



Comhairle Contae
Ros Comáin
Roscommon
County Council



MANAGEMENT REPORT



JUNE 2020

QUARTER 2

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

	EXPENDITURE		INCOME		NET
	Expenditure Incurred up to 30/06/2020	Adopted Full Year Budget	Income Receivable up to 30/06/2020	Adopted Full year Budget	Actual Overall Surplus/ (Deficit)
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing & Building	3,260,116	6,640,134	3,778,429	7,294,094	518,313
Road Transport & Safety	7,688,246	24,288,076	2,629,829	17,645,706	(5,058,417)
Water Services	3,307,105	7,639,343	2,739,213	7,510,258	(567,892)
Development Management	3,877,881	7,126,358	1,449,071	1,631,071	(2,428,810)
Environmental Services	2,666,720	6,001,605	222,918	937,131	(2,443,802)
Recreation & Amenity	1,852,744	4,126,824	338,585	607,634	(1,514,159)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	190,316	679,748	150,588	258,556	(39,728)
Miscellaneous Services	2,007,119	4,785,214	910,728	1,932,252	(1,096,392)
Central Management Charges	0	0	0	0	0
Local Government Fund/General Purpose Grant	0	0	8,000,263	10,817,200	8,000,263
Pension Levy	0	0	0	0	0
Rates	0	0	6,266,336	12,653,400	6,266,336
	24,850,247	61,287,301	26,485,960	61,287,301	1,635,712

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 June 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	12,532,673	569,606	31,370	13,289,867	4,696,730	8,593,136	71,947	36%	51%
Rents & Annuities	474,828	2,576,677		(1,664)	3,053,169	2,512,207	540,963		82%	84%
Housing Loans	120,379	92,699			213,078	123,339	89,739		58%	69%

Recourse to Overdraft;

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

PLANNING SECTION

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

Due to the exceptional circumstances which arose from the Covid 19 pandemic, resulting in the introduction of a national 'lockdown' from 27th March 2020 and the introduction of associated legislation, in the form of the *Emergency Measures in the Public Interest (Covid 19) Act 2020*, planning activity was significantly curtailed during much of Q2.

The Order made by the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government on 29th March 2020 commencing Section 9 of the *Emergency Measures in the Public Interest (Covid 19) Act 2020*, resulted in the insertion of a new provision (Section 251A) into the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). As a consequence, time periods relating to planning matters being extended. The Order was extended on two subsequent occasions, with the effect that it applied for an overall duration of 8 weeks (56 days), from 29th March to 23rd May inclusive.

The restoration of the planning system to fully operational status began from 18th May onwards, as the various phases of the Government's 'Roadmap to Reopening Ireland' came into effect. Significant aspects of the planning system which resumed operations in the latter part of Q2 included:

- Permitted resumption of site inspections from 18th May;
- Planning administration functions returned to an office based, fully operational status from 25th May, having been primarily operated remotely during the earlier part of Q2;
- Planning applications which were in the system, but had been on hold in accordance with the extended period as per Section 251A, began to be progressed after the expiry of end of the Order period on May 23rd.

Development Management and Planning Enforcement Activity

The table below summarises Development Management activity in the Planning Section in Q2.

Development Management Statistics

Period	Activity	Total
Q2 2020	Valid Application	91
	Invalid Application	15
	Extension of Duration	5
	Refusal	3
	DED	9
	Pre-Planning Meeting	39

91 valid applications were received in Q2 – the submission of planning applications continued to be facilitated during the period that the Section 251A order applied, although the statutory 8-week period on applications received during that time did not commence until after the end of the Order on 23rd May. A total of 85 planning applications were progressed during Q2 - decisions were made

on 48 of those applications, with the remainder being the subject of requests for further information. Of the 48 applications decided, 3 were refusals (6%).

Enforcement Activity

Period	Activity	Countywide Totals
Q2 2020	New enforcement case	13
	Warning letter	0
	Enforcement notice	0
	Closed case	0
	Legal proceedings	0

Forward Planning

The statutory pre-draft public consultation period for the *Roscommon County Development Plan 2021 – 2027* which commenced on March 27th continued throughout Q2. The consultation period was originally scheduled to run until June 5th but was extended (now scheduled to conclude on July 31st) in accordance with the provisions of the aforementioned Section 251A of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

Given the Covid 19 restrictions which were in place throughout Q2 on gatherings / public events, efforts to encourage engagement from the general public were focused on on-line promotion of the public consultation process, including the use of Twitter and Facebook to highlight opportunities to make submissions online (and by post) and to also promote the opportunity to participate in an online survey, all of which can be accessed on dedicated *Roscommon County Development Plan 2021 – 2027* website at www.rosdevplan.ie

Unfinished Housing Developments (UHD)

On site development activity in unfinished housing developments was limited for much of the period, due to Covid 19 restrictions. Further to the lifting of restrictions on construction activity, developers re-commenced work in several unfinished developments, in Roscommon, Castlerea, Ballaghaderreen, Tarmonbarry, Frenchpark, Tulsk and Lisacul. Semi-skilled workers employed directly by Roscommon County Council also re-commenced work on two sites in Monksland.

The UHD team co-ordinated emergency callouts to 6 unfinished housing developments during the 'lockdown' period, in order to resolve a range of urgent issues, including four instances of sewer blockages and a water leak.

A large body of desktop activity was undertaken by the UHD team during Q2, involving the preparation of tender documents for the future awarding of contracts for various site resolution works in 12 developments at various locations in Co. Roscommon. Tenders were advertised in June in respect of works at developments in Roscommon and Ballyleague.

ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT PROMOTION

Local Enterprise Office:

- **Projects Evaluation:** A Projects Evaluation meeting took place on the 5th June. Three projects were approved for funding. In addition, 2 projects were recommended for Agile funding approval to Enterprise Ireland's Investment Committee, the outcome of which is awaited.
- **Trading On Line Vouchers (TOVs):** 56 applications for TOVs were approved - 90% funding applies (a total of 88 TOVs have been approved with 90% funding since the Scheme was changed post Covid-19 from 50% to 90% funding). 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. Demand for this scheme locally and nationally is unprecedented.
- **Business Continuity Vouchers:** The total number of applications received is 233. 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:** 6 webinars were sourced and organised culminating in 87 applicants.
- **Remote Mentoring:** Is being provided on an ongoing basis for the business community on Finance, Business Advice, Planning, Social Media, Micro Finance, etc.
- **Enquiries:** There has been an unprecedented level of enquiries of all types coming through the LEO and appropriate support is being provided.
- **Student Enterprise Programme:** It has been announced that this Programme will go ahead for the school year 2020/2021. Details are being finalised.
- **National Enterprise Awards:** At national level, it has been agreed that a physical Event for the 2020 winners is preferable 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.

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

HEALTHY IRELAND

- Most Healthy Roscommon partners were unable to proceed with/ progress their actions during May due to COVID 19 restrictions.
- Pobal have agreed that all monies originally to be spent by June 2020 can now be spent up to June 2021.
- Pobal have requested that a review of all actions under the Healthy Ireland Fund be reviewed in June 2020 and amended where necessary to allow completion before June 2021.

