



Comhairle Contae
Ros Comáin
Roscommon
County Council



MANAGEMENT REPORT



DECEMBER 2019 - QUARTER 4

Roscommon County Council
Revenue Account Income & Expenditure Summary by Service Division
Management Accounts Summary to 31st December 2019

	EXPENDITURE		INCOME		NET
	Expenditure Incurred up to 31/12/2019	Adopted Full Year Budget	Income Receivable up to 31/12/2019	Adopted Full year Budget	Actual Overall Surplus/ (Deficit)
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing & Building	6,149,277	6,432,331	8,126,814	6,610,726	1,977,537
Road Transport & Safety	24,992,586	21,626,277	18,702,677	15,798,962	(6,289,909)
Water Services	6,697,680	7,555,705	6,693,798	7,279,000	(3,881)
Development Management	6,044,132	6,249,355	3,488,844	1,566,387	(2,555,288)
Environmental Services	5,156,069	5,552,626	794,789	913,329	(4,361,280)
Recreation & Amenity	3,808,002	4,045,888	867,664	593,772	(2,940,338)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	648,120	704,781	362,176	283,349	(285,944)
Miscellaneous Services	4,777,362	4,845,538	3,365,511	1,797,375	(1,411,851)
Central Management Charges	1,047,982	0	56,623	0	(991,359)
Local Government Fund/General Purpose Grant	0	0	10,216,230	10,216,200	10,216,230
Pension Levy	0	0	0	0	0
Rates	0	0	11,653,614	11,953,400	11,653,614
	59,321,209	57,012,501	64,328,740	57,012,501	5,007,530

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

Summary of Major Collections as at 31st December 2019

Debt Type	Opening Balance	Accrued	Vacant Property Adjustments	Write Off	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Balance	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection	% Collection Previous Year
Commercial Rates	1,906,949	11,652,842	1,248,930	162,883	12,147,978	10,288,870	1,859,108	232,226	86%	86%
Rents & Annuities	414,000	5,119,953		17,450	5,516,503	5,042,079	474,424		91%	92%
Housing Loans	139,376	359,168			498,544	378,186	120,358		76%	55%

Recourse to Overdraft;

There has been no recourse to overdraft during the month of December 2019

Planning Section

Forward Planning

Northern and Western Regional Assembly (NWRA) – *Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy*

In response to the public consultation on the Northern and Western Regional Assembly (NWRA) *Proposed Material Alterations of the Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy* (which ran from 4th August to October 11th 2019), a detailed submission was made by Roscommon County Council. In addition to the inclusion of commentary on proposed material alterations of relevance to all of the county, the submission also included detailed comment on the Proposed Material Alterations to the content of the strategy on Athlone, as a regional growth centre. The content of this element of the submission was endorsed by Westmeath County Council and represented the collective views of both Authorities in respect of Athlone.

The NWRA formally considered submissions received on the proposed material alterations at their meeting on December 13th, with the *Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy* being made on that day.

Vacant Site Levy

In 2018, processes were undertaken in relation to the identification of Vacant Sites (liable to attract a vacant site levy under the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015), and the subsequent issuing of statutory notifications and the placing of sites on the Vacant Site Register. A total of 30 sites were included on the register in 2018, and therefore become liable for the first payment of the vacant site levy in January 2020. All 30 sites included on the Register were re-inspected in November 2019, in order to establish whether or not there had been any change in their condition during the preceding year. Works had been undertaken at 4 sites, such that they no longer constitute Vacant Sites, and they were accordingly removed from the Vacant Site Register on 25th November 2019. In accordance with Section 15(4) of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015, Notices of Demand for Payment of the Vacant Site Levy issued to the owners of the remaining 26 vacant sites, and included notification of the statutory entitlement to appeal the Demand to An Bord Pleanála, under Section 18 of the Act.

To date, RCC has received notification from An Bord Pleanála of the lodging of one appeal in respect of the demand for payment. All appeals are required to be lodged with An Bord Pleanála within 28 days of the Notice of Demand for Payment.

Vacant Homes Activity

Further to the identification of vacant homes in a number of settlements (identified as part of the cyclical survey work which has been carried out by Roscommon County Council since late 2017) and subsequent engagement between property owners and the Vacant Homes Officer, in conjunction with other relevant sections of the Council, progress in Q4 included RCC's acquisition of a vacant property in Beechlaw, Monksland. The property is expected to become available as a social housing unit in 2020. Negotiations were also undertaken and are continuing in relation to the potential acquisition of another long term vacant property in Monksland.

Other activity in the quarter focused on engagement with a number of vacant home owners in Boyle, where properties were identified as potential candidates for the Boyle Pilot Repair and Lease

Scheme. As a result of this process, a number of property owners engaged consultant architects / engineers in order to identify the extent of works necessary to bring the properties up to appropriate rental standards and achieve compliance with Building Regulations.

Athlone Regional Centre Joint Urban Area Plan – Preparatory Work

As part of the initial preparatory phase of the future Urban Area Plan for the Regional Centre of Athlone, as designated in the National Planning Framework, tenders were sought earlier in 2019 for the preparation of an Economic Strategy for Athlone. The Economic Strategy is intended to serve as a blueprint for the future development of the regional centre of Athlone to 2040, and its overarching purpose will be to inform and drive the economic, social and physical development of Athlone. It is intended to promote increased employment and enterprise opportunities in Athlone and its hinterland, and is expected to deliver an ambitious, distinct and wholly achievable vision for the regional centre over the next 20 years. The successful tenderers (Grant Thornton) commenced work on the project in Q4, with an inception meeting being held with management officials of both Roscommon and Westmeath County Councils.

Development Management and Planning Enforcement Activity

The table below summarises Development Management activity in the Planning Section in Q4 2019. A total of 146 valid applications were received over the three-month period, which is consistent with numbers received in the previous quarter (145). A total of 108 decisions were made on planning applications in Q4, of which 11 were refusals (representing a refusal rate of approximately 10%) Demand for pre-planning meetings remained consistently high, and the number of meetings facilitated was similar to the previous quarter.

Period	Activity	Roscommon North	Roscommon South	Totals
Q4 2019	Valid app	70	76	146
	Invalid app	11	15	26
	Extension of Duration	1	0	1
	Refusal	7	4	11
	Pre-planning meeting	27	27	54

Enforcement Activity

Period	Activity	Countywide Totals
Q4 2019	New enforcement case	14
	Warning letter	8
	Enforcement notice	2
	Closed case	8
	Legal proceedings	1

Unfinished Housing Developments

A range of activity continued to be undertaken throughout Q4 as part of the continuing initiative to resolve unfinished housing developments. Contractors appointed under RCC's Framework continued to progress site resolution works in developments in Boyle, Strokestown, Tarmonbarry and Knockcroghery. Semi-skilled workers, employed directly by Roscommon County Council, were engaged in works at three developments – one each in Monksland, Barrybeg and Rooskey. In addition, developers continued work on three sites in Roscommon town and also on a site in Strokestown.

As a result of various works in unfinished developments reaching a satisfactory conclusion, the following 11 developments were referred to RCC Roads Section during Q4 for Taking in Charge :

- Ashburton Grove, Ballaghaderreen
- Hillview, Ballinlough
- Lime Grove, Ballinlough
- Oaklawn, Ballinlough
- Caradrum, Boyle
- Cuilmore Cove, Cootehall
- Cois na hAbhainn, Croghan
- Millstream, Elphin
- Slí an Choiste (Phase 1) Monksland
- Slí an Choiste (Phases 2 & 3) Monksland
- The Plains, Ballinagare.

Corporate Affairs

Register of Electors:

The annual revision of the Draft Electoral Register which commenced in Q3 was completed in Q4. As part of the process of compiling and updating the Draft Register twenty-three field workers undertook house-to-house calls in the county in the 103 Polling Districts to update the Register. The Draft Register of Electors for 2020/2021 was published on 1st November 2019.

Civic Reception:

A Civic Reception took place on 4th December, 2019 in the newly refurbished Arts Centre to honour the success of people of Roscommon on the national and, in some cases, the international stage. This event provides an opportunity to celebrate the diversity of talents, dedication and enthusiasm which lead to the excellent achievements of the recipients in the arena of sport, music, drama and education and science. A total of twenty-two awards were presented by the Cathaoirleach to celebrate over thirty-five different achievements.

Events:

Events hosted in ÁRAS AN Chontae during Quarter 4 include:

- 5th November - Launch of Roscommon Youth Theatre Exhibition
- 18th November - Exhibition to commemorate the 120th Anniversary of the first Local Elections
- 3rd December - Exhibition - Learning from Group Water Schemes - December

Delegation Visits:

A delegation from the Shanxi Province visited the county on 9th December, 2019 accompanied by Mr. Mark Zhang of Ireland China Friendship Association in Dublin. As part of the visit, the delegation also visited Lough Key Forest and Activity Park.

