



Comhairle Contae  
Ros Comáin  
Roscommon  
County Council



# MANAGEMENT REPORT



**AUGUST 2020**

**Roscommon County Council**  
**Revenue Account Income & Expenditure Summary by Service Division**  
**Management Accounts Summary to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020**

	EXPENDITURE		INCOME		NET
	Expenditure Incurred up to 31/08/2020	Adopted Full Year Budget	Income Receivable up to 31/08/2020	Adopted Full year Budget	Actual Overall Surplus/ (Deficit)
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing & Building	4,352,764	6,640,134	5,038,909	7,294,094	686,145
Road Transport & Safety	11,774,511	24,288,076	5,530,425	17,645,706	(6,244,086)
Water Services	4,185,666	7,639,343	4,188,364	7,510,258	2,699
Development Management	6,807,054	7,126,358	4,729,755	1,631,071	(2,077,299)
Environmental Services	3,511,731	6,001,605	327,390	937,131	(3,184,341)
Recreation & Amenity	2,400,713	4,126,824	438,496	607,634	(1,962,217)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	306,053	679,748	222,822	258,556	(83,231)
Miscellaneous Services	2,559,235	4,785,214	1,363,555	1,932,252	(1,195,680)
Central Management Charges	844,832	0	72,095	0	(772,737)
Local Government Fund/General Purpose Grant	0	0	9,803,198	10,817,200	9,803,198
Pension Levy	0	0	0	0	0
Rates	0	0	8,335,627	12,653,400	8,335,627
	<b>36,742,558</b>	<b>61,287,301</b>	<b>40,050,636</b>	<b>61,287,301</b>	<b>3,308,078</b>

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

**Summary of Major Collections as at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020**

<b>Debt Type</b>	<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>Accrued</b>	<b>Vacant Property Adjustments</b>	<b>Write Off</b>	<b>Total for Collection</b>	<b>Collected</b>	<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>Specific Doubtful Arrears</b>	<b>% Collection</b>	<b>% Collection Previous Year</b>
<b>Commercial Rates</b>	1,358,169	12,503,441	621,543	66,210	13,173,857	5,456,303	7,717,554	70,947	42%	65%
<b>Rents &amp; Annuities</b>	474,828	3,432,621		(1,664)	3,909,113	3,406,516	502,597		87%	88%
<b>Housing Loans</b>	120,379	131,324			251,703	160,154	91,549		64%	63%

**Recourse to Overdraft;**

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

## PLANNING DEPARTMENT

### Forward Planning

The pre-draft public consultation period for the *Roscommon County Development Plan 2021-2027* ran until the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020. Following the conclusion of this, forward planning activity in August focused on collating the information from the submissions, online survey, social media activity and public consultation workshops as part of the preparation of the Chief Executive's Report at pre-draft stage.

### Development Management and Planning Enforcement Activity

The table below summarises Development Management activity in the Planning Section in August. A total of 38 valid applications were received, which was a significant drop from the number submitted in July. This is likely to be in part due to the traditional summer holiday period, as well as the knock on effect of the Covid 19 situation. Decisions issued on 33 planning applications, of which 27 were grants of permission.

### **Development Management Statistics**

Period	Activity	Roscommon North	Roscommon South	Totals
<b>August 2020</b>	Valid app	20	18	38
	Invalid app	1	3	4
	Extension of Duration	0	0	0
	DED	2	0	2
	Pre-planning meeting	4	7	11

### Enforcement Activity

Period	Activity	Countywide Totals
<b>August 2020</b>	New enforcement case	13
	General letter	11
	Warning letter	12
	Enforcement notice	0
	Closed case	4
	Legal proceedings	0

### Unfinished Housing Developments (UHD)

With regard to the Unfinished Housing Developments, developers were onsite in three developments in Frenchpark, Tarmonbarry and Lisacul, while contractors engaged by bodholders were active on a site in Monksland. Four developments were referred to Roads for Taking in Charge.

## ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT PROMOTION

### Local Enterprise Office:

- **Trading On Line Vouchers (TOVs):**  
A total of 132 applications for TOVs were approved year to date. (A total of 123 TOVs have been approved with 90% funding since the funding was changed from 50% to 90%). A business which obtained a Voucher previously is 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, with the next one is scheduled for the 8<sup>th</sup> Sept. Demand for this scheme locally and nationally is unprecedented.
- **Business Continuity Vouchers:** The total number of applications received is 233, with 186 being eligible for funding. Payment of vouchers is ongoing. Each voucher 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:** Investigatory and preparatory work was done for autumn remote training which will go live on the LEO website in early September.
- **Remote Mentoring:** Is being provided on an ongoing basis for the business community on Finance, Business Advice, Planning, Social Media, Micro Finance, etc. Bookings are taking via the LEO website online booking system.
- **Enquiries:** Enquiries are ongoing and appropriate support is being provided.
- **Student Enterprise Programme:** It has been agreed that this Programme will go ahead for the school year 2020/2021, in remote format via videos and slides. Details of how it will be rolled out has been issued to all 9 second level schools in the county.
- **National Women's Enterprise Day:** This Event will take place remotely as a Nationally Event on the 14<sup>th</sup> October.
- **National Enterprise Awards:** At national level, it has been agreed that a physical Event for the 2020 winners is preferably but if that's not possible due to Covid-19, it will be postponed to 2021.
- **Promotion:** All LEO supports were promoted on the LEO website and on various social media platforms.
- **Sites at Ballyboughan:** 3 Enquiries ongoing.
- **Just Transition:** 3 applications submitted.

# COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT

## Healthy Ireland

- Pobal ran a series of trainings on the completion of Year 1 financial and progress reports between August 11<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Date for the submission of financial and progress reports has been extended from August 31<sup>st</sup> to September 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Healthy Roscommon Coordinator is working with HIF partners to complete both reports.

## LEADER:

- Article 48 checks are ongoing
- 9 LEADER claims paid in July and August

## Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

LCDC meeting and Local Action Group meeting held 24<sup>th</sup> June 2020 and following agenda items dealt with:

- 2020 Community Enhancement Programme
- Nomination to the Migrant Integration Strategy Implementation Group
- Financial report
- LEADER Programme Implementation Update
- Funding Allocations & LDS Amendments
- Update on Expressions of Interest
- Consideration of recommendations of LEADER Evaluation Committee

## CLÁR

- 35 applications were received under CLÁR 2020 Programme.
- 20 under Measure 1 – Supports for School/Community Safety
- 15 under Measure 2 – Community Recreation Areas
- 10 applications were forward to DRCD for consideration for funding – 5 from each measure
- Late Oct/Early Nov are timeline for decision to be made by DRCD
- Total costs of funding applied for is €385,888.00

## Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) – 2020

- The 2020 Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) was launched on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June by Minister Ring TD, Minister for Rural and Community Development.
- The CEP is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and will provide €2 million of grant funding towards enhancing the facilities available to

communities. The Programme has a focus on supporting groups in disadvantaged areas.

- Roscommon has been awarded €55,977 for 2020
- At a meeting of the LCDC on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June, the scheme was agreed as follows:
  - CEP 2020 advertised in both local papers with a closing date of 6<sup>th</sup> of August, 2020
  - The scheme will be fully online this year via my online services.
  - There were two strands agreed:
    - **Strand A:** Grants for projects to the value of €1,000 will be funded.
    - **Strand B:** Grants for projects with a value exceeding €1,000 (subject to a maximum grant of €8,000) will be funded.

#### **Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) – 2020 fund for Community Centre and Community Buildings**

- Under the July stimulus package the government announced additional funding under CEP aimed towards funds for community centres and community buildings.
- The department allocation for this scheme aimed at community centres and community buildings is €113,318 for Roscommon.
- Due to the short timeframes surrounding same the application was published as per the department guidelines and per application form. This offered the following options to the applicant:
  - Small scale capital grant of €1,000
  - Capital grant in excess of €1,000
- It was also agreed that this scheme would be online application made available from the 24<sup>th</sup> of August, 2020 with a closing date set for the 11<sup>th</sup> of September, 2020.

#### **SOCIAL INCLUSION**

##### **Age Friendly Programme:**

- Boyle Age Friendly Town Strategy – launched – Soft Launch Only.