LEADER:

- Monthly Admin returns and payments to LEADER Co. are ongoing.
- Article 48 checks are ongoing
- 1 claim paid in June

LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC):

LCDC meeting and Local Action Group meeting held 24th 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:

- CLÁR 2020 advertised with closing date of 17/07/2020
Measure 1: Support for Schools/Community Safety Measures
Measure 2: Community Recreation Areas
- 1 claim paid under CLÁR 2019

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME (CEP) – 2020

- The 2020 Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) was launched on the 22nd 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 24th of June, the scheme was agreed as follows:
 - CEP 2020 advertised in both local papers with a closing date of 6th 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.

SOCIAL INCLUSION

Age Friendly Programme:

- Review of Age Friendly Strategy to commence and development of new Strategy to be progressed.
- Boyle Age Friendly Town Strategy finalised and printed – launch has been organised for August.

Integration Strategy

- Development of strategy commenced in June in conjunction with LEADER and CYPSC

Sports Development Officers:

- All updated Heads of Agreement have now been signed.

SICAP

- Q3 payment for 2020 made to RIDC

Pride of Place 2020

- 3 groups were entered into the All-Island Pride of Place 2020 Competition.

Tidy Towns and Amenity Grants Scheme 2020

- Letter of Grant Offer issued to 89 Groups.
- All groups have accepted offer

Heritage

- **Phase 2 Community Initiative #InThisTogether social media initiatives:**
[#knowyour5k: This initiative continued with weekly RCC social media posts.](#)

[#RecordYourBiodiversity:](#) The [#Biodiversityinyour5k](#) initiative finished up and was replaced with [#recordyourbiodiversity](#): This weekly series of social media posts aims to raise awareness and enjoyment of nature and wildlife and encouraged people to record their sightings with the National Biodiversity Data Centre, see <http://www.roscommoncoco.ie/en/Services/Community/Heritage/In-this-together-Roscommon-Heritage-Online/Record-your-Biodiversity/>

Roscommon Swifts Survey: field work is ongoing in 37 locations around the county.

One Change for Biodiversity – Pollinator & Biodiversity Advice for Community Groups: 5 community groups are participating in this project and their telephone consultations were carried out with the project ecologist.

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

County Roscommon Heritage Forum: The Q2 meeting scheduled for 10th June did not take place. Instead an update was circulated to Heritage Forum members.

Historic Structures Fund:

The Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht announced successful applications for the Historic Structures Fund. King House & Rush Hill House applications were unsuccessful. Clonalis House & Lissadorn Entrance Arch were successful. Letters were issued to successful & unsuccessful applicants.

- **Built Heritage Investment Scheme:** The Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht confirmed funding offers for 12 architectural conservation projects. Grant aid of €60,000 matched with €446,684 private funding for projects with a total value of €506,684. Letters of offer were issued to all involved.
- **‘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. A RFQ was sent out for the video work.
- **National Heritage Week:** clarification was received on the format for the week this year in light of Covid-19 restrictions. Event preparation has commenced. There are no printed national or county event guide this year.
- **Conservation Specifications for Masonry Ruins:** Funding has been secured for 2 of the 4 structures included in the RFQ. However, funding has yet to be sourced for Elphin Cathedral & Cloonshanville Abbey

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION:

COVID 19 – most Hotels in county reopening on phased basis from end of June. Activities and Attractions expressed hope to reopen early to mid-July with online booking system. Some restaurants provided take away service and most hoping to open by mid-July with reduced capacity.

REGIONAL PROJECTS:

- **IHH Website Scheme:** letter of offer received to formally award contract and online meeting with FI team to agree T&C of scheme.
- **USEFE** – next meeting set for 13/07.
- **Fáilte Ireland** – Guidelines on reopening issued by Fáilte Ireland for all tourism sector and follow up meeting on queries with IHH.

COUNTY PROJECTS:

- **Tourism trade:** Information on all guidelines on reopening from FI forwarded to all tourism trade.
- **Tourism Trade Networking (IHH)** – Destination Town report for May 2020 submitted. Teams on line meeting for Carrick On Shannon and Athlone Commercial Network. First Teams on line meeting of Athlone and Carrick on Shannon Destination Task Force held. These will be held on a fortnightly basis initially.
- **2020 Festival and Events:** Lough Ree Angling, Launch of Ballintubber Loop and Suck Valley festival proceeding. All Guidance issued on compliance with COVID restrictions and to consult with HSE.
- **Social Media:** *Roscommon Must See* listing post COVID 19 continuing on twice weekly basis.
- **Outdoor Recreation: (2019 scheme):** 4 projects under Measure 1 all commenced.
- **Outdoor Recreation: (2018 scheme): Boyle to Lough key Cycleway** – signage ordered and be in place by end July
- **Creative Ireland Project** – Mimar 3 minute mindful Roscommon video for social media a great success. Issued on all tourism and council social media. Douglas Hyde video awarded to Lifetime video.
- **Roscommon Walks Book Edition No2** – final amendments agreed with RRO. Hope to launch early August for Autumn market.

KING HOUSE

- Promotional Video developed by Pure Design and displayed on all social media platforms
- Tea Rooms reopened on 29th June with all COVID requirements in place
- King House to reopen 10th July. RCC H&S review of the house complete.
- New Chairs for Main Saloon purchased.

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 twice in June and will continue to meet regularly to discuss and resolve matters utilising the expertise contained within this multi partnership team. Members of the forum are currently engaging with Shannon Side radio in a weekly call providing information to the public on services available during the pandemic

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 June 853(60%

reduction from May) 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:

- Tranche 3 of the Scheme advertised with closing date of mid-July

ARTS OFFICE

- **Creative Ireland**
 - Cruinniú na nÓg as part of Creative Ireland took place June 13th – 22 events mainly online. This is Ireland's national day of creative activity for children and young people. "This is me Portrait Exhibition was photographed by Brian Farrell the front page of the Irish Times. Other projects were also featured in the Roscommon Herald.
 - Cathaoirleach Award Photography Competition 'We're in this together' Awards Ceremony held on 12th June at Arts Centre.
 - Revised Programme due to Covid 19 accepted by Creative Ireland Programme
 - King House Virtual Tour recorded and live on KH website
- **Decade of Centenaries** programme compiled and submitted to Department CHG Commemorations Unit for 2020.
- **Literary Bursaries & Awards** Writer Mentorship Programme 2020 advertised.
 - **Culture Night**
Advertised for submissions for Culture Night - Decade of Centenaries Commission.

ROSCOMMON ARTS CENTRE

Roscommon Arts Centre re-opened its doors on June 29th with the resumption of Margo Mc Nulty's "Duality" exhibition in the gallery space and the re-opening of the box office facility. Planning is now underway for a small series of summer events and a re-imagining of the autumn/winter programme.

In June much of the focus was on delivering the Cruinniu na nOg online programme of events and preparing the venue for re-opening to the public on June 29th.

5 projects were delivered by Roscommon Arts Centre as part of the Cruinniu na nOg programme. These included:

Rockin Rhymes: a co-production between Branar Theatre Company and Roscommon Arts Centre for family audiences.

Virtual Little Folk: A Facebook Live music performance for children with Kyle Riley.

The launch of the "**This is Me**" children's portraiture exhibition in the windows of the arts centre, featuring the work of 78 local children.

Brickflicks Stop-Motion animation: 17 films created and recorded by young people were also released as part of Cruinniu na nOg, along with a recording by the specially formed "**One Voice**" Roscommon choir.

