



Comhairle Contae  
Ros Comáin  
Roscommon  
County Council



# MANAGEMENT REPORT

## FEBRUARY 2022

**Roscommon County Council**  
**Revenue Account Income & Expenditure Summary by Service Division**  
**Management Accounts Summary to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

	EXPENDITURE		INCOME		NET
	Expenditure Incurred up to 28/02/2022	Adopted Full Year Budget	Income Receivable up to 28/02/2022	Adopted Full year Budget	Actual Overall Surplus/ (Deficit)
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing & Building	824,436	7,912,319	1,118,216	8,204,123	293,780
Road Transport & Safety	1,744,454	27,651,100	131,719	20,614,583	(1,612,735)
Water Services	585,940	7,543,881	939,007	7,503,821	353,067
Development Management	460,428	7,235,048	709,199	2,079,655	248,771
Environmental Services	307,580	5,964,033	43,533	961,143	(264,047)
Recreation & Amenity	331,882	4,216,889	122,909	554,668	(208,973)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	13,364	818,316	11,174	257,927	(2,189)
Miscellaneous Services	559,187	5,261,757	333,777	2,892,172	(225,410)
Central Management Charges	1,545,897	0	104,039	0	(1,441,858)
Local Government Fund/General Purpose Grant	0	0	1,804,292	10,825,200	1,804,292
Pension Levy	0	0	0	0	0
Rates	0	0	2,106,188	12,710,052	2,106,188
	<b>6,373,167</b>	<b>66,603,343</b>	<b>7,424,054</b>	<b>66,603,343</b>	<b>1,050,887</b>

**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 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

<b>Debt Type</b>	<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>Accrued</b>	<b>Vacant Property Adjustments</b>	<b>Write Off/Waivers</b>	<b>Total for Collection</b>	<b>Collected</b>	<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>Specific Doubtful Arrears</b>	<b>% Collection</b>	<b>% Collection Previous Year</b>
<b>Commercial Rates</b>	1,234,087	12,637,128	279,251	20,456	13,571,509	2,345,567	11,225,941	41,098	17%	22%
<b>Rents &amp; Annuities</b>	370,508	889,313			1,259,821	820,610	439,211		65%	62%
<b>Housing Loans</b>	136,487	43,172			179,660	47,003	132,657		26%	21%

**Recourse to Overdraft;**

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

# PLANNING DEPARTMENT

## **Forward Planning**

As part of the final stage of the preparation of the new *Roscommon County Development Plan*, the *Chief Executive's Report on Submissions Received on the Proposed Material Alterations* was prepared and issued to Members on February 11<sup>th</sup>. The Report summarised the submissions received on the proposed Material Alterations during the public display period (which ran from December 7<sup>th</sup> 2021 to January 14<sup>th</sup> 2022) and contained the Chief Executive's recommendations to Members on the issues raised. The Report was provided to Members for informal consideration in advance of formal deliberations at a scheduled Special Meeting on March 8<sup>th</sup>.

## **Development Management and Planning Enforcement Activity**

The table below summarises Development Management activity in February. A total of 52 valid planning applications were received, which represented a significant increase on 38 valid applications received in January. Decisions issued on 27 planning applications, of which 22 were grants of permission.

### **Development Management Statistics**

<b>Period</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Roscommon North</b>	<b>Roscommon South</b>	<b>Totals</b>
<b>February 2022</b>	Valid app	26	26	<b>52</b>
	Extension of Duration	1	0	<b>1</b>
	DED	6	5	<b>11</b>
	Pre-planning meeting	4	9	<b>12</b>

### **Enforcement Activity**

<b>Period</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Countywide Totals</b>
<b>February 2022</b>	New enforcement case	5
	General letter	1
	Warning letter	3
	Enforcement notice	0
	Closed case	2
	Legal proceedings	0

### **Unfinished Housing Developments (UHD)**

Development activity was on-going in a total of 7 unfinished housing development sites around the county in February. Contractors engaged under RCC's Framework continued site resolution works in five developments (all of which were in the Boyle Municipal District), while developers were also at work in two developments (both of which were in Boyle).

Ten developments reached significant milestones in February. Of those, six reached the stage of works being satisfactorily completed to enable them to be referred to RCC's Roads Section as part of the Taking in Charge process, while a further four developments were Taken in Charge following resolutions at the Roscommon and Boyle Municipal District Meetings.

