



Comhairle Contae
Ros Comáin
Roscommon
County Council



MANAGEMENT REPORT



September 2024

QUARTER 3

Roscommon County Council

Revenue Account Income & Expenditure Summary by Service Division

Management Accounts Summary to 30th September 2024

	EXPENDITURE		INCOME		NET
	Expenditure Incurred up to 30/09/2024	Adopted Full Year Budget	Income Receivable up to 30/09/2024	Adopted Full year Budget	Actual Overall Surplus/ (Deficit)
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing & Building	7,117,232	9,258,906	8,814,605	9,531,863	1,697,373
Road Transport & Safety	19,407,769	30,288,360	12,276,627	23,103,509	(7,131,142)
Water Services	4,671,285	6,235,843	3,285,931	6,115,112	(1,385,353)
Development Management	9,354,569	9,938,335	5,839,416	3,010,228	(3,515,152)
Environmental Services	5,429,265	8,105,044	868,432	2,097,373	(4,560,833)
Recreation & Amenity	4,085,088	5,228,935	983,023	663,076	(3,102,066)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	563,055	774,889	170,670	278,967	(392,385)
Miscellaneous Services	4,676,756	5,600,805	4,101,147	5,373,288	(575,609)
Central Management Charges	1,021,078	0	57,266	0	(963,812)
Local Government Fund/General Purpose Grant	0	0	10,474,585	12,534,000	10,474,585
Pension Levy	0	0	0	0	0
Rates	0	0	9,346,347	12,723,700	9,346,347
	56,326,096	75,431,117	56,218,050	75,431,117	(108,046)

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 September 2024

Debt Type	Opening Balance	Accrued	Vacant Property Adjustments	Write Off/Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Balance	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection	% Collection Previous Year
Commercial Rates	1,466,294	12,461,695	751,656	156,114	13,020,219	10,276,849	2,743,370	23,661	79%	75%
Rents & Annuities	647,010	4,807,350	-	(6,517)	5,460,877	4,703,508	757,370	-	86%	87%
Housing Loans	131,912	334,015	-	-	465,927	391,461	74,466	-	84%	71%

Recourse to Overdraft;

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

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Forward Planning

Two Year Progress Report on the Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028

The *Two Year Progress Report on the Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028* was formally presented to Members at the July Plenary meeting.

Roscommon Town Local Area Plan 2024-2030

The final stage in the process of making the *Roscommon Town Local Area Plan 2024-2030* occurred in July. Following the issuing of the *Chief Executive's Report on Submissions Received on the Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Roscommon Town Local Area Plan*, Members of the Roscommon Municipal District held a Special Meeting on July 25th 2024, at which they formally considered the report and thereafter agreed to make the Plan. In accordance with statutory requirements, the Plan as made was submitted (within 5 working days of that date) to the Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) for consideration.

Under Section 31 (AO) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), the OPR subsequently made a recommendation to the Minister of State for Local Government and Planning, in relation to the zoning (through the material alteration process) of two particular pockets of lands in the LAP. On foot of this, a Draft Ministerial Direction issued from the Minister on September 4th 2024, indicating the Ministers' intention to issue a Direction requiring the deletion of the two material alterations. A statutory two week period of public consultation process commenced on the Draft Ministerial Direction on September 13th and concluded on September 27th. A report from the Chief Executive on the matter is required to be submitted to the Minister for final consideration, within 4 weeks of the close of the public consultation.

With the exception of the two parcels of land, which are the subject of the Draft Direction, the *Roscommon Town Local Area Plan 2024-2028* came into effect on September 5th 2024. The Plan (including the associated Environmental Reports) is available to view online on the *Roscommon Town LAP* section of the dedicated *County Development Plan* website (www.rosdevplan.ie).

Roscommon County Council submission to the public consultation on the Draft Revised National Planning Framework

The Forward Planning Section co-ordinated the preparation of the Council's submission to the nationwide public consultation on the *Draft Revision of the National Planning Framework*. As announced by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, the consultation period ran from July 10th to September 12th. The submission reflected input from the Management Team and the Council's Senior Co-Ordination Group in respect of key strategic issues, which warranted highlighting in the submission.

Development Management and Planning Enforcement Activity

The table below summarises Development Management activity in Q3 of 2024. The rate of new applications in Q3 was lower than the preceding quarter (179 in comparison to 205 in Q2) with the lowest numbers of applications being submitted during the traditional summer holiday season in August. Decisions issued on 111 planning applications during Q3, of which 100 (90%) were grants of permission.

Development Management Statistics

Period	Activity	Roscommon North	Roscommon South	Totals
Q3 2024	Valid Applications	85	57	142
	Invalid Applications	20	17	37
	Extension of Duration	0	0	0
	DED	27	15	42
	Pre-planning meeting	10	11	21

Enforcement Activity

Period	Activity	Countywide Totals
Q3 2024	New enforcement case	15
	General letter	35
	Warning letter	13
	Enforcement notice	1
	Closed case	18
	Legal proceedings	1

Unfinished Housing Developments (UHD)

Development activity in Q3 continued in a number of unfinished housing developments around the county - contractors engaged by Roscommon County Council were at work in three developments, in Athleague, Boyle and Tarmonbarry and developers continued to progress site resolution works at two developments, in Monksland and Boyle.

As part of the Taking in Charge (TIC) process, schedules for Tarmon Manor in Castlerea issued to Uisce Éireann for consideration in July and the development was subsequently referred to the Roads Department in August for progression to the final stage of the Taking in Charge process. The Larches in Lisacul was also referred to the Roads Department for this final stage of Taking in Charge.

A tender evaluation process was undertaken in August in respect of a contract for minor site resolution works at a development in Monksland, with the contract subsequently being awarded in September. In addition, a tender for surfacing and ancillary works at a development in Boyle was also advertised in September.

ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT PROMOTION

Local Enterprise Office:

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

14 TOVS have been approved in total for January to September 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 & September 19th. The next Remote Trading Online Voucher Information Seminar has been set for November 14th 2024.

- **Evaluation & Approvals Meeting:**

The next Evaluation Committee Meeting is scheduled to take place on 2nd October 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. 18 Green for Business applications have been approved from January to September 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 3 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 6 applications.

- **Microfinance:**

7 applications have been received and sent to MFI this year. 4 approved, 2 applications were declined and 1 application is up for decision. 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 849 participants have been facilitated in total from January to the end of September 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:**
17 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. 172 clients in total are being facilitated through One to One Mentoring sessions in 2024.
- **Enquiries:**
Appropriate support provided on an ongoing basis. 360 enquires were logged from January to September 2024.
- **Student Enterprise Programme:**
The programme for 2024/25 academic year recommenced in September with all 9 secondary schools registering to take part in the programme once again. In school workshops are ongoing and these are being delivered by Whizzkids Training.
- **National Enterprise Awards:**
This programme has concluded and will recommence in 2025.
- **Promotion:**
All LEO supports were promoted on the LEO website and on various social media platforms.
- **EI:**
LW continues to work with Meabh Conaghan, the new West Region Manager and Majella Maher.
- **IDA:**
LW is keeping the line of communication open between IDA, CE & Senior Management of RCC in the hope of encouraging FDI to Roscommon.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

LEADER Programme 2023-2027

- 3 additional projects submitted complete applications
- Administrative checks were carried out on a total of 4 LEADER projects in September

Monthly returns:

- Feb and March reviewed and submitted to Department for review and payment (€57,436.95)

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and LECP

- Last LCDC meeting took place on 18th September. It was the last 'in person' meeting of the year with many of the new representatives attending. Next LCDC Meeting is scheduled for 23rd October via MS Teams.
 - LCDC Guidelines review is being undertaken by the Department. All individuals aligned to the LCDC were asked to complete an on-line survey with feedback going directly to the Department.
 - Monitoring and update of LECP actions is underway. Goals 1,2,3 and 4 have been rolled out so far and the groups have been updating this with ease.
 - Empowering Communities Programme – Castle Hill, Castlerea
 - Recruitment is currently underway for 2 positions with interviews due to take place in October 2024
 - (i) Social Care Worker
 - (ii) Family Support Worker
- €60,000 has been paid to LEADER for this project. The 1st of 5 payments scheduled to be made over the next 3 years.
- Call for Applications - 2024 Dormant Account Funds, Action 6.3 National LGBTI+ Inclusion Strategy. Closing date 4th October.

Healthy Ireland

- Connect Café project now winding up, case study in development for national presentation on success of project in Co. Roscommon.
- Appeal lodged with Pobal to fund TY on yer bike programme, 500 eligible teenagers in Roscommon
- Engagement with Rural Youth Assembly programme to identify key areas for focus to support this cohort. Key requirement for additional Mental Health supports and programmes.
- Consultation for Healthy Roscommon Community Wellbeing Plan Completed. Feedback is currently being compiled.
- Attendance at National Healthy Ireland Team Planning Event, discussed Toolkit project, Support secured from WHO for the development of our Community Resilience Toolkit.
- Training for Health and Wellbeing Podcast completed, content calendar agreed to Dec 2024 and script development and recording commenced.
- Fit Farmers Age Action Award adjudications completed exploration of expansion of this project to be a priority given the huge impact of the programme on the target group.
- OECD Mission Visit workshop on wellbeing completed.
- Healthy Ireland at your Library to be represented on the Health and Wellbeing Subcommittee.
- Healthy Ireland initiative mapping tool currently being developed. Submission on current active initiatives in Roscommon submitted to Pobal for inclusion on the map.

SICAP

- Received extra 'New Arrivals' funding of €12,650 in August 2024. The revised SICAP Annual Plan 2024, taking account of this additional funding, was presented and approved by the full LCDC in September.
- SICAP Q4 funding of €188,035.75 & New Arrivals Q4 funding of €25,754.00 has been processed.

