



Comhairle Contae
Ros Comáin
Roscommon
County Council



MANAGEMENT REPORT



June 2024

QUARTER 2

Roscommon County Council

Revenue Account Income & Expenditure Summary by Service Division

Management Accounts Summary to 30th June 2024

	EXPENDITURE		INCOME		NET
	Expenditure Incurred up to 30/06/2024	Adopted Full Year Budget	Income Receivable up to 30/06/2024	Adopted Full year Budget	Actual Overall Surplus/ (Deficit)
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing & Building	4,112,725	9,258,906	5,312,260	9,531,863	1,199,535
Road Transport & Safety	8,203,852	30,288,360	4,030,321	23,103,509	(4,173,531)
Water Services	2,488,693	6,235,843	2,048,755	6,115,112	(439,938)
Development Management	4,955,014	9,938,335	4,409,165	3,010,228	(545,849)
Environmental Services	3,042,632	8,105,044	208,548	2,097,373	(2,834,084)
Recreation & Amenity	2,055,926	5,228,935	596,495	663,076	(1,459,430)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	321,753	774,889	76,709	278,967	(245,044)
Miscellaneous Services	2,233,430	5,600,805	1,241,186	5,373,288	(992,243)
Central Management Charges	5,024,882	0	249,088	0	(4,775,794)
Local Government Fund/General Purpose Grant	0	0	4,189,834	12,534,000	4,189,834
Pension Levy	0	0	0	0	0
Rates	0	0	6,227,304	12,723,700	6,227,304
	32,438,907	75,431,117	28,589,667	75,431,117	(3,849,240)

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 30th June 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	12,454,507	439,806	40,994	13,440,001	8,784,990	4,655,011	26,111	65%	62%
Rents & Annuities	647,010	3,147,473	-	(3,434)	3,797,917	3,096,120	701,796	-	82%	83%
Housing Loans	131,912	214,687	-	-	346,599	262,380	84,219	-	76%	60%

Recourse to Overdraft;

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

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Forward Planning

Following the circulation of the *Chief Executive’s Report on the Submissions received on the Draft Roscommon Town Local Area Plan (LAP)* to the Members of the Roscommon Municipal District on March 15th, Members considered the Report at a Special Meeting on April 23rd and formally resolved to make amendments to the Draft LAP. The Forward Planning Team then commenced work on preparing the proposed Material Alterations for public display and consultation. This preparatory stage also involved examination of the proposed Material Alterations by the Environmental Consultants in the context of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA).

The public consultation period on the *Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Roscommon Town Local Area Plan 2024-2030* then commenced on May 14th and ran until June 13th 2024. Following the conclusion of the consultation process, work commenced on the preparation of the *Chief Executive’s Report on Submissions Received on the Proposed Material Alterations*.

Work was also on-going during April and May on the preparation of the *Two Year Progress Report on the Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028* as per the requirements of Section 15(2) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). The *Progress Report* will be brought before Members at the Plenary meeting of the Council in July.

Development Management and Planning Enforcement Activity

The table below summarises Development Management activity in Q2 2024. The rate of new applications averaged 73 per month. Decisions issued on 145 planning applications, of which 127 (87.5%) were grants of permission.

Development Management Statistics

Period	Activity	Roscommon North	Roscommon South	Totals
Q2 2024	Valid Applications	94	69	163
	Invalid Applications	21	21	42
	Extension of Duration	1	5	6
	DED	30	15	45
	Pre-planning meeting	0	0	0

Enforcement Activity

Period	Activity	Countywide Totals
Q2 2024	New enforcement case	16
	General letter	18
	Warning letter	37
	Enforcement notice	4
	Closed case	23
	Legal proceedings	0

Unfinished Housing Developments (UHD)

Work was on-going at various times during Quarter 2 at six unfinished housing developments around the county. Contractors engaged by Roscommon County Council were at work in four developments (in Athleague, Boyle, Castlerea and Knockcroghery). Developers also continued to undertake site resolution works at two developments (in Monksland and Boyle) during the three month period.

Schedules were sent to Uisce Éireann in relation to two developments (in Lisacul and Boyle) as part the Taking in Charge process. At a more advanced stage, the Corran Riada housing development in Monksland was referred to the Roads Department for Taking in Charge. In addition, following the completion of various site works, the Tarmon Harbour housing development in Tarmonbarry progressed to being Taken in Charge, following the resolution passed at the May meeting of Boyle Municipal District.

ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT PROMOTION

Local Enterprise Office:

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

11 TOVS have been approved in total for January to June 2024. Remote Trading Online Voucher Information Seminars are held regularly, with bookings accepted via the LEO website. Seminars took place on January 25th, March 7th & May 9th. The next Remote Trading Online Voucher Information Seminar has not been set as yet.

- **Evaluation & Approvals Meeting:**

The next Evaluation Committee Meeting is scheduled for 11th July 2024.

- **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. 14 Green for Business applications have been approved from January to April 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. To date, LEO has processed 2 applications for the Digital for Business in 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:**

7 applications have been received and sent to MFI this year. 2 approved, 2 applications were declined, 3 are 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 756 participants have been facilitated in total from January to the end of June 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. Record number.

- **Remote Mentoring:**
13 Business Advice Clinics have been held so far this year from January to June 2024. All bookings were taken via the LEO website online booking system. 95 clients in total are being facilitated through One to One Mentoring sessions in 2024.
- **Enquiries:**
Appropriate support provided on an ongoing basis. 268 enquires were logged from January to June 2024.
- **Student Enterprise Programme:**
The SEP programme has concluded for the 2023/24 academic year. A tender competition to appoint the in school co-ordinators for the 2024/25 programme is ongoing.
- **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

- Project Claims up to date from 2014 -2020 programme
- LEADER Programme 2023-2027 was presented to the members of the LCDC and rates of aid decided upon in June
- The first call under the new programme was advertised via social media platforms, RLP website and through PPN in June.

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and LECP

- Last meeting took place on 22nd May. Next LCDC Meeting is scheduled for 24th July.
- We are still awaiting confirmation regarding the Environmental Representative on the LCDC. The PPN Co-ordinator to advertise for the LCDC PPN in July.
- Monitoring of LECP actions is underway and information is being sought from all stakeholders.

