



Comhairle Contae
Ros Comáin
Roscommon
County Council



MANAGEMENT REPORT

APRIL 2022

Roscommon County Council
Revenue Account Income & Expenditure Summary by Service Division
Management Accounts Summary to
30th April 2022

	EXPENDITURE		INCOME		NET
	Expenditure Incurred up to 30/04/2022	Adopted Full Year Budget	Income Receivable up to 30/04/2022	Adopted Full year Budget	Actual Overall Surplus/ (Deficit)
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing & Building	1,977,285	7,912,319	2,221,569	8,204,123	244,285
Road Transport & Safety	4,031,734	27,651,100	1,820,877	20,614,583	(2,210,856)
Water Services	1,379,200	7,543,881	2,051,503	7,503,821	672,303
Development Management	1,360,959	7,235,048	1,165,734	2,079,655	(195,226)
Environmental Services	1,147,610	5,964,033	115,909	961,143	(1,031,702)
Recreation & Amenity	903,218	4,216,889	326,452	554,668	(576,766)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	71,170	818,316	24,154	257,927	(47,016)
Miscellaneous Services	1,760,628	5,261,757	804,889	2,892,172	(955,738)
Central Management Charges	3,449,252	0	241,074	0	(3,208,179)
Local Government Fund/General Purpose Grant	0	0	3,608,584	10,825,200	3,608,584
Pension Levy	0	0	0	0	0
Rates	0	0	4,196,739	12,710,052	4,196,739
	16,081,056	66,603,343	16,577,484	66,603,343	496,428

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 April 2022

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	1,232,568	12,590,218	551,951	356,846	12,913,989	5,125,075	7,788,915	36,653	40%	39%
Rents & Annuities	370,508	1,786,117			2,156,625	1,724,942	431,683		80%	81%
Housing Loans	136,487	89,623			226,111	95,698	130,413		42%	36%

Recourse to Overdraft;

There has been no recourse to overdraft during the month of April 2022

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Forward Planning

Following the making of the *Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028* at a Special Meeting of the Council on March 8th 2022 and the subsequent statutory notification of this to the Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR), a letter of acknowledgement of the adoption of the Plan was received from the OPR on April 4th 2022. In accordance with Section 12(17) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), the Plan came into effect “6 weeks from the day that it was made” and therefore came into effect on April 19th 2022.

Development Management and Planning Enforcement Activity

The table below summarises Development Management activity in April. A total of 30 valid planning applications were received. Decisions issued on 42 planning applications, of which 34 were grants of permission.

Development Management Statistics

Period	Activity	Roscommon North	Roscommon South	Totals
April 2022	Valid app	12	18	30
	Extension of Duration	0	0	0
	DED	0	2	2
	Pre-planning meeting	2	8	10

Enforcement Activity

Period	Activity	Countywide Totals
April 2022	New enforcement case	11
	General letter	4
	Warning letter	5
	Enforcement notice	0
	Closed case	4
	Legal proceedings	0

Unfinished Housing Developments (UHD)

Development activity was on-going in a total of 9 unfinished housing developments around the county in April. Contractors engaged under RCC's Framework were involved in site resolution works in eight developments (all of which were in the Boyle Municipal District), while a developer was also at work on an unfinished development in Boyle.

As part of the process of progressing developments to being considered for taking in charge, schedules for six developments were referred to Irish Water. Five of the developments are in the Boyle Municipal District - Goldsmith Drive (Elphin), Convent Garden (Elphin), Timber Drive, (Strokestown), Grange Manor (Tulsk) and Erris View, Boyle.

The sixth of the schedules referred to Irish Water pertains to an older, unnamed development in Barrymore, in the Athlone Municipal District.

ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT PROMOTION

Local Enterprise Office:

- **Trading On Line Vouchers (TOVs):** 12 applications have been received and approved to-date. Clients who received TOV approval in 2021 and whose deadline date is approaching are being followed up. Remote Trading Online Voucher Information Seminars are held regularly, with booking accepted via the LEO website. The next Remote Trading Online Voucher Information Seminar is on 19th of May 2022.
- **Evaluation & Approvals Meeting:** The first meeting for 2022 was held on Friday, 25th February. Four applications were before the committee and all were approved for funding. The next Evaluation Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday 27th May.
- **Green for Micro Scheme:** The Green for Micro helps small businesses become more environmentally friendly and sustainable by providing advice and technical support covering topics such as resource efficiency, understanding carbon footprint and implementing an environmental management system. LEO Roscommon has processed 3 applications in 2022.
- **Technical Assistance for MicroExporters** helps small businesses expand into export markets by assisting with the costs of exhibiting at international trade shows. LEO Roscommon has processed 4 applications in 2022.
- **Microfinance:** Post MFI Mentoring is on-going with 1 client from last year. We have completed mentoring for 1 client over April, Bringing the total to 3. We have also sent in 2 applications to MFI at the beginning of April. Work continues on the promotion of this source of finance on social Media and via mentoring clinics.
- **Training:** The 1st tranche of training to support the business community is underway and places are in demand and training is well attended. A total of 304 participants have been facilitated between January and April 2022.
- **Local Enterprise Week:** Took place virtually between 7th – 11th March. 21 events were held to mark the event, including 12 national Spotlight events and 9 Roscommon events. 124 people participated in the local Roscommon events and 36 Roscommon participants attended spotlight events.
- **Remote Mentoring:** Remote Business Advice Clinics were held in January, February, March & April. 94 clients in total have been facilitated through Business Advisory Clinics and One to One Mentoring via Submit.com.
- **REBOOT Training Programme (RTP)** is a co-operative collaboration between Local Action Groups and Local Enterprise Offices in Mayo, Roscommon and Sligo. It will ensure consistency, flexibility, stimulation and activation of tailored training needs and skills development and will run for 18 months. 3 courses have now commenced. Training has been delivered to 108 businesses as part of the programme and a Digitalisation Networking event is being organised for May 12th.
- **Enquiries:** Appropriate support provided on an ongoing basis. 163 enquires were logged in total between January and April 2022.

- **Student Enterprise Programme:** The closing date for receipt for all submissions to the National Final was Thursday 7th April. Roscommon has 4 entries submitted for national judging. The winners of all prize categories as well as the top 5 teams in each of the junior, inter and senior categories will be announced during a virtual event on May 3rd. The 15 shortlisted teams will pitch at a live event on Wednesday 18th May at The Helix in Dublin.
- **National Enterprise Awards:** The County Enterprise Awards Ceremony took place on Friday March 11th, marking the last event of Local Enterprise Week. Studio Meala were announced as the overall winners with Lark Bridal and Rita Oates Artist announced as Special Merit Award winners. The judging for the National Enterprise Awards is scheduled for 5th May and the National awards ceremony will be held in a gala event at the Mansion House, Dublin on June 2nd.
- **Promotion:** All LEO supports were promoted on the LEO website and on various social media platforms.
- **Sites at Ballyboughan:** One site is under consideration at Ballyboughan and 3 sites remain for sale in Castlerea.
- **Just Transition:** Feasibility studies are being carried out for 2 JTF projects.
- **EI:** LW continues to work with Meabh Conaghan, the new West Region Manager. Noeleen Hussey has been appointed as a Regional Executive with EI and has joined the LEO Projects Evaluation Committee
- **IDA:** LW is keeping the line of communication open between IDA, CE & Senior Management of RCC in the hope of encouraging FDI to Roscommon. LEO has referred 3 clients to the IDA to purchase sites at the racecourse Road.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT

Healthy Ireland

- Final HIF Grant Claims being processed and submitted to the Dept.

LEADER

- 10 payments for LEADER grants made in April 2022
- Article 48 checks are ongoing

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

- No LCDC Meeting took place in April 2022.

CLÁR

- **CLÁR 2020**
Work is ongoing with 2 Community Groups as they submit their drawdowns on their projects for CLÁR 2020 funded projects. 5 projects completed and paid in full.
- **CLÁR 2021**
7 Projects totalling €269,412 was granted funding under CLÁR 2021. Work is in progress to get procurement submitted.
- **CLÁR 2022**
CLÁR 2022 had been advertised with a closing date for receipt of applications on 14th April 2022. Projects being adjudicated

SICAP

- SICAP Q2 Payment was made to RIDC in April 2022

Communities Activities Fund (CAF):

