



Comhairle Contae
Ros Comáin
Roscommon
County Council



MANAGEMENT REPORT



JUNE 2022

QUARTER 2

Roscommon County Council

Revenue Account Income & Expenditure Summary by Service Division

Management Accounts Summary to

30th June 2022

	EXPENDITURE		INCOME		NET
	Expenditure Incurred up to 30/06/2022	Adopted Full Year Budget	Income Receivable up to 30/06/2022	Adopted Full year Budget	Actual Overall Surplus/ (Deficit)
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing & Building	3,170,723	7,912,319	3,673,376	8,204,123	502,652
Road Transport & Safety	9,224,364	27,651,100	5,217,399	20,614,583	(4,006,966)
Water Services	2,298,013	7,543,881	2,961,404	7,503,821	663,391
Development Management	2,684,684	7,235,048	1,733,581	2,079,655	(951,104)
Environmental Services	2,237,556	5,964,033	200,810	961,143	(2,036,747)
Recreation & Amenity	1,603,826	4,216,889	493,085	554,668	(1,110,741)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	153,029	818,316	109,240	257,927	(43,789)
Miscellaneous Services	2,511,875	5,261,757	2,354,897	2,892,172	(156,978)
Central Management Charges	4,409,870	0	300,480	0	(4,109,390)
Local Government Fund/General Purpose Grant	0	0	5,412,876	10,825,200	5,412,876
Pension Levy	0	0	0	0	0
Rates	0	0	6,258,596	12,710,052	6,258,596
	28,293,940	66,603,343	28,715,742	66,603,343	421,802

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 June 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	12,517,192	652,209	492,558	12,604,993	7,411,445	5,193,548	35,653	59%	65%
Rents & Annuities	370,508	2,685,243			3,055,751	2,586,981	468,771		85%	85%
Housing Loans	136,487	111,968			248,456	145,763	102,693		59%	45%

Recourse to Overdraft;

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

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Forward Planning

Following the making of the *Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028* at a Special Meeting of the Council in March 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.”

Following the coming into effect of the *Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028* on 19th April, the attention of the Forward Planning team in May and June focused on pre-draft work as part of the process of preparing new Local Area Plans for Roscommon town and Boyle. ‘Pre-Draft Issues Papers’ were prepared in respect of each of the towns. Each paper represents the first step in preparing the new LAPs. The papers present a broad overview of the main issues of consideration and pose a number of questions which are intended to provoke thought and encourage discussion and involvement from the general public as we plan for the future development of Roscommon and Boyle. A pre-draft public consultation period commenced on 30th June and runs until 29th July 2022, during which time submissions can be made either in writing to the Planning Department or through the online submission facility on the relevant Local Area Plan page on the dedicated *Roscommon County Development Plan* website (www.rosdevplan.ie).

Development Management and Planning Enforcement Activity

The table below summarises Development Management activity in Q2. A total of 121 valid planning applications were received, with the numbers received in May and June (46 and 45 respectively) being a significant increase from 30 received in April. Decisions issued on a total of 134 planning applications, of which 116 were grants of permission.

Development Management Statistics

Period	Activity	Roscommon North	Roscommon South	Totals
Q2 2022	Valid app	55	66	121
	Extension of Duration	2	3	5
	DED	4	2	6
	Pre-planning meeting	32	32	64

Enforcement Activity

Period	Activity	Countywide Totals
Q2 2022	New enforcement case	35
	General letter	8
	Warning letter	16
	Enforcement notice	3
	Closed case	15
	Legal proceedings	0

Unfinished Housing Developments (UHD)

Development activity was on-going in a total of twelve unfinished housing developments around the county at various times during Quarter 2. Contractors engaged under RCC's Framework were involved in site resolution works in nine developments (one in the Athlone Municipal District and the remaining eight in the Boyle Municipal District). Developers were also at work on three unfinished developments in Boyle, Knockcroghery and Rooskey.

Schedules for four developments (two each in the Athlone municipal district and the Boyle municipal district) were referred to Irish Water as part of the process of progressing developments to being considered for taking in charge. Two developments which were at the more advanced stage in the process were referred to Roscommon County Council's Roads Section for taking in charge – Caslin Way in Strokestown and Baile na Mona in Ballinlough.

ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT PROMOTION

Local Enterprise Office:

- **Trading On Line Vouchers (TOVs):**

16 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, with only one grant payment outstanding. 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 27th of July 2022.

- **Evaluation & Approvals Meeting:**

An Evaluation and Approval Committee Meeting was held on 27th May. Two Expansion Grant applications and one priming grant application was before the committee and all were approved for funding. The next Evaluation Committee meeting is scheduled for 27th July.

- **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 6 applications in 2022.

- **DigitalStart Scheme:**

Digital Start is a pilot initiative from the Local Enterprise Office designed to help businesses prepare and implement a plan for the adoption of digital tools and techniques across the business. Procurement of consultants has been completed and 1 application has been received to date.

- **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 8 applications in 2022.

- **Microfinance:**

Year to date, 4 applications have been received, 2 have been approved, 1 declined and 1 is awaiting decision. Post MFI Mentoring is on-going with 2 clients. 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 **480** participants have been facilitated between January and June 2022.

- **Remote Mentoring:**

Remote Business Advice Clinics were held in January, February, March, April, May & June. **143** 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 was held on May 12th.

- **Enquiries:**
 Appropriate support provided on an ongoing basis. **237** enquires were logged in total between January and June 2022.

- **Student Enterprise Programme:**
 This programme has now completed and planning is in place for the 2022/2023 programme.

- **National Enterprise Awards:**
 The National awards ceremony was held in a gala event at the Mansion House, Dublin on June 2nd. Roscommon finalists 'Studio Meala' won the West Regional Award on the night.

- **Promotion:**
 All LEO supports were promoted on the LEO website and on various social media platforms.

- **Sites at Ballyboughan:**
 One site is awaiting final PP at Ballyboughan and 3 sites remain for sale in Castlereagh.

- **Just Transition:**
 Feasibility studies are being carried out for 2 JTF projects. These are finalised and will be complete at the end of June.

- **EI:**
 LW continues to work with Meabh Conaghan, the new West Region Manager and Noeleen Hussey 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.

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Healthy Ireland

- HIF Round 4 Grant Agreement Signed and in place
- HIF Found 4 Information Session Attended

LEADER

- Article 48 checks are ongoing
- 3 payments for LEADER grants made in June 2022

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

- No meeting of the LCDC took place in June

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 and projects commenced.

- **CLÁR 2022**

28 Applications were received for CLÁR 2022. 15 applications were submitted to the Department for consideration. The funding is expected to be announced in July 2022.

Joint Policing Committee (JPC)

First meeting of JPC for 2022 was held on 13th June.

- Annual Report 2021 and Work Plan 2022 was agreed and approved by all members.
- A resolution was passed by members to support the next phase of the CCTV at Cortober.
- The members were updated on the applications submitted for the Community Safety Innovation Fund.
- Donagh Mac Artain gave a presentation on the Migrant Integration Strategy.
- The members supported the motion from Cork Co Co in relation to co-ordinated media release/campaign on the dangers of Phishing and Cyber Crime.

2022 Community Safety Innovation Fund

€2 million has been made available for 2022 to support the development of community safety through innovative, local community based initiatives - closing date for receipt of applications was 8th June 2022. 4 applications were submitted as follows:

1. Roscommon Sports Partnership – for the employment of Community Safety Inclusion Officer
2. Information Sessions for Ukrainian refugees
3. Support Digital Safety Among Adults/Older People in the community
4. Marking Machine x 2

Communities Activities Fund (CAF)

- Grant payments to groups has commenced under the operation costs side of the scheme. Approximately €4,000 remains for payment across 4 community groups under this category.
- Grant payments under the capital side of the scheme are ongoing with a drawdown date of end of August 2022

SICAP

- SICAP payment for July 2022 was paid in June
- SICAP Sub Committee met on 21 June to discuss the SICAP 2022 Mid-Year Review

Tidy Towns and Amenity Grants Scheme

- Tidy Towns and 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 were issued.
- All 84 applicants have accepted same and payment of grant aid will commence in due course.

Pride of Place 2022

- Closing date for receipt of summaries and photographs from Groups was 10th June.
- Judging dates have been confirmed with Co-Operation Ireland as follows:

Day	Date	Time	Group	Category
Tuesday	9 th August 2022	9.00am – 1.00pm	The Melting Pot Community Society Ltd	Community Wellbeing Initiative
Tuesday	9 th August 2022	2.00pm - 5.30pm	Lisnamult Tenants & Residents Association	Urban Neighborhoods
Wednesday	10 th August 2022	9.00am – 1.00pm	Lough Ree Angling Hub	Community Tourism Initiative

Social Inclusion Unit

- **Play Day:** Application form for County Play Day Grant Monies completed in conjunction with Roscommon County Childcare Committee and submitted to the DECDIY – Application successful and max grant of €3000 approved – Play Day to be in held in July.
- **Bike Week:** Post Event Report Form submitted to NTA – Awaiting Approval.
- **Migrant Integration Strategy:** Further briefing/consultation sessions held with the JPC Members and Council Members – facilitated by Exodea Consulting.

Heritage

- **Royal Sites of Ireland World Heritage Bid**
No new activity to report for June.
- **Farming Rathcroghan EIP – Community Archaeology Project**
Project archaeologist gave a detailed presentation on progress for 2022 to the Farming Rathcroghan EIP Operation Group on 28th June.
- **Built Heritage Investment Scheme**
A progress report on all 13 projects was submitted to the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage.
- **Historic Structures Fund**
A progress report on two projects operating under this scheme was submitted to the Department of Housing Local Government & Heritage.
- **County Heritage Plan Funding**
Four projects are funded. Two are on target. Two are behind target.
- **Táin March / Táin Tapestry 2022**
Threading the Táin fibre art works were put on exhibition in Áras an Chontae starting with a viewing & reception for the volunteers who worked on the project on June 24th. The exhibition has been very well received.

The *Táin March Festival* came to Roscommon, Rathcroghan & Tulsk on the 25th June. MAD Youth Theatre were joined by local participants for their performance in the Square Roscommon. The event was very well received and garnered great coverage in local papers.
- **Rahara Ruined Church Conservation project**
Final report on the project has been submitted to the National Monuments Service, as required.
- **Aleen Cust Commemorations 2022**
Project planning continues. Local participants have been contacted to take part in the conference and podcast series.

- **Heritage Week 2022**

Plans are progressing for the RCC programme of events. Ongoing support will be provided to the public and community groups to plan and publicise their events.

- **County Roscommon Heritage Forum**

Meeting two of four for 2022 took place in Trinity Arts Centre Castlereagh.

- **Preparation of New County Heritage Plan**

A review actions carried out under the strategic goals of the County Roscommon Heritage Plan 2017-2021 Heritage Plan was completed. Analysis of the impacts and outcomes now has to be carried out.

An RFQ was circulated for assistance with the preparation of the new Heritage Plan. No quotations were received.

- **RCC Actions for Pollinators**

An email was sent to RCC Section Heads requesting an update on RCC actions for pollinators for uploading to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan actions mapviewer <https://pollinators.biodiversityireland.ie/> No response was received from any section.

- **Health and Safety Issue at Cloonshanville Cemetery**

Heritage officer has been made aware of a major H&S issue with Cloonshanville Dominican Abbey ruins in Cloonshanville cemetery. Heritage Officer will assist roads department in resolving this. However, this is a complex problem and it will be a major time requirement on top of an already stretched work programme for the heritage office.

