



Comhairle Contae
Ros Comáin
Roscommon
County Council



MANAGEMENT REPORT

February 2024

Roscommon County Council
Revenue Account Income & Expenditure Summary by Service Division
Management Accounts Summary to 29th February 2024

	EXPENDITURE		INCOME		NET
	Expenditure Incurred up to 29/02/2024	Adopted Full Year Budget	Income Receivable up to 29/02/2024	Adopted Full year Budget	Actual Overall Surplus/ (Deficit)
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing & Building	1,119,767	9,258,906	1,335,062	9,531,863	215,295
Road Transport & Safety	1,891,681	30,288,360	163,777	23,103,509	(1,727,904)
Water Services	625,410	6,235,843	714,597	6,115,112	89,187
Development Management	837,555	9,938,335	512,547	3,010,228	(325,008)
Environmental Services	502,132	8,105,044	65,935	2,097,373	(436,197)
Recreation & Amenity	514,807	5,228,935	194,552	663,076	(320,255)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	47,622	774,889	17,502	278,967	(30,120)
Miscellaneous Services	488,059	5,600,805	290,722	5,373,288	(197,337)
Central Management Charges	2,022,647	0	107,466	0	(1,915,181)
Local Government Fund/General Purpose Grant	0	0	0	12,534,000	0
Pension Levy	0	0	0	0	0
Rates	0	0	2,080,221	12,723,700	2,080,221
	8,049,680	75,431,117	5,482,382	75,431,117	(2,567,299)

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 29th February 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	12,481,326	59,985	28,800	13,858,835	1,310,961	12,547,874	25,063	9%	16%
Rents & Annuities	647,010	1,039,914	-	(2,434)	1,689,358	978,179	711,179	-	58%	63%
Housing Loans	131,634	73,124	-	-	204,758	75,877	128,881	-	37%	31%

Recourse to Overdraft;

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

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Forward Planning

The statutory public consultation on the *Draft Roscommon Town Local Area Plan (LAP) 2024-2030*, which commenced on December 15th 2023, concluded on February 5th 2024. A total of 67 submissions were received. Following the close of the public consultation period, work commenced on the preparation of the *Chief Executive's Report on the Submissions received on the Draft Roscommon Town LAP*.

Development Management and Planning Enforcement Activity

The table below summarises Development Management activity in February. Of the 74 applications submitted in total, 59 (79%) were submitted on-line. Decisions issued on 41 planning applications, of which 35 were grants of permission.

Development Management Statistics

Period	Activity	Roscommon North	Roscommon South	Totals
February 2024	Valid applications	26	31	57
	Invalid applications	9	8	17
	Extension of Duration	0	0	0
	DED	9	6	15
	Pre-planning meeting	15	8	23

Enforcement Activity

Period	Activity	Countywide Totals
February 2024	New enforcement case	6
	General letter	2
	Warning letter	2
	Enforcement notice	2
	Closed case	2
	Legal proceedings	2

Unfinished Housing Developments (UHD)

Similar to January, development activity continued on 8 sites around the county in February. Contractors engaged by Roscommon County Council were at work in six developments (of which five were in the Athlone MD and the sixth was in the Boyle MD). Developers were also on-site undertaking agreed site resolution works in two developments – one development was in Monksland and the other in Boyle.

Schedules issued to Uisce Éireann in relation to one development in the Boyle Municipal District, in advance of the commencement of the taking in charge process.

ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT PROMOTION

Local Enterprise Office:

- **Trading On Line Vouchers (TOVs):** 5 TOVS have been approved in total for January & February 2024. Remote Trading Online Voucher Information Seminars are held regularly, with bookings accepted via the LEO website. A Seminar took place on January 25th 2024. The next Remote Trading Online Voucher Information Seminar is on March 7th 2024.
- **Evaluation & Approvals Meeting:** The first EVAC meeting for 2024 is scheduled to take place on 13th March 2024.
- **Green for Micro 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. 4 Green for Business applications have been approved as of February 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. LEO has processed 1 application for the Digital for Business in February 2024.
- **Technical Assistance for MicroExporters:** helps small businesses expand into export markets by assisting with the costs of exhibiting at international trade shows. To, date, LEO Roscommon has processed 3 applications.
- **Microfinance:** 2 application was received and sent to MFI this year. 1 application was declined, 1 pending. Work continues on the promotion of this source of finance on social Media and via mentoring clinics.
- **Training:** The first tranche of training to support the business community is underway and places are in demand and training is well attended. A total of 188 participants have been facilitated in total for January & February 2024.
- **Local Enterprise Week:** Takes place between 4th and 8th of March 2024. A schedule of 11 local events will take place, to include training, mentoring and networking events in County Roscommon as well as 2 National Spotlight events at national level.
- **Remote Mentoring:** 2 Business Advice Clinics have been held so far this year with 31 clients attending the clinics. All bookings were taken via the LEO website online booking system. 33 clients in total are being facilitated through One to One Mentoring sessions in 2024.
- **Enquiries:** Appropriate support provided on an ongoing basis. 92 enquires were logged in January & February 2024.
- **Student Enterprise Programme:** The schools are currently going through their selection process for entry to county final judging level. The County final is scheduled for Tuesday March 12th 2024 and will take place in the Athlone Springs Hotel.