Healthy Ireland

- 9 of the 10 Connect Cafes granted funding were operational with 3 having completed the programme completely. Feedback due from all by July end with final payments to be made by this time.
- Total of 8 projects accepted by Health and Wellbeing committee for funding with additional €35,000 and 50% payment made. One further for final approval at next meeting to complete.
- Wellbeing support programme developed and being delivered to the community in the Lough Funshinagh area across 4 weeks, in response to ongoing flood crisis. Attended by 16 people aging from 35 – 93. Feedback to be carried out at week 4 to explore additional supports that could be provided during the winter upcoming to maintain community resilience and maximise psychological wellbeing.
Healthy Ireland willing to support development of national community resilience toolkit with the learning from this programme.
- Draft Healthy Roscommon Plan for 2023-2025 in development.
- 6 Men's Health Week events held around the county in June.

SICAP

- SICAP Annual Plan 2024 presented to LCDC on 22/05/24 for consideration/ approval at the July LCDC meeting.
- IRIS online training with Pobal held on 12/06/24.
- Additional New Arrivals funding of €51,508.00 paid to LDC on 20/06/24.

Joint Policing Committee (JPC)/Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP)

- **In late June** communication was received from the Minister of Justice to advise of next steps in the forming of the new Local Community Safety Partnerships (LCSP). The recruitment for the role of Chairperson for Roscommon LCSP is in process.
- Minister for Justice Helen McEntee has announced the launch of the Community Safety Fund (CSF) funding call 2024. The open call for the Community Safety Fund will run from Tuesday 04 June 2024 until 5pm on Friday 26 July 2024. Details of this funding can be found on the Councils website, usual media platforms and through the PPN.

Comhairle Na nÓg

- Comhairle na nÓg Steering Group meeting was held on 28/06/24. There was great interaction with our two new Councillors Sean Moylan and Gareth Scahill who have been co-opted onto the group.

Community Recognition Fund 2023 (CRF)

- Total funding allocation - €689,057. CRF 2023 - Department Returns Complete - A total sum of €421,316.02 has been drawn down with a remaining balance of €267,740.98 to be recouped.
- All remaining projects are progressing well. The Community Department are working closely with the community groups to ensure the remaining projects will be complete by the deadline of early September 2024.

Community Recognition Fund 2024 (CRF)

- The Community Department are currently awaiting a response from the Department in relation to projects submitted for funding in this first window of the fund.

Local Enhancement Programme 2024

- Approval for funding for the Women's Groups was received from the Department on the 05/06/2024. A total of €23,106.92 was allocated to 10 Women's Groups. All groups were notified on the 06/06/2024. All acceptance offers have been received. There were a total of 5 groups who wish to change the scope of their projects as they do not have the funds to proceed. Approval has been given from the Department to allow same.

Age Friendly

- Age Friendly Alliance meeting scheduled to take place in July.
- OPC meeting in Áras an Chontae on 26/06/24 which began with Chair Yoga. No meetings are scheduled for July/August, we meet up again in September.

Social Inclusion Unit

- Roscommon Africa Day 2024 was held in Roscommon Town Square on 01st June.
- Meeting with Roscommon County Childcare Committee & Healthy Ireland Co-Ordinator was held to facilitate Roscommon Play Day 2024, in June.
- Men's Health Week Event was held in the County Library on 14/06/24. Activities on the day included Chair Yoga, Pole Activation Session, Nutrition & Wellbeing Talk & an excellent talk from our Age Friendly Ambassador, Paddy Joe Burke who was the guest of honour.

PPN

- Delivered "Effective Project Planning" and "Developing a Fundraising Plan" training workshops for Community groups.
- Attended Department of Rural & Community Development meetings to support the development of a new PPN National Roadmap and associated actions.
- Ongoing support and delivery of various community initiatives with groups in the county.
- Commenced engagement with RCC Corporate Unit to plan for the formulation of new SPC's with regards PPN representation.
- Continued increase in PPN registrations during June with total membership at the end of June at 400.
- Ongoing dissemination of Funding and capacity building opportunities circulated to PPN members via monthly newsletters, emails and online posts.

HERITAGE

Royal Sites of Ireland UNESCO Bid: Working group meeting 05/06/2024 to discuss the draft 'Memorandum of Understanding'.

County Roscommon Heritage Forum: NA

New County Roscommon Heritage Strategy: Ongoing work on goals and actions.

Built Heritage Investment Scheme: Progress report #01 submitted to DHLG&H.

Historic Structures Fund: Progress report #01 submitted to DHLG&H.

County Heritage Plan Fund: 2 x projects have been awarded €57,000 from The Heritage Council.

- **Community Archaeology Funding Stream: Rathcroghan Heritage Farming Project (RHFP) Community Archaeology Project:** RFQ deadline for applications 10/07/2024.
- **County Heritage Plan Work Programme:** work ongoing on delivery of the programme:
 - A Survey of the Heritage of Holy Wells in Co. Roscommon – Phase 2 complete. Preparation of exhibition – nearing completion.
 - National Heritage Week outreach & engagement – Pilot RCC National Heritage Week events grant scheme details circulated, 10 x applications received. Call for registration of events publicized.
 - Co. Roscommon Folklore and Oral History Collection Consolidation Phase 1 - ongoing
 - Roscommon Field Names Project- seminar rescheduled to 5th July.
 - Historic Graveyard Recording Project – re-scheduled to autumn.
 - Historic Graveyards Seminar - complete.
 - 'Know Your Locality' online heritage course – complete.
 - 100 Roscommon Graveyards – concept development - underway
 - County Roscommon Heritage Strategy 2025-2029: This allows for consultancy advice/translation/graphic design/print & the launch of the new county heritage plan - ongoing

Local Biodiversity Action Fund: 6 x applications were awarded €88,161 from the DHLG&H. This must be matched with €15,559 from RCC to give a total budget for 2024 of €103,720. RCC heritage, climate & area offices are providing the required match funding. It is anticipated that these projects will be delivered primarily by the Biodiversity Officer. 3 x of these projects are multi annual and the RCC match funding commitments are set out below.

	2024 LBAF	2024 Match Funding	2025 LBAF	2025 Match Funding	2026 LBAF	2026 Match funding
The Uí Maine Kingdom grassland survey	3,528	623	4,378	769	6,503	1,147
Pilot Biodiversity and Climate Action Initiatives at Loughnaneane Park	17,000	3,000	17,000	3,000	17,000	3,000
Recording Irish mayfly	1289	227	915	161	-	-
		€3,850		€3,930		€4,147

- County Actions for Biodiversity & Pollinators.
 - An Introduction to Dragonflies and Damselflies Workshop took place on 15/06/2024 in association with the National Biodiversity Data Centre.
- 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
 - Site meeting with NPWS on 21/06/2024
- 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: 4 x projects, total allocation €260,000:

- Cloonshanvile Abbey Conservation Project Phase 1 €100,000. Project must now go to tender for works phase & PSCS. RCC will manage this tender process.
- Kilronan Abbey Conservation Management Plan €30,000 – RCC deadline for receipt of quotations 05/07/2024
- Kiltullagh Church Conservation Management Plan €30,000 – RCC deadline for receipt of quotations 05/07/2024
- Ballintober Castle Phase 2 conservation Works – €100,000. Ballintubber Development Association will manage this tender process.

