



Comhairle Contae  
Ros Comáin  
Roscommon  
County Council



# MANAGEMENT REPORT



May 2018

**Roscommon County Council**  
**Revenue Account Income & Expenditure Summary by Service Division**  
**Management Accounts Summary to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2018**

	EXPENDITURE		INCOME		NET
	Expenditure Incurred up to 31/05/2018	Adopted Full Year Budget	Income Receivable up to 31/05/2018	Adopted Full year Budget	Actual Overall Surplus/ (Deficit)
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing & Building	2,332,919	6,409,640	2,263,740	6,488,226	(69,179)
Road Transport & Safety	7,427,595	19,881,423	2,126,846	14,080,462	(5,300,749)
Water Services	2,772,349	7,359,460	2,764,667	7,279,000	(7,682)
Development Management	2,584,426	5,680,715	1,711,145	1,516,387	(873,281)
Environmental Services	1,665,613	5,703,366	447,800	849,329	(1,217,813)
Recreation & Amenity	1,444,482	3,643,551	307,486	572,772	(1,136,996)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	183,785	760,781	104,482	283,949	(79,303)
Miscellaneous Services	2,038,459	5,018,665	812,873	1,153,975	(1,225,586)
Central Management Charges	0	0	0	0	0
Local Government Fund/General Purpose Grant	0	0	5,108,115	10,216,000	5,108,115
Pension Levy	0	0	0	0	0
Rates	0	0	4,978,041	12,017,500	4,978,041
	<b>20,449,628</b>	<b>54,457,601</b>	<b>20,625,195</b>	<b>54,457,601</b>	<b>175,566</b>

**Note 1;**  
The Central Management Charge is allocated one month in arrears. The costs included in the Central Management Charge are distributed among Divisions A-H and include costs from Area Offices, Corporate Affairs, Corporate buildings, Finance, human Resources, IT Print & Post Room Services, Pension & Lump Sums.

**Summary of Major Collections as at 31<sup>st</sup> May 2018**

<b>Debt Type</b>	<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>Accrued</b>	<b>Vacant Property Adjustments</b>	<b>Write Off</b>	<b>Total for Collection</b>	<b>Collected</b>	<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>Specific Doubtful Arrears</b>	<b>% Collection</b>	<b>% Collection Previous Year</b>
<b>Commercial Rates</b>	2,428,797	11,938,588	790,060	33,190	13,544,135	3,951,570	9,592,566	656,410	31%	28%
<b>Rents &amp; Annuities</b>	412,573	1,861,809		(4,970)	2,279,352	1,859,562	419,700		82%	81%
<b>Housing Loans</b>	140,224	53,276			193,500	70,075	123,425		36%	36%

**Recourse to Overdraft;**

There has been no recourse to overdraft during the month of May 2018

**Note;**

Rates invoices issued for the month of May 2018 will be reflected in the June Report.



### Local Enterprise Office:

- 120 enquiries were recorded.
- Two Mentor Clinics were held with 15 participants.
- Ongoing one-to-one mentoring took place for the business community.
- 8 people took part in a TOV Information Seminar.
- An Innovation Voucher Clinic was held on the 11<sup>th</sup> with 9 enquiries.
- The following training was supported: SAGE Computerised accounts training finalised with 8 businesses, including follow-up on site visits; a Start Your Own Business Course was completed with 17 registered; a GDPR Information Seminar took place with 34 registered; Social Media for the Tourism Sector took place in the Enterprise Centre, Boyle and Social Media for Beginners took place in the Spool Factory, Boyle – 14 participants on both; E-Commerce Website training took place with 10 participants.
- 'Lead to Succeed - Fuelling Ambition Roadshow for Female Entrepreneurs' took place in the Hodson Bay Hotel on 1<sup>st</sup> led by Network Ireland Roscommon Branch & Enterprise Ireland and assisted by LEO Roscommon.
- Craft & Food businesses were supported at Lamb Festival w/e 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Fibre Arts Festival Event which was launched on the 4<sup>th</sup> was supported.
- LEO Roscommon supported Network Ireland Roscommon Branch with Judging of 'Women of the Year Awards' and the Awards Event in Castlecoote House on the 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Richard Siberry, Black Donkey Brewing Ltd., was interviewed at national level on the 19<sup>th</sup>. The National Final took place in the Mansion House on 24<sup>th</sup> May including a 20 year Celebration. Midland Precision Tool & Die was also invited as the 2001 National winners.
- Assistance was given to the 2 students from Curlew Mountain Forge, who represented Co. Roscommon in the Senior Category at the National Final of the Student Enterprise Programme on 2<sup>nd</sup> May in Croke Park. This team was one of just 8 teams invited to a publicity photo shoot in Croke Park on the 15<sup>th</sup>. At the request of Ireland AM the boys stayed overnight on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and appeared on TV on the morning of the 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Head of Enterprise, Louise Ward, assisted in hosting the President of Cook County on her visit to Ireland on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- National Women's Enterprise Day (NWED): This yearly National Event is now run on a Regional basis and the date has been set: **Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> October.** LEO Roscommon is taking the Lead for the West Region this year.