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

- The 6th Annual Roscommon/Longford Garda Youth Awards is due to take place on October 24th. The ceremony will be hosted by Roscommon County Council. Preparations for the event are currently under way. Judging of applications over three categories took place in early September.
- The property marking machine was used by the Ballaghaderreen Men's shed at the recent Global Rossie event in the town on 22.09.24. Members of the men's shed received training and so were in a position to facilitate themselves. The Deerpark/Tawnytaskin/Corrigeenroe Community Alert held a property marking event with the assistance of the Community Policing Unit members on the evening of the 29.9.2024 at Corrigeenroe

Comhairle Na nÓg

- Comhairle na nÓg new brand and website was launched on Teams on 10/09/24.
- Comhairle na nÓg's third Steering Group meeting for 2024 was held in the Council Chamber, Áras an Chontae on 13/09/24.
- Comhairle na nÓg Organisers Event was held in the Dept of Children on 27/09/24 where Roscommon was represented.

Community Recognition Fund 2023 (CRF)

- All remaining projects are progressing well. The CRF team are working closely with the community groups to ensure the remaining projects will be complete by mid-October.

Community Recognition Fund 2024 (CRF)

- Projects approved under window 1 of CRF funding are ongoing.
- A call for Expressions of Interest under window 3 of CRF funding will be made in December of this year

Local Enhancement Programme 2024

- 62 Projects have been paid with a further 51 projects on track to be completed by the end of the year.

Age Friendly

- Roscommon's Fit Farmers programme was successful in being shortlisted for a National Age Friendly Award. The Awards Ceremony will take place in Dublin in November 2024.
- Preparations ongoing for our Walkability Audit of Carrick on Shannon Train Station.
- The Age Friendly Awards Adjudication was in Moore Community Centre on 18/09/24. The judges were formally welcomed by Cllr. Larry Brennan, Leas Cathaoirleach and Mark Keaveney, Director of Services, Community Section. Laura Tully, Roscommon Fit Farmers did the presentation with two of her 'fit farmers'.

- Fourteen Rossies attended an Age Friendly Sports Taster event in the Sports Arena, Dublin. We travelled on the Kilbride community bus. Paddy Joe Burke our Age Friendly Ambassador was the keynote speaker.

Social Inclusion Unit

- The structure in the square was lit in blue to support the “Shine a Blue Light on Sign Languages”.
- Roscommon Women’s Network were financially supported, in respect of their ‘Intercultural Tapestry’ with final payment made in September.

PPN

- PPN staff presented to public officials at a Leinster House meeting (Budget 2025 discussions) and lobbied for additional funding for PPN’s in 2025
- PPN staff attended a meeting in Sligo to explore regional training collaborations with fellow PPN’s from the north western area
- Continued collaboration with RCC IT Staff on streamlining of online grants portal for community groups. Pilot Testing is now underway
- Supported and Exhibited at various local community initiatives including the Rural Youth Assembly and RSS events in Kilbride.
- Collaborated with RCC Corporate Unit to support development of new SPC scheme and finalising nomination requirements of relevance to PPN.
- Supported RCC Healthy Ireland Staff on engagement with communities for development of new Healthy Roscommon Community Wellbeing Plan
- PPN delivered social media upskilling training for community groups in Hannons Hotel, Roscommon on September 24th
- Continued dissemination of funding and capacity building opportunities to PPN members via monthly newsletters, emails and online posts.
- PPN is now supporting over 400 Groups in County Roscommon.

HERITAGE

100 Roscommon Graveyards: Ongoing

Royal Sites of Ireland UNESCO Bid: Working Group met on 03/09/2024. Items for discussion were the MOU, Royal Sites Mapping, Shared Island funding opportunities. Caitríona O’Connor has been appointed as RSOI Project Co-ordinator joined the meeting, she visited Rathcroghan on 23/09/2024.

County Roscommon Heritage Forum: Meeting 3/2024 took place in Strokestown Park on 09/09/2024. New RCC Biodiversity Officer Gerard Hannon was introduced. John O’Brien consultant facilitated a discussion on the preparation of the new Co. Roscommon Heritage Strategy

County Roscommon Heritage Strategy 2025-2030: Ongoing.

Built Heritage Investment Scheme: Progress report submitted to DHLG&H 13/09/2024

Historic Structures Fund: Progress report submitted to DHLG&H 13/09/2024

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

- **Community Archaeology Funding Stream:** Rathcroghan Royal Roots programme confirmed and commenced. Deliverables: ‘go-along farm walks’ with former Farming Rathcroghan EIP project farmers, kids camp, archaeology publication and associated social media posts.
- **County Heritage Plan Engagement Programme:** work ongoing on delivery of the programme:
 - **Roscommon Holy Wells** – project delivered. Exhibition available to travel.
 - **National Heritage Week** – delivered. Collating event attendees numbers
 - **Review of Co. Roscommon Folklore & Oral History Collection** – ongoing
 - **Roscommon Field Names** – actions delivered for 2024 under review for 2025
 - **Graveyards Seminar** – delivered
 - **Know your Locality** – delivered
 - **100 Roscommon Graveyards** – ongoing as mentioned above.
 - **Graveyard Recording** – not delivered yet
 - **Consultancy** for Heritage Strategy - ongoing

Local Biodiversity Action Fund: 6 x applications were awarded €88,161 from the DHLG&H. Projects will be delivered and the LBAF recoupment claim completed by the new RCC Biodiversity Officer who took up post 02/09/2024. A hand over meeting took place on 04/09/2024

Community Monuments Fund: 4 x projects, total allocation €260,000:

- Cloonshanville Abbey Conservation Project Phase 1 €100,000: Contractor being appointed.
- Kilronan Abbey Conservation Management Plan €30,000: Appointment Consultant for preparation of a Conservation Management Plan for Kilronan Abbey & Graveyard is underway
- Kiltullagh Church Conservation Management Plan €30,000: Underway.
- Ballintober Castle Phase 2 conservation Works – €100,000. Contractor is on site and works have commenced. This is a Ballintubber Development Association project.

Farming Rathcroghan Operational Group: NA

Roscommon County Council Civic Memorials Policy: Online application being prepared.

Heritage Ireland 2030: Attended seminar in Dublin 11/09/2024

Heritage Training & Development Programme: Attended meeting in Co. Galway on 18/09/2024 & 19/09/2024

Military Tourism: Attended meeting in Belfast on 26/09/2024. Project proposal to be prepared by committee chaired by Irish Heritage Trust.

Heritage Office News: 82 emails circulated so far in 2024.

Social Media Posts: 37 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

- Beara Breifne Way Management Project workshop & webinars attended
- Athlone.ie meetings attended
- Military Tourism initiative - Attended meeting in Belfast with the Irish Heritage Trust
- Milwaukee Irish festival regional showcase development meetings attended

County

- Visit Roscommon Marketing & Promotion ongoing – outdoor recreation campaign in development
- Roscommon Christmas Festival Preparatory meetings attended
- Roscommon Tourism Strategy 2024-2029 – development ongoing
- Roscommon Bound Campaign & Global Rossie Day rolled out
- Destination Boyle Project ongoing – installation of signage underway
- Just Transition Fund State applications work ongoing

Just Transition Fund Tourism Activator

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

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

Engagement levels:

1. No of Community Groups engaged: 11
2. No. of Private Businesses engaged: 72
3. Overall Attendance at information evenings: 70
4. Number of face to face meetings conducted: 65

Statistics:

- 31 Expressions of Interest currently 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.
- 13 Digital Transformation Projects have been deemed eligible and are being brought forward through this process by Fáilte Ireland.
- 2 applications for Micro Funding- under €10,000 have been submitted for Evaluation by Failte Ireland
- 6 applications in excess of €10,000 submitted for Evaluation to Failte Ireland
- 13 Expressions of interest submitted currently awaiting evaluation after further information requests.

Currently the Tourism activator is working closely with applicants to submit strong applications for funding as well as working on a roadmap for the development of a Tourism Network encompassing the new tourism providers within the County.

ARTS OFFICE

Culture Night, September 20th

1650 audience - 29 events - 20 venues – 11 locations county-wide

Arts Participation– ongoing including CARE Programme (Creative Ageing in Roscommon)

Roscommon County Youth Theatre – Term 1 commenced at Roscommon Arts Centre

Creative Places Ballaghaderreen – ongoing research – working with Artist Researchers and Ballaghaderreen Steering Group & Communities incl. local artist engagement, workshops, events as part of **Culture Night** and **Global Rossie Programme**.

Annual Funding Application to Arts Council of Ireland

Public Art Programme in collaboration with Regeneration – Currently: ORIS Mote Park, URDF Roscommon Town Square Sculpture & Living Laneways ongoing.

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.

- **Commemorations Programme** ongoing
- **Mayo Roscommon: Care & Creativity in Context** – artists contracted/training for MR Hospice, Nursing Homes, Hospitals, Private homes. Working with Irish Hospice Foundation.
- **Cultural Companions** – programme of day-time arts events for older people county-wide

ROSCOMMON ARTS CENTRE

Monthly programme contributes to an inclusive and vibrant arts space for artists and audiences through Performances in the Theatre; Gallery (Exhibition by artist Naomi Draper followed by Timelines Tapestry Group Exhibition & Talks Programme, curated by Frances Crowe); Outreach & Engagement (such as Artist in Residence Programme); Artist Supports (Artist Café etc).

Annual Funding Application to Arts Council of Ireland

Third Box Office Assistant recruited and will commence in October.

King House/Douglas Hyde Centre

Ongoing tours, group bookings, events, meetings.

Final RRDF Energy Upgrades & Works.

An Ríoga

- **In These Rooms** Exhibition by artist Greer Mac Keogh (Creative Ireland funding) until September 15th
- **New Art Gallery** return to Ground Floor Exhibition Space for Culture Night

REGENERATION UNIT

Urban Regeneration Development Fund

Roscommon Public Realm Enhancement Project:

- Works ongoing on Mosaic laneway works & Sculpture Piece for Market Square, which are scheduled for completion in Q4 2024.

Putting the Spokes back into the Wheel URDF

- Detailed design works for Roscommon Town Centre East is approaching completion with approval request to URDF to allow construction tenders to be published in Qtr 4 2024. Subject to approval we expect construction works to commence in Qtr 2 of 2025. Part 8 for Roscommon Town Centre West Project approved in September 2024 with work on detailed design phase now commenced.

URDF Call 3 Revolving Fund

- 3 approved sites have been activated
- Engaged with property owners for 2 further sites are ongoing.
- 1 further site has now been approved for inclusion in the scheme by the Department

Rural Regeneration Development Fund

C1 Monksland Life Sciences Hub

- Ground Floor Works now complete
- Fit out works to the 01st floor has commenced with an with expected completion date of Qtr 1 2025.