Economic and Development Promotion

Local Enterprise Office:

- 95 enquiries were recorded.
- 2 Business Advice Clinics were held with 13 participants.
- 2 people availed of the TOV Information Session.
- Promotion of Brexit supports continued.
- Ongoing one-to-one mentoring for the business community took place.
- On-site mentoring continued as part of the Lean for Business Programme.
- Student Enterprise Programme: All 9 second level schools have received support and the Programme continues into 2020 with the County Final scheduled to take place on 12th March.
- Primary School Enterprise Awareness Workshop: 11 School visits in total have taken place, with 3 further schools expressing interest. Work will continue in the new year.
- The Autumn/Winter training programme was completed.
- Planning commenced on the Spring training programme.
- All LEO supports are being promoted on the LEO website and on various social media platforms.
- A Projects Evaluation Meeting took place on the 4th. One Feasibility Study was approved for funding.
- The HoE met with EI Executives for the LEO Roscommon yearly review on the 6th. They stated that LEO Roscommon ranks in the top 3 LEOs in the country in terms of performance and meeting metrics.
- USEFE Operational Group Meeting was held on the 12th.
- The AGM of Network Ireland Roscommon Branch took place on the 17th with Lucy Carty stepping down as President and Mary Hennigan taking over the title. Meetings will continue throughout 2020.

Vacant Sites: Ongoing advertising of available sites continues.

Funding Opportunities: RRDF application successful for Monksland Innovation Centre. The outcome of REDF application from Enterprise Ireland was unsuccessful.

Enterprise Development Plan to 2020: Strategic Objective 4 “Enhancing the Growth Potential of Ag Tech in the West”. The report has been completed and will be presented to the committee in January.

IDA: HoE has had a meeting with Rikki Conneely, IDA Regional Executive, IDA re: attracting investment to Roscommon. A portfolio of lands is currently being prepared and a grow remote event will be held in 2020.

Tourism Development and Promotion:

Regional Projects:

- **USEFE:** Meeting of Dec 9th was cancelled. To be held in Jan/Feb 2020.
- **IHH:** Final Workshop on the website. Improvement Scheme to be held. Proceed now to complete the request for tenders for new Website for King House.
- **Taste of Island:** FI funding for Taste of Lakelands applied for – awaiting payment.
- **Walks Brochure:** Quote received for 2020 edition of the Walks Brochure to include National Famine Way, Lung Lough Gara Way, Monksland Walk and Boyle to Lough Key Cycleway. Will design and develop in early 2020.
- **WWI :** Updated the WWI mapping for Attractions and Activities in Roscommon.

County Projects:

- **Arigna Mining experience:** Attended the opening of the new Café in Arigna Mining Experience
- **2019 Festival and Events:** Total of 39 Festivals received funding in 2019. Three approved events did not proceed.
- **Social Media:** From Jan dealing with all social media in house.
- **Website:** Events updated and Blog added.
- **Outdoor Recreation: (2018 Scheme):**
 - **Sliabh Bawn:** Full amount of funding received from Dept.
 - **Suck Valley:** Extension sought to complete project as delays due to weather and Rural Recreation Officer out on sick leave.
- **Outdoor Recreation: (2019 scheme):** All 4 projects applied for under Measure 1 approved. Will issue Letters of Offer in Jan and meet with the relevant groups.
- **Ballyleague T&V:** Final funding from Dept received. Signage installed by TII in Strokestown, Sliabh Bawn and Ballyleague
- **Faite Ireland Website Scheme:** Attended the third website workshop.
- **Videos:** Mimar media to seek quotes for the animation of the Tourism logo for new Tourism Videos.

Publicity & Media:

- **Social Media:** Information from attractions and communities being updated on a daily basis. Enterprise Department has agreed to co-ordinate Council Social Media usage for Arts, Heritage, Economic Development, Social Inclusion and Community Section. Ongoing.
- **Events Calendar:** Enterprise Department approving events and promoting through numerous channels and contacts. GIS Officer has promoted in Local Authority News publication. Calendar advertised on 2 local papers and also through social media advert.

Arts Office:

- **Writer Mentorship Programme:** A mentor Brian Kirk, was assigned to an emerging writer, Neil Tully, during 2019. The idea of the programme is that mentees will have direct access to the knowledge and expertise of an experienced practitioner in their chosen field of literature. The Writer Mentorship Programme is designed to support the development of emerging and established Roscommon writers who have identified particular gaps in their knowledge and expertise. The programme achieves this by providing funding to a leading professional to help the applicant make the next steps in their development. The mentor will provide an objective critique and feedback on the writer's work and/or assist her or him in the development of a specific writing project. This is the first year of this particular programme. The programme will be evaluated and this will inform the programme in 2020.
- **Creative Ireland:** All Creative Ireland funded projects for 2019 completed and funding has been drawn down from Dept.
- **Artists in Schools Programme:** Work continued with the artists who are working in the 4 primary schools and pre-schools with all payments made before year-end.

Arts Centre:

- Confirmation of Arts Council funding for 2020 was received this month and the centre has received its largest ever programming grant of €112,000 – a substantial increase of €37,000, based on the application made. The award includes provision for an extend theatre

residency by Fregoli Theatre Company, who will work with members of the Syrian community in the direct provision centre in Ballaghaderreen.

- Nineteen events in total took place this month at Roscommon Arts Centre, attended by 882 people. The performance programme focussed strongly on seasonal events, especially aimed at younger audiences, some of which had very small capacities on only 12 per performance.
- Susan Mannion's show "Fading into another Dusk" continued in the gallery space with two more "Primary Colours" Visual Art Education primary school workshops taking place to coincide with it. This included one with a group of special needs children. Both workshops were again delivered by artist and facilitator Naomi Draper on our behalf.
- The workshop space continues to host a series of ongoing events with a local Tai Chi group now renting the space one evening a week.

Community & Economic Development

Healthy Ireland

- Final queries submitted to Pobal as requested – still awaiting decision on Strand 3 of HI Funding Application.
- Position of Healthy Ireland Co-ordinator advertised.

LEADER:

- 41 payments made to promoters totaling €1,511,344.65
- 22 Projects paid in full.
- Monthly Admin Returns and payments to LEADER Co. are ongoing.
- Article 48 checks are ongoing

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

Meeting of LCDC held 11th December and following agenda items dealt with:

- LCDC/LECP/LDS synopsis
- Update on LCDC Training event, Tullamore

Local Action Group meeting held 11th December and following agenda items dealt with:

- Financial report
- LEADER Programme Implementation Update
- Update on Expressions of Interest
- Consideration of recommendations of LEADER Evaluation Committee

Social Inclusion

Science Week;

- Services and Agencies Information Showcase held on 6th December: organised by RCC and Ethnic Minorities Liaison Garda Officer.

National Age Friendly Coordinators meetings

- The World Health Organisation Launch of the Age Friendly Ireland Shared Service was held on Monday 16th December 2019 in Slane Castle

Comhairle na nÓg

- Annual Report on 2019 activities, submitted to Pobal.

SICAP

- SICAP Annual Plan 2020 is being prepared. The SICAP Budget has increased to €616.301 for 2020
- Annual Performance Review is being carried out.

Heritage

Roscommon County Council Pollinator Awards:

- Incorporated as part of the Roscommon County Council Tidy Awards, Pollinator Awards were presented by heritage expert Eanna Ni Lamhna to 3 cemetery committees and three schools for their actions to help pollinators in the county. This is in support of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan. Schools winners were: First - Lisaniskey NS. Second - Ballintieva NS and Third - Keadue NS. Cemeteries winners were: First - Kilroan Old Cemetery Lisacull. Second - Ballintubber Cemetery, Third - Cloontuskert Cemetery. This project was supported by the National Biodiversity Action Plan fund which is operated by the Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht.

King House Masterplan Workshop:

- Participated in a workshop facilitated by Fáilte Ireland to discuss a new masterplan for King House.

Regional Tourism Management Programme – Follow Up Day:

- Participated in a workshop facilitated by Fáilte Ireland.

County Roscommon Heritage Forum Meeting:

- Final meeting for 2019 took place in Arigna Mining Experience.

Farming Rathcroghan EIP Field Monument Advisor/Archaeological Consultancy Services:

- A draft report has been received from the consultants. Discussions on this are ongoing with the Farming Rathcroghan EIP project manager & operational group. The draft report has been submitted to the Heritage Council as part of the Heritage Council funding recoupment claim.

www.roscommoncoco.ie/cemeteries:

- A recoupment claim was submitted to the Heritage Council for their funding towards the new cemeteries mapviewer and the associated projects also carried out as part of this project.

