



Comhairle Contae
Ros Comáin
Roscommon
County Council



MANAGEMENT REPORT



December 2024

QUARTER 4

Roscommon County Council

Revenue Account Income & Expenditure Summary by Service Division

Management Accounts Summary to 31st December 2024

	EXPENDITURE		INCOME		NET
	Expenditure Incurred up to 31/12/2024	Adopted Full Year Budget	Income Receivable up to 31/12/2024	Adopted Full year Budget	Actual Overall Surplus/ (Deficit)
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing & Building	9,622,208	9,258,906	12,097,130	9,531,863	2,474,923
Road Transport & Safety	31,625,809	30,288,360	24,958,806	23,103,509	(6,667,002)
Water Services	6,024,396	6,235,843	5,727,554	6,115,112	(296,842)
Development Management	14,603,319	9,938,335	10,539,306	3,010,228	(4,064,013)
Environmental Services	7,618,615	8,105,044	2,087,059	2,097,373	(5,531,556)
Recreation & Amenity	5,733,329	5,228,935	1,367,899	663,076	(4,365,430)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	860,666	774,889	426,663	278,967	(434,004)
Miscellaneous Services	6,107,958	5,600,805	8,247,410	5,373,288	2,139,451
Central Management Charges	1,149,095	0	100,708	0	(1,048,387)
Local Government Fund/General Purpose Grant	0	0	12,569,502	12,534,000	12,569,502
Pension Levy	0	0	0	0	0
Rates	0	0	12,460,446	12,723,700	12,460,446
	83,345,396	75,431,117	90,582,484	75,431,117	7,237,088

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 December 2024

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	1,466,294	12,461,149	1,054,976	172,153	12,700,313	11,527,271	1,173,041	21,061	91%	88%
Rents & Annuities	647,010	6,518,884	-	19,907	7,145,986	6,365,047	780,939	-	89%	90%
Housing Loans	131,912	415,328	-	(99)	547,339	525,710	21,626	-	96%	75%

Recourse to Overdraft;

There has been no recourse to overdraft during the month of December 2024

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Forward Planning

Roscommon Town Local Area Plan 2024-2030

Following the conclusion of the public consultation period on the Draft Ministerial Direction relating to the *Roscommon Town Local Area Plan 2022-2028*, a report from the Chief Executive was prepared detailing the eight submissions received. The report issued on October 25th 2024 to the Minister of State in the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, to the Office of the Planning Regulator and to the Elected Members of the Roscommon Municipal District. On December 20th, the Council received confirmation of the Ministerial Direction, requiring the deletion of two pockets of land which were zoned through the Material Alteration process as 'New Residential' and 'Strategic Industrial / Enterprise Zone' respectively and the associated revision of the Local Area Plan boundary. With the exception of the two parcels of land, all other elements of the *Roscommon Town Local Area Plan 2024-2028* had already come into effect on September 5th 2024.

Draft Carrick-On-Shannon Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031

The public consultation period on the *Carrick on Shannon Draft Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031* concluded on October 4th, and the Forward Planning team worked in collaboration with colleagues in Leitrim County Council on the preparation of the *Chief Executive's Report on Submissions Received* on the Draft Plan. The report issued to the Elected Members of the Boyle Municipal District and the Carrick on Shannon Municipal District on November 12th and was formally considered by Members at their respective Municipal District meetings on December 9th 2024. A number of Material Alterations to the Draft Plan were proposed and work was then undertaken to enable the commencement of the public consultation on the Material Alterations in early January 2025.

Athlone Joint Urban Area Plan

The tender assessment process relating to the procurement of consultants to prepare the *Athlone Joint Urban Area Plan (JUAP)* concluded in early October. A pre-award meeting took place with the preferred tenderer in November in order to clarify a number of matters in advance of the formal award of the contract.

Development Management and Planning Enforcement Activity

The table below summarises Development Management activity in Q4 of 2024. Decisions issued on 140 planning applications, of which 128 (91.4%) were grants of permission.

Development Management Statistics

Period	Activity	Roscommon North	Roscommon South	Totals
Q4 2024	Valid Applications	55	74	129
	Invalid Applications	15	19	34
	Extension of Duration	5	3	8
	DED	30	15	45
	Pre-planning meeting	26	24	50

Enforcement Activity

Period	Activity	Countywide Totals
Q4 2024	New enforcement case	17
	General letter	48
	Warning letter	10
	Enforcement notice	4
	Closed case	24
	Legal proceedings	0

Unfinished Housing Developments (UHD)

Development activity in Q4 continued to focus on seven unfinished housing developments where work was on-going for much of 2024. Contractors engaged by Roscommon County Council were at work in four developments (in Elphin, Frenchpark, Monksland and Tarmonbarry). Developers also continued to work on-site at four developments (in Athleague, Boyle, Monksland and Tarmonbarry) undertaking agreed site resolution works.

Two tenders were advertised during Q4, for (i) a contract for site resolution works to be undertaken across five unfinished housing developments in Ballaghaderreen and (ii) a contract for minor site resolution works at two developments in Boyle and Elphin.

ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT PROMOTION

Local Enterprise Office:

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

39 TOVS have been approved in total for January to December 2024. The TOV Scheme ended on 13th December 2024. LEO Roscommon had advised clients to submit their applications before this deadline.

- **Evaluation & Approvals Meeting:**

An Evaluation Committee Meeting was held on Wednesday, 11th December where 3 Business Expansion Grant applications were assessed with funding approved totalling €48,538.10.

In total, 9 M1 grants have been approved for 2024 totalling €183,886. In addition, 1 RD&I grant was approved totalling €117,757. The next Evaluation Committee meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, 18th February 2025.

- **Green for Business Scheme:**

The Green for Business 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. Clients that have completed the Green for Business can now apply for the new Energy Efficiency Grant. 23 Green for Business applications have been approved from January to December 2024.

- **Digital for Business Scheme:**

Digital for Business is an 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. For 2024, LEO processed 5 applications for the Digital for Business Scheme.

- **Technical Assistance for MicroExporters:**

Helps small businesses expand into export markets by assisting with the costs of exhibiting at international trade shows. LEO Roscommon processed 8 applications for 2024 totalling €16,074.50. This scheme is no longer available with effect from year end December 2024 and a new Scheme will follow as its replacement.

- **Microfinance:**

10 applications have been received and sent to MFI this year. 7 approved, 2 applications were declined and 1 was withdrawn. Work continues on the promotion of this source of finance on social Media and via mentoring clinics.

- **Training:**

A total of 1,053 participants have been facilitated in total from January to the end of December 2024.

- **Local Enterprise Week:**
Took place between 4th and 8th of March 2024. A schedule of 11 local events & 1 Regional took place, included training, mentoring and networking events in County Roscommon as well as 2 National Spotlight events at national level. There were a total of 287 attendees across 14 events.

- **Remote Mentoring:**
20 Business Advice Clinics have been held so far this year from January to November 2024. All bookings were taken via the LEO website online booking system. **277** clients in total were facilitated through One to One Mentoring sessions in 2024.

- **Enquiries:**
Appropriate support provided on an ongoing basis. **379** enquires were logged from January to December 2024.

- **Student Enterprise Programme:**
The programme for 2024/25 academic year recommenced in September with all 9 secondary schools registering to take part in the programme once again. In school workshops are ongoing and these are being delivered by Whizzkids Training.

- **National Enterprise Awards:**
This programme has concluded and will recommence in 2025.

- **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 Majella Maher.

- **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 DEVELOPMENT

LEADER Programme 2023-2027

- 15 projects approved to date with a commitment of €986,023.05
 - Economic Development and Job Creation (9 projects)
 - Rural Infrastructure and Social Inclusion (4 projects)
 - Sustainable Development of Rural Environment & Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation (2 projects)
- There will be no project drawdowns by year-end in relation to these projects.
- There is an additional 30 EOIs approved for Application Stage

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and LECP

- LCDC Meeting took place on 11th December.
- Stakeholders and Action Partners are continuing to update their actions relating to the LECP.
- County Roscommon Heritage Forum - Nollaig Feeney – Heritage Officer was seeking Nomination of LCDC rep to County Roscommon Heritage Forum – It was proposed and seconded that Cllr. Laurence Fallon be the Representative.
- An advertisement was placed in the Roscommon People and Social Media seeking nominations for the Business Sector representative for the LCDC.
- Following the resignation of a Social Inclusion Representative on the LCDC, we are currently liaising with the PPN Manager. A replacement for the Committee will be discussed at the January Secretariat meeting with a view to securing a replacement and filling the position in February.

JPC/Local Community Safety Partnership

- We have been advised that the National Local Community Safety Partnership Committee will be established after the Policing, Security and Community Safety Act 2024–will be passed in December.
- As part of the Community Safety Fund 2023, funding to Support Digital Safety among Adults/Older People in the community was approved. A large part of the funding was spent on a radio advert campaign.
The remaining funds, in conjunction with the Age Friendly Co-ordinator Magnets to highlight the Do's and Don'ts of digital safety were funded. These will be distributed at various upcoming events e.g. older people's Council Meeting which are to take place at the end of January.

Healthy Ireland

- A link person has been identified, within the Lough Funshinagh Community, who is going to engage with Healthy Roscommon to deliver additional support and feedback on the Resilience Toolkit in 2025.
- Confirmation from Healthy Ireland National Coordinators in relation to a visit in January to progress the Resilience Toolkit.

Women's Health Programme

- Wellbeing events x 2 as part of Social Inclusion Week
- Period Problems workshops in Ballaghaderreen for IPAS & EROC centres
- Menopause Information Event Tuesday evening 3rd December – Panel of Speakers
 - Launch Edufit Menowell Programme was held on the night for programme start on 26th Jan 2025, up to 1,000 participants across the county.
- Healthy Roscommon Community Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029
 - Final Draft ready for approval & printing, launch early in 2025.

Budget Update

- Committed & Spent Year to Date - €94,280
 - 2024 – Underspend - €9,660.22 (carrying forward to 2025)
- 2025 Budget Allocation - **€75,000**

SLA's in place

- RSP: €22,000
- RLP: €12,000
- 2025 additional SLA – Traveller Health Project - €10,000

Small Grant Fund for 2025

- Healthy Roscommon Small Grant Scheme Open for Community & Voluntary Groups (€20,000)
 - Grant of €2,000 - €5,000 for projects which benefit Outcome 1 & 2
 - Closing Date 18th December 2024.
 - 32 Applications were received.
 - Grants awarded will be announced in January

SICAP

- LGAS SICAP 2023 Audit concluded with a formal closing meeting with the auditors. The final report was issued on Dec 18th with no issues identified.
- Internal Audit on SICAP 2023 was also completed and draft report issued on 18th December. The scope was limited to the financial data and has concluded with a satisfactory assurance to the LCDC.
- Social Inclusion week ran from 2nd – 8th Dec with the following events
 - Solidarity Cafés in Boyle, Ballintubber, Roscommon and Strokestown
 - Menstrual Health Workshops in Ballaghaderreen FRC and The ERCO (funded by Healthy Ireland)
 - The Gift of Balance Abbey Hotel 7pm (funded by Healthy Ireland)
 - Age Friendly Christmas Festival, 11 to 1pm
 - Family Fun Integration day in Ballaghaderreen Family Resource Centre and Castlerea Trinity Arts
- €2,094 of the €5,500 Social Inclusion Week grants claimed and paid out.

Comhairle Na nÓg

- Comhairle na nÓg Steering Group Meeting scheduled for 06/12/24 was cancelled beforehand because there wasn't enough attending for a quorum.