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

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

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 scheduled for Q1 2025.

C1 Strokestown Bawn St Public Realm Project

- Subject to Gateway Approval from RRDF the Construction Tender Pack is expected to be published in Q4 2024 with a view to commencing works on site in Q2 2025.

C1 2022 Boyle Community Library

- Subject to Gateway Approval from RRDF the Construction Tender Pack is expected to be published in Q4 2024 with a view to commencing works on site in Q2 2025.

Town and Village 2021

Monksland

- Construction works ongoing with scheduled completion date of December 2024

Roscommon Bound

- Project Strategy Document Complete
- Roscommon Bound Project complete and Global Rossie Day delivered

Town and Village 2022

Arigna

- Construction works on the public sports park have commenced with expected completion date of Q1 2025.

Cootehall

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

Ballinagare

- A planning application has been lodged with Planning Section of RCC & is currently under consideration.

Town and Village 2023

Ballaghaderreen Plots

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

Castleplunkett

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

Monksland

- Construction works ongoing on site with an expected completion date of Dec 2024.

Destination Towns

- Works on this Fáilte Ireland funded Destination Town public realm project are essentially complete once new signage has been installed which will be done so by year-end 2024.

Outdoor Recreation 2020

Measure 3 Mote Park

- Walking trails and car parking substantially complete.
- Revised Cycle Route to be implemented with related signage to be installed by year-end 2024.

Outdoor Recreation 2021

Ballintubber/Ballymoe Waterway and Looped Cycleway

- The project is substantially complete has a scheduled completion date of Q4 2024.

Arigna Energy Inclusive Park and Miner's Trail

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

Outdoor Recreation 2022

Measure 2 North Roscommon Accessible for all Water Launch Systems

- This project is fully complete.

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

- Work on Sensory Sculptures is underway with delivery to site expected in Qtr 4, 2024.
- Play Equipment is expected to be installed by Qtr 4, 2024.

Measure 3 Rathcroghan Archaeological Looped Trails.

- Construction works on installation of field styles is ongoing and scheduled to be completed in Q4 of 2024.
- Parking layby design is approaching completion with construction to commence in Qtr 1 2025.

Outdoor Recreation 2023

Project Development Measures

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

- Athleague Looped Walk – Consultant appointed and feasibility study is underway.
- Castlerea Riverside Boardwalk – Process to engage a consultant is ongoing.

Clár 2023

- 15 project has been approved for funding.
- 2 projects fully complete with remaining 13 projects all underway at a variety of stages from initial procurement through to construction.

Clár 2024

- Department have announced that all 15 CLAR Applications submitted have been approved for funding. Letters of offer and funding agreements to issue in due course.

THRIVE

- Consultants are in the process of being appointed to progress integrated urban strategy for Roscommon Town and complete the Planning and Design phase.

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

- Consultants have been appointed to progress the preliminary design and statutory consent phase of the iROS project.
- An application for LSSIF funding for the construction stage for the iRos Project in Roscommon Town has been submitted and is awaiting a decision.

EU Just Transition Fáilte Ireland

- Hodson Bay
Funding grant of just over €1m approved to progress the Planning and Design for the Hodson Bay Waterfront Park as outlined in the Hodson Bay Masterplan.
The procurement of a multi-disciplinary technical consultant to commence in Qtr 4, 2024.
- Lough Key Forest and Adventure Park Strategic Plan
Funding has been approved to Coillte to advance the planning and design for the Lough key Strategic Plan.
Roscommon County Council continue to work closely with Coillte to progress the project.
- Termonbarry Riverside Park
A funding application has been submitted to Fáilte Ireland and a decision is pending.

LIBRARY SERVICES

Roscommon Library Service Q3 2024

- In Q3 2024, **24,954** people visited library service points across the county
- **25,155** items were borrow from libraries
- Library members borrowed **1,870** eBooks and **4,097** eAudiobooks
- There were **197** events in libraries including **67** visits to branch libraries from local schools
- There were **4,298** internet sessions in libraries this quarter
- Our sensory spaces were used **3,139** times.
- Library events can now be booked in online through our [online events portal](#)

National Library Open Day

National Library Open Day was held on 28th of September. This day is a celebration of the valuable work of public libraries. Twelve events and drop-in sessions were held in Roscommon branch Libraries and the mobile library visited Elphin on the day. Events included storytime, jewellery making workshops, a Foróige VR/Animation showcase, drop-inboard game sessions, introduction to online resources with a 'Tea & Tablets' session and a coding workshop for children.

The public were also invited to drop in throughout the day where staff were on hand to chat to them about the many resources available. It was a great opportunity to showcase our branch libraries with special.



Sense-Ability aims to offer positive library experiences for people with sensory needs including those on the Autism Spectrum, those with Developmental Coordination Disorder/Dyspraxia, Attention Deficit Disorder, Dyslexia and other additional needs. Sense-Ability consists of in-branch facilities such as a sensory pod in Roscommon, a sensory Cubbie in Castlerea and an interactive 'magic table' in Boyle.

There is also a collection of sensory equipment and toys available to borrow from each of our service points. Sense-Ability is a popular resource and is used by parents/teachers and local groups. At Roscommon Towns recent first Pride Day we provided sensory packs for loan for the family fun day. This quarter, more than 3000 sessions took place in our sensory spaces in Roscommon, Boyle and Castlerea Libraries. <https://www.roscommoncoco.ie/Sense-Ability>

Right to Read

In line with the national Right to Read strategy, Roscommon Library Service has increased in resources and services targeted at literacy and reader development for both younger and adult library patrons. This includes:

- 3 new Creative Writing groups
- 1 new adult book club
- 2 new juvenile book clubs
- 2 new in-branch weekly story-times
- 1 monthly Irish language book club
- The Siarscéal Literary festival for Young Adults
- Acquisition and roll-out of Lexia Core5 and Lexia PowerUp (Online) resources
- Monthly Digital Drop-In Sessions for adults to promote greater digital literacy



Summer Stars is the free national reading programme for children that takes place in all public libraries and online each summer. It is designed to encourage that reading as leisure continues as a normal practice among younger people, outside the school year. This year it ran from 1st June – 31st August 2024. In Co. Roscommon this year, **1236** children joined and took part in Summer Stars, an increase of **340 or 28%** from 2023 and local children borrowed **10,851** items in the timeframe.

Online Literacy resources

Roscommon Library Service has an extensive range of online resources available to improve literacy and learning by adults and young people: [Online Resources - Roscommon County Council \(roscommoncoco.ie\)](https://www.roscommoncoco.ie)

Lexia is Roscommon Library's newest online literacy resource and is self-instructional tool designed for all ages.

Lexia Core5 Reading is suitable for primary school children and is an adaptive blended learning programme that accelerates the development of literacy skills for students of all abilities, helping them make that critical shift from learning to read to reading to learn. It provides a systematic and structured approach to six critical areas of reading: Phonological Awareness, Phonics, Structural Analysis, Automaticity/Fluency, Vocabulary and Comprehension.

Lexia PowerUp Literacy is suitable for post-primary children and adults. It accelerates basic reading abilities, as well as developing the higher order strategies required to comprehend increasingly complex texts. This online programme aims to enhance English Language instruction and drive the academic success of users. It offers personalised instruction in the following areas: Word Study, Grammar and Comprehension.

Currently, **110** young and adult patrons are using Lexia in Roscommon.

LOTE4Kids (Languages Other Than English) is our database of digital picture books, enabling children to enjoy the magic of books. LOTE for Kids is helping libraries to engage immigrant, refugee and multilingual families in their communities. The resource contains over 1500 digital picture books in 50+ languages (with English translations), with new books and languages being released each month. There are currently over 50 picture book bilingual titles for Ukrainian readers. In this quarter **60+** children in Co. Roscommon logged in to LOTE4kids – 50% to read books in Ukrainian, 20% Irish and 30% in French, Arabic and Mandarin.

Siarscéal Literary Festival

The public response to the Siarscéal Literary Festival was overwhelmingly positive this year. The festival's new creative coordinators Mary Branley and Sarah O'Keefe have taken it in a welcome, fresh direction from previous years, with a sharper focus on the needs of young adults. The festival, supported by Creative Ireland funding, was promoted extensively in advance through local and social media and engagement with schools and libraries. This year saw greater engagement by the libraries and arts offices of counties Leitrim and Sligo and 11 workshops were organized across the three western counties. The workshops covered creative writing, book-making, animation (for juvenile participants) and online publishing, with the end result of an impressive eZine of the participant's work. Over **180** young adults took part in Siarscéal events across the three counties. The festival ran from June to September 2024 and concluded in a Celebration Day, attended by over 40 people. The event was hosted in Roscommon County Library and involved the recording of the participants' finished work and their combination with live music. The day was covered for local media by Roscommon County Council's Communication's Officer, library social media live-streaming and each of the participants were individually interviewed by Ros FM, for broadcast by the stations Arts programme in coming weeks. An impressive new website for Siarscéal was also created - [Siarsceal Website \(sarscealfestival.com\)](https://sarscealfestival.com)



Little Library Book Bags - The Little Library Book Bag Initiative is part of a wide-ranging strategy – held in collaboration with the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY), the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) and the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) – and addressing various aspects of the lives of children from birth to age five including supports for parent-infant bonding, developments in early learning and care and health initiatives. It is designed to promote parental and child engagement with library services, the transition to school and Parent-child engagement through reading and on children’s independent reading

The scheme was accompanied by an extensive promotional campaign in Co. Roscommon, in late August-early September through local radio, newspapers, social media and engagement with all county national schools and early learning centres. The bags come with books in either English or Irish, and free library membership, for the library’s newest members. To date (1 October 2024) **182** Little Library Book Bags have distributed to children in Co. Roscommon, including **18** Irish language bags.

Accessibility Measures

Through the supports of the Dormant Accounts Fund, adjustable height desks and ergonomic computer chairs have been purchased to make our library spaces more accessible. The funding also supported the purchase of rollators that can be used by people with mobility issues to help them navigate through the library, browse and select items and carry books.

