

Comhairle Contae Ros Comáin Roscommon County Council





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: Wind Surfing at Lough Ree

Front Cover: Bridge at Lanesborough

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We welcome the publication of this Annual Report as it provides the Council with an opportunity to reflect on its many achievements throughout 2021 despite been confronted by extreme adversity. For a second successive year, the Council's Annual Report is being presented against the backdrop of the unprecedented Covid-19 health crisis and its devastating social and economic consequences. This report provides the Council with an opportunity to highlight its enormous success in delivering innovative responses to this crisis whilst ensuring continuity of services to the citizens and communities of County Roscommon.

Throughout 2021, Roscommon County Council both consolidated and enhanced a number of its interventions that are specifically designed to mitigate the impact of Covid-19. The 24/7 Freephone Community Support Response Helpline continued to offer assistance to vulnerable groups and individuals. Over €150,000 in Covid-19 Emergency Funding, which was provided by the Department of Rural and Community Development, was allocated by the Council to community and voluntary groups involved in responding to the crisis. An additional €266,602 was made available by the Department, under the Community Activities Fund, to facilitate the Council to provide further support to these groups. Supports for business included payment of Small Business Assistance Scheme for COVID Grants amounting to €654,000 and rates waivers totalling €3 million. The Council's Fire Service continued to lead the West Regional Major Emergency Management Group's co-ordination of a multi-agency response to the crisis whilst its Civil Defence volunteers were active in assisting the Covid-19 Vaccination Centre in Roscommon town.

Public health measures to restrict the spread of the Covid-19 virus, which operated at various levels throughout 2021, required the continuation of remote working arrangements for Council employees and limited access by customers to its offices. The Council however succeeded in maintaining normal levels of service through use of state of the art information and communications technologies and increased implementation of its own Digital Transformation Programme. Employees continued to work productively by means of secure access to the Council's network and used communication platforms extensively for business meetings. Customers continued to avail of Council services through facilities such as My Online Services, a digital portal whereby customers could access a growing number of online services from any device, anywhere and at any time. By the end of the year, in excess of 3,300 people had registered as self-service customers of this digital platform. Customers could therefore be assured that, despite the severe challenges of Covid-19, Council services continued to operate with minimum disruption.

Infrastructural development continued at pace during the year. Major roads, water, wastewater and housing projects were either significantly advanced or completed. Design and preparatory works commenced on the Ballaghaderreen to Scramogue Road Project. The Public Consultation No. 2 (Alternatives and Options) process was held for the N4 Carrick-on-Shannon to Dromod Project. Works commenced on the Roscommon Town Main Drainage Project while a proposed detailed design for the Ballaghaderreen Wastewater Treatment Plant is currently proceeding. Roscommon County Council also delivered 106 social housing units under its Acquisition and Construction Programme. It is a testimony to the quality of work carried out under this programme that one of its schemes, the Cluain Fraoigh housing development in Roscommon Town, won an Irish Council for Social Housing (ICSH) Award and was also shortlisted by the Chartered Institute of Housing for best National Housing Development.

Work continued in 2021 on the preparation of the *Roscommon County Development Plan 2021-2027*. A draft of this plan was placed on public display from 21st April to 2nd July 2021. Proposed Material Alterations to the draft were agreed by Elected Members at a Special Meeting of the Council on 16th November 2021 following their consideration of 160 submissions received from members of the public. The final stage of the plan making process commenced on 7th December 2021 with further public consultation on the Proposed Material Alterations. We look forward to the *Roscommon County Development Plan 2021-2027*, following its adoption by the Elected Members, playing a vital role in ensuring the proper planning and sustainable development of our county for the next 6 years.

The Covid-19 crisis continued to have a detrimental impact on tourism and hospitality throughout 2021. Roscommon County Council recognises how crucial its tourism, heritage, arts and regeneration activities are to promoting sustainable recovery in these sectors. The Council continued its commitment in 2021 to the development of inter-agency tourism projects including *Ireland's Hidden Heartlands*. Its Heritage Office, in conjunction with the County Roscommon

Heritage Forum, continued its implementation of the County Roscommon Heritage Plan. The Arts Office continued to support, encourage and nurture the arts. Roscommon Arts Centre delivered 43 live performances and 5 exhibitions. Public realm works were substantially completed under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund at the Square and Main Street, Roscommon. The Historic Towns Initiative helped transform the appearance and vitality of Abbey Street and Goff Street, Roscommon. A number of projects commenced throughout the county under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund. These included the redevelopment of the Royal Hotel site in Boyle into an enterprise centre and community space. Landscaping, public realm, signage, community centre hub and artistic works were carried out at a number of locations under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme. Amenity works were also carried out in several areas under the Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme. We have high hopes that initiatives such as these will spur rapid post-pandemic recovery for our county's beleaguered tourism and hospitality sectors.

The Local Enterprise Office was again very active in promoting County Roscommon as a location for business investment. It also continued to assist local business overcome considerable difficulties posed by both Covid-19 and Brexit. Its supports included providing new and existing micro and small businesses with information, advice, training, mentoring and selective financial support. Supports such as Priming Grants to stimulate business start-ups, Business Expansion Grants to assist growing businesses and Feasibility Grants to help businesses test the viability of new products or processes facilitated investment by the Local Enterprise Office in 15 businesses. A number of initiatives, including the Green for Micro and the Lower Cost Lower Carbon programmes, were also introduced to encourage businesses to adapt and address the challenges presented by the Climate Change Agenda.

Climate change is also very much to the forefront of the Council's priorities. Covid-19 has clearly shown how vulnerable and exposed our world is to catastrophic events. The Climate Action Plan 2021 published by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications commits Ireland to taking decisive actions to achieve a 51% reduction in overall greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and reach net-zero emissions no later than 2050. Government guidance on the preparation of Local Authority Climate Action Plans was also issued during 2021. These local plans will reinforce the Council's capacity to respond proactively to the threats posed by climate change.





We conclude by acknowledging that 2021 has again been another very difficult year. Our most sincere thanks and appreciation goes 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, leadership, professionalism, enterprise and endeavour throughout the year. We also would like to express our upmost gratitude to the many statutory and non-statutory agencies and voluntary and community organisations with whom the Council interacted for their invaluable contributions and co-operation throughout 2021. We wish to take this opportunity to extend our deepest sympathies to those who have experienced loss and suffering as a result of Covid-19. Fortunately, due to the historic roll out of a hugely successful vaccination programme, it is expected that, going forward, most infected people will only develop mild to moderate illness. Whilst recognising that Covid-19 hasn't gone away and that more serious variants could emerge, we nevertheless eagerly anticipate, with some degree of confidence, a return to normality and, with that, 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'.

Joseph Murphy Engen Co

Councillor Joe Murphy Cathaoirleach Roscommon County Council

Mr. Eugene Cummins **Chief Executive** Roscommon County Council

Elected Members of Roscommon County Council

Boyle Municipal District



Non-Party



Cllr. John Cummins Fianna Fáil







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



Cllr. Joe Murphy Fianna Fáil



Roscommon Municipal District



Cllr. Marty McDermott Cllr. Anthony Waldron Fianna Fáil 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. Emer Kelly Non-Party



Cllr. Laurence Fallon Non-Party

Cllr. John Keogh Fianna Fáil







Cllr. John Naughten Fine Gael



Cllr. Tony Ward Non-Party

Cllr. Emer Kelly was co-opted to the Council on 11th May 2021 in order to replace Cllr. Ivan Connaughton who resigned from the Council on 26th April 2021.

Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs)

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

Councillors -

- > Cllr. John Keogh, Chairperson
- > Cllr. Orla Leyden
- > Cllr. Nigel Dineen
- > Cllr. Kathleen Shanagher
- > Cllr. Tom Crosby
- > Cllr. Valerie Byrne
- > Cllr. Joe Murphy
- > Cllr. Emer Kelly
- > 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. Alan Moran, PPN

4 meetings of this SPC were held on 10th February, 9th June, 9th September and 2nd December 2021.

Issues considered included:

- > Tourism Office Updates
- > Local Enterprise Office Programme
- Resumption of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Library Services (following easing of Covid-19 restrictions)
- > Just Transition Update
- > Library Service Updates
- Regeneration Team Updates including Projects Approved under RRDF (Rural Regeneration and Development Fund), URDF (Urban Regeneration and Development Fund), Town and Village Renewal Schemes and ORIS (Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme)
- > Arts Centre Schedule of Activities
- > Arts Office Programme
- > West Region Enterprise Plan
- > Heritage Office Updates
- LECP (Local Economic and Community Plan) 2016-2021 Review and Guidelines for Development of LECP

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 Naughten
- > Cllr. Anthony Waldron

Sectoral Nominations

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

3 meetings of this SPC were held on 25th February, 20th May and 7th October 2021.

Issues considered included:

- Homeless HAP (Housing Assistance Payment) Scheme
- > Housing First Update
- > The Role of the Housing Age Friendly Specialist
- > Change Areas of Choice

- > Solicitors Queries
- > Broadband
- > Social Housing Regulations 2021
- > Housing for All> Allocation Scheme

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

5 meetings of this SPC were held on 18th March, 2nd June, 10th August, 30th September and 18th November 2021.

Issues considered included:

- > Development Plan Process
- > Water Quality in County Roscommon
- > Litter Pollution Act Fixed Penalty Notices
- > Anti-Dumping Initiative 2021
- > Decarbonization Zone Roscommon Town
- > Public Lighting Upgrades
- Roscommon County Council Irish Language Scheme
- > Review of Casual Trading Bye-Laws
- > River Basin Management Plan
- > Climate Action Recommendations

Roads Transportation and Emergency Services SPC

Councillors -

- Cllr. Nigel Dineen, Chairperson (February and May meetings)
- Cllr. Tony Ward, Chairperson (September and December meetings)
- > Cllr. Valerie Byrne
- > Cllr. Ivan Connaughton
- > Cllr. John Cummins
- > Cllr. Laurence Fallon
- > Cllr. Donal Kilduff
- > Cllr. Michael Mulligan
- > Cllr. Marty McDermott

- 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 24h February, 12th May, 15th September and 1st December 2021.

Issues considered included:

- > Cemetery Bye-Laws
- > Local Improvement Scheme
- > Fire Safety Prevention and Enforcement
- > Road Safety

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- > Building Control
- > Cemeteries Community Training Programme

Housing, Community & Enterprise, Tourism, Heritage, Arts, Library Service, Special Projects & Regeneration and Local Enterprise Directorate

Guided tour of Rathcroghan

Housing and Building



Acquisition and Construction Programme

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





Social Housing at Meadowbrook, Ballyleague



Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage with Elected Members at the Official Opening of Cluain Fraoigh, Roscommon

In 2021, Roscommon County Council delivered the following numbers of social housing units under the *Acquisition and Construction Programme*:

- > 3 units at Cloonfad on HSE site;
- > 7 units at Cluain Fraoigh, Roscommon;
- > 16 units at Meadowbrook, Ballyleague;
- > 10 units at Elphin Street, Strokestown;
- 53 units at Douglas Drive, The Walk, Roscommon (Public Private Partnership);
- > 17 acquisitions in various locations.

Roscommon County Council won an *Irish Council* for Social Housing (ICSH) Award under the Housing for Families small projects category for the Cluain Fraoigh development in Roscommon town. This innovative and sustainable project consisted of a mixture of 2 and 3 bedroomed "A" building energy rated bungalow houses. The same development is also shortlisted by the Chartered Institute of Housing for best National Housing Development.

Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF) & Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)

Approved Housing Bodies have a key role in the delivery of social housing. The *Capital Advanced Leasing Facility (CALF)* and the *Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)* are the main capital funding streams for the supply of social housing through Approved Housing Bodies. Currently, 35 units are under construction with an Approved Housing Body in Monksland, Athlone. It is expected that these units will be delivered in 2022.

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 4 social housing units 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 is in long-term lease arrangements with private owners for 5 properties in Boyle and Roscommon town. A further 16 units became active under RAS-type lease agreements during 2021.

Mortgage to Rent (MTR)

This scheme enables homeowners in mortgage difficulty switch from owning to renting their homes as social housing tenants. Departmental approval has been granted for 24 applications to date. Tenancies were completed via Approved Housing Bodies and Home for Life.

Table 1:	Mortgage	to Rent	applications
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Applications to Date	Approved Housing Body Tenancies	Home for Life Tenancies
24	6	0
Applications in 2021	Approved Housing Body Tenancies	Home for Life Tenancies
0	2	8

Casual Vacancies

59 short term vacant units were refurbished at a cost of approximately €650,000. 41 units were funded to the value of €529,246 by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under the 2021 Voids Programme.

Assessments and Allocations Housing

The Annual Social Housing Needs Assessment was finalised on 15th December 2021. At that time there were 231 applicants (excluding transfers) on the approved housing list. There were 507 transfer applicants on the list, the majority of which are accommodated in private rented accommodation via HAP and RAS.



Table 2: Tenancy Agreements 2021

Local Authority Tenancy Agreements Signed	111
Approved Housing Body Tenancy Agreements	60
Offer Refusal Rate	20%

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 2021 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



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Housing Assistance Payment Scheme (HAP)

The *HAP Scheme* continues to provide housing support to people with a long-term housing need. 103 applicants were accommodated via the scheme in 2021. This brings to 819 the total number of applicants accommodated through the scheme since it was introduced in December 2016.

Standards for Rented Residential Property

Inspections of private rented dwellings continued in 2021 under the Housing (Standards for Private Rented Houses) Regulations 2017. Details are set out in **Table 3**.

Table 3: Inspections of Rental Residential Property

Number of Inspections Carried Out	266
Number of Dwellings Deemed Compliant	59
Number of Improvement Letters Issued to Landlords	207

Homelessness

Roscommon County Council provides a range of responses to homelessness in accordance with the West Region Homelessness Action Plan. A total of 78



households presented for homeless services in 2021, 41 of which required short-term accommodation. 20 homeless households availed of social housing support through various mechanisms such as local authority housing, Approved Housing Bodies, *HAP* and *Homeless HAP Schemes* and *RAS* type leases.

The Homeless HAP Scheme was introduced by Roscommon County Council in December 2020. 8 homeless clients have been accommodated by the scheme to date.

In 2021, a Homeless Action Team was established to facilitate the co-ordination of Housing First and Housing-Led support services. To date, 7 referrals have been forwarded to the Homeless Action Team for consideration. 2 referrals have been accepted for Housing-Led services and 4 referrals have been accepted for Housing First services. 3 Housing First tenancies have commenced. Other accommodation units are currently being identified for the creation of Housing First and Housing-Led tenancies.

Tenant Purchase Scheme

The *Tenant Purchase Scheme* was published under the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014. Roscommon County Council received 32 applications in 2021.

Table 4: Tenant Purchase Scheme

2021 Applications Received	32
Offers of Sale	28
Sales Closed	11

Housing Loans

Roscommon County Council received 17 Rebuilding Ireland home loan applications in 2021. 11 Ioan applications were approved during 2021 and 10 Ioans were drawn down from the Housing Finance Agency.

Table 5: Housing Loans

Applications Received	31
Loans Approved	16
Loan Drawdown	7

Sale of Private Sites and Rural Houses

11 sites at Forest View, Boyle were re-advertised in April 2021 at a reduced price of €10,000. No applications to purchase sites were received in 2021. 4 derelict rural houses were sold in 2021

Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024

In line with the *Traveller Accommodation Programme*, Roscommon County Council has a number of projects at various stages including developments at Bri Chaoilinne, Harristown, Castlerea; Cluain Airne, Lanesborough Road, Roscommon and Torpan Beg, Ballyforan. 9 Traveller families were accommodated in standard social housing and 9 families were accommodated in traveller specific accommodation in 2021.

