artist projects.

Film development continued in 2020. The SLR Film Project and WRAP (Western Region Audiovisual Producers) Fund supported Savage Productions and Hail Mary Pictures to film The Cellar during November and December 2020 at a number of locations in the county including Áras an Chontae, Roscommon; Ballyleague; Strokestown; Boyle and Clonalis House, Castlerea. The Cellar is due to be released in cinemas worldwide in 2021.

In 2020, for the **Creative Ireland** programme, the Culture Team organised over 30 events and projects including the *Creative Roscommon Open Call*; the *Cathaoirleach's Photography Awards*; *Conversations in Portrait*; *Creative Communities Projects and Residencies*; *Decade of Centenaries* and *Cruinniú na nÓg*, Ireland's national day of creative activity for children, young people and entire families.



A Poem on Hearing the Birds Sing Culture Night 2020.



Selection of Creative Ireland Roscommon Projects 2020.



Cathaoirleach Cllr. Paschal Fitzmaurice with Cathaoirleach's Photography Award Winners at Roscommon Arts Centre.

Arts Centre

Roscommon Arts Centre presented a blended programme of on-site and online events in 2020. Open for less than half the year, a virtual programme was developed, residencies moved off-site, new types of public engagements were explored and online platforms became the stage as audiences grew from local to global.



Live programme highlights included:

- > Roscommon Drama Festival;
- Visual Art: Exhibitions on-site by artists Margo McNulty, Marc Garry and Paul Hallahan;
- The Reel Thing: The re-launch of this traditional music performance featuring Roscommon born performers in summer/autumn 2020;
- > **Gallery X: Ed:** The visual art education programme with 3 second level schools in Roscommon.

Online programme highlights included:

- Visual Art Programme: 3 of the 6 planned exhibitions were presented both on-site and moved online via www.roscommonartscentre.ie;
- > Live Literary Network: A new online literary programme was developed that included a series of 6 interviews with writers. This programme attracted an audience of over 2,800;
- Lockdown Singalong: 56 days of live daily performances via Facebook Live by Cathy Jordan with a worldwide audience of over 10,000 people;

Artist Paul Hallahan's exhibition 'Running, Returning, Running' which moved from an on-site show at Roscommon Arts Centre to an online platform.

- Studios, Workshops & Kitchen Tables: a 4-part interview series with visual artists and practitioners engaging with the Arts Centre in 2020;
- > **Children's Programme:** A number of projects aimed at families and schools that included a children's self-portrait exhibition of over 75 pictures in the windows of the Arts Centre as part of *Cruinniú na nÓg* and a series of online performances and engagements throughout the year;
- Home for Christmas: Fregoli Theatre Company's response to a public engagement project reflecting people's memories of Christmas;
- > Twelve Poems for Christmas: A poetry project, curated by Roscommon poet Jane Clarke, and featuring 12 Irish poets reading poems over the 12 days of Christmas.

Roscommon Arts Centre also provided a range of supports to artists in 2020 through a series of appointments, commissions, residencies, awards and supports in kind as follows:

- > Visual Art Curator: The appointment of a new Curator in Residence for 2020/2021;
- Commissions: 5 visual artists were invited to create new work for the gallery space for 2021;
- > Fregoli Theatre Company: Re-imagined their residency off-site, creating new theatre shorts and a work in progress presentation of a new play 'Cross Street' by Jarleth Tivnan;
- Hatch: Support for 2 artists/collectives to develop new work for young audiences continued behind closed doors and off-site;
- Creative Communities: 2 new artist residencies were launched for Roscommon artists in dance and music with the support of Creative Ireland Roscommon;
- **R&D Funding:** Awarded to 3 Roscommon born professional practitioners for research and development of new projects;



Livin' Dred Theatre Company's 'A Christmas Carol' which was streamed into 30 primary schools by Roscommon Arts Centre as part of the 2020 programme of events.

- Studio 2020: This new initiative provided 3 Roscommon artists with access to free studio spaces and the centre's resources during the Covid-19 pandemic;
- > Words Ireland Mentorship Award: The Arts Centre supported an 8-month literary mentorship with Words Ireland for a Roscommon based writer.



Fregoli Theatre Company, Roscommon Arts Centre's Company in Residence 2020.



Library Services

Roscommon County Council's Library Services provided a range of resources and services throughout 2020. Through a network of branch libraries, the mobile library service and online service provision, the Library Service supported the needs of users across the county, while operating at all times in line with public health measures arising from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Service Provision

The delivery of library services varied throughout the year in line with public health requirements. Services included full lending services, collection only and online services only.

An online membership facility was developed to allow the public to gain immediate access to online resources. The mobile library vehicle was used to deliver library services in Strokestown and Elphin where social distancing measures could not be achieved in library buildings.

To support this blended model of service delivery, the Library Service worked closely with the Council's Digital Transformation Team to develop a contact and collect system to allow library users to request books and make collection appointments using the *My Online Services* portal.

Library Development Strategies

The delivery of library services in 2020 was in line with the requirements of *Resilience and Recovery* 2020-2021: Plan for Living with COVID-19 and also the core service strategies and recommendations contained in Our Public Libraries 2022: Inspiring, Connecting and Empowering Communities. A new Library Development Plan will be delivered in 2021.

Funding Supports

Funding was approved by the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) for sensory facilities and equipment. Further funding for sensory friendly services was supported by the Dormant Accounts Fund for a collaborative project with Sligo and Leitrim Library Services. This project, called *Sense-Ability* will be delivered in 2021. Dormant Accounts Funding was also secured for the purchase of software to support individuals with reading, writing and spelling difficulties.

Small scale works in Ballaghaderreen and Strokestown Libraries were supported with funding from the DRCD. Works will include reconfiguration of library spaces to achieve social distancing and includes the creation of dedicated spaces for the use of WiFi enabled devices, flexible shelving and furniture.

Online Resources

The availability of a wide range of online resources was key to service delivery during periods of closure due to Covid-19 restrictions. The use of eLibrary resources increased across all platforms during the year. Usage of eAudiobooks increased by 104%, while eBook downloads increased by 250%. The largest increase in usage was in online courses, with an increase of 658%.



Families attending the National Library Open Day at Roscommon Branch Library.

Library Events and Activities

Prior to the implementation of Covid-19 restrictions in March, the library service organised a number of events. A national promotional campaign for libraries called *Take a Closer Look Campaign* took place in January and February. The campaign ran across radio, cinema, TV on demand and social media platforms.

On Saturday 29th February, as part of the National Library Open Day, 17 events took place in libraries across the county including a Stop-Motion Animation Workshop in conjunction with Foróige in Strokestown, Early Literacy Workshops with the Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board (GRETB), a puppet show, an afternoon with author Patricia Gibney and a digital services demonstration including gaming, 3D printing, eBooks and Ioanable tablets. 750 people attended their local Roscommon library during the day. Following the introduction of Covid-19 restrictions, events moved online through library social media channels. Dozens of online events took place throughout the year including storytelling, arts and crafts, Christmas themed, dance and poetry events. The *Siarscéal Literary Festival* took place online using Zoom in October.

Healthy Ireland at Your Library

This service, which aims to establish libraries as a valuable resource for health-related information and resources, continued during 2020. Many events took place before Covid-19 restrictions were introduced, including events on mindfulness, yoga, recovery, play therapy and oral health. A series of 5 play-therapist guided online videos provided valuable support for parents at home in lockdown with their children. An online *Couch-to-5k* running programme, in conjunction with Roscommon Sports Partnership, gave 85 people from all around the county an opportunity to participate in the programme. Video recording equipment to facilitate online events was purchased using *Healthy Ireland* funding.



Healthy ireland at Your Library Oral Health Event in Roscommon Library.

Right to Read

This programme provides literacy support and reading development for children, parents and adults. It was delivered in partnership with the GRETB, Roscommon Childcare Committee, Family Resource Centres, TUSLA and Foróige. The 2020 programme included Spring into Storytime, Summer Stars, Ros na nÓg (Children's Book Festival) and Family Time at Your Library. October was the flagship month with the Children's Book Festival taking place. The 2020 festival was as successful as ever, albeit delivered in a re-imagined way. Authors, illustrators and storytellers facilitated the delivery of a range of book themed online events that were suitable for children of all ages and their families. All events were free of charge and the festival was supported by Creative Ireland.



A still from an Online Children's Book Festival Event: Caoimhe the Ballerina.

Work Matters

This national service offers business and employment supports to library users. This is delivered in conjunction with the Local Enterprise Office, Citizens Information, INTREO and the GRETB. *Work Matters* is supported by an extensive range of resources, including a collection of books and digital resources for entrepreneurs and job seekers.

Performance Measures

In 2020, there were a total of 39,045 visits to service points. More than 67,000 items were borrowed by library users, in person and online.

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WATER SERVICES, ENVIRONMENT, ASSETS & CLIMATE CHANGE, GOVERNANCE AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS DIRECTORATE

Water Services

On 1st January 2014 public water and wastewater functions were transferred from local authorities to Irish Water. Roscommon County Council now acts as an agent of Irish Water to deliver public water and wastewater services under a Service Level Agreement (SLA).