Tourism

Regional Projects:

- **IHH & WWI** – Shannon Discovery Points Inception Meeting. Tandem consultants to carry out the full review. Upper Shannon Task Force meeting on 3rd June (TEAMS)
- **OUR Way EU Project** – presentation to Partner meeting in Roscommon

County:

- **Hodson Bay** – SLR consultants Feasibility Study in final phase.
- **Clondra/Richmond Harbour/Tarmonbarry** – Feasibility with WWI ongoing
- **Roscommon Tourism PR** – Contract issued to Brouder Marketing for the Summer Social media campaign, influencer visits and launch for new Tourism Video
- **International Marketing Campaign** - Ireland with Michael recorded at National Famine Museum, Lough Key, Rathcroghan, Douglas Hyde Centre and local Artists.
- **Tourism Video** – Three days recording of tourism Video by Spicy Dog media
- **Keadue Entente Florale** – Working with Keadue Community to develop the tourism element of Entente Florale.

Destinations Town – Boyle

- **Public Art Commission Call** – 15 submissions received – 5 artists commissioned for 5 Sculptures
- **Pleasure grounds** - Work nearing completion.

King House

- First phase of upgrade works of the CRA exhibition completes and exhibition opened to public in June.
- Planning currently ongoing for Culture night and Autumn LLPPS
- Cultural events over June included
 - Six Days
 - Chamber Music Festival
 - Children's Opera
 - Hunchback of Notre Dame
 - Lenny Chen in Concert
 - Fregoli 'Angels'
 - Evlana/Enchantment

Douglas Hyde Centre

- For summer 2022 the centre will open to public from June to Sept each weekend and via appointment during the week.
- Planning currently ongoing for Culture night and Autumn LLPPS.

ORIS

- **Measure 3 2021** – The Arigna Energy Discover Park – Landscape Tender awarded to The Paul Hogarty Company.
- **Measure 1 2021** – Quotations sought for Age friendly seating on four trails.

Arts Office

Arts Plan 2022-2027

- Review & Planning.

Local & Live Programme

- Being delivered under **LLPPS 2022 phase 3** throughout May and June – 24 events with 8 event partners in Moore Hall, Boyle, Roscommon and Strokestown.

LLPPS 2022 Phase 4

- Call out for applications advertised - 13 applications received.

Artist in Schools Residencies

- 14 countywide with 11 artists.

Creative Heartlands

- Film & Design training events – Arts, LEO and Enterprise Ireland Partnership across Roscommon, Leitrim and Sligo.

Creative Ireland Culture & Creativity Strategy 2023-2027

- Review and Planning.

Creative Roscommon

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

17 Culture Team

- Projects ongoing.

Cruinniú na nÓg

- Saturday, June 11th – 13 events in Ballaghaderreen, Boyle, Castlerea, Elphin and Roscommon.

Decade of Centenaries

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

Connaught Rangers

- New exhibition at King House to open end June – also funded under Creative Ireland programme.

Artist Commission

- For Culture night ongoing.

Capital Programmes

In collaboration with Regeneration & Tourism

- RRDF – Reimagining Exhibitions and Visitor Experience at King House Boyle - Ongoing
- Destination Towns – King House and Pleasure Grounds Public Art Commissions – 15 submissions received – 5 artists commissioned
- Outdoor Public Space Scheme – Somers Park, Castlerea – Ongoing – 1 artist commissioned
- Town & Village – Knockcroghery Public Art – 3 artists commissioned – receiving ongoing updates from artists including drafts and 3D mock-ups
- ORIS – Ballyleague – Call for two artist commissions
- Roscommon Town Square and Laneways – Planning ongoing

Arts Participation Programme

- EDI Artist Bursary – Inclusion in Arts Call out – 4 submissions received.

Roscommon Arts Centre

Performances

Sixteen performances took place during June at the arts centre and including a sold out performance of Druid Theatre Company's The Cavalcaders as part of their nationwide tour, the opening night of the Roscommon Chamber Music Festival, and a number of baby, family and school shows.

Visual Art

An Animate Land with work from Laura Fitzgerald, Miriam O'Connor & Marian Balfe opened on May 21st and continues until July 1st. A number of talks and workshops connected to the exhibition have also taken place in June such as Gallery Days, Primary Colours, Gallery XED and 10 Minutes of Art.

Creative Learning

Elderberries with Catherine Donnelly and *Songbirds* with Catherine Donnelly continued their weekly sessions in June A four-week Poetry Workshop with Jane Clarke also ran throughout May.

The workshop spaces are in continuous use with groups such as Roscommon Youth Theatre, Cor Comain and Tai chi, Yoga all using the space for weekly classes. Little Nightingale Productions used the space to develop their baby show *Baby Weather* which premiered for Cruinniu na nOg and Fizz and Chips Productions are spent two weeks rehearsing in the workshop ahead of the premiere of their new play *Natural Science*.

Artist Supports

Applications were submitted for consideration for *Artist On My Green*, *Creative Ireland Wings 2022 Artist in Residence*, *Studio 22 & New Voices Residency*. Seven artists have been selected through an external panel to take part in these initiatives commencing in July.

REGENERATION UNIT

Urban Regeneration Development Fund

Roscommon Public Realm Enhancement Project:

- Construction work on Main St and Market Square is now complete. Only minor snagging works remain.
- Design work on the Pavilion element is ongoing. The part 8 planning process is now complete and detailed design has commenced. It is anticipated that the project will go to tender in Q3 with commencement on site planned for Q1 2023.

Putting the Spokes back into the Wheel URDF

- Design work is progressing well and consultation is ongoing with TII in relation to the works associated with the N61. Consultation is currently taking place with the Elected Members in relation to proposed one-way system on Athlone Rd and Goff St. Following these consultations, the Design Consultants will issue the Preliminary Design Report to TII approval prior to proceeding to Part 8 Publication by late Sept / early Oct 2022.

Rural Regeneration Development Fund

Castlerea Food Hub

- Construction Contract awarded.
- Construction works to commence in early April 2022 with expected 12-month programme.

Boyle Enterprise Hub and Riverside Promenade

- Construction is progressing well. Anticipated completion date of Q4 2022.

Monksland Life Sciences Hub

- The detailed design process continues with the consultants.
- Construction tender to be published in late Q2 2022.

Ballaghaderreen Public Realm

- Detailed design complete and due to go to tender stage in Q3 2022.
- NTA are now funding the Project under Active Travel.

Energising Boyle Town Centre and King House

- Architect appointed for project management of Conservation Works to Doors and Windows of King House. Tender documents for works are practically complete.
- Mechanical/Electrical Consultant to project manage Energy Upgrade works to King House has been appointed and works to tender documents are ongoing.
- It is anticipated to complete all works to King House during off-peak season – October 2022 to March 2023.
- Stage 2 Road Safety Audit is complete. Preliminary Design Report submitted to TII for approval. Works to tender documents are ongoing.

Putting the Heart into Monksland.

- Consultancy Tender Brief Published on E-Tenders in April 2022.
- Expect to Award Consultancy Tender before End Q2 2022.

Strokestown Bawn St Public Realm & Town Park Project

- Consultants appointed.
- 1st consultation meeting with Town Team arranged for 2nd Aug 2022.

Town and Village 2020

Tarmonbarry

- Project complete.

Croghan

- Works substantially complete. All works complete in Q3 2022.

Dysart

- Construction Works to start August 2022 & to be completed in Q3 2022.

Lecarrow

- Project Complete.

Knockcroghery

- Landscaping and façade improvement elements complete.
- Artists procured for mural, sculptor and signage elements.

Rooskey

- Construction of footpaths complete Feb 2022. Landscaping to be completed Q2/Q3 2022.

Four Roads

- Landscape designer concept received and meetings with local community are ongoing.
- Lighting element completed.

Town and Village 2021

- 4 projects were approved under the 2021 scheme which was announced at end of February 2022 with a total of €950,065 in grant aid approved for Monksland, Cloonfad, Ballintubber and the Global Rossie Initiative. Letter of offer received from the Department and initial contact made with the relevant community groups in respect of project implementation.
- Under the development measure, a project to look at design options on Termonbarry and Ballintubber Garda stations were approved to the total value of €49, 950. Tender process complete and consultant is currently being appointed.

TVR Streetscape Enhancement Scheme

- This was a new scheme announced in 2021 with Roscommon being eligible to put forward 4 towns for a scheme which initially had to be completed from mid-September to October.
- Athleague, Knockcroghery, Ballaghaderreen and Roscommon Town Schemes are now complete.

Destination Towns

- Enhancement works to Boyle Pleasure Grounds are complete (landscaping works outstanding).
- King House to Boyle River Enhancement Scheme – This project was re-tendered as the initial contractor withdrew his tender due to inflation in materials and labour. The project was re-tendered and the contractor due to be appointed by the end of July 2022.
- Lighting to pedestrian bridge has been installed and lighting upgrade along river walk is complete.
- Sculpture Trail – Artists have been appointed and commissioning of sculpture pieces are ongoing.

Roscommon Bound - Global Rossie Project

- Work on social media element is ongoing and information on various projects of the Regeneration team is being highlighted as well as activities such as Ukrainians moving to Roscommon, sporting endeavours, county wide news etc.
- A Schools passport project was organised for May 2022 which took place in Roscommon Arts Centre with 200 young people in attendance representing 5 secondary schools across the County.
- The number of followers on social media continues to grow with 1409 (1,209) in the Roscommon Bound LinkedIn network from all over the world, 4,521 (4,358) followers on Facebook, 782 (734) followers on Twitter and 739 (712) followers on Instagram.

Outdoor Recreation 2020

- Measure 2: Doon Shore: Works are substantially complete.
- Measure 2: Portrun: Works are substantially complete.
- Measure 3 – Mote Park – Contractor on site for the trail enhancement/car parking works with expected completion September 2022. Stage 2 Road Safety Audit of looped cycleway is ongoing. Viewing Tower is not proceeding due to costs and a new application for ORIS funding has been submitted for large sculptures and natural play area.

Outdoor Recreation 2021

- Funding received for the following projects under Measure 2 and Measure 3:
- Destination Ballyleague €200,000 – Initial meeting with Community Group Ongoing & RFQ for landscape Design works element Issued.
- Ballintubber/Ballymoe Waterway and looped cycleway project €179,730. Stage 2 Road safety Audit of looped cycleway is complete. Tender is expected on E-Tenders, for the slipway element, in August 2022.
- Arigna Energy Inclusive Park and Miner's Trail €500,000. Consultants to project manage the delivery of the park were appointed on the 14th July 2022.

Rural Regeneration Development Fund 2021 Category 1

- Two applications for funding were submitted for Ballaghaderreen and Boyle.
- Part 8 Planning for proposed Boyle Community Library has obtained approval.

AEC AK

- The AEC Strategy and the AEC Hubs Strategy are complete and still awaiting ministerial sign-off.
- The WDC/AEC Ireland's National Hub Network ConnectedHubs.ie booking engine is now live with over 240 hubs on boarded to date.

Just Transition

Ballyleague Boardwalk

- Draft feasibility report complete & review with Key Stakeholder & Community to be completed in Q2 2022 to finalise report.

Cloontuskert Works Project

- Draft feasibility report substantially complete & review with Key Stakeholder & Community to be completed in Q2 2022 to finalise report.

Mid- Shannon Wilderness Park

Ryan Hanley Consulting Engineers have been appointed & Kick-off meeting has taken place. Works on this commission will be pogoing over next 12 months.

Greenways Carbon Fund

Athlone to Lanesboro Greenway

- Procurement completed, a shortfall in funding has been resolved with approval from TII for stages 0 and 4.
- Consultant appointed and work will commence on feasibility in Q2 2022.

Outdoor Performance Space

- Civils element complete.
- Downer International Ltd appointed for supply and installation of Tensile Stage Canopy – to be complete in August 2022.

Strokestown Town Centre First Plan

- Consultants appointed.
- 1st consultation meeting with Town Team arranged for 2nd Aug 2022.

