



Comhairle Contae
Ros Comáin
Roscommon
County Council



MANAGEMENT REPORT

MAY 2022

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

	EXPENDITURE		INCOME		NET
	Expenditure Incurred up to 31/05/2022	Adopted Full Year Budget	Income Receivable up to 31/05/2022	Adopted Full year Budget	Actual Overall Surplus/ (Deficit)
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing & Building	2,515,692	7,912,319	3,041,429	8,204,123	525,737
Road Transport & Safety	7,214,868	27,651,100	2,549,831	20,614,583	(4,665,037)
Water Services	1,857,495	7,543,881	2,525,179	7,503,821	667,684
Development Management	2,113,017	7,235,048	1,473,770	2,079,655	(639,247)
Environmental Services	1,512,859	5,964,033	148,909	961,143	(1,363,950)
Recreation & Amenity	1,242,828	4,216,889	354,009	554,668	(888,819)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	104,466	818,316	99,266	257,927	(5,200)
Miscellaneous Services	2,123,993	5,261,757	1,021,420	2,892,172	(1,102,574)
Central Management Charges	3,451,803	0	248,506	0	(3,203,297)
Local Government Fund/General Purpose Grant	0	0	5,412,876	10,825,200	5,412,876
Pension Levy	0	0	0	0	0
Rates	0	0	5,244,313	12,710,052	5,244,313
	22,137,020	66,603,343	22,119,507	66,603,343	(17,513)

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 May 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	12,586,352	598,375	368,507	12,852,039	5,952,362	6,899,677	36,153	46%	52%
Rents & Annuities	370,508	2,234,111			2,604,619	2,152,805	451,814		83%	84%
Housing Loans	136,487	114,164			250,652	121,186	129,465		48%	40%

Recourse to Overdraft;

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

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Forward Planning

Following the coming into effect of the *Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028* on 19th April, the attention of the Forward Planning team in May focused on pre-draft work as part of the process of preparing new Local Area Plans for Roscommon town and Boyle.

Development Management and Planning Enforcement Activity

The table below summarises Development Management activity in May. A total of 46 valid planning applications were received, which representing a large proportionate increase from April (in which 30 were received). Decisions issued on 41 planning applications, of which 40 were grants of permission (97.56%).

Development Management Statistics

Period	Activity	Roscommon North	Roscommon South	Totals
May 2022	Valid app	23	23	46
	Extension of Duration	1	3	4
	DED	3	0	3
	Pre-planning meeting	16	10	26

Enforcement Activity

Period	Activity	Countywide Totals
May 2022	New enforcement case	10
	General letter	3
	Warning letter	6
	Enforcement notice	1
	Closed case	4
	Legal proceedings	0

Unfinished Housing Developments (UHD)

Development activity was on-going in a total of five unfinished housing developments in May. Contractors engaged under RCC's Framework were involved in site resolution works in three developments (one in the Athlone Municipal District and the remaining two in the Boyle Municipal District). Developers were also at work on two unfinished developments in Knockcroghery and Boyle.

Schedules for one development (Monksfield / Monksfield Park) were referred to Irish Water as part of the process of progressing developments to being considered for taking in charge. At a more advanced stage in the taking in charge process, two developments were referred to Roscommon County Council's Roads Section – Caslin Way in Strokestown and Baile na Mona in Ballinlough.

ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT PROMOTION

Local Enterprise Office:

- **Trading On Line Vouchers (TOVs):** 15 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 23rd of June 2022.
- **Evaluation & Approvals Meeting:** An Evaluation and Approval Committee Meeting was held on 27th May. Two Expansion Grant applications and one priming grant application was before the committee and all were approved for funding. The next Evaluation Committee meeting is scheduled for 27th July.
- **Green for Micro Scheme:** The Green for Micro helps small businesses become more environmentally friendly and sustainable by providing advice and technical support covering topics such as resource efficiency, understanding carbon footprint and implementing an environmental management system. LEO Roscommon has processed 4 applications in 2022.
- **DigitalStart Scheme:** Digital Start is a pilot initiative from the Local Enterprise Office designed to help businesses prepare and implement a plan for the adoption of digital tools and techniques across the business. Procurement of consultants has been completed and a promotional campaign to attract applicants is underway.
- **Technical Assistance for MicroExporters:** helps small businesses expand into export markets by assisting with the costs of exhibiting at international trade shows. LEO Roscommon has processed 6 applications in 2022.
- **Microfinance:** Year to date, 4 applications have been received, 2 have been approved, 1 declined and 1 is awaiting decision. Post MFI Mentoring is on-going with 2 clients. Work continues on the promotion of this source of finance on social Media and via mentoring clinics.
- **Training:** The 1st tranche of training to support the business community is underway and places are in demand and training is well attended. A total of **454** participants have been facilitated between January and May 2022.
- **Remote Mentoring:** Remote Business Advice Clinics were held in January, February, March, April & May. **121** clients in total have been facilitated through Business Advisory Clinics and One to One Mentoring via Submit.com.
- **REBOOT Training Programme:** (RTP) is a co-operative collaboration between Local Action Groups and Local Enterprise Offices in Mayo, Roscommon and Sligo. It will ensure consistency, flexibility, stimulation and activation of tailored training needs and skills development and will run for 18 months. 3 courses have now commenced. Training has been delivered to 108 businesses as part of the programme and a Digitalisation Networking event is being organised for May 12th.
- **Enquiries:** Appropriate support provided on an ongoing basis. **193** enquires were logged in total between January and May 2022.

- **Student Enterprise Programme:** Roscommon students won four prizes in the national final, which were announced during a virtual event on May 3rd. Cupán Cozies, Convent of Mercy Roscommon won Most Effective Social Media Campaign in the Senior Category. Cattle Trailer Safety Bar, Scoil Mhuire, Strokestown took home two prizes; Best Commercial Potential and the Intellectual Property Award in the Intermediate Category. In the 'My Entrepreneurial Journey' Competition (Intermediate) GMD Designs won 3rd Prize, for St. Nathy's College, Ballagherreen. The overall winners in the Junior, Intermediate and Senior competitions were announced at a live event in the Helix Theatre on May 18th.
- **National Enterprise Awards:** The judging for the National Enterprise Awards took place on the 4th/ 5th /11th and 12th May and the National awards ceremony was held in a gala event at the Mansion House, Dublin on June 2nd.
- **Promotion:** All LEO supports were promoted on the LEO website and on various social media platforms.
- **Sites at Ballyboughan:** One site is under consideration at Ballyboughan and 3 sites remain for sale in Castlerea.
- **Just Transition:** Feasibility studies are being carried out for 2 JTF projects. These are being finalised and will be complete at the end of June.
- **EI:** LW continues to work with Meabh Conaghan, the new West Region Manager and Noeleen Hussey and has joined the LEO Projects Evaluation Committee.
- **IDA:** LW is keeping the line of communication open between IDA, CE and 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. 1 site is almost complete and PP has issued.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT

Healthy Ireland

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

LEADER

- 5 payments for LEADER grants made in May 2022.
- Article 48 checks are ongoing.

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

- An online LCDC meeting took place on the 18th May 2022 via Microsoft Teams. On the LCDC Agenda was:
 - Nomination for member to represent Roscommon LCDC on the Heritage Forum

Joint Policing Committee (JPC)

2022 Community Safety Innovation Fund - fund of €2 million has been made available for 2022 to support the development of community safety through innovative, local community based initiatives. The fund, which is financed by the Criminal Assets Bureau, will ensure the seized proceeds of crime are utilised to support community safety. Grants will be in the range of €20,000 - €150,000. All members of JPC informed of the first iteration of this grant scheme and closing date for receipt of applications is 8th June 2022.

