



Comhairle Contae
Ros Comáin
Roscommon
County Council



MANAGEMENT REPORT



MAY 2020

Roscommon County Council
Revenue Account Income & Expenditure Summary by Service Division
Management Accounts Summary to 31st May 2020

	EXPENDITURE		INCOME		NET
	Expenditure Incurred up to 31/05/2020	Adopted Full Year Budget	Income Receivable up to 31/05/2020	Adopted Full year Budget	Actual Overall Surplus/ (Deficit)
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing & Building	2,431,274	6,640,134	3,094,789	7,294,094	663,515
Road Transport & Safety	5,396,648	24,288,076	2,141,603	17,645,706	(3,255,044)
Water Services	2,166,521	7,639,343	2,356,677	7,510,258	190,156
Development Management	1,816,464	7,126,358	1,347,599	1,631,071	(468,865)
Environmental Services	1,702,899	6,001,605	168,073	937,131	(1,534,826)
Recreation & Amenity	1,383,758	4,126,824	317,537	607,634	(1,066,222)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	136,728	679,748	81,956	258,556	(54,772)
Miscellaneous Services	1,496,596	4,785,214	745,479	1,932,252	(751,117)
Central Management Charges	2,178,794	0	147,335	0	(2,031,459)
Local Government Fund/General Purpose Grant	0	0	7,211,740	10,817,200	7,211,740
Pension Levy	0	0	0	0	0
Rates	0	0	5,221,947	12,653,400	5,221,947
	18,709,682	61,287,301	22,834,735	61,287,301	4,125,053

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

Summary of Major Collections as at 31st May 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	485,922	24,322	13,380,598	3,228,246	10,152,352	72,747	24%	37%
Rents & Annuities	474,828	2,150,343		(205)	2,625,376	2,107,183	518,193		80%	80%
Housing Loans	120,379	77,330			197,709	102,999	94,709		52%	44%

Recourse to Overdraft;

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

PLANNING SECTION

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

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 a new provision (Section 251A) into the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). The Order resulted in an extension of time for a range of specified periods and timelines under the Planning and Development Act and associated regulations. The extended period initially applied from 29th March 2020 to 20th April 2020 inclusive. By Order on 16th April, the period was further extended until 9th May 2020, and extended for a third and final time on May 8th, until May 23rd. As the end date of the Order approached and Phase One of the Government's 'Roadmap to Reopening Ireland' came into effect, a number of significant developments occurred as part the restoration of the planning system to a fully operational status:

- Site inspections were permitted to resume from May 18th (including routine inspections relating to development management, planning enforcement and unfinished housing developments);
- Planning administration functions returned to an office based, fully operational status from May 25th, having been primarily operated remotely during the period of the emergency measures;
- Planning applications which were in the system, but had been on hold in accordance with the extended period as set out in Section 251A of the Planning and Development Act were progressed after the 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 May. A total of 25 valid applications were received. Following the end of the Section 251A extended period on May 23rd, a total of 7 planning applications were progressed during the remainder of May - decisions were made on 3 of those applications, and the remaining 4 were the subject of requests for further information.

Development Management Statistics

Period	Activity	Roscommon North	Roscommon South	Totals
May 2020	Valid app	17	8	25
	Invalid app	2	1	3
	Extension of Duration	1	2	3
	Refusal	0	1	1
	DED	2	0	2
	Pre-planning meeting	6	1	7

Enforcement Activity

Period	Activity	Countywide Totals
May 2020	New enforcement case	5
	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 May. The consultation period was originally scheduled to run until June 5th but has been extended by 8 weeks, and is now scheduled to end on July 31st, in accordance with the provisions of the aforementioned Section 251A of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

Given the continuing Covid 19 restrictions on gatherings / public events, efforts to encourage engagement from the general public were focused throughout May on the 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 has been limited in recent months, due to Covid 19 restrictions. Further to the lifting of some restrictions from May 18th, developers re-commenced activity on site in four unfinished developments – one each in Roscommon, Castlerea, Tarmonbarry and Lisacul.

Officials in the Unfinished Housing Developments team were engaged in desktop activity throughout May, preparing tender documents for the future awarding of contracts for various site resolution works in 12 developments – 4 in Boyle, 3 in Monksland / Bellanamullia, 2 in Ballyleague and 2 in Cootehall. In addition, the UHD team co-ordinated emergency callouts to 6 unfinished housing developments, in order to resolve a range of urgent issues, including 4 instances of sewer blockages and a water leak.

ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT PROMOTION

Local Enterprise Office:

- **Trading On Line Vouchers (TOVs):** 16 applications for TOVs were approved - 90% funding applies (a total of 33 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.
- **Business Continuity Vouchers:** The total number of applications received is 233. Close on 100 vouchers have been approved up to end of May. Each of these vouchers is worth up to €2,500 in third party consultancy costs and can be used by companies and sole traders to develop short-term and long-term strategies to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- **Training:** 12 webinars were sourced and organised culminating in 235 applicants.
- **Remote Mentoring:** Is being provided on an ongoing basis for the business community on Finance, Business Advice, Planning, Social Media, Micro Finance, HR, etc.
- **Enquiries:** There has been an unprecedented level of enquiries of all types coming through the LEO and support is being provided.
- **Student Enterprise Programme:** The National Final Awards of the Student Enterprise Programme was held on the 27th May. The event was live streamed on the SEP FB page and also on youtube.
- **Promotion:** All LEO supports were promoted on the LEO website and on various social media platforms as well as in the Local Press. Roscommon Chamber of Commerce invited Irish Times reporter, Harry McGee, to Roscommon. Thereafter there was a fantastic article proudly promoting our county town in the Irish Times. Those interviewed were: Denis Naughten TD; Barry, Declan & Mark Molloy; Rita Oates ETL; Brendan Allen, Chair of Roscommon Chamber of Commerce; Louise Ward, HoE, LEO; Tomas Beades, RLP; Teresa Hession, Chair of Roscommon Gaels.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC AND 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

CLÁR

- Due to COVID 19, completion dates for the remaining 9 projects have been extended to 31/08/2020

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 to be organised.
- May OPC (Older Peoples Council) Meeting attended

Integration Strategy

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

Sports Development Officers:

- All updated Heads of Agreement have now been signed.

SICAP

- Drawdown for Q3 payment for 2020 made to DRCD

Heritage

- **Conservation Specifications for Masonry Ruins:**

Bluett & O'Donoghue have been recommended for appointment to prepare a conservation report for 2 x masonry ruins – Rahara Medieval Church & a Mausoleum in Ballintubber Graveyard. Heritage Office has budget for fund these two reports. This project is for conservation specifications, which will facilitate future funding applications for emergency conservation works. This project is funded by The Heritage Council.

- **Phase 2 Community Initiative #InThisTogether social media initiatives:**

- **#MysteriousMonuments:**

This aims to encourage people to become heritage explorers from their own home and see what they can find out about a monument that takes their interest in the county using a Monument Research Tool Kit <http://www.roscommoncoco.ie/en/Services/Community/Heritage/In-this-together-Roscommon-Heritage-Online/>. Social media posts continued on this initiative until 29th May when it is ended and been replaced with the #knowyour5k initiative.

- **#knowyour5k:**

This initiative from the Heritage Council and National Museum of Ireland invites people to share their discoveries and insights about the hidden heritage of their locality. The project helps the public to use a wealth of online resources to find out more about the story of their locality. #knowyour5k is a follow on from our Mysterious Monuments initiative.

RCC would love to see lots of discoveries on #knowyour5k from Co. Roscommon! As we are all #InThisTogether, we will give a FREE heritage guidebook to anyone who makes a submission from Co. Roscommon to #knowyour5k.

See: <http://www.roscommoncoco.ie/en/Services/Community/Heritage/In-this-together-Roscommon-Heritage-Online/-knowyour5k/> for full details.

- **#Biodiversityinyour5k:**

This weekly series of social media posts aims to raise awareness and enjoyment of nature and wildlife that people are noticing or might spot within their 5k. Biodiversity themed social media posts were posted on RCC social media every day during National Biodiversity Week which was in May.

Roscommon Swifts Survey:

This commenced at the end of May. Press releases were issued to local media.