The LIVE Literary Network events continued in June with the final two episodes of the series, focusing on authors Elaine Feeney and Liz Nugent, both of whom were interviewed by Words Ireland's Literary Development Officer Dani Gill via YouTube events.

Theatre Company in Residence: Fregoli Theatre Company produced and presented their second online performance "Inside You Stay" as part of their re-imagined lockdown residency via Facebook and YouTube.

Alongside these new initiatives, the following projects were also ongoing during June:

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

"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.

Roscommon Arts Centre's online programme which was developed in response to the Covid-19 pandemic came to a conclusion on June 23rd. This programme included the following:

- 60 Lockdown Sing-alongs
- 57 Home Schooler Alerts
- 19 Theatre Shop Recommendations
- 80 Poetry Day Poets
- A series of 6 online LIVE Literary events
- A series of online visits to artist's workshops and homes
- 5 Cruinniu na nOg events
- 2 new short works from Fegoli Theatre Company

REGENERATION UNIT

URBAN REGENERATION DEVELOPMENT FUND

Roscommon Public Realm Enhancement Project:

- GI investigation and report complete
- Finalising construction tender documents, due to go to tender 17th July 2020

RURAL REGENERATION DEVELOPMENT FUND

Castlerea Hub Extension:

- Castlerea food hub construction tender package has been uploaded to eTenders. Response deadline 22nd July 2020.

Boyle Enterprise Hub and Riverside Promenade

- Detail Design complete

- Contract Documents for Construction uploaded to eTenders. Respose deadline – End of May 2020. Deadline extended due to Covid 19.
- Anticipated Construction commencement – August/Sept (subject to COVID 19 restrictions)

Monksland Life Sciences Hub

- Consultants tender responses have been received for the Life Sciences Innovation Hub and Soft Landing Space
- A panel to assess the tender package will be formed to complete the assessment and appoint a consultant.

OUTDOOR RECREATION 2018

Loughnaneane Park:

- Project complete

Boyle Cycle Corridor

- Phase 1 and 2 main cycleway works contract completed
- Warning and Statutory Signage – 95% complete.
- Way Finding Signage – Poles erected. Signs ordered and awaiting delivery
- Cycleway Road markings – 100% complete. Warren/Drum Road has received new macadam overlay. Road markings in this section now complete
- Stage 3 Road Safety Audit was carried out on 7th July 2020. Awaiting final report.

Slaibh Bán

- All works completed which included new signage, paths, information boards, Binoculars and play area enhancement.

TOWN AND VILLAGE 2018

Boyle

- Works to Main Street Paving to commence in next couple of weeks
- New public lighting has been ordered from Electric Skyline

Ballaghaderreen

- Works to Shambles complete
- Works to Community Garden Complete
- Contractor for landscaping works has been appointed. Works delayed due to Covid 19 Restrictions. Now awaiting confirmation of commencement date from the landscaping contractor.
- Community Plan – Consultant has been appointed and a number of meetings with the community have been held.
- Content for tourist signs sourced from Community and price being sought for design.

Rooskey

- Enhancement works are approximately 95% complete.
- Installation of ducting for ESB and Public Lighting, to accommodate future undergrounding of cables has also been carried out as part of 2018 scheme.
- Contractor appointed for additional footpath improvement works and these works are now complete.

Monksland Urban Park

- The site has been cleared of the vegetation in advance of the works.
- Monksland tender returned, awaiting opportunity to proceed as the successful tendered is UK based.

Roscommon

- Received the go ahead in June from the Department following discussion regarding the signage
- Recommended discussions with tenders, further delays until the end of August due to hedging which must be removed

Strokestown

- Strokestown Town Team have completed the Community Market Square element.
- Enhancement to buildings contract has been procured. – Contractor that was appointed has withdrawn from the project in last few days. Awaiting confirmation from next lowest Contractor if he is in a position to carry out the works.
- Lighting of Strokestown Park House Gate completed by Electric Skyline. Awaiting connection to power supply by ESB.

ORIS 2019

- Funding for two Measure 2 applications approved – Cloonlarge and Rindoon Loop and Judy's Harbour – Survey work has commenced on Judy's Harbour.

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.

Athleague

- Hot Desk Hub - Contractor currently completing builders finish. Quotation received for Meeting Pod. Fit out furniture costed – final spec to be agreed
- Bike stands – Contractor in place to install in coming weeks.
- Approach road signage- Design complete and quotations received.
- Landscape Architect - procured and in place. First Draft Design of 'Circle of Life Park' complete.
- Tourist information boards - Design complete and quotations received.

Castlerea

- Town Painting Scheme – Recommendation to appoint lowest tenderer complete-awaiting information on match funding from Town Team before appointment.
- Outdoor Gym – Contractor currently on site installing bases – Gym equipment to be installed in coming weeks.
- Approach Road Signage - design complete-awaiting images from Town Team
- Tourist Information Boards - design complete-awaiting content information from Town Team

Gortaganny

- Carpark/Footpath –surveying and design completed by RCC.
- Met with Group. Land dedication maps prepared for group to sort.
- Group could not reach agreement with landowner regarding land for proposed walkway. Alternative approach required.

Rooskey

- RCC element of project is complete and initial discussion have been held on rollout of Waterways Ireland element.

Keadue

- Detail design works are complete and contract documents were uploaded to eTenders on 8th July 2020. Closing date for responses is 3rd August 2020.
- Construction commencement expected in September 2020.

Creagh

- Creagh civil works currently proceeding.
- Tender received for Creagh lighting and kerbing

TOWN AND VILLAGE 2020

Town & Village – Standard.

20 Expressions of Interest have been received under the 2020 Standard Scheme – work has commenced on shortlisting these applications. 6 applications will be submitted to the Department for consideration in late August.

Town & Village – Covid 19 Measure

17 Expressions of Interest received under this measure. 10 applications to be submitted to the Department for consideration in mid-August.

HISTORIC TOWNS INITIATIVE ROSCOMMON

- Application for HTI Roscommon prepared and submitted.
- Successful application and initial consultation and surveying work completed.

- Regen Team to present on Roscommon Historic Towns Initiative Project as part of Heritage Week in August.
- Contract documents were uploaded to eTenders on 8th July 2020. Closing date for responses is 23rd July 2020.
- Construction commencement expected in August 2020

LARGE SCALE SPORTS CAPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE SCHEME

- Initial announcement of funding towards detailed design work was announced in early February. Dept. are currently completing final assessment on same before final approval.

DESTINATION TOWNS

- Funding approved for Boyle under Destination Towns.
- Landscape Architect has been appointed for the design of enhancement works to the Pleasure Grounds. This design work is ongoing.
- A Topographical Survey of the Pleasure Grounds has been completed and issued to the Architect.
- An Architect has been appointed for Design Services to assist in the design of the River Lane and Lane to Kinghouse.
- Deadline for this Project is approx. September 2021

ROSCOMMON BOUND - GLOBAL ROSSIE PROJECT

- 2 new social media channels were launched – Roscommon Bound on Facebook and Instagram. The Facebook page has been hugely successful with over 3,500 people now following.
- Global Rossie Day was due to take place 21st June 2020 however due to unforeseen circumstances had to be rescheduled to 5th July.
- The Global Rossie Day programme included items from a broad range of areas including music, sport, tourism, arts and economic. It was broadcast live via YouTube, Facebook and Twitter.
- Throughout the live show – there was 500 people watching and the social media reached 30,000 people.
- The programme is now available to view on the Roscommon Bound YouTube channel and the number of views of the programme has been steadily increasing.
- The feedback from the event was very positive and there was huge engagement with Rossies all over the world.