<b>Developments Referred to Roads for Taking in Charge</b>	
<b>Development</b>	<b>Municipal District</b>
Ard Cuinne, Monksland	Athlone
Cushla Grove, Monksland	
Abbeycourt, Frenchpark	Boyle
Unnamed development, Lisroyne, Strokestown	
Ard Castle, Castlerea	Roscommon
Slí na Sruthan, Ballintubber	

The developments which were Taken in Charge are Ard Ri and Castle Park in Roscommon town and Lisacul Manor and Lisacul Park in Lisacul.

## ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT PROMOTION

### Local Enterprise Office:

- **Trading On Line Vouchers (TOVs):** 8 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 10<sup>th</sup> of March 2022.
- **Evaluation & Approvals Meeting:** The first meeting for 2022 was held on Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> February. Four applications were before the committee and all were approved for funding.
- **Client Stimulus Scheme:** This Covid Support initiative was completed by 31st December 2021.
- **Microfinance:** 1 MFI application has been submitted in 2022 and was refused. Post MFI Mentoring is on-going with 2 clients from last year. There were 2 enquires in February, which brings to 4 overall to date. Work continues on the promotion of this source of finance on social media.
- **Training:** The 1<sup>st</sup> tranche of training to support the business community is underway and places are in demand and training is well attended. A total of 131 participants have been facilitated in January & February.
- **Local Enterprise Week:** Takes place virtually between 7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> March. 21 events are taking place to mark the event, including 12 national Spotlight events and 9 Roscommon events.
- **Remote Mentoring:** Four Business Advice Clinics were held in January & February. 30 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.
- **Enquiries:** Appropriate support provided on an ongoing basis. 97 enquires were logged in total for January & February 2022.
- **Student Enterprise Programme:** School finals have been completed and 28 teams have been selected to progress to county final judging level. Entries have also been submitted for the Junior, Intermediate competitions as well as the solo 'My Entrepreneurial Journey' competition. The virtual Co Final will be held on Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> March at 11.30am.
- **National Enterprise Awards:** The County Enterprise Awards Ceremony will take place on Friday March 11<sup>th</sup>, marking the last event of Local Enterprise Week.

- **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

- Partners are continuing to deliver health and wellbeing activities under the HIF. All activities and spend under HIF Round 3 must be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.
- LCDC Health & Wellbeing Committee held
- HI-Co-ordinators meeting attended.

## LEADER

- Article 48 checks are ongoing
- 9 payments for LEADER grants made in February 2022
- November LEADER Monthly Return was submitted on 15/02/2022

## Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

- There was no LCDC Meeting in February.

## CLÁR

- **CLÁR 2020**  
Work is ongoing with 3 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.

## SICAP

- SICAP Sub Committee met on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2022 to discuss the SICAP Annual Performance Review 2021.

## Communities Activities Fund (CAF):

- The Community Activities Fund (CAF) was announced by the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphries T.D. on the 11th November 2021.
- This €9m fund is being provided by the Government to support community and voluntary groups impacted by Covid-19, with €266,602 being allocated to Roscommon County Council.
- The **Community Activities Fund** is being administered under the existing Community Enhancement Programme (CEP), which is targeted towards enhancing facilities in disadvantaged communities.
- Roscommon County Council & Roscommon LCDC have been awarded €266,602.
- The LCDC at its December meeting agreed to the scheme being advertised as per application form.

- There are two elements to the scheme, capital and operating costs. A group can apply for either element or both. The scheme is operating as per the terms and guidelines of the CEP scheme.
- The Department requested that all LCDCs to do a major awareness / strong advertisement campaign regarding this fund by using all avenues currently available i.e. webpage, PPN, social media (Facebook, twitter etc.). This was complete by RCC at 17/12/2021.
- Adverts were placed in the local papers week commencing 3<sup>rd</sup> of January, 2022.
- The scheme was an online application and closed 1pm on the 11<sup>th</sup> of February. A total of 137 applications were received at the closing date under all elements of the scheme.
- On Tuesday February 1<sup>st</sup> a webinar was held in conjunction with Roscommon Leader Partnership(RLP) on this scheme. RCC and RLP jointly presented the scheme and provided a demonstration of the online application process. Attendance on the night was in excess of 42 community groups from around the county.
- An information session was provided to the three municipal districts by RCC during the month of February outlining the details of the scheme and requesting all members to reach out to community groups in their respective areas.