Owen O’Conor Mausoleum Conservation Project: PR to be prepared.

Roscommon County Council Civic Memorials Policy: Policy approved at May Plenary meeting of Roscommon County Council.

Heritage Office News: 55 emails circulated so far in 2024.

Social Media Posts: 23 posts so far in 2024

Scheme	Budget	
BHIS – DHLG&H	€104,169	Confirmed
HSF – DHLG&H	€104,937	Confirmed
Community Archaeology – The Heritage Council	€20,000	Confirmed
County Heritage Plan – The Heritage Council	€37,500	Confirmed
LBAF – NPWS/DHLG&H	€88,161	Confirmed
CMF – NMS/DHLG&H	€260,000	Confirmed
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 Budget	€728,767	

TOURISM

Regional

- European Tourism Ireland & Ireland West Airport Trade Show attended & presentations delivered
- Ireland’s Hidden Heartlands Network Strategy Development Participation

County

- Visit Roscommon Marketing ongoing – New tender for 2024/2025 Social Media Management Contract and Summer/Autumn campaigns prepared & issued
- Roscommon Tourism Strategy 2024-2029 – Surveys drafted
- Roscommon Bound Follow up meetings with town teams & consultants
- Destination Boyle Project ongoing – design/ installation of signage meetings
- Night and Day Festival Update Meetings
- Night and Day Festival attended and meeting with An Taoiseach held.

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 30th June and the funding has now moved to application phase.

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: 50

Statistics:

- 20 Expressions of Interest deemed Eligible by Fáilte Ireland, which is step one in the funding process. This means that the project type fits the criteria laid down by the scheme and allows the project to proceed to the application stage in the process.
- 14 Digital Transformation Projects have been deemed eligible and are being brought forward through this process by Fáilte Ireland.
- 12 Applications are currently in progress
- 1 application for Micro Funding- under €10,000 has been submitted
- 24 Expressions of interest submitted currently awaiting evaluation.

The closing date for applications for funding is 13th January 2025, currently the Tourism activator is working with applicants to submit strong applications for funding.

ARTS OFFICE

Arts Participation Programme - ongoing

Roscommon County Youth Theatre at Roscommon Arts Centre - summer break. Preparations for Summer Camp.

Creative Places Ballaghaderreen – ongoing research – working with Artist Researchers and **Ballaghaderreen** Steering Group & Communities incl. local artist engagement, taster workshops, St. Nathy's College School Engagement.

Public Art Programme in collaboration with Regeneration (see May report)

Culture Night, September 20th

- Call out to venues and artists for event proposals.
- Assisted Slí na Croí and Edmondstown House in successful funding application to Arts Council for Culture Night Late Event in Ballaghaderreen.

Creative Ireland Programme

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.

Cruinniú na nÓg Roscommon, June 15th

Ireland's national day of free creativity for children and young people

- 15 events including 2 online partnering with Family Resource Centres, Music Generation, RCYT, Schools, Cultural Venues, Libraries and Creative Practitioners
- 4 with particular focus on EDI and reaching children and young people less likely to engage in creative activities.
- 1375 participants / audience
- 12 venues across the county with our highlight event being Funfest at Strokestown Park with over 800 in attendance
- Supported 30+ Creative Practitioners

- Commemorations Programme ongoing
- Exhibition of Young Carers and Roscommon Youth Reach artwork at Áras an Chontae.
- Launch of *A Word in Your Ear* - Roscommon New Writing Anthology - at King House, June 28th.
- Mayo Roscommon: Care & Creativity in Context development of training programme for Arts & practitioners.

ROSCOMMON ARTS CENTRE

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

Roscommon International Chamber Music Festival 7th to 9th June – four concerts - partnership with Peter Regan, Arts Office, Arts Centre, King House.

Equality, Diversity, Inclusion Policy in development.

Recruitment in process for, Box Office Assistant

King House/Douglas Hyde Centre

Ongoing tours, group bookings, events, meetings.

An Ríoga

New Art Gallery open in Exhibition Space.

REGENERATION UNIT

Urban Regeneration Development Fund

Roscommon Public Realm Enhancement Project:

- The completed Roscommon Town Public Realm and Covered Civic Space was officially launched by Minister Darragh O'Brien on the 13th May 2024.
- Poetry Displays with music QR Codes which are themed on the history of the lanes, are located at Chapel Lane and were launched on National Poetry Day, and promoted nationally on PublicArt.ie.
- Sculpture on the Market Square - artist awarded commission and due completion Q3 2024.
- Mosaic laneway located on Hynes Lane - artist awarded commission and community engagement and design complete. Due for installation Q4 2024.

Putting the Spokes back into the Wheel URDF

- Detailed design works for Roscommon Town Centre East remain ongoing to include ongoing liaison with Utility Providers. Construction Tender Pack schedule for completion in Q4 2024.
- Part 8 for Roscommon Town Centre West Project is published with closing date for submission on the 18th July 2024

URDF Call 3 Revolving Fund

- Initial communications were issued to 3 property owners for the 3 sites approved by URDF. 2 of those 3 sites have now been activated through being brought to market or owner refurbishment works commencing.
- 2 previously approved sites have been activated through sale and redevelopment.
- 1 further site to be added to list for URDF Approval. Once approved communication to engage with owner will be initiated.

Rural Regeneration Development Fund

C1 Castlerea Food Hub:

- Construction works have been completed in Qtr 1 2024 & the building was formally launched by Minister Heather Humphries on the 23rd May 2024.

C1 Monksland Life Sciences Hub

- Construction works to ground floor completed with facility formally launched by Minister Heather Humphries on the 23rd May 2024.
- Fit out works to the 01st floor to commence in July 2024 with an expected completion date of November 2024

Ballaghaderreen Public Realm (Active Travel Project)

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

C1 Energising Boyle Town Centre and King House

- Conservation Works to Doors & Windows of King House, along with upgrade of Mechanical & Electrical infrastructure within King House is complete.
- Construction works on Boyle Public Realm Scheme are ongoing with expected completion date of Q4 2024.

C2 Putting the Heart into Monksland

- Preliminary design works are continuing on the Putting the Heart in to Monksland project with a further public consultation event scheduled for 2024. Subject to progress a Part 8 planning application is scheduled for Q3/Q4 2024.