Community Recognition Fund 2024 (CRF)

- Meetings took place with IT took place to plan for the roll out of the Expressions of Interest for Window 3 of the CRF 2024. Groups had an opportunity to resubmit EOIs from Window 1 of the scheme that weren't successful. This was communicated to all previous unsuccessful groups via email.
- Adverts for the Funding stream were placed in the Papers – Roscommon Herald and Roscommon People. Updates were also populated on our website, Facebook, Instagram and X.
- The application for Expression of Interest (EOI) Window 3 was live from 16th December 2024 until 17th January 2025
- An information webinar on the scheme is scheduled for 8th January. Individuals were asked to register for the event.

Local Enhancement Programme 2024

- 102 Projects have been paid €130,430 under LEP2024

Local Enhancement Programme 2025

- Press Release by DRCD regarding funding for “Local Enhancement Programme 2025”. The Programme is designed to provide both capital and current funding support to a wide and diverse range of local groups, including Men's and Women's Sheds/Groups. Roscommon County Council has been allocated a total of €153,830 in funding for Groups across the County (131,854 in Capital Funding, 21,976 in Current Funding)
- Call for applications from Community Groups will be advertised in early January 2025.

Age Friendly

- A Christmas Festival in Kilbride Community Centre took place on 04/12/24. The keynote speaker was Paddy Joe Burke, Age Friendly Ambassador, as well as Amanda Scanlon, Healthy Age Friendly Homes Coordinator, Kathleen Shanagher, Lion's Club re 'Message in a Bottle' containers and Sergeant Damien Bartlery re safety in the home. There were numerous Age Friendly stands and a hot lunch, music & a raffle were also included. Approximately 200 attended.
- Paddy Joe Burke, Roscommon's Age Friendly Ambassador was interviewed on Newstalk Radio on 03/12/24, OceanFM on 10/12/24, Ireland AM TV on 12/12/24 and RTE Radio 1 on 16/12/24. He also attended numerous Active Retirement and Men's Shed events in December 2024.

Community

- DAF LGBTQI+ Funding has been allocated to Roscommon County Council/LCDC for the Foróige, Roscommon Youth service project in the amount of €10,100.70

PPN

- PPN is now supporting 415 Groups in County Roscommon as at 31st Dec 2024 (highest number to date)
- Continued engagement with RCC IT Staff on pilot testing of revised grants portal for communities. Portal is now updated and “Ask Once” approach adopted
- Commenced the nomination process for recruitment of PPN representatives for various SPC seats. All 10 SPC Positions as requested have been successfully filled by PPN.
- The overall number of PPN reps being supported across various local committees is 30
- Procured and appointed consultant to develop a new RPPN Strategic Plan for the period 2025-2030. Commenced Strategic Planning activities with communities

- PPN staff attended and participated in national rural policy forum in Athlone and National Civic Forum. Staff also supported several local events with groups. PPN supported and contributed to Roscommon Christmas festival
- Continued dissemination of various funding and capacity building opportunities to PPN members via monthly newsletter, emails and online posts.
- Continued delivery of PPN Autumn/Winter training schedule (12 sessions delivered in 2024)
- PPN supported Economic Team in delivering ORIS Funding webinar.

HERITAGE

Biodiversity:

Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) - RCC: The process of developing and drafting BAP for the county is ongoing and will be progressed in 2025, this includes the forming of Biodiversity Working group which will operate alongside the County Heritage Forum.

Local Biodiversity Action Fund: Payment of the LBAF was received from the NPWS under DHLG&H. Total expenditure under the fund was €78,513.86 with €66,047.28 recouped under claim with match funding for the balance from RCC. All projects have been completed.

Invasive Species Management (IAS) on RCC property: New app was finalised in conjunction with GIS officer, it is tablet based app and will be rolled out to all area supervisory staff and appropriate indoor staff for recording of IAS on council property in early 2025.

National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC): Further discussion held with NBDC in relation to invasive species recording and development of national recording system in conjunction with LA GIS officers.

Biodiversity Training and Development Programme: Biodiversity Officer attended GIS training event in Kilkenny on 12th December hosted by Heritage Council, other topics discussed on the day included potential expansion of ESKER (Environmental Science Kits for Ecological Recording) Kits through library services and development of national guidance on Locally Important Biodiversity Sites.

Biodiversity News: 6 notices/events were circulated on e-mail and social media in final quarter of 2024 via biodiversity@roscommoncoco.ie and RCC social media outlets.

Cultural and Built Heritage:

Royal Sites of Ireland UNESCO Bid: 1 x working group meetings took place 10/12/2024. This was a workshop on the development of new Royal Sites of Ireland website. A meeting also took place between the Heritage Officer, Caitríona O'Connor, Royal Sites of Ireland Project Coordinator and Brian Farragher, Senior Executive Planner Roscommon County Council Planning Department.

County Roscommon Heritage Strategy 2025-2030: Final editing of the draft progressing.

Built Heritage Investment Scheme: The Built Heritage Investment Scheme provides support of between €2,500 and €50,000 to assist with the repair and conservation of historic buildings and structures. Eligible Structures include protected structures and structures within Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs). RCC Heritage Office administers this scheme on behalf of the National Built Heritage Service (NBHS) within the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

The 2025 scheme was advertised in August 2024 and 27 applications were received. Subsequent to the advertising of the scheme, the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage allocated a total of €122,458 to RCC for the operation of the scheme. RCC prioritised all applications in accordance with the scheme assessment criteria. A provisional schedule of 14 x projects was submitted to the Department on 06/12/2024 for formal approval by the Minister. Letters of offer will issue as soon as Ministerial approval is received.

Built Heritage Investment Scheme/Historic Thatch Buildings Stream: The 2025 BHIS Historic Thatched Buildings Stream is intended to support thatched buildings in need of repair and conservation works. RCC Heritage Office administers this scheme on behalf of the National Built Heritage Service (NBHS) within the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. RCC has been allocated €6,984.47 for this scheme. The scheme was advertised in the Roscommon People 06/12/2024, on RCC website & social media and through Heritage Office News. Closing date for applications is 5.00pm on Friday 17th January.

Historic Structures Fund: The primary focus of the Historic Structures Fund 2025 is to assist the conservation and enhancement of historic structures and buildings for the broader benefit of communities and the public. For 2025, the Historic Structures Fund will offer grants from €50,000 up to €200,000. Eligible projects are protected structures, structures eligible for or proposed for inclusion in the RPS, structures or works within Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs), or within the amenity of a National Monument, where exceptional circumstances apply. RCC Heritage Office administers this scheme on behalf of the National Built Heritage Service (NBHS) within the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. A maximum of 3 x applications in private ownership and 3 x applications in public ownership may be put forward by RCC for consideration by the Department.

The scheme was advertised in the Roscommon People 06/12/2024, on RCC website & social media and through Heritage Office News. Closing date for applications is 5.00pm on Friday 17th January.

Community Monuments Fund: The 2025 Community Monuments Fund is prioritised for private owners and custodians and community groups for the care, conservation, maintenance, protection and promotion of archaeological monuments. RCC Heritage Office administers this scheme on behalf of the National Monuments Service within the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. There are 3 streams to this fund. A maximum of 2 x applications from private applicants and/or community groups who are the owners or custodians of archaeological monuments and 3 x applications from Local authorities or community groups for works to archaeological monuments in public ownership may be put forward under each stream by RCC for consideration by the Department.

The scheme was advertised in the Roscommon People 06/12/2024, on RCC website & social media and through Heritage Office News. Closing date for applications is 5.00pm on Friday 31st January.

Roscommon County Council Civic Memorials Policy: Online application in preparation.

GRETB Mens Programme: Heritage Officer 'Roscommon's Holy Wells' presentation to the men in Lisnamult course 03/12/24

Heritage Training & Development Programme: Heritage Officer attended training in Kilkenny on 12th & 13th December. Topics included: Heritage Council Updates and Collaborations, GIS, Local Geological Heritage, Heritage Officers Network and Heritage Officer Peer learning.

Heritage Office News: 99 emails circulated in 2024.

Social Media Posts: 48 posts in 2024.

TOURISM

Regional

- Milwaukee Irish festival regional showcase development meetings attended
- Beara Breifne Way Working Group Meetings attended
- National Famine Way Project Development Meeting attended
- Tain Trail Reimagination Project Workshop attended
- Failte Ireland – Ireland’s Hidden Heartlands Marketing Workshop attended
- Waterways Ireland Shannon Erne, Upper Shannon Interpretation Project Meeting

County

- Visit Roscommon & Outdoor Recreation Marketing and Promotion ongoing
- Roscommon Christmas Festival & Enchanted Christmas Trail Event successfully took place with record attendance
- Roscommon Tourism Strategy 2024-2029 – development ongoing
- Just Transition Fund State Partnership Project Application Updated
- Shop Local Christmas Campaign including radio interviews delivered

Just Transition Fund Tourism Activator

- The EU JTF Activator is responsible for the promotion of The Investment Grant-Aid Scheme for Private & Community SMEs. It is the role of the Activator to work with Community and Private SME’s to explain the scheme and assist with the submission of EOIs and eligible applications. This particular scheme looks to work with the communities in the region affected by the move to a zero carbon future and develop economic activity through tourism.

EOI closing date was 2nd July and the funding has now moved to application phase with the closing date for applications set as 13th January 2025.

Engagement levels:

1. No of Community Groups engaged: 11
2. No. of Private Businesses engaged: 72
3. Overall Attendance at information evenings: 70
4. Number of face to face meetings conducted: 115

Statistics:

- In total there were **76** Expressions of interest registered for the scheme with **74** of these being deemed eligible to proceed to Phase II which was the completion of a full application.
- To date a total of 24 applications have been submitted to Failte Ireland
 - 3 applications for Micro Funding- under €10,000 have been submitted for Evaluation by Failte Ireland
 - 21 applications in excess of €10,000 submitted for Evaluation to Failte Ireland
 - 1 application has been granted funding
 - 2 applications have been evaluated and been unsuccessful
 - 21 applications are in the evaluation process and will be evaluated on a rolling basis.
- In addition to above, 13 Digital Transformation Projects have been deemed eligible and are being brought forward through this process by Fáilte Ireland.

- Currently working on the development of a Tourism Network that will assist applicants and those unsuccessful in building their capacity to operate a tourism project. This will focus on building a self-sustaining network that will surpass the lifetime of the EUJTF Fund- focus will be on building the capacity of the group and assisting with accessing necessary supports and building links with supporting agencies.
- The Tourism Activator will be working with the unsuccessful funding applicants to advise on next steps with their proposed projects and the identification of possible alternative funding streams.

ARTS & CULTURE

ARTS OFFICE

- **Creative Places Ballaghaderreen** – final meeting with Steering Group.
- Compilation of **POP Guide – Planning for Outdoor Performance**.

Public Art Programme in collaboration with Regeneration – Currently: ORIS Mote Park, URDF Roscommon Town Square Sculpture & Living Laneways ongoing. New **Living Laneways** commission on **Allée De Chartrettes**.

Creative Ireland Programme

Completion of returns and close off delivery of the **Creative Ireland Programme 2025**.

ROSCOMMON ARTS CENTRE

Performance Programme

7 Events including 5 Community Events – McDermott Ballet School x 2; Cripple of Inishmaan by Ballaghaderreen Players x 2; Four Roads Hurling Club Film Screening.

Hosted Roscommon County Council Civic Reception & Awards 16th December.

Visual Art Programme

Curator Talk by Eamonn Maxwell and close of *Hivernal* Exhibition.