National Biodiversity Action Plan Funding Scheme:

- A recoupment claim was submitted to the Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht for projects carried out under this funding stream. Projects funded were – a wetlands project as part of the Neighbourhood Scheme in Elphin; Green Schools Biodiversity Workshops in conjunction with the Environment Section of RCC, the above mentioned Pollinator Awards which included 17 judging workshops carried out by heritage expert Eanna NiLamhna, and a Pollinators radio infomercial which was aired on Midwest radio & Shannonside FM.

Regeneration Unit Management Report

Urban Regeneration Development Fund

Roscommon Public Realm Enhancement Project:

- Following a number of revisions to the original Part 8, a new Part 8 was advertised
- The Part 8 Planning was approved at the December 16th 2019 Roscommon MD meeting.
- Work is proceeding on the final detailed design.

Rural Regeneration Development Fund

Castlereah Hub Extension:

- Consultant was appointed to carry out the detailed design works for the extension to Castlereah Hub.
- Meetings are ongoing with local group and consultant in relation to finalising detailed design.

Boyle Enterprise Hub and Riverside Promenade

- Consultant was appointed to carry out the detailed design works.
- A number of meetings have been held to finalise various aspects of design.

Monksland Hub

- Application for funding for a Life Sciences Innovation Hub and Soft Landing Space was approved to the value of €2.751m in grant aid.

Outdoor Recreation 2018

Loughnaneane Park:

- The new decking and drainage works were completed.
- The contractor appointed to carry out surfacing works has completed all resurfacing works.
- Sculptor completed work on the 5 unique art pieces.
- Information on the trail was prepared and information boards procured. Due for installation shortly
- Drawings have been prepared for the outdoor amphitheatre and pricing documents. Tenders issued pre-Christmas.

Boyle Cycle Corridor

- Work has commenced on the development of the cycle corridor linking Boyle town and Lough Key Forest & Activity Park.
- The final stage will be completed in early 2020.

Slaibh Bán

- Road resurfacing works to carparks and new play area completed
- Works ongoing on play area
- Approach signage installed
- New information boards and promotional material prepared

Monksland Way

- This project is now completed and is being actively used.

Town and Village 2018

Athleague Town and Village Renewal Scheme

- Project fully completed.

Boyle

- Following demolition works, procurement for felling of trees was completed.

Ballaghaderreen

- Works to Shambles area completed.
- Procurement process for Community & Economic Plan completed.
- Preparatory work completed on landscaping.

Rooskey

- Number of meetings held with Town Group to agree on final design
- Tender stage complete for appointment of contractor to carry out enhancement works along the quayside and approach to main bridge to include new footpaths, surfacing of car park, lighting, street furniture.

Monksland Urban Park

- The site location report was presented to Monksland Town Team.
- Tender documents were prepared and issued but no response was received.

Roscommon

- A bat and swift survey was completed.
- Meetings took place with lighting designer and the OPW and design is in place.
- A ministerial consent application has been approved for lighting the castle.

Strokestown

- Strokestown Town Team have completed the Community Market Square element.
- Enhancement to buildings contract has been procured.
- Town Team have been working on the permanent lighting option.

Town and Village 2019

- 7 projects were approved for funding under the 2019 scheme to the value of €688,000. These are Athleague, Castlerea, Creagh, Gortaganny, Rooskey, Keadue and Tulsk.

Historic Towns Initiative Boyle

- Final works and reports on HTI completed in Boyle on 11 houses.

Roscommon Bound - Global Rossie Project

- Roscommon Bound website was finalised and went live in early December 2019.
- Minister Paschal Donohoe launched both Roscommon Bound – the Global Rossie Strategy and Roscommon Bound Website at an interactive launch on December 9th 2019.
- Global Rossie Wallplanners and Roscommon Bound Books were made available for people home for Christmas in several outlets around the County.
- An International Global Rossie Day was announced for June 21st 2020.
- An active social media campaign on LinkedIn and Facebook was activated.

Library Services Update

Roscommon County Council Library Service provides a range of resources and services throughout a network of branch libraries and through the mobile library service.

Right to Read Programme

Following on from a very successful Summer Stars Programme, the library service ran a comprehensive programme of events in libraries for the Ros na nÓg Children's Book Festival. More than 30 events took place including Storytelling, Puppet shows, author visits and workshops. In December, libraries participated in Family Time at Your Library with family friendly events taking place in each library.

Dormant Accounts Fund Projects

Work continued on the delivery of 2 collaborative projects in Ballaghaderreen supported by the Dormant Accounts Fund. The first project, an early literacy programme entitled "1,2,3 Read with Me" supported parents and pre-school age children in early literacy development. Participants attended workshops including speech and language development, mindfulness, and worked with artists to develop a multi lingual literacy resource. The second programme, involving teenagers from Ballaghaderreen saw young people from different backgrounds coming together to research, record, produce and edit a video about the library service entitled "Discover your Library". It is expected that both projects will have launch events in the early new year. The successful delivery of these projects involved collaboration with various groups including the GRET, Foróige, Ballaghaderreen Family Resource Centre, Roscommon Leader Partnership, Tusla and the HSE.

Healthy Ireland at Your Library

The Healthy Ireland programme continues to deliver a programme of events and resources in the form of an extensive book collection and online resources. A large crowd attended an event in Roscommon Library on World Diabetes Day in November with 3 expert speakers. The reading list has been extended with the full Healthy Ireland at Your Library collection now available in every library.

Work Matters at the Library

This service which aims to provide support resources to support business and employment is available in all libraries in Roscommon. Plans are in place for series of events to take place in January and February 2020.

Library Activities and Exhibitions

The SiarScéal Literary Festival took place in Roscommon County Library from October 11th – 12th featuring the Hanna Greally International Literary Awards and a touring exhibition entitled "Beneath the Western Skies" For the first time, SiarScéal involved the library services in both Sligo and Leitrim with children from both counties participating alongside children from Roscommon in the Exhibition. The Library Service supported the Creative Ireland Funded "Irish Women in Visual Arts Conference in Strokestown Park House in November which included a wonderful talk by Frances Crowe into the background of her tapestry "Displaced".

HOUSING BUSINESS UNIT

1.0 Homelessness & Housing Allocations

1.1 Homelessness:

A range of responses to homelessness in accordance with the West Framework Homelessness Action Plan are in place. The Western Region Homeless Action Plan 2019-2022 has been prepared by the lead Council (Galway City Council) with input from the other authorities in the region.

22 = homeless cases presented in Q4, 2019

10 = cases required short-term accommodation in Q4, 2019

Breakdown Homeless figures Q4 2019				
Presentations	Individuals	Families	Totals Households	Breakdown of Family unit
Oct	7	0	7	0
Nov	8	3	11	1A1C 1A2C 2A1C
Dec	4	0	4	0

Accommodated	Individuals	Families	Totals Households	Breakdown of Family unit
Oct	3	0	3	0
Nov	4	0	4	0
Dec	3	0	3	0

1.2 Housing Assessments & Allocations:

Housing Needs Assessment was completed in June, 2019; this is the number of households qualified for social housing support as of 21 June, 2019. Following the assessment 323 households (net of transfers) were deemed qualified for social housing at the time which is 12.5% reduction on 2018

360 = applicants (excluding transfers) on the approved housing list at end of Q4, 2019

676 = applicants are currently in private rented accommodation (increase due to RAS tenants pre 2011 in receipt of RAS and remain open. 206 of these applicants are in private rented accommodation with no support.

37 = offers of accommodation made in Q4, 2019

27 = new tenants appointed/allocated in Q4, 2019

6 = AHB Tenants appointed in Q4, 2019

16 = refusals recorded in Q4, 2019

1.3 Refugee Applicants:

All families nominated by the Department of Justice for settlement under Roscommon's 2018 settlement programme have been accommodated. In November 2019, RCC offered to house three

additional families but no details or names have been provided to date and the Implementing Partner's contract has expired. The Department failed to extend the Implementing Partners contract but has proposed a rolling 'month to month' contract for a fixed monthly fee instead. The proposal is under review by the Implementing Partner but is not clear if the required support services can be provided under the arrangement proposed by the Department.

2.0 Social Housing Rental Accommodation Market

2.1 Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS):

Financial support continues via the RAS Scheme for those applicants who have a long-term housing need. As of 31 December, 2019, there are 391 households receiving support (291 private rented and 100 in voluntary housing).

2.2 Housing Assistance Payment (HAP):

Roscommon County Council is working closely with the Community Welfare Officers in the Department of Social Protection to continue the transfer of Rent Supplement recipients to the HAP Scheme. As of 31 December, 2019, there are 421 social housing applicants in receipt of HAP.

