



Comhairle Contae
Ros Comáin
Roscommon
County Council



MANAGEMENT REPORT



APRIL 2020

Roscommon County Council
Revenue Account Income & Expenditure Summary by Service Division
Management Accounts Summary to 30th April 2020

	EXPENDITURE		INCOME		NET
	Expenditure Incurred up to 30/04/2020	Adopted Full Year Budget	Income Receivable up to 30/04/2020	Adopted Full year Budget	Actual Overall Surplus/ (Deficit)
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing & Building	1,866,096	6,640,134	2,492,316	7,294,094	626,221
Road Transport & Safety	4,610,115	24,288,076	317,916	17,645,706	(4,292,200)
Water Services	1,850,411	7,639,343	2,029,753	7,510,258	179,342
Development Management	1,563,993	7,126,358	810,950	1,631,071	(753,043)
Environmental Services	1,441,676	6,001,605	141,495	937,131	(1,300,181)
Recreation & Amenity	1,127,994	4,126,824	273,257	607,634	(854,737)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	102,882	679,748	75,854	258,556	(27,028)
Miscellaneous Services	997,712	4,785,214	677,683	1,932,252	(320,029)
Central Management Charges	1,105,568	0	85,139	0	(1,020,429)
Local Government Fund/General Purpose Grant	0	0	3,605,870	10,817,200	3,605,870
Pension Levy	0	0	0	0	0
Rates	0	0	4,182,208	12,653,400	4,182,208
	14,666,447	61,287,301	14,692,441	61,287,301	25,994

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 30th April 2020

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	1,358,169	12,546,623	175,716	21,752	13,707,324	3,108,275	10,599,049	78,006	23%	24%
Rents & Annuities	474,828	1,723,551		(205)	2,198,584	1,662,644	535,940		76%	73%
Housing Loans	120,379	61,648			182,027	88,069	93,957		48%	40%

Recourse to Overdraft;

There has been no recourse to overdraft during the month of April 2020

PLANNING SECTION

Covid 19 Emergency Measures and associated introduction of Section 251A of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)

The Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government made an Order on 29th March 2020 commencing Section 9 of the *Emergency Measures in the Public Interest (Covid 19) Act 2020*. The legislation inserted a new provision (Section 251A) into the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). The Order resulted in an extension of time for a range of specified periods and timelines under the Planning and Development Act and associated regulations. The extended period initially applied from 29th March 2020 to 20th April 2020 inclusive. By Order on 16th April, the period was further extended until 9th May 2020 (and further extended on May 8th until May 23rd).

Development Management

The *Emergency Measures in the Public Interest (Covid 19) Act 2020* and the associated amendments to planning legislation had a number of consequences for planning activity:

- The 'clock stopped' on the majority of planning applications. The key intent in this legislative measure was to ensure that public participation opportunities were protected during the period of the emergency measures in place nationwide. Planning applications submitted after February 21st and during the period of the Order could not be progressed, as the initial 5 week public consultation period had not been completed. For applications submitted prior to the Order coming into effect on March 29th, the remainder of the 5 week period will resume at the end of the period of the Order. A 5 week public consultation period will be apply to new applications submitted during the period of the Order, with the 5 weeks commencing at the end of the Order.
- As confirmed by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG), site inspections were prohibited during the period of the emergency measures.
- The submission of new planning applications continued to be facilitated during the period of the Order, with applications being accepted by post. A total of 31 new applications were received in April.

Forward Planning

The statutory pre-draft public consultation period for the *Roscommon County Development Plan 2021 – 2027* commenced on March 27th, and was scheduled to run until June 5th. In light of the announcement of the Covid 19 emergency measures on the evening of March 27th, and the introduction of the Section 251A Order on March 29th, the public consultation period has been extended for the duration of the Order.

Amendments to the public consultation date have been publicised on Roscommon County Council's main website and on the *Roscommon County Development Plan (RCDP)* website (rosdevplan.ie). Submissions may be made throughout the period. The on-line survey remains available throughout the period on the website, and in addition, the 'Schools Pack' has been uploaded to the website, in an effort to engage younger participants in the planning process. Plans to issue the Schools Pack to schools around the county were hindered by the closure of the schools as part of the Covid 19 emergency measures.

ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT PROMOTION

Local Enterprise Office:

- **Trading On Line Vouchers (TOVs):** 17 applications for TOVs were approved - 90% funding applies. A business which obtained a Voucher previously is now eligible to apply for a second Voucher, if considered appropriate. The max grant remains at €2,500. A number of remote Information Seminars were held to facilitate clients wishing to apply as this is compulsory prior to making an application.
- **Business Continuity Vouchers:** 67 applications were received and approved. Each of these vouchers is worth up to €2,500 in third party consultancy costs and can be used by companies and sole traders to develop short-term and long-term strategies to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- **Training:** 14 webinars were sourced and organised culminating in 199 applicants.
- **Remote Mentoring:** 45 clients availed of Mentoring in various areas, eg Finance, Business Advice, Planning, Social Media, Micro Finance, etc
- **Student Enterprise Programme:** The deadline of 20th April for submission of County Winners Business Reports to the National Organiser was adhered to. A National Judging Panel will carry out a paper based judging exercise and winners will be chosen. It is hoped that a small Awards Ceremony to present prizes will be held later in the year.
- **Accounts:** 1st Quarter Reports were submitted for all budgets to Centre of Excellence, Enterprise Ireland. Funding drawdown for the 2nd Quarter of 2020 was requested.
- **Promotion:** All LEO supports were promoted on the LEO website and on various social media platforms as well as in the Local Press.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT

Healthy Ireland

- Healthy Ireland Co-ordinator has taken up position.
- Pobal announced that the spend date for the Community Engagement Budget (30.0620) has been lifted in light of the current circumstances.
- Update on progress/current status of all projects requested from all groups and submitted to Pobal.

LEADER:

- 61 payments made to promoters totaling €1,784,219.63
- 27 Projects paid in full.
- 3 projects paid in April
- Monthly Admin Returns and payments to LEADER Co. are ongoing.
- Article 48 checks are ongoing

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

LCDC meeting and Local Action Group meeting held 26nd April 2020 via Microsoft Teams and following agenda items dealt with:

- Permission to hold meetings via telephone or other video conferencing facilities
- Community Response Forum
 - Phase 1 - "Community Call"
 - Phase 2 - Helping our Community and Individuals across the country to maintain well being
- Financial report
- LEADER Programme Implementation Update
- Update on Expressions of Interest
- Consideration of recommendations of LEADER Evaluation Committee

CLÁR

- 10 Projects approved for CLÁR 2019 totalling €308,629.24
- 1 project paid in full in April
- Due to COVID 19, completion dates for the remaining 9 projects have been extended to 31/08/2020

Social Inclusion

Age Friendly Programme:

- Programme Managers Meeting attended.
- Review of Age Friendly Strategy to commence and development of new Strategy to be progressed.

Integration Strategy

- Development of strategy to commence in conjunction with LEADER and CYPSC

Bike Week 2020:

- Notification received from DTTAS stating that Bike Week 2020 has been postponed. (Normally takes place in June each year).

SICAP

- Q2 payment for 2020 made to RIDC

Heritage

- **Farming Rathcroghan EIP:**

John Cronin & Associates have been approved for appointment for the provision of Field Monument Advisor / Archaeological Consultancy services to the Farming Rathcroghan EIP for year 2 of the project 2020-2021. This project is funded by The Heritage Council.

- **Conservation Specifications for Masonry Ruins:**

A request for quotations has been circulated for the provision of consultancy services for the design stage. Depending on fees, at least one ruin will have conservation specifications prepared, which will facilitate future funding applications for emergency conservation works. This project is funded by The Heritage Council.

- **Heritage Research Bursary:**

This was re-advertised. However, for the first time ever, no application was received by the revised application deadline. This is most likely because of the closure of all 3rd level colleges and universities due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. This budget has been reallocated to the #InThisTogether wellbeing campaign.

- **Phase 2 Community Initiative #InThisTogether - Mysterious Monuments:**

This aims to encourage people to become heritage explorers from their own home and see what they can find out about a monument that takes their interest in the county using a Monument Research Tool Kit <http://www.roscommoncoco.ie/en/Services/Community/Heritage/In-this-together-Roscommon-Heritage-Online/>

Tourism Development and Promotion:

COVID 19 – due to COVID 19 restrictions all Tourism ATTRACTIONS/Activities/Accommodation and Restaurants closed their doors in mid-March

Regional Projects:

- **IHH Website Scheme:** Script writing for new Website for King forwarded to Failte Ireland for approval.
- **USEFE** – next meeting May 8th
- **Fáilte Ireland** – Zoom conference call with IHH. Failte Ireland working with Dept Tourism on Social distancing regulations for reopening of facilities.
- **Shannon Master Plan** : Public Consultations complete and final draft to be launched in May.
- **RURITAGE EU PROJECT** – Partook in an additional Replicator webinar on 8th April