FUTURE PLANNING AND APPLICATIONS

- Following a recent Department announcement Ballaghaderreen Public Realm Enhancement Project is a successful application under RRDF Category 2 call.
- Strokestown Urban Enhancement Plan has been substantially completed.
- Procurement has been completed to provide architectural input for the Boyle RRDF Category 1 2020.
- An application under URDF for Roscommon Town was recently submitted to the Dept.

PART 8

Strokestown – Part 8 Application for Public Realm Enhancement Scheme for Church Street and Bawn St is on public display – submission period ends 12th August 2020.

Atlantic Economic Corridor (AEC)

- Consultation held with Western Development Commission (WDC) in relation to digital labs.
- Information provided in relation to businesses during Covid for AEC Newsletter.
- AEC Hubs Outreach Scheme – Applications have been issued to all relevant hubs within the AEC and closing date is 14th July 2020. Max grant available is €5,000 to assist hubs with reopening post Covid 19.

LIBRARY SERVICES

RE-OPENING LIBRARIES

Library services reopened with a new model of service from 16th June. Ballaghaderreen, Boyle, Castlerea and Roscommon implemented a Contact and Collect service since 16th June in line with Health and Safety guidelines.

The Library service worked closely with the Digital Transformation team to develop an intuitive system to manage the appointments and requests for the contact and collect service. This system was used by members of the public through My Online Services and also by members of the library team. More than 280 appointments have been made to date on the Contact and Collect System.

Library services have been opening with a phased approach with both Roscommon and Castlerea libraries now offering a Browse, Borrow and Return service. The initial 2 days per week Contact and Collect Service in Boyle and Ballaghaderreen has been extended to 4 days per week and work is ongoing to offer the Browse, Borrow and Return service in both locations in the coming weeks.

DELIVERY OF ONLINE SERVICES DURING CLOSURE

Members of Roscommon County Council Library Services have access to a wide range of online resources through their library membership. These services include eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines, Online Courses, Online Language Learning, Online Newspapers.

When compared with 2019 for the dates of the closure period, eBooks usage has increased by 349% while eAudiobooks are up 126%, eMagazine usage is up 89% and online courses are up 750%. The library service successfully used social media to engage with, support and communicate with library users during the period of closure as demonstrated by the 15% increase in Facebook followers and 80% increase in Twitter followers.

The launch of a 2019 project which took place in Ballaghaderreen, supported by the Dormant Accounts Fund called *123, Read with Me* was delayed due to the restrictions so the library service produced an [online interactive version](#) of the book with audio, which is available in 3 languages and was launched by outgoing Cathaoirleach Cllr. Paschal Fitzmaurice.

RIGHT TO READ

Every year, during the month of April, Roscommon Libraries host a series of 'Spring into Storytime' events for local families and schoolchildren to attend. This year, while libraries and schools remained closed, these stories were delivered by library staff who recorded themselves reading stories and then posted them on library Facebook and Twitter pages. This was following a national agreement with publishers. 8 story times were shared with a total of almost 17,000 views.

Another Right to Read programme 'Summer Stars' normally takes place in libraries for the summer month. It runs from June to the end of August Children and families across the county participate in high numbers. This year, libraries have come up with creative new ways for young readers to access the programme online with specialised Summer Stars eBooks and eAudiobook collections, More online storytimes, by library staff and Irish authors and through a national story competition.

LIBRARY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

In addition to storytime videos, library staff also made videos featuring crafts, book reviews, poetry and dance with more than 10,000 views.

As part of Healthy Ireland at your library, a 5-part video series was created by Karen Stewart, Child & Adolescent Psychotherapist and Play Therapist. Aimed at supporting parents and children at home, this series is being shared on the library Facebook page.

CORPORATE AFFAIRS

- The Annual Report 2019 was adopted at the June Plenary Meeting.
- The Annual Service Delivery Plan 2020 was adopted at the April Plenary Meeting.
- A Review of Corporate Plan 2014-2019 was completed and submitted to the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC).
- COVID-19: All Roscommon County Council public offices were closed to the public from Monday 30th March to Friday 26th June due to the pandemic restrictions. The offices are now operating with reduced public opening hours to be reviewed on an ongoing basis.

HOUSING BUSINESS UNIT

Homelessness & Housing Allocations

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.

9 = homeless cases presented in Q2, 2020

7 = cases required short-term accommodation in Q2, 2020

Breakdown Homeless figures Q2 2020				
Presentations	Individuals	Families	Totals Households	Breakdown of Family unit
Apr	4	2	6	2A4C & 2A1C
May	3	0	3	N/A
Jun	0	0	0	N/A

Accommodated	Individuals	Families	Totals Households	Breakdown of Family unit
Apr	3	2	4	2A4C & 2A1C
May	3	0	3	N/A
Jun	0	0	0	N/A

Housing Assessments & Allocations:

2020 Housing Needs Assessment is scheduled to be carried out in October 2020.

362 = applicants (excluding transfers) on the approved housing list at end of Q2, 2020 – iHouse Report 19

690 = applicants are currently in private rented accommodation (increase due to RAS tenants pre 2011 in receipt of RAS and remain open) – iHouse Report 24

18 = offers of accommodation made in Q2, 2020 (which include 7 nominations to AHB's)

9 = new tenants appointed/allocated in Q2, 2020

0 = AHB Tenants appointed in Q2, 2020

4 = refusals recorded in Q2, 2020

Social Housing Rental Accommodation Market

Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS):

Financial support continues via the RAS Scheme for those applicants who have a long-term housing need. As of 30 June, 2020, there are 390 households receiving support (286 private rented and 104 in voluntary housing).

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. 32 HAP tenancies were opened in Q2 and 14 were closed in the same period. As of 30 June, 2020, there were 449 social housing applicants in receipt of HAP.

Repair & Lease Scheme (RLS):

No significant change since Q4 2019; summary of activity end Q2 2020 is as follows:

- 68 = 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 = Further information/potential applications under further consideration; however, some of these have unresolved planning issues;
- 3 = number of lease agreements RCC has entered into under the RLS (two 1-bed apartments and a 4-bed house in Roscommon Town)

Leasing- Long-term Leasing and RAS Type leases:

As of 30, June 2020, Roscommon County Council have 5 long-terms leases: 3 in Boyle Town and 2 in Roscommon Town

As of 30, June 2020, Roscommon County Council have 22 active RAS Types leases throughout the county.

Provision of Additional Social Housing Units

LA Build (including turnkeys & PPP):

Summary of projects in progress up to March 2020 was as follows; however, works on all capital projects was suspended at the end of March 2020 due to Covid-19 restrictions. The negative impact on the below programmes/schedules remains to be determined:

- 10 turnkey units at Lisroyne Ct., Strokestown – Works were completed in December, 2019 and units are now allocated.
- Three 2-bed units at Cloonfad on HSE site - Construction commenced in Q4, 2019 with programme for completion extended to Q1, 2021 as a result of the Covid-19 delays.
- 7 units at Cluain Fraoigh, Roscommon - Construction commenced in Q4, 2019 with programme for completion extended to Q1, 2021 as a result of the Covid-19 delays.
- 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 at Silveroe, Boyle -Construction commenced in January, 2020 with programme extended to Q4, 2020 as a result of the Covid-19 delays.
- 18 units Meadowbrook, Ballyleague – Tender process complete with preferred contractor identified. Appointment of contractor on hold at the request of the DHPLG in order to await advice from the Office of Government Procurement in relation to Covid-19 protocols to be implemented on site.
- 10 units Elphin Street, Strokestown –Tender process to commence in July, 2020 with works scheduled to commence on site in Q4, 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.