Energy Efficiency Programme

Under the *Midlands Retrofit Programme*, Roscommon County Council upgraded 50 units to a minimum of a 'B' building energy rating. A further 26 units were upgraded in the 2021 *Energy Retrofit Programme*. All units had electric storage heaters which were removed and replaced with energy efficient heat pumps. Other works included blocking of chimney's, replacement windows and doors, insulation and ventilation.

Housing Maintenance

The Council's Housing Department received 1,327 maintenance calls and spent €533,126.76 on response maintenance works in 2021. This equates to an average of €401.75 per call out.



Housing Grants

Funding (for private dwellings) allocated to County Roscommon for 2021 amounted to \in 1,190,393.00 (80% Department funded and 20% Council funded). Despite Covid-19 restrictions, the Council processed 90% of the full allocation.

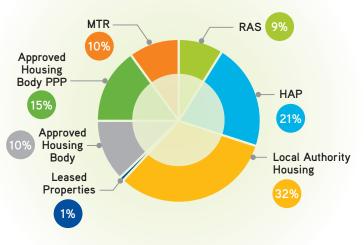
Table 6: Housing Grant Schemes

Scheme	Total Grants Approved	Value of Grants Approved
Housing Grant for People with a Disability	56	€650,310.55
Housing Mobility Aid Grant	38	€181,509.58
Housing Aid for Older People	75	€432,233.40

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

The Disability Steering Group held 3 meetings in 2021. A total of 68 people with a disability received social housing support in 2021 through local authority housing, Approved Housing Body housing, *HAP*, *RAS*, *MTR*, Approved Housing Body public private partnership and leased properties.

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 2021:

- 62 incidents of anti-social behavior were received resulting in the granting of 1 Possession Order. Some issues were resolved and others are ongoing;
- 4 Tenancy Warnings were issued to local authority tenants;
- The Housing Liaison Officer continues to engage with litter wardens, TUSLA, mental health services, Community Gardaí and the wider community to ensure good estate management.

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Community and Enterprise

The Community and Enterprise Department provides support for the County Roscommon Local Community Development Committee. 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)

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. 4 meetings of the JPC took place in 2021 and a robust work plan was completed. The impact of Covid-19 precluded a public meeting being held.

Public Participation Network (PPN)

Roscommon PPN is the main link through which the County Council 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 and Strategic Policy Committees.

Community and Amenity Grants Scheme 2021

A total of €60,000 was allocated to the *Community* and Amenity Grants Scheme in 2021. Grants ranging from €500 to €1,500 were awarded to 89 projects.

Pride of Place Competition 2021

Roscommon County Council nominated 2 community groups to the 2021 *All-Island Pride of Place Competition*. The groups that represented County Roscommon were Cloontuskert Development and Tidy Towns and Knockcroghery Tidy Towns. The results of the competition were scheduled to be announced at an awards ceremony in May 2022.



Cloontuskert Tidy Towns



Knockcroghery Tidy Towns

Community Grants under the Remit of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

Covid 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 were responding to the Covid-19 crisis.

Under round 1 a total of €106,692 was allocated to 46 applications by Roscommon County Council. A further €43,815.00, under the 2nd round of the scheme, was awarded by Roscommon LCDC to 32 groups.

Community Enhancement Programme 2021

The Community Enhancement Programme is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and administered by LCDCs in each local authority area. Roscommon County Council was allocated €133,301. 77 applications were received. Roscommon LCDC awarded funds to 66 community groups.

Dormant Accounts Fund – Social Enterprise Capital Grant Scheme

The Minister for Rural and Community Development approved funding of \in 1 million for the *Dormant Accounts Fund Social Enterprise Capital Grants Scheme 2021.* This funding was allocated to social enterprises exclusively. Roscommon LCDC was awarded \in 20,635.12. 15 applications were received. Funding was awarded to 5 groups.

Community Activities Fund

The Community Activities Fund was announced by the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphries, TD on the 11th November 2021. This €9 million fund is provided by the Government to support community and voluntary groups impacted by Covid-19. €266,602 was allocated to Roscommon County Council. A major awareness and strong advertising campaign was rolled out and concluded in December 2021. The scheme opened for applications in January 2022.

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 came into effect on 1st April 2021. It will bridge the gap between the wind-up of the LEADER Programme 2014-2020 and the start of the next EU programme.

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.

Town Teams comprise representatives of different sections of the community. They 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. Teams are free to seek and source other funding. All funds go towards enhancing growth and prosperity within each team's area.

Community Support Response Helpline

The 24/7 Freephone Community Support Response Helpline, which was set up by Roscommon County Council in 2020 in partnership with the Gardaí and Roscommon Leader Company to assist in the delivery of targeted social care supports and assistance to vulnerable groups and individuals during the Covid-19 pandemic, continued to operate in 2021.



CLÁR project completed in 2021 at Drumboylan Amenity Area

CLÁR 2021

A total of $\leq 268,012$ was allocated to 7 schools and communities under the *CLÁR* 2021 programme. The following table provides details of the funding that was allocated.

Name of Group	Funding
St. Mary's National School, Strokestown	€47,593.00
Enterprise Killtullagh CLG	€29,213.00
Camcloon National School	€50,000.00
Clonown National School	€20,106.00
Croghan National School	€50,000.00
Castletown Town Trust	€48,600.00
St. Brigid's National School, Dangan	€22,500.00

Roscommon Social Inclusion Unit

The Social Inclusion 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 and Roscommon Leader Partnership.

Recreation and Inclusion

For a second year, the Social Inclusion Unit adapted the roll out of its social inclusion events during 2021 to incorporate an online approach. Online events included National Virtual Play Day, Science Week, Africa Day and Social Inclusion Week. The annual National Bike Week was also adapted and rolled out in conjunction with Roscommon Sports Partnership.

Age Friendly

The Social Inclusion Unit is responsible for the implementation of the *Age Friendly Strategy* and supporting the work of the Age Friendly Working Group, County Alliance and the Roscommon Older Peoples Council. During 2021, a number of age friendly initiatives were progressed. These included Library Digital and Media training for members of the Roscommon Older People's Network. With the aid of funding under the Government's *Keep Well Campaign*, age friendly electronic tablet devices were distributed to nursing homes in County Roscommon and over 400 Age Friendly Care Packs were delivered to some of the most vulnerable and isolated older people throughout the county.

Comhairle na nÓg

Roscommon Comhairle na nÓg is facilitated by the Social Inclusion Unit. One of the most important aspects of Comhairle na nÓg is that it allows young people to select and work on topics of importance that affect them locally. The most recent topic of focus was to highlight issues affecting young people's mental health. Comhairle members, through the medium of visual art, developed a symbol connected to Equinox, the day of the year when day and night are exactly the same length. The final art piece is based around the balance of mental health, nature and the ecosystem and takes pride of place in Áras on Chontae, the Council's headquarters in Roscommon town.









Sports Development Officers

Roscommon County Council, through the Social Inclusion Unit, continued in 2021 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 programmes with Roscommon Sports Partnership in the area of disability.

Healthy Roscommon

Roscommon County Council continued to deliver the *Healthy Ireland/Healthy Roscommon* programme. 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.





Tourism

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to have an immense effect on the tourism sector in 2021. However, Roscommon Tourism continued to work with the tourism trade to showcase the county as a destination for the domestic tourist during the year.



Marketing and Media

Roscommon Tourism invested in a domestic marketing campaign throughout 2021 using platforms of print, (regional papers) online social media and radio (i Radio, Shannonside, Highland Radio and Ocean FM).

Roscommon Marketing Videos and Photography

4 Roscommon trails videos and an activities video were produced to highlight *Trails with Easy Access*, *Family Friendly Trails*, *Trails to Explore in Summer*, *Trails to Explore in Spring* on all there is to see and do in the county. The ongoing development of a portfolio of images for the promotion of tourism continued in 2021 with winter imagery.

Tourism Networking

Tourism county networking events were held during the year via TEAMS with stakeholders receiving updates on tourism and Ireland's Hidden Heartlands Destination Recovery Task Force developments.

Ireland's Hidden Heartlands

Virtual meetings for *Ireland's Hidden Heartlands* (Upper, Middle and Lower Shannon) were held in 2021. The Destination Recovery Taskforce for each of the 3 zones completed a marketing campaign for *Ireland's Hidden Heartlands*.

Inter-Agency Development

Roscommon County Council continued its commitment in 2021 to the development of interagency projects including Lough Ree, *Ireland's Hidden Heartlands* and Coillte.





Roscommon trails videos



Attending the Opening of the Douglas Hyde Centre for the Summer Season - Michelle McKenna, Tour Guide, Cllr. Joe Murphy, Cathaoirleach, Eugene Cummins, Chief Executive and Eiméar Dowd, Tourism Officer

Douglas Hyde Interpretative Centre and King House

The new exhibition in the Douglas Hyde Centre was launched in July 2021 while King House reopened in 2021 from July to September. Many cultural events were held in both venues during the year.

Funding

Roscommon County Council was awarded grant funding for the following projects in 2021:



Attending the Opening of King House for the Summer Season – Cllr. Joe Murphy, Cathaoirleach and Patricia Golden, King House Curator

Scheme	Location	Amount
Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (Measure 1)	Cavetown, Lough Errit, Seating, Signage and Judy's Harbour	€96,200
Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (Measure 3)	Arigna Energy Inclusive Discovery Park	€500,000
Fáilte Ireland Outdoor Dining	92 applications	€171,000

Heritage

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

The Heritage Work Programme for 2021 was supported with funding from the Heritage Council, the *Community Monuments Fund* and the Local Biodiversity Action Plan Fund from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the Creative Ireland Programme.

The Heritage Office delivered many projects during the year including the community archaeology element of the Farming Rathcroghan European Innovation Partnership (EIP); a Spring into Heritage Bucket List; the Heritage Research Bursary; a free online Know Your Locality course; the #KnowYour5K initiative; a #natureisgoodforyou initiative in support of the Keep Well campaign and a Winter Gardening for Biodiversity campaign. The Heritage Officer also participated on the Royal Sites of Ireland Steering Group.

Roscommon County Council has signed up as a partner to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. National Biodiversity Week 2021 was marked with a series of informative social media posts. Initiatives to assist the management and control of invasive alien species were supported in Athlone and Boyle Municipal Districts. National Heritage Week 2021 was successful. Drawing on our Heritage consisted of an online exhibition of the Council's collection of conjectural reconstruction drawings. A ceremony took place to mark the *Rededication* of the Fr. O'Flanagan Memorial Bridge. A series of archaeology videos and a story map produced by Archaeological Management Solutions during the archaeological advance works for the new N5 were shared.

Farming Rathcroghan EIP hosted farm walks at The Mucklaghs in Rathcroghan during National Heritage Week



Spring into Heritage Bucket List



Roscommon County Council actions for pollinators saw reduced mowing at its Monksland offices



The Royal Sites of Ireland's new website https://www.royalsites.ie

and the second



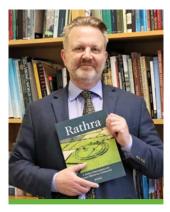
Cllr. Joe Murphy Cathaoirleach, Roscommon County Council and Frank Feighan, TD, Minister of State at the Department of Health unveiling a plaque to celebrate the *Rededication of the Fr. O'Flanagan Memorial Bridge* in Castlerea during *National Heritage Week*

A Reflection on 20 years of Roscommon Heritage Office took place in 2021. Rathra a Royal Stronghold of Early Medieval Connacht by Joe Fenwick was published. The Community Monuments Fund was delivered with 4 projects funded. The works phase of Rahara Church Conservation Project commenced. Stabilisation and conservation of this fragile masonry monument will build resilience against the impacts of climate change. The Built Heritage Investment Scheme and Historic Structures Fund were delivered with 14 projects supported.



A webpage and social media campaign marked A Reflection on 20 years of Roscommon Heritage Office

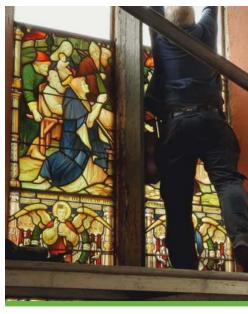
Roscommon Schools Óenach celebrated Táin and Irish hero tales with over 450 schoolchildren from 19 schools taking part. 3 videos highlighting the project are available on Youtube.



Author Joe Fenwick of NUI Galway with his new guidebook Rathra a *Royal Stronghold of Early Medieval Connacht*



Building resilience to climate change through the Rahara Church Conservation Project



Repairs to a stained glass window in Roscommon Genealogy Centre, funded by the *Built Heritage Investment Scheme*

20 years of Roscommon Heritage Projects

Arts

Arts Office

In 2021, the Arts Office continued to support, encourage and nurture the arts with new and existing programmes prioritising youth arts, developing partnerships and working collaboratively with artists, agencies and communities across the areas of music, film, visual arts, literature, theatre, public art and more.



Roscommon County Youth Theatre's Snow Queen at Roscommon Christmas Festival

Artists recommenced the Artist in Schools Programme after Easter, with schools enthusiastically welcoming artists back into the classroom in line with public health guidelines. Applications to the 2021/22 programme saw school applications more than double.

Another challenging year for Music Generation Roscommon and Roscommon County Youth Theatre saw workshops and productions delivered entirely online until the Summer. A new website was launched www.roscommonCountyyouththeatre.ie. The Snow Queen at Roscommon Christmas Festival, a hugely enjoyable spectacle in collaboration with the McDermott Ballet School and the Gliondar Community Arts Group, was held in December 2021.

The very successful *Literary Development Programme* included a presentation to Neil Tully, the winner of the Roscommon *New Writing Award* at McGahern Barracks, Cootehall on *Culture Night 2021*.



Neil Tully, winner of the Roscommon *New Writing Award* pictured at McGahern Barracks Cootehall with Louise G. Cole, Adjudicator, Rhona McGrath, Arts Officer and Gerry Boland, Literary Programme Coordinator

Dr. Ryan Molloy was the first recipient of the *King* House Piano Commission 2020/21.



King House Piano Commission



At the Castle, Roscommon Castle, Culture Night 2021

At the Abbey and At the Castle consisted of 2 two large scale, site specific, multi-media outdoor events held on Office of Public Works sites. These engaged 2 local lead artists Emma Brennan (film maker and composer) and Mintesinot Wolde (choreographer and dancer) to create work with local performers and Algorithm Productions. These were delivered under the Local Live Performance Programming Scheme which enabled the Council to manage and support performances by local performers, technical teams and event organisers and to bring high quality performances outdoors to the public in a safe manner.

The Arts Office coordinated and promoted 21 events for *Culture Night 2021* with 100 artists/performers and 8 cultural venues countywide. 1,900 persons attended live events. 3,600 persons viewed online events.

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.

In 2021, for the Creative Ireland Programme, the Culture Team organised over 30 events and projects including Hide & Seek with Roscommon Leprechauns and An Ant Called Amy for Cruinniú na nÓg, Ireland's national day of creative activity for children, young people and entire families.

Ignite the Spark comprised of a creative project that celebrated and connected young and old through chats, stories, memories and laughter. Members of the Roscommon County Youth Theatre engaged with residents of the Sacred Heart Hospital and Care Home, Roscommon. Under the curation of Catherine Sheridan and fellow artist Julie Sharkey, *Bright Sparks* (Roscommon County Youth Theatre members) and *Dazzling Sparks* (Hospital and Care Home residents) unified in a series of weekly gettogethers where pictures, songs, dreams, desires and lots more were unlocked.