Residencies & Artists Supports

Ongoing

KING HOUSE/DOUGLAS HYDE CENTRE

Ongoing tours, group bookings, meetings and events including Christmas Craft Fair and Christmas Concerts.

Final RRDF Energy Upgrades & Works

AN RÍOGA

New Art Gallery in Ground Floor Exhibition Space

Funding

- **Arts Council of Ireland 2025 Funding:**
Arts Office awarded €87,000 for Annual Programme. Increase of €15,800 over 2024
Arts Centre awarded €169,900 for Annual Programme. Increase of €9,900 over 2024
- **Creative Ireland 2025 Funding:** €287,419

REGENERATION UNIT

Urban Regeneration Development Fund

Roscommon Public Realm Enhancement Project:

- Works ongoing on Mosaic laneway with installation of mosaics to take place by end of January 2025 with a February 2025 launch.
- Work on the Sculptural Piece for Market Square substantially underway with installation planned by end of Qtr 1 2025.

Putting the Spokes back into the Wheel URDF

- Construction tender pack for Roscommon Town Centre East is substantially complete with approval request to issue to URDF to allow construction tenders to be published in Qtr 1 2025. Subject to approval, we expect construction works to commence in Qtr 2 of 2025. Detailed Design works continue on Roscommon Town Centre West Project

URDF Call 3 Revolving Fund

- We now have seven sites approved under the scheme.
- Three of the approved sites are activated.
- We are in ongoing engagement with property owners for a further three sites.
- One other site recently approved with owner engagement to commence shortly.

Rural Regeneration Development Fund

C1 Monksland Life Sciences Hub

- Ground Floor works complete
- Fit out works to the 01st floor has commenced with an with expected completion date of Q1 2025.

Ballaghaderreen Public Realm (Active Travel Project)

- Construction works ongoing with an estimated completion date of Q4 2025.

C1 Energising Boyle Town Centre and King House

- Construction works on Boyle Public Realm Scheme are approaching completion with expected completion date of Q1 2025.

C2 Putting the Heart into Monksland

- The 2nd public information event on the preferred design for Monkland Community Hub Building took place in December 2024, with feedback from the events currently being reviewed & assessed. It is expected that Part 8 Planning application will be lodged for the facility in late Q1 2025

C1 Strokestown Bawn St Public Realm Project

- The Construction Tender Pack has been published on ETenders & subject to the outcome of the procurement process & RRDF approval to award the contract construction works are expected to commence in Q2 2025

C1 2022 Boyle Community Library

- The construction tender pack is substantially complete with the construction contract to be published on ETenders in early Q1 2025. Subject to the outcome of the procurement process & RRDF approval to award the contract construction works are expected to commence in Q2 2025

Town and Village 2021

Monksland

- Construction works are well advanced with a completion date of early Q1 2025.

Town and Village 2022

Arigna

- Construction works on the public sports park are well advanced with expected completion date of Q1 2025.

Cootehall

- Construction works on Village Park Enhancement are scheduled to commence in Q1 2025 with expected completion date of Q2 2025

Ballinagare - PDM

- Planning approval has been granted for the proposed development

Town and Village 2023

Ballaghaderreen Plots

- Procurement of a technical consultant to progress detail design is ongoing with detailed design to be completed in Qtr 3, 2025 with construction to commence Qtr 4, 2025.

Castleplunkett

- Procurement of a technical consultant to progress detail design is ongoing with detailed design to be completed in Qtr 2, 2025 with construction to commence Qtr 3, 2025.

Monksland

- Construction works on site are well advanced with expected completion date of Q1 2025.

Town Centre First Project Development Measures

- Castlerea – Bennett’s Walled Garden – Procurement of a consultant is underway to be completed in Qtr 1 2025.
- Roscommon – Loughnaneane Park - Procurement of a consultant is significantly underway to be completed in Qtr 1 2025.
- Strokestown – Magnet Ballroom – Procurement documentation being developed with a Request for Tender to be published in Qtr 1 2025.

Destination Towns

- Works on this Fáilte Ireland funded Destination Towns public realm project are now fully complete with the recent installation of Tourism Directional Signage at key locations around Boyle Town highlighting a variety of points of interest in the locality.

Outdoor Recreation 2020

Measure 3 Mote Park

- Walking trails and car parking substantially complete.
- Revised Cycle Route to be implemented with related signage to be installed by end of February 2025.

Outdoor Recreation 2021

Ballintubber/Ballymoe Waterway and Looped Cycleway

- The project was completed in Q4 2024

Arigna Energy Inclusive Park and Miner's Trail

- Construction works substantially complete on site with ancillary items such as signage to be completed by Qtr 1 2025.

Outdoor Recreation 2022

Measure 2 Mote Park Outdoor Recreation Sensory Sculpture and Natural Play Trail Experience

- Sensory Sculptures delivered to site in Qtr 4, 2024.
- Play Equipment is installed and final inspection is pending. Projected opening date in early Qtr 2 2025.

Measure 3 Rathcroghan Archaeological Looped Trails.

- Installation of field styles completed in Dec 2024.
- Parking layby design is complete with construction to commence in Qtr 1 2025.

Outdoor Recreation 2023

Project Development Measures

2 projects awarded funding to draft a feasibility report and initiate planning

- Athleague Looped Walk – Consultant appointed and feasibility study well advanced
- Castlerea Riverside Boardwalk – Consultant appointed and feasibility study ongoing.

Measure 1

3 projects approved for funding under Measure 1

- Development of Cavetown Walkway – funding agreement signed and at procurement stage.
- Donamon fishing Stand Facilities Refurbishment – tender to be published in Qtr 1 2025.
- Palace Neighbourhood Park Trails Improvements – contractor appointed and works commenced for completion by end of Qtr 2 2025.

Measure 2

- Enhancement of riverside trail along the Boyle River – work on procurement documentation has commenced. Tender expected to be published by in Qtr 1 2025.

Measure 3

- Donamon Outdoor Recreation Area Development – project approved by department and work underway to develop tender documents.

CLAR 2023

- 15 projects approved for funding under the 2023 scheme.
- 6 projects fully complete (3 pending inspection). 5 further projects over 50% complete with remaining 4 projects all underway at a variety of stages from initial procurement through to construction commenced.

CLAR 2024

- 15 CLAR Applications approved by the Department in October 2024. Letters of Offer and Funding Agreements issued and returned. Initial site visits for all projects have been undertaken with next step of procurement to commence.

THRIVE

- Consultants have been appointed to progress integrated urban strategy for Roscommon Town and complete the Planning phase with study to commence in early Q1 2025

Heritage Towns Initiative

- The final draft of the Heritage Led Regeneration Plan for Strokestown is complete.
- Suitable projects identified in the plan may be put forward for Historic Towns Initiative funding in 2025.

Town Teams

- All Town Teams were invited to a project site visit in Lusk in October.
- Town Health checks are underway for Ballaghaderreen, Monksland and Boyle with help from NUIG. They will be completed in Q1 2025.
- Three PDM projects are tendered in Roscommon, Castlerea and Strokestown.
- The Town Centre First Plan for Castlerea has been tendered and is expected to be completed by Q4 2025

Large Scale Sport Infrastructure Fund

- Consultants have been appointed & works on preliminary design have commenced
- LSSIF funding for the construction stage for the iRos Project in Roscommon Town was unsuccessful at this time with a new funding application to be submitted for any new funding call.

EU Just Transition

Fáilte Ireland

Hodson Bay Waterfront Park

- The procurement of a multi-disciplinary technical consultant is ongoing with the ward of the commission expected in early Q1 2025

Lough Key Forest and Adventure Park Strategic Plan

- Design Team have been appointed & works on ongoing to progress the preliminary design & planning application pack.

Termonbarry Riverside Park – Feasibility Study

- A funding application has been submitted to Fáilte Ireland and a decision is pending.

Pobal

- JT Ballaghaderreen Community Centre – funding has been secured to re-purpose an existing partially completed building on Sligo Road Pound adjacent to the entrance to Shannon Valley Estate, in to a community and training Hub. Procurement of a consultancy team to progress the project is underway with a design team to be appointed in Qtr 1 2025.

LIBRARY SERVICES

Roscommon Library Services Q4 2024

- In Q4 2024, **24,743** people visited library service points across County Roscommon
- **21,307** items were borrowed from libraries
- Library members borrowed **1,703** eBooks and **3921** eAudiobooks
- There were **263** events in libraries including **91** visits to branch libraries from local schools
- There were **3,944** internet sessions in libraries this quarter

Sense-Ability

Sense-Ability aims to offer positive library experiences for people with sensory needs including those on the Autism Spectrum, those with Developmental Coordination Disorder/Dyspraxia, Attention Deficit Disorder, Dyslexia and other additional needs. This quarter, through the support of the Community Recognition Fund, a new sensory garden was completed in Castle. This space, located to the rear of the library will be officially opened in Q1 2025.

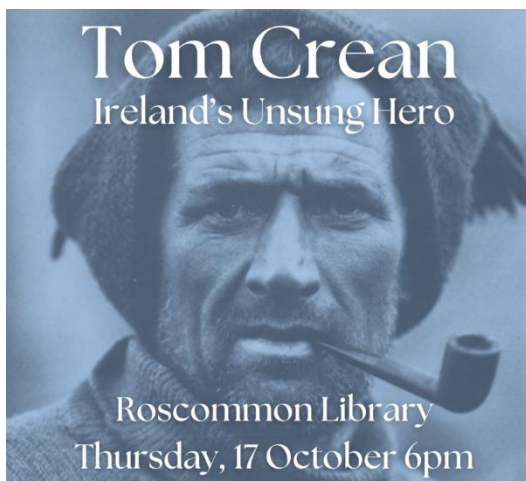


Right to Read

The **Children's Book Festival** takes place every year in October. There were 27 events held across the 5 branch libraries and Mobile Service, including storytelling for all ages, creative writing workshops, and Arts & Crafts. Local Author, Annmarie Murray launched her book *The Cave of the Cats* and ran a number of workshops with local schools, including a workshop at Rathcroghan visitor centre.



Traditionally, Children's Book Festival events are aimed at children. When famous author Michael Smith was in town running Tom Crean workshops for schools, he also ran a very well attended the evening session for grown-ups and families interested in hearing more about the Antarctic explorer.



In December, the library service hosted **Family Time at Your Library** events. In all there were 22 events across the month of December with 500 people in attendance overall. Events included author visits, puppet shows and flip book workshops.



Arizona Colleen

During October, Roscommon Library welcomed the Arizona Colleen Winner of 2024 Johanna Huckeba as part of her tour of the County. Johanna was currently all the towns in Ireland, twinned with sister towns in the state of Arizona. Roscommon is twinned with the city of Tucson Arizona, which was founded 250 years ago by Hugo O’Conor, son of the O’Conor-Don.

A brigadier-general of the Spanish Empire in New Spain (Mexico), Hugo was governor of Texas and the Yucatan Peninsula. Lisa Joy, Roscommon County Council Tourism Officer, gave us a wonderful presentation on all that Co. Roscommon has to offer, and the event was also honoured by the presence of Pyers O’Conor Nash of Clonalis House, who enlightened us all on the life and adventures of Hugo O’Conor.



Roscommon Sports Partnership Collaboration

Following on from the successful Activator pole lending service, supported by the Community Recognition Fund, the lending of ‘Boccia’ accessible bowling equipment and Playground Stencils, the library service is working on a new project with Roscommon Sports Partnership. Roscommon Libraries, Roscommon Sports Partnership and Roscommon CYPSC are working in collaboration to deliver the Balance Bike Loan Scheme. The scheme is available to participants in the Balance Bike Programme delivered by Tutors through Roscommon Sports Partnership. Participants can borrow a balance bike from the library.