- **National Enterprise Awards:** The County Enterprise Awards Ceremony will take place on Thursday March 7th 2024.
- **Promotion:** All LEO supports were promoted on the LEO website and on various social media platforms.
- **EI:** LW LW continues to work with Meabh Conaghan, the new West Region Manager and Noeleen Hussey.
- **IDA:** LW is keeping the line of communication open between IDA, CE & Senior Management of RCC in the hope of encouraging FDI to Roscommon.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT

LEADER

- Three Sessions were held with Roscommon LEADER Partnership reviewing new Operating Rules and Procedure manuals for the new programme
- Ongoing review of the Service Level Agreement - Pending update from Department on new funding arrangements for Administration Checks (replacing Article 48 checks)
- Project Claims Up to date (1 claim paid in February)

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and LECP

- No meeting of the LCDC was scheduled for February, the next meeting will be on 14th March, 2024.
- The Local Economic and Community Development Plan 2023-2029 is with the consultants for final placement of photos and will be ready for printing in March.
- Arrangements are also put in place to seek representation for the following areas on the LCDC;
 - Department of Social Protection
 - Irish Farming Association
 - Environment
- PPN representation on the LCDC is also being review as three year terms are expired.

Joint Policing Committee (JPC)

- **JPC Strategic Plan** - With regard to new legislation in relation to the setting up of Local Community Safety Partnerships (LCSP) it has been decided at a meeting with An Garda Síochana in February to continue with the layout of last year's plan until regulations are received from the Department on the creation of a Local Community Safety Plan. The next JPC Meeting is scheduled for 11.03.24.
- **Community Safety Innovation Fund** - Approval from the Department has been received to carry over the remaining balance of €941.00 and use in 2024 in conjunction with Age Friendly.
- **Property Marketing Education** - At a meeting with An Garda Síochana in February it was considered to hold the Property Marking Machine at the Garda Barracks in Roscommon Town as it would be easier for community groups to access and a sign in/sign out book would be in operation. This will be brought to the next JPC Meeting for approval in March.

Comhairle Na nÓg

- There was a Comhairle na nÓg Local Authority Cluster Meeting on 06/02/24 (online). These Cluster Meetings are an opportunity for the Comhairle Local Authority contacts to receive updates from the National Participation Office.
- Roscommon County Council's CNN contact person will chair the Comhairle na nÓg first Steering Committee Meeting of 2024 in The Castle Suite, Aras an Chontae on 07/03/24

Healthy Ireland

- 2023 Financial and Progress reports submitted on 16th February, 2024.
- Meetings were held with representatives of the LGFA, FAI, Connacht Rugby and GAA to review annual funding agreements with a focus on specific and identifiable outcomes
- The A/Healthy Ireland Coordinator facilitated the Kickoff call with the working group on Healthy Roscommon Podcasts in late February
- The A/Healthy Ireland Coordinator hosted seven community groups for a presentation by Teresa Keane from Mental Health. Teresa informed the community groups on the Connect Café model
- The Coordinator attended Writing Funding Application Training by Patricia Keenan and training on Agora Pulse (Healthy Ireland's Social Media Scheduling Platform).

SICAP

- There was a SICAP Sub-Committee meeting held in Aras an Chontae on 20/02/24 to look at the 'End of Year Review 2023' follow up comments were sent to LEADER for clarification before submission to the LCDC in March for approval.
- The Local Development Company (LDC) 'Annual Plan Report 2024' will be available on IRIS in March, this is later than usual because of the new IRIS System (IT support system operated by POBAL).

Local Enhancement Programme 2024

- Total amount allocated to Roscommon is €138,641.54 of this amount €23,106.92 has been ring-fenced towards women's groups. This fund will provide capital supports essential for the many community groups and organisations, particularly those who serve disadvantaged areas in rural and urban areas. There is a total of 122 applications received (including women's groups).
- The LCDC Grants Subcommittee will meet in March to advise the full LCDC meeting in March on suggested allocation of this grant.

Community Recognition Fund (CRF)

- Total funding allocation - €689,057. CRF 2023 - Department Returns Complete - A total sum of €294,694.25 has been drawn down. The team are currently working closely with community groups to assist them in progressing their projects. Return sent to Department regarding update on projects.

