

# Our Mission Our Vision Working with you, Ensuring, through collaboration working for you. 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. Above: Lough Ree Boats Access For All Front Cover: Kayaking on Lough Key

## Contents

li	ntroduction from Cathaoirleach and Chief Executive	2
E	Elected Members	4
S	trategic Policy Committees (SPCs)	5
H	lousing, Culture and International Protection Directorate	7
	Housing Arts and Culture Library International Protection	13
R	toads & Active Travel Infrastructure and Planning Directorate	21
	Roads and Active Travel Infrastructure. Planning.	
C	Climate Action, Environment, Resources, People and Governance Directorate	33
	Climate Action Environment Water Services Information Systems Corporate Services Assets and Energy Management Human Resources	40 43 45
R	egeneration, Economic Development, Community, Tourism and Heritage Directorate	53
	Regeneration and Economic Development  Community Development  Tourism  Heritage	58 63
F	inance, Procurement, Enterprise, Building Control and Emergency Services Directorate	67
	Finance  Local Enterprise Office  Building Control  Emergency Services	78 79
L	ocal Community Development Committee Report	82
C	Corporate Plan Report	84
A	Appendices	86
	Appendix 1: Performance Indicators 2023.  Appendix 2: Councillors Conferences and Training Events 2023.  Appendix 3: Councillors Committees 2023.  Appendix 4: Management Structure 2023.	93 94

### Introduction from Cathaoirleach and Chief Executive

It is a great privilege for us to introduce this Annual Report for 2023. We welcome its publication as it provides Roscommon County Council with a platform to highlight its many achievements throughout the year. Its content reflects the Council's steadfast commitment to providing a wide range of quality services that aim to promote growth, prosperity and a high quality of life for all.

The need for strategic investment in infrastructure remained at the forefront of Council priorities throughout 2023. Work continued at pace on advancing and completing major projects. The contract for the construction of the Ballaghaderreen to Scramogue Road Project was signed. The design and evaluation phase of the N4 Carrick-on-Shannon to Dromod Road Project commenced. Public consultation took place for the Athlone to Ballyleague/Lanesborough, Mid-Shannon and Lough Key to Carrick-on-Shannon Greenway Projects. Walking and cycling infrastructure was enhanced by the completion of schemes in Lecarrow, Cloonfad and Ballinlough under the Active Travel Investment Programme. The Council, working in partnership with Uisce Éireann, completed €20m upgrade works to the Roscommon Town Main Drainage Scheme. 57 social housing units were delivered by the Council under its Acquisition and Construction Programme. The rollout of high-speed broadband services for the benefit of individuals, businesses and communities continued under the National Broadband Plan. We are confident that projects such as these will be transformative in creating sustainable economic growth that will generate benefits for all members of our community.

Following on from the adoption of the Roscommon County Development Plan 2022–2028, the Council turned its attention in 2023 to drafting Local Area Plans to drive the development of our county forward. Preparatory work on the Draft Roscommon Town Local Area Plan was on going throughout the year. Roscommon and Leitrim County Councils collaborated on the preparation of the Carrickon-Shannon Joint Local Action Plan. Similar cooperation took place with Westmeath County Council on preparing the Athlone Joint Urban Area Plan. We look forward to the pivotal role that these plans will play in stimulating robust and meaningful growth throughout our county for many years to come.

The Local Enterprise Office was very busy in 2023 with promoting County Roscommon as a location for business and investment. 171 businesses employing 996 people were supported through grant funding. This assistance 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. Entrepreneurism was further encouraged through training and mentoring opportunities for micro and start-up businesses. Digital Start supports focussed on providing expert advice to assist businesses to transform through developing and implementing strategic digital plans. A number of initiatives were also introduced to help businesses adapt to the challenges presented by climate change. The high quality of services offered by the Local Enterprise Office to its ever-expanding client base fills us with great confidence that it will continue to enjoy significant success in attracting inward investment, fostering business growth and creating substantial employment opportunities within our county.