Roscommon Sports Partnership Collaboration

Since its launch during the summer the Activator pole lending service, supported by the Community Recognition Fund, has proven very popular with library users. **110** sets of poles have been borrowed to date from local libraries. In order to borrow a set of poles, a taster course must be completed with Roscommon Sports Partnership. In collaboration with Roscommon Sports Partnership the library service is now also lending ‘Boccia’ accessible bowling equipment and Playground Stencils. The stencils allow a sustainable, reusable way of refreshing or upgrading school or community spaces and have already been used by some local schools.



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.

19 = homeless cases presented in Q3, 2024

10 = cases required short-term accommodation in Q3, 2024

Breakdown Homeless figures Q3 2024				
Presentations	Individuals	Families	Totals Households	Breakdown of Family unit
July	6	5	5	3A & 0C 1A & 4C 2A & 3C 1A & 5C 2A & 1C
August	9	4	4	2 A
September	4	4	4	2A 1A & 1 C

Accommodated	Individuals	Families	Totals Households	Breakdown of Family unit
July	3	0	0	3A
August	4	1	1	2A
September	3	2	2	1A & 2C 1A & 1C

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

To date, 14 referrals have been forwarded to the HAT for consideration. Three referrals were accepted for Housing-Led services, one remains in this service with supports, one tenancy failed and one no longer requires support. Nine referrals have been accepted for Housing First Services. At present, there are five Housing First Tenancies. Other units of accommodation are currently being identified for the creation of further Housing First tenancies and Housing-Led tenancies. One housing first tenancy was created in Q3, 2024.

1.2 Housing Assessments & Allocations

336	applicants (excluding transfers) on the approved housing list at end of Q3, 2024
122	applicants are currently in private rented accommodation with no housing support
46	offers of accommodation made in Q3, 2024
0	nominations made to AHB Q3, 2024
37	new tenants appointed/allocated in Q3, 2024 to LA dwellings
0	AHB Tenants appointed in Q3, 2024
6	refusals recorded in Q3, 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 September 2024, there are 329 households receiving support (217 private rented and 112 in voluntary housing).

2.2 Housing Assistance Payment (HAP):

As of 30th September, 2024, there were 363 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)

100	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 September, 2024, Roscommon County Council has 4 long-term leases: 3 in Boyle Town and 1 in Roscommon Town.
- As of 30th September, 2024 Roscommon County Council has 80 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 September, 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 and tenanted in Q3 2024
- 12 units at Lisnamult, Ardnanagh, Roscommon – Works commenced in Q1 2023. Completed and tenanted in Q3 2024

- 4 Units at Cortober, Carrick on Shannon – Project awarded, start date July 2024. Anticipated completion Q3 2025.

- 16 Units at Curlew View, Boyle. Contract awarded. Works have commenced. Anticipated completion date Q3 2025.

- 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 – Moving to design stage. Anticipated completion date Q4 2025.

- 1 unit at An Tarras, Ballaghaderreen – Anticipated completion date Q4 2024.

- 3 Units at Elphin Street, Strokestown – Project awarded. Works commenced on site in Q3 2024.

- 4 Units at Elphin Courthouse, Elphin – Contract awarded. Works have commenced. Anticipated completion date Q3 2025.

- 1 Modular Unit at Dysart – Anticipated completion date Q4 2024.

- 8 units at Athleague – Anticipated completion date Q4 2024.

- 2 units at Old Tuam Road, Monksland – Anticipated completion date 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.
- Co-operative Housing Ireland (CHI) expected to deliver 4 units in Boyle Town in Qtr 1 of 2025.
- RCC liaising with Sophia Housing to deliver 4 units under the Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) in the Castlerea area
- RCC liaising with Roscara Housing to deliver 4 units under the Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) in the Castlerea area

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) with 2 more expected to be acquired by the end of the year. Plans to develop these properties will proceed through the four-stage process.

3.3.2 - Acquisition Programme

As of 30th September, 2024, Roscommon County Council acquired 8 houses under the acquisition programme. Houses acquired for the following reasons:

- Tenants in-Situ 6
- Risk of Homelessness 1
- Specific Need 1

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

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

3.3.3 – Derelict Sites and Dangerous Structures

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 been 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 with 12,250 due for payment 11/10/24. 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, Killybegs – Two 2 beds will no longer satisfy the need for the families on this site. A new Stage 1 application for 5 no. four bedroom units was submitted for approval to the Department in Q1 2024.
- Torpan Beg, Ballyforan - 3 extensions to existing units. Closing date for tenders was 02/10/2024. Two tenders received and they are currently being assessed.
- 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 September 2024, tenant purchase statistics were as follows:

306	applications received to date (5 received in Q3)
183	offers made to date (1 offers made in Q3)
119	offers accepted to date (2 offers accepted in Q3)
82	sales completed to date (7 houses sold in Q3)

There were €505,670.00 proceeds from sales during Q3 2024.

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
- 509 inspections were carried out to end of Quarter 3
-

5.0 Housing Stock

5.1 Energy Efficiency Programme (retrofitting existing stock)

Under Circular 07/2024, Roscommon County Council have been requested to deliver 38 units under the ERP scheme for 2024. 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, works have started and are ongoing at present.

5.2 Voids Programme:

Roscommon County Council have completed 17 voids under the 2024 voids programme. 13 have been claimed to date, there is currently a shortfall of 9 units. Workload of contractors is an issue.

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

5.5 Housing Maintenance

RCC Housing received 293 maintenance calls in Q3, 2024, billed expenditure on maintenance works during the same period was €124,650.18.

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 €1,914,000 over the three schemes.

RCC received a budget allocation of €587,874 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 €486,000.

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 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	Refused	Withdrawn	Approved	Grant Funding Issued
343	15 Does not meet criteria of scheme	45	182	31 €1,715,551.96 Paid

Local Authority Integration Team

LAIT

The LAIT continue to run clinics with IPAS accommodation centres and with the BOTP cohort in September there were;

- 9 Clinics held in with 49 people engaged
- Individual follow up completed for each of the 49 people, ranging from 1 – 4 interventions per person.
- New IPAS opened in Castlerea with 27 residents. DOS and LAIT were on site to welcome them on arrival date. LAIT met residents individually over the week and linked them to appropriate services.

The main issues raised were in relation to:

- English Classes
- Employment
- Education
- Social activities
- Accommodation queries

LAIT are members of the Co Roscommon Parenting Strategy subgroup and convened a focus group with IPA parents to ensure their voices/needs were included in the strategy.

LAIT in conjunction with the Volunteer Centre and New Communities delivered a successful Culture Night Event on September 20th.

LAIT Integration Workers Network met and have identified common areas of work– this network is a subcommittee of the CIF.

LAIT met with National Youth Council of Ireland to harness opportunities of joint working. Staff completed First Aid, Child Safeguarding, Hope & Courage, GDPR and Personal Safety in the workplace training.

LAIT continue to participate on relevant committees and referred LAIT cohort to community services and organisations.

There are current 6 IPAS Centres and 1 centre for Programme Refugees and 12 BOTP congregated setting across Co Roscommon. In addition to the clinics LAIT engage with centre management weekly and support them with queries.

Offer a Home

The Offer a Home programme was launched on 24th Nov, 2023. Offers of accommodation can be made via Offer a Home website and this will be followed up with an inspection to determine the suitability of the property. The Offer a Home Programme has now been extended to March, 2025 and in agreement with the owners of the properties and the occupants we are renewing all the contracts to this date.

To-date

- 316 properties have been offered in Co. Roscommon.
- 220 properties have been allocated to Ukrainian families. (678 persons)

There are approximately 1702 Ukrainians in the County. There are 585 in Serviced accommodation, 678 accommodated under the Offer a Home programme and 91 in accommodation provided by other organisations such as the Irish Red Cross and Helping Irish Hosts. Therefore, there appears to be a cohort of individuals living in accommodation that have not come to our attention. There are 12 accommodation Service Providers in the County.

Emergency Refurbishment Ukraine Project (ERUP)

Emergency Refurbishment (Ukraine) Programme comprises two delivery strands, one of which is focused on buildings in public ownership and the other which supports owners of private buildings to refurbish them to the appropriate standard. All properties offered are subject to inspection and ongoing project oversight by the Local Authority, to ensure compliance, should they progress through the programme.

Decisions on which properties are suitable for progression through the programme are made by a LGMA. Decisions are based on criteria which include location, access to transport links and local amenities, value for money, future potential use, timeframe for delivery and capacity

There are two properties under this program to be delivered by 31/10/2024.

Doyles in Cootehall which comprises of 31 beds and

Croghan Old National School which comprises of 15 beds and this is due for completion in October 2024.

Both properties have approved bed management plans by LGMA & DECIDY.

These properties are within the village and are serviced by schools and a local link to larger towns.

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 have been completed with the support of Court Services.
- Improvement works to the Roscommon County Dog Pound have been completed with the support of Department of Rural and Community Development.
- Monksland Innovation Hub has been partially handed over to Assets and Energy Management and is currently being occupied on a short term lease to a multinational.

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.
- A digital Asset Management Software solution has been identified and is expected to generate substantial efficiencies for Roscommon County Council's estate management.

ENERGY

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

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

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

PUBLIC LIGHTING

- Ongoing repair and maintenance of school warning lights.
- Section 85 Agreement signed with Mayo County Council for the National LED Retrofit Project (PLEEP). Roscommon County forms part of Region 3 of the National Project.
- 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%.

ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE AND RURAL WATER UNIT

Rural Water

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

Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme 2019-2021

The Multi Annual Rural Water Programme (MARWP) 2019-2021 is a scheme specific or project based approach to funding from the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage. The Department has agreed that works continue under this programme until the new Rural Water funding programme is available later this year.

Rockfield - extra allocation secured in Apr 2024 to complete contract from Dept. and contractor is now appointed.

Woodbrook - extra allocation requested in 2023 to complete contract with further information requested by Dept.