Annual Service Plan

An Annual Service Plan with performance targets is agreed each year. The 2020 Annual Service Plan contained performance targets for the operation and maintenance of existing water and wastewater schemes and the delivery of capital projects, as agreed in late 2019 as part of the staff headcount and budget negotiations. The total budget allocated to Roscommon was €8.2m. The plan contains 76 key performance indicators.

Capital Schemes

The planning and construction of all capital schemes is now carried out under the direction of Irish Water. There is an ongoing *Capital Programme* underway in the county.

Infrastructure Portfolio

Roscommon Town Main Drainage

The key objective of the Roscommon Town Main Drainage project is to address the drivers for the Roscommon Agglomeration listed on the EU Commission's Letter of Formal Notice 2015 under the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive. This key objective is to be achieved by:

- Abandoning existing storm water overflows where possible;
- > Upgrading existing storm water overflows where necessary as a relief in extreme storm flow conditions;
- Provision of upgraded sewers throughout the wastewater collection system;
- Provision of upgraded and new pumping stations;
- Provision of storm water storage at key pumping stations and at the wastewater treatment plant.

Ervia board approval was granted in 2020. New Era and Ministerial consent is awaited. The contract is expected to be awarded in Quarter 2, 2021. This €16.3m investment represents another major investment by Irish Water in County Roscommon in recent years.



New Inlet Works and Storm Tank at Monksland Wastewater Treatment Plant, Athlone.

Monksland Inlet and Storm Storage Tank

These works became operational during 2020. The works were constructed by Glan Agua Ltd. on behalf of Irish Water and Roscommon County Council.

Ballaghaderreen Wastewater Treatment Plant

The Ballaghaderreen Wastewater Treatment Plant is included under the *Capital Investment Plan 2017-2021* for assessment of its primary and secondary treatment processes. The current plant is at risk in terms of Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive compliance, overloading and failure to provide adequate capacity for growth. A feasibility study report for Ballaghaderreen Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade was approved in 2019 and a design report is complete. The project is currently at Gate 2, planning and design. Early Contractor Involvement (ECI) with Veolia has commenced. Verification of flows and sampling were ongoing during 2020.

Capital Programme Portfolio

Water Treatment Programme

A Regional Water Treatment Programme is being rolled out by Irish Water. EPS Ltd. is appointed as the contractor. Mount Talbot Water Treatment Plant is one of 15 sites included in the programme. Monitoring equipment was installed and analysis of raw water is on-going. A design for source protection works is expected to be submitted early in 2021 with the anticipation that all works will be completed during summer 2021.

Lead Mitigation Programme

A *Regional Lead Mitigation Programme* is being rolled out by Irish Water. The following water treatment plants in Roscommon have been identified under the programme:

- > North Roscommon Water Treatment Plant;
- > Rockingham Water Treatment Plant;
- > Ballinagard Water Treatment Plant;
- > Killeglan Water Treatment Plant;
- > Longford Springs Temporary Water Treatment Plant.

North Roscommon Water Treatment Plant has been prioritised. Analysis of total lead was carried out in 2020.

Reservoir Cleaning Programme

A *Regional Reservoir Cleaning Programme* is being rolled out by Irish Water. The following reservoirs were cleaned as part of this programme in 2020:

- > Castlerea Water Tower;
- > Lugboy Reservoir.

Access to Heights and Edge Protection Programme

12 sites have been identified in the county for inclusion in this €4m regional programme. The programme has been developed to address highrisk items identified during Health, Safety, Quality and Environment (HSQE) inspections. EPS Ltd. was appointed as contractor by Irish Water. Works have been completed at Boyle Wastewater Treatment Plant, Fairymount reservoir, Elphin reservoir, Ballyfarnan Wastewater Treatment Plant, Kiltrusten intermediate and main reservoirs, Ballyfeeney reservoir, Ballinameen Wastewater Treatment Plant, Ballinagare Wastewater Treatment Plant, Croghan Wastewater Treatment Plant and Granlahan reservoir. Works are planned for the Castlerea Wastewater Treatment Plant during 2021.

Reservoir Refurbishment Programme

A Regional Reservoir Refurbishment Programme is being rolled out by Irish Water. Advance surveying and enabling works were carried out at North Roscommon Water Treatment Plant and Fairymount reservoir. It is anticipated that works will take place at these locations during 2021.

Wastewater Below Ground Telemetry Programme

A National Wastewater Below Ground Telemetry Programme is being rolled out by Irish Water. This programme provides for installation of telemetry outstations at wastewater pumping station sites in order to allow early warning of spills to sensitive waters and to obtain data for future upgrades, connection requests, etc. All sites covered under this programme will be connected to the interim National Telemetry System (iNTS). A survey of Boyle bridge wastewater pumping station has been carried out and a report has been submitted to Irish Water.



Cleaning Works at Castlerea Water Tower.

Storm Water Overflow Assessment Programme

Surveys on 8 storm water overflows have been completed. Design workshops will be carried out. It is intended that the current phase of the programme will be delivered during 2021.

Wastewater Pumping Stations and Rising Mains Capital Maintenance Programme

300 pumping stations have been nominated countrywide. The top 100 will be visited, surveyed and a concept design report produced. 9 prioritised wastewater pumping stations have been identified in Roscommon under the programme. Surveys that were due to commence were placed on hold because of Covid-19 restrictions.

Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme

It is proposed that there will be a *Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme* which will support a number of the National Policy Objectives and National Strategic Outcomes under the *National Planning Framework* (NPF) e.g. development of a new rural settlement investment approach under National Strategic Outcome 9 of the *NPF*. The *Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme* is intended to provide wastewater and water treatment plant growth capacity in smaller settlements which would not otherwise be provided for in the investment plan. Submissions have been made for Ballinameen, Ballintober and Lecarrow for inclusion in the programme.

National Water Resources Plan

Irish Water is currently developing the first National Water Resources Plan (NWRP). The NWRP sets out the strategy for how the Council will move towards environmentally sustainable, secure and reliable drinking water over the next 25 years. The plan also provides a framework for developing new water supply assets that will improve reliability, sustainability and resilience of the water supply over future investment cycles. All water supplies in Roscommon have been divided into water resource zones. Water availability, safe yield and sustainable production at the existing supplies are part of the process and are being assessed. Current demands and projections for water use over the next 25 years are also being assessed. Workshops were held during 2020. The NWRP draft framework plan was published for public consultation in December 2020.

Leakage Management System

The new leakage management system '*Netbase*' has been successfully rolled out in Roscommon. This is an important milestone as for the first time there is a system in place, at a national level, that calculates leakage figures in a consistent and rational way across all local authorities using the most up-to-date data from Irish Water Enterprise Systems (Maximo, GIS, CC&B etc.).

Drinking Water Compliance

The total overall compliance with the European Union Drinking Water Regulations for Roscommon was 99.03%. 114 check and audit samples were taken on public water supplies in 2020.

No Boil Water Notices were issued in 2020. There were no Directions associated with Roscommon Water Treatment Plants in 2020. There are no public Water Supply Zones in Roscommon on the EPA Remedial Action List register.

A monitoring programme is in place for Elphin. The data is used to support information submitted to the EPA.

Wastewater Compliance

All wastewater treatment plants in Roscommon for 2020 were in compliance with the Urban Wastewater Regulations. 5 wastewater treatment plants in Roscommon were in compliance with wastewater discharge licence requirements while 7 plants were non-compliant. Investigations are ongoing to address non-compliance.

There were 32 wastewater incidents reported in 2020, all of which were reported by specified deadlines. There were 2 EPA audits conducted in 2020. Audit recommendations are being addressed.

Water Networks Portfolio

Water Network Framework Programme

Irish Water is rolling out a new Water Network Portfolio under its *Capital Investment Plan 2017 to 2021*. Works intended to be rolled out under this programme include:

- > New mains and service laying;
- > Below ground network rehabilitation work;
- > Back yard lead replacement;
- > District Metered Area establishment;
- > Pressure reducing valve works;
- > Minor works to include leak repair;
- > Public side lead works and metering.

Water Networks Rehabilitation Programme

Elphin

27 connections were transferred to an existing PVC main. This allowed 700m of cast iron mains to be decommissioned which has improved water quality significantly in the area. Air scouring was also carried out in the remainder of the cast iron mains to eliminate heavy deposits of iron and sediment from the pipework. This area is being monitored and is included in the water main rehabilitation programme.

Pressure Management Works

Pressure management works were completed in Arigna and Keadue. New pressure reducing valves, remote pilots and road side kiosks were installed in 2020.