Roscommon County Council recognises how crucial regeneration is to promoting economic and community development. A large number of innovative projects were therefore progressed in many locations under a variety of schemes. A unique and striking Covered Civic Space was completed in the Market Square, Roscommon together with the unveiling of the Historic Well. A construction contract was awarded for public realm enhancement works in Ballaghareeereen. The redevelopment of the Royal Hotel site in Boyle into the An Ríoga enterprise centre was completed. Other major projects included the commencement of works on the Monksland Sciences and Soft Landing Space and the Castlerea Food Hub. Many communities benefited from assistance under Town and Village Renewal, Town and Village Streetscape Enhancement and the Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Schemes. Works under these schemes included the paving of pedestrian areas, the provision of street furniture and the development of community parks, recreational areas, sports facilities and playgrounds. The visual and amenity impact of these initiatives has been immense and has added considerable value to making the county's towns, villages and rural areas more attractive places in which to live, visit and do

The Council worked tirelessly throughout the year, alongside key partners and stakeholders from the tourism industry, at attracting visitors to the county. A Visit Roscommon marketing campaign resulted in widespread coverage for the county across multiple media platforms. Numerous seasonal events, including recitals, performances and concerts took place in King House, Boyle. Irish actor Brendan Gleeson launched the 10-day Boyle Arts Festival at this venue. 26 events were awarded funding under the Festivals and Events Grant 2023. Support for recreational activities included the updating and relaunch of the Roscommon Walks and Cycleways Booklet. The Council's dedication to the preservation of the richness of our natural and built heritage continued through its implementation of the County Roscommon Heritage Plan. Its promotion of National Heritage Week resulted in over 2,000 people attending more than 50 heritage events. The Arts Office support, encouragement and promotion of the arts was maintained through working collaboratively and inclusively with artists, agencies and communities across many areas including music, film, visual arts, literature, theatre and dance. 70 events took place in venues countywide as part of Bealtaine Festival, Culture Night, Cruinniú na nÓg, Cultural Companions and Creative Heartland. The Arts Centre delivered a multi-faceted programme that included 125 live performance and 6 exhibitions to an audience of over 120,000 people. We anticipate that these and many other similar activities will further enhance the county's well-deserved reputation and increase its popularity as an attractive, vibrant and rewarding tourist destination.

The Council however fully recognises that many communities face considerable social and economic challenges. Consequently, it places considerable emphasis on offering supports for community development, participation, activities and projects. Funding was made available to a large number of community organisations under the Clár Programme, Community Support Fund and the Community Recognition Fund. Engagement with local communities on policy issues was extensive. This included consultation in relation to the Local Economic and Community Plan 2023-2029 and the Public Participation Network's County Vision for Community Wellbeing. This network's Planning Roscommon Together initiative achieved the distinction of having been nominated under the Best Communications Category of the 2023 Local Authority Members Association Awards. Going forward, we will strive to build on our relationships with local communities in order to create a network of supports, collaboration and inspiration that will assist them to thrive and realise their goals and aspirations for the future.





The desire to promote the development of our county must however be balanced against the urgent need to respond proactively to the threats posed by climate change. Consequently, a draft 5-year County Roscommon Climate Action Plan was placed on statutory consultation in preparation for its approval by the Elected Members in early 2024. An extensive Climate Action Roscommon public awareness programme was carried out in support of this consultation process. A Community Climate Action Fund was launched to aid the delivery of the Climate Action Plan. This fund is designed to assist community groups to implement projects that aim to respond to the challenge of climate change. We wholeheartedly embrace these initiatives as they will position the Council as a leader in climate action, reinforcing its capacity to effect change at local and community levels in order to protect and preserve the health of our planet and the wellbeing of humanity.

We conclude by, once again, paying tribute 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, initiative and diligence throughout 2023. Our most sincere gratitude goes to the many statutory and non-statutory agencies and voluntary and community organisations for their positive engagement with the Council during the year. We look forward with great optimism to even greater success in the future as the Council continues its 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 John Keogh

John D Kroge

Cathaoirleach Roscommon County Council 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



Non-Party



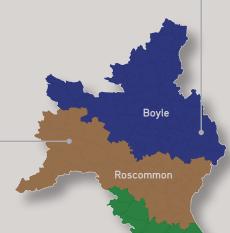
Cllr. Paschal Fitzmaurice Fianna Fáil



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. Orla Leyden, Chairperson (June to December 2023)
- > Cllr. John Keogh, Chairperson (January to June 2023)
- > Cllr. Nigel Dineen
- > Cllr. Kathleen Shanagher
- > Cllr. Tom Crosby
- > Cllr. Valerie Byrne
- > Cllr. Joe Murphy
- > Cllr. Emer Kelly
- > Cllr. Liam Callaghan
- 4 meetings of this SPC were held on 2nd March, 15th June, 5th October and 7th December 2023.

#### Issues considered included:

- LECP (Local Economic and Community Plan) 2023 – 2029;
- > Migrant Integration Strategy;
- > Community Recognition Fund;
- > Arts Office Public Art Programme;
- > Local Authority Climate Action Plan;

#### Sectoral Nominations

- > Mr. John Mee, Business/Commercial
- > Mr. Liam Murray, Development/Construction
- Ms. Susan Gaynor, Community/Voluntary Public Participation Network (PPN)
- > Mr. Alan Moran, PPN
- > Midlands ICT Cluster;
- > Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF);
- > Heritage Plan;
- > Arts Plan 2023 2028;
- > Local Enterprise Office Updates.

