



Comhairle Contae  
Ros Comáin  
Roscommon  
County Council



# MANAGEMENT REPORT

November 2022

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

	EXPENDITURE		INCOME		NET
	Expenditure Incurred up to 30/11/2022	Adopted Full Year Budget	Income Receivable up to 30/11/2022	Adopted Full year Budget	Actual Overall Surplus/ (Deficit)
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing & Building	6,695,874	7,912,319	8,238,558	8,204,123	1,542,684
Road Transport & Safety	27,743,281	27,651,100	16,520,811	20,614,583	(11,222,470)
Water Services	5,559,185	7,543,881	6,188,875	7,503,821	629,690
Development Management	7,125,316	7,235,048	3,125,282	2,079,655	(4,000,033)
Environmental Services	4,911,608	5,964,033	536,709	961,143	(4,374,899)
Recreation & Amenity	4,538,089	4,216,889	1,526,732	554,668	(3,011,357)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	667,980	818,316	274,469	257,927	(393,510)
Miscellaneous Services	4,908,798	5,261,757	4,058,551	2,892,172	(850,247)
Central Management Charges	1,925,919	0	128,311	0	(1,797,608)
Local Government Fund/General Purpose Grant	0	0	10,825,752	10,825,200	10,825,752
Pension Levy	0	0	0	0	0
Rates	0	0	11,461,231	12,710,052	11,461,231
	<b>64,076,050</b>	<b>66,603,343</b>	<b>62,885,281</b>	<b>66,603,343</b>	<b>(1,190,767)</b>

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

**Summary of Major Collections as at 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

<b>Debt Type</b>	<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>Accrued</b>	<b>Vacant Property Adjustments</b>	<b>Write Off/Waivers</b>	<b>Total for Collection</b>	<b>Collected</b>	<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>Specific Doubtful Arrears</b>	<b>% Collection</b>	<b>% Collection Previous Year</b>
<b>Commercial Rates</b>	1,232,568	12,503,162	1,046,070	568,835	12,120,824	10,034,762	2,086,062	33,153	83%	91%
<b>Rents &amp; Annuities</b>	370,508	5,126,689		(1,363)	5,498,560	4,942,268	556,292		90%	92%
<b>Housing Loans</b>	136,487	274,741			411,228	290,629	120,599		71%	63%

**Recourse to Overdraft;**

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

## PLANNING DEPARTMENT

### Forward Planning

The focus of Forward Planning activity in November was on the progression of pre-draft work on the forthcoming *Roscommon Town Local Area Plan 2023-2029* and the *Boyle Local Area Plan 2023-2029*. Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) will be undertaken in respect of both Plans and as part of this scoping notifications issued to all Environmental Authorities, inviting submissions / observations on the scope and level of information to be included in the respective environmental reports.

### Development Management and Planning Enforcement Activity

The table below summarises Development Management activity in November. A total of 32 valid planning applications were received, which was a marginal reduction on the previous month, in which 34 valid applications were received. Decisions issued on 29 planning applications, of which 25 were grants of permission.

#### Development Management Statistics

Period	Activity	Roscommon North	Roscommon South	Totals
<b>November 2022</b>	Valid applications	13	19	32
	Extension of Duration	1	0	1
	DED	1	1	2
	Pre-planning meeting	5	10	15

#### Enforcement Activity

Period	Activity	Countywide Totals
<b>November 2022</b>	New enforcement case	7
	General letter	6
	Warning letter	7
	Enforcement notice	1
	Closed case	1
	Legal proceedings	0

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

The level and nature of activity on site in unfinished housing developments in November was similar to the preceding month. Contractors engaged by Roscommon County Council continued work on pumping stations in two developments - one in Monksland and the other in Roscommon. A developer was at work in one other development in Boyle.

Schedules were sent to Irish Water for one development in Roscommon (Anvil Court) as part of the taking in charge process.

## ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT PROMOTION

### Local Enterprise Office:

- **Trading On Line Vouchers (TOVs):** 33 applications have been received and approved to-date in 2022. Clients who received TOV approval in 2021 have now been paid, de-committed and reconciled. 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 8<sup>th</sup> of December 2022.
- **Evaluation & Approvals Meeting:** In total 17 M1 grants have been approved year to date totalling just over €295,000. The next Evaluation Committee meeting will be scheduled early in 2023.
- **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 16 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. 3 applications have been approved to date.
- **Technical Assistance for MicroExporters:** helps small businesses expand into export markets by assisting with the costs of exhibiting at international trade shows. LEO Roscommon has processed 9 applications in 2022.
- **Microfinance:** Year to date, 14 applications have been received, 10 have been approved, 3 declined and 1 Withdrawn. Post MFI Mentoring has been completed with 3 clients. Work continues on the promotion of this source of finance on social Media and via mentoring clinics.
- **Training:** Demand for Training to support the business community is high and well attended. A total of 819 participants have been facilitated between January and November 2022.
- **Remote Mentoring:** Remote Business Advice Clinics were held in January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October & November. 312 clients in total have been facilitated through Business Advisory Clinics and One to One Mentoring via Submit.com.
- **REBOOT Training Programme:** (RTP) is a co-operative collaboration between Local Action Groups and Local Enterprise Offices in Mayo, Roscommon and Sligo. It will ensure consistency, flexibility, stimulation and activation of tailored training needs and skills development and will run for 18 months. 3 courses have now commenced. Training has been delivered to 108 businesses as part of the programme and a Digitalisation Networking event was held on May 12<sup>th</sup>.
- **Enquiries:** Appropriate support provided on an ongoing basis. 418 enquires were logged in total between January and November 2022.

- **Student Enterprise Programme:** This programme is ongoing with all nine 2<sup>nd</sup> level schools in the county participating and school visits ongoing. The County final is scheduled for Tuesday March 14<sup>th</sup> 2023 and will take place in person in the Abbey Hotel.
- **National Enterprise Awards:** This initiative has concluded for 2022 and will recommence in 2023.
- **Promotion:** All LEO supports were promoted on the LEO website and on various social media platforms.
- **EI:** LW continues to work with Meabh Conaghan, the new West Region Manager and Noeleen Hussey.
- **IDA:** LW is keeping the line of communication open between IDA, CE & Senior Management of RCC in the hope of encouraging FDI to Roscommon.

# COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT

## Healthy Ireland

- HIF Round 4 Grant Agreement Signed and in place
- €40,000 up to end of December 2022 for planning purposes
- €12,599 up to the end of December 2022 for Social Prescribing action
- 3-year round 4 fund strategy and online application to be complete by January, 2023
- €75,000 allocated to 2023 and €40,000 for 2024 and 2025.

## LEADER

- Article 48 checks are ongoing
- LEADER Admin Returns being processed monthly
- Two LEADER Payments made in November
- An expression of interest for the New LEADER programme is being prepared and due for submitting on December 16<sup>th</sup>.

## Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

- Meeting of Roscommon Local Community Development Committee took place on Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> November in person in the Council Chamber.

## LECP

- The Development of an Overall Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) integrated Framework for 6-year period and Initial Implementation Plan (2 Year) for County Roscommon has been awarded to Hub Planning. Meeting to plan development to commence in December.

## Joint Policing Committee (JPC)

- Next JPC Meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday, 12th December 2022.

## 2022 Community Safety Innovation Fund

- Liaising with IT to review at various options that can be considered as part of the €5,000.00 funding (Community Safety Innovation Fund) for Digital Safety among Adults/Older People in the community.

## CLÁR

- **CLÁR 2020**  
CLÁR 2020 is nearing completion with the final project finished and drawdown submitted for payment. Seven projects completed and paid in full.

- **CLÁR 2021**  
Seven Projects totalling €269,412 was granted funding under CLÁR 2021 and work is ongoing on these projects. Three projects completed and two paid in full. One project approved for payment.
- **CLÁR 2022**  
Letters of Offer have been issued to all the successful applicants

### SICAP

- SICAP Sub Committee met on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2022 to review the SICAP 2023 Annual Plan Report.

### Tidy Towns and Amenity Grants Scheme

- Final 2022 Funding being paid out.

### Community Support Fund 2022

The Community Support Fund (CSF) was announced in November and Roscommon has been allocated €279,884. This funding will be administered by the Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs) to support groups with their energy costs or to carry out small upgrade works or to purchase equipment to support their activities.

Eligible groups include Parish Halls, Community Centers, Local Development Associations, Social Clubs, ICA Groups, Senior Citizen Groups, Men's Sheds, Women's Sheds and much more. Online application will open in early 2023 on RCC website.