### Economic Development:

#### Vacant Sites

- Three live enquiries being followed through.
- Adverts placed in two local papers promoting the sites.
- Sale provisionally agreed for site 16.
- Sale of lands for site 16 approved at Council Meeting.
- Firm line of enquiry being progressed for sites 3 and 4.

### **Innovation Centre – Monksland**

- Steering Group meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> May.
- Draft proposal of new layout plans unveiled – agreement not yet reached with regards to size of area being made available to Innovation Centre.
- OIM to bring official costing back to Chamber for consideration.
- OIM to meet with Chamber Reps to discuss further funding opportunities before next meeting set for 12<sup>th</sup> June
- Advert on Part VIII placed in local paper and draft plans displayed in Aras an Chontae.
- Previous tenants have vacated premises.
- Information collated regarding duties involved in centre management and circulated to Steering Group.

### **STEM**

- Attended workshop on Ireland Funds with co-ordinator who is now going to follow up with Midland STEM project to see about learning from their experiences.
- Full time person to co-ordinate project is in place. In the meantime ongoing work continues and preparatory work to extend what is involved will be put in place, as well as looking at other funding.

### **Mainstreaming Student Entrepreneurship Conference**

Working with Roscommon LEADER Partnership to host a Conference on 6<sup>th</sup> July in Council Chamber. This will be the National launch of MASTER in Ireland with the aim of event to:

1. Demonstrate the importance of mainstreaming entrepreneurship education within VET for the benefit of individual students and wider regional development.
2. Publically recognise the achievements of the alliance.
3. Encourage the formation of other alliances in other regions.
4. Minister Mary Mitchell O Connor to launch event.

### **USEFE**

- Annual contribution of €10,000 approved in April.

### **Town and Village and Other Funding**

- Prioritised projects from each MD collated.
- Meeting arranged with DOS and MD co-ordinators to agree top projects.
- Update and clarification sought in relation to change of use with Dept.
- 2018 Scheme launched – call for expressions of interest advertised in both local papers closing date for entries 5<sup>th</sup> of June.
- 17 Expressions of Interest Received.
- 2016 & 2017 Funding must be expended by end of June 2018 to allow a town apply for 2018 funding.
- Enterprise section finalising complete applications to Department by 30<sup>th</sup> of June

### **Marketing of County**

- Photographer has completed a number of the business photographs including Aurivo, Trojan, Harmac and Castlemine Farm.

- Tender prepared for DVDs to promote county overall as well as different sectors was prepared and circulated. It was also promoted on both the LEO and RCC social media channels.
- Content prepared on reasons to invest in each town.

### **Economic Input to Diaspora Strategy**

- Input into the format of the workshop and promotion also provided.
- Workshop held on March 18<sup>th</sup> with large attendance, particularly with the assistance of Club Rossie.
- Content reviewed and format for strategy agreed with consultants.

### **Monitoring of Economic Element of LECP**

- Update provided in relation to Economic actions.