Hide & Seek with Roscommon Leprechauns by Franziska Leinberger for Cruinniú na nÓg

Following a successful funding application to the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media, the Arts Office, together with the Regeneration Team will develop an *Outdoor Public Performance Space* at Somers Park, The Demesne, Castlerea.



An Ant Called Amy by Julie Sharkey for Cruinniú na nÓg



Ignite the Spark at Sacred Heart Hospital, Roscommon

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Arts Centre

In 2021, despite extended periods of closure due to Covid-19, Roscommon Arts Centre delivered a multi-faceted programme which included 43 live performances, 5 exhibitions and 1 inhouse production with an audience reach of over 90,000 people.

Increased Arts Council funding and the support of *Creative Ireland* enabled the centre to develop and deliver a range of supports to artists and creatives through a series of mentored residencies, commissions, performances, projects and engagement opportunities which resulted in almost €170,000 being paid directly to artists and practitioners in 2021.

Notable highlights in 2021 included an online Spring programme to which 18 local artists were invited to make contributions. Internationally renowned photographer Martin Parr made a welcome return to the gallery with his exhibition 40 Years of Photography in Ireland, which was made possible with support from Creative Ireland. This work explored a variety of themes and events of historical and social significance in Ireland including the Pope's visit, the traditional Irish horse and cattle fairs, rural ballrooms, the infamous abandoned Morris Minors of the West of Ireland, seaside holidays and the changing face of economic Ireland.



Martin Parr's exhibition 40 Years of Photography in Ireland

For the stage the centre supported artists creating new theatre work which included the premiering of its co-production with Fregoli Theatre Company of *Cross Street* by Boyle playwright Jarleth Tivnan and *An Ant Called Amy*, a new work for young audiences by Ballaghaderreen theatre practitioner Julie Sharkey, which will tour nationwide in 2022 with the centre's support.



Fregoli Theatre Company's Cross Street by Jarleth Tivnan premiered at Roscommon Arts Centre in November 2021

Julie Sharkey in rehearsal on the stage at Roscommon Arts Centre for the recording of An Ant Called Amy



Local actors Con Connolly and Marie Conroy in a scene from The Tinkers Curse/Playing on the Radio



Shimmer by Anna Newell, created with the support of Roscommon Arts Centre through the Network for Extra-Ordinary Audiences and presented as part of the Lollipops Festival 2021

The lifting of Covid-19 restrictions in the Autumn, allowed the Arts Centre to expand into schools and engage with families via the *Lollipops Children's Festival*. The centre also embarked on a new community project *Playing on the Radio* with members of the Roscommon Drama Group and Roscommon actor/director Enda Oates.

Fregoli Theatre Company embarked on the second year of its residency at the centre. Activities included *Share* a workshop programme working with 50 young people at the Emergency Reception and Orientation Centre (EROC) in Ballaghaderreen and a new devised street theatre performance *Angels* and *Castle Tales*, a series of audio works re-imagining County Roscommon landmarks as the settings for fantastical tales, exploring themes of home and adventure. Through an open call, to which over 30 artists responded, theatre practitioner Veronica Dyas was awarded the 2021 *Creative Ireland Wings Residency*.

Under the curatorship of Naomi Draper, 4 artists that were previously commissioned presented shows in the gallery space and a further 43 visual artists from around Ireland were commissioned for the 2022 programme.

The *Studio 21* programme saw 8 artists avail of Summer studio space. An additional 25 artists availed of a range of supports for research, development and rehearsals in the centre's workshop, auditorium and studio spaces. Roscommon Arts Centre continued to work with venue partners throughout 2021 across a number of producing networks including Nomad (theatre); LIVE (literary) and both the Network for Extra-Ordinary Audiences and Meitheal (children/ early years theatre). The work with these networks included securing funding and supporting artists in the development, creation, presentation and touring of new work throughout 2021.

2021 saw the launch of Roscommon Arts Centre's *Kaleidoscope*, a new multi-art form creative learning programme. Delivered by 14 professional artists and facilitators, almost 900 people embraced the opportunities to creatively engage with dance, literature, music, STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) and visual art.

In 2021, Roscommon Arts Centre was awarded a programming grant of €141,000 from the Arts Council, representing an increase of 27% on 2020. Coupled with this, two *Strategic Funding Awards* were also received to support programming initiatives and the development of a new *Strategic Plan.* This funding will also support the appointment of an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Specialist to develop a new *EDI Strategy* in consultation with local communities and to curate a pilot programme of EDI focussed initiatives. As part of its work with the NOMAD Theatre Network, a third *Arts Council Capacity Building Grant* was secured for the network to develop new *Audience Development Plans.*



Roscommon County Council's Library Service provided a range of resources and services throughout 2021. Through a network of branch libraries, the mobile library service and online service provision, it supported the needs of users across the county, while operating at all times in line with public health measures. Online library services played a key role in service delivery throughout the year while library branches were open to the public from May to December.

Service Provision

The delivery of library services varied throughout the year in line with public health guidelines. Services included online services only, full lending services, study spaces and computer and internet access. The Library Service provided an extensive programme of events that were delivered online.

The mobile library vehicle was used to deliver library services in Ballaghaderreen, Strokestown, Elphin and Monksland.

Library Development Strategies

The delivery of library services during 2021 was in line with the requirements of *COVID-19 Resilience and Recovery 2021: The Path Ahead* and core service strategies and recommendations contained in Our *Public Libraries 2022: Inspiring, Connecting and Empowering Communities.* A new 5-year *Library Development Plan* will be delivered in 2022.

Funding Supports

Funding supports from the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Dormant Accounts Fund supported the delivery of a new collaborative project with Sligo and Leitrim Library Services. This project, called *Sense-Ability*, aims to deliver sensory friendly library services for neuro-diverse people in the community. During 2021, *Sense-Ability* delivered a sensory pod in Roscommon Branch Library, an online series of webinars with expert speakers and extensive staff



Sensory Pod in Roscommon Branch Library

training. It also developed and procured a lending collection of sensory items for loan.

Ballaghaderreen Library was awarded funding in the amount of €95,250. This funding will allow for the development of the first *My Open Library* service in County Roscommon. When works are complete the library will be open from 8am to 10pm, 365 days per year on a self-service basis.

The Dormant Accounts Fund also supported the delivery of a collaborative programme with Foróige called *Exploring STEM*. This programme allowed 77 young people to explore what STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) is and how it plays a part in their everyday lives.

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Records being prepared for digitisation

Online Resources

The availability of a wide range of online resources was key to service delivery during periods of closure. Library users had access to eBooks, eAudiobooks, online courses, online language learning, eNewspapers and eMagazines. The use of eBooks increased by 16% in 2021. eAudiobooks increased by 45%.

The Library Service provided access to 100 Touch-Type, Read and Spell (TTRS) licences in 2021. TTRS is an online typing course designed to benefit those who experience spelling, reading or writing difficulties. There was a particularly high demand for this service from primary schools.

The Library Service, through the support of the *Decade of Centenaries*, commenced the digitisation of records including minute books. Scanned records were made available on the Council's website.

Library Events and Activities

During 2021, the Library Service continued with the delivery of online events through social media platforms and using Crowdcast.

Healthy Ireland at your Library, together with the Work Matters at the Library initiatives, delivered 2 online webinars on the topics of menopause and andropause. 100 people registered for both events.

During *World Mental Health Month*, an online photography competition encouraged people to go out for a walk and send in a photograph of their favourite walk in County Roscommon. There was a wonderful response to the competition and the winner received an overall prize of a Fitbit.



Winner of the Summer Stars Competition collects his prize from the mobile 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 (Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board), Roscommon Childcare Committee, Family Resource Centres, TUSLA and Foróige.

The *Right to Read* programme was delivered online during 2021 with dozens of videos shared over social media platforms. *Spring into Storytime* videos were viewed by over 1,000 people. The ever popular *Summer Stars* programme had almost 600 children participate in the Summer reading challenge. One lucky child, who joined in the reading challenge, won a prize of a new bicycle. Supported by *Creative Ireland*, the *Ros na nÓg Children's Book Festival* reached more than 400 children in homes and classrooms around the country and over 130 children entered a poetry competition. In October, library staff created Halloween craft bags for collection from local libraries and accompanying instructional videos.

Performance Measures

In 2021, there were a total of 31,456 visits to library service points. More than 70,000 items were borrowed by library users, in person and online.

Special Projects and Regeneration

Christmas Market, The Square, Roscommon

The role of Roscommon County Council's Special Projects and Regeneration Unit is to develop, co-ordinate and implement projects to facilitate economic and rural development throughout the county. This unit was actively involved in several initiatives and projects during 2021.

Historic Towns Initiative (HTI): Revitalising Roscommon Town's Historic Streets

Roscommon town was 1 of 10 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 upper Abbey Street and Goff Street, Roscommon. Works included preventative maintenance measures and enhancements to front facing facades.

Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF)

Activity in 2021 included the following:

- > Works to Market Square, Roscommon and the Main Street Public Realm Project got under way in the 1st quarter of 2021. Public realm works on Main Street are now substantially complete with the covered civic space now entering the design phase.
- > An application to the value of €12.3 million, entitled Roscommon Town – Putting the Spokes Back into the Hub (linking the backlands of Main Street, retail parks and Circular Road to support the main town core and a cycling perimeter route), was approved in the 1st quarter of 2021.
- > Design consultants were appointed. Initial design consultations have taken place with local stakeholders and the initial design was progressed.



Architect's Impression of the Royal Hotel, Boyle

Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF)

Activity in 2021 included the following:

- > Works commenced on the redevelopment of the Royal Hotel site in Boyle into an enterprise centre and community space.
- A detailed design was completed on the Castlerea Food Hub. Construction tenders have been progressed.
- A detailed design of the Monksland Life Sciences and Soft Landing Space was substantially completed and the design package commenced.
- An application was submitted under Round 3 Category 1 for Energising Boyle Town Centre and King House focusing on upgrades to King House including exhibitions, energy efficiency and campus facilities. It also includes public realm enhancements on Bridge Street and Shop Street as well as the carpark adjacent to Shop Street.
- Part 8 Planning was approved for public realm enhancement in Ballaghaderreen as part of the Category 2 RRDF and detailed design was substantially progressed.
- Successful applications were prepared under Category 2 RRDF for both Strokestown (Rejuvenating Strokestown's Potential) and Monksland (Putting the Heart into Monksland) which will design transformational projects for both towns.



Streetscape Enhancement Scheme, Athleague

Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2021

Villages successful under the 2020 *Town and Village Renewal Schemes* and rolled out throughout 2021 consisted of Knockcroghery, Lecarrow, Dysart, Four Roads, Croghan, Tarmonbarry and Rooskey. These villages saw much activity taking place. Examples of works include landscaping, public realm enhancements, new approach signage, community centre hubs and artistic installations. Successful projects under the 2021 scheme consisted of Monksland, Cloonfad, Ballintubber and *Roscommon Bound*. Work on these projects will commence in 2022.

Town and Village Streetscape Enhancement Scheme 2021

The Town and Village Streetscape Enhancement Scheme, which was funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development in 2021 resulted in the selection of the following 5 towns and villages for consideration for a painting scheme, new shopfronts and green enhancements:

- > Roscommon;
- > Boyle;
- > Ballaghaderreen;
- > Knockcroghery;
- > Athleague.

Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)

The Regeneration Unit was busy progressing the following projects during 2021:

- Completion of works at Rindoon Loop and Judy's Harbour, Lecarrow which included looped cycle/walk and enhancements to the amenity area beside Judy's Harbour;
- Completion of works to Cloonlarge Loop Walk, Kilteevan;
- Completion of slipway at Portrunny Bay, Lough Ree with additional parking and enhancement works to follow;
- Initial design works and procurement for outdoor recreation projects at Doon Shore and Mote Park.

Community and Economic Plans

The Regeneration Unit worked with Elected Members and communities in Elphin, Knockcroghery, Lecarrow and Rahara to prepare community and economic plans. Consultations continued online and in person where possible with great local engagement.

Town Centre First Initiative

This new initiative from the Department of Rural and Community Development aims to create town centres that function as viable, vibrant and attractive locations for people to live, work and visit. Strokestown was nominated on behalf of County Roscommon to develop a *Town Centre First Masterplan*, which will provide a vision for the development of the town with a focus on the town centre and immediate surrounds.

Working with Our Global Rossie Family through Roscommon Bound

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. Special social media content was created for Christmas and the New Year to reach out and connect to Roscommon's diaspora around the world. This initiative, which secured €100,000 in funding through the 2021 *Town and Village Renewal Scheme*, will build the national and international profile of Roscommon and promote the county as a location for remote workers and mobile talent.

Funding under Project Ireland 2040

A summary of funding received in 2021 under *Project Ireland 2040* is provided in the following table:

Scheme	Location	Amount
Town and Village Renewal Standard Scheme	Various	€487,257
Town and Village Streetscape Enhancement Scheme	Various	€220,000
Town Centre First Initiative	Strokestown	€75,000
Historic Towns Initiative 2021	Roscommon Town	€114,105
Rural Regeneration Development Fund	Various	€337,870
Outdoor Recreation infrastructure Scheme	Mote Park, Doon Shore and Portrunny	€472,312
Urban Regeneration and Development Fund	Roscommon Town	€3,610,223
Department of Children and Youth Affairs	Portrunny	€15,850

Table 1: Funding Received in 2021 under Project Ireland 2040

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 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.

2021 was a very busy year for LEO Roscommon due to the ongoing impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic and Brexit on businesses. 167 businesses employing 940 people were supported as a direct result of grants approved for new and existing businesses employing additional staff in County Roscommon.

Some of the major financial supports provided include *Priming Grants* to support start-ups, *Business Expansion Grants* to support growing businesses and *Feasibility Grants* to help businesses test the commercial or technical feasibility of new products or processes. Through these supports the Local Enterprise Office invested in 15 businesses in 2021 which were projected to create an additional 69 jobs.

2021 saw an increase in participants in training courses, mentoring assignments and mentoring clinics. All of these were delivered remotely and tailored specifically towards the needs of small, micro and start-up businesses in Roscommon.

LEO engaged with 7 second level schools to sow the seed of entrepreneurship at a local, county and national level.

The LEO introduced a number of initiatives in 2021 to help businesses adapt and address the challenges presented by the *Climate Change Agenda*. Energy audits and advice were provided to small and micro businesses under the *Green for Micro* and the *Lower Cost Lower Carbon* programmes which were developed in partnership with Sligo IT and Local Enterprise Offices in Mayo.

There was again a high demand for *Trading Online Vouchers* which were grant aided at 50% and assisted 42 more businesses to transition to an eCommerce model. The LEO continued to provide pandemic supports to Roscommon businesses. It provided 100 days of consultancy to 38 clients under the *Client Stimulus Scheme* allowing them to strengthen critical business areas.

15 LEO clients were also facilitated with Microfinance Ireland Ioan applications.



Local Enterprise Office Roscommon



Winners of the National Enterprise Future Focus Award 2021 – Lidan Designs.

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 2021 promoting Roscommon as a location for business and inward investment.



Winners of the Senior Student Enterprise Awards 2021, Katelyn Drury and Holly Connolly students of Castlerea Community College



Roads & Transportation, Emergency Services, Building Control and Planning Directorate

Roads and Transportation

The Roads and Transportation Department is responsible for the delivery of programmes including National and Non-National Road Maintenance and Road Improvement Schemes; Road Safety Programmes; Bridge Maintenance and Improvement Works; Active Travel Investment Programme; Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Programme; 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; Parks and Amenities.