LIBRARY SERVICES

Strokestown Library

In June, Strokestown Library was officially reopened, by the Cathaoirleach, following refurbishment works. The library has new furniture, shelving and flooring, a meeting booth and a larger area for the children's library. The works done with the support of funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development.

Visitors to the library will see the collection of stock has expanded to include an extensive children's collection and the addition of console games. A new Wi-Fi service is now available to the public alongside public computer access.

A sensory wall, installed in the children's library, forms part of the library service's Sense-Ability programme that aims to provide sensory friendly library spaces in local communities. The opening hours of the library have increased to 28.5 hours per week from 23 hours, this includes a doubling of the opening hours on Saturdays from three to six hours.



Mobile Library

The mobile library has continued to offer services in Elphin, Strokestown, Ballaghaderreen and Monksland including visits to schools and preschools.

Foróige Pilot

Roscommon Library Service are working with Foróige on developing a programme for digital skills for young people. In April, they held a Digital Libraries Showcase where they demonstrated the use of digital resources such as VR Headsets and 3D printing.

Sense-Ability

The sensory items are being added to the new Library Management System and the full collection is expected to launch in Q3. A sensory cubbie has been installed in Castlerea Library through the support of funding from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth. The Cubbie is a wheelchair accessible sensory space that offers personalized sensory regulation in an immersive, safe space.



Library Events and Activities

The Library service hosted a series of online webinars entitled Roscommon a Century Ago: Community, Continuity and Change. Speakers included Genealogist Martin Curley, Mary Clancy from NUI Galway and Local Historian Paul Connolly. The series was supported the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media through the Roscommon County Council Arts office. Hundreds of people attended the lecture series.

Roscommon Library held a number of Irish language events this quarter with the introduction of a new Irish language book club for adults. They also hosted an Irish language family fun day with craic, ceol, caint agus uachtar reoite.

Ukrainian Language Supports

Through the support of the Dormant Accounts Fund, the library service has subscribed to a new online service called LOTE Online. It is a database of digital picture books enabling children to enjoy the magic of books in LOTE (Languages Other than English). This service includes a number of books in Ukrainian and can be accessed using a Roscommon library card at <http://lote4kids.com>. The funding has also supported a Ukrainian language version of the 1,2,3 Read with Me book, previously published in Irish, English and Arabic. The new Ukrainian, Irish and English version is now with the printers and will be launched shortly. Finally, the Transparent Languages service has now expanded to include an English for Ukrainian speaker's course. Transparent Languages is a free service that can be accessed at <https://bit.ly/LanguagesRosLib>.

Right to Read

There were 20 Spring into Storytime events held by Roscommon Libraries this year with over 350 attendees as part of our Right to Read Programme. Summer Stars has now commenced in our libraries. This summer reading programme encourages children to read books for enjoyment during the summer months and offers rewards along the way. Children in Roscommon due to start primary school in September can collect a free Little Library Book Bag from Boyle, Castlerea, Roscommon, Strokestown or the mobile library.

HOUSING BUSINESS UNIT

1.0 Homelessness & Housing Allocations

1.1 Homelessness:

A range of responses to homelessness in accordance with the West Framework Homelessness Action Plan are in place. The Western Region Homeless Action Plan 2019-2022 has been prepared by the lead Council (Galway City Council) with input from the other authorities in the region.

12 = homeless cases presented in Q2, 2022

6 = cases required short-term accommodation in Q2, 2022

Breakdown Homeless figures Q2 2022				
Presentations	Individuals	Families	Totals Households	Breakdown of Family unit
April	4	0	4	
May	3	0	3	
June	3	2	5	2 Adults & 2 Children

Accommodated	Individuals	Families	Totals Households	Breakdown of Family unit
April	3	0	3	
May	3	0	2	
June	1	0	1	

Galway Simon has been awarded the contract to provide Housing First services to the remainder of the Western Region (it was already contracted to provide these services for Galway City Council). Resources to support six Housing First applicants over a three-year period will be made available to County Roscommon under the Housing First programme. A Homeless Action Team (HAT) has been established to facilitate the co-ordination of Housing First and Housing-Led support services.

To date nine referrals have been forwarded to the HAT for consideration. Four referrals have been accepted for Housing-Led services and four referrals have been accepted for Housing First services. Three Housing First Tenancies and two Housing Led tenancies have commenced and other units of accommodation are currently being identified for the creation of further Housing First tenancies and Housing-Led tenancies. One referral was submitted to the HAT in Q2 2022 for consideration but was declined for both Housing Led and Housing First Services as the client did not meet the criteria set out for eligibility under both mechanisms.

1.2 Housing Assessments & Allocations:

The 2021 Housing Needs Assessment commenced in September 2021 and the Minister has directed (circular 25/2022) that the summary be prepared on 17 November, 2021 and returned to the Department on or before 15 December, 2021. This was completed within timeframe.

- 294 = applicants (excluding transfers) on the approved housing list at end of Q2, 2022
- 137 = applicants are currently in private rented accommodation
- 33 = offers of accommodation made in Q2, 2022
- 6 = nominations made to AHB
- 27 = new tenants appointed/allocated in Q2, 2022 to LA dwellings
- 6 = AHB Tenants appointed in Q2, 2022
- 2 = refusals recorded in Q2, 2022

2.0 Social Housing Rental Accommodation Market

2.1 Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS):

Financial support continues via the RAS Scheme for those applicants who have a long-term housing need. As of 30 June, 2022, there are 363 households receiving support (250 private rented and 113 in voluntary housing).

2.2 Housing Assistance Payment (HAP):

Roscommon County Council is working closely with the Community Welfare Officers in the Department of Social Protection to continue the transfer of Rent Supplement recipients to the HAP Scheme. 20 HAP tenancies were opened in Q2 and 24 were closed in the same period. As of 30 June, 2022, there were 423 social housing applicants in receipt of HAP.

2.3 Repair & Lease Scheme (RLS):

- 72 = applications were received and were assessed since the scheme was rolled out in Q1, 2017; the majority of the applications related to properties outside areas of need/demand or were remote rural dwellings in poor condition.
- 4 = number of lease agreements RCC has entered into under the RLS (two 1-bed apartments, and 3 bed ground floor apartment and a 4-bed house in Roscommon Town)..

2.4 Leasing- Long-term Leasing and RAS-Type leases:

- As of 30th June, 2022, Roscommon County Council has 4 long-term leases: 3 in Boyle Town and 1 in Roscommon Town.
- As of 30th June, 2022, Roscommon County Council has 39 active RAS Type leases throughout the county. As part of Housing for All it is the intention that there will only be 200 RAS Type leases nationally. RCC has received approval for 15 RAS type leases for 2022.
- Two Mortgage to Rent (MTR) leases were completed in Q2 of 2022, which brings the total to 17 MTR's (5 with AHB's & 12 with HFL) leases in place

3.0 Provision of Additional Social Housing Units

3.1 LA Build (including turnkeys & PPP):

- 10 units at Windmill Rd., Elphin - Tender assessment stage, works expected to commence September 2022 with estimated completion Q4 2022.

- 6 Units at Lake View Heights, Boyle - Stage 4 approval received from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in Q2 2022. Works expected to commence July 2022 with estimated completion Q3 2023.
- 13 units at Lisnamult, Ardnanagh, Roscommon – Stage 3 approval received in Q2 2022. Works expected to commence Q4 2022 with estimated completion Q4 2023.
- 2 Units at The Meadows, Castlerea – Works commenced in Q4 2021 for the refurbishment of unfinished houses acquired by RCC in 2021, expected completion Q3 2022
- 1 Unit at Ardnanagh, Lisnamult, Roscommon – Works commenced in Q4 2021 with estimated completion Q3 2022.
- 27 units at Esker Lawns, Monksland – RCC received department approval for the turnkey acquisition of 3 and 4 bed houses, works expected to commence on site in Q3 2022.
- 4 Units at Cortober, Carrick on Shannon - RCC received stage 1 approval in Q1 2022 for the construction of houses on RCC lands. Planning process expected to commence in Q3 2022.
- 14 Units at Curlew View, Boyle - RCC received stage 1 approval in Q1 2022 for the construction of houses on RCC lands. Planning process expected to commence in Q3 2022.
- 40 units at Sli an Choiste, Monksland – RCC submitted a stage 1 application in Q1 2022 for the construction of houses on RCC lands. Significant delay with department approval due to queries in relation to demand.
- 1 Unit at Pound St., Ballaghaderreen - RCC submitted a stage 1 application in Q1 2022 for the refurbishment of a vacant property owned by RCC. Planning process expected to commence in Q4 2022.
- 3 Units at Elphin (Library) - RCC submitted a stage 1 application in Q1 2022 for the refurbishment of vacant properties owned by RCC. Planning process expected to commence in Q4 2022

3.2 Housing Association Activity:

Housing association activity in County Roscommon appears to have declined. It is suspected that the cost of new build via third parties (turnkey delivery method) versus market rents in the County are a factor.

Tuath proposal for 35 units at Cloongowna, Monksfield, Athlone – A Building Agreement/Contract of Sale was entered into between Tuath Housing Association and the Developer on 31 October, 2019. An extension to the back stop delivery date was sought by Tuath and granted by RCC and the Department. Expected completion in Q3 2022.

3.3 LA Acquisitions (including Buy & Renew):

3.3.1 Buy & Renew Scheme

Roscommon County Council sought expressions of interest in June 2021 to buy and refurbish long term vacant property for social housing use under the Buy and Renew Scheme. The focus under the Buy and Renew is on older stock in urban areas with a view to tackling dereliction and improving streetscapes in urban areas of Roscommon, Castlerea, Boyle, Ballaghaderreen, Elphin or Strokestown. 34 applications were received. Some offers were made to property owners in accordance with independent valuations received by RCC but not agreements were reached. Two properties have been secured as part of Buy & Renew in Patrick Street, Castlerea and Elphin Street, Strokestown. Plans to develop these properties will proceed through the four stage process.

3.3.2 Acquisition Programme

As of 30th June, 2022, Roscommon County Council acquired no houses under the acquisition programme. Funding for acquisitions will be nominal in 2022 as funding is diverted towards the delivery of houses under the construction programme.

3.3.3 – Derelict Sites and Dangerous Structures

The Housing Department took over the function of Derelict Sites and Dangerous Structures and Places in late February / March 2022. It is intended the focus will be on the towns within the county initially. Roscommon County Council may acquire by agreement or compulsorily purchase any derelict site situated within their functional area. Revised policies at draft stage and will be presented to the Q3 SPC.

3.4 Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024:

- Proposal for 2 additional units at Cluain Airne, Killarney is stage 3 (Pre Tender) approved by the Department in Q1 2022.
- Proposal to alter units at Bri Chaoilinne, Harristown is also in progress (one-bed units to be combined into larger more functional units); Part 8 planning approved in Q1 2022, works scheduled for completion in Q3 2022.
- RCC to proceed with 3 extensions in Torpan Beg to existing units. Part 8 planning permission is in place with works expected to commence in Q3 2022.

3.6 Tenant Purchase:

The Tenant Incremental Purchase Scheme was published under the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014. As at 30 September 2022, tenant purchase statistics were as follows:

204 = applications received to date
124 = offers made to date
87 = offers accepted to date
54 = sales completed to date

4.0 Private Rented Accommodation Standards

Inspections of private rented dwellings are carried out under the Housing (Standards for Private Rented Houses) Regulations 2019.