Find and Fix Programme

This programme entered the third year of targeting District Metered Areas with high unaccounted for water figures in 2020. The Find and Fix Programme involves the verification of highlighted District Metered Areas with pressure zero testing initially proving the supply areas, step testing of these areas with a view to isolating areas of high unaccounted for usage and then enabling works to locate and repair any leaks. Repair of these leaks and monitoring of associated usage reductions guides daily usage within targeted District Metered Areas towards a sustainable economic leakage level target for each area. The programme has contributed towards achieving reductions in unaccounted for water and leakage savings of 2.51 MLD up to the end of September 2020 over the previous 12 months. The distribution input figure has reduced by 0.63 MLD during the same time period. By the end of 2020, 44 District Metered Areas were reviewed under the targeted Find and Fix works.

First Fix Programme

Farrans Construction has been appointed by Irish Water to carry out works under this programme. The duration depends on the take up by customers who will avail of the scheme.

Non-Domestic Meter Replacement

Farrans Construction has been appointed by Irish Water to carry out works under this programme. Surveys have commenced as a first phase of the meter replacement.

Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme 2019-2021

The 2019-2021 funding cycle of the *Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme* (MARWP) consists of 8 measures. These measures reflect the key challenges currently facing the rural water sector in respect of funding support. In particular, the measures have been more expressly focused around a 'multiple barriers' approach, from catchment to consumers (source – treatment - distribution), to prevent contamination and ensure that drinking water is safe and meets quality parameters of the Drinking Water Regulations on a consistent long-term basis.

Approvals for the schemes/projects under 8 funding measures of the *MARWP 2019-2021* were received from the Department in October 2019 providing a total grant fund of \leq 2,861,263 over the 3-year period 2019 to 2021.

> Measure 1 – Drinking Water Source Protection (Group Water Scheme Sector): Funding approved €303,000 for the period 2019-2021.

This measure is aimed at protecting the raw water source of existing group water schemes thus contributing to the safety of water users through the ability of the scheme to sustainably achieve compliance with the water quality parameters of the Drinking Water Regulations on a consistent long-term basis.

Works were undertaken in 2019 and 2020 at a cost of €132,213 which was 100% recoupable from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

The Group Water Scheme Source Protection Pilot Project involves developing full source protection plans including specific actions to improve the safety and security of group water schemes' drinking water. The farming community will play a significant role in this project. However, everyone has a part to play. There will be an emphasis on raising awareness, education, and inclusion. One of the aims of the project is to work towards sustainable farming practices that lead to improved water sources, increased biodiversity and enhancement of climate awareness. The project will focus on farming benefits with environmental outcomes. Roscommon County Council is progressing well with the implementation of specific targeted and appropriate mitigation activities as follows:

- > Catchments have been delineated;
- A Framework for Drinking Water Source Protection and a Handbook of Source Protection and Mitigation Actions for Farming have been developed;

- A media campaign to raise public awareness on drinking water source protection in Roscommon and incorporating biodiversity was implemented;
- 'I've Planted a Tree and My Garden is Pesticide Free' - a campaign to encourage the community to go pesticide free in their gardens;
- > 'Let It Bee' initiative which involves farmers working together to protect their local water source and enhance biodiversity.
- > Measure 2 Public Health Compliance (Group Water Scheme Sector): Funding of €814,000 approved for the period 2019-2021.

This measure is aimed at improving water quality in existing group water schemes, through upgrading their treatment facilities, so that the schemes can sustainably achieve compliance with the parameters of the Drinking Water Regulations on a consistent long-term basis. Total works under Measure 2 were completed at a cost of \leq 412,203.40 which was 100% grant funded.

> Measure 3 – Enhancement of Existing Schemes including Water Conservation (Group Water Scheme Sector): Funding of €1,431,000 approved for the period 2019-2021.

This measure supports projects to make existing group water schemes more efficient in their operation (e.g. water conservation and network upgrades, including storage) and contributing to good water quality on a consistent sustainable long-term basis. Funding of \in 478,394 was paid to the schemes at 85% of costs.

> Measure 5 – Transition of Existing Group Water Schemes and Group Sewerage Schemes to the Public (Irish Water) Water Sector: Funding of €247,000 approved for the period 2019-2021.

This measure enables existing group water and group sewerage schemes, where they wish to do so and with the agreement of Irish Water, to transition to the public water sector (Irish Water). Discussions are underway with 4 group water schemes to progress to taking in charge by Irish Water.

- > Measure 6 A Community Water Connection at Crosshill, Arigna was undertaken under the 2019-2021 programme and received financial support of €22,313.86 which equated to 85% of the cost of the works.
- Measure 8 Private Water Supply- Grants for the Improvement of a Private Water Supply to a House.

The existing grant scheme to support improvement works for a private water supply providing water intended for human consumption and domestic purposes to a house, (more commonly known as private or household wells), has been revised with effect from 4th June 2020 under the Housing (Private Water Supply Financial Assistance) Regulations 2020 (S.I. No. 192 of 2020). The previous maximum grant available was €2,031.58 or 75% of the cost of the work, whichever is the lesser. A further 11 applications for the upgrade of individual wells have been received in 2020. Grants have been paid on 15 completed applications in sum of €25,596.77 to end of 2020.

Subsidy Payable towards the Operational Costs of Group Water Schemes Providing Water for Domestic Use

With effect from 1st January 2018, subsidies have been increased, streamlined and new incentives introduced for smaller schemes. This is intended to bring greater equity and fairness to ensure that domestic users on group water schemes receive comparable benefits to those receiving their water supply from Irish Water.

- > Annual Subsidy An annual subsidy per house is available to group schemes for the operational cost of providing domestic water. Annual subsidies in the sum of €478,468.56 were paid to group water schemes in 2020.
- > Operational and Maintenance Subsidy This subsidy is payable towards Operational and Maintenance (O&M) costs associated with 'bona fide' Design/Build/Operate (DBO) contracts for group schemes that have their own water treatment facilities. O&M subsidies in the sum of €399,094.26 have been paid to group water schemes to the end of 2020.

Total subsidies paid to group water schemes in 2020 amounted to \in 877,562.82.

Lead Remediation Grant

In order to reduce exposure to lead in drinking water, a grant scheme is available to assist households to replace lead services within their homes. This grant scheme has been established in line with the *National Lead Strategy*.

'European Bee Award' for County Roscommon

Roscommon County Council in partnership with The National Federation of Group Water Schemes were announced in a live stream from Brussels on the 8th December 2020 as winners of the *'European Bee Award 2020'* in the category 'Land Management Practices' for their outstanding contribution to protect pollinators.

Environmental Protection

Roscommon County Council's Environment Department covers a diverse range of functions and services. The principal areas are:

- Pollution Control and Water Quality Management;
- > Waste Management and Enforcement;
- > Landfill Management;
- Civic Amenity Site and Bring Bank Management;
- > Litter Management;
- > Environmental Awareness.

Pollution Control and Water Quality Management

Pollution control legislation covers areas such as water pollution, air pollution, nuisance and noise. Specific activities undertaken in relation to pollution control include investigation of water pollution incidents, licensing and monitoring of discharges to waters and sewers, licensing emissions to air and monitoring drinking water, urban wastewater treatment plant performance and rivers and lakes. A workshop was held in 2016 with the Catchment Management Unit of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to characterise the status of catchments in County Roscommon in accordance with the Water Framework Directive (WFD). Six water bodies have been prioritised in Roscommon for further action in the current cycle of the WFD programme. The Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO) Catchment Assessment Team have commenced work on the Clooneigh, Jiggy/Hind and Lough Key catchments.

Laboratory

The Council's laboratory continued to provide a shared sampling and testing service to 5 other local authorities. This entailed sampling and testing of drinking waters, wastewaters, trade effluents, landfill leachates, surface waters, groundwater etc. The laboratory also offers a testing service to the public for water samples. The laboratory continued to provide a service throughout the Covid-19 pandemic and also produced alcohol rub for voluntary services during the early lockdown. Following an audit by the National Accreditation Board in August, the laboratory retained its accreditation for its present scope.

National Inspection Plan

The purpose of the registration and inspection system for domestic wastewater treatment systems (DWWTS) is to protect ground and surface water quality (particularly drinking water sources) from the risks posed by malfunctioning systems. With effect from 26th June 2012 all owners of premises connected to a domestic wastewater treatment system were required to register their systems. The fee for registration is €50.

Under the Water Services Act 2007 as amended, a minimum of 35 sites were required to be inspected by Roscommon County Council in 2020. Due to Covid-19 restrictions this number was reduced to 21 sites. 80% (17) failed the inspection and Advisory Notices issued to the property owners.

Waste Management and Enforcement

A grant of €139,043 was allocated to Roscommon County Council from the *Environment Fund* to support dedicated and measurable enforcement initiatives. The Enforcement Unit continues to perform its rigorous enforcement of provisions contained in the Waste Management and Water Pollution Acts.

