



Comhairle Contae
Ros Comáin
Roscommon
County Council



MANAGEMENT REPORT



MARCH 2022

QUARTER 1

Roscommon County Council

Revenue Account Income & Expenditure Summary by Service Division

Management Accounts Summary to

31st March 2022

	EXPENDITURE		INCOME		NET
	Expenditure Incurred up to 31/03/2022	Adopted Full Year Budget	Income Receivable up to 31/03/2022	Adopted Full year Budget	Actual Overall Surplus/ (Deficit)
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing & Building	1,459,626	7,912,319	1,711,208	8,204,123	251,582
Road Transport & Safety	2,716,584	27,651,100	221,636	20,614,583	(2,494,948)
Water Services	910,036	7,543,881	939,007	7,503,821	28,971
Development Management	767,376	7,235,048	903,652	2,079,655	136,276
Environmental Services	832,811	5,964,033	69,545	961,143	(763,267)
Recreation & Amenity	493,063	4,216,889	187,613	554,668	(305,450)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	39,300	818,316	17,737	257,927	(21,564)
Miscellaneous Services	1,123,097	5,261,757	466,568	2,892,172	(656,529)
Central Management Charges	2,278,904	0	157,393	0	(2,121,510)
Local Government Fund/General Purpose Grant	0	0	3,608,584	10,825,200	3,608,584
Pension Levy	0	0	0	0	0
Rates	0	0	3,156,903	12,710,052	3,156,903
	10,620,797	66,603,343	11,439,846	66,603,343	819,049

Note 1; The Central Management Charge is allocated one month in arrears. The costs included in the Central Management Charge are distributed among Divisions A-H and include costs from Area Offices, Corporate Affairs, Corporate buildings, Finance, Human Resources, IT Print & Post Room Services, Pension & Lump Sums.

Summary of Major Collections as at 31st March 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	12,627,613	272,857	334,624	13,252,700	3,184,434	10,068,266	40,598	24%	30%
Rents & Annuities	370,508	1,341,302			1,711,810	1,216,642	495,168		71%	74%
Housing Loans	136,487	42,498			178,986	68,949	110,037		39%	29%

Recourse to Overdraft;

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

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Forward Planning

Following formal deliberations at a scheduled Special Meeting, the Members of Roscommon County Council formally resolved to make the new Roscommon County Development Plan 2022 - 2028 on 8th March 2022. As per Section 12 of the Planning and Development Act, the Plan comes into effect 6 weeks after that date i.e. 19th April 2022.

Development Management and Planning Enforcement Activity

The table below summarises Development Management activity in March 2022.

A total of 50 valid planning applications were received, which is generally comparable to the preceding monthly figures since the beginning of 2022. Decisions issued on 49 applications, of which 43 were grants of planning permission.

Development Management Statistics

Period	Activity	Roscommon North	Roscommon South	Totals
March 2022	Valid app	26	24	50
	Extension of Duration	0	0	0
	DED	4	0	4
	Pre-planning meeting	9	12	21

Enforcement Activity

Period	Activity	Countywide Totals
March 2022	New enforcement case	3
	General letter	4
	Warning letter	6
	Enforcement notice	2
	Closed case	3
	Legal proceedings	0

Unfinished Housing Developments (UHD)

Development activity was on-going in a total of 8 unfinished housing development sites in the county in March. Contractors engaged under RCC's Framework continued site resolution works in six developments (all of which were in the Boyle Municipal District), while developers were also at work in two developments (both of which were in Boyle).

ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT PROMOTION

Local Enterprise Office:

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

10 applications have been received and approved to-date. Clients who received TOV approval in 2021 and whose deadline date is approaching are being followed up. Remote Trading Online Voucher Information Seminars are held regularly, with booking accepted via the LEO website. The next Remote Trading Online Voucher Information Seminar is on 14th of April 2022.

- **Evaluation & Approvals Meeting:**

The first meeting for 2022 was held on Friday, 25th February. Four applications were before the committee and all were approved for funding.

- **Green for Micro Scheme:**

The Green for Micro helps small businesses become more environmentally friendly and sustainable by providing advice and technical support covering topics such as resource efficiency, understanding carbon footprint and implementing an environmental management system. LEO Roscommon has processed 3 applications in 2022.

- **Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters:**

Helps small businesses expand into export markets by assisting with the costs of exhibiting at international trade shows. LEO Roscommon has processed 4 applications in 2022.

- **Microfinance:**

Post MFI Mentoring is on-going with 1 client from last year. We have completed mentoring for 2 clients over March and have received notice from MFI of a direct application being approved at the end of the March. This application will need 2 mentoring sessions in April. Work continues on the promotion of this source of finance on social Media.

- **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 240 participants have been facilitated in January, February & March 2022.

- **Local Enterprise Week:**

Took place virtually between 7th – 11th March. 21 events were held to mark the event, including 12 national Spotlight events and 9 Roscommon events. 124 people participated in the local Roscommon events.

- **Remote Mentoring:**

Remote Business Advice Clinics were held in January, February & March. 62 clients in total have been facilitated through Business Advisory Clinics and One to One Mentoring via Submit.com.

- **REBOOT Training Programme (RTP):**
is a co-operative collaboration between Local Action Groups and Local Enterprise Offices in Mayo, Roscommon and Sligo. It will ensure consistency, flexibility, stimulation and activation of tailored training needs and skills development and will run for 18 months. 3 courses have now commenced.
- **Enquiries:**
Appropriate support provided on an ongoing basis. **134** enquires were logged in total for January, February & March 2022.
- **Student Enterprise Programme:**
The virtual Co Final was held on Monday, 14th March. The winner of the Senior Competition was Cupan Cozies from Convent of Mercy, Roscommon. Designer Denim by Sophie Kilcommins from Roscommon Community College won the Junior Category and in the Intermediate Category, the winner was the 'Cattle Trailer Safety Bar' by Sean McCormack of Scoil Mhuire Strokestown. The winning local students will now compete against approximately 80 student enterprises from all over the country for a place in the Top 15 shortlisted teams to make it to a live event on Wednesday 18th May at The Helix in Dublin.
- **National Enterprise Awards:**
The County Enterprise Awards Ceremony took place on Friday March 11th, marking the last event of Local Enterprise Week. Studio Meala were announced as the overall winners with Lark Bridal and Rita Oates Artist announced as Special Merit Award winners.
- **Promotion:**
All LEO supports were promoted on the LEO website and on various social media platforms.
- **Sites at Ballyboughan:**
One site is under consideration at Ballyboughan and 3 sites remain for sale in Castlerea.
- **Just Transition:**
Feasibility studies are being carried out for 2 JTF projects.
- **EI:**
LW continues to work with Meabh Conaghan, the new West Region Manager. Noeleen Hussey has been appointed as a Regional Executive with EI and has joined the LEO Projects Evaluation Committee.
- **IDA:**
LW is keeping the line of communication open between IDA, CE & Senior Management of RCC in the hope of encouraging FDI to Roscommon. LEO has referred 3 clients to the IDA to purchase sites at the Racecourse Road.