## 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 9th March, 1st June, 7th September and 14th December 2023.

#### Issues considered included:

- SD-WAN New Roscommon County Council Branch Office Connectivity;
- Maintenance of Green Areas and Common Areas in Housing Estates Taken in Charge;
- > Choice Based Letting;
- > Update on Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant;
- Quarters 1, 2 and 3 Reports on Strategic Plan for People with Disability;
- > Homeless Contribution;
- Revised Domestic Wastewater Treatment System Grant Scheme;
- > Update on the Lead Remediation Grant;
- > Energy Retrofit Program;
- Local Authority Tenancies Scheme Room for a Student.

# 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
- > Cllr. Tony Ward\*\*

#### Sectoral Nominations

- > Mr. Ned O' Connor, Agriculture/Farming
- > Mr. Gareth Scahill, Community/Voluntary
- > Mr. Ciaran King, Development/Construction
- > Mr. Sean Mahon, Business/Commercial
- \* Resigned on 22nd May 2023
- \*\* Appointed on 22nd May 2023 following the resignation of Cllr. Waldron

5 meetings of this SPC were held on 8th February, 20th April, 22nd June, 21st September and 3rd October 2023.

Issues considered included:

- > Climate Action Plan;
- > Climate Action Update;
- National Inspection Plan for Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems;
- National Waste Management Plan for the Circular Economy;
- > FarmPEAT (Farm Payments for Ecological and Agricultural Transitions) Project;
- Tree Management Strategy;
- > Forward Planning Work Programme.

## Roads Transportation and Emergency Services SPC

#### Councillors -

- Cllr. Tony Ward, Chairperson (January to September 2023)
- Cllr. Anthony Waldron, Chairperson (September to December 2023)
- > 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
  - > Ms. Mary Clifford, Business/Commercial
  - Mr. Paul Glynn, Community/Voluntary
  - Mr. Philip Glover, Development/Construction Industry Federation

4 meetings of this SPC were held on 22nd February, 24th May, 20th September and 6th December 2023.

Issues considered included:

- > Road Works Scheme 2023;
- > Broadband and Digital Strategy;
- > Hedge and Verge Cutting Policy;

- > The Future of the N61;
- Make Way Day 2023;
- > Local Improvements Scheme.



## 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**





Acquisition and Construction Programme - Lakeview Heights, Boyle.

In 2023, Roscommon County Council delivered the following social housing units under the Acquisition and Construction Programme:

- Esker Lawns, Monksland 25 units including 3 Part V's:
- > Lakeview Heights, Boyle 6 units;
- > Harristown, Castlerea 2 units;
- > Lus na Gréine, Monksland 1 unit (Part V);
- Acquisition Programme 17 units (Tenant In-Situ Scheme – 13, Persons with a Specific Cases – 3, Acquired by agreement via Compulsory Purchase Order – 1);
- Buy and Renew Scheme (where significant refurbishment is required to bring units to a habitable standard) – 5 units.





Acquisition and Construction Programme - Esker Lawns, Monksland, Athlone.

## 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.

During 2023, Tuath Housing Association delivered 35 newly constructed units at Páirc Cluain Gamhna, Monksland, Athlone.

### **Leasing Options**

#### Repair and Lease Scheme (RLS)

The *RLS* targets owners of vacant properties unable to finance the necessary repairs to meet rental standards, in areas with a demand for social housing. The Council administers 4 social housing units through the *RLS* in Roscommon town.

#### Long-term Leasing

This form of provision widens the options for increasing the supply of social housing. The Council has entered into long-term leases with private owners for 4 properties in Boyle and Roscommon town. In 2023, 22 units became active under *RAS*-type lease agreements.

#### Mortgage to Rent (MTR) Scheme

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. The MTR applicant becomes a tenant of an Approved Housing Body or the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage approved private company, Home for Life. MTR tenants have the option to buy back their homes after 5 years (or earlier if agreed but, only at the discretion of the property owner) at open market value on the date of the buyback. The property cannot cost less than the price that the property owner paid for the property. In 2023, 1 MTR tenant bought back their property.

Table 1: MRT Tenancies - Overall

Total	Total Approved	Total Home
Active MTR	Housing Body	for Life
Tenancies	Tenancies	Tenancies
20	5	15



Páirc Cluain Gamhna, Monksland, Athlone.