Connacht-Ulster Waste Region

Roscommon is part of the Connacht Ulster Region in terms of waste management. The Connacht Ulster Waste Plan 2015-2021 was published in May 2015. This was the first waste plan to cover the geographical area of the Connacht Ulster region. The region appointed Mayo County Council as the regional lead, to act on behalf of the other authorities with responsibility for the successful implementation of the plan. In addition, Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authorities were selected in each region. Leitrim and Donegal County Councils are the joint lead authorities for Connacht Ulster. This Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority has responsibility for coordinating waste enforcement actions within the Connacht Ulster region, setting responsibilities, priorities and common objectives for waste enforcement, ensuring consistent enforcement of waste legislation, while still having local authority personnel act as first responders on the ground to specific breaches of waste legislation.

CUWERLA

The Environment Department continued to engage with the Connacht Ulster Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority (CUWERLA) on national priorities and items of interest on a regional level

Recycling Centres

Roscommon County Council continues to operate 4 recycling centres at Boyle, Roscommon, Ballaghaderreen and Castlerea. There are 39 bottle banks located throughout the county with textile banks located at 29 of these sites.

Landfill Management

Roscommon County Council continues to monitor and maintain 2 closed licensed landfills at Ballaghaderreen and Roscommon. In relation to historic landfills, following the submission to the EPA of an application in respect of the Castlerea closed landfill site, a draft Certificate of Authorisation issued by the EPA in 2020. Submissions were made in relation to this draft. The Council is currently awaiting the finalisation of the Certificate of Authorisation by the EPA.

Litter Management Plan 2020–2022

The Litter Pollution Act 1997, as amended, requires local authorities to adopt and implement a *Litter Management Plan* specifying the following:

- > Measures to prevent and control litter;
- > Measures to encourage public awareness;
- > Measures to achieve the objectives of the plan.

A Draft Litter Management Plan to cover the period 2020–2022, including a review of the previous plan, was prepared for consultation. Submissions/comments were invited from individuals, community and voluntary groups and representative bodies.

At the Planning, Environment, Climate Change and Corporate Governance SPC (Strategic Policy Committee) meeting held on 16th September 2020, SPC members recommended the *Draft Litter Management Plan*, without amendment, for consideration and adoption by Elected Members at the Plenary Council meeting held on 28th September 2020. The plan was adopted by Elected Members at this Plenary Council meeting.

National Litter Pollution Monitoring System

The Litter Pollution Monitoring System provides an accurate picture of litter pollution countrywide and accurately measures changes over time. The system was developed by the Department of the Environment Heritage & Local Government and Tobin Consulting Engineers in consultation with local authorities. Under the system, Roscommon County Council carried out 24 quantification surveys and 82 litter pollution surveys. These were forwarded to Tobin Engineering in the final quarter of 2020 for analysis and reporting purposes.

Anti-Dumping Initiative

A grant of €66,273 was received from the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment under the *Anti-Dumping Initiative 2020* for 11 projects. Projects carried out under this initiative included bulky goods collections, removal of asbestos from a number of locations and the purchase of equipment. A number of locations in each of the Municipal Districts were also cleaned under this grant scheme from which approximately 60 tonnes of waste was removed and disposed.

Green Schools Programme

Green Schools is a long-term environment education and awareness programme where schools, including the wider school population, contribute to the sustainable development of the county for both current and future generations. It is a progressive and continuous programme designed for schools at both primary and secondary level. The programme works on different themes, each of which take approximately 2 years to complete. Schools awarded with a Green Flag must renew their flag every 2 years. 103 schools are registered within County Roscommon for the Green Schools Programme. 94 Green Flags have been awarded to date, 7 to secondary schools and 87 to primary schools. 38 schools successfully renewed their green flag in 2020. Roscommon County Council supports the Green Schools Programme through organising workshops for schools, arranging teacher seminars, providing ongoing advice and mentoring and carrying out assessments of applications.

Casual Trading Bye Laws

On 22nd July 2019, following a period of public consultation, *Roscommon County Council Casual Trading Bye-Laws* were adopted to facilitate the control and designation of casual trading in County Roscommon. These bye-laws came into effect on 1st January 2020. Under these bye-laws, casual trading sites were identified in Roscommon town, Ballaghaderreen, Strokestown, Castlerea and Boyle. A Casual Trading Licence must be obtained in order to trade from designated sites. The annual cost for a Casual Trading Licence is €300.

Bulky Goods Recycling Service

Following on from the success of previous bulky goods collections, the Council introduced a new bulky goods recycling service in 2020 at its civic amenity sites in Ballaghaderreen, Boyle, Castlerea and Roscommon. This service is for householders only. Items accepted and the fees that apply are as follows:

- Couch €25.00 per item
- > Arm Chair €15.00 per item
- > Mattress €15.00 per item
- > Divan Bed-base €10.00 per item

Although the service was suspended during Covid-19 level 5 restrictions, 146 mattresses, 47 couches, 39 Armchairs and 22 bed-bases were collected at civic amenity sites during 2020.

Solid Fuel Campaign 2020

The Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications approved funding support for a print media communication campaign in relation to solid fuels. Advertisements were placed in a local paper in December 2020 and on Council social media portals.



Solid Fuel Campaign 2020.

Assets, Climate Action and Energy Management

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The Assets, Climate Action and Energy Management Department, including Public Lighting, has responsibility for a number of specific areas.

Assets

The overall primary purpose of this function is to manage and record all assets of Roscommon County Council including buildings, land, houses, etc. in a consolidated *Asset Register* and comply with the Council's associated statutory reporting obligations. To date, details of all buildings and lands owned by the Council together with the total number of social housing stock have been forwarded to the Office of Public Works (OPW) on a yearly basis for inclusion in the *National Property Register*. The Council is also working towards achieving a standardised inventory of all public body assets on a national basis.

Climate Action

Roscommon County Council is committed to the climate change agenda with climate action included as a specific responsibility within the Assets, Climate Action and Energy Management Department. Following on from the establishment of Climate Action Regional Offices (CARO) under the National Adaptation Framework the Council is aligned with the Midlands sub-region of the Eastern and Midlands CARO.

Roscommon County Council adopted the *Roscommon County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019 – 2024* in September 2019. This strategy is being actioned by a Climate Action Team representative of all departments and business units of the Council. Ongoing review of actions is reported to CARO and the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC).

As a commitment to climate action targets and principles, the Council introduced an electric vehicle to its fleet in 2020 and will continue to transition to a more sustainable model for the future selection of vehicles and fuel types.



Roscommon County Council takes delivery of its first electric vehicle.

Energy Management

The primary function of energy management is to facilitate the Council's role as a public body in achieving a target of 33% energy efficiency improvement by 2020 (usage up to 31st December 2020) in the context of Ireland's EU and national commitments and wider climate change goals and comply with the Council's associated statutory reporting obligations.

The Public Sector Energy Partnership Agreement was signed on 25th April 2016 as a joint obligation between the Council and the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) in achieving this target with appropriate mentoring and training put in place to assist this programme. As part of the energy monitoring and reporting obligation, all data for 2019 energy usage was submitted by May, 2020. Roscommon County Council has achieved a reduction of 29.4% of the targeted 33% energy efficiency improvement required by 2020, based on energy usage up to end-2019.

Work continues on targeting the primary energy users of the Council which include primarily public lighting, electricity usage and transport fuel with a view to achieving further energy efficiency improvements.

Public Lighting

Roscommon County Council entered into a contract with Energia for the unmetered and metered supply of energy to illuminate the public lighting network throughout the county.

The Council, in conjunction with the other local authorities in the Connaught region, entered into a regional maintenance contract in October 2020 with Electric Skyline Limited for the general repairs to the system resulting in competitive rates for the maintenance and repair of the public lighting inventory.

Based on a public lighting survey carried out in 2016 and also the commencement of national public lighting upgrades to LED, works were carried out by the Council at a large number of locations throughout the county. These works commenced in 2019 and were completed in early 2020. It is hoped that further upgrades, including those funded by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), will be carried out in 2021.

Declaration in Accordance with S.I. 542 of 2009

Overview of Energy Usage

In 2020, Roscommon County Council spent €1.24m on energy-related charges with the main categories consisting of:

- Public lighting energy and maintenance charges;
- Electricity charges for lighting and space heating;
- > Transport fuel.

Actions Undertaken

Since 2010 Roscommon County Council has undertaken a range of initiatives to improve its energy performance, including:

- > Energy related training;
- > Awareness campaigns;
- > Driver training;
- Consolidation of various Council offices in Roscommon town into a single purpose-built Civic Headquarters with consequent energy saving benefits;

- > Energy efficiency upgrades to:
 - > Buildings,
 - > Public lighting.

In 2020 the Council continued with initiatives to improve its energy performance which included:

- > LED retrofit of public lighting to:
 - Various national primary and secondary roads throughout the county;
 - Regional roads and estates throughout the county.

Altogether, these and other energy saving measures are contributing to significant annual energyrelated savings for the Council with a current 29.4% energy reduction based on a 2009 baseline (usage up to end-2019) with a view to achieving a target of 33% by end-2020.