### **Town Teams**

- Boyle and Town Teams are working with Town Centre Planning Units on Town Centre Enhancement Plans 2040 launch.
- Castlerea Town Centre plan changed to works surrounding swimming pool.
- Town Centre Planning Unit presented draft plans to Boyle Town Team.
- Shambles area to be rejuvenated with 2017 Town and Village funding.
- Town Team Committees have now completed Annual returns to CRO.
- All Town Team committees have held AGM'S.
- Monksland Community survey in partnership with AIT and LEADER provisional findings presented to TT on 16<sup>th</sup> of April. Follow up survey analysis ongoing. TT will work with facilitator to develop integrated action plan based on final findings.
- County forum held on the 10<sup>th</sup> of April – presentations given by Boon Agency and Roscommon Employability Service.
- Colm Kelly & Town Team Representative (Gareth Scahill) invited to make presentation at Irish Walled Town Network in June.
- Roscommon Town Team launched Interactive Heritage Tour in Roscommon Arts Centre

### **Royal Hotel**

- Public consultation re: development of Royal Hotel site opened on Council Website, closing date for submissions was 17<sup>th</sup> of November - advertised in both local papers and also on local radio and social media. Over 117 submissions received; draft Chief Executive's report on submissions has been completed and published. Report was put before members of Boyle Municipal District and shared with the Boyle Town Team committee during January. Town Centre Planning unit presented draft plans for hotel site to Boyle Town Team – highlighting the potential future uses for the site. Site redevelopment plans included in Boyle 2040 plans. Royal Hotel works will form the basis for Boyle 2018 Town and Village Renewal Scheme €200,000 application.

## **Tourism Development and Promotion:**

- **Regional Projects**

**Destination Athlone:** Attended Destination Athlone AGM. Events manager coordinating Athlone Shannon Festival for Sept 2018.

**Lough Ree/Mid Shannon:** All stake holders submitted their primary projects for developments.

- **County Projects:**

**Community Tourism Offices:** Roscommon town Tourism Office to be recognised as a Fáilte Ireland Information Centre.

**Sliabh Bawn :** report on onsite visit complied.

**Walks:** Meet with Cloonfad, Mote Park and Lough Errit community representatives to view walks.

- **Roscommon Tourism Network:** Attended Lamb Festival with Tourism Stand.
- **Rebranding :** Invitation to tender re issued, with mid June been the date to submit tender.

- **Publicity & Media:**

**Publicity Material/Website:** Advertisement development for Go Lakelands and Roscommon people Summer magazine.

**Video Stories:** Interactive Roscommon Heritage walking tour App launched.

**Signage :** Casey's Roscommon have offered wall space for advertising. Lough Key, Baysports, Strokestown House and Rathcroghan have all agreed to contribute €100 towards the development of the signs. Design ongoing.

**Social Media:** Information from attractions and communities being updated on daily bases. Enterprise Department has agreed to coordinate Council Social Media usage for Arts, Heritage, Economic Development, Social Inclusion and Community Section. 3 adverts posted on Facebook with – 6,556 people reached. 6 adverts posted on Twitter.

**Events Calendar:** Enterprise Department approving events and promoting through numerous channels and contacts. GIS Officer has promoted in Local Authority News publication. Working with GIS Officer to develop more user friendly links before advertising on local print and social media in 2018. Calendar advertised on 2 local papers and also through social media advert during March

**Trade Shows:** preparation for attendance at the 5 day Bloom festival.

**Events :** Lamb festival launched and Brochures relating to Roscommon Tourism distributed. Launch of 2018 Táin March in Rathcroghan.

- **Outdoor Recreation**

Castlereagh and Athlone engineers contacted in regard to time lines for completion of the



Donamon and Castlerea Demesne project under Measure 2 2017.

- **Healthy Ireland:** 30 way finders purchased for walks for Mote. Application submitted for 2018 scheme to develop county booklet on walks and outdoor activities.

## Planning Section Management Report - May 2018

### Forward Planning

#### Vacant Site Levy work arising from the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015

Work concluded on the analysis of submissions received from landowners in response to the issuing of 'Notices of Proposed Entry on the Vacant Sites Register' in March 2018. Arising from this the final identification of sites to be included on the Vacant Site Register has taken place, with detailed reports being prepared in justification of the identified lands. The preparation of formal notifications of inclusion on the register was on-going as part of work and that correspondence will issue over the coming weeks.

#### Monksland / Bellanamullia (Athlone West) Strategic Transport Assessment

The Strategic Transport Assessment which had been commissioned for the Athlone West area (i.e. the extent of area included within the Monksland / Bellanamullia LAP and its environs) was completed by consultants in April. A presentation summarising the findings and setting out the key recommendations was prepared for discussion at the Athlone Municipal District Meeting (which due to re-scheduling took place on June 1<sup>st</sup>).