- The recommended inspection target for Roscommon in 2022 is 745 inspections.
- 159 inspections were carried out in Q2 2022, 82 of which were follow-up inspections required to address issues arising from previous inspections.
- “Virtual Inspections” commenced in Q1 of 2022 on a pilot basis. 32 letters sent out and 9 responses were received to date

Housing Stock

5.1 Energy Efficiency Programme (retrofitting existing stock):

- Funding under the Just Transition Midlands Retrofit Programme has been identified for a number of counties in the midlands, including County Roscommon. RCC have procured Collins Boyd Engineers and Architects as consultants to manage the project. The project entails

energy efficiency upgrades to 50 LA units in Roscommon. Surveys commenced in July, 2020 with works fully complete in Q1 2022. Claims to recoup costs ongoing with the department however significant shortfalls remain.

- RCC received approval for the upgrade of a further 26 units (increased from 13) in 2021 under the Energy Efficiency Retrofit programme (EERP). Surveys commenced in Q1, 2021 with works fully complete in Q1 2022. Majority of costs claimed from the Department.
- Funding has been approved for the upgrade of a further 52 units in 2022, however part funding may be required by the LA.

5.2 Voids Programme:

There are no viable 'voids' (at least 6 months vacant) remaining within the housing stock and the national 'voids' programme has essentially ended. Any remaining non-viable (derelict) units are in isolated rural locations with low or no demand. Unsold rural properties will be assessed for suitability for renewal where a specific demand exists.

- **Voids (2022 programme)**
RCC await funding allocations for 2022.

RCC have received €275k funding from the department for the refurbishment of short term vacant stock.

5.3 Casual Vacancy Works (pre-letting works)

A total of 17 houses were refurbished due to normal turn-over of properties in Q1, 2022 at a cost to date of approx. €170,000 (excluding any outstanding payments).

5.4 Housing Maintenance

RCC Housing received 325 maintenance calls in Q2, 2022 and billed expenditure on maintenance works during the same period was €331,934.38.

5.5 Housing Grants (Private Grants and LA Grants)

RCC received a budget allocation of €1,412,065.00 for private house grants (80% Department funded and 20% Roscommon County Council funded). RCC has approved grant applications for private houses under the 2022 budget and the amount committed to date under the 2022 budget, is circa €1,581,504. A large volume of grant applications has been received to date and the process of validating applications is ongoing. the full allocation for 2022 is fully committed (plus 15% at the end of June, 2022)

The Disabled Persons Grant allocation for local authority housing stock for 2022 is €260,947.00 (90% Department funded and 10% Roscommon County Council funded), which is a reduction of €95,553.00 on the allocation for 2021. A total of 9 applications have been approved under this budget allocation to date. Estimated expenditure of €318,048.87 will be incurred, which is greater than the budget allocation owing to an increase in the cost of materials since January 2022.

ASSETS, CLIMATE ACTION AND ENERGY MANAGEMENT

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

- The responsibility for Facilities Management transferred to Assets and Energy Management in August 2021. Systems and procedures are been implemented in this area.
- Cleaning contract results from OGP due in Q3 2022.

ASSETS

- PIR (Property Interest Register) Roscommon for all Building / Land Assets ongoing – update of Folios received from PRA, evaluated and submitted to OPW.
- Full listing of RCC Assets across all Sections prepared and issued for reconciliation of FAR and PIR Roscommon to all Sections – partial completion to date with reminders issued. Follow-up actions agreed with Finance Section and LG Auditor.
- Housing assets reconciled with iHouse to 31/12/2021.
- Ongoing administrative and technical involvement with Letting, Leases, Acquisitions and Disposals of RCC Assets.
- Policy documents approved and signed off for:
 - Disposal of Land/Property
 - Acquisition of Land/Property
 - Property Asset Management Plan and to be placed on Intranet Document Library.
- Form for Property Condition Surveys developed and to be trialled using digital platform.

ENERGY

- **Energy Elephant Software**
 - Ongoing monitoring and review of significant energy usage in RCC Buildings. Expansion of energy monitoring from primarily electricity usage through Energy Elephant to other energy sources such as oil, gas and biomass.
- **Optimising Power @ Work Programme**
 - OP@W Mentor, Mark Skerritt, appointed and monthly meetings taking place in-person.
 - OP@W Mentor, Mark Skerritt, is advising on workplace energy saving programs and issues a Monthly Energy Report.
- **Energy Monitoring & Reporting (M&R) 2021**
 - Data for 2021 – Part 1 submitted by 28th January, 2022 and Part 2 is due by 29th April, 2022.
 - Currently at 38.1% of targeted 33% energy efficiency improvement by 2020, based on 2020 energy usage.
 - Liaise with Environment & Climate Section with regard to the ongoing development of the gap-to-target model (GTT model) which is a spreadsheet model for use by public bodies to evaluate their energy efficiency (EE) performance and energy-related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions¹ over time, using data and methodologies from SEAI's Public Sector Monitoring & Reporting (M&R) system.

PUBLIC LIGHTING

- Survey of all School Warning Lights in Co. Roscommon completed and Final Report issued – review of repairs/possible upgrades ongoing, subject to funding.
- Section 85 Agreement signed with Mayo County Council for the National LED Retrofit Project (PLEEP). County Roscommon forms part of Region 3 of the National Project. Consultants appointed by Mayo County Council on behalf of Region 3 and Regional Meetings commenced in October, 2021 with an expected Construction commencement of Q3 2022, subject to confirmation by Mayo County Council.
- Loan Approval for the National LED Retrofit Project placed before and approved by the Members of RCC at Plenary Meeting of 21st December, 2020.
- Updates to DeadSure Inventory and UMR Database in preparation for National LED Upgrade – ongoing.
- Connaught Public Lighting Maintenance, LED Retrofit, New Works & Associated Services – Tender prepared by Mayo County Council on behalf of Six Connacht Local Authorities. Documentation reviewed and Evaluation process completed with Electric Skyline Limited appointed in October, 2020.
- The cost of the annual maintenance of public lighting has risen substantially due to the unavailability of replacement SOX lamps and associated cost of replacing SOX lamps with LED units. The measures to curb expenditure on public lighting maintenance has resulted in the number of ‘active faults’ increasing and repairs are carried out on a priority basis.
- Taking-in-Charge of Estates (Public Lighting) – continuing in conjunction with Planning and Roads Sections. Updates posted to RCC website.

CORPORATE AFFAIRS

- At the Annual Meeting on 27th June 2022, Cllr. Tom Crosby was elected as the Cathaoirleach of Roscommon County Council, succeeding Cllr. Joe Murphy. Cllr. Laurence Fallon was elected as Leas Cathaoirleach.
- The Annual Report 2021 was adopted at the June Plenary Meeting.

Civic Reception:

Tuesday, 21st June 2022 marked the first civic reception held in person since 2019 at Áras an Chontae to recognise and honour the success of people of Roscommon on the national and, in some cases, the international stage. This event provides an opportunity to celebrate the diversity of talents, dedication and enthusiasm which lead to the excellent achievements of the recipients in the arena of sport, dance, storytelling, creativity and initiative in fundraising for childhood cancer. A total of eighteen awards were presented by the Cathaoirleach.

Communications:

A dedicated communications unit manages 16 social media profiles across the council on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn, promoting greater awareness of the Council and its services. This is achieved through the use of engaging content and informative updates on various council initiatives which are of interest to the public and to our various partners and stakeholders.



HUMAN RESOURCES

RosComms is the brand new Staff App for Roscommon County Council which was launched to all staff members, both indoor and outdoor, in late March 2022. The app can be availed of on IOS and Android devices or on Desktop and provides staff with easy access to all the latest news & updates along with a wealth of forms, resources and documentation all in one single location! Already there are in excess of 170 users engaged with the app across the Council with the number growing every week.



WATER AND WASTE WATER

There is an ongoing extensive Infrastructural portfolio, Capital Programme portfolio and Water Networks portfolio in place for Water and Waste Water schemes in the County. The following is a summary of works planned and underway.

INFRASTRUCTURE PORTFOLIO:

Roscommon Town Main Drainage:

The key objective of the Roscommon Town Main Drainage project is to address and remove the drivers for the Roscommon Agglomeration being listed on the EU Commission's Letter of Formal Notice 2015 under the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive. Tobin Consulting Engineers have been appointed as the Clients Representative for the project. Ministerial consent was issued on 26th May 2021. The contract was awarded to GMC Utilities Ltd. Works commenced on 15th June 2021.

The following is a brief summary of the works involved.

- Installation of 7.2km of new higher capacity sewers and rising mains. 95% completed.
- Upgrade of six existing storm water overflows and decommissioning a further six. Not commenced.
- Construction of a new inlet pumping station, balancing tank and storm water holding tank at the existing Wastewater Treatment Plant. 40% completed.
- New/upgraded pumping stations with storm water storage at Circular Rd, Castlerea Rd, Ardsallagh and Ballinagard. 60% completed.

Works are underway at the following locations:

- Circular road. Carrying out sewer connections.
- New pumping stations at Circular road, Ballinagard, Ardsallagh & Castlerea Road on going.
- New inlet pumping station and balancing tank at the waste water treatment plant on going.

Upgrade works to Ballaghadereen Waste Water Treatment Plant:

The Ballaghadereen WWTP has been included under the 2017-2021 Investment Plan for assessment of its primary and secondary treatment processes. The current plant is at risk in terms of UWWTD compliance, overloading and failure to provide adequate capacity for growth. The project has moved to a new delivery mechanism and will now be progressed under the ECI (Early Contractor Involvement) Contract. The National ECI contracts are divided into two regions with Roscommon County in the Northern Region. The successful Contractor within this region is Veolia who has now taken over the project since January 2020.

A project brief of the proposed upgrade has now been issued to Veolia. Veolia is currently proceeding with a proposed detailed design in consultation with all parties having their input to the overall outcome to the delivery of the project.

The main items of work to be delivered as part of the ECI project are:

- Upgrade the terminal Pumping Station with increasing capacity of the tank on site as well as associated site works
- Upgrade the site Boundaries by separation of the entrance currently used as a common shared entrance to both Irish Water and Roscommon County Council
- Upgrade the Secondary Treatment process in order to improve capacity of the existing process
- Associated ancillary site works including upgrade of the SCADA System

Land to the north of the pumping station are required. Finalise the revised storm water tank design. Design at the WWTP is complete and is as per the design presented at the Hazop and ALM. Workshop 4 to take place on 20th July.

Monksland and Boyle Drainage Area Plans:

The preparation of a Drainage Area Plan and Wastewater Source Control Study was undertaken in Monksland and Boyle to accurately estimate the condition of the existing networks and the flow and load arriving to the Wastewater Treatment works. This Drainage Area Plan work was carried out by Nicholas O'Dwyer Consulting Engineers together with McCloys Water and Environmental Consulting Engineers.

The manhole and sewer CCTV surveys for both towns, Flow and Load Survey in Monksland and the Flow and Rainfall Survey in Boyle have been completed. A Model build for the networks on both towns was carried out. A Technical Solution Development Report was issued for both locations in June 2018 and following on from this a Process Optimisation Report for Monksland was developed.

Both Monksland & Boyle are programmed for Feasibility studies to be carried out.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME PORTFOLIO:

Inlet Works, Sludge & Storm Programme (IWSS):

Upgrade to the Inlet, Storm and sludge process at Termonbarry Waste Water Treatment Plant has been included in this programme. JB Barry has been appointed as Consulting Engineers. A Conceptual Design was completed in Q4 2018. A technical options report has been reviewed and approved. Irish Water asset planning have reviewed the report and the following upgrade works have been approved: New inlet works, a storm tank and replacement of the old sludge tank with a larger sludge tank together with associated mechanical and electrical works and upgrades.

A task instruction which was issued to Conway Engineering for Termonbarry WWTP under contract 17/170_007 Wastewater Treatments Plants Contract 2. Workshop 4 to take place on 11th July.