Road Network

Roscommon County Council is responsible for the maintenance and improvement of the road network in the county. Works in 2021 included road construction and maintenance; bridge rehabilitation; drainage works; the carrying out of safety and traffic management measures; active travel measures; climate change adaptation and resilience works; the implementation of *Community Involvement* and *Local Improvement Schemes* and footpath repairs. County Roscommon road class and length details are outlined in **Table 1**.

Table 1: County Ro	scommon Road	Class and Length
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Road Class	Length (Metres)
Motorway	20,220
National Primary	83,492
National Secondary	148,056
Regional	375,780
Local Roads	3,414,430
Total All Roads	4,041,978

Funding

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) allocates funding to operate, maintain and improve the National Primary and Secondary Road Network in the county. The Department of Transport allocates funding for the reconstruction and maintenance of Regional and Local Roads; bridge rehabilitation; drainage programmes; safety schemes; climate adaptation and resilience schemes and works under *Community Involvement Schemes*. Funding for the *Active Travel Programme* is provided by the National Transport Authority. The Department of Rural and Community Development provides funding for non-public roads – *Local Improvement Schemes*. The Council provides funding from its own resources to supplement grant allocations. Flood mitigation works are funded by the Office of Public Works and from the Council's own resources. The national and non-national funding allocations for 2021 are outlined in **Table 2**.

Funding Source	Works	2021 Funding
Department of Transport	Regional and Local Road Reconstruction and Maintenance, Bridges, Drainage Works, Safety Schemes, Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Works, Community Involvement Schemes	€19,886,968.00
Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII)	National Primary and Secondary Routes	€29,221,968.00
National Transport Authority	Active Travel Investment Programme	€2,397,000
Department of Rural and Community Development	Non-Public Roads Local Improvement Schemes	€445,495.00
Roscommon County Council	Regional and Local Roads / Public Lighting	€2,082,600.00
Total		€54,034,031.00

Table 2: County Roscommon National and Non-National Roads Funding Allocations 2021

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 I 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. Advance /enabling works and services contracts which were procured in advance of the main construction contract, including asbestos survey, fencing, tree felling and hedgerow removal, topographical surveys and geotechnical investigations, have all

concluded. The independent Project Supervisor for the Construction Stage (PSCS) commission has also concluded. Diversion of HV ESB apparatus is complete and diversion of LV and MV ESB apparatus continues. Archaeological site works are complete. Reporting and dissemination continue. Technical consultants were appointed to assist in progressing the project through the tender and construction stages. Procurement of a contractor to design and build the scheme commenced in January 2020 with tenders received in December 2020. Roadbridge Ltd. was appointed in June 2021 with detailed design and preparatory works commencing during the latter part of the year. An official sod turning event was carried out by the Taoiseach, Mr. Micheál Martin, TD on 18th October 2021.

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 significant traffic congestion on the N4 through Carrick-on-Shannon. The extent of the project includes a 20km 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 and Option Selection. Traffic counts and preliminary ground investigation data were procured to inform the option selection process. Traffic counts were undertaken in December 2020. Preliminary ground investigation works commenced in April 2021 and were completed in July 2021. Public Consultation No. 2 (Alternatives and Options) was held between the 19th May and 25th June 2021 presenting active travel, public transport and demand management alternatives in addition to 8 road-based corridor options. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, a face-to-face event was not feasible. A virtual public consultation accessible through the project website was held which included the facility to book online meetings with the Project Team. Over 2,300 submissions were received and a total of 189 virtual online meetings were undertaken as part of the consultation. Acknowledgements and responses have been issued by Leitrim County Council following a review of the submissions by the Project Team. The assessment of route corridor options is ongoing.

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 continuing and to date approximately 95% of cases are settled. Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. has completed the Stage (ii) – (iv) Archaeological Resolution Contract. The main construction contract was awarded to Wills Bros Ltd. 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 necessary alterations to the Local Road Network. All snagging was completed and the Defects Certificate issued in November 2021.

Roughan & O'Donovan Consulting Engineers, who were engaged to administer the main construction contract on behalf of Roscommon County Council, have completed the outstanding TII Phase 7 Deliverables.

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 Carrowroe townland north of Ballymurray to Killiaghan and Gort townland south of Lecarrow. The project will involve the bypassing of Knockcroghery village and 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 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 ran from December 2020 to the end of January 2021 presenting this corridor along with other relevant project information to the public on the dedicated project website www.N61Roscommon.ie. A total of 75 individual landowner consultation meetings were held during this period. Over 100 submissions were received from landowners and interested members of the public. Following this assessment Corridor C-3 was confirmed as the Preferred Route Corridor. The Option Selection Report was published in August 2021 and all Phase 2 deliverables have been issued to TIL

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 continues. 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 and Clashaganny which is approximately 4km long. To date Phases 1 and 2 of the project development have been completed and Phase 3 (Design and Environmental Evaluation) is currently underway. The identified preliminary design alignment generally follows the existing route corridor and avoids significant archaeological, geotechnical and hydrological constraints. The detailed ground investigation contract, to inform the preliminary design process, was completed in 2021.

National Road Pavement Projects

During 2021, works were completed on the N60 Castlerea Pavement Overlay (Phase 2) and the N63 at the R357 Junction Pavement Overlay. Pavement contracts awarded for the N5 Moneylea Carrowntoosan and the N61 Athlone North (Phase 1) in 2021 are scheduled to commence in 2022.

Roads Works Programme – Non-National Roads

In excess of 400 separate projects on Regional and Local Roads were completed under the 3 *Municipal District Road Works Schemes 2021* with funding from the Department of Transport and the Council's own resources.

Active Travel Investment Programme

The Programme for Government published in June 2020 included significant and ambitious targets for the development of walking and cycling schemes. In 2021, the National Transport Authority announced €72.8 million in funding for 19 local authorities for active travel in rural areas. It was the first ever active travel investment programme for rural Ireland. Roscommon County Council received an allocation of €2,397,000. The funding for 2021 is for Year 1 of a 5-year Active Travel Investment Programme, which will be transformative in the area of green sustainable transport options to those outside of large urban centres. The development of high quality walking and cycling facilities will encourage more people to switch to active travel and will contribute to tackling climate change. This funding will help towards connecting communities and making walking and cycling attractive, safe and accessible to everyone. In 2021, projects commenced in Creagh, Ballaghaderreen, Cortober, Cootehall, Elphin, Castlerea and Roscommon.



Cortober - before works

Cortober - completed works



Elphin – before works

Elphin – completed works



Lisnamult, Roscommon - before works

Lisnamult, Roscommon - completed works

Community Involvement Schemes (CIS)

An allocation of €166,000 under *CIS* was provided by the Department of Transport in 2021. In 2021, grant assistance was matched by a minimum 15% from the community for eligible works including general maintenance, drainage works, pavement works and footpaths on public roads. 2 projects were progressed under this scheme in 2021.

In August 2021, the Council advertised for Expressions of Interest from householders and land owners on Local and Regional Roads who wish to participate in the scheme for the years 2022 and 2023. The *CIS 2022/2023* will be based on a minimum community contribution of either 10% or 20%. It is no longer permissible to carry out a *CIS* funded scheme where the local community contribution is a combination of money and works. The following terms apply for the 2022/2023 scheme:

- Where the local community contribution is monetary a minimum contribution rate of 10% will apply;
- > Where the local community contribution comprises works the minimum contribution rate will be 20%.

Local Improvement Scheme (LIS)

The Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) operates the *LIS* for the improvement of local non-public roads. The local contribution is an integral part of the *LIS*. The local contribution is set at 10% for eligible roads with up to and including 5 beneficiaries and is set at 15% for those with 6 or more beneficiaries. The scheme of priorities for 30 roads was approved by the DRCD in 2021 with grant funding of \leq 445,495.00.

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 2021, Roscommon County Council continued to engage paving contractors to replace defective footpath sections and install tactile paving where required. Works were carried out in Athlone, Boyle, Castlerea and Roscommon.

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 for all the towns with the exception of Castlerea.



Cortober Bridge

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. In 2021, the Council received an offer of funding from the Office of Public Works in the amount of €350,000 for this project. The Design Brief will issue in quarter one of 2022.

Leitrim County Council, the lead authority, in conjunction with Roscommon County Council and the Office of Public Works, are progressing the *Carrick-on-Shannon Flood Relief Scheme*. Carrickon-Shannon and Cortober are prone to flooding from the River Shannon and its tributaries. Site investigation is nearing completion and outstanding fieldwork is planned. Seasonal environmental surveys are substantially complete, with one area outstanding. The draft *Hydrology Report* is under review, while the hydraulic modelling and analysis is ongoing.

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

Plans for an extension to Kilbegley Cemetery were finalised in 2021. The proposed development provides for the extension of existing graveyard burial facilities to create approximately 188 new grave spaces, with provision of new boundary walls, new pedestrian and vehicular access and footpaths. In September 2021, in accordance with the requirements of Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended), notice of the proposed development was published and plans and particulars were placed on public display for a period of 4 weeks from 19th October 2021. Submissions or observations were accepted up to and including 2nd December 2021. A report on the Part 8 process will be presented to a meeting of the Athlone Municipal District in early 2022.

Cemetery Improvement and Maintenance Scheme

€70,000 was allocated to the 2021 *Cemetery Improvement and Maintenance Scheme*. Grants were awarded to 93 voluntary groups.

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. 73 Abnormal Load Permits were issued in 2021.

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 2021 was 470.

Galway to Athlone Cycleway

This project is being delivered by the Westmeath, Galway and Roscommon local authorities. Design consultants, RPS, were appointed in 2020. A dedicated project office was established in Ballinasloe where the public can liaise with the project team. In 2021, Roscommon County Council appointed a Project Liaison Officer. The first of 4 periods of public consultation took place in August 2020 and the second period of public consultation took place in February/March 2021. Public consultation No. 3 commenced on 8th December 2021 and continued to 28th February 2022. The Emerging Preferred Route Corridor can be viewed online in the Virtual Consultation Room on the project website (www.galwaytoathlonecycleway.com).







Road Safety

Low Cost Safety Improvement Works

In 2021, 13 Safety Improvement Schemes were completed on Regional and Local Roads throughout the county from a specific Department of Transport grant of \in 377.000 for low cost safety measures. The Council also receive additional funding for specific schemes on national routes.

Road Safety Poster Competition

On 9th September 2021 the *Road Safety Poster Competition* awards ceremony took place in Áras an Chontae. This is a joint initiative between the Road Safety Office of Roscommon County Council and the Community Policing Unit of Roscommon Garda District. The aim of the competition is to promote and create awareness of road safety among primary school children. Overall 42 entries were received from 5th and 6th class students representing 12 primary schools in the Roscommon Garda District.

Pictured at the *Road Safety Poster Competition Awards* Ceremony are prize winners, Caoimhe White, St. Comán's Wood National School, Roscommon, Caitlin Kelly, Ballyforan National School and Cara Harrington, Lisaniskey National School. Also pictured are Cllr. Joe Murphy, Cathaoirleach, Eugene Cummins, Chief Executive, Mairead McKeon-Moore, Road Safety Officer, Shane Tiernan, Director of Services, Jacinta White, Ann Marie Kelly, Alan Harrington, Garda John O'Connor and Inspector Kieran Hanley.



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 ISO 45001 *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 255 times during 2021. Brigades from Ballinasloe, Mountbellew and Athlone were alerted 51 times to incidents in South Roscommon. Fire brigade units from Counties Leitrim and Longford also attended an additional 26 emergency incidents in County Roscommon during 2021.

Roscommon Fire Services attended a number of serious incidents at both private dwellings and commercial properties during 2021. Unfortunately, 2 serious house fires claimed the lives of 3 people. Fire services also attended a gas explosion at a domestic dwelling where fortunately the occupants escaped albeit with some injuries.

A significant commercial fire at a Waste Transfer Station close to Roscommon town required the enforcement of a Closure Notice and a Fire Safety Notice to be served under the Fire Services Acts.

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.



Mobile to Incident – Elphin Fire Brigade

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 Licencing of Places of Entertainment

Notice of applications for licences or certificates of registration is provided for under fire services and licensing legislation. Roscommon Fire Service carried out fire safety inspections on 55 public premises during 2021. The Fire Authority is required to provide fire safety reports following inspection for Circuit and District Court licence applications for public entertainment premises and registration of explosive stores by the Gardaí.

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).

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



Civil Defence

Drone Pilot Training

Volunteers attended Small Unmanned Aircraft recertification training at Gormanston Camp, County Meath. The Civil Defence Unit's 3 qualified pilots successfully recertified for their Pilot's Certificate of Competency licence which is accredited by the Irish Aviation Authority.

Missing Persons Search Training

A small group of experienced volunteers trained as Search Group Leaders (SGLs) during 2021. These SGLs are responsible for managing volunteer search teams during missing person search operations.

Boat Training

The Civil Defence Unit's boat crew had a busy Summer with a number of requests from the Coastguard Co-ordination Centre at Malin Head to assist cruisers in difficulty on the River Shannon. Boat crew members have to complete the Personal Survival Techniques training course at the National Maritime College, Ringaskiddy Co. Cork.

Medical Support Training

Emergency Medical Technicians are the busiest group of trained volunteers who assist with weekly events across the county by providing ambulance cover.

8 Civil Defence volunteers completed Emergency First Responder training while Cardiac First Responder recertification was also completed. First Aid Responder recertification training was also provided to 30 volunteers.

Community and Covid Support

Roscommon Civil Defence volunteers attended 73 duties throughout 2021 which included missing person searches, body recovery and retrieval and medical cover for community and sporting events.

Roscommon and Leitrim Civil Defence joined forces in August 2021 to provide medical cover at the 2021 Carrick Camino which had over 600 participants. Roscommon Civil Defence assisted with medical cover for 9 meetings of the Roscommon Races during July, August and September 2021. Patient transport was also provided throughout the year to patients attending hospital appointments across the West Region. In addition, volunteer crews assisted the Covid-19 Vaccination Centre in the Abbey Hotel, Roscommon.

New Civil Defence Headquarters Plans

A planning application was submitted and approved under Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 for the construction of a new Civil Defence training and administration facility at the Business and Industrial Park, Ballyboughan, Roscommon.

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 provide for matters of procedure, administration and control for the purposes of securing implementation and compliance with the requirements of the Building Regulations. Building Control 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 2021, the Building Control Unit processed 230 Commencement Notices for 251 buildings. Commencement Notices are submitted in 4 different types (depending on the works) as follows:

- > Opt Out Commencement Notices (121);
- Commencement Notice with Documentation (32);
- > Short Form Commencement Notices (67);
- > 7 Day Notices (10).

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 121 (53% of all Commencement Notices).

Inspections

The percentage of new build inspections for 2021 was 13.2%. 97 pre-commencement site visits were undertaken in 2021. This resulted in a significant reduction in the amount of works commencing prior to the submission of a Commencement Notice. 13 additional inspections were carried out where there was a significant risk involved and correspondence in the form of advisory letters or section 11 requests were issued where necessary. 9 Section 11 requests were issued in 2021 for information to be submitted demonstrating compliance with the Building Regulations.

Certificate of Compliance on Completion

In 2021, 36 Certificate of Compliance on Completion applications were made. A total of 25 limited visual site inspections were carried out in relation to these applications depending on a risk assessment priority.

Dispensation/ Relaxations 2021

1 dispensation/ relaxation application was granted in 2021.

Building Control Advice

170 formal queries regarding changes in Building Regulation statutory roles, Commencement Notices, Building Control Amendment Regulations, payment issues etc. were recorded in 2021.



Building Support Inspection
– Supporting a Culture of Compliance

Fire Safety Certificates

Roscommon County Council, as a Building Control Authority, received 38 new applications for Fire Safety Certificates under Building Control legislation during 2021.