One Change for Biodiversity – Pollinator & Biodiversity Advice for Community Groups

Over 70 Community groups who had applied for Amenity Grants were sent copies of Gardening for Biodiversity, and other guidance resources from the All Ireland Pollinator Plan and invited to express interest in getting advice on how they could make one change for biodiversity. The deadline for applications to this project is Monday 8th June. Dr. Karina Dingerkus, Giorria Environmental Services has been commissioned to provide remote advice to participating groups. It is anticipated that 6 groups can be accommodated in the project. This project is funded by the Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht under their National Biodiversity Action Plan funding.

Pollinator Infomercials on Midwest Radio & Shannonside FM:

In conjunction with the Heritage Offices of Mayo CoCo & Longford CoCo, a series of radio adverts raising awareness of how people can take action to help pollinators will be aired for one week each month until September. The first in this series was aired to coincide with National Biodiversity Week from 19th – 24th May.

These are in support of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan and are funded by funded by the Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht under their National Biodiversity Action Plan funding.

Cruinniu Na nOg – Heritage proposals:

A programme of 7 heritage activities was prepared and proposed as part of the Roscommon events for Cruinnia na Nog.

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION:

COVID 19 – due to COVID 19 restrictions all Tourism ATTRACTIONS/Activities/Accommodation and Restaurants remain closed

Regional Projects:

- **IHH Website Scheme:** IHH now covering 100% of costs – awaiting letter of offer from Fáilte Ireland.
- **USEFE** – meetings cancelled and no new date set.
- **Fáilte Ireland** – Zoom conference call with IHH. Awaiting publication of Fáilte Ireland Guidelines. Destination Town report for April 2020 submitted
- **Shannon Master Plan:** Public Consultations complete and final draft approved by steering group.

County Projects:

- **Tourism trade:** Information on all supports from LEO and FI forwarded to tourism trade on weekly basis.
- **Tourism Trade Networking (IHH)** – First online Teams meeting of the IHH Commercial Network. 3 networks in total Roscommon Co Co sit on Networks 1 and 2
- **2020 Festival and Events:** awaiting clarity from 2 festivals, if their event will proceed.
- **Social Media:** Roscommon Must See listing post COVID 19 continuing on twice weekly basis.
- **Outdoor Recreation: (2019 scheme):** 4 projects under Measure 1 to commence physically works in coming weeks. Procurement carried out on 3 projects.
- **Outdoor Recreation: (2018 scheme): Boyle to Lough key Cycleway** – quotes for signage received and signs ordered.
- **Creative Ireland Project** – Mimar media to produce a 3 minute mindful Roscommon video for social media.
- **Roscommon Walks Book Edition No2** – final amendments on design and text to the 4 new walks and 2 cycle ways being agreed. Liaising with RRO

King House

- Review of Mary McAleese collection being carried out
- Farmers Market – reopened on 23rd May. All COVID HSE restrictions and notifications agreed with Un Bhan.

COVID 19 INITIATIVES:

Roscommon Community Response Forum:

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

The Forum has met on a weekly basis throughout April and will continue to meet regularly to discuss and resolve matters utilising the expertise contained within this multi partnership team. 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 Síochána and Roscommon Leader Company have set up a 24 hour Freephone community support response help line to assist in the delivery of targeted social care supports and assistance to vulnerable groups and individuals. During the month of May 1,936 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:

- 27 Applications received and 21 approved for €15,000 funding. Letter of Offer issued in mid May.

ARTS OFFICE

- **Roscommon County Youth Theatre** workshops continue online weekly incl preparations for two Cruinniú na nÓg events. Show planned for April cancelled.
- **Creative Ireland**
 - Creative Roscommon Open Call funding allocated to six projects with a number of other projects supported through other Arts/Creative Ireland programmes.
 - IPB Galway 2020 Participation Grant application submitted for The Barracks McGahern Interpretive Exhibition.

- Cruinniú na nÓg programme compiled and submitted to Creative Ireland for June 13th – 22 events mainly online. This is Ireland’s national day of creative activity for children and young people.
- Cathaoirleach Award Photography Competition ‘We’re in this together’ advertised, closing date June 2nd.
- **Decade of Centenaries** programme compiled and submitted to Dept CHG Commemorations Unit for 2020.
- **Literary Bursaries & Awards** advertised: Roscommon New Writing Award, Chapbook Bursary, Nature Poetry.
- **Artist Bursaries** allocated x 19.
- **Film** – Following a successful application in 2019 by Arts/LEO Offices in Roscommon, Leitrim & Sligo to Enterprise Ireland Regional Enterprise Development Fund (REDF), the post of Film Development Manager will be advertised for Sligo Leitrim Roscommon (SLR) Film as part of the Creative Heartlands Project.
- **Music Generation Roscommon** education programmes delivered virtually with schools, orchestra and music hubs in 12 locations. Performances cancelled.
- **Bealtaine Festival** – a national event which celebrates creativity as we age – events planned for Roscommon had to be cancelled and will take place later in the year, depending on the how groups can recommence activity and the capacity of venues.

Roscommon Arts Centre

In May Roscommon Arts Centre’s online programme of activities continued via a range of social media platforms and the website.

While the majority of the programme elements launched in April continued in May, new initiatives were also developed and launched to provide a more comprehensive online programme for the public to engage with. All initiatives were free of charge and many remain available to engage with via the arts centre’s website, Facebook Page and You Tube channel.

New projects for May included:

- **Launch of LIVE Literary Network:** Roscommon Arts Centre is one of 6 venues who, in association with Words Ireland have launched a new literary network which aims to develop a more comprehensive literary programme for each of the venues involved.

The “LIVE” (Literature in Venues Experiences/Experiments/Events) Network responded to the pandemic with a series of 6 online author events, one released every Friday from May 8th. Authors featured throughout May included: Alan Mc Monagle, Kevin Barry, Hilary Fannin and Roscommon poet Jane Clarke, all of whom were interviewed by Words Ireland’s Literary Development Officer Dani Gill via You Tube events. The sessions all remain available to watch.

- **National Drawing Day Event:** To co-incide with National Drawing Day on May 16th, Roscommon Arts Centre commissioned Roscommon portrait artist Sian Costello to produce a Self-Portrait Tutorial Video for young people. The tutorial co-incided with the launch of the “This is Me” Children’s Portrait Exhibition as part of the Cruinniú na nÓg programme at

Roscommon Arts Centre. The tutorial which can still be accessed via Roscommon Arts Centre's website and/or You Tube channel has been watched by 1,752 people to date.

- **Fregoli Theatre Company: "I Want You to Know Me" Online Performance:** Fregoli Theatre Company are Roscommon Arts Centre's Theatre Company in Residence for 2020 and as part of their re-imagined residency, in May they released the first of two short performances via Facebook and You Tube.

"I Want You to Know Me" is the story of a young man who grew up in a home where there was domestic violence. The piece sees him reflecting on his childhood and the role of his mother in his life. The performance raised funds for "Safe Ireland" – Ireland's agency that provides supports for women and children living with domestic abuse. The performance can still be viewed via a link on Roscommon Arts centre's website and You Tube channel.

- **Cruinniu na nOg: Advance Programme:** The Cruinniu na nOg programme became an online event for 2020. In May Roscommon Arts Centre devised and launched 5 projects for the event on June 13th, three of which had callouts in May for participants **as follows:**
 - **This is Me** an open call to young people of all ages to participate in a window based self-portraiture exhibition at the arts centre which will hang in the arts centre windows in June.
 - **Brickflicks Stop –Motion Animation Project:** an open call to young lego fans interested in creating their very own stop-motion animation film shorts to submit film proposals and participate in workshops with Createschool to produce a series of short films for release on June 13th
 - **One Voice Roscommon – virtual children's choir:** Working with Cor Comain, Roscommon Arts Centre invited young people to learn the song "I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing" and to upload their home videos, which will be taken and transformed into a virtual choral performance for the June date.

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

- **Margo Mc Nulty: 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
- **Studios, Workshops & Kitchen Tables** a new series of virtual studio visits to the homes of artists, educators and writers that the centre is working with in 2020. In May these included: sessions with both Andy Parsons & Margo Mc Nulty
- **"Lockdown Sing-along"** after 60 days, the daily live-streamed choral sessions with Cathy Jordan came to a finale in Mid-May. Plans are now afoot to make all sessions available to re-watch via Roscommon Arts Centre's website.
- **"Home Schooler Alert"** daily online alerts providing arts related links to parents home-schooling for arts and crafts, dance, theatre, visual art and museum activities.
- **"Theatre Shop"** links to theatre performances, musicals, concerts and ballet performances at least once a week that our audiences can view.