Table 2: MRT Tenancies - 2023 Activity

MTR Tenancies	MTR Property
Activated in 2023	Buyback in 2023
1	1

#### Casual Vacancies

In 2023, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage funded 31 casual vacancy units to the value of €441,860 under the 2022 *Voids Programme*.

## Assessments and Allocations Housing

On 14th November 2023, the annual *Social Housing Needs Assessment* was finalised. At the end of 2023, there were 778 (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 *RAS*. At the end of 2023, 329 households were receiving support through *RAS*. 218 households were in private rented accommodation and 111 in accommodation provided by Approved Housing Bodies.

## Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) Scheme

The HAP scheme continues to provide support to people with a long-term housing need. In 2023, 79 applicants were accommodated via the scheme. This brought to 982 the total number of applicants accommodated through the scheme since it was introduced in December 2016.



## Standards for Rented Residential Property

In 2023, inspections of private rented dwellings continued under the Housing (Standards for Private Rented Houses) Regulations 2019. Details are set out in **Table 3**.

Table 3: Inspections of Rental Residential Property

Number of Inspections Carried Out	834
Number of Dwellings Deemed Compliant	276
Number of Improvement Letters Issued to Landlords	552

### Homelessness

The Council provides a range of responses to homelessness in accordance with the *West Region Homelessness Action Plan*. 152 households presented for homeless services in 2023, 58 of which required short-term accommodation. 26 homeless households availed of social housing support through various mechanisms such as local authority housing, Approved Housing Body housing, *HAP*, the *Homeless HAP Scheme* and *RAS* type leases.

The Council introduced the *Homeless HAP Scheme* in December 2020. 18 *Homeless HAP* tenancies have been agreed since its introduction, 10 of which are still active.

In 2021, a Homeless Action Team (HAT) was established to facilitate the co-ordination of *Housing First* and *Housing-Led* support services. In 2023, there were 7 referrals to the *HAT*. 4 of these referrals were accommodated in Council properties and the remaining 3 are awaiting accommodation under the *Housing First* programme. 3 clients were accepted in 2023 for the *Housing-Led* programme, 2 of which

are awaiting accommodation. Accommodation units continue to be 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. In 2023, the Council received 55 applications.

Table 4: Tenant Purchase Scheme

Applications Received	55
Offers of Sale	30
Sales Closed	8

### **Housing Loans**

The Local Authority Home Loans Scheme replaced the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan Scheme on 4th January 2022. In 2023, the Council received 40 applications.

**Table 5: Housing Loans** 

Applications Received	40
Loans Approved	20
Loan Drawdown	8

## Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024

In line with the *Traveller Accommodation Programme*, a number of projects are in progress including developments at the following locations:

- Cluain Áirne, Roscommon: Due to the increase in demand for larger properties, the Council re-designed the initial plan for Cluain Áirne. Stage 1 Approval has been received from the Department for 4 four-bed units and 2 threebed units;
- Torpan Beg, Ballyforan: A contractor was appointed in 2023 to complete 3 large extensions:
- Brí An Chaoilinn, Castlerea: Families were housed in 2 large extended properties;
- > Ballinacullia, Roscommon: A transient site upgrade was completed in 2023. This site now includes 5 transient bays with a welfare unit containing toilets and showers.

## Energy Efficiency Programme

The Council obtained approval for 23 units through the 2023 *Energy Efficiency Programme*. Of these, 16 units were completed and 7 units are nearing completion. All 11 units carried over from the 2022 scheme were successfully completed in 2023.

## **Housing Maintenance**

In 2023, the Housing Department received 1,180 maintenance calls and spent €785,779 on response maintenance works. This equates to an average of €606.48 per call out.

### **Housing Grants**

In 2023, the Council received funding amounting to €1,446,375 (80% Department funded and 20% Council funded) under the *Housing Adaptations for Older People and People with a Disability Scheme*. 3 distinct grant types are available as follows:

- > Housing Grant for People with a Disability;
- Mobility Aids Grant Scheme;
- > Housing Aid for Older People Scheme.

The Council received funding in 2023 under the *Disabled Person Grant Scheme* including improvement works in-lieu amounting to €365,883 (90% Department funded and 10% Council funded).

### National Housing Strategy for People with a Disability 2022-2027

In 2023, the Disability Steering Group held 4 meetings. 47 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 housing and leased properties. Adaptations were carried out to 6 properties and 1 property was specially adapted to cater for a physically disabled person in the household.