Healthy Ireland at Your Library

During Q4, the library service hosted 10 Healthy Ireland at Your Library events. These included Chair Yoga, Mindfulness and Supporting Your Brain Health.



Healthy Ireland at Your Library

Supporting Your Brain Health:
How to reduce your risk of developing dementia.
Marianne Fallon - Chartered Health Psychologist

Are you interested in improving the brain health of yourself or a loved one? Join us for an information session on how you can reduce the risk of developing dementia in a number of simple ways.

15th November
Roscommon Library
11.00am - 12.00pm

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

hi
healthy Ireland
at Your Library



Regular Events

The Library service continues to offer a variety of regular events. These include:

- Book Clubs
- Irish Language Groups
- Writers Groups
- Weekly Storytime
- Digital Skills Classes
- Parents Groups

Details about library events are available and bookable online at the [Library Events Page](#).

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 is being reviewed by the lead Council (Galway City Council) with input from the other authorities in the region.

35 = homeless cases presented in Q4, 2024

13 = cases required short-term accommodation in Q4, 2024

Breakdown Homeless figures Q4 2024				
Presentations	Individuals	Families	Totals Households	Breakdown of Family unit
October	12	1	1	3A & 3C
November	12	0	0	N/A
December	10	0	0	N/A

Accommodated	Individuals	Families	Totals Households	Breakdown of Family unit
October	5	1	1	2A & 3C
November	3	0	0	N/A
December	4	0	0	N/A

Galway Simon is contracted to provide Housing First services to the Western Region. Resources to support seven 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) facilitates the coordination of Housing First and Housing-Led support services.

To date, 18 referrals have been forwarded to the HAT for consideration. Three referrals were accepted for Housing-Led services, one remains in this service with supports, one tenancy failed and one no longer requires support. Nine referrals have been accepted for Housing First Services. At present, there are six Housing First Tenancies. Other units of accommodation are currently being identified for the creation of further Housing First tenancies and Housing-Led tenancies.

1.2 Housing Assessments & Allocations

349	Applicants (excluding transfers) on the approved housing list at end of Q4, 2024
105	Applicants are currently in private rented accommodation with no housing support
11	Offers of accommodation made in Q4, 2024
0	Nominations made to AHB Q4, 2024

17	New tenants appointed/allocated in Q4, 2024 to LA dwellings
0	AHB Tenants appointed in Q4, 2024
0	Refusals recorded in Q4, 2024 (0 AHB Houses refused)

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 31st December 2024, there are **333** households receiving support (**223** private rented and **110** in voluntary housing).

2.2 Housing Assistance Payment (HAP):

As of 31st December 2024, there were **364** social housing applicants in receipt of HAP. The National Rent Supplement Section (NRSS) in the Department of Social Protection are working on a new project with RCC with a view to transferring eligible Rent Supplement customers to the HAP scheme.

2.3 Repair & Lease Scheme (RLS)

102	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 (2-1 bed apartments, a 3 bed ground floor apartment and a 4-bed town-house in Roscommon Town)

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

- As of 31st December 2024, Roscommon County Council has **4** long-term leases: **3 in Boyle Town and 1 in Roscommon Town**.
- As of 31st December 2024 Roscommon County Council has **82** active RAS Type leases throughout the county. As part of Housing for All Programme, only **200** RAS Type leases nationally are available. RCC was approved for **25** RAS Type Leases.
- As of 31st December 2024, there were **22** active Mortgage to Rent Scheme Leases in place (**6** with AHB's & **16** with HFL). The Mortgage to Rent Scheme is a government scheme to help homeowners who were at risk of losing their homes due to mortgage arrears. Since the MTR Scheme was rolled out, one MTR tenant brought back their property.

3.0 Provision of Additional Social Housing Units

3.1 LA Build (including turnkeys & PPP):

- 4 Units at Cortober, Carrick on Shannon – Project awarded, start date July 2024. Anticipated completion Q4 2025.
- 16 Units at Curlew View, Boyle. Contract awarded. Works have commenced. Anticipated completion date Q4 2025.
- 51 units at Sli an Choiste, Monksland – Design ongoing. Part 8 planning process was advertised on 17th December 2024. Anticipated commencement date Q3 2025.
- 1 Unit at Pound St., Ballaghaderreen – Substantial completion Q4 2024.

- 3 Units at Elphin Street, Strokestown – Project awarded. Works commenced on site in Q3 2024. Anticipated completion date Q3 2025.
- 4 Units at Elphin Courthouse, Elphin – Contract awarded. Works have commenced. Anticipated completion date Q3 2025.
- 1 Modular Unit at Dysart – Substantial completion Q4 2024.
- 8 units at Athleague – Substantial completion date Q4 2024.
- 2 units at Old Tuam Road, Monksland – Substantial completion date Q4 2024.
- 2 units at Greenfield Rd, Lisnamult, Roscommon – Part 8 Planning application anticipated Q1 2025.

3.2 Housing Association Activity:

- Tuath Housing Association are working with a developer on a turnkey project under the Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF) model to deliver 10 units in Roscommon Town. The expected delivery date will be Q1 2025.
- Co-operative Housing Ireland (CHI) expected to deliver 4 units in Boyle Town in Q1 of 2025.
- RCC liaising with Sophia Housing to deliver 4 units under the Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) in the Castlerea area.
- RCC liaising with Roscara Housing to deliver 4 units under the Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) in the Castlerea area
- Tuath Housing Association to appoint contractor to commence 6 units at The Meadows, Castlerea with anticipated completion of Q4 2025.

3.3 LA Acquisitions (including Buy & Renew)

3.3.1 Buy & 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.

Since 1st January 2024, 16 properties have been acquired as part of Buy & Renew Scheme in Ballaghaderreen (14), Strokestown (1) and Rooskey (1). Plans to develop these properties are now progressing.

3.3.2 - Acquisition Programme

As of 31st December 2024, Roscommon County Council acquired **12** houses under the acquisition programme. Houses acquired for the following reasons:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| ▪ Tenants in-Situ | 10 |
| ▪ Risk of Homelessness | 1 |
| ▪ Specific Need | 1 |

The Department established the Cost Rental Tenant In-Situ (CRTIS) Scheme, which commenced on a temporary administrative basis from 1st April 2023, prior to any legislative enactments or further funding negotiations required to formally establish a longer-term cost rental scheme. The tenants are assessed by the LA's and if they are eligible for CRTIS i.e. net income less than €53,000, the LA will refer the details to the Housing Agency. On 18th July last, the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage, set new limits to net income less than €59,000.

During this quarter, RCC has received zero application under the CRTIS Scheme.

3.3.3 Derelict Sites and Dangerous Structures

There are currently 34 properties on the Derelict Sites Register with 5 additional properties added in 2024. 7 sites were removed during 2023 with a further 7 removed in 2024 as a result of works being carried out to make the property non-derelict.

A valuation report has been received for the majority of properties on the DS register. These valuations will be issued to the owners under Section 22 of the Derelict Sites Act, mid-January 2025. Owners will also be notified that the derelict site levy of 7% of the market value applies to those properties on the register and located within a prescribed Urban Area and demand letters are expected to issue by the end of February 2025. 25 new sites have been identified as derelict in 2024 and Notices continue to be issued to owners of properties that are currently in a state of dereliction. Derelict Site levy demand notices under Section 23 of the Derelict Site Act were issued to 25 Sites in 2024, the total amount received to date was €23,675.00

3.4 Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024

- Cluain Airne, Killeeney – Two 2 beds will no longer satisfy the need for the families on this site. A new Stage 1 application for 5 no. four bedroom units was submitted for approval to the Department in Q1 2024.
- Torpan Beg, Ballyforan - 3 extensions to existing units. Closing date for tenders was 02/10/2024. Contractor is appointed. Anticipation completion date Q4 2025.
- In April 2024, RCC acquired a derelict property with plans to renovate it up to housing rental standards

3.5 Tenant Purchase:

The Tenant Incremental Purchase Scheme was published under the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014. As at 31st December 2024, tenant purchase statistics were as follows:

308	applications received to date (2 received in Q4)
188	offers made to date (5 offers made in Q4)
122	offers accepted to date (3 offers accepted in Q4)
85	sales completed to date (3 houses sold in Q4)

There were €231,500.00 proceeds from sales during Q4 2024.

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 inspection target for Roscommon in 2024 is 600 tenancies
- 603 inspections were carried out to end of Quarter 4 2024

5.0 Housing Stock

5.1 Energy Efficiency Programme (retrofitting existing stock)

Under Circular 07/2024, Roscommon County Council have been requested to deliver 38 units under the ERP scheme for 2024. Upgrade works on these Properties were undertaken in September with 31 units completed by the of 2024. The range of works consisted of Solar panels, upgraded windows and external doors, attic insulation, the replacement of the existing solid fuel heating system to an Air to water central heating system.

The units results of delivered units under the 2024 ERP programme of existing LA stock is outlined per the below table.

ERP 2024 Analysis		
No. of units	Pre Works BER	Post works BER
3	G	A2
3	F	A2
6	D2	A2
5	E2	A2
6	E1	A2
1	E2	B1
1	E1	A3
1	C2	A2
2	C2	A1
1	C1	A1
2	C2	A2
31		

- No. 3 units have achieved A1 Rating
- No. 26 units have achieved A2 Rating
- No. 1 units have achieved A3 Rating
- No. 1 units have achieved B1 Rating

The remaining 7 units will be delivered under the 2025 Energy Retro Fit Programme. Pre-works surveys are in progress for the 2025 ERP. Awaiting target figures for 2025.

5.2 Voids Programme:

Roscommon County Council completed 27 voids under the 2024 voids programme. All units have been claimed which amounted to €297,000.

5.3 Planned Maintenance Programme:

Roscommon County Council undertook works under the 2024 planned maintenance programme based on Stock condition surveys and received funding of €54,461 for planned maintenance works and a further €13,650 for surveys completed on 91 Housing Units.

5.4 Casual Vacancy Works (pre-letting works)

A total of 10 houses were refurbished due to normal turn-over of properties in Q3, 2024, to date 2 properties have been approved for payment to a total of €40,234.83. Of the remaining 8 properties 6 have submitted costs that are to be processed at a cost of €66,893.41. We are waiting for 2 remaining to submit costs.

5.5 Housing Maintenance

RCC Housing received 372 maintenance calls in Q4 2024, billed expenditure on maintenance works during the same period was €49,564.70.

5.6 Housing Grants (Private Grants and LA Grants)

In 2024, RCC received a budget allocation of €1,605,636 for private house grants (80% Department funded and 20% Roscommon County Council funded).

Summary of grant applicants and value of grant paid per scheme for works completed.

Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability		Mobility Aids Grant		Housing Aid for Older People Grant		Total Grants	
Number	Value	Number	Value	Number	Value	Number	Value
70	724,283	29	114,995	116	611,054	214	1,450,334

With effect from 1st December 2024, increased grant, limits and income thresholds were introduced. Any grant application received from 1st December 2024 are subject to new regulations – S.I. 612/2024 – Housing (Adaptations Grants for Older People and Disabled People) Regulations 2024.

Please note grant applications received prior to 1st December 2024 will be processed under the Regulations i.e. S.I. 670 of 2007, S.I. 104 of 2014 and S.I. 361 of 2023.

RCC continues to receive a large volume of grant applications and the process of validating applications for 2025 is ongoing.