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 (e.g. new buildings except dwelling houses), some extensions and some material alterations to buildings (except dwelling houses) with the requirements of Part M of the Building Control Regulations.

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. 28 Disability Access Certificate and 2 Revised Disability Access Certificate applications were submitted in 2021. 22 site inspections were carried out in respect of these applications.

Other Enforcement Activity

Roscommon County Council is the designated enforcement authority for the purposes of ensuring compliance with the following legislation:

- 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.

Development Incentives and Control

As the statutory Planning Authority, the Council ensures proper planning and sustainable development in County Roscommon.

The core responsibilities of the Planning Department include development management (including providing pre-planning advice and assessing and determining planning applications), planning enforcement in relation to unauthorised or non-planning compliant developments and forward planning. The Department also deals with unfinished housing developments as part of the process of working towards the Council taking in charge these and other housing developments. In accordance with legislation, plans and policies devised by the Planning Authority promote and facilitate the development of sustainable communities and enterprise and ensure the protection of the natural and built heritage and amenity of the county.

Development Management

573 planning applications were received by Roscommon County Council in 2021. Details of the outcome of these applications are presented in **Table 1**:

Table 1	Planning	Applications	2016-2021
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	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Applications Received	511	526	665	671	573	723 ¹
Decisions to Grant	333	340	433	410	331	417
Decisions to Refuse	33	32	34	46	51	60
Refusal Rate	9%	8.6%	7.8%	11.2%	15.4%	12.6%
Number of Appeals	7	16	13	16	17	17
Appeals upheld by An Bord Pleanála	4	7 ²	6	9 ³	114	85

- 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 2016 and 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 2020 appeal statistics have been updated to reflect all determinations. 2 of the 17 appeals lodged in 2020 were subsequently withdrawn. Of the remaining 15 cases, the decision of Roscommon County Council was upheld in 11 cases (85%).
- 5 12 of the 17 appeals lodged in 2021 have been determined to date, with the decision of Roscommon County Council upheld in 8 cases.

A total of 278 pre-planning meetings were held in 2021.

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 in 2021 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 89 Warning Letters.
- > Enforcement Notice: Roscommon County Council served 5 Enforcement Notices.
- Legal Action: Legal action was initiated by Roscommon County Council in 5 enforcement cases.

Resolving Unfinished Housing Developments

There were approximately 125 housing developments in County Roscommon which had not been taken in charge in 2021, with the majority of those being unfinished to some degree.

The Unfinished Housing Developments Team has been working to resolve unfinished housing developments in the county through on-going engagement with relevant parties to agree and implement site resolution plans. 7 housing developments were taken in charge in 2021. In addition, a further 37 developments were complete but had not yet progressed to being taken in charge.

Collecting Development Contributions

Development contributions are levied on planning applications in accordance with the adopted Development Contribution Scheme 2014 (as amended 2020). Details for 2020 and 2021 are presented in **Table 2**.

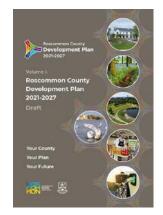
	2020	2021
Contributions invoiced	€770,886.50	€1,098,906.00
Contributions received	€506,354.26	€657,693.42

Table 2: Development Contributions

Forward Planning – Preparation of the County Development Plan

The process of preparing the new *County Development Plan* was on-going throughout 2021, progressing through various statutory stages in accordance with the legislative provisions of Section 11 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). Following formal deliberation by the Elected Members on its contents on 7th April 2021, the *Draft Roscommon County Development Plan* 2021-2027 was placed on public display from 21st April to 2nd July 2021.

In addition to statutory newspaper notification of the public consultation, the plan making process was also promoted through the Council's dedicated Roscommon County Development Plan website (www.rosdevplan.ie) and on social media. A total of 160 submissions were received (with the majority of those being submitted on-line via the website). Stage 2 of the plan making process continued with the issuing of a Chief Executive's Report on submissions received



on the draft plan in September 2021 and with the Elected Members formally considering the report and agreeing to make Proposed Material Alterations to the draft plan at a Special Meeting on 16th November 2021. The third and final stage of the plan making process commenced on 7th December 2021 when further public consultation on the Proposed Material Alterations commenced and ran until early January 2022.

Water Services, Environment & Climate, Governance & Corporate Affairs, Assets & Energy Management, Health & Safety and Human Resources Directorate

Water Services

The Water Services Department provides support to Public and Private Water and Wastewater Supply Networks.

The Public Water/Wastewater Network is supported through a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Irish Water. From 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 the SLA.

The Private Water/Wastewater Network is supported under the *Multi Annual Rural Water Programme* consisting of subsidies/upgrades to the group water scheme sector and private well grants provided directly to members of the public with financial assistance from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

The Water Services Department also provides support for the operation of public conveniences.

Annual Service Plan with Irish Water

An Annual Service Plan with performance targets is agreed each year. The 2021 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 2020 as part of the staff headcount and budget negotiations. The total budget allocated to Roscommon was €8.4 million. The plan contained 69 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 and remove the drivers for the Roscommon Agglomeration being listed on the EU Commission's Letter of Formal Notice 2015 under the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive. Tobin Consulting Engineers have been appointed as Clients Representative for the project. Ministerial consent was issued on 26th May 2021. The contract was awarded to GMC Utilities Ltd. Works commenced on 15th June 2021. The official sod turning ceremony was performed by Darragh O Brien, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage on 29th November 2021.

Ballaghaderreen Wastewater Treatment Plant

The contractor Veolia has taken over the project since Janurary 2020. Veolia is currently proceeding with a proposed detailed design in consultation with all parties.

The main items of work to be delivered as part of the Early Contractor Involvement (ECI) project include:

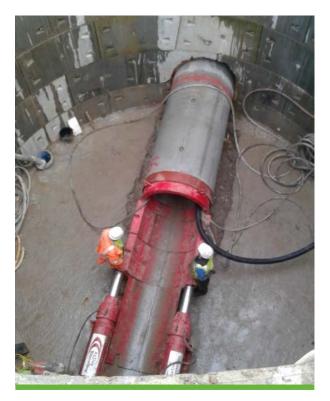
- > Upgrading the terminal pumping station by increasing capacity of the tank on site as well as associated site works;
- Upgrading the site boundaries by separation of the entrance currently used as a common shared entrance by Irish Water and Roscommon County Council;
- > Upgrading the secondary treatment process in order to improve the capacity of the existing process;
- Associated ancillary site works including the upgrade of the SCADA (supervisory control and data acquisition) System.



Official Sod Turning of Roscommon Town Main Drainage



Works at Roscommon Wastewater Treatment Plant



Works on Roscommon Town Sewer Network

Capital Programme Portfolio

Water Treatment Programme

An alarm and inhibit review was carried out in December 2021. A *Drinking Water Safety Plan* and an *Asset Management Improvement Plan* was completed in the 4th quarter of 2021.

Reservoir Cleaning Programme

All reservoirs and clear water tanks are cleaned up to date. The programme remains in place for cleaning works in 2022.

Access to Heights and Edge Protection Programme

This regional programme aims to address medium and high-risk items identified in Health, Safety, Quality and Environment (HSQE) audits. Irish Water has requested a review of any outstanding HSQE items that may be considered for delivery under this programme.

Works were completed at North Roscommon Water Treatment Plant poly tanks, Castlerea Wastewater Treatment Plant clarifiers and Mount Talbot Water Treatment Plant in the 4th quarter of 2021.

Reservoir Refurbishment Programme

Refurbishment Works were completed to Ballyfeeney Reservoir in the 4th quarter of 2021 resulting in significant water savings.



Works on Ballyfeeney Reservoir

Wastewater Below Ground Telemetry Programme

A National Wastewater Below Ground Telemetry Programme is being rolled out by Irish Water. This programme provides for the 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).

Storm Water Overflow Assessment Programme

Jacobs/Tobins have been appointed by Irish Water to deliver this regional programme. A review of the current list of wastewater treatment plants and storm water overflows is completed. Site assessment reports on all sites are expected in early 2022.

Wastewater Pumping Stations and Rising Mains Capital Maintenance Programme

Jacobs have been appointed by Irish Water to deliver this regional programme. Ballyfarnan Wastewater Pumping Station has been prioritised under the programme. Jacobs has completed the concept design for this pumping station. The report is with Asset Planning who maintain a register of pumping stations nationally and recommend which ones are prioritised for further works.

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 Outcomes 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.

Lecarrow Wastewater Treatment Plant has been selected for upgrade works. 3 workshops took place in the 4th quarter of 2021. Inlet works, storm tank and sludge management improvements are included in the scope. The next workshop will be held in February 2022.

National Water Resources Plan

Following a 13.5-week statutory consultation period, Phase 1 of the National Water Resources Plan (NWRP) Framework Plan was adopted in May 2021 together with an accompanying Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Report and Natura Impact Statement. The NWRP Framework Plan is available at www.water.ie/nwrp.

The Council is in *Phase 2 NWRP - Regional Water Resources Plans (RWRPs)* which comprises the development of 4 *RWRPs* covering the North West, South West, South East and Eastern and Midlands Regions. The first to be developed will be the *RWRP Eastern and Midlands (RWRP-EM)*.

Irish Water is seeking feedback on the draft *RWRP-EM* and associated *SEA Report* and *Natura Impact Statement*. Public consultation will run from 14th December 2021 to 14th March 2022 during which time the draft *RWRP-EM* and associated environmental reports may be viewed and downloaded at <u>www.water.ie/rwrp/easternmidlands</u> and at local authority planning offices. Submissions or observations may be made by email or post.

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 2021. No Boil Water Notices were issued. There were no Directions associated with Roscommon Water Treatment Plants. No public Water Supply Zones in Roscommon are 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 were in compliance in 2021 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 2021, all of which were reported by specified deadlines. There were 2 EPA audits conducted in 2021. Audit recommendations are being addressed.

Water Networks Portfolio

Water Network Framework Programme

Irish Water is rolling out the *Water Network Portfolio* under its *Capital Investment Plan 2017 to 2021* as follows.

Water Networks Rehabilitation Programme

Farrans Ltd. has been appointed regional contractor to undertake works on behalf of Irish Water. Works were completed at the following locations in 2021:

- Roscommon town in conjunction with public realm works;
- > Tibohine works completed on 4.8km of new trunk main;
- Willsbrook works completed on replacing 300m of new main;
- > Ardnure design only. Preliminary design carried out.

Pressure Management Works

Pressure reducing valve upgrade works were carried out, by a mix of contractor and direct labour, at Cloontuskert, Cloonmore 1 and 2, St. Johns and Carigeen, Lecarrow in the 4th quarter of 2021.

Find and Fix Programme

This programme entered the 4th year of targeting District Metered Areas with high unaccounted for water figures in 2021. The *Find and Fix Programme* involves the verification of highlighted District Metered Areas through isolating areas of high unaccounted for usage and then focusing leak detection works to locate and repair any leaks in these areas. 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 continues to contribute towards achieving reductions in unaccounted for water and leakage throughout the county.

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 thereby 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.

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 plays 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 has been 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, has been rolled out;
- > The Let It Bee initiative, which involves farmers working together to protect their local water source and enhance biodiversity, has won the European Bee Award for County Roscommon in the category Land Management Practices for its outstanding contribution to protect pollinators.

Works were undertaken in 2019 to 2021 at a cost of €357,596 and recouped at 100% from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

> 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 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 \in 599,324 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 contribute to good water quality on a consistent sustainable long-term basis. Funding of €790,315 was paid to the schemes at 85% of costs.

> Measure 5 – Transition of Existing Group Water Schemes and Group Sewerage Schemes to the Public Water Sector (Irish Water): 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. Works were grant aided in the sum of €168,261.

- > Measure 6 A Community Water Connection at Crosshill, Arigna was undertaken under the 2019-2021 programme and received financial support of €22,314 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. The previous maximum grant available was €2,031.58 or 75% of the cost of the work, whichever was the lesser. To the end of the 4th guarter of 2021, a total of 18 applications for the upgrade of private water supplies were received. Grants have been paid on 10 applications in the sum of €21,000. The Individual Well Grant Scheme is now closed with final payments to applicants in 2021 amounting to €7,815.

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

With effect from 1st January 2018, the 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 €452,048.51 have been paid to group water schemes to end of 2021.
- > 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 €467,408 have been paid to group water schemes to the end of 2021.

Total subsidies paid to group water schemes to end of 2021 amounted to €919,457.

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*.

Environmental Protection and Climate Action

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

- Pollution Control and Water Quality Management;
- > Waste Management and Enforcement;
- > Landfill Management;
- Civic Amenity Site and Bring Bank Management;
- > Litter Management;
- > Environmental Awareness;
- > Water Laboratory Sampling and Testing Services;
- > Climate Action;
- > Casual Trading.

River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027

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 draft of the River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027 was issued for public consultation from September 2021 to the end of March 2022. Studies indicate that despite efforts over recent years, water quality is not improving fast enough. Significant pressures identified in Roscommon relate to agriculture and hydromorphology. Tighter controls of nitrogen inputs are proposed along with restorative mitigation works and new regulations to govern physical alterations.

Laboratory

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The laboratory provides both a technical/analytical and sampling service and is accredited to ISO 17025 standard. The 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 and groundwater etc. The laboratory also offers a testing service to the public for water samples. A new contract to provide sampling/testing services to Galway County Council was secured in the 4th quarter of 2021. Resources required to address the anticipated increase in work in 2022 are being provided.

National Inspection Plan

The purpose of the registration and inspection system for domestic wastewater treatment systems is to protect ground and surface water quality (particularly drinking water sources) from risks posed by malfunctioning systems. Roscommon County Council will continue to prioritise the inspection of septic tanks in 2022. A review of the up-take of grant schemes to up-grade onsite treatment systems will be undertaken nationally. 45 inspections were carried out in 2021. Only 8 of the 45 systems inspected were compliant.

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 as detailed in the Council's *Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections and Enforcement Plan.* Performance against the plan was measured and reported to the Connacht-Ulster Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority (CUWERLA) and the Environment Protection Agency (EPA). Monthly returns were submitted to the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) through CUWERLA.

Connacht-Ulster Waste Region and CUWERLA

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. 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.

Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authorities have also been selected in each region to co-ordinate waste enforcement actions. These authorities set priorities and common objectives for waste enforcement within each region thereby ensuring consistent enforcement of waste legislation where local authority personnel act as first responders to specific breaches of waste legislation. Leitrim and Donegal County Councils act jointly as the Connacht-Ulster Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority (CUWERLA). Roscommon County Council continued to engage with CUWERLA in 2021 on national priorities and items of regional interest.

Recycling Centres

Roscommon County Council continues to operate recycling centres at Boyle, Roscommon, Ballaghaderreen and Castlerea. The waste collection contract for all sites was retendered in 2021 and Barna Waste was appointed via a national framework procurement process. Tickets for the centres are now sold through local retail outlets only. Sites are open to the public 3 days a week. All waste collected is reflected in the *National Waste Survey* return submitted to the EPA. Bring banks are also located at 39 locations throughout the county.

Landfill Management

Roscommon County Council continues to monitor and maintain 2 closed licensed landfills at Ballaghaderreen and Roscommon. Roscommon County Council is obliged to continuously monitor environmental risks associated with these closed facilities (e.g., landfill gas, groundwater quality, surface water quality). Regular servicing and maintenance works are also carried out. An Annual Environmental Report and an Annual Environmental Performance Report are submitted to the EPA. On foot of a Certificate of Authorisation granted for the closed landfill at Castlerea in March 2021, the site will require works such as the installation of further boreholes to facilitate additional monitoring. Contracts for consultants are also being prepared to assist with applications for Certificates of Registration for smaller historical landfill sites (Strokestown initially followed by Boyle and Frenchpark).