### Estate Management

The Housing Department continues to promote good estate management practices that encourage pride of place and result in vibrant communities. In 2023, the following took place:

- The Housing Liaison Officer together with the Litter Warden carried out regular waste bye-law inspections of local authority estates;
- The Housing Liaison Officer completed visits to local authority estates with the Dog Warden to ensure appropriate management of dogs;
- Anti-social behavior complaints in respect of 20 local authority households were received. 18 matters were resolved;
- > 4 Possession Orders were granted in the District Court:
- 29 tenant welfare issues were supported and resolved

## Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant

On 14th July 2022, the *Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant* funded by the *Croi Conáithe (Towns) Fund* was launched. This grant benefits those who wish to turn a former vacant house or building into their principal private residence or a rental property which has its tenancy registered with the Residential Tenancies Board. Grants up to a maximum of €50,000 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

Number of Applications Received	203
Number of Approvals Granted	98
Number of Grant Payments Issued	2

#### **Derelict Sites**

In 2023, 23 sites were added to the *Derelict Sites Register* bringing the total number of derelict sites registered in Roscommon to 33. Derelict site reporting was added to the Council's *My Services* portal to make it easier for the public to report a derelict site. Any property placed on the *Derelict Site Register* as of 1st January 2023 is subject to a derelict site levy of 7% of the market value of the site.

In 2023, 7 derelict sites were removed from the register after engagement with property owners and the completion of works to render properties non-derelict

In 2023, the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) process commenced on 7 properties. 2 of these properties have now been vested by the Council and 1 was acquired by agreement. 3 are with An Bord Pleanála for decision. 1 was withdrawn due to owner completing works.

The Council, utilising the CPO process under the Derelict Sites Act 1990, acquired 2 properties. These properties are currently undergoing design/ construction works to return them to a habitable state for social housing.

The *Derelict Sites Register* is available to view on the Council's website.





Derelict Sites CPO Acquisitions.

## **Dangerous Structures and Places**

The dangerous structures and places function of the Council operates under provisions contained in the Local Government (Sanitary Services) Act 1964 as amended. This function is concerned with ensuring public safety around the public thoroughfare of privately owned buildings, structures or sites deemed a danger to the public. The Council is empowered to deal with structures or places which are a danger or likely to be a danger to the public.

Owners are required by law to make sure their property does not contain any dangerous structures. In the event that a property contains a dangerous structure, the owner must take steps to remedy the situation or otherwise face prosecution. During 2023, the Council identified 6 dangerous sites and property owners were issued with notices under the Local Government Sanitary Services Act 1964.

## **Arts and Culture**

#### **Arts Office**

Arts Office programmes are funded by Roscommon County Council, the Arts Council of Ireland and Creative Ireland. They are guided by the *Place for Art Arts Plan 2023–2028* and the *Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023-2027*.

The Council's Arts Office:

- Supports, encourages, nurtures and promotes the arts and artists through diverse programmes, events, funding schemes and partnerships;
- Works collaboratively and inclusively locally, regionally and nationally with artists, venues, departments, agencies and communities;
- > Facilitates and supports opportunities to enhance the environment in which art is made, engaged with and received.

#### A Selection of Projects in 2023

3 composers, Bianca Gannon, Peter Leavy and Fiona Linnane were awarded commissions in the third and final year of the *King House Piano Commission*. The works were premiered by Roscommon pianist Peter Regan on the Grand Steinway Piano in King House during the *Boyle Arts Festival* in July.

80 artists and artist-led projects were supported under the Artist Bursary Scheme, the Roscommon New Writing Award, the Chapbook Award, Slow Art Bursaries, Inclusion in the Arts Bursaries, Bealtaine Festival Open Call, Culture Night Open Call, CARE, Creative Roscommon and Decade of Centenaries.



CARE Creative Ageing in Roscommon with artist Sarah Lundy at Plunkett Community Nursing Unit.

70 events took place in venues countywide as part of Bealtaine Festival, Culture Night, Cruinniú na nÓg, Cultural Companions and Creative Heartlands.



Culture Night at Roscommon Arts Centre with Brothers of Charity.

As part of Planning for Outdoor Performance (POP) an 8 part online training seminar series was organised in October and November 2023 with presentations by a range of experts from the world of outdoor arts events. Funded by the Arts Council of Ireland and partner Arts Offices in Roscommon, Cork, Kerry, Louth and Tipperary, POP will facilitate the delivery of a series of pilot outdoor arts events in new public spaces in each county.

Cruinniú na nÓg at Somers Park Castlerea with Emmet Louis of Motion Chapel.



Youth Arts programmes created inspiring and accessible experiences for thousands of children and young people, ensuring that their voices remain at the core of on-going planning for and participation in programmes such as Artists in Schools, Roscommon County Youth Theatre, Music Generation Roscommon and Cruinniú na nÓg.