In 2024, RCC carried out adaptations to 24 council houses including one IWILs to the value of €459,265.

5.7 Croí Cónaithe Fund

The Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant was launched on 14 July 2022 and benefits those who wish to turn a formerly vacant house or building into their principal private residence or make it available to rent. A grant of up to a maximum of €50,000 will be available for the refurbishment of vacant properties, a maximum top-up grant amount of up to €20,000 will be available where the property is confirmed by the applicant to be derelict (i.e. structurally unsound and dangerous).

In respect of rental properties, all landlords are required by law to comply with the standards for rental housing and ensure that their properties are fully compliant with fire safety and minimum standards regulations for rental properties.

An applicant can apply for a maximum of one grant for residential use and a maximum of one grant for rental use.

Applications Received since the scheme launched	Refused	Withdrawn	Approved	Grant Funding Issued
375	15 Does not meet criteria of scheme	52	207	47 €2,703,055.96 Paid

INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION/UKRAINE

Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT)

The LAIT continued to run clinics with IPAS accommodation centres and with the BOTP cohort in December;

- Weekly clinics held in 6 IPA centres with approx. 200 people invited
- Individual follow up completed for many of the individuals, ranging from 1 to numerous advocacy and interventions per person.
- End of year celebration for IPA facilitated by LAIT – Dinner and Christmas light viewing.

The main issues raised in clinics were in relation to:

- Transport
 - Course/Education
 - Medical needs
 - Social activities
 - Accommodation queries
- LAIT finalised Integration Workers course with Comlamh, begins January 31st 2025
 - LAIT continues to support the action goals of new Parenting Strategy for Roscommon through working group meetings.
 - LAIT worked in conjunction with Foroige and RIDC to facilitate the delivery of appropriate Christmas packages to the LAIT cohort – culturally aware games/foods
 - LAIT participate in training arranged by the LGMA.

LAIT continue to participate on relevant committees and refer LAIT cohort to community services and organisations – CYPSC Social Inclusion Measures Sub Group, Irish Refugee Council Asylum Support Network, PPS Parenting Sub Group, Integration Workers Network, Regional LAIT Coordinator Network, LAIT Support Worker Network.

There are currently 6 IPAS Centres with 209 residents and 1 centre for Programme Refugees settings across Co Roscommon. In addition to the clinics LAIT engage with centre management weekly and support them with queries.

Offer a Home

The Offer a Home programme was launched on 24th Nov, 2022. Offers of accommodation can be made via Offer a Home website and this will be followed up with an inspection to determine the suitability of the property. The Offer a Home Programme is in place until March, 2025.

To-date

- 355 properties have been offered in Co. Roscommon.
- 246 properties have been allocated to Ukrainian families. (743 persons)

There are approximately 1828 Ukrainians in the County. There are 250 in Serviced accommodation, 743 accommodated under the Offer a Home programme and 91 in accommodation provided by other organisations such as the Irish Red Cross and Helping Irish Hosts. Clarification is being sought from the LGMA and DCEDIY on the discrepancy in the numbers. There are 10 accommodation Service Providers in the County.

ASSETS, CLIMATE ACTION AND ENERGY MANAGEMENT

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

- The facilities in Áras an Chontae are being managed by Assets and Energy Management.
- SEAI Pathfinder funding has been secured for the Dillon House Energy Retrofit and Library Upgrade project has been secured and agreed with SEAI. The project is due for completion in Q1 2025.

ASSETS

- PIR (Property Interest Register) Roscommon for all Building and Land Assets is managed on an ongoing basis. An update of Folios was received from PRA and has been submitted to OPW.
- Full listing of RCC Assets across all Sections prepared and issued for reconciliation of FAR and PIR Roscommon. Follow-up actions agreed with Finance Section.
- Ongoing administrative and technical involvement with Letting, Leases, Acquisitions and Disposals of RCC Assets.
- Property Condition Surveys Form developed and to be trialled using digital platform.
- Mallon Technologies have been appointed to deliver a new digital Asset Management Software solution, which is expected to generate substantial efficiencies for Roscommon County Council's estate management.

ENERGY

- Roscommon County Council are progressing with energy retrofit works on Dillon House, working with Mountain View Construction and Sweeney Architects. The SEAI have committed to providing Pathfinder support to this project.
- **Reduce Your Use**
Energy Team are running the 'Reduce Your Use' national energy saving campaign across the organisation.
- **Energy Elephant Software**
 - Ongoing monitoring and review of significant energy usage in RCC Buildings. Expansion of energy monitoring from electrical and thermal fuel usage through Energy Elephant to include transport fuels.
- **Optimising Power @ Work Programme**
 - OP@W Mentor, Philip Connaughton, appointed and monthly meetings taking place in-person.
 - OP@W Mentor, Philip Connaughton, is advising on workplace energy saving programs and issues a Monthly Energy Report.
- **Energy Monitoring & Reporting (M&R) 2023**
 - Thermal Energy, Transport Energy and Electricity Usage data for 2023 submitted to SEAI.
 - Achieved 36% of targeted 50% energy efficiency improvement by 2022, based on 2023 NOAC energy usage figures.
 - Project Managers Rogerson Redden have prepared procurement documents for an Integrated Design Team for the Midlands Energy Agency Project Pipeline. Roscommon

County Council are members of the Midlands Energy Agency and have included four buildings on the Pathfinder project pipeline.

- The Energy Management Team are actively working with SEAI agents (Consulteco) to model the impact of Roscommon County Council's project pipeline on our gap-to-target model (GTT model). The gap-to-target model (GTT model) is a spreadsheet model for use by public bodies to evaluate their energy efficiency (EE) performance and energy-related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions over time, using data and methodologies from SEAI's Public Sector Monitoring & Reporting (M&R) system.

PUBLIC LIGHTING

- Ongoing repair and maintenance of school warning lights.
- Section 85 Agreement signed with Mayo County Council for the National LED Retrofit Project (PLEEP). Roscommon County forms part of Region 3 of the National Project.
- Updates to DeadSure Inventory and UMR Database in preparation for National LED Upgrade are ongoing.
- A new contract for 'Connaught Public Lighting Maintenance, LED Retrofit, New Works & Associated Services' is now in place for period 2024 - 2028.
- The cost of the annual maintenance of public lighting has risen substantially due to the unavailability of replacement SOX lamps and associated cost of replacing SOX lamps with LED units. This cost is offset by energy savings achieved through LED retrofits.
- Taking-in-Charge of Estates (Public Lighting) is continuing in conjunction with Planning and Roads Sections. Updates are posted to RCC website.
- Proportion of public lighting stock upgraded to LED is now 80%.

CORPORATE AFFAIRS

A Civic Reception honouring twenty-one individuals, teams and groups for artistic, cultural and sporting excellence took place in Roscommon Arts Centre on Thursday, December 16th 2024. Each of the nominees received a citation that was presented by the Cathaoirleach Cllr. Paschal Fitzmaurice, accompanied by the Chief Executive, Mr. Shane Tiernan. The recipients were nominated by the members of the three Municipal Districts as part of their reserved function power to award a civic honour to those that have enjoyed success at national and international level in all spheres of life. The last Civic Reception was held in November 2023. At the start of the proceedings, one of the groups being honoured, Cór Comáin entertained those present with an outstanding vocal performance. The event received favourable feedback from nominees, families and friends of those of those honoured and featured extensively across local media and social media.



ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE AND RURAL WATER UNIT

Rural Water

Rural Water regulate, monitor and audit the water supplies in the county consisting of 20 private GWS, 72 public GWS and 12 small private supplies spread across a wide geographical area and with various types of oversight by the respective committee/owners.

The Rural Water monitoring committee was established for the 2025 – 2030 cycle, members included elected representatives, Local Authority staff, NFGWS staff and GWS representatives.

Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme 2019-2021

The Multi Annual Rural Water Programme (MARWP) 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 Rural Water funding programme is available later this year.

- Rockfield - extra allocation secured in Apr 2024 to complete contract from Dept. and contractor is now appointed.
- Woodbrook - extra allocation requested in 2023 to complete contract with further information requested by Dept.

The MARWP 2024-2026 Roscommon application is currently waiting announcement from Department for funding.

Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI)

The RMCEI is an Environmental Inspection Plan detailing:

- the framework of environmental inspection targets to be undertaken in order to achieve environmental priorities and outcomes during the coming year, and
- identifies the inspections undertaken and the achievement of National Environmental Priorities (NEP's) and outcomes in the previous year, by monitoring the performance against the targets.

Roscommon County Council submitted their 2024 RMCEI Plan to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in February 2024. Roscommon County Council are continuing to carry out inspections in accordance with the plan, with a total of 4,549 inspections planned for 2024.

Complaints

The Environment Unit continues to investigate litter and pollution complaints on a daily basis. All complaints are recorded, assigned and investigated using a database. Quarterly reporting to the LGMA has also moved to an online portal called NEMIS; the examination of generating quarterly reports from NEMIS is ongoing by RCC/Environment with a view to providing suitable information in future management reports.

There were 220 complaints received in Q4 2024, 221 complaints were inspected and 290 cases were closed. The majority of complaints relate to illegal dumping and littering.

Environmental Awareness

The Environmental Education and Awareness Officer continues to engage with schools, community groups and individuals; providing talks, information sessions and support.

Green Schools Programme: 30 Schools renewed their Green Flag for 2023/2024. The primary and secondary schools received their flags under themes such as litter and waste, biodiversity, energy and global citizenship. 56 Schools that are registered as a Green School are due to renew their flags during 2024/2025.

Greener Spaces Competition: This competition provides Schools and Community groups the opportunity to highlight their efforts in maintaining and enhancing an outdoor space. Judging for 2024 is now complete in the areas of Overall Appearance, Litter Control, Environmental Initiatives/Projects, Enhancing Biodiversity, Habitats and Natural Amenities and Action for Pollinators.

Green Business Hub: Signage, guidance and workshops are available to registered businesses in County Roscommon as part of the initiative to improve business waste segregation and recycling. Webinars are scheduled for Q1 2025.

Anti-Dumping Initiative: Roscommon County Council received funding of €101,500. The following awareness projects have been completed:

- *Your Guide to Household Waste Management and Recycling in County Roscommon* – updated version of the guide has been printed and a digital flipbook version is available through the Roscommon County Council website
- Waste Presentation Byelaws awareness campaign
- Is Your Vehicle At The End Of Its Lifecycle awareness campaign
- Design and manufacture of metal and corriboard Illegal Dumping/Dog Fouling Signage

Greening Your Festival: Through this initiative 1 events have been supported to reduce their environmental impact. An event support pack and the loan of bins have been provided.

Greener Spaces Awards – Representatives from Schools and Community Groups attended the awards ceremony. The award ceremony recognised those groups that enhanced outdoor spaces through litter control, biodiversity and sustainable action.

Bring Bank Anti-Litter Campaign – Christmas radio advertisement and audio devices (anti-littering message) installed at 6 bring bank sites

Media Campaigns

Continued promotion of awareness campaigns through social media, newspaper and radio:

- Newspaper - (Roscommon People/Roscommon Herald) - Greener Spaces Awards
- Bring Bank – Anti Letter campaign radio
- WEEE Ireland – E-Waste/Battery recycling
- Management of Household Waste and Recycling
- Illegal Dumping
- Dog Fouling – “Bag it! Bin it”; provision of mutt mitt bags and dispensers (on request)
- Waste Presentation Bylaws
- Roadside Anti-Littering “Bin it or Bring it Home”
- Newspaper - (Roscommon People/Roscommon Herald) - Bulky Goods Collection Days, Green Business Hub, End of Life Vehicles

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 which was submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency. Waste collected at Roscommon and Ballaghaderreen sites is also reflected in the 2023 Environmental Performance Reporting (EPR) landfill returns which were submitted in February 2024.