##### **Integration Strategy**

- Work continuing on the tender documents for the development of strategy in conjunction with RLP and CYPSC

##### **Pride of Place 2020**

- Judging for the All-Island Pride of Place 2020 Competition took place on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> August 2020 via Judges Zoom Call.
- Each call facilitated a Question & Answer session and provided each community group with an opportunity to elaborate on their submission and also facilitated judges to seek clarification.



## **Tidy Towns and Amenity Grants Scheme 2020**

- Grant payments are being processed as works are completed and relevant documentation is submitted.

## **HERITAGE,**

### **National Biodiversity Action Plan Funding (NBAP):**

Projects ongoing under this funding stream include:

**Pollinator Infomercials on Midwest Radio & Shannonside FM:** these continued in August.

**Ballintubber Biodiversity Photography Competition:** Heritage Office sponsored professional photographer to judge the competition and also sponsored prizes and presented them.

**Wildflower Verge in Elphin:** Certified Irish wildflower seed mix was bought for Elphin Tidy Towns to sow on an agreed strip of road verge in the town as part of an ongoing road enhancement programme.

**July Stimulus NBAP Additional Funding Application:** An application was submitted for additional funding for control of Japanese Knotweed around the county.

### **Creative Ireland Funding:**

**‘The Guided Tour’ series:** Creative Ireland funding was secured for two video guided tours with Dr. Kieran O’Conor– one of Roscommon Castle & one of Roscommon Abbey. Both videos are available on youtube along with a shorter version of each. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-vEj-GtOtAcml3z5UnoJbQ> These were promoted as part of National Heritage Week.

### **Heritage Council Funding:**

Two projects ongoing under this funding are:

**Field Monument Advisor for farming Rathcroghan EIP:** project progressing. A newsletter & video were prepared for National Heritage Week.

**Conservation Specifications for Masonry Ruins:** Conservation architect was appointed to prepare a report for Rahara Medieval Church & the Owen O’Conor Mauseoleum in Ballintubber. Funding has yet to be sourced for reports for Elphin Cathedral & Cloonshanville Abbey

### **Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht Funding:**

**July Stimulus HSF/BHIS Additional Funding Application:** An application was submitted for additional funding 2 ongoing conservation projects in the county.

### **RCC Funded Projects:**

**National Heritage Week:** Over 30 projects in Co. Roscommon were registered on [www.heritageweek.ie](http://www.heritageweek.ie) Heritage Office publicised all projects in local media and on RCC social media. RCC commissioned 4 videos for the week, two of which were specifically for children, as follows:

- **Virtual Dig It – the archaeological experience for Kids -**  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q\\_Pi7juMU4E&t=105s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q_Pi7juMU4E&t=105s)
- **Make a mini Bug Hotel for Buzzbee -**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ICZYzzWxloc&t=6s>
- **Demo of Roscommon Cemeteries Mapviewer -**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DCv0zQLCgIA&t=17s>
- **Farming in a Royal Archaeological Landscape at Rathcroghan -**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R1MSOkCFI7U&t=3s>

**Rathcroghan - Royal Sites of Ireland World Heritage Tentative List Application:** Work is progressing on completing the first draft of the application which must be submitted to DCHG at the end of September.

**Heritage Officer Programme Review:** The Heritage Council have commissioned consultants to carry out a review of the Heritage Officer Programme nationwide. Heritage Office participated in focus group sessions as part of the development of the review.

### **Tourism Development and Promotion:**

COVID 19 – most Accommodation, Activities and Attractions in Roscommon opened. Feedback for August has been positive - a lot of northern Irish tourists and tourists from counties in Ireland wouldn't normally visit Roscommon or IHH. Roscommon County continues to receive positive recognition for their adherence to COVID restrictions and social distancing measures.

### **Regional Projects:**

- **IHH Website Scheme:** Design on going – 1<sup>st</sup> draft due early Sept
- **USEFE** – next meeting Sept 2020
- **Fáilte Ireland** – Information on Funding for Adaptation to COVID requirements to all Tourism Trade.

