

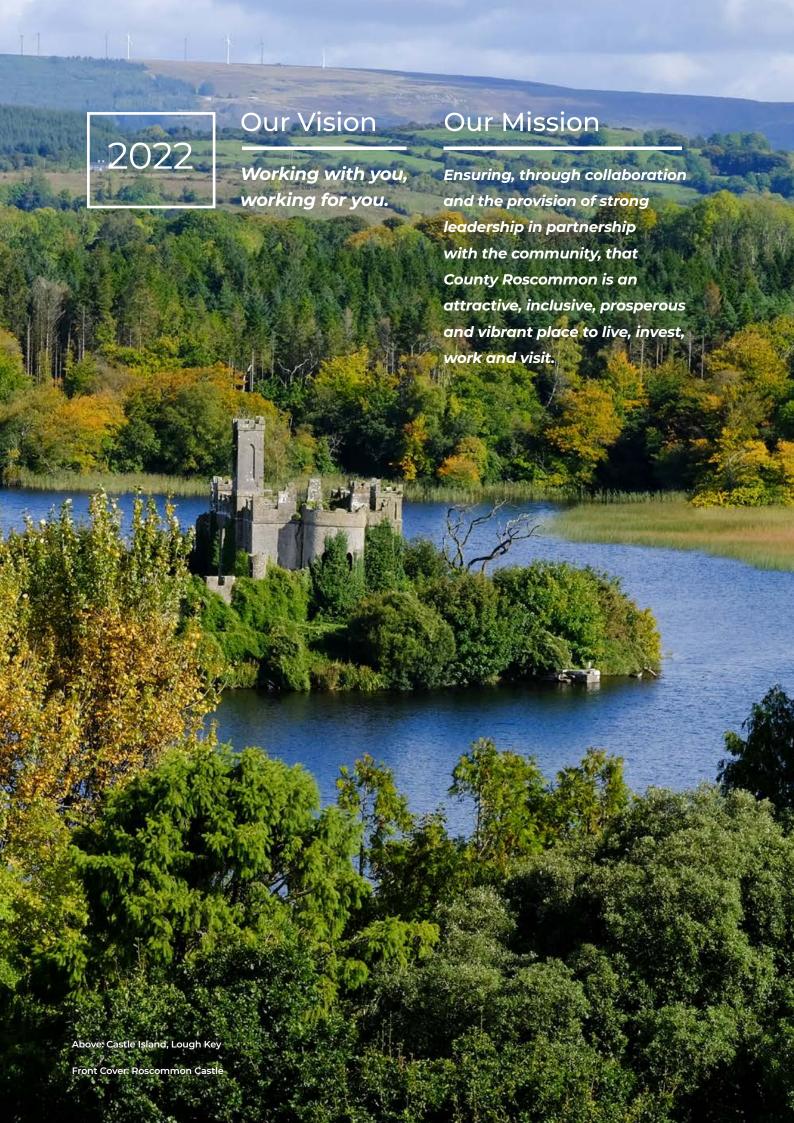


2022

Annual Report

Tuarascáil Bhliantúil





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Annual Report 2022

Introduction from Cathaoirleach and Chief Executive

We welcome the publication of this Annual Report as it provides the Council with an opportunity to highlight its many achievements and successes throughout 2022. For the previous 2 years, Annual Reports were published against the backdrop of the unprecedented Covid-19 health crisis and its devastating social and economic consequences. Thankfully, due to the historic roll out of a hugely successful vaccination programme, this 2022 Annual Report is being presented from a more positive post-pandemic perspective.

Without question, Covid-19 had a hugely detrimental impact on tourism and hospitality. Roscommon County Council recognises how crucial its tourism, heritage, arts and regeneration activities are to promoting sustainable recovery in these sectors. A Best of Roscommon networking event was therefore held in April 2022 to showcase all the county has to offer to potential tourists. Works, assisted by Destination Town funding, continued in Boyle with landscaping in the Pleasure Grounds and the installation of a Sculpture Trail. The Heritage Office, in conjunction with the County Roscommon Heritage Forum, continued its implementation of the County Roscommon Heritage Plan. The Arts Office maintained its support for the arts through developing partnerships and working collaboratively with a multitude of artists, agencies and communities across many areas including music, film, visual arts, literature, theatre and dance. Roscommon Arts Centre delivered a multi-faceted programme to an audience of over 100,000 people. Public realm works were completed under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund at the Market Square, Roscommon. A number of projects are underway throughout the county under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund. These include the redevelopment of the Royal Hotel site in Boyle into an enterprise centre and community space, the construction of the Monksland Sciences and Soft Landing Space and the implementation of the Rejuvenating Strokestown's Potential Project. Landscaping, public realm and signage works were carried out in 2022 at a number of locations under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme. Amenity works were also carried out in several areas under the Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme. We eagerly anticipate these and many other similar interventions stimulating robust post-pandemic recovery for our county's tourism and hospitality sectors.

The need for strategic investment in infrastructure to support social and economic development has never been more crucial than in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. Roscommon County Council recognises that its infrastructural development programme is key to a more sustainable and resilient future. Work therefore continued at pace during 2022 on advancing and completing major roads, water, wastewater and housing projects. Procurement in respect of the main construction of the *Ballaghaderreen to Scramogue*

Road Project recommenced. Assessment of the various alternatives and options for the N4 Carrick-on-Shannon to Dromod Project culminated with the public display of the preferred transportation corridor. Works were completed on over 420 Regional and Local Road projects while a number of *Greenway* initiatives were also advanced. Works continued on the Roscommon Town Main Drainage Project and a proposed detailed design for the Ballaghaderreen Wastewater Treatment Plant is currently proceeding. The Council delivered 9 social housing units under its Acquisition and Construction Programme. In addition, considerable progress was achieved on the rollout of high speed broadband services throughout the county under the National Broadband Plan. We have no doubt that projects such as these will serve as a catalyst to generating inclusive and long-lasting economic and social benefits for all members of our community.

One of the highlights for Roscommon County Council in 2022, with regard to building a more sustainable, resilient and inclusive future, was the adoption by the Elected Members of the Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028. This plan will shape the development of our county for a 6-year period through a suite of policy objectives, infrastructural proposals and development management guidance. Attention since has turned to the drafting of Local Area Plans for the towns of Roscommon and Boyle. These will detail more specific policies for areas where significant development is anticipated. We look forward to the Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028 and its affiliated Local Area Plans playing a pivotal role in securing the proper planning and sustainable development of our county and fostering meaningful growth in local communities for the coming years.

The Local Enterprise Office was also very busy in 2022 as businesses sought to recover from Covid-19. Its support of local enterprise included *Priming Grants* to stimulate business start-ups, *Business Expansion Grants* to assist growing businesses and *Feasibility Grants* to help businesses test the viability of new products or processes. *Digital Start* supports, which focussed on providing specialist expert advice, assisted many businesses to transform through developing and implementing strategic digital plans. The *Green for Micro* and *Lower Cost Lower Carbon* programmes encouraged large numbers of businesses to address

the challenges presented by climate change. The high quality and variety of supports offered by the Local Enterprise Office to its ever expanding client basis fills us with great confidence that it will, going forward, continue to enjoy considerable success in promoting County Roscommon as a location for business and inward investment.

One lesson that we have all learnt from Covid-19 is how vulnerable and exposed our world is to calamitous events. Unfortunately, one such event that occurred in 2022 was the outbreak of war in the Ukraine which forced millions to flee their homes. The Council, as a result, quickly established the Roscommon Community Response Forum to provide supports to refugees from the Ukraine. Partner agencies of the forum worked relentlessly throughout the year to guide refugees to relevant services and supports in the areas of welfare, child care, health, education, employment and social and integration needs. The Council, with the support of a number of statutory and voluntary agencies and the local community, also established a centre in Donamon to provide accommodation to those fleeing the Ukraine. In addition, the Council set up a dedicated Ukrainian Response Unit in its Community Department. At the end of 2022, approximately 550 Ukrainian refugees were located and availing of assistance in County Roscommon. We are proud of the response of the Council and its partners to this humanitarian crisis and that of the people of Roscommon in welcoming and supporting those fleeing this cruel war.

Our increasing vulnerability to catastrophe is nowhere more evident than the threat that humanity faces from climate change today. Consequently, tackling climate change is very much to the forefront of Council priorities. We welcome the publication by central government in December 2022 of the Climate Action Plan 2023 which sets out a roadmap to half greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and guide our country's transition to a carbon neutral economy and society no later than 2050. We are also pleased that significant resources have been sanctioned by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications for the preparation, adoption and implementation of a Climate Action Plan for County Roscommon. This plan will reinforce the Council's capacity to respond proactively to the threats posed by climate change and facilitate it to play its part in protecting the health of our planet and preserving the future wellbeing of humanity.

Another valuable insight that we all gained from the Covid-19 pandemic was the tremendous potential of digital technology. It kept people connected and facilitated organisations to continue operating throughout difficult times. However, the greater need for agility, flexibility and adaptation in the everchanging landscape of a post-Covid-19 world has now made digital transformation an absolute imperative. The Council has therefore accelerated its *Digital Transformation Programme*. Over 80 services are now





available online to Council customers. Customers can avail of these services from any device, anywhere and at any time through the Council's digital portal *My Online Services*. By the end of 2022, in excess of 4,000 people had registered as self-service customers on this digital platform. We can be assured that further initiatives under the Council's *Digital Transformation Programme* will enhance the organisation's overall productivity, agility and capacity for innovation whilst simultaneously delivering an improved service and experience to its customers.

We conclude by acknowledging that 2022 has brought about a return to normality and optimism as we continue to rebound from the turbulence of Covid-19. New challenges have emerged and will continue to materialise. It is a source of great satisfaction that the Council continues to rise to these challenges. Our most sincere thanks and appreciation goes to the Elected Members; the Corporate Policy Group; chairpersons and members of Strategic Policy Committees and Municipal District Committees; the Management Team and staff of Roscommon County Council for their leadership, professionalism, enterprise and endeavour throughout 2022. Our upmost gratitude is also expressed to the many statutory and non-statutory agencies and voluntary and community organisations with whom the Council interacted for their invaluable contributions and co-operation throughout the year. We look forward to future success and the Council continuing to deliver on its mission of 'ensuring through collaboration and the provision of strong leadership in partnership with the community that County Roscommon is an attractive, inclusive, prosperous and vibrant place to live, invest work and visit'.

Councillor Tom Crosby

Roscommon County Council

Cathaoirleach

Mr. Shane Tiernan
Chief Executive

Roscommon County Council

Elected Members



Boyle Municipal District



Cllr. Valerie Byrne Non-Party



Cllr. John Cummins Fianna Fáil



Cllr. Tom Crosby Non-Party



Fine Gael



Cllr. Liam Callaghan Cllr. Michael Mulligan Sinn Féin



Cllr. Joe Murphy Fianna Fáil



Roscommon Municipal District



Fianna Fáil



Cllr. Marty McDermott Cllr. Anthony Waldron Non-Party



Cllr. Nigel Dineen







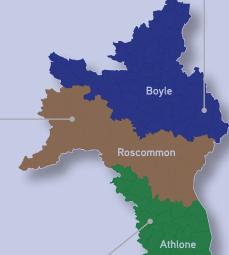
Cllr. Paschal Fitzmaurice Fianna Fáil



Cllr. Orla Leyden Fianna Fáil



Cllr. Kathleen Shanagher Non-Party





Athlone Municipal District



Cllr. Emer Kelly Non-Party



Cllr. Laurence Fallon Non-Party



Cllr. John Keogh Fianna Fáil



Cllr. Donal Kilduff Non-Party



Cllr. John Naughten Fine Gael



Cllr. Tony Ward Non-Party

Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs)

Economic Development and Enterprise Support (including Tourism, Culture and Libraries) SPC

Councillors -

- > Cllr. John Keogh, Chairperson
- > Cllr. Orla Leyden
- > Cllr. Nigel Dineen
- > Cllr. Kathleen Shanagher
- > Cllr. Tom Crosby
- > Cllr. Valerie Byrne
- > Cllr. Joe Murphy
- > Cllr. Emer Kelly
- > Cllr. Liam Callaghan
- > Mr. Alan Moran, PPN

Sectoral Nominations

- > Mr. John Mee, Business/Commercial
- > Mr. Liam Murray, Development/Construction
- > Ms. Susan Gaynor, Community/Voluntary Public Participation Network (PPN)

4 meetings of this SPC were held on 3rd March, 9th June, 8th September and 7th December 2022.

Issues considered included:

- > Tourism Office updates;
- > Local Enterprise Office Programme;
- > Library Service updates;
- Regeneration Team updates including Town Centre First Programme, Town and Village Funding, Our Rural Future;
- > Arts Centre Schedule of Activities;
- Arts Office Programme;

- > Heritage Office updates;
- > West Region Enterprise Plan;
- > Economic Strategy for the Regional Centre of Athlone;
- > Creative Ireland Strategy 2022-2027;
- > LECP (Local Economic and Community Plan) 2023-2029.

Housing, ICT and Rural Water SPC

Councillors -

- > Cllr. Paschal Fitzmaurice, Chairperson
- > Cllr. John Cummins
- > Cllr. Liam Callaghan
- > Cllr. John Keogh
- > Cllr. Joe Murphy
- > Cllr. Tony Ward
- > Cllr. Marty McDermott
- > Cllr. John Naughten
- > Cllr. Anthony Waldron

Sectoral Nominations

- > Mr. Bernard Kearney, Community/Voluntary
- > Ms. Monica Mahon, Trade Union
- > Mr. Cormac Dalton, Development/Construction
- > Mr. Jim O'Connor, Agriculture/Farming
- > Ms. Margaret Mulligan, Social Inclusion

4 meetings of this SPC were held on 10th February, 26th May, 22nd September and 8th December 2022.

Issues considered included:

- > Housing for All Options for Senior Citizens;
- > Local Authority Housing Loan;
- > Housing Action Plan;
- > Tenant Purchase amendments;
- > Rent Review;
- > Energy Programme;
- > Advance Funding MAWRP 2022-2025 Waste Water Collection and Treatment Needs for Villages and Settlements without access to Public Wastewater Services;
- > Quarters 1, 2 and 3 Reports on Strategic Plan for People with Disability;
- Derelict Sites:
- > Dangerous Structures/Places;
- > Croí Cónaithe (Towns) Fund;
- > Safe Home Ireland;
- > Social Housing List and Pipeline.

Planning, Environment, Climate Change and Corporate Governance SPC

Councillors -

- > Cllr. John Naughten, Chairperson
- > Cllr. Laurence Fallon
- > Cllr. Tom Crosby
- > Cllr. Paschal Fitzmaurice
- > Cllr. Orla Leyden
- > Cllr. Kathleen Shanagher
- > Cllr. Anthony Waldron
- > Cllr. Michael Mulligan
- > Cllr. Donal Kilduff

Sectoral Nominations

- > Mr. Ned O' Connor, Agriculture/Farming
- > Mr. Gareth Scahill, Community/Voluntary
- > Ms. Hannah Mole, Environment*
- > Mr. Ciaran King, Development/Construction
- > Mr. Sean Mahon, Business/Commercial
- > Ms. Fiona Fallon, Trade Union**
- * Resigned on 5th July 2022
- ** Resigned on 19th April 2022

5 meetings of this SPC were held on 27th January, 21st April, 7th July, 22nd September and 9th November 2022.

Issues considered included:

- > Review of Casual Trading Bye-Laws;
- > Climate Action Promotional Video Project;
- > Climate Action Plan;
- > Irish Language Scheme;

- > County Development Plan;
- National Waste Management Plan for the Circular Economy;
- > Electoral Register Reform.

Roads Transportation and Emergency Services SPC

Councillors -

- > Cllr. Tony Ward, Chairperson
- > Cllr. Nigel Dineen
- > Cllr. Valerie Byrne
- > Cllr. Emer Kelly
- > Cllr. John Cummins
- > Cllr. Laurence Fallon
- Cllr. Donal Kilduff
- > Cllr. Michael Mulligan
- > Cllr. Marty McDermott

Sectoral Nominations

- > Mr. Mary Clifford, Business/Commercial
- > Mr. Paul Glynn, Community/Voluntary

4 meetings of this SPC were held on 16th February, 25th May, 14th September and 7th December 2022.

Issues considered included:

- CFRAM (Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management) Programme;
- > N5 Ballaghaderreen By-pass;
- > Loughnaneane Park Bye-laws;

- > Active Travel Investment Programme;
- > Greenway Projects;
- > Broadband;
- > Roscommon Digital Strategy 2022-2026.



Housing

The Housing Department is committed to delivering the actions set out in Housing for All: A New Housing Plan for Ireland and the Housing Action Delivery Plan 2022-2026.

Acquisition and Construction Programme



Newly acquired and specially adapted house.

In 2022, Roscommon County Council delivered the following social housing units under the Acquisition and Construction Programme:

- > Ardnanagh, Roscommon 1 unit;
- > The Meadows, Castlerea 2 units;
- > Harristown, Castlerea 2 units;
- > Acquisitions 3 units;
- ➤ Part V 1 unit.



New traveller accommodation.

Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF) & Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)

Approved Housing Bodies have a key role to play in the delivery of social housing. *CALF* and *CAS* are the main capital funding streams for the supply of social housing through Approved Housing Bodies. Currently, 35 units are under construction in Monksland, Athlone. A further 10 units are under construction in Roscommon town. It is expected that these units will be delivered in 2023.

Leasing Options

Repair and Leasing Scheme (RLS)

The *RLS* is aimed at owners of vacant properties who cannot afford the repairs needed to bring their property up to the standard required to rent it out in an area where there is a social housing need. The Council has 4 social housing units in Roscommon town on the *RLS*.

Long-term Leasing

This form of provision widens the options for increasing the supply of social housing. The Council is in long-term lease arrangements with private owners for 4 properties in Boyle and Roscommon town. A further 15 units became active under *RAS*-type lease agreements during 2022.

Mortgage to Rent (MTR)

The MTR scheme is designed to help homeowners who are at risk of losing their homes due to mortgage arrears. It facilitates homeowners in mortgage difficulty to switch from owning to renting their homes as social housing tenants. Departmental approval has been granted for 28 applications to date. The MTR applicant becomes a tenant of an Approved Housing Body or the Department of Housing approved private company, Home for Life.

Table 1: Mortgage to Rent applications

Active MTR Tenancies	Approved Housing Body Tenancies	Home for Life Tenancies
20	6	14
Active MTR Tenancies 2022	Approved Housing Body Tenancies	Home for Life Tenancies
4	0	4

Casual Vacancies

27 casual vacancy units to the value of €297,000 were funded by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under the 2022 *Voids Programme*.

Assessments and Allocations Housing

The annual *Social Housing Needs Assessment* was finalised on 29th November 2022. At the end of 2022 there were 822 (including transfers) and 317 (excluding transfers) applicants on the approved housing list.

Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)

The Council continues to provide private rented accommodation financial support to those who have a long-term housing need through the *RAS*. At the end of 2022, 354 households were receiving support through *RAS*. 241 households were in private rented accommodation and 113 in accommodation provided by Approved Housing Bodies.

Housing Assistance Payment Scheme (HAP)

The HAP Scheme continues to provide housing support to people with a long-term housing need. 84 applicants were accommodated via the scheme in 2022. This brings to 819 the total number of applicants accommodated through the scheme since it was introduced in December 2016.



Standards for Rented Residential Property

Inspections of private rented dwellings continued in 2022 under the Housing (Standards for Private Rented Houses) Regulations 2017. Details are set out in **Table 2**.

Table 2: Inspections of Rental Residential Property

Number of Inspections Carried Out	628
Number of Dwellings Deemed Compliant	152
Number of Improvement Letters Issued to Landlords	415

Homelessness

The Council provides a range of responses to homelessness in accordance with the *West Region Homelessness Action Plan*. A total of 78 households presented for homeless services in 2022, 47 of which required short-term accommodation. 19 homeless households availed of social housing support through various mechanisms such as local authority housing, Approved Housing Body housing, *HAP*, *Homeless HAP Schemes* and *RAS* type leases.

The Homeless HAP Scheme was introduced by the Council in December 2020. 12 Homeless HAP tenancies have been agreed since its introduction. 8 are still active whilst 4 are closed.

In 2021, a Homeless Action Team was established to facilitate the co-ordination of *Housing First* and *Housing-Led* support services. 4 referrals to the Homeless Action Team have been accepted for *Housing-Led* services and 4 have been accepted for *Housing First* services. 4 *Housing First* tenancies have commenced. Other accommodation units are currently being identified for the creation of *Housing First* and *Housing-Led* tenancies.

Tenant Purchase Scheme

The *Tenant Purchase Scheme* was published under the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014. The Council received 29 applications in 2022.

Table 3: Tenant Purchase Scheme

Applications Received	29
Offers of Sale	18
Sales Closed	17

Housing Loans

The Local Authority Home Loans Scheme replaced the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan Scheme on 4th January 2022. The Council received 36 Local Authority Home Loan applications in 2022.