2.3 Repair & Lease Scheme (RLS):

- 64 = applications were received and were assessed since the scheme was rolled out in Q1, 2017; the majority of the applications related to properties outside areas of need/demand or were remote rural dwellings in poor condition
- 4 = applications are under further consideration; however, some of these have unresolved planning issues; one application for a 2-bed in Roscommon town is currently progressing
- 3 = number of lease agreements RCC has entered into under the RLS (two 1-bed apartments and a 4-bed house in Roscommon Town)

3.0 Provision of Additional Social Housing Units

3.1 LA Build (including turnkeys & PPP):

Summary of projects in progress:

- 10 turnkey units at Lisroyne Ct., Strokestown – Works were completed in December, 2019 and units were offered/allocated to tenants in January, 2020.
- Three 2-bed units at Cloonfad on HSE site - Construction commenced in Q4, 2019 with programme for completion scheduled for Q4, 2020.
- 7 units at Cluain Fraoigh, Roscommon - Construction commenced in Q4, 2019 with programme for completion scheduled for late 2020/early 2021.
- 2 Units Old Tuam Road (CPO) – Construction commenced in January, 2020 with programme for completion scheduled for Q4, 2020.
- 9 units at Longford Td. – Proposal to develop via an AHB is under consideration (material contravention of current Area Plan would be required)
- 12 units Silveroe, Boyle – Construction to commence in Q1, 2020 with programme for completion scheduled for Q3, 2020.
- 18 units Meadowbrook, Ballyleague – Tender process to commence in Q1, 2020 with works scheduled to commence on site in Q2, 2020. Target completion Q4, 2021
- 8 units Elphin Street, Strokestown – Part 8 planning process commenced in Q4, 2019. Tender process to commence in Q1, 2020 with works scheduled to commence on site in Q3, 2020. Target completion Q4, 2021.

- PPP Bundle 2 at The Walk (53 units) - Construction commenced in Q4, 2019 with programme for completion scheduled for Q3, 2021.

3.2 Housing Association Activity:

- A Tuath proposal for 35 units at Cloongowna, Monksfield, Athlone – A Building Agreement/Contract of Sale was entered into between Tuath Housing Association and the Developer on 31 October, 2019.
- Co-operative Housing Ireland delivered 10 units at Castle View Apartments (Block B) under the Capital Advanced Leasing Facility (CALF) Scheme at the end of December, 2019. These are currently being allocated.
- A second proposal for 10 units at Block A (fronting onto Castle Street) received Department approval in May, 2019; these units require some post acquisition works and are expected to be available for allocation in 2020.

3.3 LA Acquisitions (including Buy & Renew):

In total 26 sales were completed in 2019. RCC has been advised that the 2020 acquisition programme will be severely reduced as funding is required for capital projects.

3.4 Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024:

The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 was adopted in the June Council meeting. Capital schemes progressing under the programme include:

- Torpan Beg Extension of 4 units – Stage 3 approval granted but on hold subject to two current tenants, who have requested transfers (i.e., they wish to leave this estate), accepting offers of alternative accommodation.
- 2 Lough Road post fire reconstruction project – Awaiting stage 3 approval

3.5 Sale of Sites and Rural Houses:

1 rural house was sold in Q4, 2019 and another sale is expected to be completed in Q1, 2020. It is proposed to advertise the sale of 6 rural houses in Q1, 2020.

- The sale of 11 low cost sites at Forest View, Boyle were advertised in Q3, 2019 with a reduced purchase price of €10,000 per site. No applications were received.

3.6 Tenant Purchase:

The Tenant Incremental Purchase Scheme was published under the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014. At the end of Q4, 2019 there were:

134	=	applications received to date
73	=	offers made to date
55	=	offers accepted to date
27	=	sales completed to date

4.0 Private Rented Accommodation Standards

Inspections of private rented dwellings continue to be carried out under the Housing (Standards for Private Rented Houses) Regulations 2019.

- 492 inspections were carried out as of 31 December, 2019, 222 of which were follow-up inspections required to address issues arising from previous inspections.
- Target for 2019 is 447 inspections.

5.0 Management of Existing Housing Stock

5.1 Energy Efficiency Programme (retrofitting existing stock):

- Phase 1 energy works (attic and wall insulation) are now complete.
- Surveying of potential candidates for phase 2 works began in Q4, 2019. Funding for phase 2 energy works likely to involve a matching local authority contribution of more than 50%. Phase 2 will be to survey and up-grade/rationalise heating systems and replace old single glazed windows and doors.

5.2 Voids Programme:

RCC completed 2 voids in 2019. Any remaining derelict units are in isolated rural locations with low or no demand. These properties will be sold unless a specific demand presents in the meantime.

5.3 Casual Vacancy Works (pre-letting works)

A total of 10 houses were refurbished due to normal turn-over of properties in Q4, 2019 at a cost to date of € 112,682 (excluding any outstanding payments).

5.4 Housing Maintenance

RCC Housing received 323 maintenance calls in Q4, 2019 and billed expenditure on maintenance works during the quarter was €163,144.31.

5.5 Housing Grants (including Improvement Works in Lieu)

The 2019 budget of € 1,076,963 (€ 861,570 plus Council contribution of € 215,393) for Housing Aid for Older People Scheme and Housing Adaptation for People with a Disability Schemes was 102.64% committed at the end of Q4, 2019. 136 private grant applications were committed/approved and payments in the amount of €1,105,410.74 were processed at end of Q4, 2019.

2019 grant allocation towards adaptations & extensions to Council housing stock/improvement works in lieu was €205,002.00 in 2019; this is €109,388.00 less than the 2018 allocation. The Council will contribute additional funds in the amount of €22,778.00 towards this scheme. To date, €379,115.44 has been committed/approved to this scheme (including one IWIL & two extension projects), of which €347,960.42 has been expended.

Water and Waste Water

There is an ongoing extensive Infrastructural portfolio, Capital Programme portfolio and Water Networks portfolio in place for Water and Waste Water schemes in the County. The following is a brief summary of works planned and underway.

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 Waste Water Treatment Directive. Tobin Consulting Engineers have been appointed as the Clients Representative for the project. Draft Tender documents have now been prepared and are being reviewed by the legal team within Irish Water. The tender documents, once approved, will be issued to a list of contractors on the major civils framework. It is anticipated that the documents will be issued to the contractors by the end of November with a tender period of 12 weeks. Wayleaves and land acquisition negotiations are still ongoing with the hope that all agreements will be in place by the end of November. A Solicitor and Valuer have been appointed on behalf of Irish Water to carry out the land negotiations.

Planning Permission has been granted for pump stations around the town as well as structures within the existing wastewater treatment plant.

Once the tender closing date has elapsed a tender assessment will take place over Q2 of 2020 and approval of the successful contractor and approval of budget will follow on in Q3 2020.

It is expected that construction works in the town of Roscommon will commence in October of 2020.

Boyle WSS Extension to Grangemore RWSS:

This project involves extending the recently upgraded Boyle RWSS supply southward to the Grangemore RWSS and ultimately to allow the decommissioning of the Cavetown WTP. AECOM and Jennings O'Donovan Consulting Engineers have been appointed for the project. All wayleaves and compensation arrangements to landowners affected are in place. A Tender process took place in late 2018 and the successful contractor Source Civil Engineering Ltd were appointed as the successful contractor. The contract was signed in November 2018 and construction commenced in February 2019. At present, the project is well under way and all of the pipework is in the ground. Tie-in work at reservoirs has been complete. Mechanical and Electrical work has now completed at the reservoirs and pump houses. Water from Rockingham Springs currently feeding Boyle Ardcarne water supply scheme is now in circulation in the Grangemore water supply area. A final completion date after safety files and O&M manual handed over will be in place by end of December 2019.

A series of sampling and testing in the Grangemore network is under way in order to demonstrate that the new water being supplied by the Boyle Regional water supply scheme is in compliance with drinking water standards which ultimately will lead to the last remaining scheme within county Roscommon currently on the EPA RAL list being removed. The official opening date is set for Jan24th.

Upgrade works to Ballaghadereen WWTP:

The Ballaghadereen WWTP has been included under the 2017-2021 Investment Plan for assessment of its primary and secondary treatment processes. The current plant is at risk in terms of UWWTD compliance, overloading and failure to provide adequate capacity for growth. Ryan Hanley was appointed as Employers Representative for the Project but the project has now been moved a new delivery mechanism and will now be progressed under the ECI (Early Contractor Involvement) Contract. The ECI contract is divided into regions with Roscommon County in the Northern Region. The successful Contractor within this region is Veolia who will take over the project from January 2020.

An asset survey report has been issued to Irish water. A final feasibility study report has also been issued to Irish Waters Assett planning division. WIAC approval at gate 2 has been granted to proceed to the next stage. A project breif of the proposed upgrade has now been drafted which will be reviewed by Irish Water and to the appointed consultants of the ECI Contract (Mott McDonald & MACE). Once approved it will then be issued to Veolia to proceed to detailed design in consultation with all parties having their input to the overall outcome to the delivery of the project.