Following a successful application to the Arts Council of Ireland, *Creative Places Ballaghaderreen*, a one-year research and development arts project, was launched. The project has engaged artists Nollaig Molloy, Julie Sharkey and Anna King using socially engaged art practices to explore how local community groups, organisations and individuals can develop an inclusive, sustainable arts programme for the local area. The artists will work closely with a local steering group and the Arts Office.



Creative Places, Ballaghaderreen.



Portal, artist Conleth Gent.

Under Roscommon Public Art, 2 sculptures were installed in Ballyleague as part of the Ballyleague Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS), improving amenities around the River Shannon. Portal, by sculptor Conleth Gent, consists of a windowed portal with carved figures made from locally sourced bog oak. It represents the community, past, present, and future, backed by the scenic beauty of Lough Ree. The iron bulldozer sprocket, sourced from Bord Na Móna, reflects the local industrial heritage. Led by Nature, by sculptor Redmond Herrity comprises a 2.5m high pencil with a black marble point made from Irish limestone carved with designs inspired and identified at workshops involving the local community.





Led by Nature, artist Redmond Herrity.

The Arts Office coordinates the development and delivery of the *Creative Ireland* and the *Decade of Centenaries* programmes. It works with the Council's internal Culture Team comprising the Arts, Heritage, Tourism, Library, Social Inclusion, Climate and LEO (Local Enterprise Office) units; the national Creative Ireland Office; the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht Sport and Media and a multiplicity of communities, venues and practitioners in supporting creative projects countywide.

#### Roscommon Arts Centre

Roscommon Arts Centre is an inclusive and vibrant arts space for audiences where artists are supported to create, develop and present work.

Funded by Roscommon County Council and the Arts Council of Ireland, the Arts Centre continued to deliver a multi-faceted programme in 2023, which included 125 live performances and 6 exhibitions to an audience of over 120,000 people. The 4 pillars of the Roscommon Arts Centre are:

- **> Performance**: A year-round diverse programme of live performances in the centre's 194-seater auditorium.
- Visual Art: 6 curated exhibitions in the centre's dedicated gallery reflecting the breadth of contemporary arts practice, with opportunities for local, regional, national and international artists and collaborations.
- > Outreach and Engagement: A series of onsite and off-site opportunities for the public to expand and deepen their engagement with the arts, which is inclusive and compliments the Performance and Visual Art pillars.
- Artist Supports: A programme of supports for professional artists across all art forms, which includes residencies, mentoring, commissions and access to studio and workspaces at the centre.

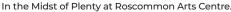


Druid, The Last Return at Roscommon Arts Centre.

Highlights included the AIR (Artist in Residence) initiative with 3 artists Antony Keigher, Thaís Muniz and Cian Ó Náraigh and Artist on My Green where 3 artists undertook projects with 3 Residents Associations in the county. The Druid Theatre Company started its nationwide tour in Roscommon Arts Centre in February with 3 sold out shows of The Last Return. In the Midst of Plenty, a new folk musical by writer/composer Amy Day, produced by the Enchanted Croí Theatre and directed by Anne-Marie O'Sullivan, returned to its home county after a nationwide tour. Over 100 young

people from Music Generation took to the stage with Sunday Sounds. Anna Newell's Sing Me to the Sea for children and young people with complex needs was performed in the hydro-pool at Creggs National School as part of the Arts Centre's involvement in the Network for Extraordinary Audiences. The Brothers of Charity transformed the theatre for Club Electric on Culture Night. Primary and post-primary schools brought their energy and creativity to the centre for education programmes in the gallery and theatre.







Artist on my Green.

## King House Historical and Cultural Centre

The King House Historical and Cultural Centre further enhanced its tourism offering and visitor experience in 2023 by reimagining and upgrading its 18th century building and many of its exhibitions.

The King Family Exhibition moved from the first floor to ground level and introduced a touch screen interactive interpretation experience. The Gaelic Ireland and McDermott Exhibitions moved to the first floor with new original illustrations, interactions and fixtures. A commissioned animation film in the Devil's Own Exhibition acts as a catalyst to visitors' understanding and experience of the history of the Connaught Rangers.

Throughout the year, a full and varied programme of arts and cultural events was held in King House, which included the permanent exhibition of the *Boyle Civic Art Collection*, music recitals, performances, lectures, book launches, wedding ceremonies and the annual *Boyle Arts Festival*. New eye-catching banner signage was erected outdoors.

## Douglas Hyde Centre

The Douglas Hyde Centre opened to visitors from July to September. The venue celebrated *Douglas Hyde Cultural Influencer* during *Culture Night* with the launch of the commission by artist Padraig Cunningham. The project involved an installation of artworks, consisting of film, audio and written elements, inspired by the former President's love of the land and words.