Anti-Dumping Initiative 2024

In 2024 RCC received grant funding of €101,500 from CUWERA of a number of proposed projects.

The following projects were completed with the final claim to be submitted in Q4 for this initiative:

- Bulky Goods Collection Days held at Castlerea Civic Amenity Site
- Ballaghaderreen Waste Project – Including clean-ups in the Plots, Coolatane and Aghalustia.
- Purchase of metal Signs for clean-up projects sites
- Purchase of CCTV Cameras
- Update of Pocket Guide to Household Waste Management with new print run for 2024
- Waste Presentation Byelaws Awareness Campaign
- End of Life Vehicles Awareness - Has your Car/Van reached the end of the Road?
- Social Awareness Campaign around dumping in Rivers
- Cleanup of Corlis Bog, Castlerea
- Cleanup of Cloonlough, Ballinlough
- Cleanup of Cloonfad/Worthington bog Castlerea
- Cleanup of Hollywell Derrane Bog road L-71412-0, Roscommon
- Cleanup of Cloonfad crossroads Tibohine Ballaghaderreen

Water, Wastewater, Air and Noise Pollution

1. 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. The EPA have instructed that a minimum of 41 inspections are conducted on farms under the Good Agricultural Practice Regulation 2021 as amended, this figure is to rise to 74 in 2025. Assistant Scientist was appointed in Q3 and 41 inspections were completed under Agri- inspection programme during Q4
2. Western ROC (regional operation committee) Water Framework Directive committee continue to meet and coordinate a number of national agencies in relation to implementation/progressing of water quality issues within the Western Region. The AGM of all of the ROC meeting held in October with a number of common water quality issues in the country under discussion. A New Community Water has been appointed to work with communities in Roscommon, this CWO is shared with Galway (East) at present until another CWO is appointed for County Galway.
3. National Inspection plan for DWWTS –Inspection of open historic advisory notices are continuing in in Q4. New grant scheme was announced by the Dept. Housing, Local Government and Heritage has led to a limited increase in engagement with householders under the NIP process. 10 inspections were completed as part of the programme of inspection with 8 failures. All staff within the water team have completed the relevant training to be a septic tank inspector with the completion of the course by the most recent member of the team.

4. High Status Objective Catchment Area (HSOCA) grants – public interest in the grant scheme available is high, with a number of queries progressing to the application stage. This has placed an increase burden of staff resources within the department under the grants scheme requirements.
5. Air Quality at monitoring station in Roscommon Town (adjacent to Aras an Chontae) remained at good quality for Q4.
6. Solid fuel regulation – 26 inspections were carried out at retailers in the county during Q4, with further inspections required in Q1 2025.

Closed Landfill Sites

These landfill facilities have ceased accepting waste for landfill disposal but Waste Licences still remain in place for Ballaghaderreen and Roscommon Landfills 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.

Roscommon Landfill was inspected by the EPA in May 2024. The Agency carried out this site visits as part of the OEE annual site visit programme to evaluate the licensee's compliance with the requirements of the licence. The EPA inspection report identified one non-compliance relating to monitoring reporting and also identified a number of observations relating to landfill gas infrastructure, enhanced Water Framework Directive surface water quality sampling requirements and landfill leachate infrastructure. Roscommon County Council have commenced actions relating to the issues raised by the EPA and will be engaging external consultants and contractors to help deliver on the actions identified in the Report.

Department funding is available for the remediation of four non-licensed landfills, known as historic landfills, and some of this was drawn down for Castlerea Landfill in 2022. Further funding for 2024 is available and Certificate of Authorisation works at Castlerea historic landfill will be prioritised. Contracts for the prescribed works will need to be prepared when the additional staffing resources are filled. Lands cannot be transferred back to original owner until all RCC's site restoration obligations have been met, with the possible exception of monitoring. Access to lands will be required post transfer to facilitate any future monitoring requirements.

RCC continues to sample leachate, surface water and ground water as required from these closed landfill sites.

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). The laboratory provides a shared service to Local Authority's and LAWPRO in three provinces and continues to expand its customer base. Maintaining output is a primary concern. Laboratory accreditation audit by the Irish National Accreditation Board took place in Q3 2023. Enterococci was added to the scope of accreditation on this occasion.

Casual Trading

The Roscommon County Council Casual Trading Bye-Laws 2022 were adopted in November 2022 and come into effect on 01/01/2023. 23 casual trading licences have been granted to date in 2024 throughout the County.

Compliance with the Casual Trading Bye-laws is being monitored by enforcement officers on an ongoing basis.

Climate Action

Climate Action Team: There was a meeting of the Climate Action Team on 5th December, where an implementation update and outlook for 2025 was provided on the Climate Action Plan and the current LGMA KPI dashboard presented in this context.

Climate Action Unit

The Climate Action unit hosted the Eastern and Midlands CARO workshop on nature based solutions in Decarbonising Zones on the 9th of October. This was attended by Climate Action teams from across the Country and showcased the ongoing Local Biodiversity Action fund Project in Loughnaneane Park.

A new service level agreement was signed between Roscommon County Council and the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications for Phase 3 – Implementation of the Local Authority Action Plans, covering the period up to the end of 2028.

The Climate Action unit, in conjunction with SEAI, ran an in-house event on energy efficiency for Council employees on 5th December. This well attended event provided general information on energy efficiency in the home and available grants, in addition to individual energy clinics with bill analysis and tailored advice.

Community Climate Action Programme

Two additional projects were awarded funding under the Climate Action Fund on reallocation of funding from approved projects unable to proceed. These were - Elphin Community Centre CLG Solar PV project- in the amount of €30,000 and Aughrim Kilmore Development Association CLG Solar PV project for €17,000. Projects are well underway, with three completed and a further two nearing completion.

Sustainable Energy Communities

The Climate Action unit continues to engage with SEAI mentors on the expansion of the SEC programme in County Roscommon. Emerging SECS in Strokestown and Ballaghaderreen are currently receiving support under the MOU between SEAI and Roscommon County Council.

Just Transition

The Just Transition funded self-build Wind Turbine course launched in December, in conjunction with the GRETB at their premises in Roscommon Town. There has been significant interest in the initial course that will run over weekends for four weeks. Future courses will relocate to Council premises once available.

ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

Roads and Transportation Report – Management Report Q4 2024

Road Programme and Road Schemes - Outputs 2024

The total estimated outturn expenditure for the Roads and Transportation Department at 31st December 2024 is €31,076,329.81. The categories of expenditure and the funding sources/departments are detailed in the table below. The finalised figures for 2024 will be published in the Annual Financial Statement. The Department of Transport 2025 allocation for regional and local roads is expected in February 2025.

Road Classification	Funding Source	Total Outputs 2024 €
National Primary Improvement/Maintenance Works		
Pavement & Minor Improvement Works	TII	€45,245.03
Skid Resistance HD 28 Pavement Renewals	TII	€668,569.09
Winter Maintenance	TII	€101,488.25
Ordinary Maintenance	TII	€210,636.33
National Primary Totals		€1,025,938.70
National Secondary Improvement/Maintenance Works		
Pavement & Minor Improvement Works	TII	€263,707.42
Skid Resistance HD 28 Pavement Renewals	TII	€685,271.47
Winter Maintenance	TII	€102,228.11
Ordinary Maintenance	TII	€259,279.62
National Secondary Totals		€1,310,486.62
Other NP & NS Allocations	TII	
Athlone to Galway Greenway	TII	€23,889.60
LA Support Maintenance & Engineering	TII	€234,522.87
Other NP & NS Allocations		€258,412.47
Totals National Roads - Improvement/Maintenance Works		€2,594,837.79
Regional and Local Roads Expenditure		
Restoration Improvement	Department of Transport	€13,019,861.51
Restoration Maintenance	Department of Transport	€ 2,942,055.67
Discretionary Maintenance	Department of Transport	€3,156,257.12
Bridge Rehabilitation	Department of Transport	€452,628.00
Safety Improvement Works	Department of Transport	€380,372.55
Former National Roads	Department of Transport	€341,523.98

Community Involvement Scheme	Department of Transport/Local Contribution	€154,447.00
Drainage Works	Department of Transport	€702,397.34
Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Works	Department of Transport	€ 661,995.17
Specific Improvement Grants	Department of Transport	€247,073.46
Active Travel Investment Programme	National Transport Authority	€3,049,995.01
Department of Transport Training Grant	Department of Transport	€69,000.00
Total Regional and Local Roads		€22,534,247.77
Other Roads Projects		
Local Improvement Schemes	Department of Rural and Community Development/ Local Contribution	€746,596.74
Local Roads Ordinary Maintenance	Roscommon County Council	€1,304,519.34
Amenities & Burial Grounds Maintenance/Street Cleaning/Tidy Towns	Roscommon County Council	€870,839.06
Arterial Drainage	Roscommon County Council	€316,930.07
Cemetery Improvement Grant	Roscommon County Council	€65,000.00
Totals Other Roads Projects		€3,303,885.21
Overall Total Expenditure for 2024		€31,076,329.81

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. Following an Oral Hearing in October 2018, ABP approved the scheme and confirmed the CPO in January 2019. CPO notices have been served on all persons listed in the approved CPO. Land and property acquisition continues. Various works and services contracts were undertaken in advance of the main construction contract including fencing, archaeology, topographical surveys, geotechnical investigations and the diversions of some Authority & Utility apparatus. Technical consultants were appointed to assist in progressing the project through the tender and construction stages. The main construction contract tender documents were issued on 22 July 2020 and the closing date for receipt of tenders was set for Tuesday 22 December 2020. 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. Following the appointment of a Receiver over certain assets of Roadbridge Ltd. on 11 March 2022, all work under the

contract ceased. Roadbridge Ltd.'s contract was subsequently terminated on 04 April 2022. A contract notice to re-procure the main construction contract was published on eTenders on 13th April 2022 and on the OJEU on 15th April 2022. Pre-qualification submissions were received by the latest specified time and date for receipt of submissions (16.00 hrs on 27 May 2022). The main construction contract tender documents were issued to all pre-qualified candidates on 22 July 2022. The closing date for receipt of tenders was Friday 24 March 2023. Following the closing date for receipt of tenders, the tender assessment process was undertaken, and Roscommon County Council subsequently recommended the appointment of a contractor and sought the formal approval of TII to award the contract on 31 May 2023. In accordance with the Public Spending Code, Government consent is also required. The Final Business Case was updated and submitted to TII on 16 June 2023. Government approval to award the main construction contract was received on 27 September 2023 and TII approval on 28 September 2023. The contract was awarded to Wills Bros Ltd. on 25 October 2023. The site compound has been established, surveys are largely complete, environmental mitigation and safety measures have been installed and detailed design is progressing. Site Clearance, topsoil stripping, development of material deposition areas (MDAs), earthworks excavation (including rock), cut & fill operations, drainage operations, installation of culverts, structures, utility diversions and accommodation works are progressing in line with programme.