Table 4: Housing Loans

Applications Received	36
Loans Approved	16
Loan Drawdown	9

Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024

In line with the *Traveller Accommodation Programme*, a number of projects are in progress including developments at Bri Chaoilinne, Castlerea; Cluain Airne, Roscommon and Torpan Beg, Ballyforan. In 2022, 2 No. 5 bed units were completed at Bri Chaoilinne, with 1 house occupied at the end of 2022. 7 traveller families were accommodated in standard social housing and 1 family was accommodated in traveller specific accommodation in 2022.

Energy Efficiency Programme

The Council received approval for 52 units under the 2022 *Energy Efficiency Programme*. 41 units were fully completed in 2022. The remaining 11 units will be completed in 2023.

Housing Maintenance

The Housing Department received 1,474 maintenance calls and spent €715,644 on response maintenance works in 2022. This equates to an average of €485.51 per call out.



Housing Grants

Funding (for private dwellings) allocated to County Roscommon for 2022 amounted to €1,412,065 (80% Department funded and 20% Council funded). The Council processed 98% of its allocation.

Table 5: Housing Grant Schemes

Scheme	Total Grants Approved	Value of Grants Approved
Housing Grant for People with a Disability	58	€764,877
Housing Mobility Aid Grant	25	€134,202
Housing Aid for Older People	97	€483,585

Housing Disabled Person Grants for Local Authority Stock funding allocated to County Roscommon for 2022 amounted to €260,948 (90% Department funded and 10% Council funded). €423,335 was spent on adaptations to 17 Council houses.

National Housing Strategy for People with a Disability 2015-2019 (extended)

The Disability Steering Group held 4 meetings in 2022. A total of 48 people with a disability received social housing support through local authority housing, Approved Housing Body housing, *HAP*, *RAS*, *MTR*, Approved Housing Body public private partnership and leased properties. 2 properties were specially adapted to cater for physically disabled tenants.

Estate Management

The Housing Department continues to promote good estate management practices which encourage pride of place and result in vibrant communities. The following took place in 2022:

- The Housing Liaison Officer together with the Litter Warden carried out regular waste bye-law inspections of local authority estates;
- Anti-social behavior complaints in respect of 19 local authority households were received. 17 matters were resolved;
- 2 Possession Orders were granted in the District Court on grounds of anti-social behavior and 1 for illegal occupancy;
- 37 tenant welfare issues were supported and resolved.



Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant

The Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant funded by the Croí Conáithe (Towns) Fund was launched on 14th July 2022. This grant benefits those who wish to turn a former vacant house or building into their principal private residence. Grants up to a maximum of €30,000 are available. A top up grant up to €20,000 is available where the property is confirmed to be derelict i.e. structurally unsound and dangerous.

Table 6: Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant

No of Applications	No of Approvals
Received	Granted
35	10



Derelict Sites

11 sites were added to the existing 3 sites on the *Derelict Sites Register* in 2022. A total of 45 notices were issued under the Derelict Sites Act 1990. Reporting of a derelict site was added to the Council's *My Services* portal to make it easier for the public to report a derelict site.

The Housing Department is currently identifying sites that may be acquired through agreement or by compulsory purchase.

An updated derelict sites policy and procedures document was drafted and approved at the Plenary Meeting of the Council held in November 2022.



Before - derelict house detracting from area.



After - house deemed non-derelict following works.

Dangerous Structures and Places

18 dangerous sites were identified during 2022 with notices issued under the Local Government Sanitary Services Act 1964. The 18 files that were opened were added to 8 existing open files on dangerous structures and places. 16 of the 26 files were closed/had the issue resolved with the owners during 2022.

The Council completed works on 1 site to make it safe. The Housing Department is currently attempting to engage with owners of the remaining dangerous structures/places.

An updated dangerous structures and places policy and procedures document was drafted and approved at the Plenary Meeting of the Council held in November 2022.



Before – dangerous sturcture.



After – fence fully replaced.

Community

The Community Department provides support for the County Roscommon Local Community Development Committee (LCDC). It also leads Roscommon County Council's involvement with and encouragement of community initiatives throughout the county.

CLÁR 2022

A total of €498,617 was allocated to 12 community organisations under the *CLÁR* 2022 programme. The following table provides details of the funding that was allocated.

Table 1: CLÁR Funding

Name of Group	Funding	Description of the Project
Moore Community Council	€25,926	Disability car park spaces and outdoor space
Cloonbonniffe National School	€45,953	Upgrade playground and sensory garden
Kilmore GAA Club	€40,860	Astroturf pitch surface
Cootehall Community Development	€34,650	Gazebo in Cootehall Riverside Park
Gorthaganny Community Development	€49,440	Car park at Marian Hall
Boyle GAA Club	€49,500	Tarmac access areas
Kilmurray Community Hall	€28,688	Improve safety and pedestrian and disability access
St. Ronan's Community Hall	€48,582	Replace floor and upgrade heating system
Ballaghaderreen GAA Club	€50,000	Emergency vehicle access, disabled parking, viewing area and planting of hedging
Ballinameen GAA Club	€34,730	Disability access and toilet
Bealach Nua	€39,838	Rebuilding of wall and tarmac works
Ballagh Community Hall	€50,000	Refurbishment of Old Parochial House
		With Lines 1
Clár Project - Astroturf pitch at Camcloon National S	ichool.	
		Annual Report 2022

Community Activities Fund 2022

The Community Activities Fund was introduced in November 2021 to support community and voluntary groups impacted by Covid-19. €266,602 was allocated to the Council. The scheme opened for applications in January 2022. A total of 137 applications were received. Roscommon LCDC awarded funding to 114 applications.

Joint Policing Committee (JPC)

The Roscommon JPC has 25 members consisting of 13 Council members, 2 Oireachtas members, 6 community sector members, 2 Garda representatives and 2 local authority officials. The JPC met 3 times in 2022. A public meeting was held on 12th September 2022 at the Abbey Hotel, Roscommon. The JPC continued to implement its work plan during the year.

Leader Programme

The LEADER Programme 2014-2020 was financed by the Government under the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 and by the EU under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe Investing in Rural Areas. LEADER supports private enterprises and community groups who improve quality of life and economic activity in rural areas. The Transitional LEADER Programme came into effect on 1st April 2021. It bridges the gap between the wind-up of the LEADER Programme 2014-2020 and the start of the next EU programme for 2023-2027. The Department of Rural and Community Development called for Expression of Interests (EOI) to develop a local development strategy (LDS). The EOI was submitted in December 2022 following approval by the LCDC. This LDS will form the basis of the new LEADER Programme 2023-2027 in County Roscommon.

Public Participation Network (PPN)

The PPN provides a structure to facilitate the 2-way flow of information between the Council and community, voluntary, social inclusion and environmental groups. The PPN facilities this through electing representatives to sit on various local decision making structures including the LCDC, JPC, Heritage Forum and the Council SPC's (Strategic Policy Committees). The PPN also arranges the delivery of training and workshops to assist member groups to develop sustainably and access local authority funding and initiatives. There are currently 275 groups engaging with the PPN.

Roscommon Social Inclusion Unit

The Social Inclusion Unit continues to embed social inclusion in the corporate body of the Council and collaborate with other external organisations and agencies through structures such as the Roscommon LCDC and Roscommon Leader Partnership.

Recreation and Inclusion

During 2022, the Social Inclusion Unit was able to revert back to in person, face to face events. These included a hugely successful *Play Day* held in Lough Key Forest Park in conjunction with the Roscommon County Childcare Committee and a very popular *Bike Week Events Schedule*, coordinated by Roscommon Sports Partnership. A number of other events were hosted and supported including *Social Inclusion Week*, *Science Week*, *Africa Day* and *Autism Awareness Day*.

Age Friendly

The Social Inclusion Unit is responsible for implementing the *Age Friendly Strategy* and supporting the work of the Age Friendly Working Group, County Alliance and the Roscommon Older Peoples Council. During 2022, a number of age friendly initiatives were progressed e.g. the *Cultural Champions* initiative and a *Creative Ireland* age friendly themed initiative called *Making Music in the Midlands*. Roscommon Older People's Network held a well-attended AGM with guest speaker Helen Rochford Brennan in attendance.



Promoting cycling.

Comhairle na nÓg

Roscommon Comhairle na nÓg is facilitated by the Social Inclusion Unit. One of the most important aspects of Comhairle na nÓg is that it allows young people to select and work on topics of importance that affect them locally. The most recent topic was to highlight amenities for young people throughout the county. Comhairle members took on the task of developing a short video called *Things to do in Roscommon*. This video has been shown on the *Visit Roscommon* social media platforms and has reached over 6,000 people on Facebook. Fáilte Ireland are processing a request to feature it on its website and social media platforms.



Comhairle na nÓg.

Sports Development Officers

During 2022, the Council, through the Social Inclusion Unit, continued to support and contribute towards the work of the FAI Development Officer, GAA Development Officer, the LGFA Development Officer and a Rugby Development Officer. The work of Sports Development Officers includes the promotion of social inclusion through sport by working with schools, clubs, social inclusion groups and community groups and developing programmes with Roscommon Sports Partnership in the area of disability.

Healthy Roscommon

The Council finalised the delivery of Round 3 of the Healthy Ireland/Healthy Roscommon Programme and has been allocated funding for Round 4 which will be rolled out over a 3-year period 2023-2025.

Migrant Integration Strategy

The Council commenced the process of developing a County Migrant Integration Strategy during 2022. This is a tri-part initiative involving Roscommon LEADER Partnership and Roscommon Children's and Young People's Services.

Ukrainian Humanitarian Response Project

Ukrainian Humanitarian Response Project

The Roscommon Community Response Forum was established by the Council in March 2022 in response to refugees fleeing the war in the Ukraine. The forum's role is to co-ordinate the community led response to the provision of assistance and support to Ukrainian refugees in County Roscommon. Partner agencies of the forum work together to guide refugees to relevant services and supports in the areas of welfare, child care, health, education, employment and social and integration needs.

The Council, following a request from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth and with the support of The Divine Word Missionaries, LEADER, Lions Club, Roscommon Volunteer Centre and the local community, set up a Rest Centre in Donamon to provide accommodation to those fleeing the Ukraine. The Council ran the centre for 10 weeks until a suitable facilities management company was appointed.

The Council also set up a dedicated Ukrainian Response Unit, within its Community Department which supports the following:

- The Irish Red Cross in offering a home programme;
- > Service providers;
- Government programmes to identify suitable accommodation for Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection.



Training course with migrants.

Irish Red Cross offers of accommodation supported by the Council facilitated 12 families in County Roscommon. However, many offers were considered non-viable due to the rurality of their location.

A New Vacant Home Call Out initiative was launched on the 24th November 2022. This is administered by local authorities and is solely for vacant homes. The recognition payment was increased to €800 per month (tax free) with effect from 1st December 2022. As of 31st December 2022, 38 properties were pledged to the Council.

At the end of 2022 there were approximately 550 Ukrainian refugees in County Roscommon and work is ongoing to accommodate additional displaced refugees in both centres and pledged properties.

There are currently 15 service providers accommodating Ukrainian refugees, 3 of which are under contract with the Council. The remainder are under contract with IPAS.



Roads and Transportation (including Active Travel)

The Roads and Transportation Department is responsible for the delivery of programmes including National and Non-National Road Maintenance and Road Improvement Schemes; Road Safety Programmes; Bridge Maintenance and Improvement Works; Active Travel Investment Programme; Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Programme; Maintenance of Arterial Drainage; Flood Alleviation Works; Burial Grounds; Abnormal Load Permits; Declaration of Public Roads; Extinguishment of Rights-of-Way; Local Improvement Schemes; Community Involvement Schemes; Temporary Road Closures; Approval of Bus Stop Locations; Speed Limits; Fleet and Machinery; Road Opening Licences and Parks and Amenities.

Road Network

Roscommon County Council is responsible for the maintenance and improvement of the road network in the county. Works in 2022 included road construction and maintenance; bridge rehabilitation; drainage works; the carrying out of safety and traffic management measures; active travel measures; climate change adaptation and resilience works; the implementation of *Community Involvement* and *Local Improvement Schemes* and footpath repairs. County Roscommon road class and length details are outlined in **Table 1**.

Table 1: County Roscommon Road Class and Length



Funding

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) allocates funding to operate, maintain and improve the National Primary and Secondary Road Network in the county. The Department of Transport allocates funding for the reconstruction and maintenance of Regional and Local Roads; bridge rehabilitation; drainage programmes; safety schemes; climate adaptation and resilience schemes and works under Community Involvement Schemes. Funding for the Active Travel Programme is provided by

the National Transport Authority. The Department of Rural and Community Development provides funding for non-public roads – *Local Improvement Schemes*. The Council provides funding from its own resources to supplement grant allocations. Flood mitigation works are funded by the Office of Public Works (OPW) and from the Council's own resources. National and Non-National Roads funding allocations for 2022 are outlined in **Table 2**.

Table 2: County Roscommon National and Non-National Roads Funding Allocations 2022

Funding Source	Works	2022 Funding
Department of Transport	Regional and Local Road Reconstruction and Maintenance, Bridges, Drainage Works, Safety Schemes, Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Works, Community Involvement Schemes	€20,350,740
Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII)	National Roads and Greenways	€62,339,996
National Transport Authority	Active Travel Investment Programme	€3,264,792
Department of Rural and Community Development	Non-Public Roads Local Improvement Schemes	€571,758
Roscommon County Council	Regional and Local Roads / Public Lighting	€2,077,600
Total		€88,714,886

National Road Projects

The Ballaghaderreen to Scramoge Road Project is approximately 34km 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 crosssection is to a Type 1 single carriageway standard. An Bord Pleanála approved the scheme and associated Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) in January 2019. CPO notices were served on all persons listed in the CPO and land negotiations are progressing. Land and property valuation services and legal services to assist with land acquisition were procured. Advance/ enabling works and services contracts which were procured in advance of the main construction contract, including asbestos survey, fencing, tree felling and hedgerow removal, topographical surveys and geotechnical investigations, have all concluded. Diversion of HV ESB apparatus is complete and the diversion of some LV and MV ESB apparatus continued throughout 2022. Archaeological site works are substantially complete and reporting and dissemination continue. Technical consultants were appointed to assist in progressing the project through the tender and construction stages. Roadbridge Ltd. was awarded the main construction contract in June 2021. However, following the appointment of receivers over certain assets of Roadbridge Holdings Ltd. in March 2022, the contract was terminated. The re-procurement process in respect of the main construction commenced in April 2022 and continued throughout the year.

The 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 and Leitrim County Councils. 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. Phase 2 (Option Selection) included virtual public consultations in October 2020 (Constraints) and in May/June 2021 (Alternatives and Options). Work continued on the assessment of the various Alternatives and Options throughout 2021 and culminated in Quarter 2, 2022 with the public display of the identified Preferred Transportation Corridor. Work continued throughout 2022 in respect of the close-out of Phase 2 reporting.

The N60 Oran Road Realignment Project involves the realignment of approximately 3.4km of the N60 National Secondary route including 1.7km of offline construction and 1.7km of online widening to Type 1 single carriageway standard. The land acquisition process is continuing and to date approximately 95% of cases are settled. All other outstanding contractual works have been completed.

The N61 Tulsk to Gortnacrannagh Road Project involves the realignment and improvement of approximately 5.6km of the N61 National Secondary Road between Tulsk and the new N5 intersection with the N61 at Gortnacrannagh Townland. TII approved the appointment of Lead Technical Consultants and independent specialists to progress the project through the TII Phases (1-4). Roughan & O'Donovan-AECOM Alliance (ROD-A) was appointed as Lead Engineering Consultants in July 2022 following a procurement process using TII's Framework Agreement for Consultancy Services. During 2022, Phases 0 and 1 were completed and Phase 2 (Options Selection) has commenced.

The N61 Lecarrow to Knockcroghery Road Project comprises the improvement of the N61 National Secondary Road between Ballymurray and Lecarrow which will incorporate a bypass of Knockcroghery. Roughan & O' Donovan-AECOM Alliance (ROD-A) was appointed as Lead Engineering Consultants in December 2018. ROD-A has progressed the project through the Constraints and Option selection phases. Route Corridor C-3 was confirmed as the Preferred Route Corridor with the publication of the Option Selection Report in August 2021. The Council sought approval from TII to proceed to Phase 3 Design and Environmental Evaluation in September

2021. However, TII responded by stating that, due to funding availability, the Authority was not in a position to give approval to proceed to Phase 3 at present. Some funding was allocated in 2022 under the TII *Minors Programme* to develop an overall strategy to address the safety and related issues on the section of N61 between Roscommon town and Athlone pending the implementation of long-term solution(s). ROD-A were appointed in August 2022 to undertake this study.

The N61 Coolteige Phase 1 Road Project involves the realignment and improvement of approximately 3km of a section of National Secondary Road on the northern outskirts of Roscommon town predominately to Type 1 single carriageway standard. The land acquisition process is ongoing. While archaeological resolution field works were completed in November 2016, the preparation of the project monograph detailing the excavation of a previously unknown multivallate enclosure complex at Ranelagh was completed in 2022.

The N61 Tulsk to Clashaganny Road Realignment Project involves the realignment of approximately 4km of the N61 National Secondary route from Tulsk to Clashaganny. Phases 0 to 3 (Design and Environmental Evaluation) of the TII Project Phases are complete. In October 2022, the Council received approval from TII to proceed to Phase 4 (Statutory Processes). A planning application in accordance with Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations was published in October 2022.

National Road Pavement Projects

During 2022, works were completed on the N5 Moneylea Carrowntoosan and the N61 Athlone North (Phase 1) Pavement Schemes. During 2022, pavement design and tender documentation was completed in respect of the N61 Athlone North (Phase 2) and the N61 Shankill to Runnaboll.

Lough Ree, Athlone to Ballyleague/Lanesborough Greenway

The Athlone to Ballyleague/Lanesborough Greenway Project involves the provision of a Greenway, with an approximate indicative length ranging from 45 to 60km. This Greenway links into the proposed Galway to Athlone Greenway in the Athlone area. RPS has been appointed to progress the project through Phase 0 Scope and Pre-Appraisal and Phase 1 Concept and Feasibility (TII Project Managers Manual for Greenway Projects). Phase 0 deliverables were completed in 2022.

Mid-Shannon Greenway

The Mid-Shannon Greenway is the adopted name for proposed Greenway project between Ballyleague/Lanesborough and Tarmonbarry/ Strokestown/Roosky. The Mid-Shannon Greenway has an approximate indicative length ranging from 30 to 45km. This Greenway links into the Athlone to Ballyleague/Lanesborough Greenway scheme. Ryan Hanley has been appointed to progress the project through Phase 0 Scope and Pre-Appraisal and Phase 1 Concept and Feasibility (TII Project Managers Manual for Greenway Projects). Phase 0 deliverables were completed in 2022.

Lough Key to Carrick-on-Shannon Greenway

The Lough Key to Carrick on Shannon Greenway Project involves the provision of a Greenway with an approximate indicative length ranging from 15 to 20km. Following a tender process, Roughan & O'Donovan Consulting Engineers have been appointed to progress the project through Phase 0 Scope and Pre-Appraisal and Phase 1 Concept and Feasibility (TII Project Managers Manual for Greenway Projects). The contract is scheduled to commence in Quarter 1, 2023. Phase 0 and Phase 1 deliverables are to be completed during Quarter 1 to Quarter 3, 2023.

TII funded Active Travel Projects

During 2022, TII provided funding to commence the initial phase of 5 Active Travel projects at: –

- > Frenchpark (indicative length 1.2km);
- > Ballinagare (indicative length 1.0km);
- > Tulsk to Rathcroghan (indicative length 5.2km);
- > Tulsk (indicative length 1.4km);
- > Strokestown (indicative length 0.7km).

Loughglynn, County Roscommon – Signalised Pedestrian Crossing at National School.

Roads Works Programme – Non-National Roads

In excess of 420 separate projects on Regional and Local Roads were completed under the 3 *Municipal District Road Works Schemes 2022* with funding from the Department of Transport and the Council's own resources.

Active Travel Investment Programme

The Programme for Government published in June 2020 included significant and ambitious targets for the development of walking and cycling schemes. In 2022, the National Transport Authority allocated funds to Ireland's local authorities with a view to spending €289 million on over 1,200 walking and cycling infrastructure projects nationally. The Council received an allocation of €3,264,792 for 2022. The funding for 2022 is for Year 2 of a 5-year Active Travel Investment Programme which will be transformative in the area of green sustainable transport options to those outside of large urban centres.

The development of high quality walking and cycling facilities will encourage more people to switch to active travel and will contribute to tackling climate change. The programme will help towards connecting communities and making walking and cycling attractive, safe and accessible to everyone. A total of 19 schemes have been completed in County Roscommon across the 3 Municipal Districts with a spend of €3,230,264. In 2023, construction will commence on projects in Lecarrow, Cloonfad and Ballinlough. A further 12 projects are at planning/procurement stage for 2023 along with 8 school projects under the *Safe Routes to School Programme*.



Creagh, County Roscommon - Footpath Network.



Cootehall, County Roscommon – Zebra Crossing and Footpath Upgrade.