County Projects:

- **Tourism trade:** Information on all supports from LEO and FI forwarded to tourism trade.
- **King House** – quotes for 4 EU language guides received.
- **Tourism Trade Networking** – Inter County Tourism Trade event set for 8th April has been postponed
- **2019 Festival and Events:** 90% of festivals postponed or cancelled.
- **Social Media:** commence Roscommon Must See listing post COVID 19 and this will be updated twice weekly
- **Outdoor Recreation: (2019 scheme):** 4 projects under Measure 1 update received and forwarded to Regeneration Team.
- **Outdoor Recreation: (2018 scheme): Boyle to Lough key Cycleway** – final designs agreed. Signage to be erected by end July

- **Marketing** – Editorial and advert agreed for Go West magazine
- **RECO (Creative Ireland Project)** – Cancelled due to COVID 19.

COVID-19 Initiatives:

Roscommon Community Response Forum:

As part of the Governments response to the COVID-19 crisis, Roscommon County Council in partnership with principal response agencies and community and voluntary groups have come together to form the Community Response Forum to lead the co-ordination of the COVID-19 community supports and resilience. The Forum brings together a number of organisations to identify vulnerable groups and individual in Roscommon and to ensure delivery of targeted social care supports and assistance to vulnerable groups and individuals.

The Forum has met on a weekly basis throughout April and will continue to meet regularly to discuss and resolve matters utilising the expertise contained within this multi partnership team.

Community Support Response Helpline:

Roscommon County Council in partnership with An Garda Siochana and Roscommon Leader Company have set up a 24 hour Freephone community support response help line to assist in the delivery of targeted social care supports and assistance to vulnerable groups and individuals. During the month of April 1,831 requests for support were successfully delivered through the Partners. Requests ranged from Collection of groceries, social isolation calls. Meals on wheels and health related requests.

COVID-19 Emergency Fund

- 13 Applications received and 12 approved for €12,00 funding. Letter of Offer issued on 28th April.

Roscommon Arts Centre

In April Roscommon Arts Centre launched an online programme of activities for the public to engage with via its website and Facebook pages. These included:

“Sitting Room Stars”: a week-long family dance class delivered by Pop up Theatre on behalf of Roscommon Arts Centre. Over a four day period, an online dance class took place on Facebook during which families learnt a dance routine to go along with one of the songs from “The Greatest Showman”

Margo McNulty: Online Gallery Tour & Artist Talk: A virtual tour of Margo McNulty’s “Duality” show which is currently hanging in the gallery was launched online, along with a link to the accompanying publication by Sue Rainsford

Finding Home: Fregoli Theatre Company is Roscommon Arts Centre’s company in residence. Their residency is titled “Finding Home” and as part of this they developed a short video of them creating their virtual home via Facebook.

Studios, Workshops & Kitchen Tables a new series of virtual studio visits to the homes of artists, educators and writers that the centre is working with in 2020. The first visit was to artist Mark Garry's studio via Zoom which was attended by 12.

Poetry Day Ireland: we celebrated Day with two online initiatives. Curated by Dani Gill, Roscommon Arts Centre was involved in developing a virtual poetry reading featuring both Irish and international poets Dani Gill, Elaine Feeney (Galway, Ireland); Annemarie Ní Chuireain (Dublin, Ireland); Elaine Cosgrove (Atlanta, Georgia) and Naomi Shihab Nye (San Antonio, Texas).

A Children's Poetry Competition responding to the theme of "Time" brought in 82 entries from all over Ireland. Adjudicated by Roscommon poet Jane Clarke, the 12 finalists were invited to participate in a poetry day video reading their poems which was broadcast online on Poetry Day.

Words Ireland Literary Mentorship Opportunity: an open call was launched in April in association with Words Ireland, offering a writer from or living in Roscommon the opportunity to avail of a literary mentorship during 2020.

Coupled with this, initiative launched in March continued. They are:

"Lockdown Sing-along" daily live-streamed choral sessions with Cathy Jordan.

"Home Schooler Alert" daily online alerts providing arts related links to parents home-schooling for arts and crafts, dance, theatre, visual art and museum activities.

"Theatre Shop" links to theatre performances, musicals, concerts and ballet performances at least once a week that our audiences can view.

Outside of this, work is continuing behind the scenes re-scheduling and cancelling planned events; issuing refunds to customers and liaising with artists with regards to possible supports we can provide to them.