### Development Management (including enforcement activity)

The table below summarises Development Management activity in the Planning Section in May. A total of 49 valid applications were received by the Planning Authority, which was a marginal increase from the April figure of 45. A total of 29 pre-planning meetings were facilitated. 37 decisions were issued on planning applications, with 3 of those being refusals.

Period	Activity	Athlone	Boyle	Roscommon	Totals
May 2018	Valid App	20	16	13	49
	Invalids	3	5	5	13
	Extension of Duration	0	2	0	2
	Refusals	0	3	0	3
	DED's	3	2	2	7
	Pre Planning Meeting	10	9	10	29

<b>Enforcement Activity</b>					
<b>Month</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Athlone</b>	<b>Boyle</b>	<b>Roscommon</b>	<b>Totals</b>
<b>May 2018</b>	New enforcement case	4	2	6	<b>12</b>
	Warning letter	2	0	0	<b>2</b>
	Enforcement notice	1	0	0	<b>1</b>
	Closed Case	0	1	0	<b>1</b>
	Legal	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>Unfinished Housing Developments</b>					
<p>The Unfinished Housing Development team continued their work in May 2018, including undertaking site inspections and continued engagement with stakeholders.</p> <p>Developers have been active in progressing agreed site resolution works in 7 developments, of which two are in Ballaghadereen, a further two in Rooskey and also one in Loughglynn.</p> <p>Tenders were received from a number of contractors in relation to the undertaking of Site Resolution Works at developments in Boyle and Tarmonbarry, and were the subject of assessment by the UHD team and the consulting engineers engaged in respect of each of the relevant developments under RCC's Framework.</p> <p>The taking in charge process progressed in respect of three housing developments (one in each of Boyle, Ballaghadereen and Cortober) with resolutions being passed to take the developments in charge at the Boyle Municipal District meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup>. The taking in charge process will not however formally conclude until the adoption of the minutes of that meeting at the next scheduled Boyle Municipal District meeting.</p>					

### Community & Enterprise Section Management Report – May 2018

#### Community and Enterprise Function

##### Diaspora:

- A regional digital workshop with other partners was held on May 8<sup>th</sup> to look at ways to digitally connect with our diaspora.
- Draft Strategies to be circulated to all counties in early June for review internally. Presentation to management Committee by Consultant, mark Conway, set up for June 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **Clár**

- 15 projects were submitted to the Department at end of April. Queries on projects submitted were answered during May.

## **Town and Village**

- Closing date for receipt of applications was set for June 5<sup>th</sup>.

## **Healthy Ireland**

- 2018 scheme was announced at end of April with initial closing date of May 11<sup>th</sup> which was extended to May 25<sup>th</sup>
- Plans put in place for Focus Group with last year's applicants and Health and Wellbeing sub-committee for early May to review initial draft of best practice on health and wellbeing plan.
- Preparations made for hosting of Seminar on Girls Participation in Sport in May.

## **Pride of Place**

- Pride of Place judging dates announced –

24<sup>th</sup> July 2018 - Tulsk Action Group CLG and Strokestown Town Team will be judged.

25<sup>th</sup> July 2018 - Ballintubber Tidy Town on 25<sup>th</sup> July will be judged.

The pride of place judges will conduct a site visit to each community group during which time they will meet with community representatives. The visit will consist of a formal presentation by representatives of the local community highlighting their achievements and the reasons why they deserve a Pride of Place award. The format of the rest of the visit is up to each individual community but usually includes a short tour of the project/display.

## **Tidy Towns and Amenity Grants**

- Works outlined by the groups who have been awarded funding under the Tidy Towns and Amenity Grants have commenced.

## **LCDC**

Roscommon LCDC and LAG met on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2018 and the following matters were dealt with:

- Presentation on Draft Healthy Roscommon plan
- Approval of Healthy Ireland Applications to go forward in 2018
- Update on LECP Monitoring
- Leader projects for approval and updates on Leader Circulars

### **Bike Week**

- Funding Approval received from the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport for Bike Week 2018.

