



Comhairle Contae
Ros Comáin
Roscommon
County Council



MANAGEMENT REPORT

JANUARY 2022

Roscommon County Council
Revenue Account Income & Expenditure Summary by Service Division
Management Accounts Summary to 31st January 2022

	EXPENDITURE		INCOME		NET
	Expenditure Incurred up to 31/01/2022	Adopted Full Year Budget	Income Receivable up to 31/01/2022	Adopted Full year Budget	Actual Overall Surplus/ (Deficit)
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing & Building	363,596	7,912,300	453,042	8,204,100	89,446
Road Transport & Safety	738,207	27,651,100	31,806	20,614,600	(706,402)
Water Services	288,743	7,543,900	303,921	7,503,800	15,178
Development Management	109,341	7,235,000	51,708	2,079,700	(57,633)
Environmental Services	107,813	5,964,000	164,013	961,100	56,200
Recreation & Amenity	123,632	4,216,900	42,796	554,700	(80,836)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	(18,098)	818,300	4,924	257,900	23,022
Miscellaneous Services	271,022	5,261,800	124,067	2,892,200	(146,955)
Central Management Charges	723,908	0	53,307	0	(670,601)
Local Government Fund/General Purpose Grant	0	0	0	10,825,200	0
Pension Levy	0	0	0	0	0
Rates	0	0	1,062,054	12,710,000	1,062,054
	2,708,164	66,603,300	2,291,637	66,603,300	416,527

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 January 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	471,872	12,744,649	143,137	1,701	13,071,683	327,159	12,744,523	45,486	3%	11%
Rents & Annuities	370,497	444,948			815,445	402,435	413,011		49%	46%
Housing Loans	135,724	22,242			157,966	24,296	133,670		15%	18%

Recourse to Overdraft;

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

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Forward Planning

Following a Special Meeting of the Council on 16th November 2021 at which Members formally considered the Draft Plan and the Chief Executive's Report, the *Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Roscommon County Development Plan* as agreed by Members were placed on public display from 7th December 2021 to 14th January 2022. A total of 25 submissions were received by the end of the period of consultation. The Forward Planning team worked during the remainder of January on the analysis of the submissions, in order to inform the preparation of the Chief Executive's Report on the submissions received.

Development Management and Planning Enforcement Activity

The table below summarises Development Management activity in January. A total of 38 valid planning applications were received. Decisions issued on 32 planning applications, of which 25 were grants of permission.

Development Management Statistics

Period	Activity	Roscommon North	Roscommon South	Totals
January 2022	Valid app	16	22	38
	Extension of Duration	0	0	0
	DED	1	0	1
	Pre-planning meeting	10	11	21

Enforcement Activity

Period	Activity	Countywide Totals
January 2022	New enforcement case	7
	General letter	22
	Warning letter	3
	Enforcement notice	0
	Closed case	7
	Legal proceedings	0

Unfinished Housing Developments (UHD)

Construction activity recommenced after the traditional Christmas holiday period, with work ongoing on a total of 10 sites around the county. Contractors engaged under either RCC's Framework or by bondholders were involved in site resolution works in seven developments (of which one was in the Athlone Municipal District and the remaining six were in the Boyle Municipal District). Developers were also at work in three developments (two in Boyle and one in Ballinlough).

Resolutions were passed at Roscommon and Boyle Municipal District meetings to take in charge four developments. The developments are Ard Ri and Castle Park (both in Roscommon) and Lisacul Manor and Lisacul Park in Lisacul.

ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT PROMOTION

Local Enterprise Office:

- **Trading On Line Vouchers (TOVs):** 7 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 first seminar for 2022 took place on 26th January. The next Remote Trading Online Voucher Information Seminar is on 10th of March 2022.
- **Evaluation & Approvals Meeting:** The first meeting for 2022 is scheduled for Friday, 25th February.
- **Client Stimulus Scheme:** This Covid Support initiative was completed by 31st December 2021.
- **Microfinance:** One application was received and sent to MFI in January. Work continues on the promotion of this source of finance.
- **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 **81** participants have been facilitated in January.
- **Local Enterprise Week:** Takes place virtually between 7th – 11th March. A schedule of Events is currently being organised, including a number at Spotlight events at national level.
- **Remote Mentoring:** Two Business Advice Clinics have been held in January with **13** clients attending in total. All bookings were taken via the LEO website online booking system. Applications for one to one mentoring have been moved to the Submit.com platform.
- **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. 63 enquires were logged in January 2022.
- **Student Enterprise Programme:** The schools are currently going through their selection process for entry to county final judging level. The County Final has been arranged as a virtual Event to be held on Monday, 14th March at 11.30 am.
- **National Enterprise Awards:** The County Enterprise Awards Ceremony will take place on Friday March 11th, 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:** 3 sites are 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 March 2022.
- No further updates on Strand 4 to date.
- No further updates on positing of HI-Co-ordinator to date.