Climate Action Plan

The Climate Action Bill was approved in 2021 and draft government guidance on the preparation of *Local Authority Climate Action Plans* was issued in December 2021. Significant resources will be required for the preparation, adoption and implementation of a *Climate Action Plan* for Roscommon. Roscommon County Council recently joined the Midlands Energy Agency in anticipation of data input and project assessment requirements associated with *Climate Action Plan* projects and objectives.

Recommendations identified from the Planning, Environment and Corporate Strategic Policy Committee were referred to the Climate Action Team for implementation or consideration. Relevant Departments/Units of the Council shall be responsible for assigned actions. The tender for production of a climate action promotional video was advertised in the 4th quarter of 2021. Expressions of interest to participate in the project were also submitted and compiled in the same period.

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 and 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 2021 for analysis and reporting purposes.



Anti-Dumping/Litter Activity

A grant of €99,781 was received under the 2021 Anti-Dumping Initiative. The bulky goods collection alone accounted for over 62 tonnes of waste plus over 2,000 household furniture items, including mattresses, bed-bases, couches and armchairs. Targeted clean-ups also took place at Lisacul and on select sections of national roadway. The Anti-Litter/Anti-Graffiti Community Support Programme received a grant of €16,000 in 2021. Special Covid-19 Anti-Litter Infrastructural Grant Funding in the amount of €33,683 was also provided in 2021 to facilitate the provision and/or replacement of litterbins.

Green Schools Programme

This progressive and continuous programme is designed for schools at both primary and secondary level. The programme works on different environmental themes, each of which take approximately 2 years to complete. Schools awarded a Green Flag must renew their flag every 2 years. The deadline for 2021 applications was extended to the end of the school year. Assessments were carried out virtually due to Covid-19 restrictions. A number of schools deferred assessments in 2021 due to time constraints/Covid-19 complications. Of the 98 schools (primary and secondary) in the county, 61 had obtained Green Flag status at the end of 2021.

Casual Trading Bye Laws

A review of casual trading bye-laws and bay locations was advertised in November 2021. Following an evaluation of submissions, a draft revision of the bye-laws will be prepared for further consultation and adoption.

Anti-Dog Fouling Campaign

Roscommon County Council launched a campaign directed at dog fouling within the county. A number of stencils, spray paint and poo bag/Mutt Mitt dispensers were distributed to community groups in the 2nd quarter of 2021. Posts were placed on social media during this period to highlight the negative impacts of dog fouling. The *Green Dog Walkers* initiative was rolled out at a number of locations including Ballyleague, Strokestown and Elphin. Roscommon County Council also participated in the joint development of anti-dog fouling literature and material with 9 other Councils. The material is being used in local media campaigns.

Solid Fuel Campaign

A national-led newspaper advertisement campaign promoting low smoke solid fuels was conducted in November 2021. Advertisements were placed in a local paper and on Council social media portals. New standards for solid fuel will come into effect in Ireland in 2022. The new standards, including lower allowable limits for sulphur and moisture content, will apply to the entire county and not just to existing low smoke zones.

Governance and Corporate Affairs

The functions of the Corporate Services Department include providing support services to Council management; organising and servicing meetings of the Council and its subcommittees; register of electors; insurances; facilities management; veterinary functions; dog control services; civic receptions; events; customer services; customer complaints; freedom of information; access to information on the environment; data protection; ethics and political donation declarations and health and safety.

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 the strategic priorities and objectives of the Council's *Corporate Plan*.

10 monthly Plenary Council Meetings were held in 2021. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the January 2021 meeting was cancelled. The February, March and April Plenary Meetings were held exclusively online. The Annual Meeting was held in June where Cllr. Joe Murphy was elected Cathaoirleach and Cllr. Orla Leyden as Leas Cathaoirleach. 5 Special Meetings were held during the year to agree Supplementary Standing Orders, to consider the *Draft County Development Plan*, to review updates on the Lough Funshinagh project and to fill a casual vacancy on the Council. The Budget Meeting was held in November 2021 to approve the 2022 Budget.

Cllr. Emer Kelly was co-opted on 11th May 2021 to fill a vacant seat resulting from the resignation of Cllr. Ivan Connaughton on 26th April 2021.

Athlone Municipal District held 9 meetings in 2021. Boyle and Roscommon held a total of 10 meetings each during the year.

Corporate Plan 2020-2024

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

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

Register of Electors

Under the Electoral Acts of 1992 and 1997 and the Electoral (Amendment) Act 2001, 2 versions of the Register, the Edited Register and the Full Register, came into force on 15th February 2021.

Table 1 Register of Electors

Dáil Constituency	Presidential Electors	Dáil Electors
Roscommon - Galway Constituency Electors	41,710	43,271
Sligo – Leitrim Constituency Electors in County Roscommon	5,708	5,927
Midlands - North – West European Parliament Constituency Electors		49,368
Local Electoral Areas Ele	ectors	50,687
> Athlone Local Electoral Area		15,305
> Boyle Local Electoral	17,994	
> Roscommon Local El	ectoral Area	17,388

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Civic Receptions and Events

Roscommon County Council is proud to host receptions, events and awards 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 Roscommon County Council. The Council also, as the occasion arises, hosts civic receptions for visiting dignitaries and events at Áras an Chontae to mark specific occasions. No civic receptions were held in 2021 due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Representative Trips Abroad

No delegation visits took place abroad in 2021 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. Successful applicants for the academic year 2021/2022 were Shona Hanly representing Tulsk Camogie Club and Oisin Cregg representing Boyle GAA Club.

Social Media

The Council's social media accounts which include Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn have allowed it to enhance communication and engagement with the public. The use of social media was, in particular, vital to the Council throughout the on-going Covid-19 pandemic. It provided the Council with the flexibility to share information quickly and easily to a large audience, to support national campaigns as necessary, highlight recruitment opportunities and promote greater awareness of the work carried out by the Council. At the end of 2021, a total of 16 social media channels were being operated by the Council with a combined total of 43,300 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. There are also 5 food businesses registered with Roscommon County Council. The supervision of slaughter is carried out by the Council's Veterinary Officer and temporary Veterinary Inspectors. All animals are inspected ante-mortem and postmortem to ensure the meat is fit for human consumption. Traceability of all animals is also verified. 3,003 cattle, 5,543 sheep and 285 pigs were slaughtered in 2021 in Council supervised slaughterhouses in County Roscommon.

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 the dog 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 2021, expenditure on dog control services amounted to \in 186,874 while the total income in respect of licences and fees was \in 61,212.

The Dog Breeding Establishments Act, 2010 requires premises to apply for inclusion on the *Local Authority Register of Dog Breeding Establishments*. 2 establishments were included on the Council's register at the end of 2021.

Freedom of Information (FOI)

Roscommon County Council received 90 FOI requests in 2021. 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 2021	4
Number of requests received during 2021	90
Number of requests granted	29
Number of requests part-granted	24
Number of requests refused	28
Number of FOI requests transferred, withdrawn or dealt with outside of FOI	7
Number of requests undetermined at 31st December 2021	6

Access to Information on the Environment (AIE)

23 AIE requests were received by the Council in 2021. 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 2021	0
Number of AIE requests received during 2021	23
Number of AIE requests granted	6
Number of AIE requests part-granted	9
Number of AIE requests refused	6
Number of AIE requests withdrawn	1
Number of requests undetermined at 31st December 2021	1

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 2021 in order to discharge its data protection responsibilities. 4 Subject Access Requests (SARs) were processed by the Council in 2021.

Ethics Declarations, Reporting of Political Donations and Protected Disclosures

Ethics declarations were submitted by all Elected Members and Relevant Employees in 2021 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.

All Elected Members complied, in 2021, 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 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 2021

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

Health and Safety

Roscommon County Council continues to implement the provisions of the local authorities *Safety Management Systems*. This implementation is 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 are carried out and health and safety training of employees is facilitated as required. Employees are supported to implement safe systems of work. Liaison with the Health and Safety Authority (HSA), Irish Water and other stakeholders take place 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 2021 work programme included:

- Monitoring of the Safety Management System by the Health and Safety Officers through ongoing work inspections;
- > Operation of ISO 45001 Certification standards 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;
- 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 processes 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.

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
- c. 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.

Assets and Energy Management



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

Assets

The primary purpose of this function is to manage and record all assets of the Council including property, buildings, land and houses in a consolidated *Asset Register* and to comply with the Council's associated statutory reporting obligations. Details of all buildings and land owned by the Council together with the total number of social houses is communicated to the Office of Public Works on an annual basis for inclusion in the *National Property Register*. Roscommon County Council is working towards achieving a standardised inventory of all its public body assets.

Energy Management

The primary function of energy management is to facilitate the Council's role as a public body in the challenge to decarbonise our public services and to achieve the relevant targets of the *Climate Action Plan 2021*. This plan sets out the level of effort and action required to reduce Ireland's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 50% by 2030 and our transition to a carbon neutral economy and society no later than 2050. Under the plan the public sector is mandated to achieve a 51% absolute reduction in GHG emissions and a 50% energy efficiency improvement by 2030, against a baseline of 2016 to 2018. The plan also includes a target for all public buildings to achieve at least a 'B' building energy rating by 2030.

The Public Sector Energy Partnership Agreement, which was signed on 25th April 2016 as a joint obligation between the Council and Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland, had set a target of 33% energy improvement for the Council, based on a 2009 baseline, to be achieved by the end of 2020. Roscommon County Council reported its 2020 energy usage in May 2021. It had achieved a 38.1% energy reduction by the end of 2020 thereby exceeding the targeted 33% improvement. Work continues on statutory reporting obligations and on targeting the primary energy users of the Council which include public lighting, electricity usage and transport fuel with a view to achieving further energy efficiency improvements.

Public Lighting

Roscommon County Council has 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 general repairs to the system resulting in competitive rates for the maintenance, repair and improvement of the public lighting inventory.

A survey was carried out of all public lighting in County Roscommon in 2016. This survey identified the lights on the National Roads Network that required upgrading to energy efficient LED lighting. Upgrade works commenced in 2019 and were completed in 2021 with funding provided by Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

Roscommon County Council is included in Region 3 of the National LED Retrofit Project and has signed a Section 85 Agreement with Mayo County Council for the Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project (PLEEP). The upgrade to public lighting in County Roscommon is ongoing through the maintenance contract with Electric Skyline Limited. The remaining public lighting to be upgraded will be included in PLEEP.

Declaration in Accordance with S.I. 542 of 2009

Overview of Energy Usage

In 2021, Roscommon County Council spent €1.4 million on energy-related charges with the main categories consisting of:

- > Public lighting energy and maintenance charges;
- > Electricity charges for lighting, equipment 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 usage monitoring and reporting;
- > Energy related training;
- > Awareness campaigns;
- > Driver training;
- Consolidation of Council offices in Roscommon Town into a single purpose-built Civic Headquarters with consequent energy saving benefits;
- > Energy efficiency upgrades to buildings and public lighting.

In 2021, Roscommon County Council continued with initiatives to improve its energy performance which included LED retrofit of public lighting to various National Primary and Secondary Roads and Regional Roads and estates throughout the county.

Altogether, these and other energy saving measures are contributing to significant annual energy-related savings for the Council. In May 2021, the Council reported that it had achieved a 38.1% energy reduction by the end of 2020, based on a 2009 baseline, thereby exceeding the targeted 33% improvement in the context of Ireland's EU and national commitments.

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, informing plans for upgrade works;
- > Awareness campaigns involving all staff;
- LED upgrades to existing public lighting stock to National Primary and Secondary Roads and Local Roads. Roscommon County Council has signed up as participants in the Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project coordinated by the Road Management Office which has commenced nationally.



Human Resources

The Human Resources 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 Human Resources 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 Human Resources Department deploys, develops and manages the Council's workforce to meet the challenges of an evolving working environment and to provide an efficient and effective service to the public. The challenges brought about by Covid-19 continued during 2021 and the Human Resources Department worked to ensure that staff and customer needs were met during this time. The recruitment process operated entirely online during the year. 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 2021 was 461.

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, 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.

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 Human Resources Department during 2021.





Building Momentum - A New Public Service Agreement 2021-2022

Building Momentum - A New Public Service Agreement 2021-2022 delivers an extension to the framework of public service agreements, including the most recent agreement the Public Service Stability Agreement (2018 - 2020) which expired on 31st December 2020.

This new public service agreement is mindful of current challenges, is reflective of the response of public services to these challenges, seeks to address equitably the concerns of the many and varied groups of public servants covered by these agreements and also addresses certain measures introduced under the *Haddington Road Agreement*.

Industrial Relations

The Human Resources 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. The policy aims to reduce absenteeism and results in improved service delivery and reduced costs. The percentage of working days lost to sickness absenteeism in 2021 was 3.88%.

Labour Activation Measures

The Council has facilitated one graduate under the current *Graduate Recruitment Programme* in the Local Enterprise Office. The Council has also facilitated one apprentice under the *Apprenticeship Incentivisation Scheme* in the Finance area. The aim is to ensure that at the end of their respective programmes, each of the participants will have enhanced their skills and competencies in their chosen area of expertise.



Finance, IS and Digital Transformation Directorate

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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 2021 was €71.3m while for the Capital Account the expenditure was €44.2m.

Key Points related to Financial Activity in 2021

- A surplus of €25k was delivered on the Revenue Account;
- The Capital Account reported a cumulative credit balance of €37.9m;
- The cumulative general reserve at the end of 2021 stands at €243.9k;
- > A combined total of €115.5m 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;
- > 98% of invoices from suppliers were paid within 30 days during 2021 which represents a 1% increase on 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 2021 Revenue Account:

- > €654k in Small Business Assistance Scheme for COVID (SBASC) Grants were paid to local businesses through the Development Management heading;
- > 303k was reimbursed to the Council for loss of income and increased expenditure;
- > A rates waiver totalling €3m was put in place for businesses. The Council subsequently received these rates directly from the Government.

Revenue Collection

The following table summarises revenue collection performance since 2016:

		2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Ra	ates	89%	68%	89%	86%	83%	91%
Re	ent	93%	93%	91%	92%	91%	92%
	ousing bans	65%	62%	76%	55%	56%	58%

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 2021

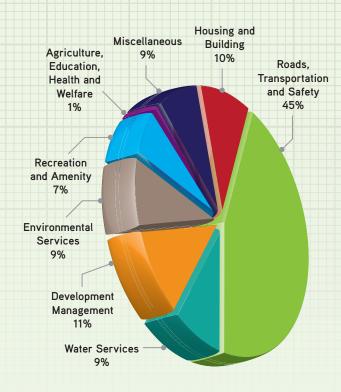
The Income and Expenditure Account Statement brings together all the revenue related income and expenditure. It shows the surplus/(deficit) for the year.