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

Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI)

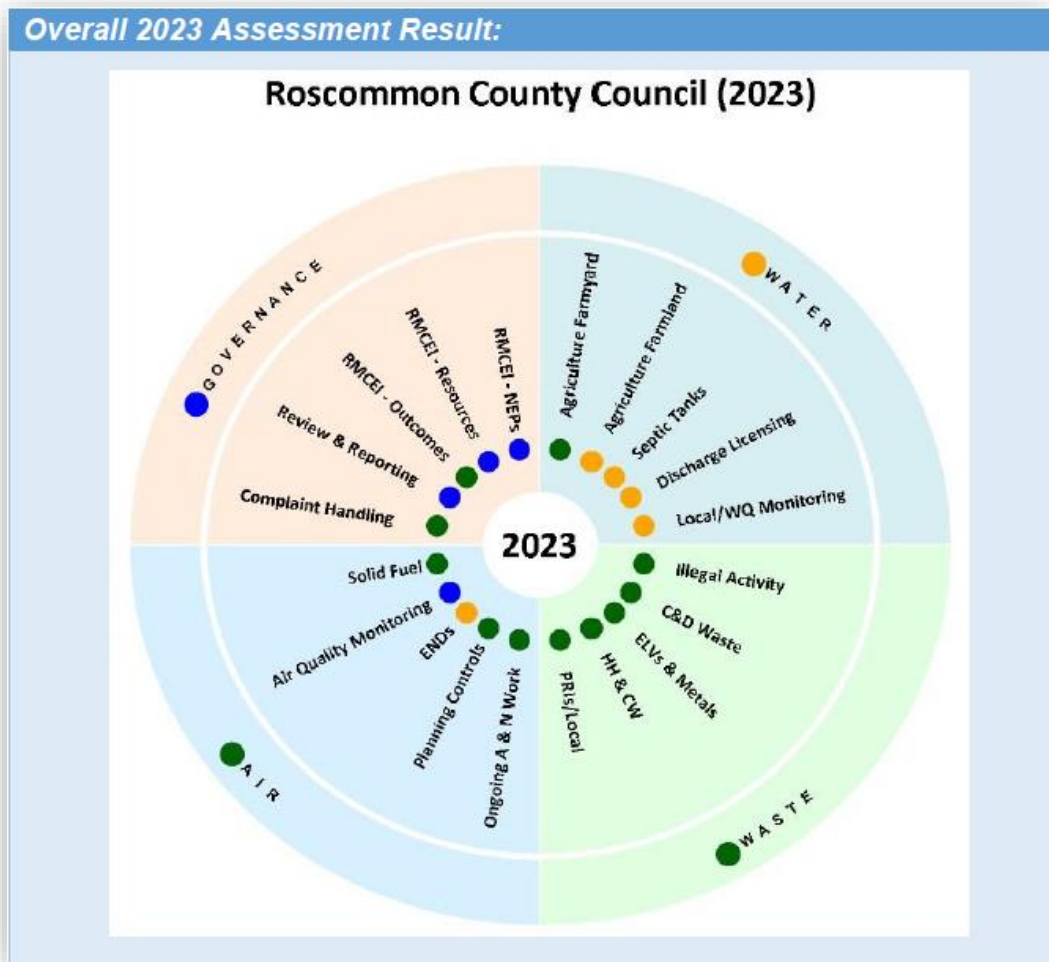
The RMCEI is an Environmental Inspection Plan detailing:

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

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

Roscommon County Council received their results for the 2023 RMCEI performance report in Q3. Roscommon County Council met the required standard of a Strong or Excellent result for 75% of the National Enforcement Priorities (NEPs) in 2023. The national average was 70%. Local authorities are expected to meet the required standard in 100% of the NEPs by the end of the 2022 – 2024 three-year cycle. Roscommon County Council is commended for achieving the required standard in 15 NEPs, including all five Waste NEPs. Greater focus is required in the Water and Air/Noise thematic areas where several Moderate results were recorded. Additional Staff are required in the Water and Air/Noise section in order to achieve this goal.

Environment Protection Agency - Local Authority Performance Framework Roscommon County Council 2023 Results



The scoring grades are broken down into the following four-point scale:

2023

● Excellent ● Strong ● Moderate ● Limited



2022



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 191 complaints received in Q3 2024, 171 complaints were inspected and 272 cases were closed. The majority of complaints relate to illegal dumping and littering.

Environmental Awareness

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

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

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

Green Business Hub: Signage, guidance and workshops are available to registered businesses in County Roscommon as part of the initiative to improve business waste segregation and recycling. Webinars are scheduled for Q4.

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

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

Greening Your Festival: Through this initiative 3 events have been supported to reduce their environmental impact. An event support pack and the loan of bins have been provided.

Gum Litter Taskforce (GLT) Summer Roadshow: The GLT Roadshow took place in Boyle on August 1st. This is an interactive roadshow that demonstrates the proper means of gum disposal and raise awareness of the environmental impacts of gum litter.

Media Campaigns

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

- WEEE Ireland – E-Waste/Battery recycling
- Management of Household Waste and Recycling

- Illegal Dumping
- Dog Fouling – “Bag it! Bin it”; provision of mutt mitt bags and dispensers (on request)
- Waste Presentation Bylaws
- Roadside Anti-Littering “Bin it or Bring it Home”
- Newspaper - (Roscommon People/Roscommon Herald) - Bulky Goods Collection Days, Green Business Hub, End of Life Vehicles
- Radio – Bulky Goods Collection Day at Castlerea Civic Amenity Site

Waste Collection and Civic Amenity Sites

Roscommon County Council operates four Civic Amenity Sites which are open to the public three days a week. Waste collected at all four sites is reflected in the National Waste Survey which was submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency. Waste collected at Roscommon and Ballaghaderreen sites is also reflected in the 2023 Environmental Performance Reporting (EPR) landfill returns which were submitted in February 2024.

Anti-Dumping Initiative 2024

In Q2 of this year following submission to CUWERLA of a number of proposed projects, RCC was advised of a grant in the amount of €101,500 for the above initiative.

The following projects were completed in Q3 with the final claim to be submitted in Q4 for this initiative:

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

Water, Wastewater, Air and Noise Pollution

1. Water quality – protect and restore water bodies, (rivers, lakes etc.) to at least good status remains a function of local authorities and it is highlighted as key area for Ireland to achieve objectives under the Water Framework Directive. The EPA have instructed that a minimum of 41 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.
2. Western ROC (regional operation committee) Water Framework Directive committee continue to meet and coordinate a number of national agencies in relation to implementation/progressing of water quality issues within the Western Region. Western ROC meeting held in August with a number of common water quality issues 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.

3. National Inspection plan for DWWTS – Inspection of open historic advisory notices are continuing in in Q3. 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 Q3 due change of staff. All staff within the water team have completed the relevant training to be a septic tank inspector with the completion of the course by the most recent member of the team.
4. High Status Objective Catchment Area (HSOCA) grants – public interest in the grant scheme available is high, with a number of queries progressing to the application stage. This has placed an increase burden of staff resources within the department under the grants scheme requirements.
5. Air Quality at monitoring station in Roscommon Town (adjacent to Aras an Chontae) remained at good quality for Q3.
6. Solid fuel regulation – In General limited solid fuels are used in Q3, enforcement action will be increased during Q4 2024 and Q1 2025.
7. Agricultural Inspections – Assistant Scientist has been appointed to carry out agriculture complaints and farm inspection program
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 Q3. The group are at an advanced stage of producing new training manuals and resources for all local authority enforcement staff.

Closed Landfill Sites

These landfill facilities have ceased accepting waste for landfill disposal but Waste Licences still remain in place for Ballaghaderreen and Roscommon Landfills and as per the conditions set out in the Licences, Roscommon County Council is obliged to continuously monitor environmental risks associated with the closed facilities (e.g., landfill gas, groundwater quality, surface water quality). Regular maintenance and servicing continues to take place.

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

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

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

Laboratory Services

The laboratory provides both a technical/analytical and sampling service and is accredited to ISO 17025 (one of only 6 Local Authority testing laboratories accredited to this standard). The laboratory provides a shared service to Local Authority's and LAWPRO in three provinces and continues to expand its customer base. Maintaining output is a primary concern. Laboratory accreditation audit by the Irish National Accreditation Board took place in Q3 2023. Enterococci was added to the scope of accreditation on this occasion.

Casual Trading

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

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

CLIMATE ACTION

Climate Action Team

There was a meeting of the Climate Action Team on 5th September, where the outstanding LACAP Actions for 2024 were reviewed and an outline of planned events for September provided, including the launches outlined below and associated events. The next meeting has been scheduled for 5th December.

Climate Action Unit

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr Pascal Fitzmaurice, launched the Decarbonisation Zone and Local Biodiversity Action Fund Project in Roscommon Town at a Climate Action Event on September 21st. Held in conjunction with Roscommon town Team and the "Global Rossie" event during Sustainable Development Goals Week, this provided the opportunity to engage with the public and provide information on climate action funding and supports available. Exhibitors included Roscommon LEADER Partnership, Roscommon Women's Network (CycleUp), Breeding Waders EIP, Celt Traditional Skills, Roscommon Sports Partnership and a selection of EVs for public viewing. Hedgerows Ireland conducted a woodland walk in the park for attendees.

The Climate Action unit continue to work with GRETB, Pobal and the housing section to progress the EV/Wind Turbine training course initiative over the coming months.

The Unit continued its public engagement and awareness campaign with a presentation at the Farming Rathcroghan conference during Heritage Week and representation at the Rediscovery Centre Expo in ATU on 13th September.

Community Climate Action Programme

The Community Climate Action Programme continues to be rolled out with 15 projects currently at project implementation stage with one project completing during September. Two further projects are currently at contracting stage with an announcement to follow of these successful groups when the grant agreements have been signed.

The Community Climate Action Officer was in attendance at the Sustainability event in Roscommon Town 28th September to discuss and encourage potential projects with community groups and also represented Roscommon at the CCAO Plenary meeting in Trinity College.

Sustainable Energy Communities

The Climate Action unit continues to engage with SEAI mentors on the expansion of the SEC programme in County Roscommon, with representatives in attendance at the Decarbonisation Zone Launch on 21st September. Upcoming joint plans include the development of a pilot register of interest in relation to home energy retrofits in Roscommon Town.

The climate action unit continues engagement with 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. The final Conference is due to be held in Tullamore in November.

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, installation of culverts, structures, utility diversions and accommodation works are progressing in line with programme.