Age Friendly

- There was a two day Age Friendly Programme Manager's Conference in Kells on 22nd & 23rd February 2024, this was a very informative two days with many interesting speakers and lots of important contacts were made.
- A meeting of The OPN (Older Person's Network) was held on 28/02/24 in the Loughnaneane Suite, Aras an Chontae. There was a big turnout for this meeting. Paddy Joe Burke our Age Friendly Ambassador attended, he spoke meaningfully & eloquently to the group in relation to his role. Paul Clabby & Jody Moylan from our PPN office also attended the meeting, Paul explained what the PPN was all about and the value of being registered with them. Both Paul & Jody also met with members of the OPN following the meeting. The OPN members were extremely thankful to Paddy Joe and PPN for attending their meeting.

Social Inclusion Unit

- There was a meeting on 07/02/24 with Aine Treanor from the Roscommon Women's Network regarding funding opportunities.
- A meeting was held on 29/02/24 with GRETB regarding the setting up the Galway Roscommon Regional Adult Literacy Coalition and preparing their 2024 Regional Literacy Action Plan.

PPN

- Collaborated with Economic Development Unit to facilitate Town & Village Renewal Scheme Funding Webinar with Community Groups)
- Supported community groups to access various funding streams including the 2024 Local Enhancement Programme, Municipal District Funding, Community Festival/Events Grant Scheme and ESB Community Fund.
- Results of recent Community Training Needs Analysis presented to new local training interagency committee (PPN, RCC, RLP, GRETB). The feedback informs the direction of training delivery for 2024.
- Continued increase in PPN registrations during February. Total membership at the end of February was 325.
- Ongoing communications delivered to groups on funding opportunities, policy consultations and capacity building initiatives.

INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION/UKRAINE

Offer a Home

Scheme was launched on the 24th Nov 2023. Applications can be made via Offer a Home website and this will be followed up with inspections to determine the suitability of the property. Advertisements of the scheme have been placed on line (RCC website and Social media) and in the local newspapers. The Offer a Home Programme has now been extended to March, 2025.

To-date

- 227 properties have been offered in Co. Roscommon.
- 150 properties have been allocated to Ukrainian families. (464 persons)
- 3 are in the process of being offered.
- 555 houses have been withdrawn.

There are approximately 1,100 Ukrainians in the County that we are aware of, however, there are also a number of privately arranged units of accommodation. There are 13 accommodation Service Providers, one of which are under contract with Roscommon County Council and the remaining are under contract with IPAS.

Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT)

A Local Authority Integration Team is being set up in every Local Authority. The primary role of the Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT) is to provide ongoing integration supports to International Protection (IP) applicants, Programme Refugees and Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTP) to enable them to live independently in the community. Roscommon County Council are currently in the process of recruiting staff.

Emergency Refurbishment Ukraine Project (ERUP)

- There is a total of 7 properties registered for the Emergency Refurbishment Programme

TOURISM

Regional

- Hodson Bay Project Working Group meetings held with Waterways Ireland
- RCC Scheme C & D State Partnership Applications under the Just Transition Fund –Hodson Bay Waterfront Park and Tarmonbarry Riverside Amenity Park both submitted
- Meeting with Failte Ireland and Tourism Ireland reps re Irelands Hidden Heartlands
- Tain Trail Re-imagination Meeting with Failte Ireland consultants
- Sustainable Tourism Conference & Failte Ireland Industry Briefing Day attendance

County

- Visit Roscommon Spring/Easter Marketing campaign work ongoing
- Roscommon Bound Follow up meetings
- Destination Boyle Project ongoing
- Arigna Discovery Park meeting- commencement of construction works
- LAMA Awards attendance with win for Castlerea Rose Festival

HERITAGE

Royal Sites of Ireland UNESCO Bid – Still waiting to hear back on the Memorandum of Understanding to be signed with the National Monuments Service.

County Roscommon Heritage Forum: Meeting 1/2024 took place on 28/02/2024

New County Roscommon Heritage Plan: 130 x online submissions were received for the 'Have your say' call for submission on the pre-draft County Roscommon Heritage Plan 2024-2028. Submissions are now being analyzed.

Built Heritage Investment Scheme: €96k plus €8,169 ring fenced thatch funding allocation. 23 x applications received. 19 x were put forward to DHLG&H. Awaiting confirmation of funding from DHLG&H.

Historic Structures Fund: 9 x applications received. 5 x were put forward to DHLG&H. Awaiting response from DHLG&H.

County Heritage Plan Fund: 2 x applications were submitted to the Heritage Council.