Housing Association Activity:

- 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 were substantially allocated in Q1, 2020.
- 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.
- 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. An extension to the back stop delivery date was sought by Tuath and granted by RCC and the Department. New delivery date is October 2020.

As per RCC's capital programme, works on the above projects were also suspended in March 2020 due to Covid-19 restrictions. Impact on delivery maybe be affected but this is currently being monitored.

LA Acquisitions (including Buy & Renew):

As of 30 June, 2020, Roscommon County Council have acquired 3 houses under the acquisition programme. These acquisitions were a carry-over from 2019. Funding for acquisitions was reduced significantly to facilitate funding of capital works. Some funding may become available to acquire one off acquisitions subject to social housing demand and terms and conditions to be clarified further by the Department of Housing.

Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024:

- Torpan Beg Extension of 4 units – project is suspended as RCC was unable to facilitate existing tenants to the satisfaction of said tenants or secure agreement from said tenants to relocate in order for the works to proceed.
- 2 Lough Road post fire reconstruction project – On site – Scheduled for completion Q1, 2021.
- Proposal for 2 additional units at Killerney is stage 1 approved by the Department.
- Proposal to alter units at Harristown is also in progress (one-bed units to be combined into larger more functional units). Awaiting stage 2 approval from the DHPLG.
- Approval received from the department for the refurbishment of 4 units at Bri an Caoilinn, Harristown.
- Approval from the Department received for the provision of a welfare unit at Ballincullia site, Kiltewan, Co. Roscommon.

Sale of Sites and Rural Houses:

- Approximately 8 vacant and derelict rural houses (without known legal complications) are being advertised for sale or where applicable, the adjacent/original landowner may be invited to submit an expression of interest to purchase the site in question.
- 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 (no change in Q1 2020).

Tenant Purchase:

The Tenant Incremental Purchase Scheme was published under the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014. At 30 June 2020, tenant purchase statistics were as follows:

143	=	applications received to date
77	=	offers made to date
57	=	offers accepted to date
32	=	sales completed to date

Private Rented Accommodation Standards

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

All inspections were suspended in March 2020 due to Covid-19 restrictions.

- Prior to Covid-19 lockdown restrictions the recommended inspection target for Roscommon in 2020 was 596 inspections in Roscommon. However, no inspections were carried out during the Covid-19 lock down phase. Inspections resumed in line with Phase 2 and 3 relaxations.
- 74 inspections were carried out in Q2 2020, 20 of which were follow-up inspections required to address issues arising from previous inspections.

Management of Existing Housing Stock

Energy Efficiency Programme (retrofitting existing stock):

- RCC have not received phase 2 funding due to our participation in the Just Transition Midlands Energy Retrofit Programme.
- Funding under the Just Transition Programme has been identified for a number of counties, including County Roscommon. RCC have procured Collins Boyd Engineers and Architects as consultants to manage the project. The project entails energy efficiency upgrades to 50 LA units in Roscommon. Surveys are scheduled to commence in July, 2020 with works to be completed by Q2, 2021.

Voids Programme:

There are no viable voids remaining within the housing stock and the national voids programme has essentially ended. Any remaining non-viable (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.

▪ Voids (Covid-19)

The DHPLG have identified a special Voids Programme for LA's to seek the cost of refurbishing standard units reserved for Traveller or Homeless use for the purpose of Covid-19 isolation/cocooning requirements. RCC have received approval for funding for 7 units.

Casual Vacancy Works (pre-letting works)

As of early March 2020, casual vacancies are being refurbished and held in reserve as Covid-19 isolation or cocoon units for vulnerable tenants/applicants; namely, homeless people in emergency accommodation and Travellers in Traveller-specific accommodation. Allocations are still being facilitated but only on a case by case basis and where there is a risk of homelessness. Recent and further Covid-19 relaxations will see a return to more normal letting activity.

Housing Maintenance

RCC Housing received 199 maintenance calls in Q2, 2020 and billed expenditure on maintenance works during the same period was €178,754.85.

Housing Grants (including Improvement Works in Lieu)

In January 2020, the Department indicated that the 2020 interim budget would be up to 65% of the 2019 allocation or approximately €700,000. Further clarification from the Department advised that local authorities could commit grant funding over 65% and up to a maximum equal to 100% of the 2019 budget (approximately €1,076,963 for Roscommon). Commitments and expenditure to-date are in the order of €1,061,800. Inspections for grants have recommenced since the Covid-19 initial phase restrictions were lifted.

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 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. Tender documents were issued to a list of contractors on the major civils framework in December 2019. The tender submission closing date was the 29th May. Four submissions have been received. The submissions will be assessed on quality and price. It is anticipated that a tender scorecard and formal letters of results to all tenderers will be completed at the end of Q3. A recommendation and paper to the board of IW will be presented thereafter to seek a budget to commence the construction works. All Wayleaves and land acquisitions are near complete with one outstanding. It is anticipated that all agreements will be in place by the end of Q3 2020.

Planning Permission has been granted for the new pumping sites around the town as well as proposed new structures within the existing wastewater treatment plant. A planning application to upgrade the Castlerea pumping station, as an addendum to the proposed works, was recently submitted to the planning authority. A decision on this application is due on 16th August 2020.

It is expected that construction works in the town of Roscommon will commence in late Q1 2021 or early Q2 2021.

Boyle WSS Extension to Grangemore RWSS:

This project is now operational and is in a defects period. The recently upgraded Boyle RWSS supply now feeds Grangemore RWSS and Cavetown WTP has been decommissioned. AECOM and Jennings O'Donovan Consulting Engineers were the appointed representatives for the project. All wayleaves compensation arrangements to landowners affected are being closed out with the final instalments of the compensation due to be released by end of Q3 2020. Source Civil Engineering Ltd were awarded the contract in November 2018 and was substantially completed by the 8th November 2019.

A series of sampling and testing in the Grangemore network has taken place in order to demonstrate that the new water being supplied by the Boyle Regional Water Supply Scheme was in compliance with drinking water standards.

The official opening took place on the 24th January, 2020. The project is now in its defects period with snagging and reinstatement of roads and fields taking place recently in early June after the COVID-19 restrictions were lifted allowing contractor to return to construction work.

Upgrade works to Ballaghaderreen WWTP:

The Ballaghaderreen 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. The project has moved to a new delivery mechanism and will now be progressed under the ECI (Early Contractor Involvement) Contract. The National ECI contracts are divided into two regions with Roscommon County in the Northern Region. The successful Contractor within this region is Veolia who has now taken over the project since January 2020.

A project brief of the proposed upgrade has now been issued to Veolia. Veolia is currently proceeding with a proposed detailed design in consultation with all parties having their input to the overall outcome to the delivery of the project.

The first kick off meeting with all parties took place on the 16th April 2020 via video link due to the Covid-19 restrictions.

Site topographical and invasive species surveys have recently taken place. A site Investigation survey will take place in Q3 to locate services and investigate ground conditions as part of the design process.