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Healthy Ireland

- Partners are continuing to deliver health and wellbeing activities under the HIF. All activities and spend under HIF Round 3 must be completed by 31st March 2022.
- HI-Co-ordinators Business Network meeting attended
- HIF Progress Support Events attended x 2
- Funding for Social Prescribing Position extended until Dec 2022 as per confirmation received from Pobal

LEADER

- Article 48 checks are ongoing
- 4 payments for LEADER grants made in March 2022
- December LEADER Monthly Return was submitted

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

- An online LCDC meeting took place on the 23rd March 2022 via Microsoft Teams. On the LCDC Agenda was:
 - Update on Communities Activities Fund
 - SICAP: Approval of SICAP 2021 Annual Performance Review
 - SICAP: Approval of SICAP 2022 Annual Plan

CLÁR

- **CLÁR 2020**
Work is ongoing with 3 Community Groups as they submit their drawdowns on their projects for CLÁR 2020 funded projects. 5 projects completed and paid in full.
- **CLÁR 2021**
7 Projects totalling €269,412 was granted funding under CLÁR 2021.
Work is in progress to get procurement submitted.
- **CLÁR 2022**
The Department of Rural and Community Development announced details of the CLÁR programme for 2022 on 24th February 2022. CLÁR provides funding for small scale infrastructural projects in rural areas that have suffered significant levels of population decline. There is a national allocation of €7million for 2022 under 3 measures to be operated via Local Authorities and the Department of Rural and Community Development for a range of School and Community projects.
Measure 1: Developing Community Facilities & Amenities
Measure 2: Mobility, Cancer Care and Community First Responders Transport
Measure 3: 'Our Islands'

CLÁR 2020 has been advertised with a closing date for receipt of applications on 14th April 2022.

Communities Activities Fund (CAF)

- Validation of all 137 applications received ongoing in the month of March. Analysis of all applications under the two elements of the scheme, operation and capital costs.
- Approval listing to be prepared for assessment by the grants subcommittee in April and subsequent notification to groups thereafter.

SICAP

- The 2022 SICAP Annual Plan and the 2021 SICAP Annual Performance Review were approved at the LCDC Meeting held on 23rd March 2022

Social Inclusion Unit

Age Friendly Programme:

- AF Annual Work Plan completed and returned to AFI
- OPN Social Media Training held and attended.
- OPN AGM held and attended.
- Review of AF Strategy progressing

Roscommon Comhairle na nÓg:

- Official Grant Offer Letter received from Pobal - €25,000 for 2022
- Conditions of Offer Letter accepted and confirmation returned to Pobal

Migrant Integration Strategy:

- 2 No. progression meetings held with Exodea Consulting
 - 1) With Migrant Integration Work Group
 - 2) With LCDC Health & Wellbeing Sub Committee

Miscellaneous

- Bike Week 2022 Marketing & Communications.

Tidy Towns and Amenity Grants Scheme 2022

- This scheme closed on Thursday, 31st March 2022.

Heritage

- **Royal Sites of Ireland World Heritage Bid**

Royal Sites Working Group met 3 x times in March. We also had the first of two meetings with the Tentative List Technical Group (TLTG) which is an expert advisory group established by the Department to advise on Tentative List applications.

- **Farming Rathcroghan EIP – Community Archaeology Project**

Funding has been secured from the Heritage Council for this year's programme of work.

- **Historic Structures Fund and Built Heritage Investment Scheme**

- HSF2022: The application submitted to the department to the vernacular scheme was unsuccessful.
- BHIS2022: 13 x projects were approved by the department for funding of €96K.

- **Local Biodiversity Action Fund (LBAF)**

5 x funding applications for 2022 were submitted.

- **Invasive Alien Species Funding**

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

- **Community Monuments Fund**

No announcement yet on this from the Department.

- **County Heritage Plan Funding**

4 x applications to the Heritage Council funding scheme were successful and funding offers of over €54k was secured, all project are under commencement.

- **Táin March 2022/Táin Tapestry 2022**

Waiting to hear from Táin March Committee on plans for 2022. The Táin Tapestry is nearing completion and will be exhibited in Áras an Chontae in June 1 2022.

- **Rahara Ruined Church Conservation project**

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

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

The launch of the book is scheduled for 22nd April in Rathcroghan Visitor Centre.

- **Aleen Cust Commemorations 2022:**

Project planning continues. A 2-day conference is scheduled for Mount Bellew on 12 & 13th August, community celebrations in Athleague on 14th August and a series of videos, podcasts and other resources are planned.

- **Heritage Research Bursary 2022**

One application was received by the closing date from Jacqueline Towey who is undertaking a two-year part time course 2020/22 - MA Local History in the University Limerick / Mary Immaculate College. Her research topic is the Quaker Settlement of Ballymurray, 1716-1850. This has been recommended for approval.

- **Review of Membership of County Roscommon Heritage Forum**

The Terms of Reference for the County Roscommon Heritage Forum were reviewed and updated. Membership was reviewed and existing members invited to stay on board or nominate a new representative for their sector. Sectors which had no representative were invited to nominate a representative.

Tourism

Regional Projects:

- **Fáilte Ireland:** Mid Shannon Network meeting
- **IHH** – online workshop on IHH plans for 2022

County:

- **Roscommon Tourism Network** – first in person Network meeting (in 2 years) took place in King House on 1st March
- **Hodson Bay** – SLR consultants Feasibility Study – presentation of draft report to RRC, FI and WWI by SLR
- **Social Media training** – we hosted 2 half day on line social media trainings for the Tourism trade.