The main items of work to be delivered as part of the ECI project are:

- Upgrade the terminal Pumping Station with increasing capacity of the tank on site as well as associated site works
- Upgrade the site Boundaries by seperation of the entrance currently used as a common shared entrance to both Irish Water and Roscommon County Council
- Upgrade the Secondary Treatment process in order to improve capacity of the existing process
- Providing a new settlement tank
- Associated ancillary site works in cluding upgrade of the SCADA System

Monksland and Boyle Drainage Area Plans:

The preparation of a Drainage Area Plan and Wastewater Source Control Study has been undertaken in Monksland and Boyle to accurately estimate the condition of the existing networks and the flow and load arriving to the Wastewater Treatment works. This Drainage Area Plan work has been carried out by Nicholas O'Dwyer Consulting Engineers together with McCloy's Water and Environmental Consulting Engineers. There are four stages to the DAP Process: Stage 1: Scoping and Data Gathering, Stage 2: Surveying and Modelling, Stage 3; Risk Assessment and Needs identification and Stage 4: Strategy, Optioneering and Future Solutions Design. Stage 1 and 2 of the process have been completed.

The manhole and sewer CCTV survey are complete for both Towns and the Flow and Load Survey in Monksland and the Flow and Rainfall Survey in Boyle are also complete. The Model build for the networks on both Towns is complete. A Technical Solution Development Report was issued for both locations in June 2018. The Process Optimisation Report for Monksland was completed. On foot of the above a scope of upgrade works at Monksland was prepared which includes the provision of new inlet works, storm tank and storm water overflow chamber and also a telemetry upgrade. Site Investigation work undertaken for the Monksland WWTP in early 2018. A procurement exercise was then undertaken to carry out the above works in Monksland WWTP. A Contract was then signed in December 2018. The successful contractor Glan Agua Ltd, commenced site construction works in February 2019. This programme of work will be completed by the end of Q1 2020.

Stage 3 of the DAP was recently completed at a workshop in June and a final report was issued.

Interventions will be developed in Stage 4 of the DAP Process in consultation with Irish Water.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME PORTFOLIO:

Inlet Works, Sludge & Storm Programme:

Upgrade to the Inlet, Storm and sludge process at Termonbarry WWTP has being included in the programme. JB Barry has been appointed as Consulting Engineers. A Conceptual Design is complete. A technical options report has been reviewed and approved. Irish Water asset planning have reviewed the report and the following works have been approved: New inlet works, a storm tank and replacement of the old sludge tank with a larger sludge tank together with associated mechanical and electrical works and upgrades. This work will form part of a project bundle that Irish Water will roll out Q2 2020. The tender process is ongoing. It is hoped that a successful contractor will be appointed in January 2020 with work on the ground commencing in Q2 2020.

Planning Permission will be required for the structures proposed. A pre planning meeting has taken place and an application has just recently been submitted to the planning authority.

National Certs of Authorisation Programme (NCAP):

RPS Consulting Engineers were appointed and are currently gathering data for site assessment and site options report for 15no. Sites in County Roscommon. The assessment is based on the impact the asset has on the environment rather than plant condition. Lecarrow, Croghan, Bellanagare, Cloonfad & Ballintober WWTP are identified as high impact sites. Roscommon County Council staff have engaged with RPS and have provided detailed information on each of the plants that have been examined under this programme. A draft site assessment report on each of the above locations has been reviewed in Q2 2019 and commented on by Roscommon County Council Operations engineers. RPS are in the process of preparing technical options reports for each of the sites based on the recommendations contained in the site assessment reports. It is expected that the technical options reports will be circulated for review and comment at the end of Q4 2019. It is anticipated that a programme of works will be rolled out for these sites from 2020-2021.

Lead Mitigation Programme:

The aim of this programme is to provide Ortho Phosphate dosing in up to 200 WTPs countrywide by end 2019 as an interim measure for lead mitigation. The long-term solution is to remove all public side lead services by 2026. The permanent solution to have zero lead in the water supply by 2026. Five sites have been prioritised in Co. Roscommon as follows. North Roscommon WTP, Rockingham WTP, Ballinagard WTP, Killeglan WTP, Longford Springs WTP. The first site to be rolled out is North Roscommon WTP. EPS Ltd has been appointed and a detailed design is in progress.

Water Treatment Programme.

A Regional Water Treatment programme is underway in the North and West Region. The overall programmed completion date is June 2020. There are 12no. sites in the North West Region included in the programme. Mount Talbot – Four Roads Water Treatment Plant is included in the programme. EPS Ltd have been awarded the regional contract with a total value of €8million. Advance works are completed. Raw water data gathering is in progress. This data will assist in the final scope for the plant upgrade. Some source protection works will progress in the coming months.

Reservoir Refurbishment Programme.

A contract has been awarded for the major repairs works to reservoirs. Lissacurkia and Fairymount reservoirs are included in this programme. The works when complete will address major Unaccounted for Water issues.

Advance Investigation Works Programme.

This is a €1.5million regional programme. Mechanism for carrying out investigation works to include as part of upcoming tenders, optimise existing treatment processes and to gather data which will aid decisions on future treatment plant upgrades. Castlerea WTP is included in this programme. Coffey Water Ltd have been appointed for the North West Region. Site assessment is complete and filter assessments are to be carried out.

Access to Heights and Edge Protection Programme.

This is a regional programme aimed at addressing medium and high-risk items identified in HSQE audits. There are 15no. Locations in Roscommon included in the programme. EPS Ltd have been appointed to carry out the works. Works have commenced in Fairymount Reservoir, Boyle WWTP, Kiltruisten Intermediate Reservoir and Ballyfarnan WWTP. The remainder of the sites will be completed during 2019.

Strom Water Overflow Assessment Programme.

Jacobs/Tobins appointed by IW to deliver this regional programme. A review of current list of WWTP's and storm water overflows carried out. There is no programme currently in place.

Waste Water Pumping Stations and Rising Mains Capital Maintenance Programme.

Jacobs have been appointed by IW to deliver this regional programme. A review of the top 10 priority pumping stations and top 3 priority rising mains has been carried out. There is no programme currently in place.

WATER NETWORKS PORTFOLIO:

Water Network Framework Programme:

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

- New mains and service laying.
- Back yard lead replacement.
- DMA establishment.
- Pressure management.
- Resolution of shared services.
- First fix.
- Lead services.

Water Networks Rehabilitation Programme.

Contract Works:

Farrans Ltd are the appointed regional contractor to undertake works on behalf of Irish Water. New Water Main and lead services replacement is nearing completion in Ballaghadereen. Water main replacement is completed at Emmoo.

Direct Labour Works:

A number of direct labour works are due to commence in the coming weeks as follows. Lead Replacement works in Lisnamult, bulk water meter installations on semi private group water schemes and replacing back yard services at locations around the county.

Tranche 5 proposals for the next investment phase has been submitted and is under consideration by Irish Water.

Find and Fix Programme:

This is a two-year programme targeted at DMA's with high UFW figures. This work commenced in late Q2 of 2018 with a regional contractor (Farrans) appointed by Irish Water to deliver this programme of work. Farrans have also been tasked with examination of DMA'S establishment and they have employed the services of Jacobs Consulting Engineers to carry out this work. Under this programme, it has been agreed between Irish Water and Roscommon County Council that the local authority could form their own direct labour crew made up of a leak detection operative and two other operatives to carry out Find and Fix in other water supply zones and DMA'S (District Metering Areas).

The Find & Fix scheme involves leak detection crews undertaking surveys using sounding equipment on footpaths and other public areas. At present, the contractor has been working in a number of District Metering Areas (DMA's) within the Ballinlough Water Supply Zone which is fed from Garanlahan Reservoir now supplied by the Lough Mask Water Supply Scheme. The contractor (Farrans) have also commenced Find and Fix works in North Roscommon RWSS in particular Ballaghadereen.

Target Leakage reduction has been achieved in a number of DMAs and are now closed and handed back to the operations caretakers. Other DMAs are still been investigated and in some cases have been split into sub DMAs to assist in leakage reduction process. Roscommon County Council Direct labour crew are currently working in the Lecarrow/Knockcroghery supply scheme in South

Roscommon and have also moved over to the Mount Talbot Supply. This ongoing find and fix work has resulted in a reduction of unaccounted for water within county Roscommon and will continue to do so over the lifetime of the programme.

First Fix Programme.

Farrans Construction has been appointed by IW to carry out works under this programme. The duration depends on the take up by customers who will avail of the scheme. Letters have been issued to customers with meter usage <1M3/day. Farrans Construction will undertake the find and fix for customers who wish to avail of the scheme.