Croghan Village, County Roscommon - Footpath Enhancement.



An allocation of €111,000 under CIS was provided by the Department of Transport in 2022. Grant assistance was matched by a minimum 10% from the community for eligible works including general maintenance, drainage works, pavement works and footpaths on public roads. 3 projects were progressed under this scheme in 2022.

Local Improvement Scheme (LIS)

The Department of Rural and Community Development operates the *LIS* for the improvement of local non-public roads. The local contribution is an integral part of the *LIS*. The local contribution is set at 10% for eligible roads with up to and including 5 beneficiaries and is set at 15% for those with 6 or more beneficiaries. In 2022, the Council was approved grant funding of €571,758 from the Department under this scheme.



Cootehall, County Roscommon - Footpaths.



 ${\bf Knockcroghery, County\ Roscommon-Pedestrian\ Route.}$

Footpath Repairs Programme

As part of the Risk Mitigation Measures, funding was received from Irish Public Bodies. Defects and hazards are being continually recorded and defective footpaths throughout the county are being repaired on an ongoing basis. The Council is coordinating with utility providers identifying defective chambers etc. In 2022, the Council continued to engage paving contractors to replace defective footpath sections and install tactile paving where required. Works were carried out in Boyle, Castlerea, Ballaghaderreen and Roscommon.

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 these towns and villages with the exception of Castlerea.

On the County Westmeath side of Athlone, works are under construction and the appointment of consultants is being considered for flood defense works at Bogganfin, Athlone on the County Roscommon side. In 2021, the Council received an offer of funding from the OPW in the amount of €350,000 for this project. The design brief is currently with the OPW for review and once agreed will go to public procurement.

Leitrim County Council, the lead authority, in conjunction with Roscommon County Council and the OPW, 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 the OPW and is substantially complete.

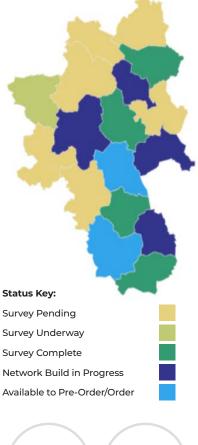
Broadband Office

National Broadband Ireland Rollout

Work continued with National Broadband Ireland regarding build designs and Section 254 planning applications across the network. Ballinasloe, Roscommon and Carrick-on-Shannon Deployment Areas are completed and orders are being taken for new connections in all 3 areas. The Athlone Deployment Area is due for connection in early 2023 with the Castlerea Deployment Area planned for later in 2023. 19,185 premises are included in the County Roscommon National Broadband Plan. Roscommon County Council has processed 837 pole applications by the end of 2022 with 1,047km of over ground cable. 6768 (35%) of premises have fibre broadband available to order at present. 59% of premises in the county are to be passed by the end of 2023.

Table 3: National Broadband Ireland Fibre Rollout for the County

Deployment Area	Premises	Status	Anticipated Date for Connection
Athlone	686	Network Build in Progress	January 2023 - March 2023
Ballinasloe	804	Available to Order	Available to Order
Banagher	92	Survey Pending	January 2025 - December 2025
Carrick-on- Shannon	2470	Network Build in Progress	November 2022 - December 2022
Castlerea	3597	Network Build in Progress	October 2023 - December 2023
Cloonfad	645	Survey Pending	January 2025 - December 2026
Curraghboy	1720	Survey Complete	January 2025 - December 2026
Dowra	146	Survey Pending	January 2025 - December 2026
Elphin	2460	Survey Complete	January 2025 - December 2026
Gurteen	1002	Survey Pending	January 2025 - December 2026
Keshcarrigan	171	Survey Complete	July 2024 - December 2024
Knock	425	Survey Pending	January 2025 - December 2026
Longford	324	Network Build in Progress	December 2022 - February 2023
Newbridge	159	Survey Pending	January 2025 - December 2026
Riverstown	26	Survey Pending	January 2025 - December 2026
Rooskey	880	Survey Pending	January 2025 - December 2026
Roscommon	3494	Available to Order	Available to Order













Launch of Digital Strategy; Shane Tiernan, Chief Executive; Councillor Tom Crosby, Cathaoirleach and John Freeman, Senior Executive Engineer.



Elected Members and Staff at the Launch of the Digital Strategy.

WiFi4EU

All Wifi4Eu installations were completed in early 2022. 52 free Wi-Fi hotspots are now live in County Roscommon. This has been a very successful initiative to



bring free Wi-Fi to many villages and communities throughout the county.

Broadband Connection Points (BCPs)

The Council was awarded €65,151 under the Connected Hubs Fund 2022. This was targeted at improving locations that had been set up as BCP sites. This is the second year that the Council has secured funding for many community centres and BCPs through this initiative.

Eduroam

Eduroam is an international roaming service for users in research, higher education and further education. It provides researchers, teachers, and students with network access when visiting an institution other than their own. It facilitates users to obtain internet access easier via the Wi-Fi service at participating sites. When attaching to Eduroam, Wi-Fi users are authenticated via their home institution. If authentication succeeds the user is granted wireless network access. Eduroam access is currently available in Boyle and Castlerea libraries and will be available in all County Roscommon libraries by 2023.

Digital Strategy

The Roscommon Digital Strategy 2022-2026 represents a digital roadmap for County Roscommon for the next 4 years. It sets out the digital and strategic goals for the county to maximise digital opportunities for all of its citizens in the years ahead. The strategy sets out how technology will support and enable County Roscommon to grow and develop. The strategy has been drawn up following engagement and consultation with members of the public and the business community in County Roscommon, various state agencies and many internal departments in the Council. The 3 key themes outlined in the strategy have a range of objectives/actions to be delivered and achieved between 2022 and 2026. The Roscommon Digital Strategy 2022-2026 was launched by the Chief Executive at the December Plenary Meeting of the Council.

Website

The Digital and Broadband tab was upgraded and added to the homepage of the Council's website. Regular updates are posted with regard to broadband developments for the county.

SIRO in Roscommon Town

Siro commenced its rollout of fibre broadband in Roscommon town in 2022. Many properties have been connected to high speed broadband in and around the town as a result.

Burial Grounds

Cemetery Capital Works

Plans for an extension to the existing Kilbegley Cemetery were finalised in 2021. In September 2021, in accordance with the requirements of Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended), notice of the proposed development was published and plans and particulars were placed on public display. A report on the Part 8 process was presented to a meeting of the Athlone Municipal District held on 18th January 2022 where the Elected Members agreed that the proposal should proceed. Works commenced in 2022 and will be completed in 2023.

Cemetery Improvement and Maintenance Scheme

€65,000 was allocated to the 2022 Cemetery Improvement and Maintenance Scheme. Grants were awarded to 92 voluntary groups.

Abnormal Load Permits

Operators transporting a vehicle or load that falls outside of the limits allowed by the Road Traffic (Construction Equipment and Use of Vehicles) Regulations 2003 must obtain a permit for its movement. Local authorities operate a permit system for abnormal loads where conditions regarding weight, height and dimensions apply on all or part of journeys not on routes covered by the Garda Síochána scheme. 122 Abnormal Load Permits were issued in 2022.

Road Opening Licences

Every excavation made in a public road or footpath requires a Road Opening Licence. All applications for licences to open the public road are lodged through a central portal with the Road Management Office (www.rmo.ie). The Council processes the licenses for County Roscommon from this portal and attaches conditions and fees to the licence. The total number of new licence applications submitted to the Council in 2022 was 470.

Galway to Athlone Cycleway

This project is being delivered by the Westmeath, Galway and Roscommon local authorities. Design consultants, RPS, were appointed in 2020. A dedicated project office was established in Ballinasloe where the public can liaise with the project team. In 2021, Roscommon County Council appointed a Project Liaison Officer. The first of 4 periods of public consultation took place in August 2020 and the second period of public consultation took place in February/March 2021. Public consultation No. 3 commenced on 8th December 2021 and continued to 28th February 2022.

The Code of Practice for Greenways has been finalised and the Project Liaison Officers have met with a large number of landowners and other stakeholders. The cycleway bridge across the River Shannon is underway and will be completed by Quarter 2, 2023. The total length of this project from Athlone to Galway including the Ballinasloe Link is approximately 205km, while the total length of the Roscommon section is approximately 26km.

The Emerging Preferred Route Corridor can be viewed online in the Virtual Consultation Room on the project website:

www.galwaytoathlonecycleway.com.



Road Safety

Low Cost Safety Improvement Works

In 2022, 15 Safety Improvement Schemes were completed on Regional and Local Roads throughout the county from a specific Department of Transport grant of €377,000 for low cost safety measures. The Council also receive additional funding for specific schemes on national routes.

Road Safety Poster Competition

On 4th May 2022, the *Road Safety Poster Competition Awards* ceremony took place in the Roscommon Arts Centre. This is a joint initiative between the Road Safety Office of the Council and the Community Policing Unit of the Roscommon Garda District. The aim of the competition is to promote and create awareness of road safety among primary school children. Overall 267 entries were received from 5th and 6th class students representing 19 primary schools.









Pictured at the Road Safety Poster Competition Awards ceremony are prize winners Adele Kezyte, St Comán's Wood, Roscommon; Áine Fallon, Ballintleva National School; Olivia Hussey, Lisaniskey National School and Saoirse Towey, Gael Scoil de hÍde, Roscommon. Also pictured are Councillor Orla Leyden, Leas Cathaoirleach, Roscommon County Council; Garda John O'Connor; Kate Crehan (Teacher); Mairead McKeon, Roscommon County Council; Inspector David Cryan; John Mockler, Roscommon County Council; David Hussey; Ena Fallon and Fergal Towey.

Planning

As the statutory Planning Authority, the Council ensures proper planning and sustainable development in County Roscommon.

The core responsibilities of the Planning Department include the preparation of plans promoting and facilitating the development of sustainable communities and enterprise while ensuring the protection of the natural and built heritage of the county; development management (including providing pre-planning advice and assessing and determining planning applications) and planning enforcement in relation to unauthorised or non-planning compliant developments. The Department also deals with unfinished housing developments as part of the process of working towards the Council taking in charge such developments.

Development Management

682 planning applications were received in 2022. A total of 225 pre-planning discussions were held during the year.

Planning Enforcement

Planning enforcement encompasses enforcement activity, resolution of unfinished housing developments and collection of development contributions.

Enforcement Action

As per Part VIII of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), it is an offence to carry out unauthorised development. The information below reflects the various stages of enforcement activity pursued in 2022 in relation to alleged unauthorised development:

- > 89 Planning Enforcement Complaints were received;
- > 71 Warning Letters were served;
- > 16 Enforcement Notices were served;
- **Legal Action** was initiated in 1 enforcement case.

Table 1: Planning Applications 2018-2022

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Applications Received	665	671	573	723	682¹
Decisions to Grant	433	410	331	417	376 ¹
Decisions to Refuse	34	46	51	60	62 ²
Refusal Rate	7.8%	11.2%	15.4%	12.6%	14.16%
Number of Appeals	13	16	17	17	23
Appeals upheld by An Bord Pleanála	6	9	11 3 4	8 ⁵	2 ⁶

- ¹ Includes valid and invalid planning applications; excludes S.42 Extension of Durations and Part 8 developments.
- ² Excludes Decisions on S.42 applications.
- ³ 2018-2020 appeal statistics have been updated to reflect all determinations.
- ⁴ 17 cases appealed in 2020 with 2 subsequently withdrawn; 15 determined cases.
- ⁵ 17 cases appealed in 2021. 13 determined to date, with the decision of the Council upheld in 9 (69%).
- ⁶ 23 cases appealed in 2022. 2 determined to date.

Resolving Unfinished Housing Developments

By the end of 2022 there were approximately 108 housing developments in County Roscommon which had not been taken in charge. 80 of those were considered unfinished to some degree.

Work continued in 2022 to resolve unfinished housing developments in the county through ongoing engagement with relevant parties to agree and implement site resolution plans and works. 12 housing developments were taken in charge during the year. A further 28 developments were complete but had not progressed to being taken in charge.

Collecting Development Contributions

Development contributions were levied on planning applications in accordance with the adopted Development Contribution Scheme 2014 (as amended 2020).

Table 2: Development Contributions

	2021	2022
Contributions invoiced	€1,098,906	€563,608
Contributions received	€657,693	€657,554





Forward Planning

The process of preparing the Roscommon County Development Plan (RCDP) 2022-2028 concluded at a Special Meeting of the Council on 8th March 2022. The Elected Members formally considered the recommendations of the Chief Executive's Report on Submissions Received on Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft RCDP and agreed to make the plan. The RCDP came into effect 4 weeks later.

Focus then turned to pre-draft work on Local Area Plans (LAPs) for Roscommon and Boyle. Issues Papers were prepared to inform the pre-draft public consultation process on each. Public consultations ran from 30th June to 29th July 2022. Communities in Roscommon and Boyle were encouraged to comment on how they wish to see their towns develop. 11 submissions were received as part of the pre-draft consultation on the Roscommon Town LAP and 9 were received on the Boyle LAP. Non-statutory summary reports on the outcomes from the consultation processes were prepared and circulated to the Elected Members for information. Other work included the engagement of consultants to undertake mandatory environmental reports on each plan including Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment.

Work relating to the introduction of the Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT) initiative was undertaken in the second half of the year. The RZLT, which will replace the current Vacant Site Levy initiative in 2024, was introduced in the Finance Act 2021. Its administration is the responsibility of the Revenue Commissioners. The role of the local authority is limited to specified tasks set out in legislation and in the accompanying Residential Zoned Land Tax - Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DHLGH, June 2022). Main elements of work include the production of maps to identify 'lands in scope' for the RZLT and the assessment and determination of submissions received during public consultation processes. Extensive survey work was undertaken to identify 'lands in scope' in accordance with criteria set out in the Finance Act. The Forward Planning team worked in collaboration with the Council's GIS Officer to develop draft maps identifying 'lands in scope.' The draft maps were published on 1st November 2022, at the start of the commencement of a 2-month public consultation process.



Emergency Services

Roscommon County Council's Emergency Services includes its Fire, Emergency Management and Civil Defence services.

Fire Services

Roscommon County Council is the statutory Fire Authority for County Roscommon. It provides a fire brigade service and performs a range of fire safety and enforcement functions.

Fire Service Operations

Fire Service Operations are delivered through an NSAI accredited ISO 45001 Occupational Health and Safety Management System.

Fire brigade units, employing a total of 45 part-time retained fire-fighters, from Roscommon Town, Ballaghaderreen, Boyle, Elphin and Strokestown were alerted 294 times during 2022. Brigades from Ballinasloe, Mountbellew and Athlone were alerted 77 times to incidents in South Roscommon. In addition, brigades from Counties Mayo, Leitrim and Longford attended 66 incidents in County Roscommon during 2022.

Roscommon Fire Service also attended a number of serious incidents at private dwellings, commercial properties and road traffic collisions during 2022.

Fire Safety and Licensing

The Fire Authority is required to provide fire safety reports following inspection for Circuit and District Court licence applications for public entertainment premises, registration of explosive stores by the Gardaí and dangerous substances licences for bulk and retail fuel (petrol and diesel) stores. Roscommon Fire Service carried out 58 statutory fire safety inspections on public premises during 2022.

Emergency Management

Roscommon Fire Service facilitates the preparation of the *Major Emergency Plan* and the implementation of any associated response by the Council and other response agencies (Gardaí and HSE Ambulance Service).



Civil Defence

Medical Response

Training completed by over 40 civil defence volunteers in 2022 included CFR (Cardiac First Response), CFRA (Cardiac First Response Advanced), FAR (First Aid Response), Manual Handling and People Moving courses. CISM (Critical Incident Stress Management) Refresher training also took place during the year.

Search and Rescue

Over 20 volunteers completed Missing Person Certificate training in 2022. I volunteer also qualified as a Search Instructor. Roscommon Civil Defence participated in 9 search operations for missing persons. 6 of these operations took place in County Roscommon whilst volunteers also provided support to 3 operations in County Mayo. These operations involved over 1,000 volunteer hours.

Roscommon Civil Defence also carried out a search and rescue exercise at Doon Shore. This exercise simulated scenarios that volunteers could face in reality. It included all aspects of search and rescue activities including boat operations, communications and medical response.



Civil Defence Volunteers carrying out a Search Exercise.



Civil Defence Simulating a Search and Rescue Operation at Doon Shore



Boat Operations

The Civil Defence boat crew supported 4 search operations on water. Additionally, the boat crew was involved in 3 rescue operations, called out by the Coast Guard Coordination Centre at Malin Head, to assist cruisers in difficulty on the River Shannon. Lifejacket Competency Introduction and Refresher training was delivered to 16 volunteers.



Volunteers involved in Boat Operations.

Emergency Response

Support was provided by Roscommon Civil Defence to the Council for the Ukrainian centre in Donamon. This involved assisting its set up and the provision of medical cover.

Radiation Monitoring

In October 2022, volunteers were involved in a national radiation monitoring exercise taking samples from 2 locations in the county which were delivered to the EPA laboratory in Castlebar for testing.

Community Assistance

During 2022, over 90 duties, involving in excess of 500 volunteer hours, were carried out by Roscommon Civil Defence. These duties covered football, hurling, horse racing, blood clinic and charity events. 2 of the bigger events covered were the *Night and Day* concert in Castlerea and the *Carrick Camino*. Roscommon Civil Defence also took part in 2 parades during 2022 and attended the *Polish Open Day*.

New Recruits, Civil Defence Officer and Upgrade to Fleet

10 new recruits joined the Roscommon Civil Defence service in 2022 and a new Civil Defence Officer was appointed. A Hyundai Tucson was added to the service's fleet.

Building Control

Roscommon County Council is the statutory Building Control Authority for County Roscommon and administers the Building Control System.

The Building Control Regulations 1997–2015 provide for matters of procedure, administration and control for the purposes of securing the implementation of and compliance with the requirements of the Building Control Regulations. These regulations generally apply to new buildings and existing buildings which undergo an extension, a material alteration or a material change of use.

Commencement Notices

In 2022, the Building Control Unit processed 230 Commencement Notices for 251 buildings. Commencement notices are submitted in 4 different types as follows:

- > Opt Out Commencement Notices;
- > Commencement Notice with Documentation:
- > Short Form Commencement Notices;
- > 7 Day Notices.

Inspections

The percentage of new build inspections for 2022 was 18.3%. 10 requests were issued for information to be submitted demonstrating compliance with the Building Control Regulations. A number of advisory correspondences were also sent highlighting actions required by owners/ designers/ assigned certifiers.

Certificate of Compliance on Completion

25 Certificate of Compliance on Completion applications were made in 2022. 21 limited visual site inspections were carried out in relation to these applications.

Fire Safety Certificates

52 new applications for Fire Safety Certificates were received under Building Control legislation during 2022.

Disability Access Certificate

A Disability Access Certificate is a certificate granted by the Building Control Authority which certifies compliance of the design of certain works [e.g. new buildings (except dwelling houses) and some extensions to and material alterations to buildings (except dwelling houses)] with the requirements of Part M of the Building Control Regulations. 36 Disability Access Certificate and 2 Revised Disability Access Certificate applications were submitted in 2022. 13 site inspections were carried out in respect of these applications.

Other Enforcement Activity

The Council is also the designated enforcement authority for the purposes of ensuring compliance with other legislation as follows:

- Marketing of construction products in line with the European Union (Construction Product) Regulations 2013 (SI No. 225 of 2013); Appendix I.
- > Building Energy Rating Certificates for buildings in line with the European Union (Energy Performance of Buildings) Regulations 2012 (SI No. 243 of 2012); Appendix II.
- Registration of multi-storey buildings for the purposes of the Local Government (Multi-storey Buildings) Act 1988.

Arts

Arts Office

In 2022, the Arts Office continued to support, encourage and nurture the arts through developing partnerships and working collaboratively with artists, agencies and communities across the areas of music, film, visual arts, literature, theatre, dance, public art and more.

The annual programme for the Arts Office is funded by Roscommon County Council and the Arts Council of Ireland. A Public Art and Engagement Coordinator was employed in 2022 on a 3-year contract, partfunded by the Arts Council's *Specialist Staffing Scheme*. Artists were supported through awards, bursaries, residencies, commissions, training and networking opportunities with arts practices and projects increasingly considering equality, diversity, inclusion and climate actions. Ronan Guilfoyle was the second recipient of the *King House Piano Commission* which was premiered by a trio of musicians during the *Boyle Arts Festival* in July. Partnerships evolved with the Contemporary Music Centre, Music Network, Creative Heartlands and WRAP.

Public event programmes such as *Culture Night*, the *Bealtaine Festival* and the *Literary Development Programme*, promote engagement between the county's artists and the public with further opportunities provided by partnerships with *Age and Opportunity*, *First Fortnight*, *Poetry Ireland*, *Boyle Arts Festival*, *Strokestown International Poetry Festival*, the Roscommon Herald and the Association of Local Authority Arts Officers. *Roscommon Local and Live*, funded by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media under the *Local Live Performance Programming Scheme*, saw 21 events take place countywide with almost 400 performers, creatives and technicians engaged.