### **Sports Development Officer**

- Adrian Carbury, FAI Development Officer showcased the work he is carrying out in Ballaghaderreen with the Syrian Refugees as part of a UEFA Study Group Visit in Athlone IT

### **Arts Programme**

#### **International Fibre Art Festival**

The International Fibre Art Festival took place over four days at the beginning of May. 4<sup>th</sup> May at 7.00pm Civic Offices. This was the European launch of the 'Fate, Destiny and Self-Determination' installation – It has already toured Canada, China, Uruguay and USA. The 'Fate, Destiny and Self-Determination' installation consists of seven hundred pieces of woven art from four hundred participants from thirty-five countries around the world and is growing by the day. So, whenever it is being exhibited in a particular country, all the artists from or near that country who have a piece in it, attend.

Twenty weavers from Sweden, Denmark, Canada, the UK, and the US and all over Ireland booked in to a master-class in fine art weaving. Fifty people booked in to attend a symposium, which looked at issues of collaboration and communication. Because most fine art weavers work in isolation, they are beginning to look at ways of tackling this, by holding festivals such as this one. All of the people attending the festival were in the county for at least a week or ten days and added to the local economy.

#### **Roscommon County Youth Orchestra (RCYO)**

The summer concert of the Roscommon County Youth Orchestra took place in Hudson Bay on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> May. Among the pieces performed were Celtic Gypsy, Lux Aeterna, Happy, Mozart Concerto and Rainy Day.

#### **Roscommon Arts Centre**

May was an exceptionally busy period at Roscommon Arts Centre with 36 events. The increased number of events was due to a number of short workshop programmes for both children and for older people in literature and theatre as part of our Bealtaine Programme.

Such was the demand for **Michael Harding's Memoir Writing** workshops, that an extra afternoon session had to be added to the schedule, with 24 participants in total taking part. A further 8

participants took part in **Julie Sharkey's Acting workshops**, while **Cathy Jordan's Songbirds choral workshops** resumed with between 20 & 25 people a week attending and **Catherine Donnelly's dance workshops** came to a conclusion with an onstage session.

**Two Artist Development workshops**, aimed at locally based artists in association with **Visual Arts Ireland** took place. Attended by 10 participants, the events focussed on **Writing About your Work (delivered by Joanna Laws)** and **Documenting Your Work (Delivered by Tim Durham)**. Two **Open calls for visual art commissions** were announced: **The Arts & Disability Commission & The Park Project Residency**.

**Theatre Artist Anna Newell** embarked on a period of R&D at the centre with **Touched Theatre Company** for a new children's show entitled **"My Smile has Fallen Down"** that focuses on mental health issues, which the centre hopes to develop over the next three years with the artist. While we embarked on another series of **weekly early year's music workshops** with early year's music specialist **Roisin Egan** entitled **"Beat Buddy Babies"**

Theatre performances were courtesy of **Seamus O Rourke, Theatre Niche, Branar Theatre Company** and **Touched Theatre**. The music programme included **Seamie O'Dowd, John Joe Kelly & Kieran Quinn** in concert, while the Photolreland festival exhibition **"In, Around & After Effects"** continued in the gallery.

The centre also hosted the **launch of the new Tourism Strategy** and facilitated a **talk by Psychologist David Coleman** as organised by colleagues in Community & Enterprise.

## **Heritage**

### **Rathcroghan Resource Community European Innovation Partnerships Project:**

- The 'Sustainable Farming in the Rathcroghan Archaeological Landscape' project proposal has been selected for submission to the second round of the EIP open call process.
- Helena Fitzgerald Architects have been appointed by Rathcroghan Resource Community to prepare a detailed project plan for submission to the second round of the EIP Open Call process in August 2018.

### **2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage:**

- Three heritage office projects have so far been granted permission to use the EYCH Label – Notice Nature Biodiversity Marquee @ Roscommon Lamb Festival Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> May, The Táin March @ Rathcroghan Mound Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May, Roscommon Graveyards Map Viewer date to be confirmed.
- Other events around the county have also been granted permission to use the EYCH Label.

### **The Táin March**

- Primary school workshops with Heritage in Schools Scheme Expert Chris Thompson have been arranged with eight schools. School children will participate in the start of the Táin March @ Rathcroghan Mound on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May.

**Built Heritage Investment Scheme and Structures at Risk Fund**

- Letters of offer were issued to eleven successful applicants under the BHIS and four successful applicants under the SRF.