N61 Junctions (St. Brigid's and St. John's)

Following the suspension of the N61 Ballymurray to Knockcroghery Project in 2022, TII provided funding to undertake a study of the N61 between Roscommon town and Athlone to develop an overall strategy to address the safety and related issues on this section of the N61. Roughan O' Donovan-Aecom Alliance were appointed to undertake the study and presented the findings to the Elected members of RCC in December 2023. The report identified 15 priority interventions and TII funding was sought in respect of five junction optimisation interventions. TII provided seed funding for 2 of the 5 junction optimisation schemes, namely St. Brigid's Junction Moyvannan and St. John's Junction Killighan & Gort in 2024. Background information in relation to landownership and topographical surveys have been completed. Tender documentation has been issued for the procurement of technical consultants to advance the projects, with appointments anticipated in October / November 2024.

N61 Tulsk to Clashaganny Road Project involves the realignment of approximately 4km of the N61 National Secondary route from Tulsk village to Clashaganny. A planning application in accordance with Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations was published in October 2022 and the proposed development was approved to proceed in accordance with the recommendation of the Chief Executive's report at the Plenary Meeting of Roscommon County Council held in February 2023. That decision has been the subject of a judicial review brought before the High Court and Roscommon County Council has agreed to the setting aside of the decision reached in February 2023. The further progression of the project 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 Q4 2024. Phase 3 Design & Environmental Evaluation will be advanced pending the completion of Phase 2.

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. TII advised Roscommon County Council on the 25th September 2024 that it was in order to proceed with the tender process in respect of projects included in the 2024 Pavement Project. The preparation of contract documentation for the N61 Fourmile House to Clashaganny pavement scheme is ongoing.

N4 Carrick on Shannon 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. The Phase 3 TII Peer Review is scheduled to take place in Q4 2024.

GREENWAY PROJECTS

Athlone to Ballyleague/Lanesborough Greenway Project involves the provision of a greenway which links into proposed Galway to Athlone cycleway scheme in the Athlone area. RPS has been appointed to progress project through Phase 0 Scope and Pre-Appraisal & Phase 1 Concept and Feasibility (TII Project Managers Manual for Greenway Projects). Phase 0 deliverables were completed in 2022. TII issued approval to proceed from Phase 0 to Phase 1 on 13/02/2023. Public Consultation No.1 took

place in the Hodson Bay Hotel in Hodson Bay, Athlone on 22nd March 2023. Phase 1 deliverables were completed during Q4 2023 and the Phase 1 Gate Review Statement has been issued to TII. RPS are finalising Addendum to Feasibility Report and have commenced Phase 2 – Options Selection.

Mid Shannon Greenway Project

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

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

ACTIVE TRAVEL PROJECTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

Local Improvement Scheme

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

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

16 projects received funding in 2024. The Council intend to advertise in early November/December for expressions of interest for 2025, subject to funding from the Department.

Active Travel Investment Programme

The Programme for Government, published in June 2020, set forth ambitious targets for the development of walking and cycling schemes. As part of this initiative, Roscommon County Council has been allocated €3,550,000 for 2024. This funding is designated for the fourth year of a five-year Active Travel Investment Programme, aiming to transform green and sustainable transport options in areas beyond large urban centres. The development of high-quality walking and cycling facilities will encourage more people to adopt active travel, contributing significantly to the fight against climate change. This funding will play a crucial role in connecting communities and making walking and cycling attractive, safe, and accessible for everyone.

Construction of the Ballagherreen Town Development scheme is continuing with works substantially complete on Pound Street (north), Cathedral Street (north) and Chapel Street. Consultants have been appointed for the Roscommon Town Schools Pedestrian/Cycle Bridge Link and have commenced the Feasibility and Options Selection phase of the project. Detailed design on the L7055 Ardsallagh Woods active travel scheme is been finalised. The Safe Routes to School (SRTS) scheme at St. Joseph's National School in Summerhill is substantially complete. Construction of the SRTS scheme at Coláiste Chiaráin is continuing and the project is expected to be completed in mid-November. Construction of the SRTS scheme at SN Cruachain, Croghan will commence in Q4. Design is ongoing for a further four schools under the SRTS programme.

Lough Funshinagh

Lough Funshinagh water levels remain at seasonal record high, exceeding 68 meters above ordinance datum presently. This is 0.7m higher than the same time last year.

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

- L-2005 Ballagh
- L-20051 Ballagh
- L-7731 Lisfelim/ Ardmullan

Roscommon County Council Actions:

- Pumping has been required at Ballagh throughout this summer; only ceasing at the start of October 2024.
- Following the extensive flooding this year the existing flood defences at individual properties require renewal ahead of next winter levels. RCC are OPW are awaiting approval from OPW for this work.
- In addition to progressing a long-term solution (permanent scheme) at Lough Funshinagh, it has been decided that a Temporary Pumping scheme should also be progressed to ensure RCC are able to maintain the defence of the properties under threat by the floods at Lough Funshinagh for the winter of 2024/2025.
- MWP have been reappointed as Engineers to progress Permanent Scheme, their brief was extended to assist with advancing the temporary scheme.
- Arup have been appointed as Environmental Consultants for the Permanent Scheme, their brief was also extended to assist with advancing the temporary scheme.
- Ryan Hanley's brief of baseline environmental surveys was extended to assist with advancing the temporary scheme.

- An application for the temporary scheme was submitted to An Bord Pleanála on the 20th September 2024, this has a consultation period open until 4th November 2024, after which time a decision will be made. There is no statutory period for this decision.
- RCC have a contract in place with a Pumping specialist to have equipment ready to deploy should ABP grant permission for the Temporary Scheme.
- In order to deploy the temporary scheme as quickly as possible if/when ABP grants consent RCC are in the process of procuring the following contracts:
 - Enabling works contractor to put the pumping system in place between Lough Funshinagh and the Cross River
 - Operation and maintenance contractor to operate the system once it is in place
 - Fencing Contactor to secure the lands for the system

CFRAM (Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management) Programme

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

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

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

Road Opening Licences

Excavations made in a public road or footpath require a Road Opening Licence. Applications for licences to open the public road are lodged through the central portal with the Road Management Office www.rmo.ie. The Roads Department processes the licences for County Roscommon from this portal and attaches conditions and fees to the licence. The number of new applications for Q3 2024 is 247.

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 27 Abnormal Load Permits to the end of Q3 2024.

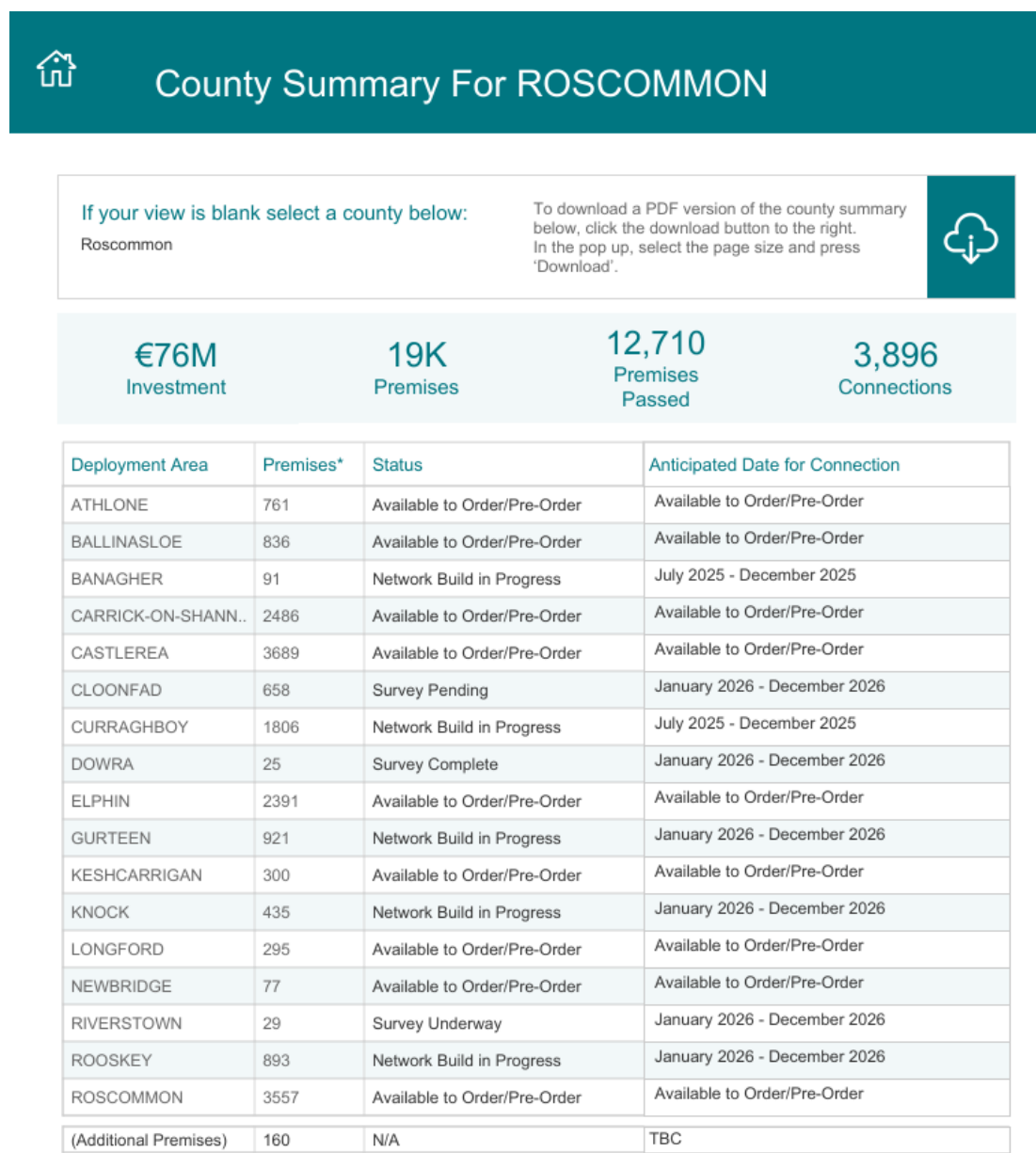
Broadband

NBI

Work continues with NBI staff regarding build designs with less S254 planning pole and overhead cable applications across the network than previous years (5 number applications so far this year) but more Road Opening licences for network build and new connections all processed by RCC Roads department.