National Certs of Authorisation Programme (NCAP):

RPS Consulting Engineers were appointed and are currently gathering data for site assessment and site options report for 15no. sites in County Roscommon. The assessment is based on the impact the asset has on the environment rather than plant condition. Lecarrow, Croghan, Bellanagare, Cloonfad & Ballintober WWTP are identified as high impact sites. Roscommon County Council staff have engaged with RPS and have provided detailed information on each of the plants that have been examined under this programme. A draft site assessment report on each of the above locations was reviewed in Q2 2019 and commented on by Roscommon County Council Operations engineers.

RPS are in the process of preparing technical options reports for each of the sites based on the recommendations contained in the site assessment reports. A technical options reports were circulated in Q3 2020.

There is currently no Roscommon WWTP approved for NCAP capital funding.

Water Treatment Programme.

A Regional Water Treatment programme is underway in the North and West Region. There are 12no. sites in the North West Region included in the programme. Mount Talbot – Four Roads Water Treatment Plant is included in the programme. EPS Ltd have been awarded the regional contract with a total value of €8million. Advance works are completed at Mount Talbot WTP. Raw water data gathering is ongoing. This data will assist in the final scope for the plant upgrade.

- Remainder of dial out SMS alarm system – 2 weeks to complete.
- Source protection - To be completed by end September.
- Final design drawing on the source protection to be forwarded for review.

Reservoir Refurbishment Programme

Refurbishment Works are planned for Fairymount and Derrinacartha Reservoirs. However, unlikely works will proceed this year.

Access to Heights and Edge Protection Programme

This is a regional programme aimed at addressing medium and high-risk items identified in HSQE audits. IW have requested a review of any outstanding HSQE items that may be considered for delivery under this programme.

Works were completed in Monksland WWTP in Q1 and further works planned at Boyle WWTP later this year.

Storm Water Overflow Assessment Programme

Jacobs/Tobins appointed by IW to deliver this regional programme. A review of current list of WWTP's and storm water overflows (SWO's) is completed. Site assessments reports on all sites are to be issued.

Waste Water Pumping Stations and Rising Mains Capital Maintenance Programme

Jacobs have been appointed by IW to deliver this regional programme. Ballyfarnan WWPS has been prioritised under this programme.

Jacobs completed the concept design so this WWPS. The report is with Asset Planning who maintain A register of PS's nationally and recommend which ones are prioritised for further works.

WWBG Pump Station Growth Programme

Bellanamullia PS (Monksland) and Daneshill PS (Monksland) included in this programme. GMC Utilities have been appointed to upgrade the pump stations.

More details have been sought from IW in relation to this programme.

Waste Water Below Ground Telemetry Programme

The WWBG Telemetry programme provides for installation of telemetry outstations at WW pumping station sites in order to allow early warning in case of spills to sensitive waters and to obtain data for future upgrades, connection requests, etc. All sites covered under this programme will be connected to interim National Telemetry System (iNTS). Each local authority will have a full access to data from sites in their county.

The programme has been running since 2018 with the priority sites being WWPSs that are located close to **shellfish, bathing and sensitive waters**. We are at a stage now where all these WWPSs are in hand/complete and there was capacity in the programme to add a limited number of pumping stations. The following pumping stations are identified for inclusion in the programme.

1. BALLYLEAGUE - CLOONTUSKERT PS (BALLYLEAGUE)
2. BOYLE WASTEWATER TREATMENT WORKS - BOYLE BRIDGE PS
3. BOYLE WASTEWATER TREATMENT WORKS - FELTON ROAD PS
4. BOYLE WASTEWATER TREATMENT WORKS - WOODEN BRIDGE PS
5. CASTLEREA - ARM PS (CASTLEREA)
6. CASTLEREA - WILLIAMSTOWN ROAD PS (CASTLEREA)
7. MONKSLAND - BELLANAMULLIA PS (MONKSLAND)
8. MONKSLAND - CUSHLEA PS (MONKSLAND)
9. ROOSKY - MOHER ED ROOSKY PS, COUNTY LEIRIM (ROOSKY)
10. ROSCOMMON - ARDSALLAGH PS (ROSCOMMON)

11. ROSCOMMON - CASTLEREA ROAD PS (ROSCOMMON)
12. STROKESTOWN WASTEWATER TREATMENT WORKS - LISROYNE PS

Surveys have commenced on the above sites.

Reservoir Cleaning Programme.

All reservoirs and clear water tanks are cleaned up to date. North Roscommon clear water tanks 1&2, Fairymount reservoir, Granlahan reservoir old and new were cleaned in March 2022. Further cleaning is planned for South Roscommon later in 2022.

Sewer Rehabilitation Programme.

AECOM have been appointed by IW to develop a National Sewer Rehabilitation Programme. A workshop was held with IW, RCC and AECOM to identify areas for rehabilitation.

CCTVs have been carried out at the following locations last week, Ballyleague, Ballinlough, Roscommon Town, Boyle & Knockcroghery.

The CCTV reports will determine extents of works required.

Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme.

It is proposed that there will be a Small Towns & Villages Growth Programme which will support a number of the National Policy Objectives and National Strategic Outcomes under the NPF (e.g. development of a new rural settlement investment approach under National Strategic Outcomes of the NPF). The Small Towns & Villages Growth Programme is intended to provide WWTP and WTP growth capacity in smaller settlements which would not otherwise be provided for in the Investment Plan.

Lecarrow WWTP has been selected for upgrade works. Workshop -1 held on 22nd April.

Ballinameen WWTP has also been included in the programme.

Energy Efficiencies – Heating & Lighting Programme.

A list of sites has been issued to IW for inclusion in this programme.

Castlerea WTP, Mount Talbot WTP, Ballaghaderreen WWTP, Monksland WWTP are included in this programme.

Pressure Vessel Programme.

No further works identified under this programme to date.

ESB Upgrade Programme.

North Roscommon WTP has been included in this programme. The following is a brief outline of the works proposed.

Full electrical upgrade to included replacement of 7 electrical panels

- Main Incomer Panel
- Sludge dewatering Building Old Panel
- R/W building – bandscreen panel and pump control panel are corroded in raw water pumphouse. These should be replaced.
- Replace high lift pumphouse - washwater pump panels 1 and 2
- Replace old panel in coagulation room

As well as the above list of outputs it is planned to bring the plant from an LV supply to an MV supply. Appropriate assessments are being carried out for submission with a planning permission for the proposed works.

National Telemetry System

IW are proposing to install WITS (Worldwide Industrial Telemetry Standards) outstation panels at Longford Springs WTP, Cloonlaughnan WTP and Lough Gara WTP. In advance of this the system integrator, Cully Automation, has requested a site visit to Cloonlaughnan WTP to inform their pricing. Cloonlaughnan WTP & Lough Gara WTP have been excluded from the programme. Works will proceed in Longford Springs WTP.

National Water Resources Plan

A submission on the Regional Water Resources Plan was submitted to IW on 11th March 2022.

The southern Water Resources Plan was published for consultation, however there are no Roscommon supplies impacted.

WATER NETWORKS PORTFOLIO:

Water Network Framework Programme:

Irish Water has rolled out a Water Network Portfolio under its Capital Investment Plan 2017 to 2021. Works intended to be rolled out under this programme include:

- New mains and service laying.
- Back yard lead replacement.
- DMA establishment.
- Pressure management.
- Resolution of shared services.
- First fix.
- Lead services

Water Networks Rehabilitation Programme

Contract Works:

Farrans Ltd are the appointed regional contractor to undertake works on behalf of Irish Water.

Note the following rehab works to proceed in Roscommon for 2022 are as follows:

- Roscommon Central WSS: 509m of new mains in Lisnamult. Due to commence end August. Cremully due to commence in the coming weeks.
- North Roscommon WSS: 3050m of new trunk main to supply south Sligo. Trial holes carried out. Due to commence Q4 2022. 10no. back yard services to be replaced also to be delivered in Q4 2022.
- Ballinlough/Loughlynn WSS: 531m of new mains at Granlahan. Approved to design only.
- North East Regional WSS: 1,100m of new main in Elphin. Works commenced in June. Approx. 30% completed.

Direct Labour Works:

- None planned at present but attendance will be required on the above rehab schemes.

Pressure Management:

A review of all PRVs have commenced. A pressure management programme has been prepared and will be rolled out during 2022.

Find and Fix Programme:

The Find & Fix scheme involves leak detection crews undertaking surveys to prove the extent of the supply area, 'Step testing' to focus areas with leakage and using sounding and logging equipment on footpaths and other public areas to find the leaks. Once the leaks are found a repair crew then completes the repair. In Q2 of 2022 Farrans Construction Ltd (the contractor) has focussed on a number of District Metering Areas (DMA's) in the Lisbrock Water Supply Zone (WSZ) and in North Roscommon WSZ where unaccounted for water levels are high. Target Leakage reduction has been achieved in a number of DMAs and are now closed and handed back to the operations caretakers. Other DMAs are still being investigated and in some cases have been split into sub DMAs to assist in leakage reduction and operational management process. Roscommon County Council Direct labour crew are currently working in the North East Regional WSZ in Roscommon South Water Area. This ongoing find and fix work has resulted in a reduction of unaccounted for water within County Roscommon and will continue to do so over the lifetime of the programme. Pressure Management proposals have been investigated and where potential reduction of pressure and flows could be achieved, pressure reducing valves have been proposed and installed. Ongoing monitoring indicates reasonable savings as a result.

First Fix Programme

Farrans Construction has been appointed by IW to carry out works under this programme. The duration depends on the take up by customers who will avail of the scheme. Letters have been issued to customers with meter usage <1M3/day. Farrans Construction will undertake the find and fix for customers who wish to avail of the scheme.

Non-Domestic Meter Replacement

Farrans commenced exchanging meters in Roscommon. They have commenced replacing DN15 concentric meters. We have a list of just under 2000 concentric meters for Roscommon. These are matched Non Domestic meters which have no reads.

Leakage Management System

Netbase is now operational. An on line system is now in place that will allow caretakers/supervisors access to logged meter data from their phones/laptops.

Acoustic Logger Trial

An acoustic logger trial was carried out in Frenchpark DMA. The results of the trial are under consideration. Pending the outcome of the trail this system may be deployed in other DMAs.

MULTI-ANNUAL RURAL WATER PROGRAMME 2019-2021

The Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2019-2021 is a scheme specific or project based approach to funding from the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage. The Department has agreed that works continue under this programme until the new 2022-2024 funding programme is available later this year.

The objective for this cycle is to provide enhanced funding certainty for priority investment needs to support the implementation of proper planning and sustainable development in rural areas. This is to assist in meeting the requirements of the Drinking Water Directive in relation to rural water supplies and to support the delivery of measures identified in the *River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021* to meet the objectives of the Water Framework Directive.

The 2019-2021 funding cycle of the multi-annual programme consists of eight measures. These measures reflect the key challenges currently facing the rural water sector in respect of funding support. In particular, the measures have been more expressly focused around a 'multiple barriers' approach, from catchment to consumers (source – treatment - distribution), to prevent the contamination of, and ensure that, drinking water is safe and meets the quality parameters of the Drinking Water Regulations on a consistent long-term basis.

Approval of the schemes/projects under the MARWP 2019-2021 and the grant funding allocations were received from the Department in Circular letter dated 14th October, 2019 - €2,861,263.

The eight funding measures are:

- **Measure 1 - Source Protection (Group Water Scheme Sector- Funding approved for the GWS Pilot Project at Peak Mantua, Polecat Springs, Corracreigh, Mid Roscommon, Oran Ballintubber & Castlestrange GWS and additional works at Brusna, Gorthaganny and Castlestrange GWS' -total available €351,150 for the period 2019-2021.**

Roscommon County Council are working in partnership with the National Federation of Group Water Schemes and other stakeholders on a Source Protection Pilot Project developing full source protection plans including specific actions to improve the safety and security of Group Water Schemes drinking water. The work commenced in 2018 and continued in Q2 2022. A steering group and operational working group have been set up to progress the development of the source protection plans.