### An Ríoga

An Ríoga in Boyle was officially opened by Minister for Social Protection and Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphries on 19th July 2023, following which the exhibition space hosted the Boyle Arts Festival Open Exhibition and subsequent exhibitions and events on Culture Night by local artists. The exhibition space was completed under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF) in response to Ireland 2040 and Boyle 2040 Plans. The exhibition space looks out onto the newly developed promenade along the Boyle River and a new Civic Space with acoustic shell at the rear, which can be accessed via the archway from Bridge Street. The development has completely transformed this riverside location in the heart of the town.



An Ríoga.

## Library

The Library Service provided a range of resources and services throughout 2023. New services were introduced to support library users with additional needs in using library services and extensive events programmes took place throughout the branch network.

#### Service Provision

592 library events took place in 2023, including 252 visits to libraries from school classes and Early Learning Centres. Over 100 weekly Storytimes were held for preschool age children in Roscommon, Boyle and Castlerea Libraries. Branches hosted numerous Play and Stay Sessions, in collaboration with the Roscommon Childcare Committee, to improve social and community engagement among families with small children, especially for those families new to Ireland or the local area. In Roscommon Library, the Ciorcal Litríochta – Irish language Book Club met on a monthly basis, as did the Bond with a Book Social Group, Mum-2-Mum Support Group, Craft Club, Regari Recovery College and Creative Writing Groups in Boyle and Strokestown Libraries.



# Right to Read (National Literacy Programme)

Summer Stars launched with a special story telling session in Strokestown Library. This programme encourages children to read books for enjoyment during the summer months and offers rewards along the way. 900 patrons (mostly children) became new library members during Summer Stars and over 12,500 books and other materials were borrowed from branches throughout County Roscommon. Summer Stars included STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) workshops, craft demonstrations, author visits, weekly Storytimes and special Storytimes for summer camps organised for all branch libraries, which saw 400 to 500 children taking part.

The Children's Book Festival ran throughout October 2023. 21 events took place in branches throughout the county, including visits by celebrated national and international children's authors, craft workshops and stories, music and dance sessions for younger classes.

Creative Writers Group, Strokestown

Storytime at Boyle Library.



The national Little Library Bedtime Book Scheme, designed to encourage reading and increased library membership among babies, toddlers and their parents and families, ran from September to December 2023 across all branches. 1,200 books were distributed by Roscommon libraries leading to an increase in library membership from families.



Little Library Bedtime Books Scheme.

### **Literacy Aids**

Roscommon Library Service acquired *Lexia*, a new online literacy programme.



Lexia Core5 Literacy Software.

## Sense-Ability – Roscommon Library's Neurodiversity Programme

On 19th December 2023, Leas-Cathaoirleach John Cummins officially launched *The Happiness Programme* at Boyle Library.

Roscommon County libraries brought a bit of magic to Boyle by rolling out a new interactive light projector to provide inclusive, sensory stimulation to the neurodiverse community, which will further enhance the libraries' age-friendly services.

#### Culture

#### SiarScéal

Supported by Creative Ireland, Roscommon Library's annual Siarscéal Literary Festival commenced in July 2023 under new Creative Coordinator, Sligo poet Mary Branley. 8 Creative Writing Workshops for teenagers were held weekly in Roscommon Library throughout July and August and 4 workshops were held in libraries in Sligo and Leitrim, with 240 young adults in attendance.



SiarScéal Awards Day.

#### Heritage Week

In collaboration with the Council's Heritage Office, libraries organised 10 events for the year, i.e. 4 exhibitions, 4 in-branch talks and workshops and 2 online talks. Topics included Aleen Cust, Genealogy, Roscommon Participants in the American Civil War, the O'Conor Don, Castlerea Railway Museum and Creative Writing.



Heritage Week at Strokestown Library.

## **Mobile Library**

The mobile library service continued to offer services in Ballaghaderreen, Monksland, Keadue, Elphin, Ballyfarnon, Rooskey and Tarmonbarry. These included, since the beginning of September 2023, 10 visits to schools and preschools.

## Library Development Strategies

A new National Public Library Strategy 2023-2027 was launched in Portlaoise on 17th July 2023. The Library is the Place: Information, Recreation, Inspiration seeks to maintain the Library Service's general progress and is progressive and ambitious for the development of its core services, including reading, literacy, and access to information.

### **Funding Supports**

Funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development and the *Dormant Accounts Fund* supported the delivery of *The Happiness Programme* with the installation of a *Magic Table* at Boyle Library.

In September 2023, the Department of Rural and Community Development announced funding for the purchase of 19 new desktop PCs including 24" monitors with built-in docking station, webcam, speakers and microphone to replace existing public PCs at library branches.