LEADER

- Article 48 checks are ongoing
- 4 payments for LEADER grants made in January 2022
- October LEADER Monthly Return was submitted on 18/01/2022

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

- An online LCDC meeting took place on the 19th January 2022 via Microsoft Teams.

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

- Q1 Payment for SICAP was drawn down and payment for January and February forwarded to RIDC.

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 and 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 3rd of January, 2022.
- The scheme is an online application closing at 1pm on the 11th of February.

Social Inclusion Unit

Age Friendly Programme:

- Review of AF Strategy progressing – Workshop on Guidelines for Development of New Strategies attended.
- AF 2021 Programme Review completed and returned to AF Ireland.
- Online consultations held in respect of Creative Ireland Age Friendly Themed Initiatives held and attended by Programme Manager, OPN and Arts Officer – Regional Initiative to be developed and rolled out.
- Update on Programme sent to OPN Chair for discussion at January OPN Meeting.

Roscommon Comhairle na nÓg:

- Annual Report for 2021 Submitted to Pobal for Approval
- 2022 Funding Application submitted to Pobal for Approval
- SLA with Youth Work Ireland Midlands extended for 12 months

National Bike Week 2022:

- Webinar for 2022 event attended by C&E Staff and Reps from Roscommon Sports Partnership.
- 2022 Funding Application collated with Roscommon Sports Partnership and submitted to NTA for approval.

Migrant Integration Strategy:

- Introductory meeting with Consultants 'Exodea' held; Partners agencies in attendance also – RLP & CYPSC

Sports Development Officer:

- HOA with FAI agreed and signed off on for 2022

Disability Participation & Awareness Funding:

- The Council have been successful in its application under the Disability Participation and Awareness Funding and have been awarded an amount of €80k from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth
- These grant monies will be used to rollout a number of initiatives throughout various department and locations both in house and in the community.

Tidy Towns and Amenity Grants Scheme 2021

- All grant claims checked and grants paid.

Heritage

Royal Sites of Ireland World Heritage Bid:

- Working Group met on 18th January 2022 and are working to progress the specific technical recommendations of the Expert Advisory Group from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage National Monuments Service World Heritage Unit.

Farming Rathcroghan EIP Community Archaeology Programme:

- A funding application for 2022 has been submitted to the Heritage Council.

Historic Structures Fund & Built Heritage Investment Scheme

- HSF2022 & BHIS2022: Schemes have been advertised and promoted on RCC social media. Queries arising were dealt with. Deadline for applications of 28th January 2022. Applications are now being assessed

Local Biodiversity Action Fund (LBAF)

- This scheme was announced by the Department of Housing, Local Government & Housing on 31st January 2022.

Invasive Alien Species Funding:

- Funding allocated in 2021 for 2022 has been subsumed into the LBAF above.

Community Monuments Fund:

- CMF2022: Scheme has been announced is being promoted on RCC social media. Queries arising are being dealt with. 1 x application from RCC is under development.

County Heritage Plan Funding:

- A funding application has been submitted to the Heritage Council for 2022 projects.

Táin March 2021 – Roscommon Schools Óenach videos

- A playlist of the 3 x videos produced from the Roscommon Schools Óenach project has been added to RCC Youtube
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLVOpe_K0eKtcSpaiStbNaaogA5JsgYVP
and shared on RCC social media. These show-case the work of the 19 schools and celebrate the epic myths and hero tales associated with Rathcroghan and Roscommon.

Rahara Ruined Church Conservation project:

- Contractors are on site. Works are progressing well.

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

- Plans to Launch the book are in development.

Aleen Cust Commemorations 2022:

- The Aleen Cust Memorial Society, Galway County Council, Roscommon County Council, and Tipperary County Council are working in partnership with the Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology, Teagasc, Kepak Athleague and a number of schools and community groups to commemorate and to remember this very courageous and determined Irish woman. The proposed programme of events include a conference, play, book, exhibition, Transition Year Schools Programme, StoryMap, podcasts and videos. The local community is invited to be part of 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:

- The Heritage Office advertised ‘Know Your Locality’ a FREE online course that will take you step-by-step through the available online sources that will allow you to paint a picture of the geological, archaeological, and historical events that happened close to where you live. While the course will look at examples from throughout Ireland, it will focus on the geology, archaeology and history of the county of Roscommon. As such the course is aimed towards residents of Roscommon (who will be given preference for available course places) as well as enthusiasts of Roscommon’s natural and cultural heritage. This course was advertised and booked out in January and it will run during February.