Athlone, Ballinasloe, Castlerea, Carrick-on-Shannon, Elphin, Keshcarrigan, Longford, Newbridge & Roscommon are ready to Pre-order/ Order.

To date, end September 2024, in Roscommon, we have 66.89% of premises passed that equates to over 12,700 premises and almost 3900 connections.



Network Status chart above per NBI Deployment area. With 12,710 premises out of total 19,000 then that equates to 66.89% of premises passed.



Choose your county below for more details

Roscommon

[Go to County Summary](#)

Status Key

- Survey Pending
- Survey Underway
- Survey Complete
- Network Build in Progress
- Available to Pre-Order/Order

€76M
Investment

19K
Premises

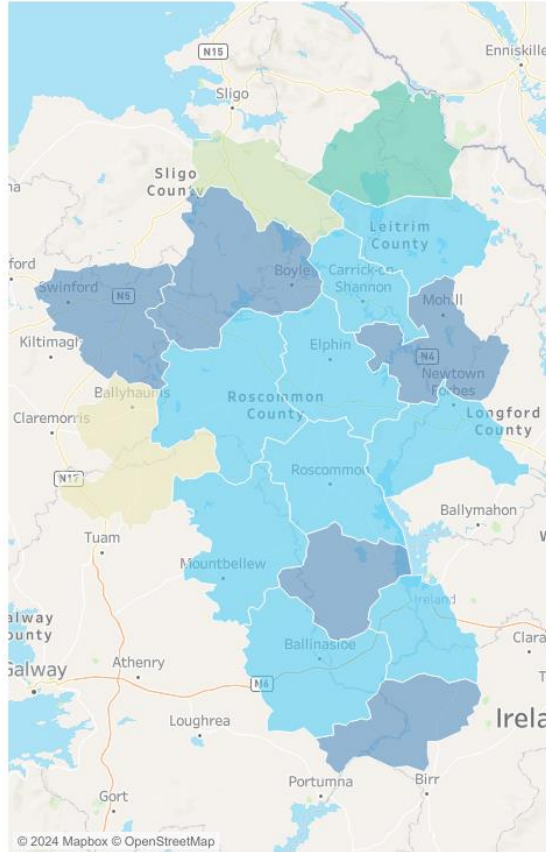
12,710
Premises Passed

3,896
Connections

Map of Deployment Areas by Status For ROSCOMMON

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

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



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

Q3 2024 had only two number S.254 T1 poles licences applications for a total of 3 poles and 1 number o/h cable application for 878 metres.

There were 156 number Road Opening Licences for NBI alone with 65 number RoLs coming from Eircom Ltd (Trading as Eir) and SIRO in delivery of NBP in the commercial blue areas in towns and villages.

NBI Deployment TOTAL LICENCES in Q3 2024	156
T1 -Notifications (2x s254 pole licence applications)	4
T2/T2' –Network Build	113
T3 - New Connections	39



Example of NBI longitudinal trench reinstatement above that is of a high standard and meets the requirements of the Purple Book standards



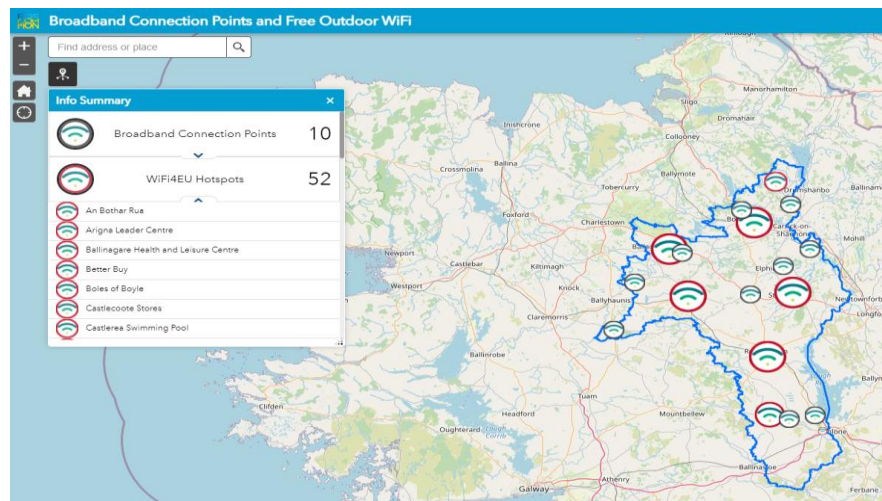
NBI verge excavation and reinstatement works above and all to minimum standards



NBI backfilling / compacting trench as per purple book specifications

WiFi4EU

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



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

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

Town	30 day traffic pre Sept 2024 (Mbytes)
Ballinlough	442541.1
Elphin 1	216336.7
Roscommon	181189.6
Boyle 2	92550.3
Athleague	72704.8
Cortober 1	68201.62858

	Castlerea	59232.7
	Roscommon	57549.5
	LoughKey forest Park	49806.6
	Ballaghaderreen	40495.3
	Strokestown	39701.7
	Castlerea	37842.0
	Ballaghaderreen	21805.7
	Boyle 1	20603.4
	Strokestown	19550.4
	Elphin 2	18927.2
	Tarmonbarry	16963.2
	Strokestown	16787.2
	Roscommon	16758.7
	Boyle 4	15129.4
	Ballaghaderreen	14235.1
	Monksland	13497.4
	French Park	12382.4
	Castlerea	12272.5
	Tulsk	11889.1
	Cortober 2	11579.7
	Castlerea	11122.9
	LoughKey forest Park	10812.6
	Ballaghaderreen	9762.8
	Roscommon	9638.6
	Rooskey	8792.2
	Boyle 3	6566.5
	Cootehall	5999.0
	Roscommon	5488.0
	Ballyfarnon	5324.4
	Ballyleague	5243.8
	Bellanagare	2830.7
	Knockcroghery	2707.9
	Arigna	1995.2
	Castlecoote	1911.3
	Dysart	1492.5
	Strokestown	1487.5
	Loughglynn	819.9
	Lecarrow	680.6
	Fourmilehouse	677.6
	Ballintubber	263.5

	Kilmurray	142.9
	Keadue	119.5
	Taughmaconnell	98.5
	Croghan	31.5
	Four Roads	17.9
	Curraghaboy	15.2

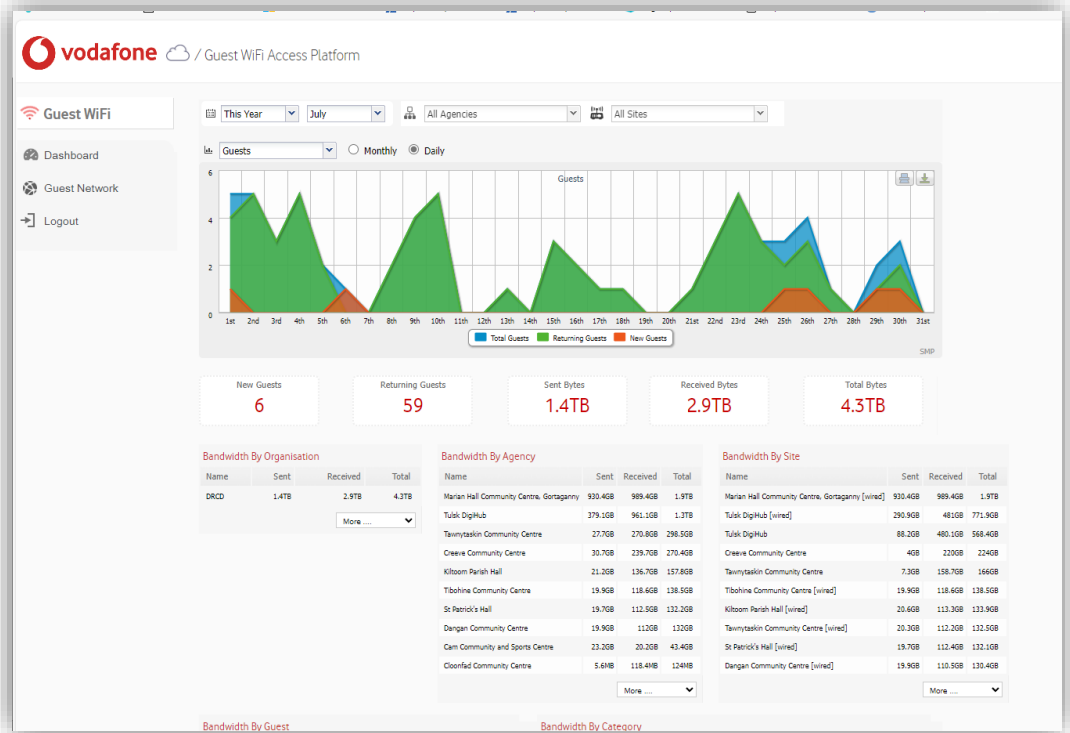
Broadband Connection Points (BCPs)

The RCC broadband office continues to liaise with our 10 number BCP facilities and source DRCD funding to develop their hub facilities on an ongoing basis. There were no revenue streams from Connected Hubs or Digital Innovation Program funds in 2024. The DRCD have confirmed their continued support for the BCPs by setting up a tender for new Firewall web security solutions for all of the near 300nr BCPs nationwide, including Roscommon’s 10 BCPs. The National Hub Strategy will also define support structures and encourage growth and stimulation of BCPs through thematic and training based funding / grants.