Non-Domestic Meter Replacement.

Farrans Construction have been appointed by IW to carry out works in the programme. Matched meter exchanges have been completed. Surveys of unmatched meters are ongoing.

Leakage Management System.

A new leakage management system called Net base, is currently being rolled out to all LA's. Crowder Consulting Engineers were appointed by IW to roll out Netbase nationally. The new system will facilitate a consistent method of carrying out water audits establishing unaccounted for water in all LA's. Roscommon Co. Co. staff has spent a number of months collaborating with Crowder Consulting Engineers gathering network data, Net base is now live in Roscommon. Training to relevant staff is ongoing. The system will be used to generate water audit reports.

Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme 2019-2021

The Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government introduced the *Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme 2016–2018*, which was the first multi-annual funding framework approach for the Rural Water Programme. This marked the transition to a scheme-specific funding approach, from the previous annual block grant funding approach. That transition will be completed in the funding cycle for 2019-2021 with all measures now becoming scheme or project based.

The objective for this cycle is to provide enhanced funding certainty for priority investment needs to support the implementation of proper planning and sustainable development in rural areas. This is to assist in meeting the requirements of the Drinking Water Directive in relation to rural water supplies and to support the delivery of measures identified in the *River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021* to meet the objectives of the Water Framework Directive.

The 2019-2021 funding cycle of the multi-annual programme consists of eight measures (most are further broken into sub-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 the contamination of, and ensure that, drinking water is safe and meets quality parameters of the Drinking Water Regulations on a consistent long-term basis.

Consultation has taken place with the Group Water Scheme sector in Roscommon to identify works in line with Department guidelines. A funding bid proposal of €3,112,797 for the 2019-2021 funding cycle of the multi-annual programme has been submitted to the Department for consideration as follows:

2019 - €755,097, 2020 - €1,283,350 and 2021 - €1,074,350

The eight funding measures are:

- **Measure 1 - Source Protection (Group Water Scheme Sector- A funding request of €351,150 has been submitted in respect of the period 2019-2021. The 2019 funding request is €129,450. Allocation as per Circular L2/19 OF Oct 14th 2019: €129,450**
This measure is aimed at protecting the raw water source of existing group water schemes thus contributing to the safety of water users through the ability of the scheme to sustainably achieve compliance with the water quality parameters of the Drinking Water Regulations on a consistent long-term basis. This is a new stand-alone measure – source protection was formerly covered under Measure 2(e) of the 2016-2018 multi-annual programme as part of the measure ‘Enhancement of existing schemes’,
- **Measure 2 - Public health compliance (Group Water Scheme Sector): A funding request of €914,408 has been submitted in respect of the period 2019-2021. The 2019 funding request is €218,408. Allocation as per Circular L2/19 OF Oct 14th 2019: €203,000**
This measure is aimed at improving water quality in existing group water schemes, through upgrading of their treatment facilities, so that the schemes can sustainably achieve compliance with the parameters of the Drinking Water Regulations on a consistent long-term basis,
- **Measure 3 - Enhancement of existing schemes including water conservation (Group Water Scheme Sector): A funding request of €1,451,125 has been submitted in respect of the period 2019-2021. The 2019 funding request is €291,125. Allocation as per Circular L2/19 OF Oct 14th 2019: €271,000**
This measure supports projects to make existing group water schemes more efficient in their operation (e.g. water conservation and network upgrades, including storage) and contributing to good water quality on a consistent sustainable long-term basis,
- **Measure 4 – New Group Water Schemes:** This measure supports social and economic development in rural towns and villages and their hinterlands by providing new group water schemes where public water supply schemes or individual/private wells are not the most viable option,
No funding request has been submitted under this Measure
- **Measure 5 – Transition of Existing Group Water Schemes and Group Sewerage Schemes to the Public (Irish Water) Water Sector: A funding request of €247,000 has been submitted in respect of the period 2019-2021. The 2019 funding request is €22,000. Allocation as per Circular L2/19 OF Oct 14th 2019: €22,000**
This measure enables existing group water schemes and existing 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),
- **Measure 6 - Community Connections (Water and Wastewater): A funding request of €69,113 has been submitted in respect of the period 2019-2021. The 2019 funding request is €44,113. Allocation as per Circular L2/19 OF Oct 14th 2019: €18,113**
This measure facilitates the continued expansion of the coverage of piped water supplies and central wastewater collection systems by extension off the public (Irish Water) network,
- **Measure 7 - Innovation and Research: A funding request of €80,000 has been submitted in respect of the period 2019-2021. The 2019 funding request is €50,000. No allocation.**
This measure is aimed at issues in the rural water sector which, given the major transition of water services in Ireland, require new and innovative approaches and solutions,

- **Measure 8 - Individual wells (more commonly known as private or household wells) and on-site wastewater treatment systems (more commonly known as septic tanks):** This measure is aimed at allowing householders that are dependent on these services to obtain funding support for their improvement. As funding under this measure is demand-led, there was no requirement to identify funding requirements for this measure in the funding bid.

In 2016, with the transition from the previous annual block grant-based funding to multi-annual funding focusing on schemes/projects, the Department established a bids evaluation panel – the Expert Panel – to assist the Department with its evaluation of bids from local authorities. It is intended for the 2019-2021 funding cycle to continue with the above bids evaluation approach. The Panel will make recommendations to the Department on the suitability of schemes/projects for funding based on objective criteria. The Department will consider the recommendations of the Panel and approvals will be made by the Minister. It is expected that funding approval will be forthcoming from the Department very soon.

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 €381,885 have been paid to Group Water Schemes to end of Q4 2019.

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 have been paid in the sum of €176,917 to Group Water Schemes to the end of Q4 2019.

INDIVIDUAL WELL GRANTS:

The funding for Individual Well Grants is demand led and applications continue to be processed for those who do not have access to an alternative water supply in their area. The maximum grant available is €2,031.58 or 75% of the cost of the work, whichever is the lesser. To the end of Q4 a total of 18 applications for the upgrade of individual wells have been received with 18 receiving Provisional Approval for financial support. Grants have been paid on 9 completed applications Q4 2019.

Environment Department

WASTE MANAGEMENT AND ENFORCEMENT

National Inspection Plan

Under the Water Services Act 2007 as amended, a minimum of 35 sites were required to be inspected by Roscommon County Council in 2019. 35 sites were identified and inspected in quarter 4. 72% (26) failed the inspection and Advisory Notices issued to the property owners.

Complaints

The Environment Section continues to deal with litter/pollution complaints on a daily basis. All complaints are recorded and every complaint is investigated. Set out below are the complaints received in Quarter 4 2019. During this period 124 complaints were received, 128 were investigated and 189 complaints were closed.

Complaint Type	Athlone	Ballaghaderreen	Boyle	Castlerea	Roscommon	Strokestown	Total
Water	1	1					2
Waste	3	6	7	4	3		23
Litter	15	16	29	9	14	13	96
Air		1			1	1	3
	19	24	36	13	18	14	124

Bye-Laws for the Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste 2019

At its meeting of 22nd July 2019 Roscommon County Council made Bye-Laws to regulate and control the segregation, storage and presentation of household and commercial waste within its functional area. These Bye-Laws repeal Roscommon County Council Storage, Presentation & Collection of Household Waste Bye-Laws 2008. There is a provision for the imposition of a fixed payment of €75 in respect of a contravention of the Bye-Laws.

These Bye-Laws came into effect on the 1st November 2019 and an awareness campaign, funded under the Anti-Dumping Initiative (ADI) 2019 was rolled out at this time which included the filming of a Waste Presentation Bye-Law Video and Civic Amenity Site promotional videos. These have been posted on social media.

National Litter Pollution Monitoring System surveys

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 and Tobin Consulting Engineers in consultation with local authorities. Under the System Roscommon

County Council carried out 24 No. Quantification Surveys and 82 Litter Pollution Surveys during 2019 and these were forwarded to Tobin Engineering in Q4 for analysis and report.

Historical Landfills

An application for a Certificate of Authorisation in respect of Castlerea closed landfill was made to the EPA in Q4. This followed on from a risk assessment that was undertaken at the site earlier in 2019. This was funded by the Department.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

Fashioning for the Future Events

The Textile industry is the second biggest polluter in the world and with a view to assisting people to plan their wardrobe better and reduce the amount of textile waste, four Fashioning for the Future Events were organised and held during October which is Reuse Month. A complementary Second Hand Clothes Shopping video launched on facebook during this period also. A Repair and Exchange Event organised by Roscommon Town Team and supported by Roscommon County Council was also held during Reuse Month.

Green Schools

Greenschools Seminars were organised for Teachers with 46 attendees. NOAC 70% Active GS - highest in Ireland. 86 National Schools, 7 Secondary Schools and 1 Preschool have been awarded Green Flags.