N61 Junctions (St. Brigid's and St. John's) Following the suspension of the N61 Ballymurray to Knockcroghery Project in 2022, TII provided some funding to undertake a study of the N61 between Roscommon town and Athlone to develop an overall strategy to address the safety and related issues on this section of the N61. Roughan O' Donovan-Aecom Alliance were appointed to undertake the study and presented the findings to the Elected Members of RCC in December 2023. The report identified 15 priority interventions and TII funding was sought in respect of five junction optimisation interventions. TII provided seed funding for 2 junction optimisation schemes, at St. Brigid's Junction Moyvannan and St. John's Junction Killiaghan & Gort in 2024 respectively. Background information in relation to landownership and topographical surveys have been completed. Tender documentation was issued for the procurement of technical consultants under TII's Framework Contract Lot1A to advance the projects. Amey OW Ireland Ltd. was awarded the contract for St. Brigid's Junction Optimisation Scheme in December 2024 and have commenced the planning and design phases. The procurement process in respect of the consultancy contract for St. John's Junction is substantially complete and approval to award has been sought from TII.

N61 Tulsk to Clashaganny Road Project involves the realignment of approximately 4km of the N61 National Secondary route from Tulsk village to Clashaganny. A planning application in accordance with Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations was published in October 2022 and the proposed development was approved to proceed in accordance with the recommendation of the Chief Executive's report at the Plenary Meeting of Roscommon County Council held in February 2023. That decision has been the subject of a judicial review brought before the High Court and Roscommon County Council has agreed to the setting aside of the decision reached in February 2023. The further progression of the project remains under review.

N61 Tulsk to Gortnacranagh Road Project involves the realignment and improvement of approximately 6km of the N61 National Secondary Road between Tulsk village and the new N5 crossing of the N61 at Gortnacranagh Townland. TII approved the appointment of Lead Technical Consultants and independent specialists to progress the project through the planning phases. Roughan & O' Donovan-AECOM Alliance (ROD-A) was appointed in July 2022. Phases 0 and 1 have been completed. ROD are currently updating documentation for the Phase 2 Option Selection Process and it is anticipated that the Options Selection Report identifying the preferred route corridor will be finalised early in Q1/Q2 2025 and submitted to TII for approval. The further progression of the project is subject to the provisions of funding and the approval of TII.

National Road Pavement Projects: Design and Contract documentation are being prepared for the pavement overlay projects included in the 2024 TII National Road Allocations. Contract documentation for the N5 Bellanagare to Moneylea and the N5 Cloonfree pavement schemes have been completed. In May 2024, TII notified Roscommon County Council not to tender the N5 Cloonfree Pavement Scheme pending the completion of its internal review of planned expenditure for 2024. TII advised Roscommon County Council on the 25th September 2024 that it was in order to proceed with the tender process in respect of projects included in the 2024 Pavement Project. The preparation of contract documentation for the N61 Fourmile House to Clashaganny pavement scheme is ongoing.

N4 Carrick on Shannon Bypass and Traffic Management Project involves the provision of a transport solution, which includes a new crossing of the River Shannon, to relieve the significant traffic congestion on the N4 through Carrick on Shannon / Cortober. 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 and Phase 2 (Option Selection) in March 2023. Following TII approval to proceed to Phase 3 (Design and Environmental Evaluation) and considering the 2023 Grant Allocations to Local Authorities for National Roads, Leitrim County Council has prioritised the progression of the town bypass and associated traffic demand management and active travel measures through subsequent development phases. ARUP commenced Phase 3 (Design and Environmental Evaluation) of the project development in June 2023. Ground Investigation and Topographical surveys necessary to progress the project design commenced on site in 2023 and were completed in Q2 2024. Environmental surveys and assessments necessary to inform the design have been carried out and are being updated as required. Public Display No 4 was held in the Landmark Hotel in Carrick on Shannon on the 20th March 2024 and the feedback received is being reviewed to refine the Design wherever possible. Landowner and stakeholder consultation is being carried out throughout the development process. The Phase 3 TII Design Peer Review was held on 20 November 2024 and the comments arising from the review are being addressed.

GREENWAY PROJECTS

Athlone to Ballyleague/Lanesborough Greenway Project involves the provision of a greenway which links into proposed Galway to Athlone cycleway scheme in the Athlone area. RPS has been appointed to progress project through Phase 0 Scope and Pre-Appraisal & Phase 1 Concept and Feasibility (TII Project Managers Manual for Greenway Projects). Phase 0 deliverables were completed in 2022. TII issued approval to proceed from Phase 0 to Phase 1 on 13/02/2023. Public Consultation No.1 took place in the Hodson Bay Hotel in Hodson Bay, Athlone on 22nd March 2023. Phase 1 deliverables were completed during Q4 2023 and the Phase 1 Gate Review Statement has been issued to TII. RPS finalised Addendum to Feasibility Report during Q4 2024 and have commenced Phase 2 – Options Selection.

Mid Shannon Greenway Project

Mid Shannon Greenway is the adopted name for proposed greenway project in the area of Ballyleague/Lanesborough, Strokestown, Roosky and Termonbarry. This Greenway links into Athlone to Ballyleague/Lanesborough Greenway scheme. Ryan Hanley has been appointed to progress project through Phase 0 Scope and Pre-Appraisal & Phase 1 Concept and Feasibility (TII Project Managers Manual for Greenway Projects). Phase 0 deliverables were completed in 2022. TII issued approval to proceed from Phase 0 to Phase 1 on 20/01/2023. Public Consultation No.1 took place in the Percy French Hotel, Strokestown on 19th April 2023. Phase 1 deliverables were completed during Q4 2023. The Phase 1 Gate Review Statement was issued to TII in Q4 2023. Procurement of Technical Consultancy Services for Phases 2-4 of TII's Project Management Guidelines is ongoing.

Lough Key to Carrick on Shannon Greenway Project involves the provision of a greenway. Following a tender process, Roughan & O'Donovan Consulting Engineers have been appointed to progress the project through Phase 0 Scope and Pre-Appraisal & Phase 1 Concept and Feasibility (TII Project Managers Manual for Greenway Projects). The contract commenced in January 2023. Phase 0 deliverables were completed in Q3 2023. TII issued approval to proceed from Phase 0 to Phase 1 in July 2023. Public Consultation No.1 took place in the Lough Key Forest and Activity Park on 6th September 2023. Phase 1 deliverables to be completed during Q2 2024. The Phase 1 Gate Review Statement was issued to TII in Q2 2024. Procurement of Technical Consultancy Services for Phases 2-4 of TII's Project Management Guidelines is ongoing.

ACTIVE TRAVEL PROJECTS

Funding was provided by TII to initiate the following Active Travel projects: -

- AT N5 Bellanagare;
- AT N5 Frenchpark;
- AT N5 Strokestown;
- AT N5 Tulsk; and
- AT N5 Tulsk to Rathcroghan.

A single topographical survey contract (encompassing all 5 projects) was completed in June 2022. Archaeological assessment and investigation contracts (encompassing all 5 projects) were completed during Q4 2023.

The N5 AT Strokestown project is being progressed in-house by Roscommon NRRO. Various design service and survey contracts necessary to progress this project were completed in Q4 2023. The design is progressing.

A Technical Consultant (Roughan & O'Donovan) was appointed in September 2023 to assist Roscommon County Council progress the other four projects through Phases 2-4 of TII's Project Management Guidelines.

AT N5 Tulsk to Rathcroghan is progressing through Phase 2 Options selection. The other four projects are progressing through Phase 3.

Local Improvement Scheme

The Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) operates the Local Improvement Schemes for the improvement of local non-public roads. In December 2023, the Council advertised for expressions of interest for the Local Improvement Scheme 2024. In April 2024 the Council received notification of a two year allocation, €1,541,106 in total, €879,428 for 2024 and €661,678 for 2025. The funding provided by the Department of Rural and Community Development will be complemented by a local financial contribution from landowners/householders, as well as local authority resources.

The local contribution is set at 10% for eligible roads with up to and including five beneficiaries and is set at 15% for those with six or more beneficiaries. Provided that all beneficiaries are contributing to the cost of the works, the maximum amount that any beneficiary is required to contribute is capped at €1,200.

19 projects received funding in 2024. The total expenditure on the projects was €746,596.74. The Council advertised the Scheme in December 2024 for expressions of interest for 2025, subject to funding from the Department.

Active Travel Investment Programme

The Programme for Government, published in June 2020, set forth ambitious targets for the development of walking and cycling schemes. As part of this initiative, Roscommon County Council has been allocated €3,550,000 for 2024. This funding is designated for the fourth year of a five-year Active Travel Investment Programme, aiming to transform green and sustainable transport options in areas beyond large urban centres.

The development of high-quality walking and cycling facilities will encourage more people to adopt active travel, contributing significantly to the fight against climate change. This funding will play a crucial role in connecting communities and making walking and cycling attractive, safe, and accessible for everyone.

Significant progress has been made on the **Ballaghaderreen Town Development Scheme**, with construction advancing on Barrack Street and works on Pound Street, Cathedral Street, and Chapel Street now substantially completed. The Feasibility and Options Selection report is being drafted by the Design Consultants on the Roscommon Town Schools Pedestrian/Cycle Bridge Link project. The Design Consultants on the L7055 Ardsallagh Woods active travel scheme are preparing the tender documents for the construction of the project.

The Safe Routes to School (SRTS) scheme at Carrick National School, Ballinlough was completed in September and at St. Joseph's National School and Coláiste Chiaráin in Summerhill in December. Construction of the SRTS scheme at Scoil Naisiunta Cruachain, Croghan commenced at the end of November and is due to be completed in early Q2 2025. Design is ongoing on the projects at St. Michael's and St. Patrick's National Schools, Cootehall, *Scoil na nAingeal Naofa*, Carrick Road, Boyle and St. Attracta's National School, Ballaghaderreen. In November, it was announced that five additional schools in the county were selected for Round Three of the SRTS programme i.e. St. Patrick's National School, Ballyfarnon, Brusna National School, Ballaghaderreen, Camcloon National School, Ballydangan, Cornafulla, National School, Cornafulla and St. Ciaran's National School, Moore.

Lough Funshinagh

Lough Funshinagh water levels are currently at 67.88 meters above ordinance datum presently. This is 0.5m lower than the same time last year.

The following roads remain closed throughout the summer as a result of the flooding:

- L-20051 Ballagh
- L-7731 Lisfelim/ Ardmullan

Owing to the receded water the L-2005 Ballagh reopened in December following clean up works in the area.

Roscommon County Council Actions:

- No significant Pumping has occurred in Q4 around Lough Funshinagh.
- Individual properties protection has been renewed ahead of next winter levels. The Council received OPW approval for this work.
- In addition to progressing a long-term solution (permanent scheme) at Lough Funshinagh, it has been decided that a Temporary Pumping scheme should also be progressed to ensure the Council is able to maintain the defence of the properties under threat by the floods at Lough Funshinagh for the winter of 2024/2025.
- MWP have been reappointed as Engineers to progress Permanent Scheme, their brief was extended to assist with advancing the temporary scheme.

- Arup have been appointed as Environmental Consultants for the Permanent Scheme, their brief was also extended to assist with advancing the temporary scheme.
- Ryan Hanley's brief of baseline environmental surveys was extended to assist with advancing the temporary scheme.
- An application for the temporary scheme was submitted to An Bord Pleanála on the 20th September 2024, this has a consultation period open until 4th November 2024, after which time a decision will be made. There is no statutory period for this decision. ABP sought an additional submission from RCC, this was submitted on 9th December 2024.
- RCC have a contract in place with a Pumping specialist to have equipment ready to deploy should ABP grant permission for the Temporary Scheme.
- In order to deploy the temporary scheme as quickly as possible if/when ABP grants consent RCC are in the process of procuring the following contracts:
 - Enabling works contractor to put the pumping system in place between Lough Funshinagh and the Cross River
 - Operation and maintenance contractor to operate the system once it is in place
 - Fencing Contractor to secure the lands for the system

CFRAM (Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management) Programme

The objective of the *CFRAM Programme* is the identification and design of flood relief schemes to alleviate the risk of flooding. Under the programme, Athlone, Roscommon, Athleague, Castlerea, Boyle and Cortober were assessed for flood risk. Works are proposed for all the towns with the exception of Castlerea.