Artist Malachy Costello at McGahern Barracks, Cootehall, Culture Night 2022.

Under the Arts Participation Programme, projects were delivered by artists on the Council's Artist Panel. Planning, training, programming and funding for inclusion in the arts led to the development of the CARE (Creative Ageing in Roscommon) programme and the introduction of the HSE's Nursing Home Residencies in 2022. The Arts Office worked closely with HSE services for older people; St Angela's College, Sligo; Brothers of Charity; Nursing Homes; the Roscommon Disability Group and more.



CARE – Creative Ageing in Roscommon.



Launch of Threading the Táin at Áras an Chontae, Roscommon, June 2022 with Tapestry Artists; Rhona McGrath, Arts Officer; Mary Smyth, Public Art and Engagement Coordinator and Áine Butler.

Youth arts programmes create inspiring and accessible experiences for thousands of children and young people ensuring that their voices remain at the core of on-going planning and implementation of programmes such as Artists in Schools, Roscommon County Youth Theatre, Music Generation Roscommon and Cruinniú na nÓg, Ireland's national day of free creativity for young people.

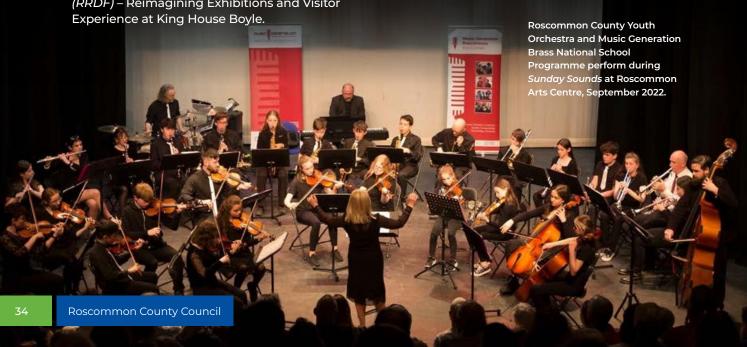
The Arts Office's involvement in a number of capital programmes in collaboration with the Council's Regeneration and Tourism Units saw the following realised:

- > Outdoor Public Space Scheme Somers Park, Castlerea;
- > Town and Village Renewal Scheme -Knockcroghery Public Art Commissions;
- > Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) - Ballyleague; 2 sculptures commissioned;
- > Destination Town Boyle Sculpture Trail; 5 sculptures commissioned;
- > Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) - Reimagining Exhibitions and Visitor



Mural, Knockcroghery by Artist ADW.

The Arts Office performs a lead role in the development and delivery of Creative Ireland and Decade of Centenaries programmes by coordinating the work of the Council's Culture Team and a multiplicity of projects between creatives and communities countywide. The Culture Team can be described as a team of local cultural agents, operating as part of the local authority structure, that aims to support a wider community of practitioners, educators, creatives and audiences to deliver a framework for culture and creativity throughout Roscommon. It comprises of representatives from the Council's Arts, Heritage, Tourism, Library and LEO Units and the national Creative Ireland Office in the Department Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media. A Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023-2027 has been adopted by the Council to promote cultural development and creativity within the county.



Arts Centre

In 2022, the Arts Centre delivered a multi-faceted programme which included 117 live performances and 7 exhibitions with an audience reach of over 100,000 people.

Increased Arts Council funding and the support of *Creative Ireland* enabled the Arts Centre to develop and deliver a range of supports to artists and creatives through a series of mentored residencies, commissions, performances, projects and community engagement opportunities.

Notable highlights in 2022 included MÁM by Teac Damsa, Julie's Sharkey's play An Ant Called Amy, the AIR (Artist in Residence) initiative, Artist on My Green and the new 10 Minutes of Art initiative. The Arts Centre had the Druid Theatre Company back on stage in June with The Cavalcaders. A Roderic O'Conor Conference was hosted in September whilst the Interconnections 4 exhibition had a 6 week run in the centre's galley. Sunday Sounds was also held in conjunction with Music Generation.

Mám

Roscommon Arts Centre, as part of the Nomad Network, staged 2 performances of *Mám* in the Sports Complex in Boyle in partnership with Hawkswell Theatre, Sligo. The Teac Damsa documentary on the making of the show aired on RTÉ Television in early February 2023.

An Ant Called Amy

An Ant Called Amy, a play for children, was first conceived by actor Julie Sharkey during her time as 'Theatre Artist in Residence' at Roscommon Arts Centre (2017/2018), during which a work-in-progress performance took place as part of the Bookworms Festival. Julie continued to develop the piece with the support of the Arts Centre, the Arts Council, mentors Martin Drury and Mikel Murfi, and the Creative Ireland Roscommon programme. The show made its debut as part of the Centre's 2021 Cruinniú na nÓg programme and proceeded to have 2 shows in October 2022.

Artist on My Green

In the summer of 2022, the Arts Centre launched a new initiative *Artist on My Green*, a Summer Residency Programme designed to bring artists into 3 local neighbourhoods, housing estates or housing developments in Roscommon. Over a 6-week period, 1 evening a week, participating artists set up home in a neighbourhood green space/communal



Scene from the performance of Mám.



Scene from An Ant Called Amy.



Artist on My Green.

area and made this their pop-up weekly workspace as they engaged with the local community. Emma Brennan joined the Abbeyville Residents Association, Siobhan-Cox Carlos joined the Spinney Residents Association and Sarah Ellen Lundy joined the Antogher Court Residents Association.

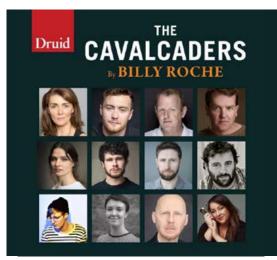


10 Minutes of Art

10 Minutes of Art was a new initiative specifically developed for non-visual art audiences on selected performance evenings to help them navigate their way around shows which were hosted by curator Naomi Draper, artists and educators.

The Cavalcaders

In June 2022, the Arts Centre hosted a sell-out performance of *The Cavalcaders*, by the Druid Theatre Company, as part of its Irish Tour.



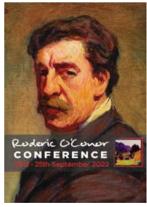
The Cavalcaders by the Druid Theatre Company.

Roderic O'Conor Conference

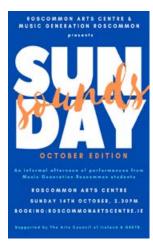
The Arts Centre hosted a full day conference that featured a range of presentations by expert international, national and local speakers, lecturers and art historians which dealt with the many aspects of the life and career of Roderic O'Conor.

Sunday Sounds

Sunday Sounds was a collaboration between Roscommon Arts Centre and Music Generation Roscommon for 2022. It was designed to give young Roscommon performers the opportunity to perform in front of a live audience. B-monthly concerts included singing and music performances from Music Generation students throughout the county.



Roderic O'Conor Conference.



Sunday Sounds.



Roscommon County Council's Library Service provided a range of resources and services throughout 2022. Through a network of branch libraries, the mobile library and online service provision, it supported the needs of users across the county. New services were introduced to support library users with additional needs in using library services and extensive events programmes took place throughout the county.

Service Provision

The delivery of library services in service points and through the mobile library continued throughout the year. The Library Service provided an extensive programme of events that were delivered in person and online and continued to deliver a range of online services to library users.

Strokestown library re-opened to the public in June following renovation works. The library re-opened with improved opening hours. Since re-opening almost 10,000 people have visited the library to borrow almost 6,500 items, to attend events and to use computer and study space. This represents a 126% increase in visits and a 187% increase in lending compared with the same period in 2019.



The official re-opening of Strokestown Library.

Library Development Strategies

The delivery of library services during 2022 was in line with core service strategies and recommendations contained in *Our Public Libraries 2022: Inspiring, Connecting and Empowering Communities.* A new 5-year *Library Development Plan* will be delivered in 2023 following the publishing of the new 5-year national public library strategy.

Funding Supports

Funding supports from the Department of Rural and Community Development and the *Dormant Accounts Fund* supported the delivery of a new *Sense-Ability* lending collection as part of a collaborative project with Sligo and Leitrim Library Services. A new sensory Cubbie was installed in Castlerea Library supported by funding from the *Disability Participation and Awareness Fund* through the Department of Children, Equality, Integration and Youth.

In November 2022, the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, announced funding of €4.35m for the development of a new Community Library in Boyle. The new library, located to the rear of the former Royal Hotel, will face out onto the river walk, in the King House Cultural Quarter. It will be accessible, flexible and suitable for the provision of innovative library services into the future. Alongside traditional library services, the facilities offered in the new multifunctional library will include meeting, workshop and event spaces, technology and research spaces and indoor and outdoor sensory spaces.

Through the support of the *Dormant Accounts Fund*, the library service subscribed to a new online service called *LOTE Online*. This service consists of a database of digital picture books enabling children to enjoy the magic of books in *LOTE* (Languages other than English). This service includes a number of books in Ukrainian and other languages such as Portuguese, Urdu and Russian. In 2022, a total of 480 stories were watched during the year with 33% of those in Ukrainian and 32% in Portuguese.

Funding was also received to support the purchase of C-Pens to assist service users with dyslexia and a digital magnifier for Castlerea Library for the benefit of users who are visually impaired.

Online Resources

Library users made great use of online resources in 2022. Services included eBooks, eAudiobooks, online courses, online language learning, eNewspapers and eMagazines. Usage of online resources remain at more than 200% higher than pre-Covid 19 levels.

Due to increased demand, the Library Service provided access to an additional 80 *Touch-Type*, *Read and Spell (TTRS)* licences in 2022. *TTRS* is an online typing course designed to benefit those who experience spelling, reading or writing difficulties.

Library Events and Activities

During 2022, a blend of online and in-person events was delivered by the Library Service. A series of online *Decade of Centenaries* talks drew large crowds locally, nationally and internationally. Full event programmes returned for *Healthy Ireland*, *Right to Read* and the *Children's Book Festival*. Supported by the *Creative Ireland Programme*, the *Siarscéal Festival* returned to Roscommon Library in November.



The new magnifier in use in Castlerea Library.

The response from libraries and schools in Counties Roscommon, Leitrim and Sligo was very positive. There were over 60 entries to the *Hanna Greally Literary Awards*. 2022 also included a new award for the under-18 young adult category of aspiring writer. It was a diverse and inclusive festival engaging for the first time in several years new schools in the 3 counties and participants from young to old including 1 centenarian poet and storyteller.

Library Usage

In 2022, there were a total of 80,626 visits to library service points. More than 100,000 items were borrowed by library users, in person and online.



Heritage

The Heritage Office, in conjunction with the County Roscommon Heritage Forum, works to implement the County Roscommon Heritage Plan which sets out strategic heritage goals for the county.

Implementation of the Heritage Work Programme for 2022 was supported with funding from the Heritage Council, the Local Biodiversity Action Fund from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the Creative Ireland Programme. The Heritage Office also managed the operation of the Built Heritage Investment Scheme, the Historic Structures Fund and the Community Monuments Fund on behalf of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.



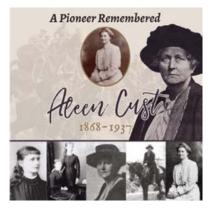
Rahara Cemetery Committee viewing conservation works at Rahara Medieval Church.

Actions delivered during 2022 included a presentation on the Rahara Church Conservation Project which was included in the national Heritage and Biodiversity Actions for Climate webinar series. A review of the membership of the County Roscommon Heritage Forum was carried out following which new members were appointed. The forum met on a quarterly basis. Considerable technical and administrative support was provided to a number of projects. 1 Heritage Research Bursary was awarded and 1 Know Your Locality course was delivered. 'Roscommon Cemeteries Mapviewer' www.roscommoncoco.ie/cemeteries was also maintained, updated and promoted.

Table 1: Heritage Office Work Programme Funding 2022

Funding Stream	Number of Projects	Funding
Creative Ireland	4	€15,000
Built Heritage Investment Scheme	13	€96,000
Historic Structures Fund	2	€31,000
Local Biodiversity Action Fund	4	€47,600
Invasive Alien Species Fund	3	€18,826
County Heritage Plan Funding	4	€54,500
Community Monuments Fund	3	€131,758
Total		€394,684

Support was provided on an ongoing basis to community groups to help them complete heritage projects. The Rahara Church and O'Berine Mausoleum conservation projects were completed. Support was provided to the Aleen Cust Commemoration Committee for the delivery of a major conference, podcast series and video. An exhibition and school's workbook are in progress for dissemination in 2023.



A series of Aleen Cust Commemorations took place in conjunction with Galway, Tipperary and Roscommon County Councils, the Aleen Cust Memorial Society and the Decade of Centengries.



MAD Youth Theatre's The Battle of the Bulls at Rathcroghan,
Táin March Festival.

Farming Rathcroghan EIP Community
Archaeologist leading a guided walk, talk
and tour at Rathcroghan as part of National
Heritage Week.

Sundew, taken from A Guided Tour of Carrowbehy Living Bog.

Support was provided for the promotion of Rathcroghan as one of the 'Royal Sites of Ireland'. This included involvement with the Royal Sites of Ireland Steering Group which is working towards UNESCO World Heritage Site designation. The Farming Rathcroghan EIP (European Innovation Partnership) Community Archaeologist was also supported through funding from the Heritage Council. In addition, the *Threading the Táin Exhibition*, *Táin March Festival* and the *Royal Rathcroghan* schools programme, which was delivered to over 290 pupils in 12 schools, were facilitated with the assistance of funding from the *Creative Ireland Programme*.

For National Biodiversity Week a series of informative social media posts were produced. A Guided Tour of Carrowbehy Living Bog video was premiered. Actions for Swifts included a Community Swift Conservation Webinar, a video about Roscommon Swifts and the erection of Swift nest boxes and caller systems on Council buildings in Monksland, Roscommon, Ballaghaderreen and Strokestown. The Heritage Office continues to promote the implementation of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan. Actions carried out by the Council for pollinators included reduced mowing at sites around the county.

Over 42 events took place around the county during *National Heritage Week*. The Heritage Office delivered a comprehensive programme of events during the week including a series of *Pledge Your Garden for Pollinators* workshops, nature walks and *Nature Bingo* and *Dig it* children's events.

Heritage news and information was shared on an ongoing basis on Council social media using hashtags #LoveYourHeritage and #Roscommon Heritage. Over 80 Heritage Office news emails were circulated during the year.



Erection of Swift nest boxes and caller systems.



First phase of emergency conservation works at Ballintubber Castle supported by the *Community Monuments Fund*.



National Heritage Week - Nature Bingo in the Demesne, Castlerea with Heritage expert, Martina Butler.

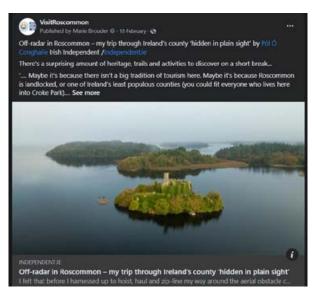
Tourism

Marketing and Media

Roscommon Tourism invested in a domestic marketing campaign throughout 2022 of *Keep Discovering Roscommon* using online platforms,



print media and the services of influencers Barra Best, BBC weather presenter and Pol Ó Conghaile, Irish Independent travel expert. A very successful Halloween activities campaign was run in October to highlight Roscommon as the home of Halloween. A new tourism video was developed for the 2022 and 2023 markets, highlighting the tourism offerings of Roscommon. A Roscommon episode of *Ireland with Michael* was also recorded in August 2022 and aired across the US TV network in January 2023.



Visit Roscommon online marketing.

Tourism Networking

Tourism county networking events were held during 2022 with stakeholders receiving updates on tourism and Ireland's Hidden Heartlands Destination Discovery Task Force developments. *The Best of Roscommon* networking event was held in April in King House, Boyle to showcase all the county has to offer to the public.

Ireland's Hidden Heartlands

Meetings and trade workshops for *Ireland's Hidden Heartlands (Upper, Middle and Lower Shannon)* continued throughout the year.

Fáilte Ireland Funding

Works through Fáilte Ireland's *Destination Town* funding for Boyle continued with the completion of landscaping in the Pleasure Grounds and the installation of a Sculpture Trail.



The Best of Roscommon.



Attending *The Best of Roscommon* event - Eiméar Dowd, Tourism Officer; Louise Fitzpatrick, Lough Key; Tony Aspel, Strokestown Park and Patricia Golden, King House.

King House

King House launched the latest exhibition *Hidden Gem*, a collection of works, tools, drawings, jewellery and gems by the late Erwin Springbrunn in March 2022. It was officially opened by Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, Catherine Martin TD. The *New Connaught Rangers Exhibition* was also opened to the public in June by Minister for Social Protection and Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD. Throughout the year a series of cultural event were held in King House including recitals, performances and the *Boyle Arts Festival*.

Douglas Hyde Interpretative Centre

The Douglas Hyde Centre opened from July to August and the venue held a series of lectures over the autumn period on Dr. Douglas Hyde and his influence on Irish culture.

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) Funding

Roscommon County Council was awarded grant funding in 2022 for the following projects outlined in Table 1:



Minister Heather Humphreys visit to King House – PJ Maloney, Connaught Rangers; Minister Heather Humphreys and Patricia Golden, King House.



Douglas Hyde Centre

Table 1: ORIS Project Funding

Scheme	Location	Amount
Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (Measure 1) 7 projects	Palace Neighbourwood Park Trials Elphin, Doon Shore, Roscommon Walks, Quality Framework, Boyle Lough Key Cycleway, County Roscommon Waymarking and Gortaganny	€194,670
Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (Measure 3)	Rathcroghan Loop Trail	€445,500

Regeneration and Special Projects

The role of Roscommon County Council's Special Projects and Regeneration Unit is to develop, co-ordinate and implement projects to facilitate economic and rural development throughout the county.

Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF)

Activity in 2022 included the following:

- > Public realm works to Market Square, Roscommon were completed in 2022. Design of the covered civic space was completed and the construction tender was advertised on etenders in December 2022;
- An application to the value of €12.3 million, entitled Roscommon Town Putting the Spokes Back into the Hub, (linking the backlands of Main Street, retail parks and Circular Road to support the main town core and a cycling perimeter route), was approved in Quarter 1, 2021. Design consultants were appointed and initial design consultations have taken place with local stakeholders. The initial design was progressed to the preparation of a Part 8 planning application.



Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF)

Activity in 2022 included the following:

- Works on the redevelopment of the Royal Hotel site in Boyle into an enterprise centre and community space;
- Construction work on the Castlerea Food Hub with completion scheduled for 2023;
- Construction tender process for the Monksland Life Sciences and Soft Landing Space was completed. Works are scheduled to commence in early 2023;
- Works have commenced on the RRDF project Energising Boyle Town Centre and King House. These include upgrades to King House including exhibitions, energy efficiency works and campus facilities. The project also includes public realm enhancements on Bridge Street and Shop Street including the adjacent carpark;
- Detailed design is ongoing for public realm enhancement in Ballaghaderreen as part of the Category 2 RRDF. The construction element of this project has secured funding through the Active Travel Programme;
- > Project implementation commenced for the Category 2 RRDF for both Strokestown (Rejuvenating Strokestown's Potential) and Monksland (Putting the Heart into Monksland) projects with design consultants procured and design consultation commenced.

The Square, Roscommon



Ballintubber Garda Station.

Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2021

Projects successful under the 2021 *Town and Village Renewal Schemes* and rolled out throughout 2022 consisted of Cloonfad, Ballintubber, Monksland and *Roscommon Bound*. Examples of works carried out include landscaping, public realm enhancements, new approach signage and community centre hubs. Successful projects under the 2022 scheme consisted of Arigna, Athleague, Cootehall and a development measure for Ballinagare. Work on these projects will commence in 2023.

Town and Village Building Acquisition Measure 2022

The Building Acquisition Measure, which was a new funding initiative announced in 2022, facilitated the purchase of derelict/underutilized buildings. The former Garda Stations in Tarmonbarry and Ballintubber were purchased. Feasibility studies commenced to develop both buildings into multiuse community spaces funded under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme Project Development Measure.

Doon Shore Amenity Area.

Town and Village Streetscape Enhancement Scheme 2022

The Town and Village Streetscape Enhancement grant scheme, which was funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development, allowed each local authority nominate 1 town. Ballinlough was nominated on behalf of Roscommon. Initial consultations were held with the local community in Quarter 4, 2022. It is envisaged the scheme will be implemented in Quarter 2, 2023.

Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)

The Regeneration Unit was busy progressing the following projects during 2022:

- Completion of works at Doon Shore amenity area in Boyle;
- Ballintubber and Ballymoe project was commenced and the design consultant tendered for the construction element of the project;
- Work commenced on the development of the recreational amenity linking both marinas in Ballyleague.

Entente Florale

Keadue was nominated to represent Ireland in the *Entente Florale* competition. This competition raises awareness of the importance of the green environment to the quality of living in participating communities in residential, urban and industrial areas. Judging for the competition took place in Keadue on 1st July 2022. The awards ceremony for the competition took place in Balatonfured, Hungary in September 2022 where Keadue was awarded a gold medal.