In conjunction with Roscommon County Council Heritage Officer and funded by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht under the National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP), Heritage in Schools Workshops were organised for 26 schools, with a Forest in a Box set up by Woodland League Trees provided for 2 schools.

Annual Environmental Awards

The Tidy Awards Ceremony was hosted by TV personality and wildlife expert, Eanna Ni Lamhna in Roscommon Arts Centre. The Tidy Awards have been going strong for over 20 years now and they are an acknowledgement of the contribution of community groups, schools and volunteers to enhancing their local environment.

Awards were presented to winners in a number of competitions including:

- Tidy Estates
- Tidy Cemeteries
- Tidy Schools
- Best Presented Street
- Best Presented Bottle Banks
- Best Presented Shop Front
- Pollinator Awards for Schools
- Pollinator Awards for Cemeteries

Eanna Ni Lamhna presided as judge of the Pollinator Competitions for schools and cemeteries in early Summer. She took the opportunity to educate and inform schools and cemetery groups of the

importance of pollinators and how they could implement further pollinator friendly initiatives whilst carrying out her judging duties.

Cycle Up

Roscommon Women's Network received 60k in funding from Green Enterprise Fund. 10 volunteers attended the 2nd Upcycling Training Course . Graduates from the first course attended Aontas Conference and were commissioned to make upcycled owls paperweights as gifts to speakers. Also showcased the project at CRNI Conference at AIT.

Food Waste Aware Pilot Project

Funding was approved from DCCAE and the EPA for a Pilot Project to carry out food waste audits. This service was offered to all eat-in food businesses in Co. Roscommon, nineteen were completed by Profit Watch. Based on the results of this pilot project, Profit Watch have been successful in securing €100,000 funding from the DAFM to roll the project out nationally.

Food Waste and You

The Launch of Food Waste and You - a resource pack for Home Economics Teachers to complement the Junior Cert curriculum launch at ATHE Conference in Athlone. This project was undertaken in conjunction with Galway City, Galway County and Mayo County Councils and was funded by the EPA.

Assets, Climate Action and Energy Management

ASSETS

- Update of Building/Land Assets reviewed and forwarded to OPW for inclusion on National Property Register
- PIR (Property Interest Register) Roscommon for all Building / Land Assets ongoing
- Full listing of RCC Assets across all Sections prepared and to issue in Q1 2020 for verification by all Sections
- Housing Assets being reconciled with iHouse
- Ongoing Administrative / Technical involvement with Leases, Acquisitions and Disposals of RCC Assets
- Policy documents approved and to sign off in Q1 2020 for:
 - Disposal of Land/Property
 - Acquisition of Land/Property
 - Property Asset Management Plan

ENERGY

- **Public Sector Energy Partnership Programme –**
 - Agreement signed on 25th April, 2016 - new Partnership Support Manager, Noel Gilbride, assigned to Roscommon County Council
 - Energy Action Plan 2019 – implementation ongoing

- **Grant Applications –**
 - BEC Application for King House, Boyle, Dillon House, Ballaghaderreen and Aras an Chontae being prepared for submission in Q1 2020
- **Optimising Power @ Work Programme –**
 - Submission in respect of Aras an Chontae accepted
Monitors installed in June, 2017 and ESB Networks data connection complete / monitoring ongoing – subject to data commissioning / verification.

OP@W Mentor, Colm O’hAonghusa, had been reviewing monthly but is no longer available to RCC and a replacement Consultant will be appointed in Q1 2020
 - Monitors installed to 5 no. Buildings in Roscommon Town and ESB Networks data connection complete / monitoring ongoing with support from ResourceKraft - subject to data commissioning / verification
- **Energy Monitoring & Reporting (M & R) 2018 –**
 - Data for 2018 – Part 1 submitted by 25th January, 2019 and Part 2 submitted by 3rd May, 2019.
 - Currently at 27.7% (provisional) of targeted 33% energy efficiency improvement by 2020, based on 2018 energy usage

PUBLIC LIGHTING

- Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) Funding Applications successful in respect of Public Lighting (PL) Upgrades in:
 - 9 no. separate locations in Co. Roscommon (438 no. PL’s) and
 - 4 no. separate locations in Co. Roscommon (38 no. PL’s) based on cost reductions on the above 9 no. Schemes
 - Total LED upgrade = 476 no. PLs
 - Retrofit of PLs complete with exception of a small number of “scan” poles
- RCC-funded Project of retrofit of 1,230 no. PLs throughout Co. Roscommon approved in sum of €550,000.00 ex. VAT – commenced in Q4 2019 and approx. 50% complete
- Updates to DeadSure Inventory and UMR Database in preparation for National LED Upgrade – ongoing
- Taking-in-Charge of Estates (Public Lighting) – in conjunction with Planning and Roads Sections

CLIMATE ACTION

- Draft RCC Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019 – 2024 - adopted by Members of Roscommon County Council at September Plenary Meeting of 23rd September, 2019
- Implementation Team to finalise in Q1 2020

Roads and Transportation

National Roads Capital Projects

N5 Ballaghaderreen–Scramoge: The Ballaghaderreen to Scramoge Road Project is 33.4km 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 Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) was made on 11-12-2017. The application for Development Consent and for confirmation of the CPO and associated documentation was submitted to An Bord Pleanála (ABP) on 20-12-2017. The closing date for receipt of submissions to An Bord Pleanála was 3-3-2018. An Bord Pleanála made a request for additional information and same was submitted to the Board on 7-6-2018. Following an Oral Hearing convened by An Bord Pleanála ('The Board') in October 2018 the Board approved the scheme and confirmed the CPO in January 2019. CPO notices have been served on all persons listed in the CPO and land negotiations are progressing. Land & property valuation services and legal services to assist with land acquisition have been procured. Various works and services contracts procured in advance of the main construction contract including archaeology, asbestos survey, fencing, tree felling and hedgerow removal and geotechnical investigations are ongoing. Technical consultants have been appointed to assist in progressing the project through the tender and construction stages. A topographical Survey contract has recently been awarded. In addition, an Independent Project Supervisor for the Construction Stage (PSCS) has been appointed for the duration of the advance / enabling works and services contracts.

N60 Oran Road Realignment Project involves the realignment of approximately 3.4 km 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 currently ongoing. To date approximately 85% of the land cases have been settled. Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. commenced the Stage (ii) – (iv) Archaeological Resolution Contract in September 2017 and completed site works in April 2018 with 5 archaeological sites identified. Stage (iv) reporting has been completed on 2 of the sites with work ongoing on the remaining 3 sites. Detailed design and preparation of the main construction contract tender documents were completed in Q4 2018. The main construction contract was tendered on 1st November 2018. The latest date for submission of tenders was the 20-12-2018. The tender assessment process was completed in Q1 2019 and the Contract was awarded to Wills Bros Ltd. on 9-4-2019. Site works commenced in April 2019 and are ongoing. Roughan & O'Donovan Consulting Engineers are administering the construction contract on behalf of Roscommon County Council.

N61 Ballymurray to Knockcroghery Road Project: This project comprises the improvement of the N61 National Secondary Road between Ballymurray and Knockcroghery which will incorporate a bypass of Knockcroghery village. A range of environmental and technical specialists have been appointed by RCC to progress the project through the planning, design and statutory phases. The Constraints First Public Consultation was held in March 2018. Roughan & O'Donovan-Aecom Alliance (ROD-A) was appointed as Lead Engineering Consultants in December 2018 following a procurement process using TII's Framework Agreement for Consultancy Services. The initial study area was increased in consideration of potential future upgrades to the N61 corridor. Throughout 2019 ROD-A progressed the project through the constraints and option selection phases with the Second Public Consultation on Route Options held in November 2019. Work is ongoing in relation to the refinement of the number of route options with a view to identifying the preferred route option in Q2 2020.

N61 Coolteige Phase 1 Road Project involves the realignment and improvement of approximately 2.9km 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. Post excavation archaeological works are ongoing. The main construction contract was awarded to Wills Bros Ltd. on 14-12-2017. Works commenced on site in Q1 2018 and are complete. The Defects Period extends to April 2020.

N61 Tulsk to Clashaganny Road Realignment Project involves the realignment of approximately 4.5km of the N61 National Secondary route from north of Tulsk village to Clashaganny. Various environmental specialists have been procured in order to assist in the development of the project from concept through to the completion of the EIA/EAR & The Statutory Processes. The Constraints Study has been completed and a number of indicative route corridor options have been identified. A public consultation event was held in Q3 2019 informing the public of the constraints and indicative route options. Following this public consultation, the design team are currently assessing the options taking feedback from the consultation process into account with a view to identifying a preferred route corridor in Q1 2020.