Works undertaken to date at a cost of €375,504.34 were 100% recoupable from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Further works were undertaken at Brusna and Castlestrange GWS' at a cost of €12,362.50.

A campaign to raise public awareness on source protection and incorporating Biodiversity was developed to coincide with Rural Water Week on 7th to 11th September, 2020 with many initiatives. Mitigation measures for swallow holes were developed and farmers encouraged to fence off vulnerable areas on their lands. Catchment walks were undertaken by GWS managers to identify further sources of pollution. Farmers and contractors were reminded of the importance of proper and effective nutrient management to help protect water sources from pollution. Promotional Video clips were also undertaken to raise awareness. Available on www.roscommoncoco.ie under Water & Wastewater/Rural Water Programme.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1BijH8U5Z_DLI4Tuz7M7twQFjlbAPgyj/view?usp=sharing

'I've Planted a Tree and My Garden is Pesticide Free'

Approximately 8,000 trees were distributed to all the primary schools in the County. This initiative was to encourage the community to go pesticide free in their gardens and to educate and create awareness in schools. Surveys undertaken suggest that most householders that currently use pesticides are prepared to rethink their use in order to protect the environment. Concerns at the damaging impacts of pesticides on water sources and biodiversity lie behind the initiative and was developed as part of this project in Roscommon County Council. A main objective is to

educate the wider community on the damage that pesticides can do in their domestic gardens. This is an important part of the overall project, and is very much linked to the 'Let it Bee' initiative. [I've Planted a Tree and My Garden is Pesticide Free](#)

The '**Let It Bee**' initiative- Farmers working together to protect their local water source and enhance biodiversity is another initiative of the Group Water Scheme Source Protection Pilot Project in Roscommon.

Bees, hives, equipment and mentoring were supplied to selected members of the community. In return the farmers are looking at changing their practices, putting in biodiversity measures and informing the wider community about the dangers of pesticides.

The farmers taking part in the initiative also receive a Plaque which is placed on the wall outside their homes to highlight their involvement.

'European Bee Award 2020' for Roscommon

The Source Protection Pilot Project in Roscommon won the European Bee Award 2020 for its outstanding contribution to protect pollinators, promoted by the European Landowners' Organisation. The project was also shortlisted for the Cogeca European Award for Co-operative Innovation. The 'Let It Bee' initiative continued to be developed through this project into 2022.

- **Measure 2 - Public health compliance (Group Water Scheme Sector): Funding of €814,000 approved for the period 2019-2021.**

This measure is aimed at improving water quality in existing group water schemes, through upgrading their treatment facilities, so that the schemes can sustainably achieve compliance with the parameters of the Drinking Water Regulations on a consistent long-term basis. The Capital Replacement works are ongoing in accordance with a planned programme on the Design Build Operate Group Water Schemes. Works were undertaken to date on Mid Roscommon, Oran Ballintubber and Corracreigh GWS at a cost of €438,923 with 85% of costs €351,138 recoupable. Works to upgrade the existing UV systems to validated UV systems on the Design Build Operate bundle, Mid Roscommon, Oran Ballintubber and Corracreigh Group Water Schemes were undertaken in 2020 at a cost of €248,186.34 to date.

Contractor for the upgrade of the existing UV systems to validated UV system on the Brusna GWS have been approved for installation following tender process.

- **Measure 3 – Enhancement of existing schemes including water conservation (Group Water Scheme Sector): Funding of €1,431,000 approved for the period 2019-2021.**

This measure supports projects to make existing group water schemes more efficient in their operation (e.g. water conservation and network upgrades, including storage) and contributing to good water quality on a consistent sustainable long-term basis.

Funding of €790,314.76 has been paid to the Group Water Schemes at 85% of costs in Mid Roscommon, Oran/Ballintubber, Corracreigh, Polecat Springs, Brusna, Gorthaganny and Castlestrange.

In 2021 contracts works ongoing/completed on the following projects totalling approx. 13 kilometers of watermains.

- Corracreigh – Contract No.1 2020: - The contract provides for the installation of 319 linear meters of 90mm OD PE100 SDR17 1209 linear meters of 125mm OD PE100 SDR17 HPPE Water mains, installation of 4 connections to existing water mains, installation of 1 Air Valve, 6 Sluice

Valves, 1 No Elster 4000 Bulk water meter, 1 No Cla Val Pressure reducing valve with strainer, 3No. Domestic PRVs and 12 no connections to services in the Townlands of Cloonyquin and Killynagh - Completed.

- Gortaganny GWS Upgrade Contract 1(2019)- 785 linear meters of 90mmOD PE100 SDR17 HPPE Water mains, installation of 2 No connection to existing water mains, installation of 1 Bulk water meter, installation of 1 scour valve, 4 Sluice Valves and 14no connections to new and existing service pipes in the Townlands of Gortaganny and Carrowbehy - Completed.
- Mid Roscommon -Contract 01(2020) Tulsk: – The contract provided for the installation of 415 linear meters of 63mm OD PE100 SDR17 & 1509 linear meters of 90mm OD PE100 SDR17 HPPE Water mains – Completed.
- Mid Roscommon-Contract02(2020) Kinnity: - The contract provides for the installation of 2052 linear meters of 90mm OD PE100 SDR17 HPPE Water mains – Completed.
- Mid Roscommon -Contract 03(2020) Bushfield: - The contract provides for the installation of 2852 linear meters of 63mm OD PE100 SDR17 & 1913 linear meters of 90mm OD PE100 SDR17 HPPE Water mains - Completed.
- Oran Ballintubber-Contract No.1(2020): -The contract provides for the installation of 1965 meters of 90mm water main with 10 service connections - Completed Q1 2022
- Polecat Springs -Contract 01(2020): - The contract provides for the installation of 1746 linear meters of 90mmOD PE100 SDR17 HPPE Water mains- extra works necessary have been completed. - Completed.

Upgrade contracts have been awarded on the following and work will continue into Q3 2022. Delays in projects are occurring due to costs and supply problems with construction materials.

- Corracreigh – Contract No.1 2022: The contract provides for the installation of approx 1000 linear meters of 90mm OD PE100 SDR17, a number of connections to services in the Townland of Annaghmore. Contractor appointed, works due to commence end of July.
- Corracreigh – Contract No.1 2020 Extras: The contract provides for the installation of approx 500 linear meters of 90mm OD PE100 SDR17, a number of connections to services in the Townland of Killynagh. Contractor appointed, works due to commence mid-July.
- Mid Roscommon – 2021 Contract 1 Ballinderry-Carrowbaun: – The contract provides for the installation of 1400 meters of 90mm water main water and 1350 meters of 63mm water main water, with various fittings laid in the public road at two locations. Contractor appointed, delays with contractor arriving - other work commitments/delays due to Covid.
- Mid Roscommon – 2021 Contract 2 Carrowduff-Tonbaun: – The contract provides for the installation of 1400 linear meters of 63mm OD PE100 SDR17 & 950 linear meters of 63mm OD PE100 SDR17 HPPE Water mains. Contractor appointed, works to be completed in Q3 2022. Contractor appointed, works due to commence mid-July.
- Mid Roscommon – 2021 Contract 3 Coggalbeg: – The contract provides for 4100 meters of 90mm water main water with various fittings laid in the public road. Contractor on site, works have commenced with completion expected August 2022.
- Oran Ballintubber-Contract No.1(2022): - The contract provides for the installation of 800 meters of 75mm water main with 5 service connections - Contractor appointed, works due to commence Q3 2022 (contractor has other work commitments).

The following contract has been approved for construction and work will continue into Q3/Q4 2022.

- Corracreigh / Peake Mantua Amalgamation -Contract 01(2022): - A Special General Meeting of Peake Mantua held on Friday, 10th June approved a motion for a “transfer of engagements” (Amalgamation) with Corracreigh GWS. This clears the way to proceed with the process of design of the interconnector.

The contract will provide for approximately 3,600 meters of 125 mm water main and approx. 1000 meters of 75 mm water main with various fittings laid in the public road.

Survey, Design & contract documentation is currently being produced for this contract. Expect to go to tender Q3 2022.

Group Water Scheme Managers have been advised to identify works/upgrades necessary on their schemes in preparation of the next programme of funding.

- **Measure 5 – Transition of Existing Group Water Schemes and Group Sewerage Schemes to the Public (Irish Water) Water Sector: Funding of €247,000 approved for the period 2019-2021.**

This measure enables existing group water schemes and existing group sewerage schemes, where they wish to do so and with the agreement of Irish Water, to transition to the public water sector (Irish Water).

Discussions are underway with 2 Group Water Schemes to progress to taking in charge by Irish Water.

At the end of 2021 Projects totalling 3.5 kilometers of watermains at a cost to date of €168,261 are completed.

- Works are completed on the Drumheriff /Derrinasoo GWS. December 2020
Drumherriff: 1480m of 63mm watermains with 10 connections.
- Works are completed on the Lisagallon GWS -June 2021
Lisagallon: 1928m of 125mm watermains with over 25 connections.
TIC process has been initiated with Irish Water, as built drawings and relevant forms have been produced.
- Discussions are ongoing with Woodbrook GWS Q1/2-2022
Contract documents are being produced for contract award.
- A request was received from Caramunia GWS, Rahara to be taking in charge in June 2022 – currently being surveyed.

- **Measure 6 –A Community Water Connection**
Crosshill, Arigna was undertaken in 2019 costing €22,314. Completed.

- **Measure 8 - PRIVATE WATER SUPPLY- Grants for the improvement of a private water supply to a house**

The existing grant scheme to support improvement works for a private water supply providing water intended for human consumption and domestic purposes to a house, (more commonly known as private or household wells) has been revised with effect from 4th June, 2020 under the **Housing (Private Water Supply Financial Assistance) Regulations 2020 (S.I. No. 192 of 2020)**.

1. Purpose of grant

The purpose of this grant scheme is to assist households in rural areas that are dependent on a private water supply (individual well) for their household use, by financially assisting them where they incur capital expenditure, to carry out improvements to the supply to ensure that the water supply is wholesome and clean, or that the quantity supplied is insufficient to meet the domestic needs of the household as defined in the Housing (Private Water Supply Financial Assistance) Regulations 2020 (S.I. No. 192 of 2020).

2. Level of grant

The level of a grant is determined by the type of improvement works being undertaken and shall not exceed the following amounts:

- (a) (i) 85% of the approved costs for rehabilitation works, subject to a maximum of €3,000; or
(ii) 85% of the approved costs for the provision of a new well, subject to a maximum of €5,000 (where the housing authority agrees that this is the most appropriate solution);
- (b) 100% of the approved costs for works that, in the opinion of the housing authority, are necessary to treat the water to meet the water quality standards specified in the Regulations, subject to a maximum grant of €1,000. Examples of such treatments are filtration or Ultra Violet treatment.

To the end of Q2 2022 a total of 14 applications for the upgrade of Private Water Supplies have been received.

SUBSIDY - Payable towards the Operational Costs of Group Water Schemes Providing Water for Domestic Use:

With effect from 1st January, 2018, the subsidies have been increased, streamlined and new incentives introduced for smaller schemes. This is intended to bring greater equity and fairness to ensure that domestic users on group water schemes receive comparable benefits to those receiving their water supply from Irish Water.

- **Annual Subsidy** - An annual subsidy per house is available to group schemes for the operational cost of providing domestic water. Annual subsidies in the sum of €71,148 have been paid to Group Water Schemes to end of Q1 2022.
- **Operational and Maintenance Subsidy** – This subsidy is payable towards Operational and Maintenance (O&M) costs associated with “bona fide” Design/Build/Operate (DBO) contracts for group schemes that have their own water treatment facilities. O&M subsidies have been paid in the sum of €156,189 to Group Water Schemes to the end of Q1 2022.