Keadue, gold medalist at Entente Florale competition 2022.

Community and Economic Plans

The Regeneration Unit worked with Elected Members and communities in Boyle and Monksland to prepare community and economic plans. Consultations took place in person with great turnouts and local engagement.

Town Centre First Initiative

This new initiative from the Department of Rural and Community Development aims to create town centres that function as viable, vibrant and attractive locations for people to live, work and visit. Strokestown was nominated on behalf of County Roscommon to develop a *Town Centre First Masterplan*. Consultants were appointed to undertake the commission. Consultation with the local community was ongoing throughout 2022 which included attendance at the *Strokestown Agricultural Show*.

Working with Our Global Rossie Family through Roscommon Bound

Roscommon Bound social media channels continue to grow on Linkedin, Twitter, Instagram and Facebook providing a forum for sharing positive stories and events of interest to Roscommon bound people at home and abroad.

Funding under Project Ireland 2040

A summary of funding received in 2022 under *Project Ireland 2040* is provided in Table 1:

Table 1: Funding Received in 2022 under Project Ireland 2040

Scheme	Location	Amount
Town and Village Renewal Scheme	Various	€962,419
Town and Village Building Acquisition Measure	Tarmonbarry and Ballintubber	€400,000
Town and Village Streetscape Enhancement Scheme	Ballinlough	€100,000
Outdoor Recreation infrastructure Scheme M2 and Development Measure	Mote Park/North Roscommon various/Donamon	€449,600
Department of Children and Youth Affairs	Portrunny	€6,702

Local Enterprise Office

The Local Enterprise Office (LEO) acts as a 'First Stop Shop' for anyone seeking information and support on starting or growing a business. The role of LEO Roscommon is to drive the development of enterprise, putting local micro and small business at the heart of job creation. LEO supports business start–ups and works to increase the job potential of new and existing micro and small businesses with information, advice, training, mentoring, seminars and selective financial support.

2022 was a very busy year for LEO Roscommon, with businesses recovering from the Covid-19 pandemic. 176 businesses employing 1,032 people were supported as a direct result of grants approved for new and existing businesses employing additional staff in County Roscommon.

Major financial supports included *Priming Grants* to assist start-ups, *Business Expansion Grants* to support growing businesses and *Feasibility Grants* to help businesses test the commercial or technical feasibility of new products or processes. Through these supports the LEO invested in 17 businesses in 2022 which were projected to create an additional 64 jobs.

2022 saw an increase in participants taking part in training courses, mentoring assignments and mentoring clinics. The majority of these were delivered remotely and tailored towards the needs of small, micro and start-up businesses in Roscommon

The LEO engaged with 7 second-level schools to sow the seed of entrepreneurship at a local, county and national level.

A number of initiatives were introduced by the LEO in 2022 to help businesses adapt and address the challenges presented by climate change. Energy audits and advice were provided to small and micro businesses under the *Green for Micro* programme and the *Lower Cost Lower Carbon* programme developed in partnership with Sligo IT and LEOs in Mayo and Sligo.



Winners of the Senior Student Enterprise Award 2022, Cupán Cozies from the Convent of Mercy, Roscommon.

Digital Start provided support to obtain digital strategy, technical and/or advisory services for eligible businesses. Expert digital consultants helped to develop a unique digital strategy that transforms businesses by identifying where they are on the digital business journey, developing a digital adaptation plan based on their identified needs and assisting them to implement a digital plan. Supports focus on assisting areas such as business process optimisation, enhancing the digital customer experience and utilising data better.

There was a high demand in 2022 for *Trading Online Vouchers* which were grant aided at 50% and assisted 37 businesses to transition to an e-commerce model. 13 clients were also facilitated with Microfinance Ireland loan applications.

The LEO continues to excel in customer care and aims to build on this by delivering high quality and varied services and supports to its ever expanding customer and client bases. Engagement with Enterprise Ireland and the IDA continued throughout 2022 promoting Roscommon as a location for business and inward investment.



Winners of the *County Enterprise Award 2022*, Studio Meala, Boyle - Stephen Fagan, Jerry Twomey and Sean Cunningham.



Water Services

The Water Services Department provides support to Public and Private Water and Wastewater Supply Networks.

The **Public Water/Wastewater Network** is supported through a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Irish Water. Roscommon County Council acts as an agent of Irish Water to deliver public water and wastewater services under the SLA.

The **Private Water/Wastewater Network** is supported under the *Multi Annual Rural Water Programme* which consists of subsidies/upgrades to the group water scheme sector and private well grants. These are provided directly to members of the public with financial assistance from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

The Water Services Department operates a grant scheme for lead remediation works in private households. It also provides support for the operation of public conveniences.

Annual Service Plan with Irish Water

Capital Schemes

The planning and construction of all capital schemes is carried out under the direction of Irish Water. An ongoing *Capital Programme* is underway in the county.

Infrastructure Portfolio

Roscommon Town Main Drainage

Construction works commenced in June 2021 and continued during 2022. 95% of all new pipelines were completed. New inlet pumping station, balancing tank and storm tank works were completed at the wastewater treatment plant. New and upgraded wastewater pumping stations were completed at Castlerea Road, Ardsallagh and Ballinagard. A new wastewater pumping station was commenced and is under construction at Circular Road, Roscommon.



Ballaghaderreen Wastewater Treatment Plant

The contractor Veolia took over this project in January 2020. It is currently proceeding with a proposed detailed design in consultation with all parties.

The main items of work to be delivered as part of the Early Contractor Involvement project include

- Upgrading the terminal pumping station by increasing capacity of the tank on site as well as associated site works:
- Upgrading the site boundaries by separation of the entrance currently used as a common shared entrance by Irish Water and the Council;
- Upgrading the secondary treatment process in order to improve the capacity of the existing process;
- Associated ancillary site works including the upgrade of the SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) System.

Capital Programme Portfolio

Water Treatment Programme

New source protection works for Mount Talbot Water Treatment Plant were designed in 2022. The site is also included in the *Supply Demand Balance Programme* for additional ground water.

Reservoir Cleaning Programme

All reservoirs and clear water tanks are cleaned up to date. The programme remains in place for cleaning works in 2023.

Access to Heights and Edge Protection Programme

This regional programme aims to address medium and high-risk items identified in Health, Safety, Quality and Environment (HSQE) audits. Irish Water has requested a review of any outstanding HSQE items that may be considered for delivery under this programme. The programme continues to address items on a rolling basis.

Supply Demand and Deficits Programme

Longford Springs, Castlerea; Cloonlaughnan Springs, Mount Talbot and Rockingham Springs, Boyle are included in this programme which aims to provide additional ground water resources to improve the resilience of supplies during drought periods.

Water Networks Rehabilitation Programme

New water mains network rehabilitation contracts were completed in Elphin, Cremully, Lisnamult and Ballaghaderreen.

Wastewater Below Ground Telemetry Programme

A National Wastewater Below Ground Telemetry Programme is being rolled out by Irish Water. This programme provides for the installation of telemetry outstations at wastewater pumping station sites in order to allow early warning of spills to sensitive waters and to obtain data for future upgrades, connection requests etc. All sites covered under this programme will be connected to the interim National Telemetry System (iNTS).

Storm Water Overflow Assessment Programme

Jacobs/Tobins have been appointed by Irish Water to deliver this regional programme. A review of the current list of wastewater treatment plants and storm water overflows is complete. Site assessment reports on all sites are expected in early 2023.

Wastewater Pumping Stations and Rising Mains Capital Maintenance Programme

Jacobs have been appointed by Irish Water to deliver this regional programme. Ballyfarnan Wastewater Pumping Station has been prioritised under the programme. Jacobs has completed the concept design for the pumping station. The report is with Asset Planning who maintain a register of pumping stations nationally and recommend which ones are prioritised for further works. Bealnamullia and Daneshill wastewater pumping stations are included in the programme.

Inlet Works Storm and Sludge Programme

Works commenced in 2022 on the construction of a new inlet works, storm and sludge tank at Termonbarry Wastewater Treatment Plant. The works are due for completion in Quarter 3, 2023. When completed the overall environmental compliance of the plant will improve and operational efficiencies will be achieved.

Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme

A Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme is proposed in order to support a number of national policy objectives and strategic outcomes under the National Planning Framework (NPF) e.g. development of a new rural settlement investment approach. This programme is intended to provide wastewater and water treatment plant growth capacity in smaller settlements which would not otherwise be provided for in the investment plan. Lecarrow Wastewater Treatment Plant has qualified for the programme. Initial survey work and site investigation has commenced.

Regional Water Resources Plan North West Region

The Regional Water Resources Plan North West Region (RWRP-NW) sets out options for providing a more secure, reliable and sustainable water supply for 732,700 customers in the North West over the next 25 years. The plan outlines current challenges in terms of delivering a safe, secure and resilient water supply. It identifies progress made to date, for instance, through leakage reductions, capital investment works and works in progress. It applies the methodology as adopted in the National Water Resources Plan Framework to (i) identify the need across Water Resource Zones in terms of quality, quantity, reliability and sustainability of supply and (ii) identify solutions to meet this need.

There are 142 water treatment plants in operation in the North West Region which collectively serve 732,700 people or 18% of the population of Ireland via approximately 17,700km of distribution network and 119 Water Resource Zones. These treatment plants also serve 74,000 businesses. The region covers approximately 26,900 square km, extending from the Shannon Estuary on the Southern boundary of County Clare to County Donegal. The regional plan will offer key benefits in terms of transformation of supplies, including the ability to cater for growth and economic development in a sustainable way, improved interconnectivity between supplies to ensure balanced regional development and new sustainable water sources that are adaptable to climate change.

Irish Water is seeking feedback from public consultation on the draft *RWRP-NW* and associated SEA Environmental Report and Natura Impact Statement.

Drinking Water Compliance

The total overall compliance with the European Union Drinking Water Regulations for Roscommon was 99.05%. 139 check and audit samples were taken on public water supplies in 2022. No Boil Water Notices were issued. A direction was issued by the EPA regarding Trihalomethanes (THMs) on the North East Regional Water Supply Zone. It has been placed on the EPA Remedial Action List Register.

Wastewater Compliance

All wastewater treatment plants in Roscommon were in compliance in 2022 with the Urban Wastewater Regulations. 7 wastewater treatment plants were in compliance with wastewater discharge licence requirements while 5 plants were non-compliant. Investigations are on-going to address non-compliance.

22 wastewater incidents were reported in 2022. 2 EPA audits were conducted in the year. Audit recommendations are being addressed.

Water Networks Portfolio

Water Network Framework Programme

Irish Water is rolling out the *Water Network Portfolio* under its *Capital Investment Plan 2017 to 2022* as outlined below.

Water Networks Rehabilitation Programme

Farrans Ltd. has been appointed regional contractor to undertake works on behalf of Irish Water. Works were completed at Elphin, Cremully, Lisnamult and Ballaghaderreen in 2022.

Pressure Management Works

A new pressure management programme was developed during 2022. It will be rolled out in 2023. The programme so far has consisted of surveying and data gathering. New critical control points have been established and pressure loggers deployed.

Find and Fix Programme

The Find and Fix Programme entered the fifth year of targeting District Metered Areas with high unaccounted for water figures. This programme involves the verification of highlighted District Metered Areas through isolating areas of high unaccounted for usage and focusing leak detection works to locate and repair any leaks in these areas. Through monitoring associated usage and leakage



Water Network Rehabilitation Works in Ballaghaderreen.



Completed Find and Fix Installation.

reductions, daily usage within targeted District Metered Areas can be guided towards a sustainable economic leakage level target for each area. The programme continues to contribute towards achieving reductions in unaccounted for water and leakage throughout the county.

The national leakage target for 2022 was to reduce leakage by 28.5MLD. This was successfully achieved i.e. leakage reduced from an overall figure of 647 MLD to 617 MLD based on a 12 month rolling average data. In percentage terms, the national leakage level is at 37%, reduced from a high of 46% in 2018.

The target for the Council in 2022 was to achieve a 1.0 MLD leakage reduction by September 2022. This target was achieved with leakage levels showing a reduction of 1.02 MLD.

First Fix Programme

Farrans Construction has been appointed by Irish Water to carry out works under this programme. The duration depends on the take up by customers who will avail of the scheme.

Non-Domestic Meter Replacement

Farrans Construction has been appointed by Irish Water to carry out works under this programme. Surveys have commenced as a first phase of the meter replacement.

Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme – Private Water

The 2019-2021 funding cycle of the *Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme (MARWP)* consists of 8 measures. These measures reflect the key challenges currently facing the rural water sector in respect of funding support. In particular, the measures expressly focus on a 'multiple barriers' approach, from catchment to consumers (source – treatment - distribution), to prevent contamination and ensure that drinking water is safe and meets the quality parameters of the Drinking Water Regulations on a consistent long-term basis.

Approvals for the schemes/projects under 8 funding measures of the *MARWP 2019-2021* were received from the Department in October 2019 providing a total grant fund of €3,015,346 over the 3-year period 2019 to 2021. The Department has continued the current programme due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Measure 1 - Drinking Water Source Protection (Group Water Scheme Sector): Funding of €459,794 approved for the period 2019-2021.

This measure is aimed at protecting the raw water source of existing group water schemes thereby contributing to the safety of water users through the ability of the scheme to sustainably achieve compliance with the water quality parameters of the Drinking Water Regulations on a consistent long-term basis.

The Group Water Scheme Source Protection Pilot Project involves developing full source protection plans including specific actions to improve the safety and security of group water schemes' drinking water. The emphasis is on raising awareness, education, and inclusion. One of the aims of the project is to work towards sustainable farming practices that lead to improved water sources, increased biodiversity and enhancement of climate awareness. The project focusses on farming benefits with environmental outcomes. Roscommon County Council is progressing well with the implementation of specific targeted and

appropriate mitigation activities as follows:

- > Catchments have been delineated;
- A Framework for Drinking Water Source Protection and a Handbook of Source Protection and Mitigation Actions for Farming have been developed;
- A media campaign to raise public awareness on drinking water source protection in Roscommon and incorporating biodiversity has been implemented;
- I've Planted a Tree and My Garden is Pesticide Free, a campaign to encourage the community to go pesticide free in their gardens, has been rolled out;
- The Let It Bee initiative, which involves farmers working together to protect their local water source and enhance biodiversity, has won the European Bee Award for County Roscommon in the category Land Management Practices for its outstanding contribution to protect pollinators.

Works were undertaken in 2019 to 2022 at a cost of €442,318 and recouped at 100% from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Measure 2 - Public Health Compliance (Group Water Scheme Sector): Funding of €814,000 approved for the period 2019-2021.

This measure is aimed at improving water quality in existing group water schemes, through upgrading their treatment facilities, so that schemes can sustainably achieve compliance with the parameters of the Drinking Water Regulations on a consistent long-term basis. Total works under Measure 2 were completed at a cost of €633,535 which was 100% grant funded.

 Measure 3 - Enhancement of Existing Schemes including Water Conservation (Group Water Scheme Sector): Funding of €1,431,000 approved for the period 2019-2021.

This measure supports projects to make existing group water schemes more efficient in their operation (e.g. water conservation and network upgrades, including storage) and contribute to good water quality on a consistent sustainable long-term basis. Funding of €1,133,237 was paid to schemes at 85% of costs.

Measure 5 – Transition of Existing Group Water Schemes and Group Sewerage Schemes to the Public Water Sector (Irish Water): Funding of €292,438 approved for the period 2019-2021.

This measure enables existing group water and group sewerage schemes, where they wish to do so and with the agreement of Irish Water, to transition to the public water sector (Irish Water). 2 existing group water schemes have been taken in charge and discussions are underway with

- a further 2 group water schemes to progress to taking in charge by Irish Water. Works were grant aided in the sum of €189,579.
- Measure 6 A Community Water Connection at Crosshill, Arigna was undertaken under the 2019-2021 programme and received financial support of €22,314 which equated to 85% of the cost of the works
- Measure 8 Private Water Supply Grants for the Improvement of a Private Water Supply to a House.

This grant scheme supports improvement works for a private water supply providing water intended for human consumption and domestic purposes to a house, (more commonly known as private or household wells). The maximum grant available is €5,000 or 85% of the cost of the work, whichever is the lesser. To the end of Quarter 4, 2022, 18 applications for the upgrade of private water supplies were received. Grants have been paid on the applications in the sum of €38,424.

Subsidy Payable towards the Operational Costs of Group Water Schemes Providing Water for Domestic Use

With effect from 1st January 2018, subsidies have been increased, streamlined and new incentives introduced for smaller schemes to ensure that domestic users on group water schemes receive comparable benefits to those receiving their water supply from Irish Water.

- > Annual Subsidy An annual subsidy per house is available to group schemes for the operational cost of providing domestic water. Annual subsidies in the sum of €466,525 have been paid to group water schemes to the end of 2022.
- > Operational and Maintenance Subsidy This subsidy is payable towards operational and maintenance (O&M) costs associated with bona fide design/build/operate contracts for group schemes that have their own water treatment facilities. O&M subsidies in the sum of €733,677 have been paid to group water schemes to the end of 2022.

Total subsidies paid to group water schemes to end of 2022 amounted to €1,200,202.

Lead Remediation Grant

In order to reduce exposure to lead in drinking water, a revised *Domestic Lead Remediation Grant Scheme* was launched in December 2022. It is available to assist households to replace lead services within their homes. This grant provides 100% of costs up to €5,000 to replace drinking water lead pipes within the boundaries of household property. The grant scheme has been established in line with the *National Lead Strategy*.

Environment and Climate Change

Roscommon County Council's Environment and Climate Change Department covers a diverse range of functions and services. The principal areas are:

- Pollution Control and Water Quality Management;
- > Waste Management and Enforcement;
- > Landfill Management;
- Civic Amenity Site and Bring Bank Management;
- > Litter Management;
- > Environmental Awareness;
- Water Laboratory Sampling and Testing Services;
- > Climate Action;
- > Casual Trading.

River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027

Pollution control legislation covers areas such as water pollution, air pollution, nuisance and noise. Specific activities undertaken in relation to pollution control include investigation of water pollution incidents; licensing and monitoring of discharges to waters and sewers; licensing emissions to air and monitoring drinking water, urban wastewater treatment plant performance and rivers and lakes. A draft of the River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) 2022-2027 was issued for public consultation from September 2021 to the end of March 2022. 259 unique content submissions were received. Studies indicate that, despite efforts over recent years, water quality is not improving fast enough. Significant pressures identified in County Roscommon were related to agriculture and hydromorphology. Tighter control of nitrogen inputs is proposed along with restorative mitigation works and new regulations to govern physical alterations.

Laboratory

The laboratory provides both a technical/analytical and sampling service and is accredited to ISO 17025. The laboratory continued in 2022 to provide a shared sampling and testing service to 6 other local authorities. This entailed sampling and testing of drinking waters, wastewaters, trade effluents, landfill leachates, surface waters, groundwater etc. The laboratory experienced an increase of 12% in sample throughput in 2022.

National Inspection Plan

The purpose of the registration and inspection system for domestic wastewater treatment systems (DWWTS) is to protect ground and surface water quality (particularly drinking water sources) from the risks posed by malfunctioning systems. The Council will continue to prioritise inspection of septic tanks in 2023. A review of the up-take of grant schemes to up-grade onsite treatment systems will be undertaken nationally.

13 inspections were completed in 2022 and all were uploaded to EDEN by February 2023. A failure rate of 69% was recorded in 2022 which is in-line with the 2021 failure rate of 67% with non-compliances determined using the national inspection protocol.

Waste Management and Enforcement

A grant of €139,043 was allocated to the Council from the *Environment Fund* to support dedicated and measurable enforcement initiatives as detailed in the Council's *RMCEI* (*Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections*) *Plan*. Performance against the plan was measured and reported to the Connacht-Ulster Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority (CUWERLA) and the Environment Protection Agency (EPA). Monthly returns were submitted to CUWERLA through the LGMA

Connacht-Ulster Waste Region and CUWERLA

Roscommon is part of the Connacht Ulster Region in terms of waste management. The Connacht Ulster Waste Plan 2015-2021 was published in May 2015. The region appointed Mayo County Council as the regional lead, to act on behalf of the other authorities with responsibility for the successful implementation of the plan. In addition, Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authorities were selected in each region. Roscommon County Council continued to engage with CUWERLA on national priorities and items of interest on a regional level. Leitrim and Donegal County Councils are the joint lead authorities for CUWERLA which is responsible for coordinating waste enforcement actions within the region, setting priorities and common objectives for waste enforcement and ensuring consistent enforcement of waste legislation where local authority personnel still act as first responders to specific breaches of waste legislation.

National Waste Management Plan

The National Waste Management Plan for the Circular Economy is currently being developed and will replace the Regional Waste Management Plan.

Recycling Centres

The Council continues to operate recycling centres at Boyle, Roscommon, Ballaghaderreen and Castlerea. Sites are open to the public 3 days a week. Bring banks are located at 39 locations throughout the county. Barna Waste is providing waste collection services. All waste collected is reflected in the *National Waste Survey* return submitted to the EPA.