C2 Strokestown Bawn St Public Realm Project

- Part 8 Planning Consent has been secured with detailed design & preparation of construction tender pack phase ongoing. Construction Tender Pack schedule for completion in Q4 2024.
- C1 RRDF Construction Funding Application has been successful with RRDF funding of €5.87m approved.

C1 2022 Boyle Community Library

- Detailed design & preparation of construction tender pack are ongoing with Site Investigation works recently completed. The current programme plans propose to publish construction tender by Q3/Q4 2024.

Town and Village 2021

Monksland

- Construction of Monksland has commenced on site with scheduled completion date of November 2024.

Ballintubber

- Construction works are complete on this project which has taken a field adjacent to the Old School House and developed it in to a park and playground in the village. The work included reconstruction of the main entrance, a new pedestrian entrance, a raised seating area and gazebo, tarmac, paths, public lighting, landscaping and village signage.

Roscommon Bound

- Project Strategy Document Complete
- Roscommon Bound Global Rossie Day Programme underway

Town and Village 2022

Arigna

- Construction works to enhance Arigna Village were completed in Qtr 1 2024.
- Contract currently being awarded subject to necessary documentation and construction due to commence on the public sports park in late July 2024. Project scheduled for completion by Qtr 4 2024.

Cootehall

- Barracks Outbuilding Refurbishment complete.
- Village Park Enhancement recently approved for Part 8 planning with associated construction contract awarded & construction to commence towards the end of Q3 2024
- Work on signage design ongoing.

Athleague

- Construction works well advanced with planned completion date of Q3 2024

Ballinagare

- A masterplan for area has been created.
- A planning application for the associated development is in the process of being submitted to RCC.

Town and Village 2023

In April 2024 the Department of Rural and Community Development announced funding in the amount of €999,999 had been awarded to 3 projects in Roscommon under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2023.

- Ballaghaderreen Plots was awarded funding of €499,999 for the creation of a welcoming, inclusive and accessible town park, offering outdoor recreation in the centre of Ballaghaderreen.
- Castleplunkett was awarded funding of €250,000 towards the regeneration of a central area of the village into a welcoming public outdoor space with a nature-based play area and a social meeting point in the village.
- Monksland was awarded funding of €250,000 towards the development of the second phase of Monksland Central Park to regenerate an area with commercial vacancy and create a vibrant hub for community enjoyment; including biodiversity area and a tiered seating/amphitheatre. Construction under way.
- All Projects due for completion by April 2026

Destination Towns

- Works on this Fáilte Ireland funded Destination Town public realm project is essentially complete once new signage has been installed which will be done so by mid-August.

Outdoor Recreation 2020

Measure 3 Mote Park

- Walking trails and car parking 85% complete.
- Revised Cycle Route to be implemented
- Signage is in design and proof stage and will be installed in Sept 2024.

Outdoor Recreation 2021

Ballintubber/Ballymoe Waterway and Looped Cycleway

- Construction Contract Awarded & Ballintubber Slipway element complete. The turning of the sod at the second site in Ballymoe took place on the 5th July as works re-commenced. The project has a scheduled completion date of Q3 2024.

Arigna Energy Inclusive Park and Miner's Trail

- Construction works are ongoing with fencing, play equipment and the viewing platform remaining to be completed by Qtr 3 2024.

Outdoor Recreation 2022

Measure 2 North Roscommon Accessible for all Water Launch Systems

- Construction works are substantially complete with an overall scheduled completion date of Q3 2024

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

- Sensory Sculptures – 43 submissions received and after a two-stage assessment, 4 x public art proposals were awarded a commission.
- Play Equipment is at detailed design stage and are expected to be delivered to site for installation in Sept.
- Project due for completion in Qtr 4 2024.

Measure 3 Rathcroghan Archaeological Looped Trails.

- Construction Contract has been awarded by the Rathcroghan Visitor Centre Group who are delivering partner for the project.
- Construction works on field styles scheduled to commence in Q3 2024
- Design of parking laybys to commence to commence in early Q3 2024

Outdoor Recreation 2023

Project Development Measures

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

- Athleague Looped Walk - Request for tender has been issued.
- Castlerea Riverside Boardwalk - Request for tender to be issued shortly.

Clár 2022

- All projects now complete.

Clár 2023

- 15 project has been approved for funding.
- All projects underway at a variety of stages from initial procurement through to 90% complete.

Clár 2024

- 46 applications received.
- Shortlisting process complete and 15 projects were selected for submission to the Department by the 19th June 2024.
- Funding decision due from the department by Qtr 4 in 2024.

THRIVE

- RCC was successful in their bid for THRIVE Funding
- An allocation of 200,000 has been awarded to develop an Integrated Urban Strategy for Roscommon Town
- Tenders are being prepared at present.

Heritage Towns Initiative

- RCC was successful in its application for €50,000 to develop a Heritage Led Regeneration Plan for Strokestown.
- This will build on the TCF plan already developed and identify heritage work that will enhance the town.

Town Teams

- The 6 Roscommon Town teams held a networking event in June 2024.
- Health checks are being prepared for 4 towns
- The Town Centre First Plan for Castlerea has commenced

Large Scale Sport Infrastructure Fund

- The tender for the Planning and Design Services for the Indoor Recreation and Outdoor Sports (iROS) was published with a closing date in mid July 2024.
- An application for LSSIF funding for the construction stage for the iRos Project in Roscommon Town has been submitted. Awaiting outcome.

LIBRARY SERVICES

Roscommon Library Services Q2 2024

- In Q2 2024, **24,114** people visited library service points across the county
- Library members 1,749 eBooks and 3944 eAudiobooks
- There were **40** visits to branch libraries from national schools

Ballaghaderreen Library

This quarter more than 2000 people have visited the temporary Ballaghaderreen Library. They used the internet service more than 600 times in this period. Works on the refurbishment of Dillon House are progressing well and remain on schedule to reopen the library during Q4 2024. The service will be operate as a My Open Library, open 7 days per week from 8am – 10pm, on self-service basis outside of normal staffed hours.

Percy French

In May, Roscommon Library and the Clooneyquinn Percy French Society are hosted a special day of memories, memorabilia and music to celebrate the 170th anniversary of the birth of Roscommon's famous poet, balladeer and wit. The event was well attended and well received.