### Social Inclusion Unit

- **Age Friendly:** Age Friendly Ireland – Assisted Decision Making Awareness Session attended  
Evaluation of Creative Ireland Regionals Age Friendly initiatives attended.
- **Migrant Integration Strategy:** Work continued on the development of Actions for the new Strategy. Further in person meeting held with Exodea Consulting
- **SICAP:** SICAP Annual Plan assessment meeting attended.
- **Science Week (13<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> November):** Schedule of events rolled out to all schools, these events were well attended by students of all ages.
- **Sports Development Officers:** Payment No. 2 for all SDO's processed

### Heritage

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

- Work is ongoing and a 30k budget will be required from RCC each year for the next 5 years.

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

- A meeting is scheduled for December to review activities for 2022 and plan activities for 2023

### **Built Heritage Investment Scheme:**

- One recoupment claims submitted. Thirteen projects were offered funding under the BHIS. Four projects were unable to proceed due to difficulty securing a contractor. Nine projects were completed – these received BHIS grants of €64,851, this was matched with private funding of €65,404, giving a total project spend of €130,255. The 2023 scheme has been advertised.

### **Historic Structures Fund:**

- Two recoupment claims were submitted. Two projects were funded under the HSF receiving grants of €31k. The 2023 scheme has been advertised.

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

- Three recoupment claims were submitted to the Heritage Council – for the Farming Rathcroghan EIP Community Archaeology Programme, the Owen O’Conor Mausoleum Conservation project and Review of the County Heritage Forum/Heritage Plan.

### **Local Biodiversity Action Fund:**

- One recoupment claim was submitted. Five projects were supported under this scheme with a total spend of 43k which received 36k funding. The Invasive Alien Species project was largely under subscribed.

### **Community Monuments Fund**

- Three recoupment claims were submitted. Three projects to the value of €131,758.10 were funded and recouped.

### **Táin March / Royal Rathcroghan - Schools Programme 2022**

- Twelve primary schools, in County Roscommon are signed up to ‘Royal Rathcroghan’ – a FREE schools programme delivered by heritage expert Chris Thompson this autumn. Project is now complete

### **Aleen Cust Commemorations 2022**

- ‘A Woman of Measure’ podcast series was shared on RCC social media. This project is led by the Aleen Cust Society and Galway County Council with the support of Roscommon and Tipperary County Councils. The Aleen Cust Exhibition will be exhibited in 2023.

### **County Roscommon Heritage Forum/Preparation of New County Heritage Plan**

- John O’Brien Culture & Creativity Consultant had a very successful workshop with County Roscommon heritage Forum on 9<sup>th</sup> November. Four workshops in the series will follow in 2023.

### **RCC Actions for Pollinators**

- A Report of RCC Actions for Pollinators has been submitted to the AI Ireland Pollinator Plan, as part of the 'Council Partners 2022 Annual Review'.

### **Health & Safety Issue at Cloonshanville Cemetery**

- Bat survey has been completed and AA Screening Report has been completed.

### **Owen O'Connor Mausoleum Conservation Project:**

- Project design has been completed and it is hoped that funding can be obtained from the Community Monuments Fund 2023.

### **Tourism**

#### **Regional:**

- Meeting with Sarah McCarthy (IHH) to discuss USSEB Mystery Shop findings for Roscommon
- Upper Shannon, Shannon-Erne and Border Destination & Experience Development Plan meeting held in Lough Key
- Shannon Discovery Points, On Site Meeting in Athlone to agree locations
- Meeting with IHH FI to discuss the upcoming just transition funding which will be available for Trails, Attractions and Accommodation
- Tarmonbarry/Clondra WWI Tourism Plan at final stage.

#### **County:**

- County Marketing Campaign with Broader Marketing campaign completed with very positives feedback and interest in the Heritage and outdoor activities Roscommon offers.
- Autumn Roscommon Tourism Network meeting held in Strokestown Park. Feedback on the summer season was relatively positive but rising energy costs and staff shortages will have an impact on the 2023 season.

#### **King House**

- Very successful Christmas market held on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> November, with over 30 stalls and 1700 people in attendance over the two days.
- RIAM piano exams hosted at the end of November.

### **Outdoor Recreation Scheme 2021 and 2022**

- Arigna project Ongoing (Measure 3)
- Rathcroghan Looped Trails approved for €445,500 funding under Measure 3 of ORIS 2022

### **Arts Office**

#### **Literary Awards**

The Roscommon Arts Office Literary Awards were held in King House on Friday, 18th November.