Funding

- **Outdoor Dining Fund:** Funding for the remaining 5 projects who sought funding extension, drawn down and funding now complete.
- **2022 Festival and Events Fund** – 35 applications received under the open call for applications for Community festival and Events 2022. A full review of all application was carried out and 23 applications were awarded funding.

King House

- The Launch of Hidden Gem exhibition by Minister Catherin martin took place on 24th March
- Opening for summer season 2022 from Good Friday 15th April 2022

ORIS

- Open Call for Expressions of Interest under **Measure 1 of ORSI 2022** was advertised and 8 applications received.
- **Measure 3 2021** – Meet with the Arigna Energy Valley Company to agree procedures for commencement of works on the Energy Discover park.
- Meeting with Rathcroghan in regard to potential **Measure 3** project for 2022

Arts Office

Roscommon County Youth Theatre

Weekly workshops at Roscommon Arts Centre.

Music Generation Roscommon

Ongoing schools & hubs programmes

Artist in Schools

Term 2

Platform 31 National Artist Bursary Programme

One artist per county

Cultural Companions

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

Bealtaine

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

Ceremony of Remembrance & Reflection

Sunday March 20th – Áras an Chontae – Poetry & Music & crafted Wreath

Creative Roscommon Open Call

Call for applications for projects by communities in collaboration with creatives - 22 applications – 17 successful.

Decade of Centenaries Open Call

7 applications – 6 successful

Creative Ireland Culture & Creativity Strategy 2023-2027 - Review & Planning

Roscommon Music Teaching Residency

With Cathy Jordan & 'The Unwanted' in partnership with Music Network at King House January to May 2022: Creative Ireland

Launch of **Hidden Gem** Erwin Springbrunn Exhibition – by Minister Catherine Martin at King House 24th March: Creative Ireland

Launch of **Mart Project** Exhibition – Creativity in Older Age Project – at Roscommon Arts Centre: Creative Ireland

Cruinniú na nÓg – Planning for June 11th festival

The Local Live Performance Programming Scheme 2022 - First event in April

Capital Programmes

In collaboration with Regeneration & Tourism

RRDF – Reimagining Exhibitions & Visitor Experience at King House Boyle

Destination Town – King House & Pleasure Grounds Public Art Commissions

Outdoor Public Space Scheme – Somers Park Castlerea

Town & Village – Knockcroghery Public Art Commission

ORIS – Ballyleague

ORIS - Arigna

Roscommon Arts Centre

Performances

Eighteen performances took place during March at the arts centre, attended by 1,871 people and this included the return of the Roscommon Drama Festival and the premier of a new dance show “Fall & Float” for young audiences.

Visual Art

The **“With Other Matter Part I”** exhibition closed in the gallery space and **“The Mart Project”** exhibition by artist **Laura Earley** opened in the gallery space and

The **“Gallery X:Ed”** visual art education programme for secondary school students with facilitators Andy Parsons and Maree Hensey also continued.

Artist Supports

The **AIR residency programme** for 2022 was launched as was the **“Artist on My Green”** summer artist residency programme.

Creative Learning

The over 50’s programme re-commenced this month at the arts centre, with weekly opportunities for the public to engage in dance classes with Catherine Donnelly (Elderberries) and choral workshops (Songbirds) with Cathy Jordan. Both are full to capacity. A call out to participate in poetry workshops with Jane Clarke and Drama workshops with Julie Sharkey for the over 50’s was also launched and are both due to commence in April.

The **“Artist on My Green”** callout to Residence Associations throughout the county went out, with opportunities for 3 groups to engage with artists in their housing estate/development over a 6 week period this summer.

The workshop space is once again becoming a hive of activity with local groups including Roscommon Youth Theatre, Cor Comain and Tai chi classes now taking place weekly in the space.

REGENERATION UNIT

Urban Regeneration Development Fund

Roscommon Public Realm Enhancement Project:

- Construction work on Main St and Market Square is nearing completion. Only minor paving and snagging works remain. It is anticipated that this work will be completed by late April 2022.
- Design work on the Pavilion element is ongoing. Consultation has taken place with the Elected Members, Chamber of Commerce and Town Team and Part 8 publication is expected in late April 2022.

Putting the Spokes back into the Wheel URDF

- Design Consultants were appointed for this project and initial consultations were held with MD, Town Team, Chamber of Commerce, Business Interests, Disability Forum and the general public through physical consultation events.
- Design work is now progressing well and consultation is ongoing with TII in relation to the works associated with the N61. Following these consultations, the Design Consultants will prepare the Preliminary Design Report for TII approval prior to proceeding to Part 8 Publication by end of Q2 2022.

Rural Regeneration Development Fund

C1 Castlerea Food Hub:

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

C1 Boyle Enterprise Hub and Riverside Promenade

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

C1 Monksland Life Sciences Hub

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

C2 Ballaghaderreen Public Realm

- Detailed design significantly progressed and due to be completed in Q1 2022.
- Application for RRDF Category 1 ready for submission.

C1 Energising Boyle Town Centre and King House

- Architect appointed for project management of Conservation Works to Doors and Windows of King House.
- Quotations have been received for Mechanical/Electrical Consultant to project manage Energy Upgrade works to King House.
- It is anticipated to complete all works to King House during off-peak season – October 2022 to March 2023.
- Preliminary design complete for Boyle Public Realm and Stage 2 Road safety Audit ongoing.

C2 Putting the Heart into Monksland

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

C2 Strokestown Bawn St Public Realm & Town Park Project

- Consultancy Tender Brief published on E-Tenders in April 2022.
- Expect to have consultants appointed by end of Q2 2022.

Town and Village 2020

Tarmonbarry

- Construction Works ongoing on Site to be completed by End Q2 2022.

Croghan

- Works substantially complete. All works complete in Q2 2022.

Dysart

- Tender documents prepared and are published on Supplygov. Tender returned is 36k over budget. Options regarding funding being explored.

Lecarrow

- Footpath element completed, signage and seating elements being finalised with group to agree image for sign.

Knockcroghery

- Construction Works as Part of agreed Landscape Design ongoing & to be completed in Q2 2022.
- Community finalizing preference in relation to historical trail, sculpture and image for approach signage.