Cruinniú na nÓg

On Saturday 15th June the library service participated in the national day of creativity for children and young people; Cruinniú na nÓg. Children in Castlereah and Boyle joined Helen McSharry for a special reading from her book *The Return of Tuatha Dé Danann*. In Ballaghaderreen and Strokestown, Lucy Kelly-Desmond read from her book *The horse, the stars, and the road* and taught children how to draw Van Gogh's *Starry Night*. Also in Ballaghaderreen, the mobile library was on site for a day of storytelling, face painting, jewellery making, live music and lots more as the library celebrated cultures from around the world with a theme of My Flag My Culture.



Bealtaine Festival

The Bealtaine Festival, held annually in the month of may celebrates creativity in older age. The library service held events across the county including art workshops and music and song.



Healthy Ireland

The benefits of movement, healthy diet and nurturing good emotional and mental health were outlined to a large attendance at a special event, in Roscommon County Library during Men's Health Week. The Irish Heart Foundation Mobile Health Unit were also present to facilitate blood pressure checks for members of the public.

The event was organised by the Library Service, in conjunction with the Community and Enterprise Section in Roscommon County Council and Roscommon Sports Partnership. Roscommon's Age Friendly Ambassador, Paddy Joe Burke spoke at the event



Launch of Activator Pole lending service

At the Men's Health Week event in Roscommon Library, the new Activator Pole lending service was launched. The new service a collaboration between Roscommon Sports Partnership and Roscommon Library Service is supported by the Department of Rural and Community Development's Community Recognition Fund. Library users can now borrow activator poles from the library, the same way they can borrow a book. Throughout the month of June

Roscommon Sports Partnership ran a number of Activator Poles taster sessions at Roscommon Branch Libraries with The Movement Mentor Laura Tully. To avail of the new Activator Pole lending service, users must have completed a taster session prior to borrowing.



Right to Read

Spring into Storytime

As part of the library's annual *Right to Read Spring into Storytime* took place throughout the month of April.

250 People attended the 10 events across the county.

Summer Stars

The annual summer stars reading programme is underway in libraries across the county. Children are invited to challenge themselves to reading during the summer holidays with a reading card to keep track of their books and lots of rewards to encourage them along the way



Little Library Book Bags

To help children to navigate starting school, libraries have put together a bag with a book just for them that can be collected at any library. The 'My Little Library Book Bag' initiative is a collaboration between libraries, the Department of Rural and Community Development, and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth as part of the First 5 Strategy. As part of the initiative, a 'My Little Library Book Bag' is available free for every child starting school in 2024 to help them to prepare for this big step. Children and their parents or guardians can collect the bags at any library throughout the country from June 2024.

Each My Little Library Book Bag contains a book on starting school, or making friends or being comfortable to be yourself and their very own library card and special 'My Little Library' cardholder. In June 2024, it was announced that the Little Library Book Bag will now be an annual programme.



Siarscéal 2024

The Siarscéal Literary Festival, under the director of Creative Coordinator, Mary Branley, commenced events in Q2. The programme, supported by Creative Ireland invites young adults to Explore their creative side share with other like-minded young people, in a supportive setting. Their writing will be published in a new Siarscéal online book and will be shared at our special Festival Day in September.

Funding Announcements

In April, the Department of Rural and Community Development announced that Roscommon County Council was successful in securing funding for a new Mobile Library Vehicle in the amount of €225,000 from the Libraries Capital Programme 2023-2027. The library service is now working on developing a specification for the new vehicle which will replace the current 18 year old vehicle with a modern mobile vehicle. The overall cost of the new vehicle is estimated at €300,000 with matched funding amount of 25% from Roscommon County Council and 75% with the grant support of the Department of Rural and Community Development and Project Ireland 2040.

In June, the Department of Rural and Community Development announced the outcome of a call for funding for *Dormant Accounts Fund: Library Supports for Marginalised, Socially Excluded and Disadvantaged Communities*. The library service submitted a proposal based on the needs and facilities of each library branch location. The proposal submitted amounted to €15,085.80, which was approved. This funding will be used to purchase modern equipment and furniture in library branches to support people with physical disabilities and mobility needs, including a number of height adjustable sit/stand desks, privacy screens and ergonomic chairs, adjustable monitor arms. It will also be used for the purchase of a number of rollators to support the elderly and people with physical disabilities or mobility needs to access library services. The funding is 90% funded by the grant of €13,577.22 with the remaining 10%, €1508.58 provided by the library service.

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.

40 = homeless cases presented in Q2, 2024

16 = cases required short-term accommodation in Q2, 2024

Breakdown Homeless figures Q1 2024				
Presentations	Individuals	Families	Totals Households	Breakdown of Family unit
April	8	5	5	2A & 1C 2A & 1C 1A & 3C 1A & 1C 2A & 5C
May	10	3	3	1A & 2C 1A & 2C 2A & 4C
June	8	1	1	2A & 1C

Accommodated	Individuals	Families	Totals Households	Breakdown of Family unit
April	8	0	0	N/A
May	3	2	2	2A & 2C – Transitional House 1A & 2C – EA
June	2	0	0	

Galway Simon is contracted to provide Housing First services to the Western Region. Resources to support six Housing First applicants over a three-year period will be made available to County Roscommon under the Housing First programme. A Homeless Action Team (HAT) facilitates the co-ordination of Housing First and Housing-Led support services.

To date, 14 referrals have been forwarded to the HAT for consideration. Three referrals have been accepted for Housing-Led services and nine referrals have been accepted for Housing First Services. At present, there are four Housing First Tenancies and two Housing-Led tenancies. Other units of accommodation are currently being identified for the creation of further Housing First tenancies and

Housing-Led tenancies. One referral was submitted to the HAT in Q1, 2024 for consideration and was accepted for Housing First Services. A property has been identified and a support package was agreed with the case worker. Tenant will be signed up to Housing First tenancy in Q3, 2024.

1.2 Housing Assessments & Allocations

331	applicants (excluding transfers) on the approved housing list at end of Q2, 2024
117	applicants are currently in private rented accommodation with no housing support
31	offers of accommodation made in Q2, 2024
1	nominations made to AHB Q2, 2024
38	new tenants appointed/allocated in Q2, 2024 to LA dwellings
1	AHB Tenants appointed in Q2, 2024
8	refusals recorded in Q2, 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 30th June 2024, there are 326 households receiving support (214 private rented and 112 in voluntary housing).

2.2 Housing Assistance Payment (HAP):

As of 30th June, 2024, there were 396 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)

99	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 – One application under review in Roscommon Town
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 30th June, 2024, Roscommon County Council has 4 long-term leases: 3 in Boyle Town and 1 in Roscommon Town.
- As of 30th June, 2024 Roscommon County Council has 75 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 22 RAS Type Leases.
- As of 30th June, 2024, there were 20 active Mortgage to Rent Scheme Leases in place (5 with AHB's & 15 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):

- 10 units at Windmill Rd., Elphin – Contractor Appointed, works commenced October 2022. Complete Q3 2024
- 12 units at Lisnamult, Ardnanagh, Roscommon – Works commenced in Q1 2023. Completed Q2 2024
- 27 units at Esker Lawns, Monksland – 25 units completed in Q4 2023. Final 2 were completed in Q1 2024
- 4 Units at Cortober, Carrick on Shannon – Project awarded, start date July 2024. Anticipated completion Q3 2025.
- 16 Units at Curlew View, Boyle – Project at Tender award stage. Works expected to commence in Q3 2024
- 51 units at Sli an Choiste, Monksland – Design ongoing. Planning process expected to commence in Q3 2024. Construction expected to commence in 2025.
- 1 Unit at Pound St., Ballaghaderreen – Contractor on site. Construction to complete in Q3 2024.
- 3 Units at Elphin Street, Strokestown – Project awarded. Works commenced on site in Q3 2024.
- 4 Units at Elphin Courthouse, Elphin – Project at tender award stage, Works expected to commence on site in Q4 2024.

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 early Q4, 2024.
- RCC liaising with Co-operative Housing Ireland (CHI) for the delivery of 4 units in Boyle area.
- 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.

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, 14 properties have been acquired as part of Buy & Renew Scheme in Ballaghaderreen (13), Strokestown (1). Plans to develop these properties will proceed through the four-stage process.

3.3.2 - Acquisition Programme

As of 30th June, 2024, Roscommon County Council acquired 6 houses under the acquisition programme. Houses acquired for the following reasons:

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| ▪ Tenants in-Situ | 4 |
| ▪ 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 1 application under the CRTIS Scheme.

3.3.3 Derelict Sites and Dangerous Structures

The Housing Department took over the function of Derelict Sites and Dangerous Structures and Places in late February / March 2022.

Currently there are 36 properties on the Derelict Sites Register, 7 sites were removed during 2023 with a further 4 removed in Q1 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 issued to the owners under Section 22 of the Derelict Sites Act, in December. Owners have 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 issued in March 2024. Derelict Sites Levy Demand Notices were issued to 25 sites in April 2024, the total amount levied was €140,700. To date €14,127.00 has been received. Notices continue to be issued to owners of properties that are currently in a state of dereliction.

3.4 Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024

- Cluain Airne, Killerney – 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. Due to significant changes in the scope of work the project will be retendered in Q3 2024.
- 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 30th June 2024, tenant purchase statistics were as follows:

301	applications received to date (5 received in Q2)
182	offers made to date (8 offers made in Q2)
117	offers accepted to date (7 offers accepted in Q2)
75	sales completed to date (4 houses sold in Q2)

There were €241,600.00 proceeds from sales during Q2 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
- 249 inspections were carried out in Q1 2024

5.0 Housing Stock

5.1 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. Properties have been selected for the 2024 programme and an obligated party has issued their first draft of design specifications for review.

Roscommon County Council's 2024 ERP programme is at the post tender stage with works due to commence in early Q3.

5.2 Voids Programme:

Roscommon County Council will complete 26 voids under the 2024 voids programme. 9 units have been completed and claimed to date this year.

5.3 Planned Maintenance Programme:

Roscommon County Council will undertake works under the 2024 planned maintenance programme based on Stock condition surveys.

5.4 Casual Vacancy Works (pre-letting works)

A total of 8 houses were refurbished due to normal turn-over of properties in Q2, 2024, to date 6 have been approved for payment to a total of €88,895.21. The remaining 2 properties are awaiting costs from the contractor.

5.5 Housing Maintenance

RCC Housing received 207 maintenance calls in Q2, 2024, billed expenditure on maintenance works during the same period was €148,340.53.

5.6 Housing Grants (Private Grants and LA Grants)

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

RCC continues to receive a large volume of grant applications and the process of validating applications for 2024 is ongoing. To-date, RCC has issued grant approvals to the value of €1,650,000 over the three schemes.

RCC received a budget allocation of €529,087 for Disabled Persons Grants Scheme including Improvement Works in Lieu (IWILs). To-date, RCC has approved works for adaptations to council houses including one IWILs to the value of €201,600.

5.7 Croí Cónaithe Fund

The Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant provides grant funding to support the refurbishment of vacant properties in town and villages for residential use. The scheme has also been revised to include.

The Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant provides grant funding to support the refurbishment of vacant properties in town and villages for residential use. The scheme has also been revised to include properties for the rental market. A grant of up to a maximum of €50,000 will be available for the refurbishment of vacant properties.

Where the refurbishment costs are expected to exceed the standard grant of up to €50,000, 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) bringing the total grant available for a derelict property up to a maximum of €70,000. In the case of a top-up grant in respect of a derelict property, an independent report prepared by an appropriately qualified professional (e.g. quantity surveyor, engineer etc.) is required to be submitted along with the application confirming that the property is 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. As part of the declaration to be signed in the application form, all applicants must agree to meet and comply with these standards.

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	Awaiting further information	Refused	Withdrawn	Approved in principle	Approved	Grant Funding Issued
315	110	15 Does not meet criteria of scheme	30	84	75	19

ASSETS, CLIMATE ACTION AND ENERGY MANAGEMENT

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

- The facilities in Áras an Chontae are being managed by Assets and Energy Management.
- Improvement works to Castlerea Courthouse are ongoing with the support of Court Services.
- Improvement works to the Roscommon County Dog Pound with the support of Department of Rural and Community Development.
- Improvement works to the Roscommon Women's Network in Athleague were completed in Q1 of 2024.

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.

ENERGY

- Roscommon County Council are progressing with energy retrofit works on Dillon House, working with Mountain View Construction and Sweeney Architects. Roscommon County Council are actively engaging with the SEAI to explore recoupment options under their Pathfinder programme.
- **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.
- The Energy Management Team have submitted Pathfinder project pipeline to the SEAI, who have now appointed Rogerson Reddan and Project Managers. The Project Managers will review and verify the energy efficiency works proposed.
- 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.
- Loan Approval for the National LED Retrofit Project placed before and approved by the Members of RCC at Plenary Meeting of 21st December, 2020.
- Updates to DeadSure Inventory and UMR Database in preparation for National LED Upgrade are ongoing.
- A tender for 'Connaught Public Lighting Maintenance, LED Retrofit, New Works & Associated Services' was prepared by Mayo County Council on behalf of six Connacht Local Authorities and is due to expire in October 2024. It is intended to take the same regional approach to the appointment of a new contractor for the 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.
- 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 70%.

