



Comhairle Contae
Ros Comáin
Roscommon
County Council



MANAGEMENT REPORT



OCTOBER 2020

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

	EXPENDITURE		INCOME		NET
	Expenditure Incurred up to 31/10/2020	Adopted Full Year Budget	Income Receivable up to 31/10/2020	Adopted Full year Budget	Actual Overall Surplus/ (Deficit)
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing & Building	5,386,401	6,640,134	6,450,431	7,294,094	1,064,030
Road Transport & Safety	17,879,746	24,288,076	8,818,533	17,645,706	(9,061,213)
Water Services	5,328,688	7,639,343	5,160,233	7,510,258	(168,455)
Development Management	10,765,647	7,126,358	9,082,251	1,631,071	(1,683,397)
Environmental Services	4,570,777	6,001,605	417,849	937,131	(4,152,928)
Recreation & Amenity	3,150,588	4,126,824	546,249	607,634	(2,604,339)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	418,061	679,748	236,421	258,556	(181,640)
Miscellaneous Services	6,017,735	4,785,214	3,721,282	1,932,252	(2,296,453)
Central Management Charges	1,059,854	0	82,255	0	(977,599)
Local Government Fund/General Purpose Grant	0	0	9,014,675	10,817,200	9,014,675
Pension Levy	0	0	0	0	0
Rates	0	0	10,395,180	12,653,400	10,395,180
	54,577,497	61,287,301	53,925,358	61,287,301	(652,139)

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 October 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	12,474,216	878,902	87,808	12,865,675	8,581,550	4,284,125	51,319	67%	75%
Rents & Annuities	474,828	4,289,827		(4,755)	4,769,410	4,251,228	518,182		89%	92%
Housing Loans	120,379	185,061			305,440	196,846	108,594		64%	74%

Recourse to Overdraft;

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

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Forward Planning

Work associated with the impending drafting of the *Roscommon County Development Plan 2021-2027* continued in October. A tender brief was prepared and advertised on e-Tenders seeking to engage consultants to prepare a *Housing Needs Demand Assessment (HNDA)*, which is a statutory requirement in preparing the Plan.

Meetings took place with Members in each of the three Municipal Districts (Boyle, Athlone and Roscommon on 20th, 21st and 27th October respectively), in advance of Members formal consideration, on 12th November, of the previously circulated *Chief Executive's Report* on submissions received during the pre-draft public consultation period. A range of issues and themes which arose through the public consultation process were highlighted at the meetings.

Development Management and Planning Enforcement Activity

The table below summarises Development Management activity in October. A total of 41 valid applications were received. Decisions issued on 31 planning applications, of which 27 were grants of permission (6 were for retention permission).

Development Management Statistics

Period	Activity	Roscommon North	Roscommon South	Totals
October 2020	Valid app	20	21	41
	Extension of Duration	0	0	0
	DED	5	3	8
	Pre-planning meeting	8	14	22

Enforcement Activity

Period	Activity	Countywide Totals
October 2020	New enforcement case	8
	General letter	7
	Warning letter	6
	Enforcement notice	2
	Closed case	3
	Legal proceedings	1

Unfinished Housing Developments (UHD)

Development activity continued on a number of unfinished housing developments in October. Developers were on site in six developments – three in Roscommon town and one each in Monksland, Frenchpark and Tarmonbarry. Contractors engaged by Roscommon County Council were also on sites, undertaking various site remediation works in five developments in Roscommon (1), Boyle (2) and Ballyleague (2). As part of the preliminary stage of the Taking in Charge process, schedules for two developments, Lakeview Heights in Boyle and Lisacul Park, Lisacul, were referred to Irish Water.

ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT PROMOTION

Local Enterprise Office:

- **Trading On Line Vouchers (TOVs):**
A total of 199 applications for TOVs were approved year to date. (A total of 190 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 11th November. 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.
- **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.
- **Training:** The Autumn training programme is nearing completion with the exception of Brexit Customs workshops. A Quotation Document was prepared and Quotations sought for 2021 training. The closing date was 27th October.
- **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 has commenced in remote format with 8 of the 9 second level schools in the county engaging. Abbey Community College, Boyle, is taking part in Enterprise Encounter and the LEO has provided the requested support (this is where small groups of students pay a visit to businesses in the Boyle area, abiding by Covid-19 regulations).
- **National Women's Enterprise Day:** This Event took place remotely as a Nationally Event on the 14th October. It is an initiative driven by Local Enterprise Office Roscommon, along with 30 other Local Enterprise Offices around the country. National Women's Enterprise Day showcased stories, experiences and insights from Ireland's women-led companies and drew attention to the enterprise supports that are available locally. An Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Leo Varadkar T.D., delivered the opening address. The Event was supported by Enterprise Ireland, the Local Authorities & the Government of Ireland.
- **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.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT

Healthy Ireland

- Confirmation that Pobal have accepted all requested changes made to our Healthy Ireland Fund Programme of Work.
- Healthy Ireland Community Mental Health Small Grants Scheme was launched. 23 applications were received. €30,000 available from allocation under this scheme.
- New national 'Keep Well' Campaign launched. 'Keep Well' webpage added to Roscommon County Council's website highlighting local resources and initiatives.

LEADER:

- Article 48 checks are ongoing
- 3 LEADER claims paid in October
- LEADER Funding for Q3 and Q4 2020 was paid to RIDC.

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

- No meeting held in October 2020

CLÁR

- 3 CLÁR projects paid under CLÁR 2019
- Inspections ongoing for CLÁR 2019 projects.

Community Enhancement Programme – Round One

- The department allocation for this round 1 CEP scheme is €56,000
- All funding has been allocated to the successful community groups with an acceptance deadline of the 16th of October, 2020.

Community Enhancement Programme 2020 Fund for Community Centres and Community Buildings

- The department allocation for this CEP scheme aimed at community centres and community buildings is €113,318.
- All funding has been allocated to the successful community groups with an acceptance deadline of the 16th of October, 2020.

Social Inclusion

Age Friendly Programme:

- Online Age Friendly Media Training attended.
- Follow on online Meeting with OPC held – OPC have agreed to transition under the LA on a trial basis – Draft TOR being drawn up.
- Realignment of Age Friendly Info. on RCC Website as part of overall o Re-Promotion AF Programme

Integration Strategy

- Tender/Quotation Document finalised and forwarded to Consultants – Closing date for receipt of quotations 1st December 2020.
- Online Integration Training Workshop attended x 3 – Workshop ran by RLP as Lead Partner agency of the PROMISE Project.

Social Inclusion Awareness Week 2020

- Online Applications received and assessed; No. 12 projects supported to date.

Bike Week 2020

- Claim Form submitted to DTTAS for €4,163

SICAP

- Payment for Q4 2020 and VAT Jan-June 2020 paid to RIDC
- SICAP ESF Financial Claim for 2018 and 2019 returned.

Pride of Place 2020

- Waiting on details from Co-Operation Ireland in regard to Awards.

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):

A recoupment claim was submitted to the Department of Housing Local Government & Heritage for projects carried out under this scheme in 2020.

County Roscommon Swift Survey: 40 localities (towns and villages) in the county were surveyed. 117 active Swift nest sites were confirmed. The main Swift populations were found to exist in Roscommon Town with 44 active nests confirmed followed by Boyle and Ballaghaderreen with 14 and 12 respectively.

The key to ensuring a future for Swifts in the county is to protect existing colonies which act as a source population. To ensure this happens it is important to encourage individual communities to take ownership and responsibility for their local Swifts and to carry out the required actions to protect them into the future.

Full details of the report can be found on <http://www.roscommoncoco.ie/en/Services/Community/Heritage/Biodiversity-Publications/Roscommon-Swift-Survey/>

Creative Ireland Funding:

‘The Guided Tour’ series: the Elphin Windmill video has gone for final edit.