Total Subsidies paid to Group Water Schemes to end of Q1 2022 is €227,337.

Well Grants – Quarter 2/2022

There were a total of six applications received for Private Well Grants during Quarter 2 of 2022. Two of the applications received were for water treatment works to existing wells. Provisional Approval has been granted on all of those and the work is in progress. Two of the applications are at the final stage awaiting water testing results from the Laboratory. One Grant was paid out in Q2.

ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE UNIT

Ukrainian Crisis

Much of March and early April was dominated by the fall out of events in Ukraine and the preparation and supervision of emergency accommodation at Cuisle/Dunamon. Environment staff volunteered for general duties and advised on environmental matters and the operation of the existing WTP in particular.

Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI)

The Environment & Climate Unit submits an annual inspection and compliance plan to the EPA. The plan includes routine and non-routine environmental inspections carried out by Roscommon County Council. Non-routine inspections are typically carried out in response to specific complaints. It also includes a broad monitoring programme to ensure compliance with environmental legislation; activities monitored include local authority, domestic, agricultural, commercial and industrial sector operations. National Environmental Priorities 2022-2024 are set out per Table 1 below. Governance is also an implicit/embedded priority.

Table 1: National Enforcement Priorities 2022 – 2024.

Water	Waste	Air/Noise
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pressures from Agriculture (slurry/soiled water collection and storage) • Pressures from Agriculture (slurry and fertiliser spreading) • DWWTS/Septic Tanks • Discharge Licences/Misconnections • Local Priorities and Water Quality Monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackling Illegal Waste and Multi-Agency Sites of Concern • Construction and Demolition Waste • End of Life Vehicles and Metals • Household and Commercial Waste • PRIs and Local Priorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solid Fuel • Air Quality Monitoring and Data Use • Environmental Noise Directive (ENDs) • Air and Noise Control (including Planning) • Ongoing Air and Noise Enforcement Work

High rates of open and unresolved DWWTs notices is a particular concern for the County. Resources required to address this concern will be prioritised in accordance with environmental risk factors and polluting potential of open notices (see also item 5 under Water, Wastewater, Air and Noise Pollution below).

Complaints

The Environment Unit continues to investigate litter and pollution complaints on a daily basis. All complaints are recorded, assigned and investigated using a newly developed database. Monthly reporting to the LGMA has also moved to a **new online portal called NEMIS**; the ability to generate quarterly reports from NEMIS is currently being investigated by RCC/Environment with a view to providing suitable report in future management reports.

Environmental Awareness

The Environmental Awareness Officer position has been vacant since Q4 2021. The position was advertised and applicants have been short-listed. Duties have been shared with other staff or temporarily suspended, as necessary.

Keadue Village took part in the Entente Florale international competition at the end of June and start of July, 2022. RCC staff, including Environmental staff, were on hand to assist with advanced preparations and presentations to the judging panel. Keadue was one of only two locations in the 32 counties invited to participate. Results will be announced in Hungary in September, 2022.

Heat Pump training was organised for RCC staff in June 2022. Training was provided in-house via TUS (Technological University of the Shannon, Midlands and Midwest). Training objectives were to;

- improve procurement of heat pumps in county councils to ensure that a retrofit or a new build is to the highest standard and that the heat pump is working as efficiently as possible; and
- increase awareness of Heat Pumps to tenants, CC staff, installers and the general public.

Waste Collection and Civic Amenity Sites

Roscommon County Council operates four Civic Amenity Sites which are open to the public three days a week. Waste collected at all four sites is reflected in the National Waste Survey and will be submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency in April. Waste collected at Roscommon and Ballaghaderreen is also reflected in the Annual Environmental Report (AER) and the Annual Environmental Performance Reporting (EPR) landfill returns.

Water, Wastewater, Air and Noise Pollution

1. RCC continues to engage with Lough Forbes Pesticides Action group. This group looks at mechanisms to address **pesticides exceedances** within catchment area. RCC attended meetings in March and June. RCC also engaged with the local ASSAP advisor in relation to exceedances highlighted in Q1.
2. Water quality – protect and restore water bodies, (rivers, lakes etc.) to at least good status remains a function of local authorities and it is highlighted as key area for Ireland to achieve objectives under the Water Framework Directive. Catchment investigations and inspections are ongoing in the Derryhippo River catchment area (Creggs/Dunamon area) and these are expected to conclude in Q3-4 this year. Number of minor issues have been recorded on farms to date and these are being addressed by the farmers involved.
3. A member of staff completed the second module of the Catchment Science and Management course in Q2. Course provides the necessary tools for assessment and implementation of improvements/asures within catchment under the WFD.
4. Western ROC (regional operation committee) Water Framework Directive committee continue to meet and coordinate a number of national agencies in relation to implementation/progressing of water quality issues within the Western Region. Number of engagements with regional co-ordinator took place in Q2 especially in relation to new good agricultural practice regulations where errors in the legislation have been noted. These errors were highlighted to regional co-ordinator and to staff in the Department of Agriculture and Department of Environment responsible for the drafting of the legislation. The expectation is that an amendment to legislation will be published later in the 2022.
5. National Inspection plan for DWWTS – Roscommon County Council has had ongoing engagement with the EPA in relation to the number of outstanding advisory notices open within the county. A programme of measures had been devised and submitted to the EPA.

This programme will require new inspections of premises not engaging with the local authority and where necessary legal proceedings will be instigated. A number of households are engaging with the local authority and it is expected that the required works will be completed in a timely manner. Regular updates will be provided to the EPA in relation to open files with a view to reducing the number of open notices by the end of year. EPA report highlighted that Roscommon is among the counties with the highest inspection failure rates and had the highest number of open advisory notices at the end of 2021.

6. Air Quality at monitoring station in Roscommon Town (adjacent to Aras an Chontae) remained at good quality for the quarter. The monitor in the period has had a number of errors which were rectified by Environment Department staff.

RCC staff met with members of lawyers in relation to a national review of local authority 'natural water' staffing levels. Dedicated resources/funding for enforcement activities relating to the protection of natural waters are not currently provided. This is seen as a significant national issue; however, it may be 18 to 24 months before the review findings and recommendations are made known.

Closed Landfill Sites

These landfill facilities have ceased accepting waste for landfill disposal but Waste Licences still remain in place and as per the conditions set out in the Licences, Roscommon County Council is obliged to continuously monitor environmental risks associated with the closed facilities (e.g., landfill gas, groundwater quality, surface water quality). Regular maintenance and servicing continues to take place. Funding has been secured for Certificate of Authorisation works at Castlerea historic landfill. Contracts for the prescribed works will need to be prepared. An agreement to transfer the Castlerea site lands back to the original owner for a nominal amount is not contested; however, the lands cannot be transferred until all RCC's site restoration obligations have been met, with the possible exception of monitoring. Access to lands will be required post transfer to facilitate any future monitoring requirements.

Laboratory Services

The laboratory provides both a technical/analytical and sampling service and is accredited to ISO 17025 (one of only 6 Local Authority testing laboratories accredited to this standard).

A new contract to provide testing services to Mayo County Council was secured in Q2, 2022 for the provision of testing for licensed effluents. The laboratory provides a shared service to Local Authority's and LAWPRO in three provinces and continues to expand its customer base. Maintaining output is a primary concern. This year's accreditation audit by the Irish National Accreditation Board will be taking place in Q4, 2022 on the 5th and 6th of October.

Climate Action

Climate Action Promotional Video: Mimar Media has scheduled filming for early to mid Q3 2022 and will consult with RCC when it is ready to begin scripting the footage.

3 Counties Energy Agency was re-appointed as energy advisor to the Midland Energy Agency. An initial work programme of four energy audits per county plus all required DEC's has been agreed. A pipeline of prioritised energy works will be developed from said energy audits. A MOU between the Midlands Energy Agency and the SEAI has also been drafted to facilitate access to pathfinder funding (50% co-funding for capital energy works from SEAI with the remaining 50% from Local Authorities).

No Change: Draft government guidance on the preparation of LA Climate Action Plans was issued in mid-December, 2021. The guidance documents were assessed and presented to the senior management team. Significant resources will be required for the preparation, adoption and implementation of RCC's Climate Action Plan. The DECC has not indicated when resources might be provided.

Draft Energy Master Plan for Castlerea SEC was prepared in Q2 2022 and circulated in early July 2022. Bridge funding for the preparation of SEC energy master plans is provided by RCC.

Casual Trading

The legal review of the draft Casual Trading Bye-Laws 2022 was completed; however, further clarification is required in relation the inclusion and use of fixed payment notices.

Clarity has been provided in relation to the location of Roscommon Town Centre trading bays. Trading bays affected by the recent regeneration works will be located as per the approved Part 8 for said regeneration works.

Issues pertaining to vehicles parking in trading bays during trading hours had to be resolved in Roscommon Town, Mart Area. Matter was resolved with the assistance of AGS.

ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

N5 Ballaghaderreen–Scramoge: The Ballaghaderreen to Scramoge Road Project is 33.4km in length and extends from the east tie-in point of the N5 Ballaghaderreen By-pass to Scramoge and bypasses Frenchpark, Bellanagare, Tulsk and Strokestown. The Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) was made on 11 December 2017. The application for Development Consent and for confirmation of the CPO and associated documentation was submitted to An Bord Pleanála (ABP) on 20 December 2017. The closing date for receipt of submissions to ABP was 6 March 2018. ABP made a request for additional information and same was submitted to the Board on 7 June 2018. Following an Oral Hearing convened by An Bord Pleanála ('The Board') in October 2018 the Board approved the scheme and confirmed the CPO in January 2019. CPO notices have been served on all persons listed in the CPO and land negotiations are progressing. Land & property valuation services and legal services to assist with land acquisition have been procured. Various works and services contracts were procured in advance of the main construction contract. Fencing, Archaeological site works, topographical surveys, geotechnical investigations and advance diversions of some Authority & Utility apparatus are complete. Technical consultants have been appointed to assist in progressing the project through the tender and construction stages. The main construction contract tender documents were issued to all pre-qualified candidates on 22 July 2020 and the closing date for receipt of tenders was set for Tuesday 22 December 2020. The tenders received on or before the specified closing date were assessed. In accordance with the Public Spending Code, the updated Final Business Case together with a request to award the main construction contract was submitted to the Department of Transport on 14 April 2021. On 11 June 2021, the Department of Transport advised that Government approval as required under the Public Spending Code was given on 9th June 2021 and granted approval to award the main construction contract under the direction of TII. TII approval to award of the main construction contract was received on 14 June 2021. The Main Construction Contract was awarded to Roadbridge Ltd. on 16 June 2021 and the Contract was formally executed on 06 October 2021. An official Sod Turning event attended by An Taoiseach, Mr. Micheál Martin, T.D was held on 18 October 2021. A receiver was appointed over certain assets of Roadbridge Ltd. on 11 March 2022 and all work under the contract ceased. Roadbridge Ltd.'s contract was terminated on 04 April 2022. A contract notice to procure a replacement Contractor was published on eTenders on 13th April 2022 and on the OJEU on 15th April 2022. Three pre-qualification submissions were received by the latest time and date for receipt of submissions (16.00 hrs on 27 May 2022) and all three Applicants were subsequently deemed to pass the suitability assessment. Tender documentation is currently being prepared.