CORPORATE AFFAIRS

▪ Local Elections 2024

The local elections for Roscommon County Council were held on 7th June 2024. The count was conducted at the Hyde Centre in Roscommon Town.

The Councillors elected are as follows:

Athlone MD

Councillor Domnick Connolly	Fine Gael
Councillor Laurence Fallon	Non Party
Councillor Emer Kelly	Non Party
Councillor John Keogh	Fianna Fail
Councillor John Naughten	Fine Gael
Councillor Tony Ward	Non-Party

Boyle MD

Councillor Valerie Byrne	Non-Party
Councillor Liam Callaghan	Fine Gael
Councillor Tom Crosby	Non Party
Councillor Leah Cull	Sinn Féin
Councillor Michéal Frain	Non Party
Councillor Sean Moylan	Fianna Fáil

Roscommon MD

Councillor Larry Brennan	Fianna Fáil
Councillor Nigel Dineen	Independent Ireland
Councillor Paschal Fitzmaurice	Fianna Fáil
Councillor Marty McDermott	Fianna Fáil
Councillor Gareth Scahill	Fine Gael
Councillor Anthony Waldron	Non Party

The Annual Meeting of the Council was held on 21st June. At this the Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach were elected as follows:

Cathaoirleach: Councillor Paschal Fitzmaurice
Leas Cathaoirleach: Councillor Larry Brennan

▪ Register of Electors

The local elections were held on 7th June 2024.

The total electorate for the Local Election was 52,990
of which Postal and Special 643

- **Northern & Western Regional Assembly (NWRA) Meetings**

Roscommon County Council hosted two NWRA meetings; two monthly meetings on 19th April and 17th May 2024.

- **Roscommon Comhairle Na nÓg**

Roscommon County Council hosted the June meeting of Roscommon Comhairle Na nÓg on 28th June 2024.

ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE AND RURAL WATER UNIT

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.

The EPA carried out an audit in Q3 2023 assessing progress under the annual RMCEI plan and a report was received in Q4. RCC submitted their response Report to the EPA in January 2024 and the EPA held an audit review meeting June 2024 to review progress against actions identified in 2023 and also on the 2024 RMCEI Plan activities.

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 242 complaints received in Q2 2024, 207 complaints were inspected and 213 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 received their Green Flags at an awards ceremony in Athlone. The primary and secondary schools received their flags under themes such as litter and waste, biodiversity, energy and global citizenship. A total of 94 primary and post primary schools are currently registered.

National Food Waste Recycling Week: Annual national campaign national campaign to get consumers and businesses to recycle food waste and reduce carbon footprint. 5 information sessions were held and 100 brown kitchen caddies were distributed.

National Spring Clean: 104 groups/individuals registered for National Spring Clean 2024

Greener Spaces Competition: The second year of the Greener Spaces competition was launched. Applications have been received from School and Community group (residential estate, burial ground or community space) involved with maintaining or an enhancing outdoor space.

Green Business Hub: Signage, guidance and workshops available to businesses in Roscommon as part of the initiative to improve business waste segregation and recycling.

Media Campaigns

Continued promotion of awareness campaigns through social media and newspaper:

- WEEE Ireland – E-Waste/Battery recycling
- Management of Household Waste and Recycling
- Illegal Dumping
- Dog Fouling – “Bag it! Bin it”; including installation of 2 mutt mitt dispensers
- Waste Presentation Bylaws
- Roadside Anti-Littering “Bin it or Bring it Home”
- Collection days - WEEE Ireland and IFFPG Farm Plastics
- Newspaper articles (Roscommon People/Roscommon Herald) - Launch of Greener Spaces/National Spring Clean/Green Business Hub

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.

Water, Wastewater, Air and Noise Pollution

1. RCC continues to engage with Lough Forbes Pesticides Action group. This group looks at mechanisms to address **pesticides exceedances** within catchment area. Group meeting was held in Q2 2024 but monitoring programme is ongoing. Lough Forbes is continuing to present difficulties with the number of pesticides exceedance being recorded in the catchment and the group is exploring addition measure to be put in place in relation to exceedances, with Agricultural Sustainability Support Programme officer tackling the issued at local level particular in Counties Leitrim and Longford.
2. Water quality – protect and restore water bodies, (rivers, lakes etc.) to at least good status remains a function of local authorities and it is highlighted as key area for Ireland to achieve objectives under the Water Framework Directive. The EPA have instructed that a minimum of 41 inspection are conducted on farms under the Good Agricultural Practice Regulation 2021 as amended, this figure is to rise to 74 in 2025. Recruitment of an Assistant Scientist is current underway and job advertisement place in Q2 under Agri- inspection programme.
3. 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. Western ROC meeting held in May with a number of common water quality issued in the region under discussion. New Community Water are active with communities in Roscommon North and South, these CWO are shared with adjoining local authorities, Mayo and Galway.
4. National Inspection plan for DWWTS –Inspection of open historic advisory notices are continuing in in Q2. 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. The programme of inspection was delayed in Q2 due to one inspector being on long-term sick leave. 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.
5. High Status Objective Catchment Area (HSOCA) grants – pubic interest in the grant scheme available has increase in Q2 with a number of queries progressing to the application stage. In all eight application are being progressed. This has placed an increase burden of staff resources within the department under the grants scheme requirements.

6. Air Quality at monitoring station in Roscommon Town (adjacent to Aras an Chontae) remained at good quality for Q2.
7. Solid fuel regulation- enforcement action under this area are with a review of advertisement being place on social media and informing the host of their legal obligations around such advertisements.
8. A member of staff is sitting on the Agricultural Inspections Working Group with a view to developing a new framework for Local Authority inspections at a national level. Meetings of the working group are ongoing with one in person and two online meeting held in Q2. The group are at an advanced stage of producing new training manuals and resources for all local authority enforcement staff.
A new sub-group has been setup which this staff member sits on, this group is reviewing the use of sludge (industrial and sewerage) in Agriculture in Q2 the outcome of which will be concluded in late Q3.
9. ACRES West Connaught- staff member provided training and information to member of the ACRES team on assistance that can be provided by local authorities in area under the project, this ranged from LA agricultural inspection process and waste remediation issues and invasive species management.

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-licenced 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.

Roscommon County Council 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. 22 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 1 meeting in the Q2 period following restructuring and amended terms of reference to reflect the implementation phase of the Climate Action Plan. This meeting focused on the development of subcommittees to progress remaining 2024 Actions. It is anticipated that these subcommittees, composed of nominees from relevant departments, will meet on a monthly basis and report quarterly into the Climate Action Team. The next meeting is scheduled for September 2024.