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 separation 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 including upgrade of the SCADA System

Monksland and Boyle Drainage Area Plans:

The preparation of a Drainage Area Plan and Wastewater Source Control Study was 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 was carried out by Nicholas O'Dwyer Consulting Engineers together with McCloys Water and Environmental Consulting Engineers.

The manhole and sewer CCTV surveys for both towns, Flow and Load Survey in Monksland and the Flow and Rainfall Survey in Boyle have been completed. A Model build for the networks on both towns was carried out. A Technical Solution Development Report was issued for both locations in June 2018 and following on from this a Process Optimisation Report for Monksland was developed. On foot of the above, a scope of upgrade works at Monksland was prepared which included the provision of new inlet works, storm tank and storm water overflow chamber and also a telemetry upgrade. Site Investigation work was undertaken for the Monksland WWTP in early 2018. A procurement exercise was then carried out for the proposed works in Monksland WWTP. A Contract was then signed in December 2018. Glan Agua Ltd, commenced site construction works in February 2019 and was substantially completed in January 2020. The project is now in the defects period with outstanding defect items to be completed by Q3 2020.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME PORTFOLIO:

Inlet Works, Sludge & Storm Programme:

Upgrade to the Inlet, Storm and sludge process at Termonbarry WWTP has been included in this programme. JB Barry has been appointed as Consulting Engineers. A Conceptual Design was completed in Q4 2018. A technical options report has been reviewed and approved. Irish Water asset planning have reviewed the report and the following upgrade 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 proposed upgrade work will form part of a national project bundle that Irish Water will roll out Q4 2020. The tender process for this bundle has been recently complete and is now being assessed. It is hoped that a successful contractor will be appointed in August 2020 with work on the ground commencing sometime thereafter.

Planning Permission has been sought and approved for the structures proposed.

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 was 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. A technical options reports is due to be circulated in Q3 2020. It is anticipated that a programme of works will be rolled out for some of these sites under the 2020-2021 programme of work.

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. Following a request from RCC a repeat plumbosolvency test was carried out. The repeat test has indicated that since the water treatment plant upgrade, the water is not as aggressive as it was prior to the upgrade. Therefore, North Roscommon WTP has been reprioritised. IW are now focussing on sites that do not require Planning Permission.

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 at Mount Talbot WTP. Raw water data gathering is ongoing. This data will assist in the final scope for the plant upgrade. Detail design for the source protection works is due to be submitted in the coming weeks. Construction works are expected to commence in Q3 2020.

Reservoir Refurbishment Programme.

Major repair works were carried out at Lissacurkia reservoir. The works has resulted in significant reduction in unaccounted for water. Drop tests have been carried out at a number of other reservoirs around the county. Leakage has been identified in clear water tank no.2 at North Roscommon WTP. Remedial works has been identified and costed and awaiting capital maintenance approval from IW.

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 temporary WTP is included in this programme. Coffey Water Ltd have been appointed for the North West Region. Filter assessments has been carried out. The filter assessment report has identified a number of deficiencies with the existing filtration system. This report is under consideration by Irish Water. Following consultation with IW after the recent drought, discussions are under way regarding the provision of additional borehole and an additional filter at the water treatment plant.

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. All works on the Roscommon sites were completed in 2019 and Q1 2020. IW have requested a review of any outstanding HSQE items that may be considered for delivery under this programme.

Storm 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 (SWO's) was carried out. Site assessments were carried out at SWO's in Ballaghaderren, Ballyleague, Castlerea, Elphin, Frenchpark, Hudson Bay, Rooskey and Strokestown. Reports will be assessed when received.

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. Surveys were due to commence in mid-March but have been suspended due to the Covid-19 restrictions.

Reservoir Cleaning Programme.

Reservoir cleaning was carried out at Carrickmore, Ardcarne, Derrinacantha, Mullaghadooey and Lugboy reservoirs. Cleaning of Castlerea Water Tower was due to take place in Mid-March but this work was suspended due to the Covid-19 restrictions. However, the work is due to recommence on 21st July, 2020.

Sewer Rehabilitation Programme.

AECOM have been appointed by IW to develop a National Sewer Rehabilitation Programme. A workshop was held with IW, RCC and AECOM to identify areas for rehabilitation. CCTV surveys have been completed on sections of sewer at Boyle and Ballyleague. Reports are due to be issued shortly and a programme of works will be put in place.

National Water Resources Plan.

Irish Water is currently developing the first National Water Resources Plan (NWRP). The NWRP sets out the strategy of how we will move towards an environmentally sustainable, secure and reliable drinking water supply over the next 25 years. The plan involves assessing the external factors that will impact our water supplies, including changing environmental legislation, government policy on growth, spatial planning, water usage patterns and climate change. The plan also provides the framework for developing new water supply assets that will improve the reliability, sustainability and resilience of the water supply over future investment cycles.

As part of the plan, we will assess the water availability at all of our existing supplies and compare these to demand profiles over the next 25 years. The demand profiles include for growth, based on the national planning framework and leakage reduction targets. The plan also includes our proposed methodology for developing interventions where supply demand balance deficits are identified. Two regional workshops have been held to date.

A public consultation seeking feedback on the draft NWRP and associated environmental reports will commence later this year.

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 completed at Arm, Castlereagh.

IW has advised that due to funding restrictions there will be limited water main rehab works carried out in 2020. A review of all proposed water main rehabilitation projects is being carried out.

Direct Labour Works:

Bulk water meter installations on semi private group water schemes has been completed at a number of locations around the county.

Tranche 5 proposals for the next investment phase has been submitted and is under consideration by Irish Water. However, IW has advised that due to funding restrictions there will be limited water main rehab works carried out in 2020.

Due to ongoing water quality issues in Elphin, RCC will commence the transfer of 17no. connections from an existing cast iron main to an existing PVC main in the coming weeks. It is expected that these works in addition to air scour the mains will alleviate the problem.

Find and Fix Programme:

This is a two-year programme targeted at District Metered Areas (DMA's) with high Unaccounted for Water (UFW) figures. The aim of the programme is to drive down leakage to Sustainable Economical Leakage Levels (SELL). This work commenced in late Q2 of 2018 with a regional contractor (Farrans Construction Ltd) appointed by Irish Water to deliver this programme of work. Farrans have also been tasked with examination of DMA establishment and they have employed the services of Jacobs Consulting Engineers to carry out this work. Under the find and fix 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 to prove the extent of the supply area, 'Step testing' to focus areas with leakage and using sounding and logging equipment on footpaths and other public areas to find the leaks. Once the leaks are found a repair crew then completes the repair. At present Farrans Construction Ltd (the contractor) has been working in a number of District Metering Areas (DMA's) within the Ballinlough Water Supply Zone and in North Roscommon Water Supply Zone. 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 being investigated and in some cases have been split into sub DMAs to assist in leakage reduction and operational management process. Roscommon County Council Direct labour crew are currently

working in the Boyle Regional Water Supply Zone in North Roscommon. 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.

Netbase is now operational. However, Primeworks is still operational and is being supported by IT until 2021. We are delighted to start the next stage of configuration in Netbase, alongside the continued work that is currently underway. We are now going to look at all water storage reservoirs and tanks, then using these to calculate the change in storage.

MULTI-ANNUAL RURAL WATER PROGRAMME 2019-2021

The Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2019-2021 is a scheme specific or project based approach to funding from the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government.