Heritage and Biodiversity Actions for Climate Webinar Series:

- This is a series of 4 x free one-hour webinars every Thursday, starting on 27th January at 9.30am highlighting positive actions for climate from the heritage sector, brought to you by the Local Authority Heritage Officers Network. Topics will include nature-based solutions, adaptation of heritage structures, risk assessment and will focus on methods that we hope will ignite action for climate right across the country. The webinars are being added to a Playlist on RCC youtube https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLVOpe_K0eKszQ5S_zz7vla-b1-0_oQDc

Tourism

Regional Projects:

- **IHH:** feedback on IHH Strategy complete and submitted.
- **Upper & Mid Shannon Destination Taskforce Meetings** held via TEAMS
- **Tourism Officer** – Update on coming events via TEAMS with IHH Tourism officers

County:

- **Roscommon Tourism Network** - Meeting held via TEAMS on 3rd December. Many Businesses have taken on new innovative services as a response to COVID crisis. Cautious optimism for tourism in 2021 however concerns raised regarding staff shortages, rising inflation, cost insurance and potential additional restrictions.
- **Tourism Survey:** End of year survey sent out to all Tourism Trade providers for feedback on 2021 and planning for 2022.
- **Hodson Bay** – SLR consultants Feasibility Study ongoing.

Funding

ORIS 2020 – Measure 3

- Approval received for the Arigna Energy Discover Park under Measure 3 of ORIS €500,00

Destinations Town – Boyle

- Works ongoing. Reports to end 2021 submitted.

Outdoor Dining Fund:

- 3 further Claims funded by Fáilte Ireland (€5,521.70) and 6 claims have been approved for extension to 2022

2021 Festival and Events Fund

- Funding allocated to Aoife O'Rourke Homecoming, Suck Valley St Patrick Online Festival, Halloween in Strokestown House, Halloween in Lough Key, Strokestown Christmas Markets 2021, Lough Ree angling competition, Santa in Arigna and Roscommon Christmas Fair.

King House

- Works for the upgrade of the Connaught Rangers and Erwin exhibition ongoing.

Arts Office

Film

- WRAP II, Film Liaison & Creative Heartlands in partnership with LEO & Enterprise Ireland.

Roscommon County Youth Theatre

- Weekly workshops at Roscommon Arts Centre since Oct 4th for 2 age groups – each group now in 3 x pods of 6. Preparing for Street Performance at Roscommon Christmas Festival.

Artist in Schools in 14 schools Term 1.

Artist Bursaries including 5 new bursaries to artists working with older people in nursing homes, community and arts venues.

Cultural Companions – new initiative in partnership with Roscommon Volunteer Centre, Roscommon Arts Centre and Age & Opportunity

- To create local networks of people aged 50+ interested in arts and culture who will accompany each other to plays, films, shows, concerts, exhibitions and other events.

Creative Ireland

- Coordinate 18 projects via Culture Team: Arts Office, Arts Centre, Heritage Office, Tourism Office, Library. Ongoing grant payments. Manage Open Call Projects.

- Preparations for exhibition upgrades ongoing at King House under **Decade of Centenary** and **Creative Ireland** Programmes.
- Successful application to Dept TCAGSM for **Outdoor Public Space Scheme** for Somers Park, Castlerea Working with Regeneration Department and BDP Architects. Preparation for Part 8.
- Phase 2 of **Local Live Performance Programming Scheme** from Dept TCAGSM – allocation of funding to support performances by professional artists and crew at Christmas events at Strokestown Christmas Market, Strokestown Park House, Arigna Mining Experience, Trinity Arts Centre and Roscommon Arts Centre.
- Direct programming and delivery of very successful Gig Rig & Street Performances at Roscommon Christmas Festival 11th & 12th December and ‘From Opera to Trad’ at King House 19th December.

Roscommon Arts Centre

Performances

- Three performances took place at the centre in January, including the premiere of a new dance show “NASC” which received support in kind from Roscommon Arts Centre.

Visual Art

- Helen Hughes exhibition “**And Yes Daydreamer, Surrender**” continued in the gallery space. and the first exhibition of 2022 “With Other Matter Part One” a group show featuring the work of 14 Irish artists, including two Roscommon artists, that were selected through an Open Call by curator Naomi Draper. The new exhibition was marked with the first physical exhibition opening at the centre in almost 2 years.
- The “Gallery X:Ed” visual art education programme also re-commenced off-site with Andy Parsons.

Artist Supports

- Dance company “Infinite Pants” enjoyed a two-week production period at the centre for their new show “NASC”, which it is hoped Roscommon Arts Centre will produce and tour nationally in 2023.