In 2021, the Council received an offer of funding from the Office of Public Works in the amount of €350,000 for a project to defend flooding in Bogganfin. Following extensive efforts by the council we have been unable to appoint a consultant to this project.

Leitrim County Council, the lead authority, in conjunction with Roscommon County Council and the Office of Public Works, are progressing the Carrick-on-Shannon Flood Relief Scheme. Carrick-on-Shannon and Cortober are prone to flooding from the River Shannon and its tributaries. Site investigation is now complete. Seasonal environmental surveys are complete and options are being assessed. The Hydraulic Modelling Report was reviewed by Leitrim County Council and OPW and is substantially complete. Option Assessment is well under way and a prefer scheme will be present to the public in the coming period. A Public Consultation Day took place on 7th November 2024.

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 Q3 2024 is 155.

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 33 Abnormal Load Permits to the end of Q3 2024.

Broadband

NBI

Work continues with NBI staff regarding build designs with less S254 planning pole and overhead cable applications across the network than previous years (five number applications so far this year) but more Road Opening licences for network build and new connections all processed by the Council's Roads and Transportation Department. Athlone, Ballinasloe, Castlerea, Carrick-on-Shannon, Elphin, Keshcarrigan, Longford, Newbridge, Rooskey & Roscommon are ready to Pre-order/ Order.



County Summary For ROSCOMMON

If your view is blank select a county below:

Roscommon

To download a PDF version of the county summary below, click the download button to the right. In the pop up, select the page size and press 'Download'.



€76M
Investment

19K
Premises

14,247
Premises
Passed

4,457
Connections

Deployment Area	Premises*	Status	Anticipated Date for Connection
ATHLONE	778	Available to Order/Pre-Order	Available to Order/Pre-Order
BALLINASLOE	835	Available to Order/Pre-Order	Available to Order/Pre-Order
BANAGHER	91	Network Build in Progress	April 2025 - June 2025
CARRICK-ON-SHANN..	2486	Available to Order/Pre-Order	Available to Order/Pre-Order
CASTLEREA	3696	Available to Order/Pre-Order	Available to Order/Pre-Order
CLOONFAD	658	Survey Pending	July 2026 - December 2026
CURRAGHBOY	1797	Network Build in Progress	April 2025 - June 2025
DOWRA	25	Network Build in Progress	July 2026 - December 2026
ELPHIN	2392	Available to Order/Pre-Order	Available to Order/Pre-Order
GURTEEN	933	Network Build in Progress	October 2025 - December 2025
KESHCARRIGAN	300	Available to Order/Pre-Order	Available to Order/Pre-Order
KNOCK	423	Network Build in Progress	January 2026 - June 2026
LONGFORD	295	Available to Order/Pre-Order	Available to Order/Pre-Order
NEWBRIDGE	78	Available to Order/Pre-Order	Available to Order/Pre-Order
RIVERSTOWN	29	Survey Complete	July 2026 - December 2026
ROOSKEY	891	Available to Order/Pre-Order	Available to Order/Pre-Order
ROSCOMMON	3561	Available to Order/Pre-Order	Available to Order/Pre-Order
(Additional Premises)	158	N/A	TBC

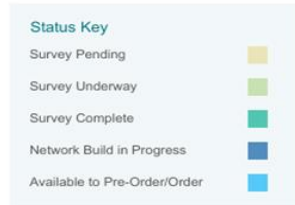
Network Status chart above per NBI Deployment area. With 14,247 premises out of total 19,000 then that equates to 74.9% of premises passed. The uptake of these new connections stand at 4,457 out of 14,247 premises passed and 9,790 ready to order new connections but not availed of yet. This equates to only 31% uptake in new connections of premises rolled out and passed by NBI. This trend of low uptake seems to be national from feedback from other local authorities and checks on NBI website - <https://nbi.ie/reps>



Choose your county below for more details

Roscommon

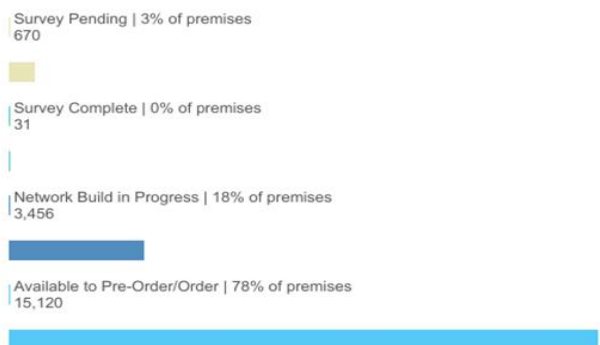
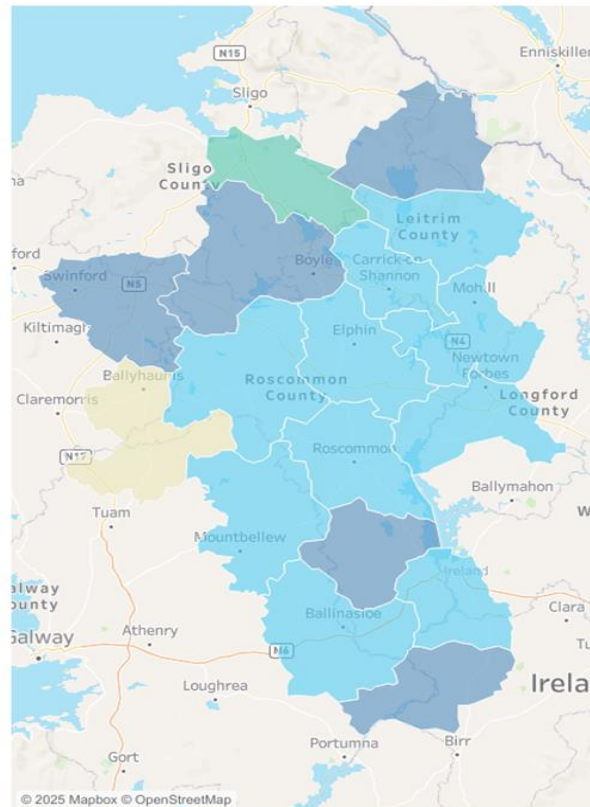
[Go to County Summary](#)



Map of Deployment Areas by Status For ROSCOMMON

Hover over a Deployment Area on the map for additional information.

Deployment Areas are categorised by the status key below. Please note that a Deployment Area will be marked as Available to Order/Pre-Order if 80% or more premises in the Deployment Area have services that are Available to Order/Pre-Order.



The Connecting Communities progress map above shows status of each deployment area

Q4 2024 had only S254 pole licence application- 2024RN0614 – DA165 Dowra - in Boyle Municipal District for two number poles.

MRL licencing for road opening licences

There were a total of 115 number Road Opening Licences for Q4 of 2024 relating to broadband and NBP.

NBI alone had 88 number RoLs as part of NBP. The rest coming from Eircom Ltd (Trading as Eir) and SIRO in delivery of NBP in the commercial blue areas in towns and villages.

Eircom t/a EIR had 22 road opening licences relating to Broadband rollout.
Siro had five number road opening licences relating to Broadband rollout.



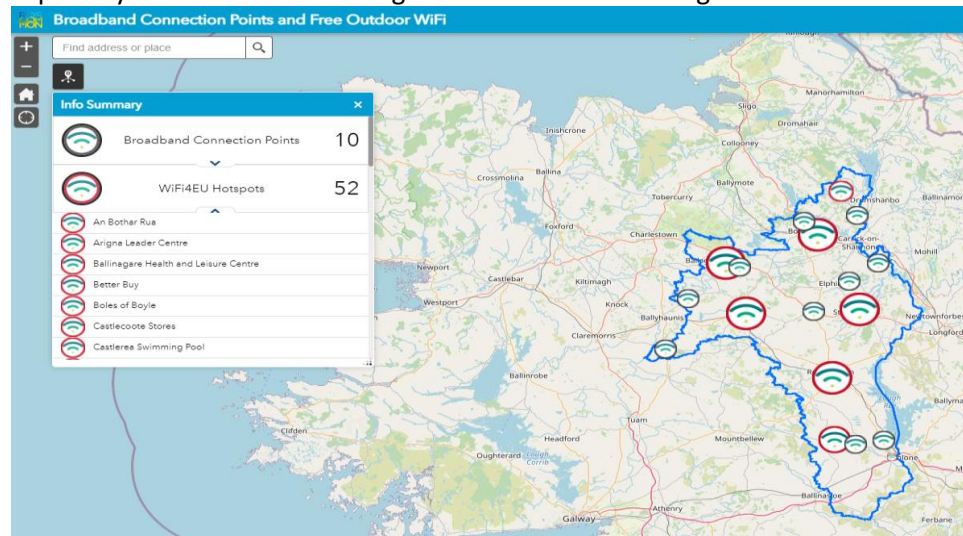
Image of substandard footpath reinstatement works above inspected and rejected by Roscommon County Council Engineer



Image above of perfect full road width reinstatement inspected and accepted by Area Engineer

WiFi4EU

WiFi4EU continues to serve both the local communities and visitors from other countries especially EU countries. The usage rate continues to be high



The link to the above map showing all locations continues to be available on our GIS homepage.

30 day usage of wifi4EU which continues to be supported by Roscommon County Council and businesses in towns, villages and rural areas.

Broadband Connection Points (BCPs) / DigiHubs / Incubation Hubs

The Council’s broadband office continues to liaise with our 10 number BCP facilities and source DRCD funding to develop their hub facilities on an ongoing basis. There were no revenue streams from Connected Hubs or Digital Innovation Program funds in 2024. The DRCD have confirmed their continued support for the BCPs by setting up a tender for new Firewall web security solutions for all of the near 300nr BCPs nationwide, including Roscommon’s 10 BCPs. The firewall solution should be commencing in early Q2 2025 with full tech support from Vodafone Irl.

The National Hub Strategy will run to 2027 and will also define support structures and encourage growth and stimulation of BCPs and digihubs through thematic and training based funding / grants.

Again BCP usage has been sporadic and some BCPs have greater footfall than others.



Siro	Siro are continuing their works countywide this year. Siro operate mainly off the ESB network of ducting and have a considerable number of homes and businesses connected to high speed fibre again this year.
Eir/ OpenEIR / Eircom, SIRO	<p>Eircom (EIR) and SIRO have continued at pace their building programme and new connections to deliver high speed broadband in the commercial zone (area that had minimum of 30mb broadband speed when defining what was outside of state intervention area) however there are still some small areas within towns and villages that can only receive up to 100Mb as there are tracts of old copper lines remaining.</p> <p>Roscommon County Council continues to support this delivery of superfast broadband in towns and villages by processing road opening licences in a timely manner for not just NBI but the other companies delivering the National Broadband Plan.</p>
Digital Communities	<p>Roscommon County Council continued to engage with Department of Rural and Community Development about thematic funding and also continued engagement with OurKidsCode for 2025 coding plans.</p> <p>The Council started engaging with Foroige through the Galway Roscommon Education Training Board, Local Creative Youth Partnership Co-ordinator with small funding streams secured by the Council's Creative Communities Engagement Officer from Creative Ireland for creative labs and thematic programmes in a select number of BCPs / DigiHubs.</p>