- **Community Archaeology Funding Stream: Rathcroghan Heritage Farming Project (RHFP) Community Archaeology Project** – this funding stream is very competitive only 6 x projects will be funded nationwide.
- **County Heritage Plan:** County Heritage Plan Work Programme: this funding application is composed of several strands:
 - A Survey of the Heritage of Holy Wells in Co. Roscommon – Phase 2 & exhibition
 - National Biodiversity Week/National Heritage Week outreach & engagement
 - Co. Roscommon Folklore and Oral History Collection Consolidation Phase 1
 - Roscommon Field Names Project
 - Historic Graveyard Recording Project
 - Historic Graveyards Seminar (as requested at a plenary meeting last autumn).
 - ‘Know Your Locality’ online heritage course
 - 100 Roscommon Graveyards – concept development
 - County Roscommon Heritage Plan 2024-2028: This allows for consultancy advice/translation/graphic design/print & the launch of the new county heritage plan.

Local Biodiversity Action Fund: 6 x applications were submitted to the DHLG&H.

- County Actions for Biodiversity & Pollinators
- Recording Irish mayfly – establishing conservation status in association with Dr Jan-Robert Baars (UCD/AQUENS Ltd, Dublin).
- Invasive Alien Species Control including Cotoneaster Control @ Castlesampson in association with NPWS
- St. Johns Wood Local Provenance Nursery and Community Ancient native woodland expansion project in association with the Native Woodland Trust, Lecarrow
- The Uí Maine Kingdom grassland survey of the Karst landscape of south Roscommon in association with The Uí Maine Kingdom, Karst Farmers Group.
- Pilot Biodiversity and Climate Action Initiatives at Loughnaneane Park, in association with RCC Climate Team

Community Monuments Fund: 8 x applications were put forward to the National Monuments Service of the DHLG&H for consideration. Awaiting the outcome.

Heritage Office News: 12 emails circulated so far in 2024

Social Media Posts: 4 posts so far in 2024

Scheme	Grant applied for	
BHIS – DHLG&H	€104,169	Awaiting Response
HSF – DHLG&H	€208,000	Awaiting Response
Community Archaeology – The Heritage Council	€20,000	Awaiting Response
County Heritage Plan – The Heritage Council	€37,500	Awaiting Response
LBAF – NPWS/DHLG&H	€88,000	Awaiting Response
CMF – NMS/DHLG&H	€490,000	Awaiting Response
RSOI UNESCO Bid	€30,000	RCC Budget
Heritage Plan implementation	€39,000	RCC Budget
Conservation Projects	€40,000	RCC Budget
Creative Ireland	€5,000	RCC Budget
Heritage Office	€1,022,669	

ARTS OFFICE

Arts Participation Programme

- **CARE: Creative Ageing in Roscommon - Artist Residencies Programme** in HSE Nursing Homes 2023 ongoing.
- Planning for **Roscommon Bealtaine Festival** – month of May

Roscommon County Youth Theatre

- Weekly workshops at Roscommon Arts Centre – preparations for production April 2024.

POP (Planning for Outdoor Performance)

- Preparations for World Circus Day at Somers Park 20th April.

Creative Places

- Ongoing – working with Artist Researchers and **Ballaghaderreen** Steering Group & Communities including St Brigid’s Day community and artist workshops/gatherings.

Public Art Programme in collaboration with Regeneration

- Roscommon Town URDF Sculpture on the Square & Living Laneways commissions
- Athleague T&V Circle of Life commission
- Mote Park ORIS artist shortlisting stage 1
- Early stages of N5

Ongoing development and delivery of the **Creative Ireland** Programme, liaising with artists, creatives, communities and coordinating the work of the internal **Culture Team** comprising Arts, Heritage, Tourism, Library, Community, LEO, Social Inclusion, Climate. Working with the national Creative Ireland Office in the Department of Tourism Culture Arts Gaeltacht Sports & Media. Guided by Roscommon County Council **Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023-2027**.

- Artists as Cultural Leaders Talks & Mentoring Programme at King House
- Creative Roscommon Open Call applications due March 4th
- Percy French 170 Celebration Event planning with Strokestown Park House & Famine Museum
- Preparations for Cruinniú na nÓg June 15th

ROSCOMMON ARTS CENTRE

Monthly programme contributes to an inclusive and vibrant arts space for artists and audiences through Performance; Gallery; Outreach & Engagement; Artist Supports.

Recruitment in process for

- Arts & Venue Manager
- Box Office Assistant
- Events Assistant casual panel

Planning for **Roscommon International Chamber Music Festival** 7th to 9th June - partnership with Peter Regan, Arts Office, Arts Centre, King House.

KING HOUSE

Exhibitions & Energy upgrades nearing completion

Ongoing tour bookings, event bookings, meetings

Recruitment in process for

- Arts & Venue Manager (King House, An Ríoga and Douglas Hyde Centre)
- Cultural Assistant casual panel

AN RÍOGA

Negotiating with artist collective as tenants for Exhibition Space.