The Táin March: 7 schools are working away on their ‘virtual’ Táin March project. A celebration of the Táin March Festival took place on <https://www.facebook.com/TheTainMarch> on 31st October - as Halloween is the time of year when the story is set.

Heritage Council Funding:

Two projects ongoing under this funding are:

1. **Field Monument Advisor for farming Rathcroghan EIP:** project progressing.
2. **Conservation Specifications for Masonry Ruins:** Project progressing.

Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage:

Built Heritage Investment Scheme: Projects are progressing.

Historic Structures Fund: Projects are progressing.

July Stimulus Funding - HSF/BHIS Additional Funding: Projects are progressing.

July Stimulus Funding – Community Monuments Fund 2020: 5 applications from the county were successful with a total value of €65,356.00. These are progressing. The projects are:

- Vegetation clearance and ivy treatment at Rahara Medieval Church in Rahara Graveyard
- Vegetation clearance and ivy treatment at Owen O’Conor Mausoleum, Ballintubber Graveyard
- Conservation Report and specification and schedule of works for Elphin Cathedral
- Kiltreevan Graveyard Committee for Conservation works to Kiltreevan Medieval Church.
- Conjectural reconstruction drawings for 8 sites and monuments around the county.

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:** Draft No 1 of website received – TEAMS liaison with FI Consultants to agree design. Photographs of King House and Boyle cycleway received
- **Fáilte Ireland** – TEAMS Tourism Officer Meeting for IHH
- **Greenways potential** – Meeting date to be agreed with BnM.

County Projects:

- **Tourism Trade Networking (IHH)** – Task Force Destination Town meeting. 60% of businesses opened in 2020 season. Increase in domestic tourists to IHH for July/August
- **2020 Festival and Events:** Ballaghaderreen & Strokestown Christmas Markets approved for Fáilte Ireland Festival funding. Due to Level 5 these have now been both cancelled.
- **Social Media:** continuing on twice weekly basis.
- **Outdoor Recreation: (2020 scheme):** 6 applications submitted under Measure 1 – Awaiting response. Measure 2 – meeting on site in Mote Park with RRO to review path and need for wayfinding.
- **Outdoor Recreation: (2019 scheme):** Claims on 4 projects under Measure 1 submitted to Dept.
- **Roscommon Walks Video** – Walks video to complement the Book Launched – large Social Media interest and Shannonside interview

King House

- Closed for the winter period
- Pest control works completed
- Artist Studios/Toilets – Initial design drafted
- Reinterpretation – Shane Forsythe onsite visit to house arranged for early November with draft proposal to follow.

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 October 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 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 October, 20 calls were received.

Arts Office

Literary Bursaries & Awards

Writer Mentoring Scheme awarded to two Roscommon writers.

Artists

- Ongoing payment of artist bursaries.
- Circulation of news and opportunities to relevant artist databases including work opportunities as crew with *The Cellar* feature film on location in Roscommon.

Music

King House Piano Commission 2020/21 announced – 19 applications received from composers & pianists.

Film

Savage Productions and Hail Mary Pictures are currently setting up in County Roscommon to produce a new feature film *The Cellar* – a haunted house horror in which a guilt ridden mother searches for her missing daughter but realises in doing so she is risking her family's soul to an ancient evil. Shoot dates are from 16th November to 18th December 2020.

Festivals

'Agents of Change' networking and training for festival committees in partnership with Galway County & City Councils.

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.

Music Generation Roscommon

Programmes for schools and evening classes in hubs county-wide. Online and offline.

Creative Ireland

- Development of King House Exhibitions including *Hidden Gem* Erwin Springbrunn and Connaught Rangers
- History Ireland Hedge School Podcast in association with County Roscommon Historical & Archaeological Society. 'The West's Awake – Revolution in Roscommon 1916-2021' <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/history-ireland/id1503109266>

Roscommon Arts Centre

The arts centre had to once again close to the public under Level 3 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 coincide 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: In October 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.