### **Social Inclusion Unit**

#### **Age Friendly Programme:**

- AF 2021 Budget Spend Survey Completed and returned to AF Ireland.
- AF Cultural Champions initiative planning meeting attended; initiative being rolled out in conjunction with the Arts Centre, Arts Office and Roscommon Volunteer Centre.
- Review of AF Strategy progressing.

#### **Roscommon Comhairle na nÓg:**

- Steering Committee Attended;
- Steering Committee Completed and returned Survey to the DECDIY on the next policy framework for children and young people

#### **Migrant Integration Strategy:**

2 No. progression meetings held with Exodea Consulting.

#### **Misc:**

- Application for funding in respect of Africa Day completed and submitted the Department of Foreign Affairs in conjunction with Athlone Women's Forum.
- Social Inclusion Measures/CYPSC Meeting attended.
- Sub-Group Meeting in respect of the Needs of the Slovakian/Roma Community attended

### **Tidy Towns and Amenity Grants Scheme 2022**

- Tidy Towns & Amenity Grant Scheme 2022 was advertised on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022 with a closing date of Thursday, 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

## Heritage

### **Royal Sites of Ireland World Heritage Bid:**

- Rathcroghan Visitor Centre have been appointed to prepare a baseline document and collate all available GIS data which will inform the attributes for the Outstanding Universal Value of the Rathcroghan complex.

### **Farming Rathcroghan EIP Community Archaeology Programme:**

- Project ongoing.

### **Historic Structures Fund & Built Heritage Investment Scheme:**

- HSF2022: 1 x application to the vernacular Stream was submitted to the department.
- BHIS2022: 13 x projects were recommended to the department for funding of €96K

### **Local Biodiversity Action Fund (LBAF):**

- Funding applications for 2022 were researched and prepared.

### **Invasive Alien Species Funding:**

- Funding allocated in 2021 for 2022 has been subsumed into the LBAF above. MDs & Area Offices were notified of the funding available and the recoupment deadline.

### **Community Monuments Fund:**

- 5 x applications were submitted to the Department.

### **County Heritage Plan Funding:**

- Waiting to hear back on 2022 applications.

### **Táin March / Táin Tapestry 2022:**

- Waiting to hear from Táin March Committee on plans for 2022. The Táin Tapestry is nearing completion and will be exhibited in Áras an Chontae in June 2022.

### **Rahara Ruined Church Conservation project:**

- Works are progressing well. Conservation Architect met Rahara Cemetery committee on site to showcase the works.

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

- Plans to Launch the book are on hold due to Covid restrictions.

### **Aleen Cust Commemorations 2022:**

- A meeting with the local community took place on 15.02.22, with thanks to Kepak Athleague. Attendees were invited to be part of the in the wider commemorations and it is hoped that a community event can take place in Athleague on Saturday 13th August, as part of National Heritage Week.

### **Know Your Locality Roscommon 2022:**

- This FREE online course was booked out and it took place over 5 evenings in February, delivered by the Irish Archaeological Field School.

### **Heritage and Biodiversity Actions for Climate Webinar Series:**

- This series of 4 x free one-hour webinars highlighting positive actions for climate from the heritage sector, brought to you by the Local Authority Heritage Officers Network. RCC Heritage Officer presented on the 4<sup>th</sup> webinar on 'Rahara Conservation and climate proofing through the Community Monuments Scheme', this presentation can be viewed on RCC YouTube  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LSi79T3mX9s&list=PLVOpe\\_K0eKszQ5S\\_zz7vla-b1-0\\_oQDc&index=4&t=1731s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LSi79T3mX9s&list=PLVOpe_K0eKszQ5S_zz7vla-b1-0_oQDc&index=4&t=1731s)

### **Heritage Research Bursary 2022:**

- The bursary was advertised and publicised with a closing date of 07.03.22

### **Tourism**

#### **Regional Projects:**

- **IHH** - Destination Task Force – upper Shannon meeting – held via TEAMS
- **IHH** - has extended to the full counties of Cavan, Offaly and Westmeath
- **Angling video** - Leitrim, Longford, Cavan and Roscommon county angling video being produced – funded by Waterways Ireland
- **Fáilte Ireland** - announcement of supports for Training and Staffing for 2022

#### **County:**

- **Hodson Bay** – SLR consultants Feasibility Study – draft one due in early March
- **Photographer** – Shuttermaniac have been procured for winter photos. Works 70% complete.