Rooskey

- Construction of footpaths complete Feb 2022. Landscaping to be completed Q2/Q3 2022 after Development Association 5% contribution. Public Lights by Area Office.

Four Roads

- Landscape designer concept received and meetings with local community to be arranged again after Easter 2022.
- 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. Letters of offer are awaited on these schemes.
- 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. Letters of offer are awaited on these schemes.

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. However, the scheme deadline has been extended until May 2022.
- Athleague, Knockcroghery and Ballaghaderreen Schemes are substantially completed with Roscommon Town painting element underway. A number of shopfronts in Roscommon town have been completed.

Destination Towns

- Enhancement works to Boyle Pleasure Grounds are substantially complete (landscaping works outstanding) – difficulty in getting pavers has delayed the King House to Boyle River project somewhat, however, it is hoped this project will commence by the end of Q2 2022.
- Lighting to pedestrian bridge has been installed and lighting upgrade along river walk is complete.

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 Football wins, Ukrainians moving to Roscommon etc.
- Schools passport project is being organised for May 2022 in Roscommon Town Square.
- The number of followers on social media continues to grow with 1209 (1,206) in the Roscommon Bound LinkedIn network from all over the world, 4470 (4,358) followers on Facebook, 782 (734) followers on Twitter and 739 (712) followers on Instagram.
- In the 28 days to April 10th, the Facebook page posts reached 32,000 people and there were 7,310 engagements with the page.

Outdoor Recreation 2020

- Measure 2: Doon Shore: Contract has been awarded and due to start in Q2 2022 when weather conditions suit.
- Measure 2: Portrun: Slipway works complete. Construction works ongoing on accessible walk element. Part 8 approved & construction works ongoing on boat trailer car park element. Works to be completed by end Q2 2022.
- Measure 3 – Mote Park – Tender documents for the trail enhancement/car parking works have been assessed and lowest priced contractor has been identified. Appointment of Contractor subject to DRCD approval. 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 will be made for sculptures etc.

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 ongoing
- Arigna Energy Inclusive Park and Miner's Trail €500,000. Request for Tender for consultancy services to project manage the Arigna Energy Inclusive Discovery Park shall be uploaded to eTenders week commencing 18th April 2022.

Rural Regeneration Development Fund 2021 Category 1

- Two applications are currently being finalised for Ballaghaderreen and Boyle.
- Part 8 Planning for proposed Boyle Community Library shall be presented to the members for approval on Wednesday 13th April 2022.

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 200 hubs on boarded to date
- AEC Hub Strategy is now going to be rolled out nationally due to Covid.
- The WDC/AEC Hubs Feasibility Study - A toolkit for the establishment of hubs has been prepared.

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

- Part 8 Approved. Construction tender documents for the project being finalised for publishing.

Strokestown Town Centre First Plan

- Consultancy Tender Brief published on Etenders in April 2022
- Expect to have consultants appointed by end of Q2 2022

LIBRARY SERVICES

Library Service Points

The library service continued to offer study spaces, newspapers, computers, printing and photocopying throughout Q1 with appropriate health and safety measures in place. The removal of requirements for social distancing and time limits allowed for an increase in the number of study and computer spaces available for use. The research areas in Roscommon Branch Library have also reopened, allowing for local studies researchers to return to the space for the first time since Covid-19 restrictions were first introduced. The mobile library has continued to offer services in Elphin, Strokestown, Ballaghaderreen and Monksland.

Small Scale Capital Works - Strokestown

The final remaining furniture for Strokestown library. Book stock has been prepared and the opening hours of the library will increase when the library reopens. It is expected to reopen during Q2 2022.

My Open Library Funding - Ballaghaderreen

The library service is working to appoint a conservation specialist to assist with the development of an approved schedule of works for the delivery of a My Open Library service in Ballaghaderreen. These works at Dillon House will result in the delivery of the first My Open Library in the county. When works are complete, this service will mean the library will be open from 8am – 10pm, 365 days per year. The public will be able to access the library on a self-service basis outside of the normal staffed opening hours. While the library remains closed for the duration of these works, the mobile library is offering a weekly service in Ballaghaderreen.

Sense-Ability

The library service is continuing a collaborative process with Sligo and Leitrim Library Services to deliver sensory friendly library services for local communities. The library service has received delivery of the new sensory collection. A catalogue of equipment is in development to help families and medical professionals find suitable items. The library service recorded demonstrational and promotional videos. These online videos will form part of the launch of the new collection. The project involved working closely with an occupational therapist to help select the items for the collection. This equipment will be available to borrow from the library just like our users currently borrow books, games and DVDs. The library service has been awarded funding in the amount of €20,000 from The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth to allow for a wheelchair accessible sensory space to be installed in Castlerea library during Q2 2022.

Library Events and Activities – Right to Read

As restrictions lifted, library staff were able to commence school visits during Q1. In branch visits took place alongside staff visiting schools and pre-schools to introduce children to the library service and for story time events. Plans are underway for more events to take place from Q2 onwards. The library service has been working closely with Foróige to develop a new programme for teenagers through the IT suite in Roscommon branch library.

New Library Management System

Following extensive preparation and training, the library service migrated to a new Library Management System at the end of March. The new system, called Spydus provides for a better overall user experience with an interactive online catalogue that allows users to search for and request items. The new system can be accessed at <https://roscommon.spydus.ie>.

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.

22 = homeless cases presented in Q1, 2022

6 = cases required short-term accommodation in Q1, 2022

Breakdown Homeless figures Q1 2022				
Presentations	Individuals	Families	Totals Households	Breakdown of Family unit
January	4	0	4	
February	8	1	9	1 Adult & 1 Child
March	8	1	9	2 Adults & 1 Child

Accommodated	Individuals	Families	Totals Households	Breakdown of Family unit
January	2	0	2	
February	2	0	2	
March	2	0	2	

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 eight 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 other Housing First tenancies and Housing-Led tenancies.

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.