- On the 6th of April, an email issued to the grants subcommittee of the LCDC with the 137 applications for consideration under the terms and guidelines of the scheme.
- Post assessment the following were approved:
 - **Operation Costs (61 proposed applications) = €162,923.00**
 - 49 applications less than 1k & >1k make up applications for operation costs only
 - 1 application from < 1k applied for both operation and capital.
 - * 11 applied for both capital and operation in > 1k
 - **Small scale capital grant of €1,000 or less (19 applications (18 capital only and 1 application for both elements)) = €17,582.30**
 - **Capital grant in excess of €1,000 = €86,096.70**
 - (34 applications (23 capital only & 11 both elements))

- Total applications funded under all elements of the scheme = 114 applications (102 groups) (please note this figure includes 12 applications that are being funded under both capital and operation costs.)
- On the 12th of April an email issued to the LCDC with the full list of approved projects and on the 14th of April an email issued to the Councillors with approved listings.

Social Inclusion Unit

Misc:

- Autism Awareness Day Event held in conjunction with Roscommon CBS
- Final Bike Week 2022 Event Schedule submitted to Dept. of Transport

Tidy Towns and Amenity Grants Scheme 2022

- Tidy Towns & Amenity Grant Scheme 2022 closed on 31st March 2022
- A total of **84** applications were received of which **80** were deemed eligible.
- A list of Recommended Allocations was approved at April Council Meeting
- Letters of Grant Offer issued

Pride of Place 2022

The County Roscommon Pride of Place Competition 2022 was advertised with a closing date of 28th April 2022.

Heritage

Royal Sites of Ireland World Heritage Bid:

- Royal Sites Working Group met 2 x times in April. We also had the second of two meetings with the Tentative List Technical Group (TLTG) which is an expert advisory group established by the Department to advise on Tentative List applications. At this meeting we gave the TLTG a comprehensive presentation on the Royal Sites of Ireland World Heritage bid. Steering group meeting scheduled for 20.05.22 at which we need DoS attendance.

Farming Rathcroghan EIP Community Archaeology Programme:

- John Cronin & Associates have been approved for appointment to deliver archaeological services to the project for 2022-2023.

Built Heritage Investment Scheme:

- BHIS2022: 13 x projects were approved by the department for funding of €96K. Letters of acceptance of offer are coming back in

Local Biodiversity Action Fund (LBAF):

- A total funding offer of €47,714 has been secured under this scheme for 5 projects as follows:
 1. Treatment of Japanese Knotweed awarded in 2021 for € 18,826 to be delivered by MDs & Area Offices
 2. Quagga Mussel project to the amount of €3,371 in association with UCD
 3. Bird Survey of Carrowbehy Bog to the amount of €9,282 in association with BirdWatch Ireland
 4. Pollinator Awareness Actions to the amount of € 7,990
 5. County Actions for Swifts to the amount of € 8,245 in association with BirdWatch Ireland

Community Monuments Fund:

5 x projects were submitted to the department. 3 were successful:

- Ballintubber Heritage Group for Ballintober Castle Conservation Project allocated €85,000.00.
- Oran-Ardkieran Cemetery Committee for a Conservation Management Plan for Oran cemetery allocated €17,416.80.
- Elphin Area Community Enterprise Ltd for Elphin Windmill rethatching & video project allocated €29,341.30
- Letters of offer have been issued.

County Heritage Plan Funding:

- Projects underway.

Táin March / Táin Tapestry 2022:

- The Táin Tapestry will be exhibited in Áras an Chontae in June 2022. The Táin March Festival will reach Roscommon on 25 & 26th June. Awaiting further details on these.

Rahara Ruined Church Conservation project:

- Works are completed, awaiting final reports for submission to the national Monuments Service.

'Rathra A Royal Stronghold of Early Medieval Connacht' by Joe Fenwick:

- Book launch took place on 22nd April in Rathcroghan Visitor Centre.

Aleen Cust Commemorations 2022:

- Project planning continues. Local participants are being contacted to take part in the conference & podcast series

Heritage Research Bursary 2022:

- The offer of the bursary has been made to Jacqueline Towey who is undertaking a two-year part time course 2020/22 - MA Local History in the University Limerick / Mary Immaculate College. Her research topic is the Quaker Settlement of Ballymurray, 1716-1850.