CLÁR

- **CLÁR 2020**
Work is ongoing with 2 Community Groups as they submit their drawdowns on their projects for CLÁR 2020 funded projects. 5 projects completed and paid in full.
- **CLÁR 2021**
7 Projects totalling €269,412 was granted funding under CLÁR 2021.
Work is in progress to get procurement submitted and projects commenced.
- **CLÁR 2022**
28 Applications were received for CLÁR 2022. 15 applications were submitted to the Department for consideration. The funding is expected to be announced in July 2022.

SICAP

- SICAP VAT for June - Dec 2022 was paid in May 2022.

Communities Activities Fund (CAF):

- Grant payments to groups has commenced under the operation costs side of the scheme. Approximately €11,000 remains for payment across 5 community groups under this category.
- Grant payments under the capital side of the scheme are ongoing with a drawdown date of end of August 2022.

Tidy Towns and Amenity Grants Scheme

2022 update

- Tidy Towns & Amenity Grant Scheme 2022 closed on 31st March 2022.
- A total of **84** applications were received of which **80** were deemed eligible.
- A list of Recommended Allocations was approved at April Council Meeting.
- Letters of Grant Offer were issued.
- All 84 applicants have accepted same and payment of grant aid will commence in due course.

Pride of Place 2022

- 5 applications received by closing date of 28th April 2022.
- Closing date for all Pride of Place application to 'All Island' stage was 10th May and 3 applications were successful to go through to this stage:
 - The Melting Pot Community Society Ltd – Community Wellbeing Initiative
 - Lough Ree Angling Hub – Community Tourism Initiative
 - Lisnamult Tenants & Residents Association – Urban Neighbourhoods

Social Inclusion Unit

Misc:

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

Heritage

Royal Sites of Ireland World Heritage Bid:

- Royal Sites Steering group meeting held on 20.05.22.

Farming Rathcroghan EIP Community Archaeology Programme:

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

Built Heritage Investment Scheme:

- BHIS2022: 13 x projects were approved by the department for funding of €96K. Works commencing in coming weeks.

County Heritage Plan Funding:

- Projects underway.

Táin March / Táin Tapestry 2022

- The Táin March Festival will come to Roscommon town and conclude at Rathcroghan on the 25th.
- The Táin Tapestry will be exhibited in Áras an Chontae with Launch event on June 25th 2022.

Rahara Ruined Church Conservation project:

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

Aleen Cust Commemorations 2022

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

Heritage Week 2022

- Plans are going for the programme of events for heritage week 2022 which takes place from 13th to 22nd August.

County Roscommon Heritage Forum

- Works ongoing.

Tourism

Regional Projects:

- **IHH – RCC, WWI and FI meeting** regarding the plans for Ireland hidden heartland for 2022.
- **IHH Networking event** – in Athlone 24th May. 12 Roscommon tourisms trade in attendance.

County:

- **Hodson Bay** – SLR consultants Feasibility Study in final phase.
- **Clondra/Richmond Harbour/Tarmonbarry** – feasibility with WWI ongoing.
- **FL Bord Na Mona Strategic Network of Trails** – first meeting held in Tullamore.
- **New Roscommon Tourism Stands** – delivered to 8 attractions. All brochures (Explore Roscommon, Maps and Walking Brochures) for summer 2022 delivered throughout the county.

Destinations Town

- Quotes for electronic signage received and review ongoing.
- Public Art Commission Call issued with closing date the end of May.

King House

- House open 7 Days for Summer 2022.
- Works ongoing on the upgrade of the CRA exhibition will be open in end June to public.
- A large number of Private, Community and Government events have been hosted.
- Cultural events over May included:
 - Follow the Tune Performances
 - Mulligan Sisters in Concert
 - Book Launch 'The Return'
 - Picnic in the Courtyard

Douglas Hyde Centre

- 3 school tours to DHC during May.
- For summer 2022 the centre will open to public from June to Sept each weekend and via appointment during the week.