### **County Projects:**

- **Tourism trade:** All Attractions/Activities and Accommodation have been encouraged to apply for the Safety COVID Charter.
- **Tourism Trade Networking (IHH)** – Destination Town report for July 2020 submitted.
- **2020 Festival and Events:** Launch of Ballintubber Loop proceeded however and Suck Valley festival all had to be cut short due to the new regulations intro.
- **Marketing & Media:** 2 day itinerary for visiting Journalist from Ireland of the Welcomes magazine.
- **Social Media:** *Roscommon Must See* listing post COVID 19 continuing on twice weekly basis.
- **Outdoor Recreation: (2020 scheme):** Met with RRO (Eilish Canty) to review potential projects – 2 from RLP and 7 from RCC

- **Outdoor Recreation: (2019 scheme):** 4 projects under Measure 1 all received an extension to end Oct for submission of Claim. Met with Eilish Feeley (Mote park) to agree payments and procurement.
- **Outdoor Recreation: (2018 scheme): Boyle to Lough key Cycleway** – New maps printed and given to lough Key and Boyle tourism places for Tourists
- **Creative Ireland Project** – Douglas Hyde video to be completed in Sept
- **Roscommon Walks Book Edition No2** – copies distributed to Information points within the county and article in Roscommon herald and People. Interview on Shannonside

### **King House**

- Application for FI COVID safety Charter ongoing
- Culture night - 'A Poem to be Said on Hearing the Birds Sing' outdoor film projection over weekend of 18<sup>th</sup> Sept. house to remain open until 8pm on Culture night
- Artist Studios – due to COVID restrictions will not be leasing our Studios until new toilets installed.

### **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 met three times in June and August 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. In June, the response line hours were altered to 9am-5pm over 7 days. During the month of August, 3 for support were successfully delivered through the Partners.

### **ARTS OFFICE**

#### **Literary Bursaries & Awards**

- New Roscommon Writing Award 2020 shortlist of 10 writers.

#### **Culture Night**

- Programme of online and offline events finalised. Feature event commissioned 'A Poem to be Said on Hearing the Birds Sing' outdoor film projection at Roscommon Arts Centre, King House Boyle, Strokestown House and Douglas Hyde Centre.

## **Artists**

- Ongoing payment of artist bursaries

## **Music**

Funding and support to Boyle Songwriters Collective Documentary – to be launched on Culture Night

## **Film**

Ongoing work by Film Liaison Mike Hourigan in response to enquiries through WRAP and SLR Film to promote Roscommon as a location for incoming productions and production companies.

## **Creative Ireland**

- Erwin Springbrunn Exhibition planning continues at King House.
- John McGahern Exhibition installation continues at The Barracks Cootehall to be opened March 2021 as part of Galway 2020 Outreach Programme.

## **Roscommon Arts Centre**

**Exhibition Programme:** and Mark Garry's installation "An Lucht Siuil" opened in the gallery space on August 6<sup>th</sup>. In line with Government restrictions, no opening took place to co-include with Mark's show, but rather a new online video piece was released to co-incide with the show.

**Performance Programme:** The performance programme re-commenced at the end of July with "The Reel Thing" a new music series which focuses strongly on Roscommon musicians. Short, one-hour performances, with audiences of up to 50 people are now being delivered – the first of which featured Cathy Jordan, Sean Regan and Kim Fleming and sold out.

**Studio 2020:** As part of Roscommon Arts Centre's ongoing supports to artists, an open invitation was issued to artists working in all disciplines to avail of free studio spaces at the centre for a duration of six weeks in August/September. Three Roscommon based artists are now in residence: David Pierce (visual artist); Louise Shine (visual artist) and Mintesinot Getachew (contemporary dancer).

**Creative Ireland Music & Dance Residencies:** With the support of Creative Ireland, Roscommon Arts Centre devised two three month residencies aimed at artists working in dance and music, the recipients of which will be announced in September. The residencies will run from October – December 2020 and include access to studio space at the arts centre.

**Appointment of new Curator in Residence for 2020/2021:** With the support of The Arts Council of Ireland, Roscommon Arts Centre appointed Naomi Draper as Curator in Residence for 2020/2021. Following an Open Call, 5 applicants were interviewed for the post. Naomi will take up this role in September.

**Lookseedoo:** Roscommon Arts Centre's free online summer programme for young people continued in August with weekly engagements.