National Road Pavement Projects: Works were completed on the N61 Mullymucks to Coolteige Cross scheme in March 2019, on the N5 Frenchpark West scheme in April 2019 and on the N63 Athleague scheme in May 2019. The N5 Tulsk Surface Replacement scheme commenced in April 2019 with pavement works east of the N61 Junction completed in 2019. The N60 Castlerea Pavement Overlay (Phase 1) pavement works were completed in December 2019.

Outturns 2019

The total estimated outturn expenditure for the Roads & Transportation Department at 31-12-2019 is over €23.6m. The categories of expenditure and the funding sources/departments are detailed in the table below. The finalised figures for 2019 will be published in the AFS. The 2020 allocation from DTTAS for Regional and Local Roads is expected in Q1 2020.

Road Classification	Funding Source	Total Outturn 2019
National Primary Improvement/Maintenance Works		
Pavement & Minor Improvement Works	TII	€724,202
Skid Resistance HD 28 Pavement Renewals	TII	€138,378
Winter Maintenance & LA Support Grant	TII	€133,840
Route Lighting & Improvement Works	TII	€175,459
Ordinary Maintenance	TII	€198,798
National Primary Totals		€1,370,677
National Secondary Improvement/Maintenance Works		
Pavement & Minor Improvement Works	TII	€1,099,533
Skid Resistance HD 28 Pavement Renewals	TII	€121,823
Winter Maintenance	TII	€110,518
Route Lighting	TII	€51,484
Ordinary Maintenance	TII	€217,806
Route Lighting Improvement	TII	€210,229
National Secondary Totals		€1,811,393
Other NP & NS Allocations	TII	
NP/NS Pavement Scheme Site Investigations	TII	€37,551
HD15 & HD17 Minor Works	TII	€37,152
LA Support Maintenance & Engineering	TII	€242,478
Totals National Roads Improvement/Maintenance Works		€3,489,251

Regional & Local Roads Expenditure		
Restoration Improvement	DTTAS	€8,625,535
Restoration Maintenance	DTTAS	€2,204,492
Discretionary Maintenance	DTTAS	€3,251,750
Bridge Rehabilitation	DTTAS	€302,125
Safety Improvement Works	DTTAS	€282,266
Speed Limits in Housing Estates (Signage)	DTTAS	€2,966
DTTAS Training Grant	DTTAS	€52,000
Community Involvement Scheme	DTTAS	€15,675
Drainage Works	DTTAS	€812,090
Velocity Patchers Specific Maintenance Grants	DTTAS	€300,000
Totals Regional and Local Roads		€15,848,899
Other Roads Projects		
Local Improvement Schemes	DRCD	€891,573
Minor Flood Mitigation Works	OPW	€19,065
Local Roads Ordinary Maintenance	RCC	€1,322,817
Amenities & Burial Grounds Maintenance	RCC	€412,008
Arterial Drainage	RCC	€212,445
Cemetery Improvement Grant	RCC	€35,000
Public Lighting	RCC	€816,381
Velocity Patchers	RCC	€602,141
Totals Other Roads Projects		€4,310,430
Total Expenditure 2019 for all Roads Programmes National, Regional and Local Roads		€23,658,580

Broadband Update

Digital Strategy: Work is continuing on the preparation of a Digital Strategy for County Roscommon. Questionnaires were completed by businesses, non-profit organisations and the general public. A joint Business workshop took place on 22-10-2019 to cover all USEFE Counties, namely Roscommon, Longford, Leitrim and Cavan. The key note speaker and guest of honour was TD Sean Canney, Minister of State for Natural Resources, Community Affairs and Digital Development.

WIFI4EU: Roscommon was successful in receiving approval for 4 vouchers. Tender documents are being prepared.

RRDF: Funding was received under the Rural and Regional Development Fund as part of a joint scheme led by Western Development Commission, working with Donegal, Sligo and Mayo, to create *Digiwest* – a Western Region Network of Rural Digital Working Hubs. Roscommon's location is a vacant unit in Meadow Brook, Tulsk. Refurbishment and equipment fit out is due to commence shortly.

National Broadband Plan: In May 2019, National Broadband Ireland (NBI) was appointed the "Preferred Bidder". On 19th November the Irish Government finally signed the €3bn National Broadband Plan (NBP) Contract. Broadband Connection Points (BCPs) will be set up in each County within the first year.

This latest **Map** attached shows progress in the deployment of high speed broadband in the BLUE areas up until the end of September 2019, including those premises passed under the *Eir* Commitment Agreement. *Eir* is now almost complete its 300K rollout in County Roscommon, having exceeded 5,746 premises. This includes 434 additional premises. As part of their €0.5 billion fixed network investment programme, Eir were in Boyle town in Q4 2019.



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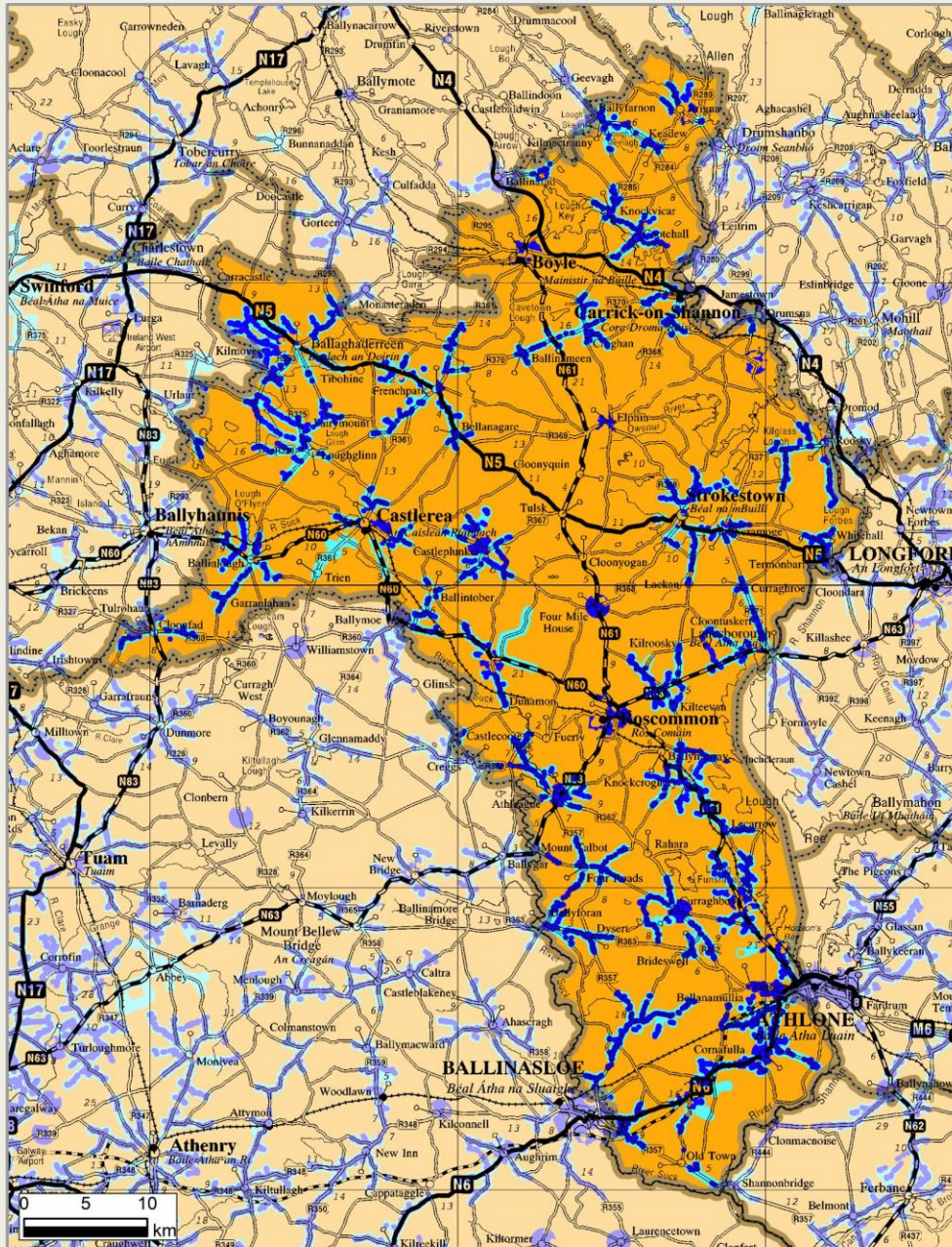
Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040

High Speed Broadband Map ROSCOMMON

Q3 2019

National
Broadband Plan

County



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Total Number of Premises in ROSCOMMON	39,209
State Intervention Area	49%
Commercial Deployment	50%
Commercial Planned Deployment	1%

www.broadband.gov.ie



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund