



Comhairle Contae
Ros Comáin
Roscommon
County Council



MANAGEMENT REPORT



NOVEMBER 2020

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

	EXPENDITURE		INCOME		NET
	Expenditure Incurred up to 30/11/2020	Adopted Full Year Budget	Income Receivable up to 30/11/2020	Adopted Full year Budget	Actual Overall Surplus/ (Deficit)
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing & Building	5,990,173	6,640,134	7,112,435	7,294,094	1,122,262
Road Transport & Safety	26,631,305	24,288,076	12,182,365	17,645,706	(14,448,940)
Water Services	5,886,676	7,639,343	5,712,951	7,510,258	(173,725)
Development Management	13,207,472	7,126,358	11,026,257	1,631,071	(2,181,215)
Environmental Services	4,977,968	6,001,605	629,496	937,131	(4,348,473)
Recreation & Amenity	3,496,429	4,126,824	710,640	607,634	(2,785,789)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	457,238	679,748	245,803	258,556	(211,435)
Miscellaneous Services	7,869,303	4,785,214	5,645,300	1,932,252	(2,224,003)
Central Management Charges	837,861	0	56,493	0	(781,368)
Local Government Fund/General Purpose Grant	0	0	10,817,612	10,817,200	10,817,612
Pension Levy	0	0	0	0	0
Rates	0	0	11,414,705	12,653,400	11,414,705
	69,354,425	61,287,301	65,554,057	61,287,301	(3,800,368)

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 November 2020

Debt Type	Opening Balance	Accrued	Vacant Property Adjustments	Write Off/Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Balance	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection	% Collection Previous Year
Commercial Rates	1,358,169	12,452,407	1,137,650	87,808	12,585,118	10,319,494	2,265,624	47,768	82%	79%
Rents & Annuities	474,828	4,715,913		(4,755)	5,195,496	4,694,152	501,344		90%	91%
Housing Loans	120,379	203,389			323,768	229,131	94,637		71%	75%

Recourse to Overdraft;

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

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Forward Planning

A Special Meeting of Roscommon County Council took place on 12th November, at which Members formally considered the *Chief Executive's Report* on submissions received during the pre-draft public consultation period of the *Roscommon County Development Plan 2021 – 2027*. In accordance with Section 11 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), Members issued a direction to the Executive to formally commence the preparation of the Draft Plan.

Development Management and Planning Enforcement Activity

The table below summarises Development Management activity in November. A total of 41 valid applications were received – the same number as received in October. Decisions issued on 44 planning applications, of which 36 were grants of permission.

Development Management Statistics

Period	Activity	Roscommon North	Roscommon South	Totals
November 2020	Valid app	24	17	41
	Extension of Duration	1	1	2
	DED	5	3	8
	Pre-planning meeting	16	10	26

Enforcement Activity

Period	Activity	Countywide Totals
November 2020	New enforcement case	8
	General letter	6
	Warning letter	4
	Enforcement notice	0
	Closed case	6
	Legal proceedings	0

Unfinished Housing Developments (UHD)

Development activity continued on a number of unfinished housing developments in November. Contractors engaged by Roscommon County Council were at work in four developments in the county – one in Roscommon town, one in Boyle and two in Ballyleague. Developers continued to progress work in six developments, of which three were in Roscommon town, and one each in Monksland, Frenchpark and Tarmonbarry.

Following on from schedules being considered by Irish Water in October as part of the initial stages of the taking in charge process, Lakeview Heights in Boyle was progressed to Roads for taking in charge in November.

ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT PROMOTION

Local Enterprise Office:

- **Trading On Line Vouchers (TOVs):**
A total of **218** applications for TOVs were approved year to date. (A total of **209** TOVs have been approved with 90% funding since the funding was changed from 50% to 90%). A business which obtained a Voucher previously is eligible to apply for a second Voucher, if considered appropriate. The max grant remains at €2,500. A number of remote Information Seminars were held to facilitate clients wishing to apply as this is compulsory prior to making an application, with the next one is scheduled for the 9th December. Demand for this scheme locally and nationally is unprecedented. The 90% grant assistance is back in operation and still available to TOV applicants. No end date for the 90% funding has been set as yet by the DCCAE.
- **Projects Evaluation Meeting:** took place on the 27th November with 6 projects approved for funding – 4 Priming Grants & 2 Business Expansion Grants.
- **Business Continuity Vouchers:** The total number of applications received is 233, with 186 being eligible for funding. 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. All vouchers have now been processed.
- **Microfinance:** 23 microfinance applications have been made with 13 successful, 5 withdrawn and 5 unsuccessful Y-T-D.
- **Training:** All training has now been delivered for 2020. Quotations for the 2021 Programme have been received and are being analysed, etc., with a view to setting out the 1st tranche of training before the Christmas recess.
- **Remote Mentoring:** Is being provided on an ongoing basis for the business community. General Business & Brexit Mentor Clinics are on offer and in demand. Bookings are taken via the LEO website online booking system.
- **Enquiries:** Enquiries are ongoing and appropriate support is being provided.
- **Student Enterprise Programme:** This programme is ongoing in remote format with 8 of the 9 second level schools in the county engaging. A total of 443 students are involved. Dates are yet to be firmed up for the County Final & National Final which will be held virtually.
- **National Enterprise Awards:** The current plan is for an Awards Ceremony to take place on February 11th 2021, but this will be monitored in line with Government guidelines for such Events and is subject to change. Assessment of Applications will take place in mid- November.
- **Promotion:** All LEO supports were promoted on the LEO website and on various social media platforms.
- **Sites at Ballyboughan:** 3 Enquiries ongoing.
- **Just Transition:** 3 applications submitted. Feasibility Study for the Boardwalk project successful, and two more feasibility studies for Cloontuskert Ballyleague visitor centre and Organic farm, Cloontuskert Ballyleague Bog Heritage train were successful with a total fund of €500k approx.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT

Healthy Ireland

- Pobal have extended Round 3 of the Healthy Ireland Fund from June 30th 2021 to December 31st 2021. The planned return of progress and financial reports in January 2021 has been moved to July 2021.
- A 4th round of Healthy Ireland Funding has also been confirmed. The start date of round 4 is not yet known.
- The scoring process of the Community Mental Health Small Grants Scheme took place and 8 applicants were successful. The process was ratified by the LCDC Health and Wellbeing Subgroup.
- Under the Keep Well campaign, a 'Community Resilience Fund' was established and €67,225 was allocated to Roscommon County Council. The fund must be spent on activities under the themes 'Keeping in Contact', 'Switching Off and Being Creative' and 'Your County'. A submission of planned activities and spend has been made to Pobal. Besotted

LEADER:

- Article 48 checks are ongoing
- 3 LEADER claims paid in November
- LEADER Admin Return for September was completed.

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

LCDC meeting and Local Action Group meeting held online via Microsoft Teams on the 4th of November 2020 and the following agenda items were dealt with:

- Article 48 Procedure agreed
- Update provided from Health and Wellbeing Sub-Committee
- SICAP update given
- Social Enterprise Grants discussed and approved
- Financial Report provided on programme from Financial Partner
- Implementation update received on programme from Implementing Partner
- LEADER Projects discussed and decisions agreed

CLÁR

- **CLÁR 2019**
- 3 CLÁR projects paid under CLÁR 2019
- Payments now completed for all CLÁR 2019 Projects.
- **CLÁR 2020**
- The following 8 Projects were approved under CLÁR 2020 funding Measures 1 and 2 totalling €309,144.00:
 1. Ballintubber Development Association Ltd. - €37,690
 2. Ballymurray National School – €50,000
 3. Clooneyquinn NS/Killina Catholic Church - €45,000
 4. Rahara National School - €13,500

5. Brusna Voluntary Community Development - €34,218
6. Elphin GAA Club - €50,000
7. Kiltrustan Sports & Social Club - €44,097
8. Tumna Shannon Development Co. - €34,639

Social Inclusion

Age Friendly Programme:

- Online Age Friendly Programme Managers Meeting Attended.
- Draft TOR circulated to OPC Re: OPC's transition under the LA on a trial basis.

Integration:

- Closing date for receipt of quotations 1st December 2020 (for development of County Roscommon Migrant Integration Strategy)

Social Inclusion Awareness Week 2020:

- Payments processed for successful event as part of Social Inclusion Awareness Week 2020.

Science Week 2020:

- Links to online Science Experiments circulated to all National Schools for Science Week 2020 (In-lieu of traditional Science Week events provided by facilitators attending schools).

Comhairle na nÓg:

- Successful Online AGM Held.
- Roscommon Comhairle na nÓg awarded an ICT Hardware Grant of €3000 from DCYA.

SICAP

- Preparations for SICAP Annual Plan 2021 is underway

Pride of Place 2020

- The 2020 IPB Pride of Place Virtual Awards Ceremony took place on Saturday, 21st November 2020. It was live streamed at www.prideofplace.ie
- Kiltewan Tidy Towns were successful and received runner-up in the Creative Place Initiative
- Roscommon Gaels GAA All Stars were successful and received runner-up in the Community Youth Led Initiative
- Ballaghaderreen Men's Shed were unsuccessful in the Community Wellbeing Initiative

Tidy Towns and Amenity Grants Scheme 2020

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

Heritage

National Biodiversity Action Plan Funding (NBAP):

Roll out of 2021 projects has commenced:

#natureisgoodforyou: a national radio campaign, in support of the keep well campaign. This is a series of 5 radio 'infomercials' which started in November on MidWest Radio & on Shannonside FM, in conjunction with the Heritage Offices of Mayo & Longford CoCos.

Creative Ireland Funding:

'The Guided Tour' series: A Guided Tour of Elphin Windmill videos have been completed. There are two edits of the tour up now on the RCC Youtube page – a short edit at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GMYSw_B2ZSw

& a longer edit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YgmrjAmxRbo>.

The Táin March: 6 schools have completed the 'virtual' Táin March project. A selection of the work will soon be shared on the project facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/oenach20>

Heritage Council Funding:

Two projects ongoing under this funding are:

Field Monument Advisor for farming Rathcroghan EIP: project ongoing.

Conservation Specifications for Masonry Ruins: Conservation Reports have been completed for Rahara Medieval Church & the Owen O'Connor Mausoleum in Ballintuber Graveyard.

Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage:

Built Heritage Investment Scheme: A recoupment claim was made to the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage for €60,000 funding for 10 projects carried out under the 2020 scheme. The scheme generated total project spend of €180,064.18 and generated 393 days of skilled employment in the county. The 2021 scheme has been advertised.

Historic Structures Fund: Recoupment claims were made to the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage for €40,000 funding for 2 projects carried out under the 2020 scheme. The scheme generated total project spend of €50,396 and generated 152 days of skilled employment in the county. The 2021 scheme has been advertised.

July Stimulus Funding - HSF/BHIS Additional Funding: Recoupment claims were made to the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage for €17,929 funding for 2 projects carried out under this scheme. The scheme generated total project spend of €35,858 and generated 117 days of skilled employment in the county.

July Stimulus Funding – Community Monuments Fund 2020: Recoupment claims were made to the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage for €65,356 funding for 5 projects carried out under this scheme. The scheme generated total project spend of €65,356 and generated 171 days of skilled employment in the county. All projects are progressing.

Tourism

Introduction of Level 5 has resulted in the closure for 6 weeks of all Activities and Attractions. Limited services being provided in some Hotels and take out services in restaurants.

Regional Projects:

- **IHH Website Scheme:** TEAMS meeting with management on agreement of the design of new website. Digital Transformation Workshop attendance online
- **Fáilte Ireland** – Platforms for Growth-Activity Facility Centres funding proposal for Lough Key or Ballyleague

County Projects:

- **Tourism Trade Networking (IHH)** – Task Force Destination Town meeting for Athlone and Carrick on Shannon
- **2020 Festival and Events:** Strokestown Christmas Markets approved and application for FI festival funding applied.
- **Social Media:** continuing on twice weekly basis.
- **Outdoor Recreation: (2019 scheme):** Claims on 4 projects under Measure 1 approved by DRCD and payments issued to groups
- **Roscommon Walks Video** – Shannonside interview and social media updating
- **Survey** – County survey of tourism trade and effects of COVID 2020 carried out.
- **Destination Towns** – Project commences and Landscape Architect approved for project

King House

- Reinterpretation – Shane Forsythe onsite visit to house and draft proposal issued
- Meeting with tenants to discuss repairs required.

Covid 19 Initiatives:

Roscommon Community Response Forum:

As part of the Government's 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 individuals in Roscommon and to ensure delivery of targeted social care supports and assistance to vulnerable groups and individuals.

The Forum met twice in November and will continue to meet regularly to discuss and resolve matters utilising the expertise contained within this multi partnership team.

Community Support Response Helpline:

Roscommon County Council in partnership with An Garda Siochana and Roscommon Leader Company have set up a 24 hour Freephone community support response help line to assist in the delivery of targeted social care supports and assistance to vulnerable groups and individuals. During the month of November, 12 calls were received.

Arts Office

Literature

'Autumn Leaves' broadsheet circulated in Roscommon Herald 17th November (quantity 8,000). Poetry, Flash Fiction & Song Lyrics submitted by Roscommon writers.

Artists

- Ongoing payment of artist bursaries.
- Circulation of news and opportunities to relevant artist databases.
- 27th November **Tar Isteach Webinar** in partnership with Age & Opportunity, Galway City & Clare Local Authority Arts Offices and Artists working in Direct Provision & Culturally Diverse Contexts.
- Launch of Platform 31: A nationwide artist development & funding scheme by the 31 Local Authority Arts Offices, in collaboration with the Arts Council.

Music

- King House Piano Commission 2020/21 awarded to composer Ryan Molloy to be performed with Roscommon musicians at Boyle Arts Festival July 2021.
- **Music Generation Roscommon** programmes for schools and evening classes in hubs county-wide. Online and offline.

Film

Savage Productions and Hail Mary Pictures filming The Cellar from 16th November to 18th December 2020. Aras an Chontae, Ballyleague, Strokestown, Boyle, Castlerea. **WRAP** funded.

Artist in Schools

Programme will be delivered to 30 classes in 18 schools by 13 artists across the county November 2020 – June 2021 through a combination of 10-week physical and virtual workshops with children from Junior Infants to 6th Class.

Roscommon County Youth Theatre

Online programme of workshops ongoing. Development of new website.

Creative Ireland

- Development of King House Exhibitions including Young Visitor Programme 2021.
- Recoupment of Creative Ireland funding – total for 2020 €182,121.
- Current Open Call Projects being delivered by communities/artists:

- Laura Early Publication **Roscommon's Mosaic Tradition**
- Brothers of Charity **Connections** Fotofit Camera Club Photography & Postcard project, Boyle & Ballaghderreen

Roscommon Arts Centre

The arts centre had to once again close to the public under Level 5 Restrictions & the work of cancelling and/or re-scheduling performance and refunding customers once again began.

Visual Art Programme

In advance of this, artist Paul Hallahan's exhibition "Running, Returning, Running" was installed and opened in the gallery space. Visual Art Writer in Residence Joanne Laws also produced an essay responding to the show.

As lockdown was announced a virtual tour of this exhibition and an online version of the essay were produced and are available to watch via the arts centre's website.

Creative Ireland Residencies: Two artists: Mintesinot Getachew (Dance) and Leonora Neary (Music) commenced three month residencies on site at the centre – these residencies now continue off-site with supports being provided to both artists at this time by staff.

Fregoli Theatre Company Residency: The final phase of Fregoli Theatre Company's residency got underway in October when they commenced a re-imagined Professional Development Strand. The company also launch "Home for Christmas" a virtual presentation responding to what Christmas means to people, which will be developed following an open call to the public to share their Christmas memories with the company. Coupled with this, Fregoli have begun the rehearsal period for their new play in development "Cross Street" which will be recorded in November for a virtual presentation.

Artist Supports: A planned residency by artist Cathal Cleary & Mommo Theatre Company has been deferred with Arts Council approval until 2021, along with Julie Dharkey's planned presentation of "An Ant Called Amy". A third artist the centre is supporting in 2020, Ronan Brady is continuing work on a short virtual dance/circus performance: "Not So Ros-common" which will be released later this year.

Mid-term Programme: To co-incide with the mid-term break, Roscommon Arts Centre once again shared daily art and craft activities for families to undertake via Facebook.

Arts Council 2021 Application: The Arts centre submitted a substantial funding application to the Arts Council for 2021. An application for €330,000 was made to the Arts Council to support this ambitious new programme of work in response to the Council's callout for venues to re-imagine their spaces next year and make provision to support artists & engage with the public in new ways in 2021. The application includes a substantial visual art programme, with supporting education and engagement elements, a reduced performance programme, increased supports for artists, year two of a residency by Fregoli Theatre Company and a new full-length in-house production by the company and a number of community focused initiatives around the county. Provision has also been made in this application to commission a number of visual artists for the 2022 programme.