Climate Action Plan – Minister Eamonn Ryan presided over the national launch of Local Authority Climate Action Plans in Ennis 10th/11th April, attended by the director of services and the Climate Action Unit. A well-attended joint launch was held in Forest Park, Boyle on 23rd April, in association with the Local Economic and Community Plan and the Roscommon Local Development Strategy. This provided the opportunity to align common goals and illustrate the connections between local development and climate action initiatives.

A pilot monitoring system for Climate Actions has been developed by the IS department and was demonstrated to the Climate Action team in Q2. In addition to supporting governance and leadership actions in the Climate Action Plan, the system has the potential to monitor and report on other plans in the organization and facilitate integration across departments in the achievement of common goals, while streamlining required reporting processes.

Climate Action Unit

Just Transition funding in excess of €500k was approved for EV maintenance/Wind turbine construction training, aligned with successful tandem JTF project for Ballaghaderreen venue refurbishment under the Housing Section. The Climate Action unit are currently working with GRETB and the housing section to progress this initiative over the coming months.

The department approved €60,000 funding under the Local Biodiversity Action Fund for a project in Loughnaneane Park in support of Nature-based solutions and biodiversity enhancement over the next three years and aligning with a number of Actions contained within the plan.

The Climate Action Unit continued public awareness and engagement activities in support of mainstreaming and embedding the concept of Climate Action throughout the organisation and wider society. The unit was represented at a number of events over Q2 including the Eirgrid Energy Roadshow event with SEAI and ESB networks, community Wetlands Forum annual conference, Cruinniú na nOg, UCG student visit and the Public Participation Network Summer Plenary.

The Unit continually maintains all potential funding, educational and awareness initiatives under review, such as the Circular Economy Innovation grant Scheme, the Food Academy and EU initiatives in the Climate area such as START and Jaspers, and disseminates information as it becomes available.

Community Climate Action Programme – There were 35 applications under the two strands formally submitted to Department for over €400,000 in funding in Q2. In addition, three cross border applications of over €200,000 were submitted for approval. Consultation has been ongoing with the department over the course of Q2 and final decision is due early in Q3.

Community Facilities Electric Vehicle (EV) Charger Grant Scheme – Administered by Pobal under the Just Transition Fund, these applications remain under consideration with Zero Emission Vehicle Ireland (ZEVl). Consultants have been engaged for the preparation of a regional plan for the deployment EV charging infrastructure that will progress over the course of 2024.

Sustainable Energy Communities – The energy masterplan was completed for Roscommon Town in Q2, containing a register of opportunities for the deployment of renewable energy and improvements in energy efficiency. The Climate Action Unit will engage with the SEC over the course of Q3 to explore project development potential and available funding streams in this regard.

The Climate Action Unit continues to engage with SEAI mentors to grow the SEC network, exploring novel ways to progress retrofitting and renewable energy uptake in the County over the coming months.

The climate action unit are involved in the Just Transition Groundwork EU project that supports SECs in achieving their community renewable energy goals through development of knowledge networks and sharing of best practice.

ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

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 and installation of culverts are progressing in line with programme.

N61 Ballymurray to Knockcroghery Road Project: This project comprises the improvement of the N61 National Secondary Road between Ballymurray and Knockcroghery which will incorporate a bypass of Knockcroghery. The project was brought through to the completion of TII Phase 2 (Option Selection) by the appointed consultants Roughan & O' Donovan-AECOM Alliance (ROD-A) in 2021. This project was suspended in 2021 by TII due to funding constraints. Some funding was allocated in 2022 under the TII Minors programme to develop an overall strategy to address the safety and related issues on the section of N61 between Roscommon town and Athlone pending the implementation of long-term solution(s). ROD-A were appointed in August 2022 to undertake this study. The study report was issued in December 2023 and was presented to the Elected Members of Roscommon County Council at its Plenary meeting held on 18th December 2023. The report identifies 15 priority interventions and TII funding has been sought in respect of five junction optimisation interventions. TII provided seed funding for 2 of the 5 junction optimisation schemes, namely St. Brigid's Junction Moyvannan and St.

John's Junction Killighan & Gort. The procurement of technical consultants is being advanced with topographical surveys completed. Tender documentation for traffic surveys has been prepared.

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 development of the project is 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. Phase 2 Option Selection is nearing completion, and it is anticipated that the Options Selection Report identifying the preferred route corridor will be finalised early in Q3 2024.

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 Ballinagare 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 against the overall budget available for national roads, active travel and greenways.

N4 Carrick on Shannon to Dromod 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. A Section 85 Agreement under the Local Government Act is in place between Roscommon County Council and Leitrim County Council. Under the Section 85 Agreement Leitrim County Council is the Lead Authority. Leitrim County Council appointed Ove Arup & Partners Ireland Ltd. (ARUP) to progress the project through the planning process in March 2020. ARUP completed Phase 1 (Concept and Feasibility) in July 2020 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 as the design of the project progresses.

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.

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.

ACTIVE TRAVEL PROJECTS

Initial 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

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.

Construction of the Ballaghaderreen Town Development Scheme commenced in May with works currently ongoing in Pound Street, Cathedral Street and Chapel Street. Consultants are currently been procured to assist in the project management and design of the Roscommon Town Schools Pedestrian/Cycle Bridge Link project. Detail design is ongoing on the L7055 Ardsallagh Woods active travel scheme with an aim to bring this project forward to construction in 2025 subject to funding. The Feasibility and Options Selection for the Bealnamullia Active scheme is been finalised and it is planned that the scheme will proceed to Preliminary Design stage in Q3 2024. The Safe Routes to School (SRTS) scheme at St. Paul's National School in Castlerea was completed in April. Construction of the SRTS schemes at Coláiste Chiaráin and St. Joseph's National School in Summerhill commenced in June. Design is ongoing for a further five schools under the SRTS programme.

Lough Funshinagh

Lough Funshinagh water levels remain at record highs, exceeding 69.37 meters above ordinance datum. Floodwaters continue to threaten homes and roads in the Curraghboy/Rahara area.

Roscommon County Council Actions:

- Retaining and pumping floodwaters at Ballagh, Lisfelim and Coolnageer
- Exploring short-term solutions to reduce flood levels
- Commissioned Ryan Hanley to conduct baseline environmental surveys in advance of long-term solution.

Road Closures:

- R-362 Coolnageer
- L-2005 Ballagh
- L-20051 Ballagh
- L-7621 Ardmullen

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.

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 Q2 2024 is 185.

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 20 Abnormal Load Permits to the end of Q2 2024.