Expenditure by Division	Gross Expenditure 2021 €	Income 2021 €	Net Expenditure 2021 €	Net Expenditure 2020 €
Housing and Building	6,797,395	8,250,659	(1,453,264)	(1,575,352)
Roads, Transportation and Safety	32,419,692	25,487,238	6,932,454	7,375,027
Water Services	6,069,335	6,088,797	(19,462)	(2,774)
Development Management	7,847,162	4,384,370	3,462,792	3,868,500
Environmental Services	6,226,891	1,089,587	5,137,304	5,252,696
Recreation and Amenity	4,660,440	1,156,194	3,504,246	3,436,194
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	977,165	363,116	614,049	341,571
Miscellaneous Services	6,368,128	6,657,868	(289,740)	(289,652)
Total Expenditure/Income	71,366,208	53,477,828		
Net cost of Divisions to be funded from			17,888,380	18,406,210
Rates and Local Property Tax				
Rates			12,573,441	12,425,769
Local Property Tax			10,825,692	10,817,612
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year before Transfer			5,510,753	4,837,171
Transfers from/(to) Reserves			(5,485,613)	(4,820,107)
Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year			25,140	17,063
General Reserve at 1st January			218,803	201,740
General Reserve at 31st December			243,944	218,803

Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet) as at 31st December 2021

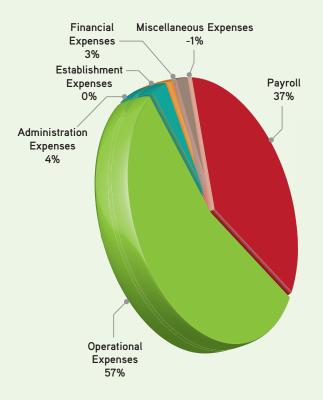
	2021	2020
	€	€
FixedAssets	€	€
Operational	239,107,826	240,502,218
Infrastructural	1,615,664,454	1,615,664,454
Community	13,055,965	13,057,384
Non-Operational	1,236,562	1,311,287
	1,869,064,807	1,870,535,343
Work-in-Progress and Preliminary Expenses	17,127,581	11,551,921
Long Term Debtors	8,087,869	8,259,017
Current Assets		
Trade Debtors & Prepayments	5,107,868	10,698,159
Bank Investments	40,807,739	27,171,804
Cash at Bank	2,666,329	335,861
Cash in Transit	101,408	252,871
	48,683,343	38,458,695
Current Liabilities		
Creditors & Accruals	10,412,321	15,132,751
	10,412,321	15,132,751
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)	38,271,022	23,325,944
Creditors (Amounts greater than one year)		
Loans Payable	28,590,261	29,004,119
Refundable Deposits	740,418	942,375
Other	1,605,100	1,458,294
	30,935,779	31,404,789
Net Assets / (Liabilities)	1,901,615,499	1,882,267,436
Represented By		
Capitalisation	1,869,064,807	1,870,535,343
Income WIP	15,619,494	8,927,286
General Revenue Reserve	243,944	218,803
Other Balances	16,687,254	2,586,004
Total Reserves	1,901,615,499	1,882,267,436

Revenue Budget Expenditure



Spend by programme

	2021	2021	
	€	%	
Housing & Building	6,797,395	10%	
Roads Transportation & Safety	32,419,692	45%	
Water Services	6,069,335	9%	
Development Management	7,847,162	11%	
Environmental Services	6,226,891	9%	
Recreation & Amenity	4,660,440	7%	
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welf	fare 977,165	1%	
Miscellaneous	6,368,128	9%	
Total	71,366,208	100%	



What money was spent on

	2021 €	2021 %
Payroll	26,225,190	37%
Operational Expenses	40,677,339	57%
Administration Expenses	2,707,493	4%
Establishment Expenses	323,499	0%
Financial Expenses	1,985,767	3%
Miscellaneous Expenses	-553,080	-1%
Total	71,366,208	100%

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 departments, business units and Elected Members of the Council. This ensures that equipment and information, as necessary, is readily available to facilitate the Council to deliver an efficient service to its clients and customers.

As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, resource time continued to be dedicated in 2021 to supporting the need for remote working solutions. The ICT Operations Team supported 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 remotely, having access to all corporate systems and data, which ensured that services to the public were not affected.

The ICT Operations Team continued to utilise and build on 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 Council staff to work in new ways and reduce the carbon footprint by cutting back on the need for physical devices. The ICT Operations Team also continued to achieve progress in 2021 with regard to the following areas of its responsibilities:

- Evaluating and developing the potential of modern ICT to enhance the business objectives of the Council and ensure maximum impact of emerging technologies;
- Investigating and implementing any new technologies that would contribute to the improvement, efficiency and enhancement of existing information systems;
- Ensuring the security and integrity of Council data and ICT infrastructure including addressing cyber security;
- Developing and managing disaster recovery/ business continuity solutions that minimise the risk of system outages and data loss/corruption.





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. The team has developed 60 online services to date offering customers easy and efficient access to a variety of Council services.

A digital portal, *My Online Services*, accessible through <u>www.roscommoncoco.ie</u>, continued to allow customers to register and avail of the growing number of online services provided by the Council such as reporting issues, applying for grants or making payments. In excess of 3,300 people had registered as self-service customer users on this digital platform by the end of 2021. This allowed them to access Council services at any time, anywhere and from any device.

Business process improvements also continued through the roll out of online services. Roscommon County Council administered in excess of €14 million funding using online processes that generated considerable savings in staff time, postage and printing. The Council has almost 8,500 customers registered on its customer services platform.

GIS

The GIS Team continued to maintain and develop 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 2021, the GIS Team built a web application to enable members of the Planning Department to draft land-use zoning boundaries for the *County Development Plan*.

The Council continued to gather more information digitally in 2021. Systems such as *Report It* enabled the public to let the Council know about issues in their locality. Council staff also increased their use of various mobile applications to gather data in the field more efficiently.

The use of Microsoft Power BI and GIS dashboards was also expanded in 2021 in order to provide Council decision-makers with the tools they need to view and assess information quickly. In addition, the GIS Team developed a number of web-based reports during the year to facilitate the display of key metrics in a simple and useful manner.

Broadband Office

The following activity was carried out by the Council's Broadband Office in 2021.

National Broadband Ireland Rollout

Work continued with National Broadband Ireland regarding build designs and Section 254 planning applications across the network. Ballinasloe and Roscommon deployment areas are currently taking orders for new connections and properties are now live on the network in both areas. Pole applications are currently being processed in Boyle, Roscommon and Athlone Municipal Districts. Just under 400 pole applications were received in December 2021.

WiFi4EU

Vouchers 1 and 2 are now complete with 28 access points now live in towns and villages in North Roscommon. Installation of Vouchers 3 and 4 commenced in November 2021 which focuses



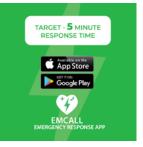
mainly on South Roscommon areas.

Broadband Connection Points (BCPs)

Roscommon County Council was awarded €177,444 under the Connected Hubs Fund. This was targeted at improving locations that had been set up as BCP sites. It is expected that the Department of Rural and Community Development will release a second tranche of funding in 2022.

Digital Innovation Programme

Roscommon County Council received €17,400 grant funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development towards the cost of developing a defibrillator App for County Roscommon.



The Council teamed up with Roscommon Rapid Response who were already up and running with the Emcall App. This funding was put towards the development and improvement of the App, improvements to the website and marketing and advertising on social media and in local papers.

Eduroam

Eduroam is an international roaming service for users in research, higher education and further education. It provides researchers, teachers, and students with network access when visiting an institution other than their own. It facilitates users to obtain internet access easier via the WiFi service at participating sites. When attaching to Eduroam, WiFi users are authenticated via their home institution. If authentication succeeds the user is granted wireless network access. Eduroam access is currently available in Boyle and Castlerea libraries and will be available in all County Roscommon libraries by 2022.

Digital Strategy

A digital strategy was prepared for consideration by the Council's Senior Management Team.

Website

The Digital and Broadband tab was upgraded and added to the homepage of Roscommon County Council's website. Regular updates are posted with regard to broadband developments for the county.

Thematic Program Funding 2021

Roscommon County Council received €1,000 in grant funding which was applied for by Gorthaganny BCP to provide music lessons for locals.

SIRO in Roscommon Town

SIRO has carried out surveys in Roscommon town and has submitted maps for areas of the town that they intend to target with high speed broadband. They are to commence works in January 2022.

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.

6 LCDC meetings were held on the following dates in 2021:

Date	% Attendance
24th February 2021	100%
21st April 2021	95%
28th July 2021	75%
13th October 2021	73%
17th November 2021	83%
15th December 2021	84%



Since all LCDC Meetings were held via Microsoft Teams, no travel expenses were paid in 2021.

The following is an overview of items progressed by the LCDC in 2021:

- Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2020 End of Year Report was approved;
- > 2021 SICAP Annual Plan was approved;
- > 2021 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.

Membership of LCDC at 31st December 2021

Pillar	Agency / Nominating Body	No. of Nominees	Name of Nominee
Statutory Interests			
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 (Local Enterprise Office)
State Agency	Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board	1	Ms. Lynne Keery
State Agency	Department of Social Protection	1	Vacant
State Agency	Health Service Executive (HSE)	1	Mr. Eamon Hannan
State Agency	Teagasc	1	Mr. Tom Kellegher
Non Statutory Interests			
Local and Community Development	Roscommon Leader Partnership Company	1	Ms. Carina Lennon
Conicl Inclusion (Driveta)	Public Participation Network (PPN)	1	Ms. Nora Fahy
Social Inclusion (Private)	PPN	1	Vacant
Community & Voluntary	PPN	1	Mr. Vincent Moran
(Private)	PPN	1	Mr. Gerard Fallon
Environmental Pillar	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	Disability Sector	1	Ms. Muireann Moyles
Total Number of Members	5:	19	

LEADER Programme Summary 2021

Theme	Sub-Theme	Original Project Budget	Number of Projects approved to year end 2021	Value of Projects approved to year end 2021
Rural Economic	Rural Tourism	€700,000.00	3	€26,106.10
Development, Enterprise	Enterprise Development	€1,900,000.00	9	€594,030.24
Development And Job	Rural Towns	€750,000.00	2	€23,057.89
Creation	Broadband	€250,000.00	0	€0.00
Control In Abasian	Basic Services	€1,981,282.00	10	€467,668.58
Social Inclusion	Rural Youth	€400,000.00	1	€374,137.53
	Water Resources	€200,000.00	0	€0.00
Rural Environment	Biodiversity	€200,000.00	0	€0.00
	Renewable Energy	€200,000.00	1	€17,656.65
Totals:		€6,581,282.00	26	€1,502,656.99

Corporate Plan Report

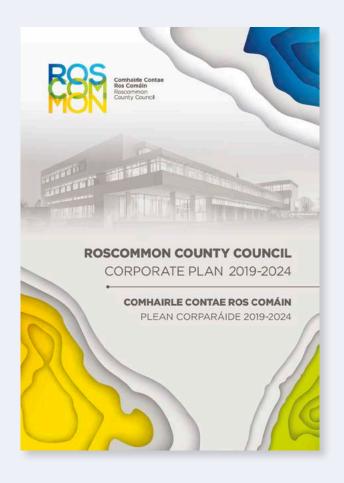
Roscommon County Council's *Corporate Plan 2019-2024* was prepared in accordance with statutory provisions prescribed in Section 134 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended by Section 49 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014. It was formally adopted by Elected Members at their February 2020 Plenary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

The plan 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 2021*, 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 2021* were delivered through *Schedules of Municipal District Works* developed by each Municipal District. Highlights for 2021, in terms of progress achieved on the *Corporate Plan's* strategic objectives and actions contained in the *Annual Service Delivery Plan 2021* included:

- > The Annual Social Housing Needs Assessment was finalised.
- > The Housing Department, under its Acquisition and Construction Programme, delivered 106 social housing units.
- > 111 tenancy agreements were signed.
- > At the end of 2021, 369 households were receiving support under the *Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)*.
- > 103 applicants were accommodated under the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) Scheme.
- > Design and preparatory works commenced on the Ballaghaderreen to Scramogue Road Project.
- > The Public Consultation No. 2 (Alternatives and Options) process was held for the N4 Carrickon-Shannon to Dromod Project.
- Corridor C-3 was confirmed as the Preferred Route Corridor for the N62 Ballymurray to Lecarrow (Knockcroghery) Road Project. The Option Selection Report was published and all Phase 2 deliverables have been issued to TII.
- > The detailed ground investigation contract, to inform the preliminary design process for the N61 Tulsk to Clashaganny Road Realignment Project was completed.
- > Over 400 projects on Regional and Local Roads were completed.
- > The preparation of the *Roscommon County Development Plan 2021-2027* progressed through various statutory stages.
- > 723 planning applications were received.
- Roscommon County Council served 89 Warning Letters and 5 Enforcement Notices in relation to alleged unauthorised development. Legal action was initiated in 5 enforcement cases.
- Fire brigade units from the Council's Fire Service were alerted 255 times.
- Fire safety inspections were carried out on 55 public premises.
- The Building Control Unit processed 230 Commencement Notices for 251 buildings.

- ➤ €60,000 was allocated by the Council to 89 projects under its Community and Amenity Grants Scheme.
- ➤ Roscommon County Council was allocated €133,301 under the Community Enhancement Programme. Funds were distributed to 66 community groups.
- > Works commenced on the Roscommon Town Main Drainage Project.
- The contractor for the Ballaghaderreen Wastewater Treatment Plant is currently proceeding with a proposed detailed design in consultation with all parties.
- > Phase 1 of the National Water Resources Plan was adopted following a public consultation process.
- > Overall compliance with the European Union Drinking Water Regulations was 99.03%.
- All wastewater treatment plants were compliant with the Urban Wastewater Regulations.
- > A draft of the *River Basin Management Plan* 2022-2027 was issued for public consultation.
- > A grant of €139,043 was allocated to Roscommon County Council from the Environment Fund to support dedicated and measurable enforcement initiatives.
- > 82 litter pollution surveys were carried out under the *National Litter Pollution Monitoring System*.
- > A tender for production of a climate action promotional video was advertised.
- A national-led newspaper advertisement campaign promoting low smoke solid fuels was conducted.
- Roscommon County Council achieved a 38.1% energy reduction based on a 2009 baseline.
- The level of expenditure for the Council's Revenue and Capital Accounts was €71.3 million and €44.2 million respectively.

Reporting on the Corporate Plan 2019-2024 and the Annual Service Delivery Plan 2021 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 2021 is provided in Appendix 1 to this Annual Report.