Landfill Management

The Council continues to monitor and maintain 2 closed licensed landfills at Ballaghaderreen and Roscommon. It is obliged to continuously monitor environmental risks associated with these closed facilities (e.g. landfill gas, groundwater quality, surface water quality). Regular servicing and maintenance works are also carried out. The Annual Environmental Report and the Annual Environmental Performance Report are submitted to the EPA. On foot of a Certificate of Authorisation. the closed landfill at Castlerea will continue to require works such as the installation of additional boreholes to facilitate additional monitoring. Contracts for consultants are also required to be prepared to assist with applications for Certificates of Registration for smaller historical landfill sites (Strokestown, Boyle and Frenchpark).

Climate Action Plan

The Climate Action Bill was approved in 2021 and draft government guidance on the preparation of Local Authority Climate Action Plans was issued in December 2021. Significant resources were sanctioned by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications for the preparation, adoption and implementation of a Climate Action Plan for Roscommon.

Recommendations identified from the Planning, Environment, Climate Change and Corporate Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) were referred to the Climate Action Team. Relevant Departments/ Units of the Council shall be responsible for assigned actions. The tender for production of a climate action promotional video was advertised in Quarter 4, 2021. Expressions of interest to participate in the project were also submitted in the same period. Most of the promotional footage was captured in 2022. The video will be finalised in 2023.

National Litter Pollution Monitoring System

The Litter Pollution Monitoring System provides an accurate picture of litter pollution countrywide and accurately measures changes over time. The Council carried out 24 quantification surveys and 82 litter pollution surveys under the system.

Annual Programmes

A grant of €97,174 was received under the 2022 Anti-Dumping Initiative. Bulky goods collection alone accounted for over 27 tonnes of waste including household furniture items, mattresses, bed-bases, couches and armchairs. The Anti-Litter/Anti-Graffiti Community Support Programme received a grant of €16,000.



Castlerea Bulky Goods Collection Day

The following projects were completed in 2022:

- Bulky goods collection held at each civic amenity site;
- Awareness campaign around Waste Presentation Bye-Laws which included newspaper advertising and a social media campaign. This campaign was funded under the Anti-Dumping Initiative;
- Awareness campaign around the issue of unauthorised waste collectors which included radio advertisements and a social media campaign. This was a joint project with Longford County Council and was funded under the Anti-Dumping Initiative;
- > Clean up of roadside campaign;
- > Clean up of Coolaghtane, Ballaghaderreen;
- > Removal of tyres.

Green Schools Programme

This progressive and continuous programme is designed for schools at both primary and secondary level. The programme works on different themes, each of which take approximately 2 years to complete. Schools awarded with a *Green Flag* must renew their flag every 2 years. 61 of the 98 schools (primary and secondary) in the county had achieved *Green Flag* status at the end of 2022.

Casual Trading Bye Laws

A review of the Casual Trading Bye-laws was completed in 2022. Copies of the proposed Casual Trading Bye-laws were available for inspection from 1st to 30th September 2022 with written submissions to be received no later than 14th October 2022. The bye-laws were adopted in November 2022 and came into effect on 1st January 2023.

Environmental Awareness and Media Campaigns

Keadue Village took part in the 2022 Entente Florale international competition. Council staff assisted with advanced preparations and presentations to the judging panel. Keadue was 1 of only 2 locations in the 32 counties that was invited to participate.

Heat Pump training was organised for Council staff in June 2022. Training objectives were to:

- Improve procurement of heat pumps in local authorities to ensure that a retrofit or a new build is to the highest standard and that heat pumps are working as efficiently as possible; and
- Increase awareness of heat pumps for tenants, Council staff, installers and the general public.

A number of social media/awareness campaigns were organised during 2022 including:

- > Launch of National Clean Air Week;
- > Online Green Schools seminars:
- Online litter management workshop organised for tidy towns groups/community groups;
- Social media campaign for National Re-Use Month;
- Competitions organised for national schools with an anti-litter theme;
- Social media and newspaper campaigns around recycling at Christmas;
- Bring bank audio and VMA displays installed for Christmas/New Year;
- > Unauthorised Waste Collector, a joint campaign with Longford County Council which was funded under the Anti-Dumping Initiative;
- **>** Waste Presentation Bye-laws also funded under the *Anti-Dumping Initiative*;
- > DWWTS awareness campaign.

Governance and Corporate Affairs

The functions of the Corporate Services Department include providing support services to Council management; organising and servicing meetings of the Council and its sub-committees; register of electors; insurances; facilities management; veterinary functions; dog control services; civic receptions; events; customer services; customer complaints; freedom of information; access to information on the environment; data protection; ethics declarations and reporting of political donations.

Meetings of Roscommon County Council

At the Plenary Council Meetings, the 18 members of the Council meet to carry out their reserved functions and consider social, economic and cultural issues critical to the sustained development of the county in line with the strategic priorities and objectives of the Council's *Corporate Plan*.

11 monthly Plenary Council Meetings were held in 2022. The Annual Meeting was held in June where Cllr. Tom Crosby was elected Cathaoirleach and Cllr. Laurence Fallon as Leas Cathaoirleach. 1 Special Meeting was held in March to adopt the *Draft County Development Plan 2022–2028*. The Budget Meeting was held in November 2022 to approve the 2023 Budget.

Roscommon Municipal District held 12 meetings, Athlone 8 meetings and Boyle 9 meetings during 2022.

Corporate Plan 2020-2024

The Corporate Plan was adopted by the Elected Members in 2020. This plan serves as Roscommon County Council's strategic framework for action during the lifetime of the present Council. The plan sets out objectives under the following 3 priorities to deliver the Council's mission, reflect the views of the people of the county and build sustainable communities in a changing environment:

- > Quality of life and well-being for all;
- > Economic and community development;
- > Quality service to our people.

Register of Electors

The Electoral Reform Act 2022 has changed the process for electoral registration. The Draft and Live Registers have been replaced by a Rolling Register which will be continuously updated and remain live for up to 15 days before an electoral event. The figures for electors in **Table 1** were taken from the last Live Register which came into force on the 15th February 2022.

Table 1 Register of Electors

Dáil Constituency	Presidential Electors	Dáil Electors
Roscommon - Galway Constituency Electors	41,181	42,740
Sligo – Leitrim Constituency Electors in County Roscommon	5,587	5,800
Midlands - North – West Parliament Constituency	47,758	
Local Electoral Areas Ele	ectors	50,043
> Athlone Local Elector	15,153	
> Boyle Local Electoral	17,731	
> Roscommon Local El	ectoral Area	17,159



Richael Timothy (Irish Paralympian) being presented with a special award from the Cathaoirleach Cllr. Joe Murphy and Chief Executive Eugene Cummins at a Civic Reception on 21st June 2022.



The Freedom of County Roscommon being awarded to boxers Lisa and Aoife O'Rourke at a special ceremony in the Council Chamber on 8th December 2022.

Civic Receptions

Roscommon County Council hosts civic receptions for persons in its administrative area who have distinguished themselves and brought pride and honour to their community through their achievements.

On 21st June 2022, 18 recipients, including teams and individuals were honoured with a Civic Reception in Áras an Chontae, Roscommon. All of the recipients displayed excellence in fields as diverse as sport, youth work, dance and creativity as well as displaying acts of courage and self-sacrifice. Each were presented with a specially signed commemorative scroll. 2 special awards were presented to Aoife O'Rourke (boxing) and Richael Timothy (Paralympic cycling) to acknowledge their status as Irish Olympians having represented Ireland at the Tokyo Summer Olympics in July 2021.

Freedom of County Roscommon

The Elected Members unanimously agreed to award the Honorary Freedom of the Administrative Area of County Roscommon to sisters Lisa and Aoife O'Rourke. The ceremony took place in the Council Chamber on 8th December 2022. Lisa was awarded the accolade for winning the World Championship gold medal and Aoife for retaining her European Championship title, both in boxing.

Representative Trips Abroad

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Joe Murphy and Cllr. Laurence Fallon, accompanied by Director of Services, Mr. Shane Tiernan and at the invitation of the County Roscommon Society of New York, visited New York in March 2022 to meet with the Roscommon diaspora and to promote economic and tourism opportunities for Roscommon.

Dermot Early Bursary

The Council has established an annual sports bursary in honour of the late Dermot Earley. The scholarship affords financial assistance to successful candidates from County Roscommon (1 male and 1 female) with an accomplished background in sport who are attending their first year in third-level education. Successful applicants for the academic year 2022/2023 were Niamh Fitzgerald representing St. Dominic's GAA Club and Adam McGreal representing Padraig Pearses GAA Club.

Social Media

The Council's social media accounts which include Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube and LinkedIn have allowed it to enhance communication and engagement with the public. With 28 profiles across multiple platforms, including library services, arts centre, the Roscommon diaspora and the Local Enterprise Office, social media is a vital communication tool for the Council and the local community. It provides the Council with the flexibility to share information quickly and easily to a large audience, to support national campaigns as necessary, highlight recruitment opportunities and promote greater awareness of the work carried out by the Council. At the end of 2022, these social media profiles reached an audience in excess of 70.000 followers.

Veterinary Functions

The Council operates a service contract with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) to oversee food safety in 8 slaughterhouses and 5 standalone meat manufacturing plants. There are also 5 food businesses registered with the Council. The supervision of slaughter is carried out by the Council's Veterinary Officer and temporary Veterinary Inspectors. All animals are inspected ante-mortem and post-mortem to ensure that meat is fit for human consumption. Traceability of all animals is also verified. 2,973 cattle, 3,741 sheep and 272 pigs were slaughtered in 2022 in Council supervised slaughterhouses.

Dog Control Services

Under the Control of Dogs Act 1986, responsibility for the control of dogs within the county is undertaken by Midland Animal Care under a service contract with the Council.

Dog owners are required by law to have a current dog licence and the dog must be microchipped. In July 2018, the *National Dog Register* was introduced by An Post enabling online purchasing of dog licences. Licences can also be purchased from any Post Office. In 2022, expenditure on dog control services amounted to €195,010 while the total income in respect of licences and fees was €78,031.

The Dog Breeding Establishments Act, 2010 requires premises to apply for inclusion on the *Local Authority Register of Dog Breeding Establishments*. 2 establishments were included on the Council's register at the end of 2022.

Freedom of Information (FOI)

Roscommon County Council received 62 FOI requests in 2022. A breakdown of the outcome of these requests is outlined in **Table 2**.

Table 2: FOI Requests

Number of requests undetermined at 1st January 2022	6
Number of requests received during 2022	62
Number of requests granted	21
Number of requests part-granted	27
Number of requests refused	14
Number of FOI requests transferred, withdrawn or dealt with outside of FOI	1
Number of requests undetermined at 31st December 2022	5

Access to Information on the Environment (AIE)

13 AIE requests were received by the Council in 2022. Details of the outcome of these requests are presented in **Table 3**.

Table 3: AIE Requests

Number of AIE requests undetermined at 1st January 2022	1
Number of AIE requests received during 2022	13
Number of AIE requests granted	6
Number of AIE requests part-granted	4
Number of AIE requests refused	4
Number of AIE requests withdrawn	0
Number of requests undetermined at 31st December 2022	0

Data Protection

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018 impose obligations on the Council to protect all personal data under its control. The Council continued its development of policies, procedures and practices in 2022 in order to discharge its data protection responsibilities. 4 Subject Access Requests (SARs) were processed by the Council during the year.

Ethics Declarations and Reporting of Political Donations

Ethics declarations were submitted by all Elected Members and Relevant Employees in 2022 in accordance with statutory requirements prescribed within Part 15 of the Local Government Act 2001 and the Local Government Act 2001 (Part 15) Regulations 2015.

All Elected Members complied, in 2022, with requirements set out in the Local Elections (Disclosure of Donations and Expenditure Act 1999 (as amended) for the reporting of political donations.

Protected Disclosures

The following report in Table 4 has been prepared and is being published by the Council in accordance with Section 22 of the Protected Disclosures Act 2014:

Table 4: Protected Disclosures - Reporting Period: 1st January to 31st December 2022

Number of Protected Disclosures made to Roscommon County Council	0
Action (if any) taken in response to those Protected Disclosures	N/A

Irish Human Rights and Equality

The Council, in the performance of its functions, has, in accordance with Section 42 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014, had regard to the need to –

- a. Eliminate discrimination,
- Promote equality of opportunity and treatment of its staff and the persons to whom it provides services, and
- Protect the human rights of its members, staff and the persons to whom it provides services.

Garda Síochána Act 2005

The Council, in the performance of its functions, has, in accordance with Section 37 of the Garda Síochána Act 2005, had regard to the importance of steps to prevent crime, disorder and anti-social behavior within its area of responsibility.

Assets and Energy Management

The Assets and Energy Management Department, including Public Lighting, has responsibility for a number of significant areas.

Asset Management

The primary purpose of this function is to manage and record all assets of the Council including property, buildings, land and houses in a consolidated *Asset Register* and to comply with the Council's associated statutory reporting obligations. Details of all buildings and land owned by the Council together with the total number of social houses is communicated to the Office of Public Works on an annual basis for inclusion in the *National Property Register*. The Council is working towards achieving a standardised inventory of all its assets.

Energy Management

The primary function of energy management is to facilitate the Council's role as a public body in the challenge to decarbonise public services and to achieve the relevant targets of the *Climate Action Plan 2023*. This plan sets out the level of effort and action required to reduce Ireland's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 50% by 2030 and our transition to a carbon neutral economy and society no later than 2050. Under the plan the public sector is mandated to achieve a 51% absolute reduction in GHG emissions and a 50% energy efficiency improvement by 2030, against a baseline of 2016 to 2018.

The Public Sector Energy Partnership Agreement, which was signed on 25th April 2016 as a joint obligation between the Council and the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland, had set a target of 33% energy improvement for the Council, based on a 2009 baseline, to be achieved by the end of 2020. The Council reported its 2020 energy usage in May 2021. It achieved a 38.1% energy reduction by the end of 2020 thereby exceeding the targeted 33% improvement.

The Council has joined the Midland Energy Agency (MEA), aligning with the CARO (Climate Action Regional Office) Midlands Region. Laois County Council are the lead authority for the MEA and the Energy Officer co-ordinates monthly working group meetings and quarterly steering group meetings between all local authorities in the MEA.

Work continues on statutory reporting obligations and targeting the primary energy users of the Council which include public lighting, electricity usage and transport fuel with a view to achieving further energy efficiencies.

Public Lighting

The Council has a contract with Energia for the unmetered and metered supply of energy to illuminate the public lighting network throughout the county.

The Council, in conjunction with the other local authorities in the Connaught region, entered into a regional maintenance contract in October 2020 with Electric Skyline Limited for general repairs to the system resulting in competitive rates for the maintenance, repair and improvement of public lighting. There are approximately 8,000 public lights in County Roscommon with 59% upgraded to LED, resulting in significant energy savings.

The Council is in Region 3 of the *National LED Retrofit Project* and has signed a Section 85 Agreement with Mayo County Council for the *Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project (PLEEP)*. The upgrade to public lighting in County Roscommon is ongoing through the maintenance contract with Electric Skyline Limited. The remaining public lighting to be upgraded will be included in *PLEEP*.

Declaration in Accordance with S.I. 542 of 2009

Overview of Energy Usage

In 2022, Roscommon County Council spent €2.25 million on energy-related charges with the main categories consisting of:

- Public lighting energy and maintenance charges;
- Electricity charges for lighting, equipment and space heating;
- > Transport fuel.

Actions Undertaken

Since 2010, Roscommon County Council has undertaken a range of initiatives to improve its energy performance, including:

- > Energy usage monitoring and reporting;
- > Energy related training;
- > Awareness campaigns;
- > Driver training;
- Consolidation of Council offices in Roscommon Town into a single purpose-built Civic Headquarters with consequent energy saving benefits;
- > Energy efficiency upgrades to buildings and public lighting.

In 2022, the Council continued with initiatives to improve its energy performance which included LED retrofit of public lighting to various roads and estates throughout the county. These energy saving measures are contributing to significant annual energy-related savings. In May 2021, the Council reported that it had achieved a 38.1% energy reduction by the end of 2020, based on a 2009 baseline, thereby exceeding the targeted 33% improvement in the context of Ireland's EU and national commitments.

Actions Planned

Roscommon County Council intends to further improve its energy performance by undertaking the following initiatives:

- > Multi-annual Energy Action Plan;
- Monitoring and energy audits of significant energy users, informing plans for upgrade works;
- > Awareness campaigns involving all staff;
- LED upgrades to existing public lighting stock. The Council has signed up as a participant in the PLEEP coordinated by the Road Management Office which has commenced nationally.





The Human Resources Department promotes and supports a culture of quality customer service through workforce planning, staff recruitment and selection, training and development, performance management, leadership development, staff welfare, development and delivery of agreed Human Resources policies and procedures, maintenance of a stable industrial relations environment and the creation of an equitable, consultative and supportive working environment.

Workforce Planning

Roscommon County Council recognises that its employees are the most valuable resource within the organisation. They play a crucial role in the achievement of its corporate and business objectives and are a key resource fundamental to the delivery of change. The Human Resources Department deploys, develops and manages its workforce to meet the challenges of an evolving working environment and to provide an efficient and effective service to the public. Its recruitment process operated entirely online during the year and all interviews were conducted remotely which meant that there were no delays in filling essential posts. The total number of staff employed by the Council at 31st December 2022 was 477.

Performance Management

The cornerstone of the Council's Integrated Performance Management System is its Corporate Plan. The Corporate Plan is the foundation for generating Annual Service Delivery Plans, Unit Plans and Individual Performance Plans. These plans establish goals, targets and timeframes to ensure that every employee contributes effectively to delivering a quality service to the public.

Staff Training and Development

The Council is committed to the training and development of staff through a diverse range of training and development opportunities, leadership development programmes and further education opportunities to ensure that employees have the knowledge, expertise, competencies and skills to achieve the Council's goals and objectives. A comprehensive and equitable training and development programme was delivered by the Human Resources Department during 2022.





Building Momentum - A New Public Service Agreement 2021-2022

Building Momentum - A New Public Service Agreement 2021-2022 delivers an extension of the framework of public service agreements, including the previous agreement the Public Service Stability Agreement (2018 - 2020) which expired on 31st December 2020. This agreement is mindful of current challenges, is reflective of the response of the public services to those challenges, seeks to address equitably the concerns of the many and varied groups of public servants covered by these agreements and also addresses certain measures introduced under the Haddington Road Agreement.

Industrial Relations

The Human Resources Department works with unions and staff representatives to achieve and maintain positive employee relationships and is committed to the promotion of a good industrial relations environment.

Attendance Management

The Council's Attendance Management Policy helps to provide for a working environment which maximises and motivates employee attendance. The policy aims to reduce absenteeism and results in improved service delivery and reduced costs. The percentage of working days lost to sickness absenteeism in 2022 was 4.41%.

Labour Activation Measures

The Council has facilitated 1 graduate under the current *Graduate Recruitment Programme* in the Local Enterprise Office. The Council has also facilitated 1 apprentice under the *Apprenticeship Incentivisation Scheme* in the Finance area. The aim is to ensure that, at the end of these initiatives, both participants will have enhanced their skills and competencies in their chosen area of expertise.

Health and Safety

The Council continues to implement the provisions of the local authorities Safety Management Systems.

The implementation of the local authorities Safety Management Systems is carried out by the ongoing review of current systems, implementation of the rigorous health and safety inspection programme and the completion of the work programme. Communication and consultation with employees are carried out and health and safety training of employees is facilitated as required. Employees are supported to implement safe systems of work. Liaison with the Health and Safety Authority (HSA), Irish Water and other stakeholders take place as appropriate.

The Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act, 2005 requires employers, their representative management and employees alike to consider health and safety as a joint responsibility.



The 2022 work programme included:

- Monitoring of the Safety Management System by the Council's Health and Safety Officers through ongoing work inspections;
- Operation of ISO 45001 Certification standards for the Fire Service;
- Development and revision of the Council's existing Safety Management System documentation including health and safety policies;
- Development and delivery of an Occupational Health, Welfare and Staff Wellbeing Programme;
- Continued co-operation with external parties such as the Health and Safety Authority and Irish Water;
- Monitoring of existing contractor control procedures;
- Continuous improvement in the Council's communication and cooperation processes e.g. Safety Management Committee meetings, Municipal District Coordinator meetings and liaison with safety representatives;
- Continued development and delivery of Manual Handling and Health and Safety Induction Training Programmes;
- Continued compliance with the statutory duty for third party inspections of Council owned lifting and work equipment.

Finance and Information Systems & Digital Transformation Directorate

Finance

The Finance Department is responsible for the following;

- > Financial Management and Oversight;
- > Accounts Receivable including Motor Tax;
- > Accounts Payable and Procurement;
- > Internal Audit;
- > Production and Publication of Financial Information including the Annual Budget and the Annual Financial Statement.

Financial Management

The Council operates a Revenue Account for day to day current income and expenditure and a Capital Account for longer term project related income and expenditure such as the provision of infrastructure and assets, including roads, housing schemes, land and buildings.