Actions Planned

Roscommon County Council intends to further improve its energy performance by undertaking the following initiatives:

- > Multi-annual Energy Action Plan;
- Monitoring and energy audits of significant energy users with consequent upgrade works;
- > Awareness campaigns involving all staff;
- LED upgrades to existing public lighting stock to national primary, national secondary and local roads. The Council has signed up as participants in the National Local Authority Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project coordinated by the Road Management Office (RMO) which is due to commence nationally in early 2021 and in County Roscommon by the last quarter of 2021/first quarter of 2022.

Corporate Affairs

The functions of the Corporate Affairs Department include support services to Council Management, meetings of the Council and its sub-committees; register of electors; insurances; facilities management; veterinary functions; dog control; civic receptions; events; customer services; customer complaints; freedom of information; data protection; ethics declarations; reporting of political donations and protected disclosures.

Meetings of Roscommon County Council

At the Plenary Council Meetings, the 18 members of the Council meet to carry out their reserved functions and consider social, economic and cultural issues critical to the sustained development of the county in line with strategic priorities and objectives contained in the Council's Corporate Plan.

10 monthly Plenary Council Meetings were held in 2020. The March meeting was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Annual Meeting was held in June at which Cllr. Laurence Fallon was elected Cathaoirleach and Cllr Marty McDermott as the Leas Cathaoirleach. The Budget Meeting was held in November. A Special Meeting to approve the Chief Executive's Report on the *Pre-Draft Consultation on the County Development Plan* was also held in November.

Register of Electors

Under the Electoral Acts 1992, 1997 and 2001, 2 versions of the Register, the Edited Register and the Full Register, came into force on 15th February 2020.

A Supplement to the Register of Electors for County Roscommon was compiled and published for the General Election held on Saturday 8th February 2020. A total of 2,436 electors were included on the Supplement in addition to 49,883 electors on the Live Register (2019/2020).

The boundary changes recommended in the *Constituency Reform Report 2017* came into effect for the General Election in 2020.

Dáil Constituency	Presidential Electors	Dáil Electors
Roscommon - Galway Constituency Electors	41,710	43,271
Sligo – Leitrim Constituency Electors in County Roscommon		5,927
Midlands - North – N Parliament Constitu	49,368	
Local Electoral Areas Electors		50,687
> Athlone Local Electoral Area		15,305
> Boyle Local Electoral Area		17,994
> Roscommon Local Electoral Area		17,388

Table 1 Register of Electors

Corporate Plan 2020–2024

The Corporate Plan was adopted by the Elected Members at their meeting on 24th February 2020. The plan will serve as Roscommon County Council's strategic framework for action during the lifetime of the present Council in line with the Local Government Act 2001. The plan sets out the Council's objectives under the following 3 priorities in order to deliver its mission, reflect the views of the people of Roscommon and build sustainable communities in a changing environment:

- > Quality of life and well-being for all;
- > Economic and community development;
- > Quality services for our people.

Civic Receptions and Events

Roscommon County Council is proud to host receptions, events and award ceremonies for persons in its administrative area who have distinguished themselves and brought pride and honour to their community through their achievements. Citizens may be nominated by members of the Council. The Council also, as the occasion arises, hosts civic receptions for visiting dignitaries to the area and events at Áras an Chontae to mark specific occasions. No civic receptions were held in 2020 due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Dermot Early Bursary

Roscommon County Council has established an annual sports bursary in honour of the late Dermot Earley. The scholarships afford financial assistance to successful candidates from County Roscommon (one male and one female) with an accomplished background in sport who are attending their first year in third-level education. Interviews were held online and the successful applicants for the academic year 2020/2021 were Aimee O'Connor representing St. Dominics GAA Club and Sean Trundle representing St. Brigids GAA Club.

Representative Trips Abroad

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Paschal Fitzmaurice and the Chief Executive, Mr. Eugene Cummins visited New York from 6th to 8th March to attend the Roscommon Society of New York Annual Dinner. The visit of the Cathaoirleach to New York for St. Patricks Day celebrations was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.



In attendance at the Roscommon Society of New York Annual Dinner on Friday 6th March, 2020 - Cllr. Paschal Fitzmaurice, Cathaoirleach, Roscommon Co. Council; Mr. Eugene Cummins, Chief Executive, Roscommon Co. Council; Mr. John Beirne; Mr. Jim Tansey; Mr. Joe Cryan; Msgr. Kevin Flanagan and Mr. Tom Ciblin.

Social Media

The use of corporate social media channels such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram enhances and improves communication and contributes to the promotion and awareness of the Council. These channels allow the Council to expand its communications network, disseminate information in an efficient manner and to engage more effectively with the public. They have played a crucial role in 2020 in actively promoting Council activities and initiatives during the Covid-19 pandemic resulting in the Council being connected to a new and much larger audience. At the end of 2020, the Council operated 16 social media channels which included a combined total of 37,232 followers.

Veterinary Functions

Roscommon County Council operates a service contract with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) to oversee food safety in 9 slaughterhouses and 6 stand-alone meat manufacturing plants. The supervision of slaughter is carried out by the Council's Veterinary Officer and temporary Veterinary Inspectors. All animals are inspected ante-mortem and post-mortem to ensure the meat is fit for human consumption. Traceability of all animals is also verified. 3,083 cattle, 6,877 sheep and 313 pigs were slaughtered in 2020 in Council supervised slaughterhouses.

Dog Control Services

Under the Control of Dogs Act 1986, responsibility for the control of dogs within the county is undertaken by Midland Animal Care under a service contract with Roscommon County Council.

Dog owners are required by law to have a current dog licence and dogs must be microchipped. In July 2018, the National Dog Register was introduced by An Post enabling online purchasing of dog licences. Licences can also be purchased from any Post Office.

In 2020, expenditure on Dog Control Services amounted to €182,844 while the total income received in respect of licences and fees was €63,818.

The Dog Breeding Establishments Act, 2010 requires premises to apply for inclusion on the Local Authority *Register of Dog Breeding Establishments*. Two establishments were included on the Council's register at the end of 2020.

Freedom of Information (FOI)

Roscommon County Council received 73 FOI requests in 2020. A breakdown of the outcome of these requests is outlined in the table below.

Table 2 Freedom of Information

Number of requests undetermined at 1st January 2020	10
Number of requests received during 2020	73
Number of requests granted	48
Number of requests part-granted	14
Number of requests refused	16
Number of FOI requests transferred, withdrawn or dealt with outside of FOI	1
Number of requests undetermined at 31st December 2020	4

Access to Information on the Environment (AIE)

3 AIE requests were received by the Council in 2020. Details of the outcome of these requests are presented in the table below.

Table 3 AIE Requests

Number of AIE requests undetermined at 1st January 2020	0
Number of AIE requests received during 2020	3
Number of AIE requests granted	2
Number of AIE requests part-granted	0
Number of AIE requests refused	1
Number of requests undetermined at 31st December 2020	0

Data Protection

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which came into effect on 25th May 2018 and the Data Protection Act 2018 impose obligations on Roscommon County Council to protect all personal data under its control. The Council continued its development of policies, procedures and practices in 2020 in order to discharge its data protection responsibilities. 4 Subject Access Requests (SARs) were received and granted by the Council in 2020.

Ethics Declarations, Reporting of Political Donations and Protected Disclosures

Ethics declarations were submitted by all Elected Members and Relevant Employees in 2020 in accordance with statutory requirements prescribed within Part 15 of the Local Government Act 2001 and the Local Government Act 2001 (Part 15) Regulations 2015 – S.I. No. 29 of 2015.

All Elected Members complied, in 2020, with requirements set out in the Local Elections (Disclosure of Donations and Expenditure Act 1999 (as amended) for the reporting of Political Donations.

The following report, in Table 4, has been prepared and is being published by Roscommon County Council in accordance with Section 22 of the Protected Disclosures Act 2014:

Table 4 Protected Disclosures - ReportingPeriod: 1st January to 31st December 2020

Number of Protected Disclosures made to Roscommon County Council	0
Action (if any) taken in response to those Protected Disclosures	N/A

Irish Human Rights and Equality

Roscommon County Council, in the performance of its functions, has, in accordance with Section 42 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014, had regard to the need to –

- a. Eliminate discrimination,
- b. Promote equality of opportunity and treatment of its staff and the persons to whom it provides services, and
- Protect the human rights of its members, staff and the persons to whom it provides services.

Garda Síochána Act 2005

Roscommon County Council, in the performance of its functions, has, in accordance with Section 37 of the Garda Síochána Act 2005, had regard to the importance of steps to prevent crime, disorder and anti-social behavior within its area of responsibility.

Local Community Development Committee Report

The Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) has primary responsibility for coordinating, planning and overseeing the implementation of the Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2021. LCDC Coiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil Ros Comáin Roscommon Local Community

Development Committee

6 LCDC meetings were held on the following dates in 2020:

Date	% Attendance
27th February 2020	79%
22nd April 2020	79%
24th June 2020	74%
23rd September 2020	63%
4th November 2020	84%
16th December 2020	74%

The travel expenses paid to LCDC members in 2020 totalled \in 479.57.