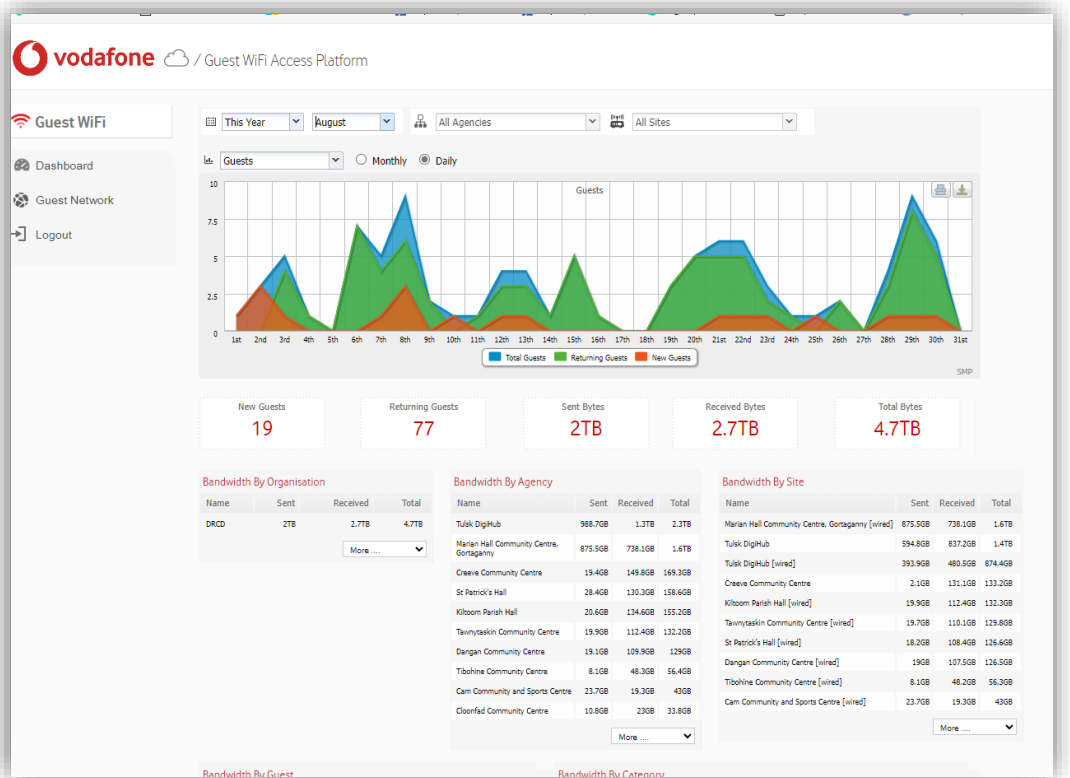


Again BCP usage has been sporadic and some BCPs have greater footfall than others. The metrics taken from the Vodafone Guest Wifi Access Platform allowing BBO private access to check guest numbers and usage in the 10 facilities.

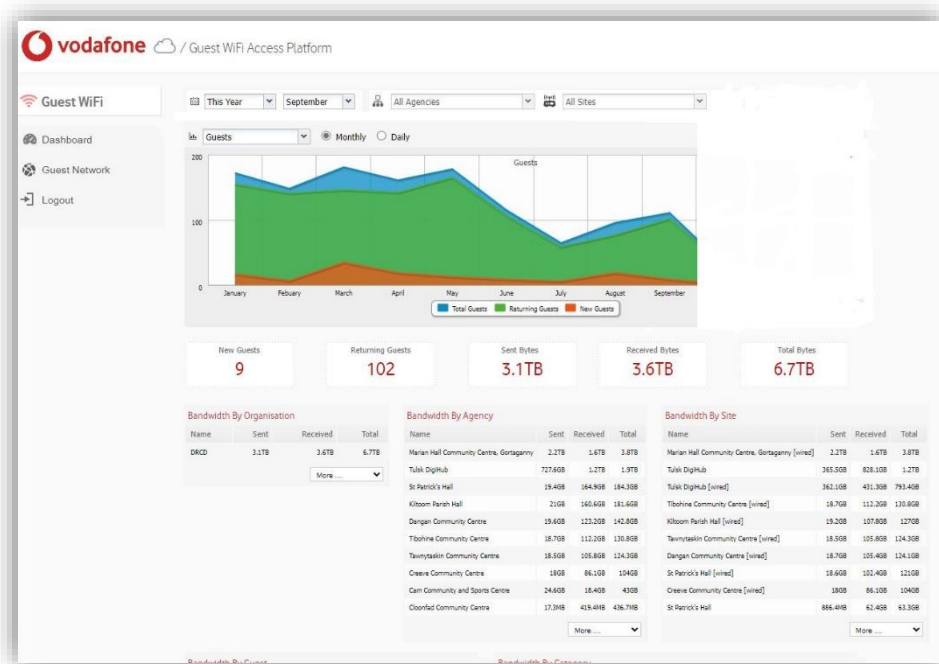
BCP USAGE BELOW FOR JULY 2024



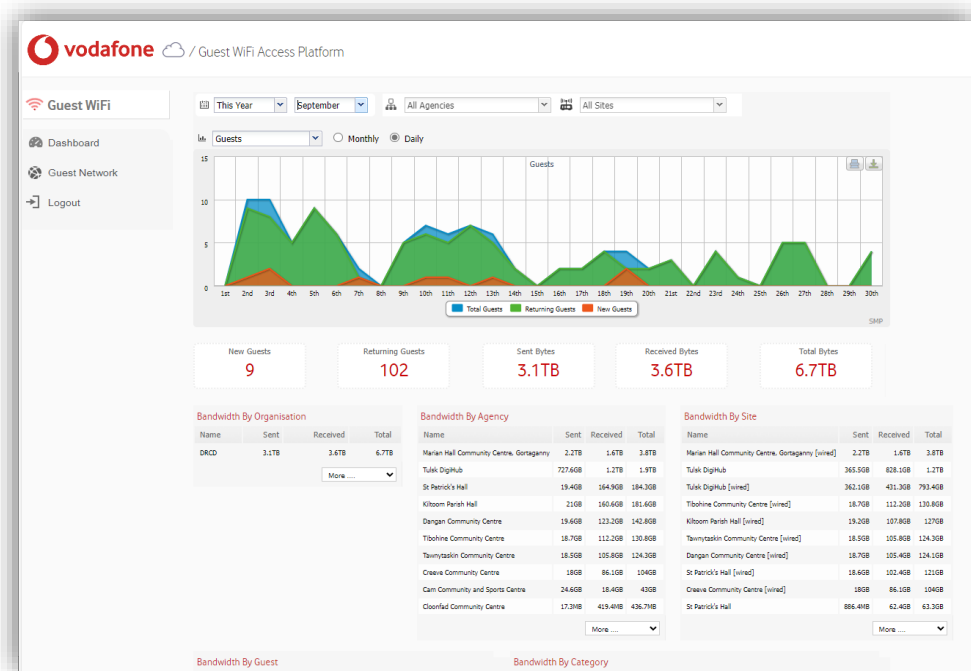
BCP USAGE BELOW FOR AUGUST 2024



BCP USAGE BELOW FOR SEPTEMBER 2024



BCP USAGE BELOW FROM JANUARY TO SEPTEMBER 2024



Out of 10 facilities, 9 have wired connections with only Cloonfad awaiting a wired connection and still operating on the original setup microwave dish connection.

Siro

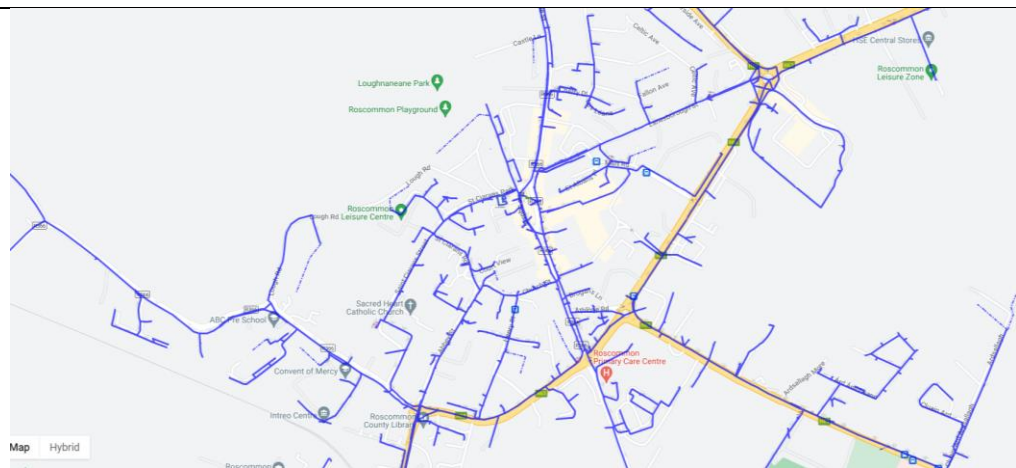
Siro are continuing their works countywide this year. Siro operate mainly off the ESB network of ducting and have a considerable number of homes and businesses connected to high speed fibre again this year.

**Eir/
OpenEIR /
Eircom,
SIRO**

Eircom (EIR) and SIRO have continued at pace their building programme and new connections to deliver high speed broadband in the commercial zone (area that had minimum of 30mb broadband speed when defining what was outside of state intervention area) but there are still some small areas within towns and villages that can only receive up to 100Mb as there are tracts of old copper lines remaining.

RCC continues to support this delivery of super-fast broadband in towns and villages by processing road opening licences in a timely manner for not just NBI but the other companies delivering the National Broadband Plan.

Eircom Ltd (Trading as Eir) TOTAL LICENCES in Q3 2024	61
T1 Notifications	3
T2/T2' –Network Build	37
T3/T4 - New Connections	21



Snap of Roscommon Town EIR ducting network

**MRL
Licencing**

MRL licences continued at pace in Q3 of 2024 with the bulk of the licences for following breakdown:-

Eircom Ltd (Trading as Eir)	61
SIRO	4
NBI Deployment	156
Total	221

There were 257 MRL road opening licences in Q3 2024 with Telecoms utility companies making up 85% of those so the majority of road and verge excavations are for the delivery of the National Broadband Plan. Road opening licence applications will continue at same or even increase in frequency as the number of s254 pole and cable licence applications reduce in next 6-9 months.

Coding in BCPs / Kids coding events

Q2 of 2024 saw the first Roscommon groups to participate in Microsoft Dreamspace Showcase event in Microsoft's Leopardstown, Dublin Headquarters in June of this year. The established coding clubs in the county continue to meet and collaborate on interesting coding projects and the experience of going to Microsoft will enable a group from Roscommon aiming to represent the county at the upcoming OurKidsCode STEAM Showcase day in TUS Tullamore on Saturday 16th November 2024.