The level of expenditure for the Revenue Account for 2022 was €67.7m while for the Capital Account the expenditure was €51.4m.

Key Points related to Financial Activity in 2022

- A surplus of €26k was delivered on the Revenue Account;
- The Capital Account reported a cumulative credit balance of €28.6m;
- The cumulative General Reserve at the end of 2022 stood at €270k;
- A combined total of €119m for revenue and capital was expended on delivering services to the citizens of Roscommon;
- The payroll function continued to operate through a service level agreement as a shared service hosted by Laois County Council;
- 98% of invoices from suppliers were paid within 30 days which is in line with the previous year.

Ukraine Crisis

The Ukraine crisis resulted in a number of financial supports being provided to local businesses and the Council from Government. This impacted the 2022 Revenue Account as the Council incurred €1.1m in expenditure which is fully recoupable but at year end had only received €814k.

Revenue Collection

The table below summaries revenue collection performance since 2017:

	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Rates	89%	89%	68%	89%	86%	83%
Rent	91%	93%	93%	91%	92%	91%
Housing Loans	71%	65%	62%	76%	55%	56%

Summary of Major Revenue Collections for 2022

The table below provides an overview of revenue collection performance for 2022:

A Debtor Type	B Opening Arrears at 01/01/2022	C Accrued	D Vacant Property Adjustments	E Write Offs	F Waivers & Credits	G Total for Collection =(B+C-D-E-F)	H Amount Collected	l Closing Arrears at 31/12/2022 =(G-H)	J Specific Doubtful Arrears	K % Collected =(H)/(G-J)
Rates	1,232,568	12,496,462	1,144,199	220,328	428,769	11,935,733	10,591,883	1,343,850	16,713*	89%
Rent	370,508	5,613,446	-	4,840	-	5,979,114	5,454,511	524,603	-	91%
Housing Loans	136,487	324,963	-	76%	-	461,451	325,981	135,470	-	71%

^{*}Specific doubtful arrears = (i) Vacancy applications pending/criteria not met & (ii) Accounts in examinership/receivership/liquidation and no communication regarding likely outcome.

The Council is committed to working with all customers to resolve issues in relation to the payment of Council charges.

Statement of Comprehensive Income (Income & Expenditure Account Statement) for Year Ended 31st December 2022

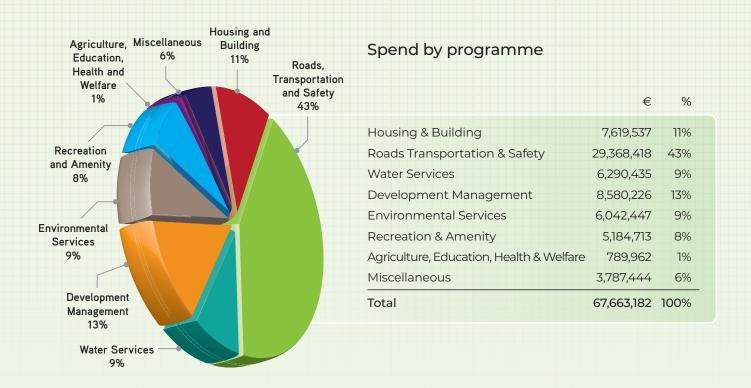
The Income and Expenditure Account Statement brings together all the revenue related income and expenditure. It shows the surplus/(deficit) for the year.

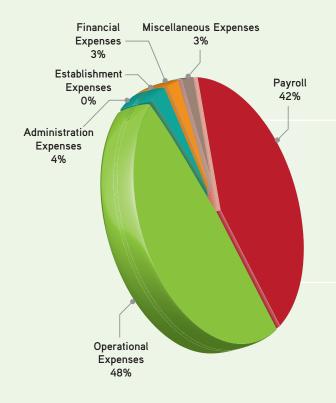
Expenditure by Division	Gross Expenditure 2022 €	Income 2022 €	Net Expenditure 2022 €	Net Expenditure 2021 €
Housing and Building	7,619,537	9,041,144	(1,421,607)	(1,453,264)
Roads, Transportation & Safety	29,368,418	22,413,760	6,954,658	6,932,454
Water Services	6,290,435	6,871,985	(581,550)	(19,462)
Development Management	8,580,226	4,116,804	4,463,422	3,462,792
Environmental Services	6,042,447	1,027,311	5,015,136	5,137,304
Recreation & Amenity	5,184,713	1,685,132	3,499,581	3,504,246
Agriculture. Education, Health & Welfare	789,962	335,493	454,469	614,049
Miscellaneous Services	3,787,445	5,053,241	(1,265,796)	(289,740)
Total Expenditure/Income	67,663,182	50,544,869		
Net cost of Divisions to be funded from Rates and Local Property Tax			17,118,313	17,888,380
Rates			12,496,462	12,573,441
Local Property Tax			10,825,752	10,825,692
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year before Transfer			6,203,901	5,510,753
Transfers from/(to) Reserves			(6,177,851)	(5,485,613)
Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year			26,050	25,140
General Reserve at 1st January			243,944	218,803
General Reserve at 31st December			269,994	243,944

Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet) as at 31st December 2022

	2022	2021
	€	€
FixedAssets	€	€
Operational	236,776,449	239,107,826
Infrastructural	1,615,664,454	1,615,664,454
Community	12,769,146	13,055,965
Non-Operational	1,178,676	1,236,562
	1,866,388,726	1,869,064,807
Work-in-Progress and Preliminary Expenses	23,441,554	17,127,581
Long Term Debtors	9,682,903	8,087,869
Current Assets		
Trade Debtors & Prepayments	5,180,523	5,107,868
Bank Investments	10,790,386	40,807,739
Cash at Bank	19,747,505	2,666,329
Cash in Transit	154,178	101,408
	35,872,591	48,683,343
Current Liabilities		
Creditors & Accruals	8,426,743	10,412,321
	8,426,743	10,412,321
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)	27,445,848	38,271,022
Creditors (Amounts greater than one year)		
Loans Payable	27,311,156	28,590,261
Refundable Deposits	776,671	740,418
Other	1,680,975	1,605,100
	29,768,801	30,935,779
Net Assets / (Liabilities)	1,897,190,229	1,901,615,499
Represented By		
Capitalisation	1,866,388,726	1,869,064,807
Income WIP	20,226,644	15,619,494
General Revenue Reserve	269,994	243,944
Other Specific Reserves	203,334	2 TJ, J T T
Other Balances	10,304,865	16,687,254
Total Reserves	1,897,190,229	1,901,615,499

Revenue Expenditure 2022





What money was spent on

	€	%
Doverell	20 107 1/1	42%
Payroll	28,193,141	42%
Operational Expenses	32,691,166	48%
Administration Expenses	2,640,208	4%
Establishment Expenses	335,183	0%
Financial Expenses	1,862,643	3%
Miscellaneous Expenses	1,940,841	3%
Total	67,663,182	100%

Information Systems and Digital Transformation



The Information Systems and Digital Transformation Department is headed up by the Head of Information Systems and is supported by the ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) Operations, Digital Transformation and GIS (Geographic Information Systems) Teams.

ICT Operations

The ICT Operations Team provides a service delivery platform and technical support for all departments, business units and Elected Members of the Council. This ensures that equipment and information, as necessary, is readily available to facilitate the Council to deliver an efficient service to its clients and customers.

Resource time continued to be dedicated, in 2022, to supporting the need for remote working solutions. The ICT Operations Team supported secure connections to the corporate network and also provided staff with up-to-date managed devices to facilitate connections from remote working locations.

The ICT Operations Team continued to utilise and build on services which are available through Microsoft's 365 platform. This approach enables secure access to corporate systems and information from any location on secure managed devices. It also assists Council staff to work in new ways and reduce the carbon footprint by cutting back on the need for physical devices.

The ICT Operations Team also continued to achieve progress in 2022 with regard to the following areas of its responsibilities:

- Evaluating and developing the potential of modern ICT to enhance the business objectives of the Council and ensure maximum impact of emerging technologies;
- Investigating and implementing any new technologies that would contribute to the improvement, efficiency and enhancement of existing information systems;
- Ensuring the security and integrity of Council data and ICT infrastructure including addressing cyber security;
- Developing and managing disaster recovery/ business continuity solutions that minimise the risk of system outages and data loss/corruption.







Digital Transformation

The Digital Transformation Team is responsible for the delivery of a digital transformation programme of works for the organisation, with the aim of providing quality and accessible online services that are efficient, engaging and which meet with citizens' expectations. The team has developed over 80 online services to date offering customers easy and efficient access to a variety of Council services.

A digital portal, *My Online Services*, accessible through <u>www.roscommoncoco.ie</u>, continued to allow customers to register and avail of the growing number of online services provided by the Council such as reporting municipal or environmental issues, applying for grants or making payments. In excess of 4,000 people had registered as self-service customer users on this digital platform by the end of 2022. This allows them to access a range of Council services anytime, anywhere and from any device.

The Council has also logged details for over 10,000 customers who primarily raised issues by phone or email. These issues are recorded and automatically routed to the correct personnel for resolution. This has greatly improved internal communications and efficiency with regard to the processing by staff of work orders.

Internal business process improvements also continued in 2022 through the roll out of online services.

GIS

The GIS Team continued to maintain and develop systems to provide Council staff and members of the public with access to map-based information. These systems include tools to both view and collect location-based information. For example, in 2022, the Register of Electors field survey was conducted using a tablet-based survey developed by the GIS Team.

The Council continued to gather more information digitally in 2022. Systems such as *Report It* enabled the public to let the Council know about issues in their locality. Council staff also increased their use of various mobile applications to gather data in the field more efficiently.

The use of Microsoft Power BI and GIS dashboards was also expanded in 2022 in order to provide Council decision-makers with the tools they need to view and assess information quickly. In addition, the GIS Team developed a number of web-based reports during the year to facilitate the display of key metrics in a simple and useful manner.

Local Community Development Committee Report

The Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) has primary responsibility for coordinating, planning and overseeing the implementation of the Local Economic and Community Plan.



7 LCDC meetings were held on the following dates:

Date	% Attendance
19th January 2022	74%
23rd March 2022	84%
18th May 2022	7 4%
20th July 2022	68%
29th September 2022	79%
30th November 2022	68%
14th December 2022	53%

All LCDC Meetings were held via Microsoft Teams, with the exception of the meeting of 30th November 2022 which was held in the Council Chamber, Áras an Chontae, Roscommon.

The following is an overview of items progressed by the LCDC in 2022:

- The LCDC approved a total of €873,223 for LEADER projects;
- > Sub-committees continued their work in the areas of SICAP (Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme), LEADER and the assessment of grant scheme applications such as the Community Enhancement Scheme;
- > SICAP 2021 End of Year Report was approved;
- > SICAP 2022 Annual Plan and mid-term review was approved;
- The Migrant Integration Strategy was approved;
- The process to prepare a new Local Economic and Community Plan 2023–2028 commenced;
- The LCDC approved a bid to prepare the Local Development Strategy;
- ➤ A Healthy Ireland Officer was appointed and Round 3 funding was approved by the Health and Wellbeing Sub-committee;
- > The Ukrainian response was co-ordinated.

Membership of LCDC at 31st December 2022

Pillar	Agency / Nominating Body	No. of Nominees	Name of Nominee	
Statutory Interests				
Local Government	Roscommon County Council Members	3	Cllr. Laurence Fallon Cllr. Paschal Fitzmaurice Cllr. Nigel Dineen	
Local Authority Officials	Roscommon County Council Executive	2	Mr. Shane Tiernan, Chief Executive Ms. Louise Ward, Head of LEO (Local Enterprise Office)	
State Agency	Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board	1	Ms. Lynne Keery	
State Agency	Department of Social Protection	1	Vacant	
State Agency	Health Service Executive (HSE)	1	Mr. Eamon Hannan	
State Agency	Teagasc	1	Mr. Tom Kellegher	
Non Statutory Interests				
Local and Community Development	Roscommon Leader Partnership Company	1	Ms. Carina Lennon	
Social Inclusion (Private)	Public Participation Network (PPN)	1	Ms. Faye Hayden	
Social inclusion (Private)	PPN	1	Mr. Kevin Conry	
Community and Voluntary	PPN	1	Mr. Vincent Moran	
(Private)	PPN	1	Mr. Gerard Fallon	
Environmental Pillar	PPN	1	Mr. Michael Ewing	
Social, Economic & Community Interests	Farming & Agriculture	1	Mr. Jim O' Connor	
Social, Economic & Community Interests	Business Representative	1	Mr. Gareth Scahill	
Social, Economic & Community Interests	Trade Union Representative	1	Mr. John Tansey	
Social, Economic & Community Interests	Disability Sector	1	Ms. Helen Hunt	
Total Number of Members:		19		

LEADER Summary Programme 2022

Theme	Sub-Theme	Original Project Budget	Number of Projects approved to year end 2022	Value of Projects approved to year end 2022
Rural Economic	Rural Tourism	€700,000.00	3	€26,106.10
Development, Enterprise	Enterprise Development	€1,900,000.00	9	€594,030.24
Development And Job	Rural Towns	€750,000.00	2	€23,057.89
Creation	Broadband	€250,000.00	0	€0.00
Carial In about a	Basic Services	€1,981,282.00	10	€467,668.58
Social Inclusion	Rural Youth	€400,000.00	1	€374,137.53
	Water Resources	€200,000.00	0	€0.00
Rural Environment	Biodiversity	€200,000.00	0	€0.00
Z. W. G. WICHE	Renewable Energy	€200,000.00	1	€17,656.65
Totals:		€6,581,282.00	26	€1,502,656.99

Corporate Plan Report

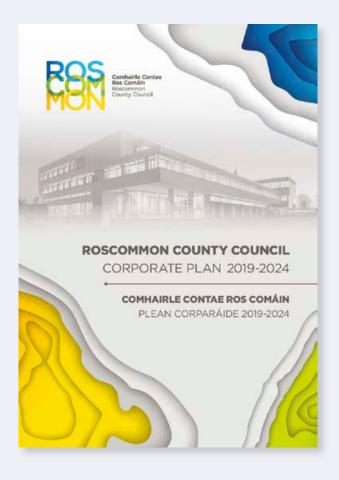
Roscommon County Council's *Corporate Plan 2019-2024* was prepared in accordance with statutory provisions prescribed in Section 134 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended by Section 49 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014. It was formally adopted by Elected Members at their February 2020 Plenary Council Meeting.

The Corporate Plan is at the core of the Council's business activity. It is prepared on the basis of an organisational wide strategic approach encompassing the various functions and responsibilities of the Council. The plan presents a broad framework for action by the Council over a 5-year period taking into consideration key elements of national policy and the economic, social and cultural needs of the community and citizens that it serves.

The Corporate Plan 2019-2024 was prepared following an extensive consultation process involving internal and external stakeholders. This included consultation with staff, Elected Members and the wider public through a survey conducted on social media platforms.

The plan sets out the Council's objectives to facilitate it to succeed in its mission of 'ensuring through collaboration and the provision of strong leadership in partnership with the community that County Roscommon is an attractive, inclusive, prosperous and vibrant place to live, invest, work and visit'. These objectives are focussed on the following 3 priorities:

- > Quality of life and well-being for all;
- > Economic and community development;
- > Quality service to our people.



A key purpose of the *Corporate Plan* is to provide a framework within which *Annual Service Plans* are formulated. Roscommon County Council's *Annual Service Delivery Plan 2022*, translated the objectives of the *Corporate Plan 2019-2024* into detailed supporting strategies for every department and business unit for the year and actions for service delivery together with metrics to facilitate the measurement of progress. Particular aspects of the *Annual Service Delivery Plan 2022* were delivered through *Schedules of Municipal District Works* developed by each Municipal District.

Highlights for 2022, in terms of progress achieved on the *Corporate Plan's* strategic objectives and actions contained in the *Annual Service Delivery Plan 2022* included:

- The Annual Social Housing Needs Assessment was finalised.
- The Housing Department's Acquisition and Construction Programme delivered 9 social housing units.
- ➤ At the end of 2022, 354 households were receiving support under the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS).
- > 84 applicants were accommodated under the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) Scheme bringing to 903 the total number of applicants accommodated.
- The Council received 29 applications under its Tenant Purchase Scheme and 36 Local Authority Home Loan applications.
- > €498,617 was allocated to 12 community organisations under the *CLÁR 2022* programme.
- ➤ €266,602 was allocated to the Council under the *Community Activities Fund*. Funding was awarded to 114 applicants.
- > The Roscommon Community Response Forum was established in response to refugees fleeing the war in the Ukraine.
- > The process of developing a County Migration Integration Strategy commenced.
- ➤ County Roscommon National and Non-National Roads Funding Allocations amounted to almost £89m
- > Procurement in respect of main construction for the Ballaghaderreen to Scramogue Road Project re-commenced.
- Work on the assessment of the various Alternatives and Options for the N4 Carrick-on-Shannon to Dromod Project culminated with the public display of the identified Preferred Transportation Corridor.
- ➤ The Council received approval to proceed to Phase 4 (Statutory Processes) for the N61 Tulsk to Clashaganny Road Realignment Project. A Part 8 planning application was published.
- Over 420 projects on Regional and Local Roads were completed.
- > The Council received an allocation of €3,264,792 under the Active Travel Investment Programme.
- Work continued on the National Broadband Ireland Fibre Rollout process. Ballinasloe, Roscommon and Carrick –on-Shannon Deployment Areas are completed.

- The Roscommon Digital Strategy 2022-2026 was launched.
- The Council's Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023-2027 was published.
- > The Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028 was adopted.
- > 682 planning applications were received.
- 71 Warning Letters and 16 Enforcement Notices were served in relation to alleged unauthorised development. Legal action was initiated in 1 case.
- Works continued on the Roscommon Town Main Drainage Project.
- The contractor for the Ballaghaderreen Wastewater Treatment Plant is proceeding with a proposed detailed design in consultation with all parties.
- Feedback is being sought by Irish Water, through a public consultation process, for the National Water Resources Plan North West Region.
- Overall compliance with the European Union Drinking Water Regulations was 99.05%.
- All wastewater treatment plants were compliant with the Urban Wastewater Regulations.
- A revised Domestic Lead Remediation Grant Scheme was launched to assist householders replace lead services within their homes.
- > Public consultation on a draft River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027 continued until March 2022.
- A grant of €139,043 was allocated to the Council from the Environment Fund to support dedicated and measurable enforcement initiatives.
- A National Waste Management Plan for the Circular Economy is currently being developed.
- > 82 litter pollution surveys were carried out under the *National Litter Pollution Monitoring System*.
- Work commenced on the production of a climate action promotional video.
- > Revised Casual Trading Byelaws were adopted.
- The Electoral Reform Act 2022 introduced a 'rolling' Register of Electors.
- The level of expenditure for the Council's Revenue and Capital Accounts was €67.7m and €51.4m respectively.

Reporting on the *Corporate Plan 2019-2024* and the *Annual Service Delivery Plan 2022* was carried out by way of Monthly and Quarterly Management Reports to the Elected Members, internal and external reporting processes and through the Service Indicator process which was conducted in accordance with *National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) Guidelines*. A full report on Service Indicators for 2022 is provided in *Appendix 1* to this Annual Report.