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Appendix 1: Service Indicators 2021

C: CORPORATE	
C1: Total Number of Whole Time Equivalent	
A. The whole time equivalent (WTE) staffing number as at 31st December 2021	395.76
C2: Working Days Lost to Sickness	
A. Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave in 2021	3.69%
B. Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave in 2021	0.18%
C3: Local Authority Website and Social Media Usage	
A. The per capita total page views of the local authority's websites in 2021	11.91
B. The per capita total number of followers at end of 2021 of the local authority's social media accounts	0.64
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 2021, divided by the WTE number supplied under the C1 indicator	€4,635.55
C5. Overall Cost of ICT as a Proportion of Revenue Expenditure	
A. All ICT expenditure calculated in C4 as a proportion of revenue expenditure	2.57
E: WASTE / ENVIRONMENT	
El: 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 2021	5,908
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)	87.79 %
E2: Number of Environmental Pollution Complaints Closed	
A1. The total number of pollution cases in respect of which a complaint was made during 2021	883
A2. The number of pollution cases closed from 1st January to 31st December 2021	943
A3. The total number of cases on hand at 31st December 2021	320
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 2021 was: 1) unpolluted or litter free 2) slightly polluted 3) moderately polluted 4) significantly polluted or 5) grossly polluted 	22% 77% 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 2021	53.06 %

continued >

E5: Energy Efficiency Not available A. The cumulative percentage of energy savings achieved by 31st December 2021 relative to baseline at time of year (2009) printing E6: Public Lighting 2,715.57 A. Total billable wattage of the public lighting system MWh B. Average billable wattage of the public lighting system 81.30 W C. Percentage of the total system that LED lights represent 51.76%

F: FIRE SERVICE

Fl: Cost per Capita of the Fire Service

A.	The Annual Financial Statement Programme E expenditure data for 2021 divided by the population of the local authority area per the 2016 Census figures for the population served by the fire authority as per the Risk Based Approach Phase One reports	€63.82
F2	: Service Mobilisation	
A.	Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in full-time stations in respect of fire	N/A
В.	Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in part-time stations (retained fire service) in respect of fire	6.8 minutes
C.	Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in full-time stations in respect of all other (non-fire) emergency incidents	N/A
D.	Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in part-time stations (retained fire service) in respect of all other (non-fire) emergency incidents	6.8 minutes
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	20.45%
B.	Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	59.09 %
C.	Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	20.45%
D.	Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	30.84%
E.	Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	54.21 %
F.	Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene	14.95%

H: HOUSING

is after 20 minutes

H1: Social Housing Stock	
A. The number of dwellings in the ownership of the local authority at 1st January 2021	1,380
B. The number of dwellings added to the local authority owned stock during 2021 (whether constructed or acquired)	48
C. The number of local authority owned dwellings sold in 2021	14
D. The number of local authority owned dwellings demolished in 2021	0
E. The number of dwellings in the ownership of the local authority at 31st December 2021	1,414
F. The number of local authority dwellings planned for demolition under a DHPLG approved scheme	0

continued >

H2: Housing Vacancies			
A. The percentage of the total number of local authority owned dwellings that were vacant on 31st December 2021	4.03%		
H3: Average Re-letting Time and Cost			
A. The time taken from the date of vacation of dwelling to the date in 2021 when a new tenancy had commenced in the dwelling, averaged across all units re-let during 2021	25.61 weeks		
B. The cost expended on getting the units re-tenanted in 2021 ready for re-letting, averaged across a units re-let in 2021	€ 14,705.21		
H4: Housing Maintenance Cost			
A. Expenditure during 2021 on the maintenance of local authority housing compiled from 1st Januar to 31st December 2021, divided by the number of dwellings in the local authority stock at 31st December 2021	ע €1,517.42		
H5: Private Rented Sector Inspections			
A. Total number of registered tenancies in the local authority area at end of June 2021	Not available at time of printing		
B. Number of rented dwellings inspected in 2021	Not available at time of printing		
C. Percentage of inspected dwellings in 2021 that were found not to be compliant with the Standard Regulations	ds Not available at time of printing		
D. Number of non-compliant dwellings that became compliant in 2021	Not available at time of printing		
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 t end of 2021	he 20%		

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 2021	161.1304
J2: Trading Online Vouchers	
A. The per capita number for trading online voucher applications approved by the Local Enterprise Office in 2021	65.0719
B. The per capita number of those trading online vouchers that were drawn down in 2021	48.0293
J3: Number of Mentoring Recipients	
A. The per capita number of participants who received mentoring during the period 1st January to 31st December 2021	680.1562
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 census	0.49
B. Number of items issued to library borrowers in the year	78,872
C. Library active members per head of population	0.06
D. Number of registered library members in the year	2,935
L2: Cost of Operating a Library Service	
A. The Annual Financial Statement Programme F data for 2021 divided by the population of the local authority area per the 2016 Census	€43.72
B. The annual per capita expenditure on collections in 2021	€1.25

M: FINANCE	
M1: 5 Year Summary of Revenue Account Balance	
A. The cumulative surplus balance at 31st December 2017	€183,369
B. The cumulative surplus balance at 31st December 2018	€189,834
C. The cumulative surplus balance at 31st December 2019	€201,740
D. The cumulative surplus balance at 31st December 2020	€218,803
E. The cumulative surplus balance at 31st December 2021	€243,944
F. The cumulative surplus at 31st December 2021 as a percentage of total income in 2021 from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the Annual Financial Statement	0.32%
G. Revenue expenditure per capita in 2021	€1,105.70
H. Revenue expenditure per capita in 2021 excluding significant out of county/shared service expenditure	€1,105.70
M2: 5 Year Summary of Percentage Collection Levels for Major Revenue Sources	
A. The individual percentage figures in the final column of Appendix 7 of the Annual Financial Statement for 2017 for: Rates Rent & Annuities Housing Loans	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%
2021: Rates Rent & Annuities Housing Loans	89% 93% 65%
M3. Public Liability Claims	
A. Per capita cost of settled claims for 2021	€5.00
M4. Overheads	
A. Overall central management charge as a percentage of total expenditure on Revenue Account	14.86%
B. Total payroll costs as a percentage of revenue expenditure	36.75%

P: PLANNING	
P1: New Buildings Inspected	
A. Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority	13.24%
P2: 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 2021	15
B. Percentage of the determinations at A which confirmed (either with or without variation) the decision made by the local authority	46.67 %
P3: 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 2021 that were investigated	114
B. Total number of cases that were closed during 2021	160
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	63.75 %
D. Percentage of the cases at B that were resolved to the local authority's satisfaction through negotiations	8.12%
E. Percentage of the cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	28.12%
F. Total number of planning cases being investigated as at 31st December 2021	149
P4: 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	€24.77
P5: Application for Fire Safety Certificates	
A. The percentage of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2021 that were decided (granted or refused) within two months of receipt	45.24%
B. The percentage of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2021 that were decided (granted or refused) within an extended period agreed with the applicant	33.33%

D •		ADS
к.	RU	ADS

R1: Ratings in Pavement Surface Condition Index (PSCI)		
A. The percentage of (a) Regional (b) Local Primary	93.00% 96.00%	
 (c) Local Secondary roads that received a PSCI condition rating in the 24-month period prior to 31st December 2021 and (d) Local Tertiary roads that received a PSCI condition rating in the 60 month period to 31st 	96.00%	
December 2021	73%	
 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 2021 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 2021, the % at PSCI rating categories; 1-4 At 31st December 2021, the % at PSCI rating categories; 5-6 At 31st December 2021, the % at PSCI rating categories; 7-8 	3.91% 16.36% 33.19%	
At 31st December 2021, the % at PSCI rating categories; 9-10	46.36%	
(b) Local Primary Road At 31st December 2021, the % at PSCI rating categories; 1-4	7.78%	
At 31st December 2021, the % at PSCI rating categories; 5-6	44.39%	
At 31st December 2021, the % at PSCI rating categories; 7-8 At 31st December 2021, the % at PSCI rating categories; 9-10	25.26% 22.23%	
A Sit becomer 2021, the wat i sentating categories, 5-10	22.2370	

continued >

(c) Local Secondary Road At 31st December 2021, the % at PSCI rating categories; 1-4 At 31st December 2021, the % at PSCI rating categories; 5-6 At 31st December 2021, the % at PSCI rating categories; 7-8 At 31st December 2021, the % at PSCI rating categories; 9-10				
(d) Local Tertiary Road At 31st December 2021, the % at PSCI rating categories; 1-4 At 31st December 2021, the % at PSCI rating categories; 5-6 At 31st December 2021, the % at PSCI rating categories; 7-8 At 31st December 2021, the % at PSCI rating categories; 9-10				
R2: Regional Road Grants Works				
A. Kilometres of regional road strengthened during 2021 and the amount expended on that work and unit cost per square metre	19.6km €4,359,363 €33.19			
B. Kilometres of regional road resealed during 2021 and the amount expended on that work and unit cost per square metre	0.0 km €0 €0			
C. Kilometres of local road (i.e. total of primary, secondary and tertiary) strengthened during 2021 and the amount expended on that work and unit cost per square metre	146.3km €7,438,255 €13.16			
D. Kilometres of local road resealed during 2021 and the amount expended on that work and unit cost per square metre	126.8km €2,427,655 €5.15			
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)				

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 2021			
W2: Percentage of Registered Schemes Monitored			
The number of registered schemes monitored by each local authority as a percentage of total schemes registered			

Y: YOUTH / COMMUNITY			
YI: Participation in Comhairle na nÓg Scheme			
A. Percentage of local schools involved in the local Youth Council/Comhairle na nÓg scheme			
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	15.06%		

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Appendix 2: Councillors' Conferences and Training Events 2021

Conferences/Seminars attended in Ireland by Roscommon County Council in 2021

Date	Organiser	Training/Conference Event	Venue	Number of Cllrs attended
22/01/21	Association of Irish Local Government (AILG)	The Decision on the Planning Application and Appeal	Online	5
19/02/21	Limerick IT	Climate Action Leadership Course	Online	11
26/02/21	AILG	An Overview of Planning Enforcement Functions	Online	4
08/03/21	AILG	National Local Government Women's Forum	Online	1
26/03/21	AILG	Communications Infrastructure and Local Authorities	Online	4
30/04/21	AILG	Housing Supply Targets and Core Strategies	Online	3
07/05/21	AILG	Local Authority Housing and the Housing Agency	Online	3
28/05/21	AILG	Rural Planning and Policy Development	Online	4
23/07/21	AILG	Delivery of High Quality Housing Appropriate to its Setting	Online	4
16/09/21	AILG	Module 1 - Government Decision on the Reform of Remuneration Payable to Local Authority Elected Members and Update on Planning and Development Bill	The Tower Hotel and Leisure Centre, Waterford	1
24/09/21	AILG	On and Offshore Renewables	Online	2
07/10/21	AILG	Module 1 - Government Decision on the Reform of Remuneration Payable to Local Authority Elected Members and Update on Planning and Development Bill	The Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway	2
08/10/21	Celtic Conferences	Mental Health and Wellbeing	O'Donovan's Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork	1
29/10/21	AILG	How to Implement National Renewable Energy Targets in Development Plans	Online	3
03/11/21	Local Authority Members Association (LAMA)	Mental Health and Planning Training Seminar	Sligo Park Hotel, Sligo	3
06/11/21	AILG	Module 2 - Elected Members Mental Health and Well-Being and Briefing on the National Office for Suicide Prevention	Clayton Hotel Galway, Co. Galway	2
26/11/21	AILG	County Development Plan Policy	Online	1
03/12/21	Celtic Conferences	Mental Health and Wellbeing	Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth	2

The total expenditure for Elected Members in respect of attendance at training and conferences was €3,462.19.

Appendix 3: Councillors' Committees 2021

List of County Committees and Outside Bodies on which Roscommon County Council was Formally Represented in 2021

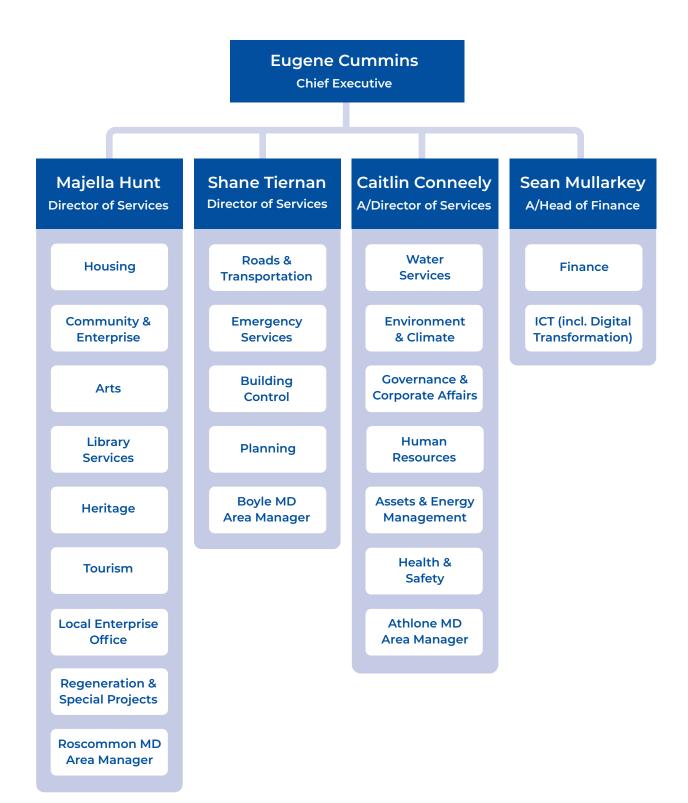
Committee Title	Purpose of the Committee	Elected Members representing Roscommon County Council
Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) Aontas Rialtas Áitiúil na	The Association organises a programme of meetings which help members give voice to current issues in Council	Councillors Connaughton*, Leyden** and Fallon
hÉireann	life. The AILG is a networking, policy development and training resource for the Elected Members of Ireland's 31 County and City Councils.	*11th May 2021 - Cllr. Waldron replaced Cllr. Connaughton. **22nd November 2021 - Cllr. Fitzmaurice replaced Cllr. Leyden.
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 and Training Board (ETB)	This committee is responsible for the governance of all educational and administrative services provided by Galway Roscommon ETB.	Councillors Shanagher, Cummins 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 members of local authorities 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 D. Kilduff, Fitzmaurice and Fallon

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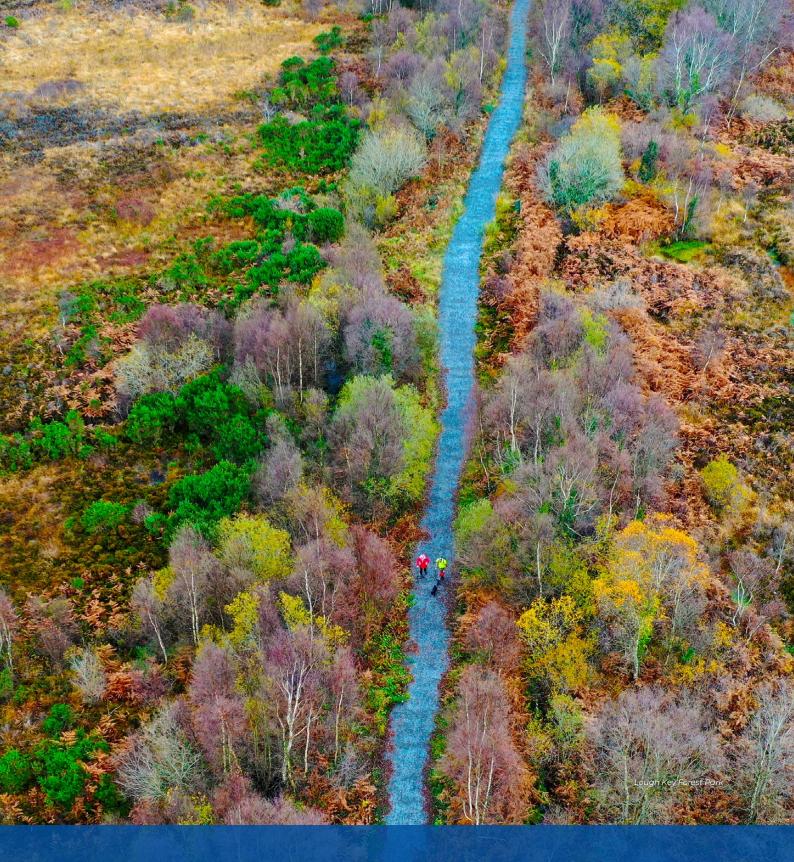
List of County Committees and Outside Bodies on which Roscommon County Council was Formally Represented in 2021

Committee Title	Purpose of the Committee	Elected Members representing Roscommon County Council
Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC)	To advise on the provision and management of Traveller accommodation.	Councillors Shanagher, Cummins and Crosby
Regional Health Forum West	To ensure that local elected representatives would 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 Dineen, Connaughton*, Fitzmaurice, Kilduff and Naughten *26th April 2021 – Cllr. Connaughton resigned
Road Safety Together Committee	To make 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 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 consultations, 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 *22nd March 2021 - Cllr. McDermott replaced Cllr. Leyden
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 all of the affairs of the University.	Councillor Keogh
Western Inter-County Rail Committee	This committee is committed to the reopening of the Western Rail Corridor.	Councillor Crosby

Appendix 4: Management Structure 2021







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