The following is an overview of items progressed by the LCDC in 2020:

- Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2019 End of Year Report was approved. 2020 SICAP Annual Plan was approved. 2020 SICAP Mid-term review was approved.
- Sub-committees continued their work in the areas of SICAP, LEADER and assessment of grant scheme applications.
- The LCDC approved a total of €1,593,228.73 for LEADER projects in 2020.

Pillar	Agency / Nominating Body	No. of Nominees	Name of Nominee
Statutory Interests 9			
Local Government	Roscommon County Council Members	3	Cllr. Laurence Fallon Cllr. Paschal Fitzmaurice Cllr. Donal Kilduff
Local Authority Officials	Roscommon County Council Executive	2	Mr. Eugene Cummins, Chief Executive Ms. Louise Ward, Head of LEO
State Agency	Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board	1	Ms. Lynne Keery
State Agency	Department of Social Protection	1	Ms. Antoinette Ryan
State Agency	Health Service Executive (HSE)	1	Mr. Eamon Hannan
State Agency	Teagasc	1	Mr. Tom Kellegher
Non Statutory Interests 1	0		
Local and Community Development	Roscommon Leader Partnership Company	1	Ms. Carina Lennon
Social Inclusion College	Public Participation Network (PPN)	1	Ms. Nora Fahy
	PPN	1	Mr. Michael Frain
Community & Voluntary	PPN	1	Mr. Maurice Gannon
College	PPN	1	Mr. Mike Carty
Environmental College	PPN	1	Mr. Alan Moran
Social, Economic & Community Interests	Farming & Agriculture	1	Mr. Jim O' Connor
Social, Economic & Community Interests	Business Representative	1	Mr. Gareth Scahill
Social, Economic & Community Interests	Trade Union Representative	1	Mr. John Tansey
Social, Economic & Community Interests	Brothers of Charity Services	1	Ms. Jodie Healy
Total Number of Member	rs:	19	

Membership of LCDC at 31st December 2020

LEADER Programme Summary 2020

Theme	Sub-Theme	Original Project Budget	Number of Projects approved to year end 2020	Value of Projects approved to year end 2020
	Rural Tourism	€700,000.00	7	€173,979.25
Economic	Enterprise Development	€1,900,000.00	8	€533,845.25
Development	Rural Towns	€750,000.00	8	€199,071.41
	Broadband	€250,000.00	0	€5,885.58
Social Inclusion	Basic Services	€1,981,282.00	7	€533,345.60
Social Inclusion	Rural Youth	€400,000.00	1	€0.00
	Water Resources	€200,000.00	0	€72,709.66
Rural Environment	Biodiversity	€200,000.00	4	€74,391.98
	Renewable Energy	€200,000.00	1	€0.00
Totals:		€6,581,282.00	36	€1,593,228.73

Corporate Plan Report

Roscommon County Council's *Corporate Plan 2019-2024* was prepared in accordance with statutory provisions prescribed in Section 134 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended by Section 49 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014. It was formally adopted by Elected Members at their February 2020 Plenary Council Meeting.

The Corporate Plan is at the core of the Council's business activity. It is prepared on the basis of an organisational wide strategic approach encompassing the various functions and responsibilities of the Council. The plan presents a broad framework for action by the Council over a 5-year period taking into consideration key elements of national policy and the economic, social and cultural needs of the community and citizens that it serves.

The Corporate Plan 2019-2024 was prepared following an extensive consultation process involving internal and external stakeholders. This included consultation with staff, Elected Members and the wider public through a survey conducted on social media platforms. It sets out the Council's objectives to facilitate it to succeed in its mission of 'ensuring through collaboration and the provision of strong leadership in partnership with the community that County Roscommon is an attractive, inclusive, prosperous and vibrant place to live, invest, work and visit'. These objectives are focussed on the following 3 priorities

- > Quality of life and well-being for all;
- > Economic and community development;
- > Quality service to our people.



A key purpose of the Corporate Plan is to provide a framework within which Annual Service Plans are formulated. Roscommon County Council's Annual Service Delivery Plan 2020, translated the objectives of the Corporate Plan 2019-2024 into detailed supporting strategies for every department and business unit for the year and actions for service delivery together with metrics to facilitate the measurement of progress. Particular aspects of the Annual Service Delivery Plan 2020 were delivered through Schedules of Municipal District Works developed by each Municipal District. Highlights in terms of progress achieved during 2020 included:

- Roscommon County Council, under the Acquisition and Construction Programme, completed the turnkey construction of 12 houses at Slieveroe, Boyle, the development of 4 houses in Monksland, Athlone and the purchase of 8 dwellings in various locations;
- > 118 properties were offered to qualified social housing applicants in 2020 resulting in 72 tenancy agreements;
- > 142 applicants were accommodated under the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) Scheme;
- 573 planning applications were received by the Council in 2020;
- The formal pre-draft public consultation on the Draft Roscommon County Development Plan 2021 – 2027 commenced in March 2020. Following its conclusion, the Chief Executive's Report on Submissions Received on the Pre-Draft Consultation was issued to Elected Members in September 2020. A Special Meeting of the Council was convened in November 2020 at which members formally considered the report and issued a direction to the Executive to formally commence the preparation of the Draft Roscommon County Development Plan;
- > Works carried out to the road network in the county in 2020 included road construction and maintenance; bridge rehabilitation; drainage works; the carrying out of safety and traffic management measures; the implementation of community involvement and local improvement schemes; footpath repairs and the provision of public lighting;
- The procurement of a contactor to design and build the Ballaghaderreen to Scramogue Road Project commenced in January 2020. Tenders were received in December 2020;
- The assessment of route corridor options for the N62 Ballymurray to Lecarrow (Knockcroghery) Road Project continued throughout 2020 and culminated with the identification of an Emerging Preferred Route Corridor;
- Over 400 separate projects on regional and local roads were completed in 2020;
- Fire brigade units from the Council's Fire Service were alerted 289 times during the year;

- The Building Control Unit processed 169
 Commencement Notices for 216 new buildings;
- ➤ €60,000 was allocated by the Council to 89 projects under its 2020 Community and Amenity Grants Scheme;
- > The Local Community and Development Committee (LCDC) allocated €55,999 to 27 community groups under the Community Enhancement Programme (CEP). It also allocated €113,318 to 22 community groups for community centres and facilities;
- The Council continued to act as an agent of Irish Water to deliver public water and wastewater services under a Service Level Agreement;
- ➤ Evria board approval was granted in 2020 for the Roscommon Town Main Drainage Project. The €16.3m investment involved represents a further major investment by Irish Water in County Roscommon in recent years;
- The total overall compliance with the European Union Drinking Water Regulations for Roscommon was 99.03%;
- All wastewater treatment plants in Roscommon for 2020 were in compliance with the Urban Wastewater Regulations;
- > The Council's Environment Department continued to carry out an extensive range of functions and services in the areas of pollution control; water quality management; waste management and enforcement; litter management and environmental awareness;
- In September 2020, the Council adopted a new Litter Management Plan to cover the period 2020-2022;
- Bye-Laws for Casual Trading in the towns of Roscommon, Boyle, Castlerea, Ballaghaderreen and Strokestown came into effect on 1st January 2020;
- Roscommon County Council has achieved a reduction of 29.4% of the targeted 33% energy efficiency improvement required by 2020, based on energy usage up to end-2019;
- The level of expenditure for the Council's Revenue and Capital Accounts for 2020 was €71.3m and €45.5m respectively.

Reporting on the Annual Service Delivery Plan 2020 was carried out by way of Monthly and Quarterly Management Reports to the Elected Members, internal and external reporting processes and through the Service Indicator process which was conducted in accordance with National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) guidelines. A full report on Service Indicators for 2020 is provided in Appendix 1 to this Annual Report.