ORIS

- **Measure 3 2021** – The Arigna Energy Discover Park - one tender received for landscape Architect contract.
- **Measure 3 2022** – Application submitted for the development of Trails at Rathcroghan.

Arts Office

Arts Plan 2022-2027

- Review and Planning.

Mary Smyth, **Public Art & Engagement Coordinator**, commenced work – part funded by the Arts Council of Ireland Specialist Staffing Scheme.

Local & Live Programme

- Being delivered under LLPPS 2022 – 24 events with 8 event partners in Ballydangan, Boyle, Roscommon and Strokestown.

Bealtaine Festival Roscommon

- 8 events during May county-wide, celebrating creativity as we age.

Artist in Schools Residencies

- 14 county-wide with 11 artists.

Roscommon County Youth Theatre

- Ongoing based at RAC - 30 members

Literary Awards

- 40 applications

Creative Heartlands

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

Platform 31 National Artist Bursary Programme

- One artist per county.

Bealtaine

- Planning for festival for the month of May.

Creative Ireland Culture & Creativity Strategy 2023-2027

- Review and Planning.

Creative Roscommon

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

Roscommon Music Teaching Residency

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

International Fibre Art Festival

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

Festival in a Van

- 6 Nursing Home Concerts.

Cruinniú na nÓg

- Planning for June 11th festival.

Decade of Centenaries

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

Capital Programmes

In collaboration with Regeneration and Tourism:

- RRDF – Reimagining Exhibitions and Visitor Experience at King House Boyle – ongoing.
- Destination Town – King House and Pleasure Grounds Public Art Commissions – submissions received.
- Outdoor Public Space Scheme – Somers Park Castlerea – ongoing.
- Town & Village – Knockcroghery Public Art – 3 artists commissioned.
- ORIS – Ballyleague – planning ongoing.
- Roscommon Town Square & Laneways – planning ongoing.

Roscommon Arts Centre

Performances

- Eleven performances took place during May at the arts centre and this included the return of a number of school-shows, the first ones since the start of the pandemic. There were sold out performances of *Shirley Valentine*, *Legends of American Country Music* and *Sunday Sounds*, the arts centre's ongoing project with *Music Generation Roscommon*.

Visual Art

- Interconnections - a biennale exhibition of hand woven, contemporary, fine art tapestries from Ireland and Scotland, curated by Frances Crowe and Joan Baxter continued until May 14th. A number of workshops were also hosted by Frances in conjunction with the Bealtaine Festival. An Animate Land with work from Laura Fitzgerald, Miriam O'Connor & Marian Balfe opened on May 21st and continues until July 1st. A number of talks & workshops connected to the exhibition have also taken place in May such as Gallery Days, Primary Colours, Gallery XED & 10 Minutes of Art.

Creative Learning

- The over 50's programme continued at the arts centre, with weekly opportunities for the public to engage. Drama workshop *Act Your Age* with Julie Sharkey for the over 50's and *Elderberries* with Catherine Donnelly and *Songbirds* with Catherine Donnelly continued in May. A four-week Poetry Workshop with Jane Clarke also ran throughout May. Author Alice Kinsella hosted a Creative Writing Workshop and a number of workshops took place in Nursing Home settings as part of the *With Other Matter: Plant Therapy* engagement strands, which saw residents work closely with two artists.
- The workshop spaces are in continuous use with groups such as Roscommon Youth Theatre, Cor Comain and Tai chi, Yoga all using the space for weekly classes. A number of artists and companies have also used the space throughout May to further develop ideas, create work and rehearse shows. Little Nightingale Productions used the space for one week to develop

their baby show *Baby Weather* which premiered for Cruinniu na nÓg and Fizz and Chips Productions are spending two weeks rehearsing in the workshop ahead of the premiere of their new play *Natural Science*.