- 263 = applicants (excluding transfers) on the approved housing list at end of Q1, 2022
- 123 = applicants are currently in private rented accommodation
- 16 = offers of accommodation made in Q1, 2022
 - 2 = nominations made to AHB
- 22 = new tenants appointed/allocated in Q1, 2022 to LA dwellings
 - 2 = AHB Tenants appointed in Q1, 2022
- 8 = refusals recorded in Q1, 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 31 March, 2022, there are 368 households receiving support (256 private rented and 112 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. 22 HAP tenancies were opened in Q1 and 36 were closed in the same period. As of 31 March, 2022, there were 433 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 31st March, 2022, Roscommon County Council has 4 long-term leases: 3 in Boyle Town and 1 in Roscommon Town.
- As of 31st March, 2022, Roscommon County Council has 38 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.
- One Mortgage to Rent (MTR) lease was completed in Q1 of 2022, which brings the total to 15 MTR's (5 with AHB's & 10 with HFL) leases in place.

3.0 Provision of Additional Social Housing Units

3.1 LA Build (including turnkeys & PPP):

- 16 units Meadowbrook, Ballyleague – Contractor appointed, works commenced in September 2020 and completed in Q4, 2021 – tenanting complete
- 10 units Elphin Street, Strokestown – Works commenced on site in late October 2020 and completed in Q4, 2021 – tenanting complete

- 10 units at Windmill Rd., Elphin. – Stage 3 (Pre-Tender) approval received from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in Q1, 2022.
- 6 Units at Lake View Heights, Boyle - Stage 3 approval received from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in Q4, 2021. Tender process commenced in Q1 2022.
- 13 units at Lisnamult, Ardnanagh, Roscommon – Stage 2 approval received in Q4 2021. Part 8 planning granted in Q1 2022.
- 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 Q2 2022
- 4 Units at Cortober, Carrick on Shannon - RCC received stage 1 approval in Q1 2022 for the construction of houses on RCC lands.
- 14 Units at Curlew View, Boyle - RCC received stage 1 approval in Q1 2022 for the construction of houses on RCC lands.
- 40 units at Sli an Choiste, Monksland – RCC submitted a stage 1 application in Q1 2022 for the construction of houses on RCC lands.
- 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
- 3 Units at Elphin (Library) - RCC submitted a stage 1 application in Q1 2022 for the refurbishment of vacant properties owned by RCC

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. New delivery date was Jan 2022, however, due to Covid 19 restrictions in 2020 and 2021, the expected delivery date will be mid-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.

3.3.2 Acquisition Programme

As of 31st March, 2022, Roscommon County Council acquired no houses under the acquisition programme. Funding for acquisitions will be nominal in 2022 as funding is diverted toward 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.

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 Q2 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.

3.5 Sale of Sites and Rural Houses:

- The sale of 11 low cost sites at Forest View, Boyle was advertised in Q2, 2022 with a reduced purchase price of €10,000 per site. No applications were received at this time.

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:

199	=	applications received to date
119	=	offers made to date
84	=	offers accepted to date
51	=	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.
- 179 inspections were carried out in Q1 2022, 12 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. 14 letters sent out and 1 response

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.
- 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.
- RCC await funding allocations for 2022.

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.

5.3 Casual Vacancy Works (pre-letting works)

A total of 8 houses were refurbished due to normal turn-over of properties in Q1, 2022 at a cost to date of approx. €110,000 (excluding any outstanding payments).

5.4 Housing Maintenance

RCC Housing received 387 maintenance calls in Q1, 2022 and billed expenditure on maintenance works during the same period was €91,787.57.

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 €1,188,295.76. A large volume of grant applications has been received to date and the process of validating applications is ongoing and it is envisaged that the full allocation for 2022 will be committed shortly.

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 €302,419.92 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 to be issued to OGP for approval in Q2 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 in Q2 2022 using digital platform.

ENERGY

- **Public Sector Energy Partnership Programme**
 - Agreement signed on 25th April, 2016 - new Partnership Support Manager, Niall Kiernan, assigned to Roscommon County Council and meetings taking place online due to Covid-19 restrictions, most recently on 24th June, 2021.
 - Energy Action Plan to be reviewed and updated.
- **Grant Applications**
 - BEC Application(s) to be considered in 2022 for King House, Boyle, Dillon House, Ballaghaderreen, Library HQ and Áras an Chontae with approval subject to funding constraints and Budget resources.
- **Energy Elephant Software**
 - Ongoing monitoring and review of significant energy usage in RCC Buildings and Vehicles. Review of benefits of Energy Elephant Software in progress.
- **Optimising Power @ Work Programme**
 - Submission in respect of Áras an Chontae accepted.
 - Monitors installed in June, 2017 and ESB Networks data connection complete / monitoring ongoing – subject to data commissioning / verification.
 - OP@W Mentor, Mark Skerritt, appointed and monthly meetings taking place in-person.

- Monitors installed to 5 no. Buildings in Roscommon Town and ESB Networks data connection complete / monitoring ongoing.
- **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.
 - Works are ongoing on 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. 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 Q2 2022/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.
- Taking-in-Charge of Estates (Public Lighting) – continuing in conjunction with Planning and Roads Sections. Updates posted to RCC website.

CORPORATE AFFAIRS

- **Register of Electors**

Under the Electoral Act 1992, 1997 and Electoral (Amendment) Act 2001, two versions of the Register, the Edited Register and the Full Register, came into force on 15th February 2022.

DÁIL CONSTITUENCY	PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS	DÁIL ELECTORS
Roscommon – Galway Constituency Electors	41,181	42,740
Sligo – Leitrim Constituency Electors in Co. Roscommon	5,587	5,800
Midlands - North – West European Parliament Constituency Electors		47,758
Local Electoral Areas Electors		50,043
Athlone Local Electoral Area		15,153
Boyle Local Electoral Area		17,731
Roscommon Local Electoral Area		17,159

- **Council Meetings:**

The Plenary meetings of Roscommon County Council took place in the Council Chamber in January, February and March, following the lifting of Covid -19 restrictions from 22nd January.

- **Dermot Earley Scholarships:**

Interviews for the awarding of Dermot Earley Scholarships 2021/2022 were held on 28th January 2022. The successful candidates were Shona Hanly from Tulsk GAA Club and Oisín Cregg from Boyle GAA club.

- **Communications:**

The Communications Unit monitors and updates social media channels, with creative content to enhance engagement with the public and maintain awareness of the Council.

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. 80% 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. 20% completed.
- New/upgraded pumping stations with storm water storage at Circular Rd, Castlerea Rd, Ardsallagh and Ballinagard. 30% completed.