Appendix 1: Service Indicators 2020

C: CORPORATE		
C1: Total number of wholetime equivalent		
A. The whole time equivalent (WTE) staffing number as at 31st December 2020	392.09	
C2: Working days lost to sickness		
A. Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave in 2020	3.08%	
B. Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave in 2020	0.17%	
C3: Local authority website and social media usage		
A. The per capita total page views of the local authority's websites in 2020	13.06	
B. The per capita total number of followers at end of 2020 of the local authority's social media accounts	0.58	
C4: Overall cost of information and communications technology (ICT) provision per WTE		
A. All ICT expenditure in the period from 1st January to 31st December 2020, divided by the WTE number supplied under the C1 indicator	€4,211.03	
C5. Overall cost of ICT as a proportion of revenue expenditure		
A. All ICT expenditure calculated in C4 as a proportion of revenue expenditure	2.31	

E: WASTE / ENVIRONMENT	
E1: Number / Percentage of households with access to a 3 bin service	
A. The number of households, based on 2016 census, who are situated in an area covered by a licensed operator providing a 3 bin service at 31st December 2020	4,885
B. The percentage of households within the local authority (as per 2016 census) that the number at A represents (based on agglomerations of more than 500)	79.93%
E2: Number of environmental pollution complaints closed	
A1. The total number of pollution cases in respect of which a complaint was made during 2020	821
A2. The number of pollution cases closed from 1st January to 31st December 2020	596
A3. The total number of cases on hands at 31st December 2020	380
E3: Percentage of local authority area within the 5 levels of litter pollution	
 A. The percentage of the area within the local authority that when surveyed in 2020 was: 1) unpolluted or litter free 2) slightly polluted 3) moderately polluted 4) significantly polluted or 5) grossly polluted 	26% 73% 1% 0% 0%
E4: Green Flag Status	
The percentage of schools that have been awarded/renewed the green flag status in the two years to 31st December 2020	61.22%

E5: Energy Efficiency	
A. The cumulative percentage of energy savings achieved by 31st December 2020 relative to baseline year (2009)	Not available at time of printing
E6: Public Lighting	
A. Total billable wattage of the public lighting system	2,910 MWh
B. Average billable wattage of the public lighting system	86.38 W
C. Percentage of the total system that LED lights represent	41.72%

F: FIRE SERVICE

F1: Cost per capita of the Fire Service A. The Annual Financial Statement Programme E expenditure data for 2020 divided by the population of the local authority area per the 2016 Census figures for the population served by the fire authority as €64.21 per the Risk Based Approach Phase One reports F2: Service mobilisation A. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in full-time stations in respect of fire N/A B. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in part-time stations (retained fire service) in 6.7 minutes respect of fire C. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in full-time stations in respect of all other N/A (non-fire) emergency incidents D. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in part-time stations (retained fire service) in 6.7 minutes respect of all other (non-fire) emergency incidents F3: Percentage attendance times at scenes A. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes 17.11% B. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but 57.75% within 20 minutes C. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes 25.13% D. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene 16.67% is within 10 minutes E. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene 65.74% is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes F. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene 17.59% is after 20 minutes

H: HOUSING

H1: Social housing stock	
A. The number of dwellings in the ownership of the local authority at 1st January 2020	1,370
B. The number of dwellings added to the local authority owned stock during 2020 (whether constructed or acquired)	24
C. The number of local authority owned dwellings sold in 2020	14
D. The number of local authority owned dwellings demolished in 2020	0
E. The number of dwellings in the ownership of the local authority at 31st December 2020	1,380
F. The number of local authority dwellings planned for demolition under a DHPLG approved scheme	0

continued >

H2	H2: Housing vacancies		
A.	The percentage of the total number of local authority owned dwellings that were vacant on 31st December 2020	2.97 %	
H3	: Average re-letting time and cost		
A.	The time taken from the date of vacation of dwelling to the date in 2020 when a new tenancy had commenced in the dwelling, averaged across all units re-let during 2020	21.84 weeks	
В.	The cost expended on getting the units re-tenanted in 2020 ready for re-letting, averaged across all units re-let in 2020	€10,967.35	
H	: Housing maintenance cost		
A.	Expenditure during 2020 on the maintenance of local authority housing compiled from 1st January to 31st December 2020, divided by the number of dwellings in the local authority stock at 31st December 2020	€448.17	
HS	Private rented sector inspections		
А.	Total number of registered tenancies in the local authority area at end of June 2020	3,095	
B.	Number of rented dwellings inspected in 2020	294	
C.	Percentage of inspected dwellings in 2020 that were found not to be compliant with the Standards Regulations	89.53 %	
D.	Number of non-compliant dwellings that became compliant in 2020	119	
H6: Long-term homeless adults			
A.	Number of adult individuals in emergency accommodation that are long-term homeless as a percentage of the total number of homeless adult individuals in emergency accommodation at the end of 2020	0%	

J: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	
J1: Number of jobs created	
A. The per capita number of jobs created with assistance from the Local Enterprise Office during the period 1st January to 31st December 2020	Not available at time of printing
J2: Trading Online Vouchers	
A. The per capita number for trading online voucher applications approved by the Local Enterprise Office in 2020	385.78
B. The per capita number of those trading online vouchers that were drawn down in 2020	175.07
J3: Number of mentoring recipients	
A. The per capita number of participants who received mentoring during the period 1st January to 31st December 2020	793.26
J4: Tourism	
A. Does the local authority have a current tourism strategy?	Yes
B. Does the local authority have a designated Tourism Officer?	Yes

L: LIBRARY / RECREATIONAL SERVICES	
L1: Library visits and issues	
A. Number of visits to libraries per head of population for the local authority area as per 2016 ce	nsus 0.42
B. Number of items issued to library borrowers in the year	81,208
C. Library active members per head of population	0.07
D. Number of registered library members in the year	8,371

L2: Cost of operating a Library Service	
A. The Annual Financial Statement Programme F data for 2020 divided by the population of the local authority area per the 2016 Census	€26.88
3. The annual per capita expenditure on collections in 2020	€1.01
M: FINANCE	
M1: 5 Year summary of revenue account balance	
A. The cumulative surplus balance at 31st December 2016	€172,692
3. The cumulative surplus balance at 31st December 2017	€183,369
C. The cumulative surplus balance at 31st December 2018	€189,834
D. The cumulative surplus balance at 31st December 2019	€201,740
. The cumulative surplus balance at 31st December 2020	€218,803
F. The cumulative surplus at 31st December 2020 as a percentage of total income in 2020 from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the Annual Financial Statement	0.29%
G. Revenue expenditure per capita in 2020	€1,105.30
 Revenue expenditure per capita in 2020 excluding significant out of county/shared service expenditure 	€1,103.98
Rates Rent & Annuities Housing Loans 2017: Rates Rent & Annuities Housing Loans	91% 92% 58% 83% 91% 56%
2018: Rates Rent & Annuities Housing Loans	86% 92% 55%
2019: Rates Rent & Annuities Housing Loans	89% 91% 76%
2020: Rates Rent & Annuities Housing Loans	68% 93% 62%
M3. Public Liability Claims	
A. Per capita cost of settled claims for 2018	€4.73
3. Per capita cost of settled claims for 2019	€11.34
C. Per capita cost of settled claims for 2020	€9.51
14. Overheads	
A. Overall central management charge as a percentage of total expenditure on Revenue Account	15.01%

Р	: PLANNING		
P	: New buildings inspected		
A.	Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority	12.5%	
P	2: Number / Percentage of planning decisions confirmed by An Bord Pleanála		
A.	Number of local authority planning decisions which were the subject of an appeal to An Bord Pleanála that were determined by the Board on any date in 2020	16	
В.	Percentage of the determinations at A which confirmed (either with or without variation) the decision made by the local authority	75%	
P	3: Percentage of planning enforcement cases closed as resolved		
A.	Total number of planning cases referred to or initiated by the local authority in the period 1st January to 31st December 2020 that were investigated	101	
В.	Total number of cases that were closed during 2020	35	
C.	Percentage of the cases at B that were dismissed as trivial, minor or without foundation or were closed because statute barred or an exempted development	74.29%	
D	Percentage of the cases at B that were resolved to the local authority's satisfaction through negotiations	8.57%	
E.	Percentage of the cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	17.14 %	
F.	Total number of planning cases being investigated as at 31st December 2020	201	
P	4: Cost per capita of the Planning Service		
A.	The Annual Financial Statement Programme D data divided by the population of the local authority area per the 2016 Census	€31.73	
P	P5: Application for Fire Safety Certificates		
A.	The percentage of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2020 that were decided (granted or refused) within two months of receipt	52.63 %	
Β.	The percentage of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2020 that were decided (granted or refused) within an extended period agreed with the applicant	26.32 %	

R: ROADS

R1: Ratings in Pavement Surface Condition Index (PSCI)	
A. The percentage of (a) Regional (b) Local Primary	93.60% 91.40%
 (c) Local Secondary roads that received a PSCI condition rating in the 24-month period prior to 31st December 2020 and (d) Local Tertiary roads that received a PSCI condition rating in the 60 month period to 31st December 2020 	77.5 0% 72.20 %
 B. The percentage of total (a) Regional, (b) Local Primary, (c) Local Secondary and (d) Local Tertiary road kilometres represented by the numbers of kilometres at 31st December 2020 rated in each of the following 4 groupings of the 10 PSCI rating categories; 1-4, 5-6, 7-8 and 9-10 for each road type. (a) Regional Road At 31st December 2020, the % at PSCI rating categories; 1-4 At 31st December 2020, the % at PSCI rating categories; 5-6 At 31st December 2020, the % at PSCI rating categories; 7-8 At 31st December 2020, the % at PSCI rating categories; 7-8 At 31st December 2020, the % at PSCI rating categories; 9-10 	3.6% 17.9% 35.8% 42.5%
(b) Local Primary Road At 31st December 2020, the % at PSCI rating categories; 1-4 At 31st December 2020, the % at PSCI rating categories; 5-6 At 31st December 2020, the % at PSCI rating categories; 7-8 At 31st December 2020, the % at PSCI rating categories; 9-10	1.9% 47.5% 28% 22.4%