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.

Approval of the schemes/projects under the MARWP 2019-2021 and the grant funding allocations were received from the Department in Circular letter dated 14th October, 2019.- €2,861,263

The eight funding measures are:

- **Measure 1 - Source Protection (Group Water Scheme Sector- Funding approved €303,000 for the period 2019-2021.**

This measure is aimed at protecting the raw water source of existing group water schemes 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.

Roscommon County Council is the lead Local Authority working in conjunction with the National Federation of Group Water Schemes and other stakeholders in a Source Protection Pilot Project developing full source protection plans including specific actions to improve the safety and security of Group Water Schemes drinking water. The work commenced in 2018 and continues in Q2 2020 with sampling at water sources to build a database which will inform actions and practical measures within each catchment to protect sources from current or future pollution risks. Mitigation measures for swallow holes are being discussed with farmers. Catchment walks are being undertaken by GWS managers to identify further sources of pollution and a campaign to raise awareness on source protection is being developed. A steering group and operational working group have been set up to progress the development of the source protection plans

- **Measure 2 - Public health compliance (Group Water Scheme Sector): Funding of €814,000 approved for the period 2019-2021.**

This measure is aimed at improving water quality in existing group water schemes, through upgrading their treatment facilities, so that the schemes can sustainably achieve compliance with the parameters of the Drinking Water Regulations on a consistent long-term basis. This includes work to upgrade the existing UV systems to validated UV systems and to replace equipment as deemed necessary and these Capital works are ongoing in accordance with a planned programme on the Design Build Operate Group Water Schemes.

- **Measure 3 - Enhancement of existing schemes including water conservation (Group Water Scheme Sector): Funding of €1,431,000 approved for the period 2019-2021.**

This measure supports projects to make existing group water schemes more efficient in their operation (e.g. water conservation and network upgrades, including storage) and contributing to good water quality on a consistent sustainable long-term basis.

At the end of Q2 2020 contracts have been awarded to the value of €300,000 for works on 7 Group Water Schemes and agreed to progress in 2020

- **Measure 5 – Transition of Existing Group Water Schemes and Group Sewerage Schemes to the Public (Irish Water) Water Sector: Funding of €247,000 approved for the period 2019-2021.**

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). Talks are underway with 4 Group Water Schemes to progress to taking in charge by Irish Water.

- **Measure 8 - PRIVATE WATER SUPPLY- Grants for the improvement of a private water supply to a house**

The existing grant scheme to support improvement works for a private water supply providing water intended for human consumption and domestic purposes to a house, (more commonly known as private or household wells) has been revised with effect from 4th June, 2020 under the ***Housing (Private Water Supply Financial Assistance) Regulations 2020 (S.I. No. 192 of 2020)***.

1. Purpose of grant

The purpose of this grant scheme is to assist households in rural areas that are dependent on a private water supply (individual well) for their household use, by financially assisting them where they incur capital expenditure, to carry out improvements to the supply to ensure that the water

supply is wholesome and clean, or that the quantity supplied is insufficient to meet the domestic needs of the household as defined in the Housing (Private Water Supply Financial Assistance) Regulations 2020 (S.I. No. 192 of 2020).

For grant purposes, a private water supply is defined as a system providing a supply of water to a single house by means of a source that is not common or shared.

The grant enables improvement works to be carried out to a private water supply so that it will provide water that is compliant with the quality standards of the Drinking Water Regulations and/or will supply the sufficient quantity of water that meets the domestic needs of the household.

Important: Houses with individual connections to a common source of supply using separate abstraction and distribution systems do not constitute a private water supply for the purposes of the grant. The grant must be used solely for the improvement of a private water supply to a house. No part of the grant payment may be used to cross subsidise other non-domestic use e.g. farming activity or other commercial use.

2. Level of grant

The level of a grant is determined by the type of improvement works being undertaken and shall not exceed the following amounts:

- (a) (i) 85% of the approved costs for rehabilitation works, subject to a maximum of €3,000;
or
(ii) 85% of the approved costs for the provision of a new well, subject to a maximum of €5,000 (where the housing authority agrees that this is the most appropriate solution);
- (b) 100% of the approved costs for works that, in the opinion of the housing authority, are necessary to treat the water to meet the water quality standards specified in the Regulations, subject to a maximum grant of €1,000. Examples of such treatments are filtration or Ultra Violet treatment.

The previous maximum grant available was €2,031.58 or 75% of the cost of the work, whichever is the lesser. To the end of Q2 a total of 3 applications for the upgrade of individual wells have been received with 3 receiving Provisional Approval for financial support. Grants have been paid on 7 completed applications in sum of €13,402.80 to end of Q2 2020.

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 €192,898.78 have been paid to Group Water Schemes to end of Q2 2020.

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 €100,932 to Group Water Schemes to the end of Q2 2020.

ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

COMPLAINTS:

As the waste industry was deemed an essential service, enforcement and monitoring continued during this period in line with Government and HSE guidelines. This Department continued to deal with litter/pollution/waste complaints on a daily basis. Set out below are the complaints received in Quarter 2 2020. During this period 257 complaints were received, 234 were investigated and 140 complaints were closed

Complaint Type	Athlone	Ballaghaderreen	Boyle	Castlerea	Roscommon	Strokestown	Total
Water		3	3	3	4	3	16
Waste	16	16	12	13	18	4	79
Noise				1	1		2
Litter	30	24	27	21	37	16	155
Air		2			2	1	5
	46	45	42	38	62	24	257

WASTE COLLECTION PERMITS:

Auditing of waste collection permits, and Annual Environmental Reports was also ongoing during this period

LOUGH FORBES:

There is an ongoing issue with pesticides in the Lough Forbes area and the Regional Monitoring Programme is ongoing and meeting to review results over this period

In general meetings have moved to an online platform during this quarter enabling the holding of CUWERLA and Water Framework Directive meetings.

ANTI DUMPING INITIATIVE 2020:

The Anti-Dumping Initiative was announced earlier this year and a number of projects were forwarded to CU WERLA for inclusion. Notification of a grant in the amount of €92,906 was received in May 2020. The projects included relate to a Bulky Goods Collection, Audio Devices and Covert Cameras, Clean-up of Lough O'Flynn Looped Bog Road, Clean-up of Kiltobanks as well as clean ups in each of the Municipal District Areas. Purchase of a drone and training for staff and purchase of cameras were also included. It is anticipated that these projects will commence in Q3 of 2020.

NATIONAL SPRING CLEAN:

National Spring Clean which is normally held during the month of April was postponed given restriction in place at that time. Following consultation with An Taisce and the Department of Communications, Climate Action and the Environment and in line with Government Guidelines, National Spring Clean recommenced on the 8th June 2020. Roscommon County Council have assisted a number of groups and individuals through the provision of bags, litter pickers, gloves and the collection of the waste gathered. It is expected that Spring Clean will continue up to Mid-July

ASSETS, CLIMATE ACTION AND ENERGY MANAGEMENT

ASSETS

- PIR (Property Interest Register) Roscommon for all Building / Land Assets ongoing
- Full listing of RCC Assets across all Sections prepared and issued for reconciliation of FAR and PIR Roscommon by all Sections – partial completion to date with reminder to issue
- Housing Assets being reconciled with iHouse
- Ongoing Administrative / Technical involvement with Leases, Acquisitions and Disposals of RCC Assets
- Policy documents approved and signed off 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, Niall Kiernan, assigned to Roscommon County Council and first meeting has taken place
 - Energy Action Plan 2020 – preparation ongoing
- **Grant Applications –**
 - BEC Application for King House, Boyle, Dillon House, Ballaghaderreen, Library HQ and Aras an Chontae submitted to SEAI/partially approved – funding constraints
- **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.