Works are underway at the following locations:

- Circular road. New Gravity sewer. Night time works on going.
- 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. Project to progress to Work Shop 4 once the storm water tank element finalised.

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. McCusker Environmental to complete an asbestos survey in the coming weeks.

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. Detail design for the source protection works is to be submitted. Construction works are expected to commence in Q3 2021.

An alarm and inhibit review was carried in December 2021. A Drinking Water Safety Plan and an Asset Management Improvement Plan was completed in Q4 2021.

Reservoir Refurbishment Programme.

Refurbishment Works are planned for Fairymount and Derrinacantha Reservoirs.

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 are to be carried out in Monksland WWTP in the coming days 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.

Submission on Ballingard rising main submitted for consideration.

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 will commence in the coming weeks.

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. The -3 workshop took place in Q4 2021. Inlet works, storm tank (tbc) and sludge management improvements are included in the scope. The next workshop will be on 22nd April 2022.

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.

Works at Cushla WWPS and Portahard booster pump have been completed in Q4 in this programme. No further works planned at present.

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 over the coming weeks. In advance of this the system integrator, Cully Automation, has requested a site visit to Cloonlaughnan WTP to inform their pricing. Visit due next Wednesday.

National Water Resources Plan.

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

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.
- North Roscommon WSS: 3050m of new trunk main to supply south Sligo. 10no. back yard services to be replaced.
- Ballinlough/Loughlynn WSS: 531m of new mains at Granlahan.
- North East Regional WSS: 1,100m of new main in Elphin.

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 programme will be determined when review completed.

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 Q1 of 2022 Farrans Construction Ltd (the contractor) has focussed on a number of District Metering Areas (DMA's) in the North Roscommon Water Supply Zone (WSZ) and in Ballinlough 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 Water Supply Zone 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.

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 Q1 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 €357,596 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.

- **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 totaling 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 - Extra works at Killynagh to be completed in Q2 2022.
 - 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–extra necessary works were also carried out. 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- Extra contract works to be completed in Q2 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.

Upgrade contracts have been awarded on the following and work will continue into Q2 2022.

- 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, works to be completed in Q2 2022.
- 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 Q2 2022.

- 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 appointed, works to be completed in Q2 2022.

Upgrade contracts to be published on etenders agreed with GWS caretaker in Q1 2022.

- 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, due to be published on etenders in Q2 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.
- Discussions have recommenced with Woodbrook GWS Q1-2022

- **Measure 6 –A Community Water Connection at 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.

The previous Individual Well Grant Scheme -maximum grant available was €2,031.58 or 75% of the cost of the work, whichever is the lesser.

To the end of Q1 2022 a total of 6 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.

ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE UNIT

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

The 2022 RMCEI Plan was submitted in February 2022 with due regard for National Environmental Priorities as they apply to County Roscommon. Monthly progress against inspection RMCEI targets are submitted to the LGMA and the Connacht-Ulster Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority. The guidelines for plan preparation were modified for 2022 to acknowledge and place more emphasis on investigative work and enforcement action. The National Enforcement Priorities Progress Report and the RMCEI Data Returns on Plan Implementation for 2021 were also completed and returned in Q1 2022.

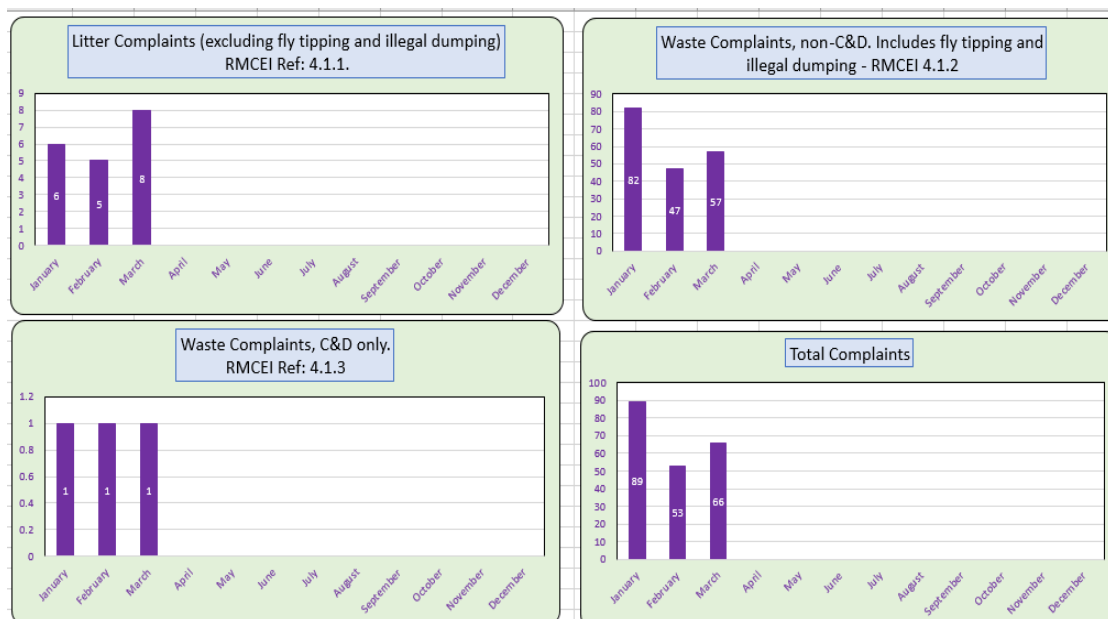
Complaints

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. Complaints received in Q1, 2022, per operational area and general category, are set out in the table below:

Complaints Received 1st January 2022 to 31st March 2022

Category	Operational Area						
	Athlone	B'derreen	Boyle	Castlerea	Ros'n	Strok'n	Grand Total
Air	2	1	1	2	0	1	7
Litter, Illegal Dumping & Waste	40	47	29	33	49	9	207
Noise	0	0	2	0	1	0	3
Water incl. oil spill	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Other e.g. abandoned vehicles.	5	0	2	3	1	0	11
Grand Total	47	48	34	39	51	10	229

2022 LGMA Return Complaints Summary by Month



Environmental Awareness

The Environmental Awareness Officer position has been vacant since Q4 2021. The position is currently advertised. In the meantime, the Unit has engaged Green-Schools to co-ordinate the delivery of all renewal and first flag assessment for the Roscommon County Council area for the 2022 assessment period. Green-Schools will coordinate all elements of the process including pre and post assessment administration, recording, reporting and central administration. All assessment visits will be held in line with public health guidance in place at the time of the proposed visit and in line with the school's health and safety policies. Other duties have been temporarily suspended (many of which may have been hampered by the resurgence of Covid-19 in the quarter).