County Roscommon Heritage Forum:

- Meeting 1 of 4 for 2022 took place on 27.04.22

Heritage Officer Network Meeting:

- Attended the first in person meeting on over 2 years in Carlow on 07.04.22

Tourism

Regional Projects:

- **IHH** – online meeting re Plans for summer 2022

County:

- **The Best of Roscommon Tourism Trade Fair** – was held on the 9th April in King House Boyle. Over 20 Tourism Trade operators hosted stalls at the event and a video of the event was completed by Spicy Dog Media. The event was open to the public and Shannonside held an outdoor broadcast.
- **Hodson Bay** – SLR consultants Feasibility Study ongoing
- **Award Video production** – for Roscommon Tourism video 2022 to Spicy Dog media
- **Suck Valley Conference** – Attendance & presentation to Suck Valley Conference on *“Rural regeneration post pandemic: the challenges and opportunities to unlocking our potential”*
- **Boardwalk on Lough Ree at Ballyleague Feasibility study** - Team Meeting with Key Stakeholders
- **Clondra/Richmond Harbour/Tarmonbarry** – online Meeting re feasibility with WWI

Destinations Town

- Pleasure grounds works nearing completion and quotes for electronic signage sought.
- Public Art Commission Call to be issued through RCC Arts office.

King House

- Opened for summer season 2022 on Good Friday 15th April 2022 and open 6 days for May and 7 days/week for June, July and August
- Works ongoing on the upgrade of the CRA exhibition

ORIS

- 7 applications were submitted under **Measure 1 of ORSI 2022** to DCRC
- **Measure 3 2021** – The Arigna Energy Discover park E tenders notice was issued for Landscape architect to carry out the works.
- **Measure 3 2022** – Application being prepared with Rathcroghan

Arts Office

Arts Plan 2022-2027

- Review & Planning

Roscommon County Youth Theatre

- Weekly workshops at Roscommon Arts Centre.

Music Generation Roscommon

- Ongoing schools & hubs programmes.

Artist in Schools

- Term 3.

Platform 31 National Artist Bursary Programme

- One artist per county

Bealtaine

- Planning for festival for the month of May which celebrates creativity as we age.

Creative Ireland Culture & Creativity Strategy 2023-2027

- Review & Planning

Creative Roscommon

- 17 Open Call projects ongoing by communities in collaboration with creatives. 17 Culture Team projects ongoing.

Roscommon Music Teaching Residency

- 15 older participants learning with Cathy Jordan & 'The Unwanted' in partnership with Music Network at King House January to May 2022: Creative Ireland

An Táin Tapestry

- Featured on RTE Six One News, launched at An Táin Arts Centre Dundalk. 5 tapestries from 5 counties with Roscommon project led by artist Frances Crowe.

International Fibre Art Festival

- At Roscommon Arts Centre & King House managed by Frances Crowe.

Cruinniú na nÓg

- Planning for June 11th festival

Decade of Centenaries

- 7 Open Call Community projects ongoing. 3 Culture Team projects ongoing.

The Local Live Performance Programming Scheme 2022

- First event in April, Music the Square as part of by Easter Parade Festival.
- 7 Event Partners preparing for 24 events in May and June. Coordinated by Arts Office. Funded by Dept TCAGSM.

Capital Programmes

- In collaboration with Regeneration & Tourism
- RRDF – Reimagining Exhibitions & Visitor Experience at King House Boyle
- Destination Town – King House & Pleasure Grounds Public Art Commissions
- Outdoor Public Space Scheme – Somers Park Castlerea
- Town & Village – Knockcroghery Public Art Commission
- ORIS – Ballyleague
- ORIS – Arigna
- Roscommon Town Square & Laneways

Roscommon Arts Centre

Performances

- Sixteen performances took place during April *at the arts centre and this included the return of the Roscommon drama Group Bookworms, Emma Langford and the Evolution Stage School performances of LET'S CELEBRATE.*

Visual Art

- *Laura Earley's exhibition The Mart Project, Stories from A Community ended in April. Interconnections - a biennale exhibition of hand woven, contemporary, fine art tapestries from Ireland and Scotland, curated by Frances Crowe and Joan Baxter opened at end April to public. This is the fourth collaboration between the two countries.*

Creative Learning

- The over 50's programme re-commenced at the arts centre, with weekly opportunities for the public to engage. Drama workshop *Act Your Age* with Julie Sharkey for the over 50's and *Elderberries* with Catherine Donnelly commenced in April.
- The workshop space is once again becoming a hive of activity with local groups including Roscommon Youth Theatre, Cor Comain and Tai chi classes now taking place weekly in the space.