#### **Funding:**

#### **ORIS 2021 – Measure 1**

- Onsite meeting with Cavetown and Lough Errit to commence the Measure 1 projects

## **2022 Festival and Events Fund**

- Call for applications open until 4<sup>th</sup> March.

## **King House**

- Works for the upgrade of the Connaught Rangers and Erwin exhibition ongoing. These exhibitions will be open for the 2022 season.
- RRDF funding meeting with engineer to agree process

## **Arts Office**

### **Roscommon County Youth Theatre**

- Weekly workshops at Roscommon Arts Centre.

### **Music Generation Roscommon**

- Ongoing schools & hubs programmes. Concert at Roscommon Arts Centre, February 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **Artist in Schools**

- Term 2.

### **Artist Bursary Scheme**

- 43 applications.

### **Cultural Companions**

- Participants and Coordinators signed up – ongoing – in partnership with Roscommon Volunteer Centre, Arts Office, Arts Centre, Age Friendly

### **Creative Roscommon Open Call**

- Call for applications advertised by communities in collaboration with creatives - closing date 5<sup>th</sup> March.

### **Creative Ireland Culture & Creativity Strategy 2023-2027**

- Review & Planning

### **Roscommon Music Teaching Residency**

- With The Unwanted in partnership with Music Network at King House January to May 2022.

### **Cruinniú na nÓg**

- Planning for June 11th festival – targeted call to youth organisations and creatives in partnership with Local Creative Youth Partnership (LCYP) at GRET.B.

## **The Local Live Performance Programming Scheme 2022**

- Following a call for applications – proposals for eight events received and funding allocated. Events in May & June in Roscommon Arts Centre, Roscommon Easter Festival, Vaulted Stables @ Strokestown Park House, Moore Hall Ballydangan and Boyle (King House & Outdoor locations).

## **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

## **Roscommon Arts Centre**

### **Performances**

- Six performances took place during February at the arts centre, including the first by **Music Generation** Roscommon students. **“Sunday Sounds”** is a new collaboration between Roscommon Arts Centre and Music Generation, whereby the arts centre will host bi-monthly informal music afternoons for young performers at the centre, offering them opportunities to gain experience in performing live. The next concert will take place in April.

### **Visual Art**

- **“With Other Matter Part One”** the group show featuring the work of 14 Irish artists, including two Roscommon artists is continuing in the gallery space.
- The **“Gallery X: Ed”** visual art education programme for secondary school students with facilitators Andy Parsons and Maree Hensey also continued in tandem with the exhibition programme.

### **Artist Supports**

- The first **Pop-Up Artists Café** took place at the arts centre in February. This new bi-monthly joint arts centre/arts office initiative is open to artists working in all disciplines and is designed to facilitate networking opportunities, information sharing, pitching of projects and professional development.
- As a member of Nomad Theatre Network, Roscommon Arts Centre will co-produce and tour a major new production of **Patrick Kavanagh’s “Tarry Flynn”** which went into rehearsal in Dublin this month. The show opens in Cavan in March and will be presented in Roscommon Arts Centre on March 25 & 26.

## **Creative Learning**

- This month we launched two new visual art initiatives: 10 Minutes of Art and Gallery Days.

### **10 Minutes of Art**

- Is a new ten-minute guided tour/talk of the exhibition programme, which happens on a performance evening and is designed to engage with non-visual art audiences, introducing them to the gallery programme at the centre. The first such event coincide with Beeznee Theatre Company's performance and was attended by 14 people.

### **Gallery Days**

- Are family friendly days in the gallery especially for young families. These free engagements include age appropriate, informal guided tours of our exhibition programme and hands-on fun and engaging workshops responding to the work in the exhibitions. Suitable for families with children aged 6+ and facilitated by Marian Balfe, one such weekend event is planned for each the exhibitions in the curated programme for 2022.
- As part of the new Spring Programme a number of creative learning opportunities were announced this month including four opportunities aimed at older people in performance, dance, music and literature.