Waste Collection and Civic Amenity Sites

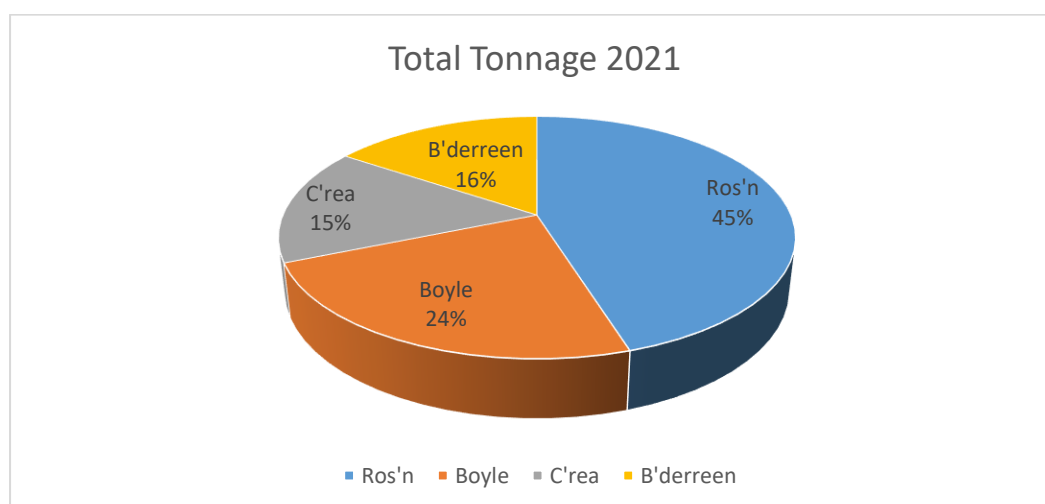
Roscommon County Council operates four Civic Amenity Sites which are open to the public three days a week. Waste collected at all four sites is reflected in the National Waste Survey and will be submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency in April. Waste collected at Roscommon and Ballaghaderreen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

A review of the civic amenity sites began in March, 2022 and is expected to be substantially complete by the end of April, 2022. The review is being carried out in order to assess the adequacy of services being provided by County Roscommon's four civic amenity sites. The sites are being assessed in accordance with good practice and emerging national standards, including the following noteworthy publications:

- *National Review of Civic Amenity Sites* (based on 2019 data)
- *Guidance for the Management of Household Hazardous Waste at Civic Amenity Sites* published in 2017 by the HSA/EPA

Future requirements and in particular, the requirements of a circular economic model are also under consideration.

- A total of 2,052 tonnes of material was processed by the four **civic amenity sites** in 2021. The percentages of this total processed per site are shown in the figure below.



Bring Bank collection figures for 2021 are shown below:

Material Category	Tonnes
Glass	1,750
Textiles	47
Cans	10

Water, Wastewater, Air and Noise Pollution

1. Roscommon County Council continues to engage with Lough Forbes Pesticides Action group are looking at mechanisms to address pesticides exceedances within catchment area. Exceedances have been recorded within the function area of Roscommon which are scheduled for follow up in Q2. Group meeting held on 16th March 2022.
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. Achieving this within defined timeframes of 2027 will require increase in resource allocations by local authority (staff and monetary). Individual water body improvements are based on identified individual water body significant pressures and actions. This requirement is in addition to functions being carried out/competed by LAWPRO in priority areas for action at present. Number of engagements took place with LAWPRO staff catchment scientists over the quarter in relation to issues of interest and potential for local authority referrals to follow in relation to some activities, incl. local authority emergency work completed.
3. The draft River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) public consultation closed on the 31st March 2022. Submission made on behalf of Roscommon County Council in relation to draft RBMP including matter arising at January plenary meeting.
4. Western ROC (regional operation committee) Water Framework Directive committee continue to meet in relation to implementation/progressing of water quality issues within the Western Region among a number of national agencies. Quarterly meeting held 24th February, continuing to highlight issues of concern and the need for implementation of potential remedial/improvement actions.
5. National Inspection plan for DWWTs new plan for period 2022-2026 published in March, reduction in required number of inspection for County Roscommon to min. 13 per year. Site selection process for inspections in 2022 set to be completed in Q2. Number of outstanding files remain open, review of files to be completed early Q2 to implement programme to progress the open files.
6. Air Quality at monitoring station in Roscommon Town (adjacent to Aras an Chontae) remained at good quality for the quarter.
7. Noise assessment will take place in 2022 in line with RCC's Noise Action Plan. The Round 4 Noise Mapping exercise was completed in 2021 in collaboration with the Roads Department. The 2021 Noise Action Plan Progress Report was submitted in February 2022.

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. Landfill activities in Q1 2022 included the following:

- **Annual Environmental Reports (AER's)**

AER's were completed and submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency for Ballaghaderreen and Roscommon Landfills in March, 2022.

- **Annual Environmental Performance Reporting (EPR)**

Annual Environmental Performance Reporting (EPR) were submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency for Ballaghaderreen and Roscommon Landfills in March, 2022. Roscommon County Council currently operates Civic Amenity Sites at these sites and the waste collected here is reflected in the AER and EPR returns.

- **Landfill Gas Survey Returns**

Annual landfill gas survey returns were submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency for Ballaghaderreen and Roscommon Landfills in March, 2022.

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 sampling/testing services to Galway County Council was secured in Q4, 2021. Two new positions were created at the start of 2022. A Grade 1 Technician post has been filled and an Assistant Scientist post will shortly be filled. The laboratory provides a shared service to Local Authority's and LAWPRO in three provinces and continues to expand its customer base.

Climate Action

Tender for video production services has concluded, Mimar Media has been appointed and initial contact with selected local climate action projects has been made.