N60 Oran Road Realignment involves the realignment of approximately 3.4km of N60 National Secondary route including 1.7 km of offline construction and 1.7 km of online widening to Type 1 single carriageway standard. The land acquisition process is substantially completed with 2 cases remaining. Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. have completed the Stage (ii) – (iv) Archaeological Resolution Contract. The main construction contract was awarded to Wills Bros Ltd. in April 2019. The Certificate of Substantial Completion was issued to Wills Bros Ltd. in September 2020, closing out the main construction contract works including necessary alterations to the local road network. All snagging has been completed and the Defects Certificate issued in November 2021. Roughan & O'Donovan Consulting Engineers who were engaged to administer the main construction contract on behalf of Roscommon County Council have completed all outstanding tasks in their commission.

N61 Ballymurray to Knockcroghery Road Project: This project comprises the improvement of the N61 National Secondary Road between Ballymurray and Knockcroghery which will incorporate a bypass of Knockcroghery. A range of environmental and technical specialists have been appointed by RCC to progress the project through the planning, design and statutory phases. The Constraints First Public Consultation was held in March 2018. Roughan & O'Donovan-AECOM Alliance (ROD-A) was appointed

as Lead Engineering Consultants in December 2018 following a procurement process using TII's Framework Agreement for Consultancy Services. The initial study area was increased in consideration of potential future upgrades to the N61 corridor. Throughout 2019 ROD-A progressed the project through the constraints and option selection phases. The Second Public Consultation presenting six Route corridor Options was held in November 2019. Work continued throughout 2020 on the assessment of the route corridor options. Route Corridor C-3 was identified as the emerging preferred route corridor. The Third Public Consultation consisting of a virtual online consultation commenced on the 14th of December 2020 presenting this corridor along with other relevant project information to the public on the dedicated project website www.N61Roscommon.ie. This consultation process ran until the 29th of January 2021. A total of 75 individual landowner consultation meetings were held during this period, over 100 submissions were received from landowners and interested members of the public. Following this assessment Corridor C-3 was confirmed as the Preferred Route Corridor. The Option Selection Report was published on the 26th of August 2021 and all Phase 2 deliverables have been issued to TII with a request seeking approval to proceed to Phase 3 Design & Environmental Evaluation. TII responded to this request in December 2021, stating that due to current funding availability the Authority was not in a position to give approval to proceed to Phase 3. Some funding has been allocated in 2022 under the TII Minors programme albeit this is contingent on it being feasible deliver a discrete section of the adopted route corridor under the TII Minors programme. The project consultants have carried out an assessment of the preferred route corridor and have concluded that it is not feasible to progress an element of the project under the TII Minors programme. In consultation with TII, it is proposed to develop an overall strategy for the N61 between Roscommon and Athlone which would seek to address the identified safety and related issues pending the implementation long-term solution(s).

N61 Coolteige Phase 1 Road Project involves the realignment and improvement of approximately 2.9km of a section of National Secondary Road on the northern outskirts of Roscommon Town predominately to Type 1 single carriageway standard. The land acquisition process is substantially complete on foot of the approved CPO. Archaeological resolution field works were completed in November 2016. Post excavation archaeological works including preparation of a monograph are ongoing. The main construction contract was fully completed in September 2020.

N61 Tulsk to Clashaganny Road Project involves the realignment of approximately 4km of the N61 National Secondary route from Tulsk village to Clashaganny. The detailed topographical survey of the Preferred Route Corridor and ground investigation site works have been completed. Phase 3 (Design & Environmental Evaluation) is ongoing with the Design being updated to incorporate feedback from the non-statutory consultation process, ongoing environmental surveys and the findings of the ground investigations. A planning application in accordance with Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations is anticipated to be published in respect of the proposed road development in Q3 2022.

N61 Tulsk to Gortnacranagh Road Project involves the realignment and improvement of approximately 5.6km of the N61 National Secondary Road between Tulsk village and the new N5 crossing of the N61 at Gortnacranagh Townland. The project is currently at Phase 1 and TII has recently approved the appointment of Lead Technical Consultants and independent specialists to progress the project through the planning phases. In addition, ground investigation and topographical survey works contractors have been appointed and works are ongoing.

National Road Pavement Projects: Design and Contract documentation are being prepared for the pavement overlay projects included in the 2022 TII National Road Allocations. Contract documentation for Athlone North (Phase 2) was completed in June 2022. The design of the N61 Shankill to Cladagh pavement project is scheduled to commence in July 2022.

N4 Carrick on Shannon to Dromod Project involves the provision of a transport solution, which may include a new crossing of the River Shannon, to relieve the significant traffic congestion on the N4 through Carrick on Shannon / Cortober. The extents of the project include a 21km section of the N4 national primary route extending from Drumharrow townland in County Roscommon to Faulties townland in County Leitrim. A Section 85 Agreement under the Local Government Act is in place between Roscommon County Council and Leitrim County Council. Under the Section 85 Agreement Leitrim County Council is the Lead Authority. Leitrim County Council appointed Ove Arup & Partners Ireland Ltd. (ARUP) to progress the project through the planning process in March 2020. ARUP completed Phase 1 (Concept and Feasibility) in July 2020. As part of Phase 2 (Option Selection), a Constraints Public Consultation was held in October 2020 by means of a virtual public consultation accessible through the dedicated project website, to inform the public of the project and invite submissions. Over forty submissions were received during this consultation. Preliminary ground investigation works to inform the option selection process commenced in April 2021 and were completed in July 2021. Public Consultation No. 2 (Alternatives and Options) was held between the 19th of May 2021 and the 25th of June 2021. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, a face-to-face event was not feasible considering public health advice and associated public health risks. A virtual public consultation accessible through the project website was held which included the facility to book online meetings with the project team. Over 2,300 submissions were received and a total of one hundred and eighty-nine (189) virtual online meetings were undertaken as part of the consultation. Acknowledgements and responses were issued by Leitrim County Council following a review of the submissions by the Project Team. Work continued on the assessment of the various Alternatives and Options throughout 2021 and culminated in Q1 2022. Public Display No 3 – Preferred Transportation Solution took place in the Landmark Hotel in Carrick on Shannon on the 18th and 19th May 2022. It is anticipated that all Phase 2 deliverables will be issued to TII in Q3 2022 together with a request seeking formal approval to proceed to Phase 3 (Design & Environmental Evaluation) of the project development.

Local Improvement Scheme 2022

The Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) operates the Local Improvement Schemes for the improvement of local non-public roads. In April the Council received notification from the Department of an allocation for 2022 in the amount of €456,990 - (an increase of €11,495 from 2021). The Local Improvement Scheme will proceed on the same policy basis as last year including that the local contribution is set at 10% for eligible roads with up to and including five beneficiaries and is set at 15% for those with six or more beneficiaries. In June 2022 the scheme of priorities for 18 roads was approved by the DRCD. All works must be completed and funding claimed from the Department by early October 2020.

Community Involvement Schemes 2022

The Department of Transport provides grant assistance which must be matched by a minimum 15% from the community for eligible works including general maintenance, drainage works, pavement works and footpaths on public roads. Roscommon County Council received an allocation of €111,000 in 2022. Three projects are approved for 2022.

Cemetery Maintenance and Improvement Grants 2022

Roscommon County Council allocated €65,000 in the 2022 budget for the maintenance of burial grounds in County Roscommon. The *Cemetery Improvement and Maintenance Scheme 2022* was advertised in the local media and on the Council's website. Application forms and details were also sent to all 2021 Cemetery Grant recipients. A total of 92 groups applied for funding under the Scheme. A report on the grant allocations was presented to the April Plenary Meeting.

Lough Funshinagh Interim Flood Relief Work

The OPW are currently onsite carrying out the remediation of all works completed to date including the capping of the pipe and manholes. Circa 60% of these works are now complete. We are also working with landowners to agree compensation in lieu of lands being unavailable during the scheme. Roscommon County Council is prohibited from carrying out any further works in this area following a judicial review by Friends of the Irish Environment.

CFRAM Carrick on Shannon (and Cortober) Flood Relief Scheme

Ryan Hanley has been appointed by Leitrim County Council as Design Consultants. Roscommon County Council is on the Steering Group Committee.

Site investigation, environmental surveys and fieldworks are substantially complete. The consultants are now working on refining the flood model for the study area and options are now being drafted for the scheme.

CFRAM Bogganfin Athlone

In May 2021, the Council received an offer of funding from the Office of Public Works in the amount of €350,000 for the project at Bogganfin. The design brief is now complete and will be put on e-tenders in September.

Active Travel Programme

The Programme for Government published in June 2020 included significant and ambitious targets for the development of walking and cycling schemes. In 2021 the National Transport Authority announced €72.8 million in funding to 19 local authorities for active travel in rural areas. It was the first ever active travel investment programme for rural Ireland.

Roscommon County Council received an allocation of €2,397,000 in 2021 and €3,264,798 in 2022. The funding for 2021 and 2022 are Year 1&2 of a 5-year Active Travel Investment Programme, which will be transformative in the area of green sustainable transport options to those outside of the large urban centres. The development of high quality walking and cycling facilities will encourage more people to switch to active travel and will contribute to tackling climate change. Connecting communities and making walking and cycling attractive, safe and accessible to everyone is what this funding will help to accomplish.

In 2021 the Active travel team completed schemes at locations across the six engineering areas i.e. Creagh, Ballaghaderreen, Cortober, Cootehall, Elphin, Castlerea and Roscommon.

In 2022 we have another 12 projects commencing throughout the six engineering areas including Athlone, Castlerea, Lecarrow, Rooskey, Boyle & Croghan.

Galway to Athlone Cycleway

Emailed David Carty for update

This project is being delivered by the Westmeath, Galway and Roscommon local authorities. Design consultants, RPS from Galway, were appointed in 2020 to identify a project study area and constraints. The Galway to Athlone Cycleway will complete the over 300km car-free corridor between Galway and Dublin for cyclists and walkers. A dedicated Project Office was established in Ballinasloe where people can liaise with the project team by appointment by contacting (091) 509267 or info@galwaytoathlonecycleway.com.

The first of four focused periods of public consultation commenced on 10th August 2020, to hear people's views on the Project and the proposed Study Area. The second public consultation took place

in January 2021, showing the route corridor options. The third consultation commenced on 8th December 2021 to 28th February 2022 showing the emerging preferred route corridor option. The Emerging Preferred Route Corridor can be viewed online in the Virtual Consultation Room on the project website (www.galwaytoathlonecycleway.com).

Road Safety

Road Safety Poster Competition

On Wednesday 4th May 2022 the Road Safety Poster Competition Awards Ceremony took place at the Roscommon Arts Centre. This is a joint initiative between the Road Safety Office of Roscommon County Council and the Community Policing Unit of Roscommon Garda District. The aim of the competition is to promote and create awareness of road safety among primary school children. Overall 267 entries were received from 5th & 6th class students representing 19 primary schools in the Roscommon Garda District.

Pictured at the awards ceremony are prize winners Adele KezYTE, St Comán's Wood, Roscommon, Áine Fallon, Ballintleva National School, Olivia Hussey, Lisaniskey National School, Saoirse Towey, Gael Scoil de hÍde, Roscommon. Also pictured are Councillor Orla Leyden, Leas Cathaoirleach, Roscommon County Council; Garda John O'Connor, Kate Crehan (Teacher), Mairead McKeon, Roscommon County Council; Inspector David Cryan, John Mockler, Roscommon County Council, David Hussey, Ena Fallon, Fergal Towey.



Road Opening Licences

Excavations made in a public road or footpath require a Road Opening Licence. Applications for licences to open the public road are lodged through the central portal with the Road Management Office www.rmo.ie. The Roads Department processes the licences for County Roscommon from this portal and attaches conditions and fees to the licence. The number of new applications for Q2 2022 is 128.

Abnormal Load Permits

Roscommon County Council operate a permit system for abnormal loads on all or part of journeys where specific weight and height conditions apply. The Roads Department issued 25 Abnormal Load Permits to the end of Q2 2022.