Appendix 1: Service Indicators 2022

C: CORPORATE	
C1: Total Number of Whole Time Equivalent	
A. The whole time equivalent (WTE) staffing number as at 31st December 2022	416.41
C2: Working Days Lost to Sickness	
A. Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave in 2022	4.10%
B. Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave in 2022	0.26%
C3: Local Authority Website and Social Media Usage	
A. The per capita total page views of the local authority's websites in 2022	7.31
B. The per capita total number of followers at end of 2022 of the local authority's social media accounts	1.02
C4: Overall Cost of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Provision per WTE	
A. All ICT expenditure in the period from 1st January to 31st December 2022, divided by the WTE number supplied under the C1 indicator	€4,538.06
C5. Overall Cost of ICT as a Proportion of Revenue Expenditure	
A. All ICT expenditure calculated in C4 as a proportion of revenue expenditure	2.79

E: WASTE / ENVIRONMENT	
E1: Number / Percentage of Households with Access to a 3 Bin Service	
A. The number of households which availed of a 3 bin service offered by a licenced operator at 31st December 2022	6,141
B. The percentage of households within the local authority that the number at A represents (based on agglomerations of more than 500)	83.61%
E2: Number of Environmental Pollution Complaints Closed	
A1. The total number of pollution cases in respect of which a complaint was made during 2022	718
A2. The number of pollution cases closed from 1st January to 31st December 2022	851
A3. The total number of cases on hand at 31st December 2022	187
E3: Percentage of Local Authority Area within the 5 Levels of Litter Pollution	
 A. The percentage of the area within the local authority that when surveyed in 2022 was: 1) unpolluted or litter free 2) slightly polluted 3) moderately polluted 4) significantly polluted or 5) grossly polluted 	Not available at time of printing
E4: Green Flag Status	
A. The percentage of schools that have been awarded/renewed the green flag status in the two years to 31st December 2022	33.33%
E5: Energy Efficiency	
A. The cumulative percentage of energy savings achieved by 31st December 2022 relative to baseline year (2009)	Not available at time of printing

continued >

E6: Public Lighting	
A. Total annual consumption of the public lighting system	2600.67 MWh
B. Average billable wattage of each public light	78.81 W
C. Percentage of the total system that LED lights represent	57.21%
E7: Climate Change	
1A. Does the local authority have a designated (FTE) Climate Action Coordinator?	No
1B. Does the local authority have a designated (FTE) Climate Action Officer?	No
C. Does the local authority have a Climate Action Team?	Yes

F: FIRE SERVICE				
FI: Cost per Capita of the Fire Service				
A. The Annual Financial Statement Programme E expenditure data for 2022 divided by the population the local authority area per the 2022 Census figures for the population served by the fire authority as per the Risk Based Approach Phase One reports	e 36.86			
F2: Service Mobilisation				
A. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in full-time stations in respect of fire	N/A			
B. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in part-time stations (retained fire service) ir respect of fire	7.03 minutes			
C. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in full-time stations in respect of all other (non-fire) emergency incidents	N/A			
D. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in part-time stations (retained fire service) ir respect of all other (non-fire) emergency incidents	7.23 minutes			
F3: Percentage Attendance Times at Scenes				
A. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	21.74%			
B. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	49.28%			
C. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	28.99%			
D. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scen is within 10 minutes	24.55 %			
E. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scen is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	58.18%			
F. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scen is after 20 minutes	9 17.27 %			

H: HOUSING	
H1: Social Housing Stock	
A. The number of dwellings in the ownership of the local authority at 1st January 2022	1414
B. The number of dwellings added to the local authority owned stock during 2022 (whether constructed or acquired)	7
C. The number of local authority owned dwellings sold in 2022	17
D. The number of local authority owned dwellings demolished in 2022	0
E. The number of dwellings in the ownership of the local authority at 31st December 2022	1404
F. The number of local authority dwellings planned for demolition under a DHPLG approved sch	heme 0

continued >

H2	:: Housing Vacancies			
A.	The percentage of the total number of local authority owned dwellings that were vacant on 31st December 2022	2.35%		
НЗ	: Average Re-letting Time and Cost			
A.	The time taken from the date of vacation of dwelling to the date in 2022 when a new tenancy had commenced in the dwelling, averaged across all units re-let during 2022	25.46 weeks		
В.	The cost expended on getting the units re-tenanted in 2022 ready for re-letting, averaged across all units re-let in 2022	€13,002.57		
H4	: Housing Maintenance Cost			
A.	Expenditure during 2022 on the maintenance of local authority housing compiled from 1st January to 31st December 2022, divided by the number of dwellings in the local authority stock at 31st December 2022	€647.79		
H5	: Private Rented Sector Inspections			
A.	Total number of registered tenancies in the local authority area at end of June 2022	Not available at time of printing		
В.	Number of rented dwellings inspected in 2022	Not available at time of printing		
C.	Percentage of inspected dwellings in 2022 that were found not to be compliant with the Standards Regulations	Not available at time of printing		
D.	Number of non-compliant dwellings that became compliant in 2022	Not available at time of printing		
не	H6: Long-term Homeless Adults			
A.	Number of adult individuals in emergency accommodation that are long-term homeless as a percentage of the total number of homeless adult individuals in emergency accommodation at the end of 2022	20%		

J: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	
J1: Number of Jobs Created	
A. The per capita number of jobs created with assistance from the Local Enterprise Office during the period 1st January to 31st December 2022 per 100,000 of population	91.4351
J2: Trading Online Vouchers	
A. The number of trading online voucher applications approved by the Local Enterprise Office in 2022 per 100,000 of population	52.8609
B. The number of those trading online vouchers that were drawn down in 2022 per 100,000 of population	24.2874
J3: Number of Mentoring Recipients	
A. The number of participants who received mentoring during the period 1st January to 31st December 2022 per 100,000 of population	491.4637
J4: Tourism	
A. Does the local authority have a current tourism strategy?	Yes
B. Does the local authority have a designated Tourism Officer?	Yes

L: LIBRARY / RECREATIONAL SERVICES	
L1: Library Visits and Issues	
A. Number of visits to libraries per head of population for the local authority area as per 2022 census	1.15
B. Number of items issued to library borrowers in the year	113,779
C. Library active members per head of population	Not available at time of printing
D. Number of registered library members in the year	7,700
L2: Cost of Operating a Library Service	
A. The Annual Financial Statement Programme F data for 2022 divided by the population of the local authority area per the 2022 Census	€43.20
B. The annual per capita expenditure on collections in 2022	€1.56

M: FINA	ANCE		
M1: 5 Yea	r Summary of Revenue Account Balance		
A. The c	umulative surplus balance at 31st December 2018	€189,834	
B. The c	umulative surplus balance at 31st December 2019	€201,740	
C. The c	umulative surplus balance at 31st December 2020	€218,803	
D. The c	umulative surplus balance at 31st December 2021	€243,944	
E. The c	umulative surplus balance at 31st December 2022	€269,994	
	umulative surplus at 31st December 2022 as a percentage of total income in 2022 from the ne and Expenditure Account Statement of the Annual Financial Statement	0.37%	
G. Rever	ue expenditure per capita in 2022	€966.69	
M2: 5 Ye	ar Summary of Percentage Collection Levels for Major Revenue Sources		
A. 2018:	Rates Rent & Annuities Housing Loans	86% 92% 55%	
B. 2019:	Rates Rent & Annuities Housing Loans	89% 91% 76%	
C. 2020:	Rates Rent & Annuities Housing Loans	68% 93% 62%	
D. 2021:	Rates Rent & Annuities Housing Loans	89% 93% 65%	
E. 2022:	Rates Rent & Annuities Housing Loans	89% 91% 71%	
M3. Public Liability Claims			
A. Per capita cost of settled claims for 2022		€8.53	
M4. Overheads			
A. Overall central management charge as a percentage of total expenditure on Revenue Account		16.55%	
B. Total	payroll costs as a percentage of revenue expenditure	41.67%	

P: PLANNING			
P1: New Buildings Inspected			
A. Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority	18.28%		
P2: Number / Percentage of Planning Decisions Confirmed by An Bord Pleanála			
A. Number of local authority planning decisions which were the subject of an appeal to An Bord Pleanála that were determined by the Board on any date in 2022	6		
B. Percentage of the determinations at A which confirmed (either with or without variation) the decision made by the local authority	100%		
P3: Percentage of Planning Enforcement Cases Closed as Resolved			
A. Total number of planning cases referred to or initiated by the local authority in the period 1st January to 31st December 2022 that were investigated	89		
B. Total number of cases that were closed during 2022	41		
C. Percentage of the cases at B that were dismissed as trivial, minor or without foundation or were closed because statute barred or an exempted development	36.59%		
D. Percentage of the cases at B that were resolved to the local authority's satisfaction through negotiations	0.00%		
E. Percentage of the cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	63.41%		
F. Total number of planning cases being investigated as at 31st December 2022	197		
P4: Cost per Capita of the Planning Service			
A. The Annual Financial Statement Programme D data divided by the population of the local authority area per the 2022 Census	€36.12		
P5: Application for Fire Safety Certificates			
A. The percentage of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2022 that were decided (granted or refused) within two months of receipt	50.88%		
B. The percentage of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2022 that were decided (granted or refused) within an extended period agreed with the applicant	15.79%		

R: ROADS	
R1: Ratings in Pavement Surface Condition Index (PSCI)	
A. The percentage of (a) Regional (b) Local Primary	93% 95%
(c) Local Secondary roads that received a PSCI condition rating in the 24-month period prior to 31st December 2022 and(d) Local Tertiary roads that received a PSCI condition rating in the 60 month period to 31st	95%
December 2022	73%
B. The percentage of total (a) Regional, (b) Local Primary, (c) Local Secondary and (d) Local Tertiary road kilometres represented by the numbers of kilometres at 31st December 2022 rated in each of the following 4 groupings of the 10 PSCI rating categories; 1-4, 5-6, 7-8 and 9-10 for each road type.	
(a) Regional Road	7.650/
At 31st December 2022, the % at PSCI rating categories; 1-4 At 31st December 2022, the % at PSCI rating categories; 5-6	3.67% 15.85%
At 31st December 2022, the % at PSCI rating categories; 7-8	31.88%
At 31st December 2022, the % at PSCI rating categories; 9-10	48.51%
(b) Local Primary Road	
At 31st December 2022, the % at PSCI rating categories; 1-4	6.79%
At 31st December 2022, the % at PSCI rating categories; 5-6	42.22%
At 31st December 2022, the % at PSCI rating categories; 7-8	24.47%
At 31st December 2022, the % at PSCI rating categories; 9-10	26.20%

continued >

R3: Percentage of Motor Tax Transactions Conducted Online A. The percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with online 75.60%		
D. Kilometres of local road resealed during 2022 and the amount expended on that work and unit cost per square metre	162.1km €2,949,811 €4.91	
C. Kilometres of local road (i.e. total of primary, secondary and tertiary) strengthened during 2022 and the amount expended on that work and unit cost per square metre	129.1km €7,195,235 €15.47	
B. Kilometres of regional road resealed during 2022 and the amount expended on that work and unit cost per square metre	0.0 km €0 €0	
A. Kilometres of regional road strengthened during 2022 and the amount expended on that work and unit cost per square metre	19.2km €4,602,061 €36.30	
At 31st December 2022, the % at PSCI rating categories; 9-10 R2: Regional Road Grants Works	15.22%	
(d) Local Tertiary Road At 31st December 2022, the % at PSCI rating categories; 1-4 At 31st December 2022, the % at PSCI rating categories; 5-6 At 31st December 2022, the % at PSCI rating categories; 7-8		
(c) Local Secondary Road At 31st December 2022, the % at PSCI rating categories; 1-4 At 31st December 2022, the % at PSCI rating categories; 5-6 At 31st December 2022, the % at PSCI rating categories; 7-8 At 31st December 2022, the % at PSCI rating categories; 9-10		

W: WATER		
WI: Percentage of Drinking Water in Private Schemes in Compliance with Statutory Requirements		
Percentage of drinking water in private schemes in compliance with statutory requirements in respect of the monitoring of the quality of private drinking water supplies during 2022	Not available at time of printing	
W2: Percentage of Registered Schemes Monitored		
The number of registered schemes monitored by each local authority as a percentage of total schemes registered		

Y: YOUTH / COMMUNITY	
YI: Participation in Comhairle na nÓg Scheme	
A. Percentage of local schools involved in the local Youth Council/Comhairle na nÓg scheme	100%
Y2: Groups Associated with the Public Participation Network (PPN)	
A. The number of organisations included in the County Register and the proportion of those organisations that opted to be part of the Social Inclusion College within the PPN	14.18

Appendix 2: Councillors' Conferences and Training Events 2022

Date	Organiser	Training/Conference Event	Venue	of Cllrs attended
17/02/22	Association of Irish Local Government (AILG)	Module 1 - Elected Member's Personal Safety and Risk Assessment	The Mullingar Park Hotel, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath	2
25/02/22	AILG/Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR)	Local Authority Planning Functions and Water Services Investment: Ensuring a Co-ordinated Approach	Online	2
04/03/22	AILG	An Overview of the Housing for All - A New Housing Plan for Ireland.	Online	1
23/03/22	AILG	2022 AILG Annual Conference	Inishowen Gateway Hotel, Buncrana, Co. Donegal	4
11/04/22	Local Authority Members Association (LAMA)	LAMA Spring Training Seminar	Hotel Kilkenny, College Road, Kilkenny	6
27/04/22	Suck Valley Way Committee	Suck Valley Conference 2022 - Rural Regeneration Post Pandemic	Abbey Hotel, Roscommon	10
06/05/22	AILG	Housing for All – Pathway 1 and 2	Online	3
12/05/22	AILG	Module 2 - Climate Action – The Role of Local Government	Treacy's West County Hotel, Ennis, Co. Clare	1
14/05/22	AILG	Module 2 - Climate Action – The Role of Local Government	The Hillgrove Hotel, Co. Monaghan	2
01/06/22	AILG	Regional Women's Caucus Plenary Meeting/Training and Development	The Sligo Park Hotel, Co. Sligo	1
10/06/22	AILG	Training Webinar 4 - Housing for All - Pathway 3 and 4	Online	4
23/07/22	AILG	Module 4 Training - Local Authority Audit Committees and the Governance and Oversight Role of Elected Members	The Allingham Arms Hotel, Bundoran, Co. Donegal	4
14/09/22	AILG	AILG Autumn Training Conference 2022	Knightsbrook Hotel Spa and Golf Resort, Dublin Road, Trim, Co. Meath	5
27/09/22	Gaelchultúr	Irish Language Course	Online	1
30/09/22	AILG/OPR	Planning that Revitalises Ireland's Towns and Villages	Online	1
22/10/22	AILG	Module 5 Training - Disability and Inclusion	The Brehon Hotel, Killarney, Co. Kerry	1
27/10/22	AILG	Module 5 Training - Disability and Inclusion	Radisson Blu Hotel, Sligo	2
28/10/22	Celtic Conferences	Innovation in Solar Energy Technology	O'Donovan's Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork	2
04/11/22	AILG	Electoral Reform Act 2022	Online	1
09/11/22	LAMA	Autumn/Winter Seminar - Cost of Living Crisis and Sustainable and Renewable Energy	Four Seasons Hotel, Coolshannagh, Co. Monaghan	5
25/11/22	AILG/OPR	The Role of Planning in Protecting Ireland's Water Quality	Online	1

Newgrange Hotel, Navan,

Co. Meath

Module 6 - Data Protection – What

Councillors Need to Know

26/11/22

AILG

Appendix 3: Councillors' Committees 2022

List of County Committees and Outside Bodies on which Roscommon County Council was Formally Represented in 2022

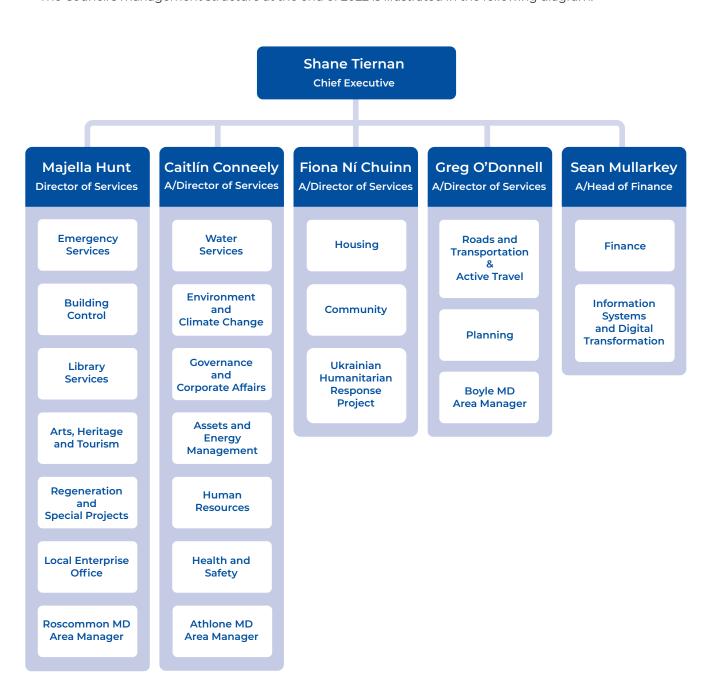
Committee Title	Purpose of the Committee	Elected Members representing Roscommon County Council
Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) Aontas Rialtas Áitiúil na hÉireann	The Association organises a programme of meetings which help members give voice to current issues in Council life. The AILG is a networking, policy development and training resource for the Elected Members of Ireland's 31 County and City Councils.	Councillors Waldron, Fitzmaurice and Fallon
Northern and Western Regional Assembly	Managing and monitoring the EU funded operational programmes in the North and West Region.	Councillors Leyden and Naughten
Heritage Forum	An advisory body to oversee and advise on the preparation and implementation of the County Roscommon Heritage Plan.	Councillor Murphy
Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board (ETB)	This committee is responsible for the governance of all educational and administrative services provided by Galway Roscommon ETB.	Councillors Shanagher, Cummins and Fallon
Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Limited (IPB)	Committee required as IPB is a mutual company.	Councillor Keogh
Local Authority Members Association (LAMA)	Represents members of local authorities at county, city and borough level. An association for the betterment of conditions, education and training for members.	Councillor Cummins
Library Association of Ireland	To attend the Annual Meeting of the Library Association of Ireland.	Councillor Callaghan
Library Association of Ireland	To attend the Annual Conference of the Library Association of Ireland as a delegate.	Councillors Callaghan, McDermott and Waldron
Local Community Development Committee	To co-ordinate, plan and oversee local and community development funding and bring a joined-up approach to the running of local and community development programmes and interventions.	Councillors Kilduff, Fitzmaurice and Fallon

List of County Committees and Outside Bodies on which Roscommon County Council was Formally Represented in 2022

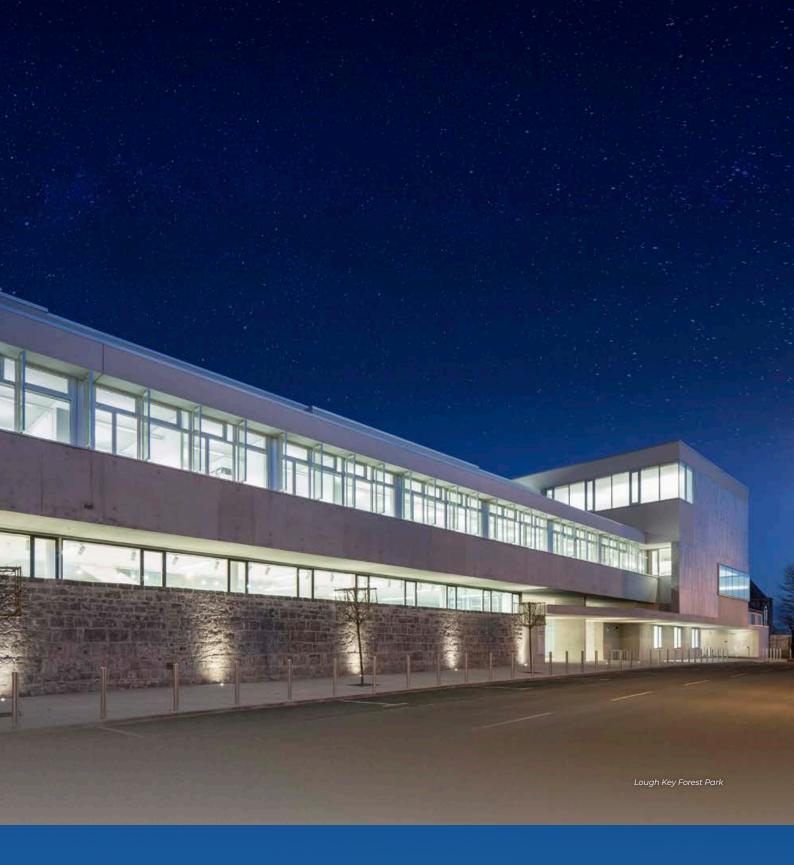
Committee Title	Purpose of the Committee	Elected Members representing Roscommon County Council
Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC)	To advise on the provision and management of Traveller accommodation.	Councillors Shanagher, Cummins and Crosby
Regional Health Forum West	To ensure that local elected representatives would continue to have an opportunity to exercise oversight of the health and personal social services provided by the HSE.	Councillors Ward, Cummins and Crosby
River Suck Joint Drainage Committee	To oversee the ongoing maintenance of the River Suck Drainage District.	Councillors Dineen, Fitzmaurice, Kilduff and Naughten
Road Safety Together Committee	To make roads in County Roscommon a safer place for all road users.	Councillors Waldron, Murphy and Naughten
Roscommon Comhairle na nÓg Steering Committee	Local youth council, which supports children and young people to be heard in the development of local services and policies. The steering committee helps young people to access and engage with the local authority and decision making bodies in the county.	Councillors McDermott and Crosby
Roscommon County Council Audit Committee	Advising the Council on financial reporting processes, internal control, risk management and audit matters; promoting good accounting practices; ensuring better and more informed decision-making and improving the focus on value for money throughout the organisation.	Councillors Cummins and Fallon
Roscommon County Council Joint Policing Committee	To serve as a forum for consultations, discussions and recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the local authority's administrative area.	Councillors Waldron, Kilduff, Shanagher, Dineen, Ward, Naughten, Fitzmaurice, Callaghan, Cummins, Fallon, Crosby, McDermott, and Murphy
Rural Water County Monitoring Committee	To advise on the operation of and to monitor the implementation of the Rural Water Programme locally.	Councillors Kilduff, Cummins and Callaghan
Údarás na hOllscoile Governing Authority, National University of Ireland, Galway	Responsible for managing and controlling all of the affairs of the University.	Councillor Keogh
Western Inter-County Rail Committee	This committee is committed to the reopening of the Western Rail Corridor.	Councillor Crosby

Appendix 4: Management Structure 2022

The Council's management structure at the end of 2022 is illustrated in the following diagram:







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