continued >

(c) Local Secondary Road At 31st December 2020, the % at PSCI rating categories; 1-4 At 31st December 2020, the % at PSCI rating categories; 5-6 At 31st December 2020, the % at PSCI rating categories; 7-8 At 31st December 2020, the % at PSCI rating categories; 9-10	7.3% 48.9% 25.3% 17%
(d) Local Tertiary Road At 31st December 2020, the % at PSCI rating categories; 1-4 At 31st December 2020, the % at PSCI rating categories; 5-6 At 31st December 2020, the % at PSCI rating categories; 7-8 At 31st December 2020, the % at PSCI rating categories; 9-10	20.3% 43.4% 12.1% 8.4%
R2: Regional road grants works	
A. Kilometres of regional road strengthened during 2020 and the amount expended on that work and unit cost per square metre	16.4km €3,499,682 €32.04
B. Kilometres of regional road resealed during 2020 and the amount expended on that work and unit cost per square metre	2.4 km €46,812 €3.91
C. Kilometres of local road (i.e. total of primary, secondary and tertiary) strengthened during 2020 and the amount expended on that work and unit cost per square metre	144.2km €6,807,697 €13.15
D. Kilometres of local road resealed during 2020 and the amount expended on that work and unit cost per square metre	125.5km €1,815,867 €4.22
R3: Percentage of motor tax transactions conducted online	
A. The percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with online (i.e. transaction is processed and the tax disc is issued)	74.91%

W: WATER

W1: Percentage of drinking water in private schemes in compliance with statutory requirements		
Percentage of drinking water in private schemes in compliance with statutory requirements in respect of the monitoring of the quality of private drinking water supplies during 2020	Not available at time of printing	
W2: Percentage of registered schemes monitored		
The number of registered schemes monitored by each local authority as a percentage of total schemes registered	83.78 %	

Y: YOUTH / COMMUNITY				
Y1: Participation in Comhairle na nÓg scheme				
A. Percentage of local schools involved in the local Youth Council/Comhairle na nÓg scheme	77.78%			
Y2: Groups associated with the Public Participation Network (PPN)				
A. The number of organisations included in the County Register and the proportion of those organisations that opted to be part of the Social Inclusion College within the PPN	15.71			

Appendix 2: Councillors' Conferences and Training Events

Conferences/Seminars attended in Ireland by Roscommon County Council in 2020

Date	Organiser	Training/Conference Event	Venue	Number of Clirs attended
13th February 2020	Association of Irish Local Government (AILG)	Module 2 - The Development Plan Making Process	Hotel Kilmore, Dublin Road, Cavan	6
15th February 2020	AILG	Module 2 - The Development Plan Making Process	Dooleys Hotel, The Quay, Waterford	2
4th to 5th March 2020	AILG	Annual Training Conference 2020	Longford Arms Hotel, Longford.	7
25th July 2020	AILG	Module 3 - Moorhead Report - A Briefing for Elected Members	Clayton Whites Hotel, Wexford	1
30th July 2020	AILG	Module 3 - Moorhead Report - A Briefing for Elected Members	Carrickdale Hotel, Dundalk	2
11th August 2020	AILG	Module 3 - Moorhead Report - A Briefing for Elected Members	Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone	1
23rd October 2020	AILG	Consideration and Finalisation of the Draft Development Plan	Online - Webinar	2
27th November 2020	AILG	Implementation of the Development Plan and the Development Management Process	Online - Webinar	2
4th December 2020	AILG	Induction Training Webinar for Co-opted Elected Members	Online - Webinar	1

The total expenditure for Elected Members in respect of attendance at training and conferences in 2020 was €4,110.16.

Appendix 3: Councillors' Committees

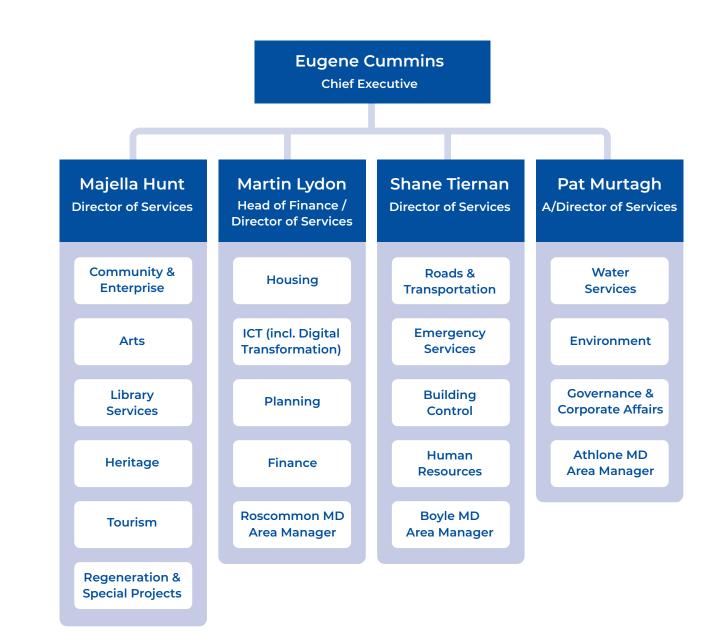
List of County Committees and Outside Bodies on which Roscommon County Council was Formally Represented in 2020

Committee Title	Purpose of the Committee	Elected Members representing Roscommon County Council
Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) Aontas Rialtas Áitiúil na hÉireann	The association organises a programme of meetings which help members give voice to current issues in Council life. The AILG is a networking, policy development and training resource for Elected Members of Ireland's 31 County and City Councils.	Councillors Connaughton, Leyden and Callaghan
Northern and Western Regional Assembly	Managing and monitoring the EU funded operational programmes in the North and West Region.	Councillors Leyden and Naughten
Heritage Forum	An advisory body to oversee and advise on the preparation and implementation of the County Roscommon Heritage Plan.	Councillor Murphy
Galway Roscommon Education & Training Board (ETB)	This committee is responsible for the governance of all educational and administrative services provided by Galway Roscommon ETB.	Councillors Shanagher, McDermott and Fallon
Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Limited (IPB)	Committee required as IPB is a mutual company.	Councillor Keogh
Local Authority Members Association (LAMA)	Represents Elected Members at county, city and borough level. An association for the betterment of conditions, education and training for members.	Councillor Cummins
Library Association of Ireland	To attend the Annual Meeting of the Library Association of Ireland.	Councillor Callaghan
Library Association of Ireland	To attend the Annual Conference of the Library Association of Ireland as a delegate.	Councillors Callaghan, McDermott and Waldron
Local Community Development Committee	To co-ordinate, plan and oversee local and community development funding and bring a joined-up approach to the running of local and community development programmes and interventions.	Councillors Kilduff, Fitzmaurice and Fallon
Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC)	To advise on the provision and management of Traveller accommodation.	Councillors Shanagher, Cummins and Crosby

List of County Committees and Outside Bodies on which Roscommon County Council was Formally Represented in 2020

Committee Title	Purpose of the Committee	Elected Members representing Roscommon County Council
Regional Health Forum West	To ensure that local elected representatives continue to have an opportunity to exercise oversight of the health and personal social services provided by the HSE.	Councillors Ward, Cummins and Crosby
River Suck Joint Drainage Committee	To oversee the ongoing maintenance of the River Suck Drainage District.	Councillors Connaughton, Dineen, Fitzmaurice, Kilduff and Naughten
Road Safety Together Committee	To make the roads in County Roscommon a safer place for all road users.	Councillors Waldron, Murphy and Naughten
Roscommon Comhairle na nÓg Steering Committee	Local youth council, which supports children and young people to be heard in the development of local services and policies. The steering committee helps young people to access and engage with the local authority and with decision making bodies in the county.	Councillors McDermott and Crosby
Roscommon County Council Audit Committee	Advising the Council on financial reporting processes, internal control, risk management and audit matters, promoting good accounting practices, ensuring better and more informed decision-making and improving the focus on value for money throughout the organisation.	Councillors Cummins and Fallon
Roscommon County Council Joint Policing Committee	To serve as a forum for consultation, discussions and recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the local authority's administrative area.	Councillors Waldron, Kilduff, Shanagher, Dineen, Ward, Naughten, Fitzmaurice, Callaghan, Cummins, Fallon, Crosby, Leyden, and Murphy
Rural Water County Monitoring Committee	To advise on the operation of and to monitor the implementation of the Rural Water Programme locally.	Councillors Kilduff, Cummins and Callaghan
Údarás na hOllscoile Governing Authority, National University of Ireland, Galway	Responsible for managing and controlling the affairs of the University.	Councillor Keogh
Standing Orders Committee	Responsible for the review and updating of Roscommon County Council's Standing Orders.	Councillors Dineen, Ward, Cummins, Naughten, McDermott and Crosby
Western Inter-County Rail Committee	This committee is committed to the reopening of the Western Rail Corridor.	Councillor Crosby

Appendix 4: Management Structure







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