- The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of Autumn Leaves was launched (made available in the Roscommon Herald 15th November)
- Presentation of the Roscommon Chapbook Awards 2020 – 2022
- Presentation of the Roscommon New Writing Awards 2020 – 2022

### **Arts Participation Programme**

#### **CARE: Creative Ageing in Roscommon**

- HSE Nursing Homes Artist Residencies: Weekly activities funded by HSE in Boyle, Roscommon and Castlerea. 5 artists total engaged with two residencies now completed.
- Exhibition of created work held at Plunkett Nursing Home 13<sup>th</sup> Nov for residents and family.
- Slow Art Bursaries: Open call for applications from artists to propose Slow Art Projects which engage with older communities in County Roscommon. 13 applications from different disciplines were received

#### **Artists in Schools**

- 42 schools applied to the call out for *Artists in School* residencies where artists deliver a ten week programme for 2022-2023 Term. 16 schools were matched with an artist. Two residencies commenced for Term 1.

#### **Creative Ireland**

- Draft for new Creative Ireland: Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023-2027 for Roscommon County Council

### **Capital Programmes**

In collaboration with Regeneration & Tourism

- Outdoor Public Space Scheme – Somers Park Castlerea – Stage Canopy installed.
- Destination Town – Boyle Sculpture Trail – 5 sculptures completed and installed.
- Town & Village – Knockcroghery Public Art Commission – Mural & street art completed. Sculpture completed to be installed and signage near completion.
- RRDF – Reimagining Exhibitions & Visitor Experience at King House Boyle – ongoing.

### **Roscommon Arts Centre**

#### **Performance Programme**

- The arts centre held thirteen events in the auditorium during November, nine of which were sold out. Events included, John Kenny in *The Matchmaker*, four screenings of Film *Ed for Schools*, Anne Gildea's comedy show, Manchán Magan bilingual show *Arán & Im*, two off-site performances of Teac Damsa's *MÁM* which took place in the Sports Complex Boyle.

- The centre also welcomed Anna Newell Theatre Adventures in November as part of our role in the Network for Extraordinary Audiences, with two sold out baby shows Little Tiny Space.
- The Arts Centre also completed a successful national tour of An Ant Called Amy by Julie Sharkey to nine other venues. The show has been extremely well received and Imagine Children's Festival in Edinburgh have expressed interest in a future tour of the show.

### **Visual Art Programme**

- Artist Ann Henderson opened her exhibition *DUST* in the Gallery on November 11<sup>th</sup>. As part of the exhibition Ann also hosted a number of virtual exhibition tours.

### **Workshop Space**

- Jane Clarke returned for four sold out Poetry Explored workshops.
- Roscommon Youth Theatre & Cor Comain (choir) have both resumed their weekly sessions on the workshop space.
- The weekly Songbirds (choral) and Elderberries (dance) initiatives for people aged 50+ have both re-commenced at the centre, with 15 + people participating weekly.
- Roscommon Drama Group used the workshop space for a weekend for rehearsals for their upcoming production.
- Anna Newell and team used the workshop space for rehearsal and development for future projects.

### **Residencies/Artist Supports**

- Artists Julie Sharkey and Mintesinot Wolde commenced their Artist in Residency 2022 schemes. The first payments of their bursaries have been paid and they are using the workshops and studio spaces for research and development of future projects

### **Ukrainian Response Forum**

- Roscommon Community Response Forum was established in March 2022 to co-ordinate the community led response in the provision of assistance and support to Ukrainian Refugees in Co. Roscommon. Partner agencies of the forum (Social Inclusion Measures Sub Committee SIM) work together to guide Refugees to the relevant services and supports required such as welfare, child care, health, education, employment, social and other integration needs and meet on a regular basis.

### **Accommodation provider's information and network meeting**

- RCC hosted an Information Evening for Accommodation providers on 8<sup>th</sup> November, as part of the SIM Ukrainian Emergency Forum. PPN developed an information booklet, which was distributed on the evening, detailing all the services available for the Accommodation providers and their residents. Presentations on the evening included RCC, HSE, Tulsa and RLP.

### **Offer a Home**

- Scheme was launched on the 24<sup>th</sup> Nov and offers €800 per month tax free for rent of vacant property. Applications can be made via Offer a Home website and this will be followed up with inspections to determine the suitability of the property. Advertisements of the scheme have been placed on line (RCC website and Social media) and in the local newspapers. 3 applications received from Roscommon by the end of November.

### **HI Ukrainian Refugee Health and Wellbeing Support**

- A total of €9,525 was awarded to Roscommon Co Co and this has been allocated to Roscommon LEADER Partnership (Christmas Day Outing and Community Garden project), Strokestown Ukrainian Community Event and The Welcome Centre Cuisle. The Scheme must be completed by end of March 2023.