Presentation on gap to target tools and analysis were given to the Climate Action Team and senior management by energy consultant Mr Noel Burns (Consulteco). RCC's gap to target between now and 2030 is approximately 700 tonnes of CO₂. Large energy users identified included the Aras and the Leisure Centre.

Tender for the re-appointment of consultant energy advisors for the Midland Energy Agency was finalised and advertised. Tenders are due in early April, 2022.

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.

Casual Trading

The review and re-drafting of the casual trading bye-laws has been completed and is currently undergoing legal review before the second stage of public consultation commences (consultation on the revised draft).

In the meantime, 2022 casual trading licences were processed and allocated in Q1, 2022 in accordance with the current bye-laws.

Warnings were issued to two traders for trading without a licence (trading activity was terminated). No Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) were issued for the period. Current legal advice recommends that a more explicit FPN process (including a schedule of offences and corresponding fines) be included in the bye-laws to improve the possibility of bring prosecutions to a successful conclusion. This recommendation has been considered and appropriate text has been added to the revised bye-laws.

ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

The Road Works Scheme 2022 for the three Municipal Districts were adopted in March 2022. The overall 2022 programme is summarised in Table 1 below. Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) provided an allocation of €62,449,996, the Department of Transport provided an allocation €20,350,740 and funding of €2,077,600 was provided from the Council's own resources. The overall budget for national primary, national secondary, regional and local roads for 2021 is €84,878,336. In addition, the Council has received an allocation of €3,264,792 for 2022 from the National Transport Authority for projects under the Active Travel Investment Programme 2022.

Table 1: Roscommon County Council Road Works Scheme 2022

Road Works Scheme 2022 - All Municipal Districts								
Grant Description	National Primary	National Secondary	Regional Roads	Local Roads	Low Cost Safety Measures	Contingencies	Lighting/Other Works	Total
Ordinary Maintenance	€ 155,705.00	€ 183,838.00						€ 339,543.00
Winter Maintenance	€ 129,500.00	€ 139,500.00						€ 269,000.00
Route Lighting	€ 53,146.00	€ 45,049.00						€ 98,195.00
LA Eng. Support-Maintenance Schemes	€ 57,300.00							€ 57,300.00
Ordinary Maintenance - Discretionary Grant			€ 750,000.00	€ 1,794,000.00			€ 370,000.00	€ 2,914,000.00
Surface Dressing - Restoration Maintenance Grant			€ -	€ 3,064,000.00				€ 3,064,000.00
Winter Maintenance Grant-ex Discretionary Grant			€ 250,000.00					€ 250,000.00
Training Grant							€ 69,000.00	€ 69,000.00
Maintenance & Contingencies				€ 1,381,900.00		€ 30,000.00		€ 1,411,900.00
Public Lighting							€ 665,700.00	€ 665,700.00
TOTALS - Maintenance Works	€ 395,651.00	€ 368,387.00	€ 1,000,000.00	€ 6,239,900.00	€ -	€ 30,000.00	€ 1,104,700.00	€ 9,138,638.00
Improvement Works	€ 52,210,000.00	€ 5,629,000.00						€ 57,839,000.00
LA Eng. Support Improvement Schemes	€ 2,041,958.00							€ 2,041,958.00
Bridge Rehabilitation Grant			€ 447,000.00					€ 447,000.00
SR/RR - Restoration Improvement Grant			€ 4,312,500.00	€ 6,764,000.00			€ 45,000.00	€ 11,121,500.00
PSCI: Survey Support				€ 29,000.00				€ 29,000.00
Low Cost Safety Improvement Grant					€ 375,000.00			€ 375,000.00
Drainage Grant							€ 803,047.00	€ 803,047.00
Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Works							€ 635,000.00	€ 635,000.00
Former National Roads Rehabilitation Grant			€ 410,000.00					€ 410,000.00
TOTALS - Improvement Works	€ 54,251,958.00	€ 5,629,000.00	€ 5,169,500.00	€ 6,793,000.00	€ 375,000.00	€ -	€ 1,483,047.00	€ 73,701,505.00
TOTALS - Improvement and Maintenance	€ 54,647,609.00	€ 5,997,387.00	€ 6,169,500.00	€ 13,032,900.00	€ 375,000.00	€ 30,000.00	€ 2,587,747.00	€ 82,840,143.00
Greenways								€ 1,695,000.00
Cycleway Athlone to Galway								€ 110,000.00
Community Involvement Scheme (CIS)								€ 111,000.00
Active Travel								€ 122,193.00
TII	Department of Transport	Council's Own Resources						
€ 62,449,996.00	€ 20,350,740.00	€ 2,077,600.00						€ 84,878,336.00

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. Detailed Design is progressing with site works programmed to commence in late Q1 2022. 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 on site has ceased. Roscommon County Council is considering all options available in order to progress the project construction stage.

N60 Oran Road Realignment Project 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 to the project 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 been instructed to carry out an assessment of the preferred route corridor and determine whether or not it is possible to identify a section(s) of the overall project which could be progressed under the TII Minors programme.

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 Q2/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 0 Scope and Pre-Appraisal, work is progressing on the appointment of Lead Technical Consultants and independent specialists to advance the project through the planning and design phases. In addition, ground investigation and topographical survey works contractors have been appointed and are due to commence in the coming weeks.

National Road Pavement Projects: Design and Contract documentation are being prepared for the pavement overlay projects included in the 2022 TII National Road Allocations. It is anticipated that Athlone North (Phase 2) will be tendered in Q2 2022 and the design of the N61 Shankill to Cladagh pavement project will commence once the topographical survey has been completed.

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 have been issued by Leitrim County Council following a review of the submissions by the Project Team. Work is continuing on the assessment of various route corridor options.

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 December 2021, the Council advertised for expressions of interest for the Local Improvement Scheme 2022. Applications under the Scheme are currently being examined for eligibility. It is expected that the Local Improvement Scheme will proceed on the same policy basis as last year, including the maximum 10% administration costs to be claimed by each Local Authority and the €1,200 cap on the local contribution per individual household/landholder.

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.

Cemetery Maintenance and Improvement Grants 2022

Roscommon County Council allocated €50,000 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 96 groups applied for funding under the Scheme. A report on the grant allocations will be presented to the April Plenary Meeting.

Galway to Athlone Cycleway

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 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 Q1 2022 is 140.

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 38 Abnormal Load Permits to the end of Q1 2022.