New OP@W Mentor, Mark Skerrit, appointed and first meeting has taken place with further meetings planned
 - 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 2019 – Part 1 submitted by 24th January, 2020 and Part 2 submitted by 29th May, 2020.
 - Currently at 29.4% of targeted 33% energy efficiency improvement by 2020, based on 2019 energy usage

PUBLIC LIGHTING

- Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) Funding Applications:
2020 – Funding Application submitted for 164 no. PLs (this represents balance of TII PLs in Co. Roscommon)

- Approval received for 108 no. PLs and works to commence in Q3 2020
- Survey of all School Warning Lights in Co. Roscommon completed and Final Report due in Q2 2020 – review of repairs/possible upgrades to follow subject to funding
- Section 85 Agreement with Mayo County Council and National LED Retrofit Project – Co. Roscommon forms part of Region 3 for National Project with an expected commencement of Q2 2021
- 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
- RCC represented at inaugural Eastern & Midlands Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) sub-Region Meeting – further meetings taking place
- Climate Action Implementation Team – majority of Section nominations forwarded and to meet in Q3 2020

ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

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 December 2017. The application for Development Consent and for confirmation of the CPO and associated documentation was submitted to An Bord Pleanála (ABP) on 20 December 2017. The closing date for receipt of submissions to ABP was 6 March 2018. ABP made a request for additional information and same was submitted to the Board on 7 June 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 have been procured in advance of the main construction contract. Archaeological testing and resolution is ongoing. Fencing, topographical survey and geotechnical investigations are nearing completion. Technical consultants have been appointed to assist in progressing the project through the tender and construction stages. The preparation of Main Construction Contract tender documents is ongoing.

On the 27 March 2020 the Government introduced significant additional restrictions to combat the spread of COVID-19 and directed a cessation of all non-essential construction works. In compliance with Government direction all site works ceased and were permitted to recommence on the 18 May 2020 under Phase 1 of the Governments Roadmap for reopening society and business. A range of protocols in full compliance with Government and H.S.E. guidelines are being implemented.

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 90% 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 4 of the sites with reporting ongoing on the remaining site. Following the completion of the detailed design, the main construction contract was tendered in November 2018. The contract was awarded to Wills Bros Ltd. on 9th April 2019 and site works commenced in April 2019. To date approx. 85% of the works have been completed. All construction activity ceased on the 27th March 2020 in compliance with Government's requirements due to COVID-19 and was only permitted to recommence on the 18th May 2020. This closure has resulted in a 7-week delay to the works and as a consequence the date for substantial completion has been extended to late August 2020. Roughan & O'Donovan Consulting Engineers continue to administer and supervise the main 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. The Second Public Consultation presenting six Route Options was held in November 2019. Work is ongoing in relation to the refinement of the route options and it is anticipated the emerging preferred route corridor will be identified in Q3 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 December 2017. Works commenced on site in Q1 2018 and are complete. The Defects Period initially extended to April 2020 however on the 27 March 2020 the Government introduced significant additional restrictions to combat the spread of COVID-19 and directed a cessation of all non-essential construction works. Completion of remaining snag items is imminent.

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. The Design Team has assessed the options, taking Public Consultation into account (August 2019) and has identified the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor. An Emerging Preferred Route corridor brochure was published on the Roscommon County Council website in Q1 2020. The Option Selection deliverables are currently being prepared for submission to TII.

National Road Pavement Projects: Contract documentation have been prepared for all pavement schemes receiving an allocation from TII in 2020. The N5 Carrowntoosan to Tulsk contract was awarded in March 2020 and the N60 Castlerea South Pavement Overlay was awarded in July 2020. Following the completion of water main replacement works undertaken by Irish Water, it is anticipated that the N60 Castlerea Pavement Overlay (Phase 2) will be tendered in late July 2020.

Roads Works Scheme

All construction activity ceased on the 27th March 2020 in compliance with Government's requirements due to COVID-19. In compliance with Government direction resumption of construction works by direct labour was on 18th May. Health and Safety training and induction, in compliance with Government and Health Service Executive guidelines, was provided for all staff involved.

Local Improvement Scheme 2020

The Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) operates the Local Improvement Schemes for the improvement of local non-public roads. On 20th May 2020 the scheme of priorities for 30 roads was approved by the DRCD for works totalling €352,545.70. All applicants have been informed and works will commence when the local contribution is received. All works must be completed and funding claimed from the Department by early October 2020.

Community Involvement Schemes 2020

The Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport provides grant assistance which must be matched by a minimum 15% from the community for eligible works including general maintenance, drainage works, pavement works and footpaths on public roads. Roscommon County Council received an allocation of €166,000 in 2020.

Road Opening Licences

Excavations made in a public road or footpath require a Road Opening Licence. Applications for licenses to open the public road are lodged through the central portal with the Road Management Office www.rmo.ie. Roscommon County Council Roads department processes the licences for county Roscommon from this portal and attaches conditions and fees to the licence. The number of new applications for Q2 is 96.

Abnormal Load Permits

Local Authorities operate a permit system for abnormal loads on all or part of journeys where specific weight and height conditions apply. Roscommon County Council Roads Department issued 20 Abnormal Load Permits to the end of Q2 2020.

CFRAM Carrick on Shannon (and Cortober) Flood Relief Scheme

Ryan Hanley have been appointed by Leitrim County Council as Design Consultants. Roscommon County Council attend the Steering Group Committee meetings. Virtual Public Consultations are to take place end of July 2020.

Galway to Athlone Cycleway

RPS have been appointed by Westmeath County Council as Design Consultants. They have been working on the Project Brief and Project Appraisal Plan. Roscommon, Galway and Westmeath each have a Project Engineer assigned to the Project. A Project Office has been set up in Ballinasloe and will open to the public in late August, subject to Covid-19 guidelines. Public consultations are to take place 10th – 14th August presenting the study area and requesting input from the public. An information leaflet will be distributed closer to this date. A Code of Best Practice is currently being developed.

BROADBAND

Broadband Connection Points (BCPs)

BCPs are primarily Community Centres and schools in the amber area, where high speed broadband will be made available to the public within the first year of the rollout of the NBP. Site inspections took place at each site in Q12020 in order to check line of sight. Primary installation of infrastructure is currently underway, which will be followed by connection by service provider, Vodafone.

NBI rollout of High speed Broadband under the National Broadband Plan

Initial surveys commenced in Ballinasloe and Roscommon environs in April. National Broadband Ireland (NBI) and Eir submitted T1s in June as part of the Road opening licence process, in order to commence work. NBI will be using Eir's infrastructure so Eir must first carry out repair works as required.

Eir's rollout has completed its 300k rollout in County Roscommon, having passed 5746 premises. This includes 434 additional premises. As part of their €0.5 billion fixed network investment programme, Eir are rolling out fibre to the premises in all large towns. They are almost complete in Boyle and have commenced in Roscommon town.

Digiwest: 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. Internal construction works almost complete. Tenders for internal equipment and furniture are currently being assessed.