### **Online Resources**

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.

The Library Service provided access to 100 *Touch-Type*, *Read and Spell (TTRS)* licences in 2023. *TTRS* consists of an online typing course designed to benefit those who experience spelling, reading or writing difficulties.

## Library Usage

In 2023, there were 95,694 visits to library service points, an increase of almost 20% from 2022. More than 110,000 items were borrowed by library users, in person and online.



Junior Class Visiting Mobile Library.



Promotion of Free Library Online Resources.

## International Protection

The Council established the Roscommon Community Response Forum 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 work together to guide refugees to relevant services and supports such as welfare, childcare, health, education, employment, social and other integration needs.

The Council has also set up a dedicated Ukrainian Response Unit supporting:

- > Offer a Home Programme;
- > Emergency Refurbishment Programme;
- Accommodation Service providers within the county.

### Offer a Home Programme

In November 2022, a new Government initiative, Offer a Home was launched. Under this programme local authorities manage offers of unoccupied houses, apartments or holiday homes to house people and families from the Ukraine. To date:

- 195 properties have been offered in County Roscommon;
- > 128 properties have been allocated to Ukrainian families (408 persons);
- > 39 houses have been withdrawn.

# Emergency Refurbishment Ukraine Project (ERUP)

There are 7 properties on the emergency refurbishment tracker. I emergency refurbishment has been completed.

# Accommodation Service providers within the County

There are currently 12 service providers accommodating Ukrainian refugees, 1 of which is under contract with the Council and the remaining under contract with the International Protection Accommodation Services (IPAS).

At the end of 2023, there were approximately 1,200 Ukrainian refugees in Roscommon and work is ongoing to accommodate additional displaced refugees in both centres and pledged properties.

## Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT)

In the *Programme for Government*, a commitment was made to end the system of direct provision and replace it with a new international protection accommodation model and supports in health, housing, education, and employment for applicants in Ireland's *International Protection System*. A cornerstone of this new model, which is centred on a not-for-profit approach, is a focus on supporting the principle of 'integration from day one' with the overarching aim of empowering applicants to live independently in the community.

In expanding this model, the Department of Children, Disability, Equality, Integration and Youth, in collaboration with local authorities, aims to establish permanent Local Authority Integration Teams (LAITs) in each local authority to co-ordinate the provision of supports to the following:

- a. Applicants for International Protection (IP applicants);
- b. Those with refugee, subsidiary protection, or permission to remain status;
- c. Programme Refugees; and
- d. Beneficiaries of Temporary Accommodation (BOTPs).

The primary role of LAITs is to provide ongoing integration supports to IP applicants, Programme Refugees and BOTPs to enable them to live independently in the community. This will involve linking these cohorts with local service providers appropriate to their needs. The LAITs will also act as the direct point of contact, providing information, guidance, and advice, to ensure that these cohorts receive applicable benefits and entitlements.



# Roads and Active Travel Infrastructure

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**

The Council is responsible for the maintenance and improvement of the road network in the county. Works in 2023 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**.

Road Class Length (Metres)  Motorway 20,220 National Primary 83,492 National Secondary 148,056 Regional Local Roads 3,423,237 Total All Roads 4,050,765		Road Class	Length (Metres)
Local Roads 3,423,237	Slí Loinge Inch III		*
Local Roads 3,423,237	RRW Lung / Lough con di Ghadhra		83,492
Local Roads 3,423,237	GBW (To Ballaghaderroes)	National Secondary	148,056
	Threen)	Regional	375,760
Total All Roads 4,050,765	3	Local Roads	3,423,237
		Total All Roads	4,050,765
			<b>美国</b>

## **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 Investment 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 2023 are outlined in **Table 2**.

Table 2: County Roscommon National and Non-National Roads Funding Allocations 2023

Funding Source	Works	Amount
Department of Transport	Regional and Local Road Reconstruction and Maintenance, Bridges, Drainage Works, Safety Schemes, Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Works, Former National Roads, Specific Improvement Grant, Community Involvement Schemes	€21,243,550
Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII)	National Primary and Secondary Routes	€21,832,142
National Transport Authority	Active Travel Investment Programme	€2,500,000
Department of Rural and Community Development	Non-Public Roads Local Improvement Schemes	€442,825
Roscommon County Council	Regional and Local Roads / Public Lighting	€2,235,600
Total		€48,254,117

## **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 cross-section is to a Type 1 single carriageway standard. An Bord Pleanála approved the scheme and the 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 and selected LV and MV ESB apparatus is complete. Archaeological site works are complete and reporting and dissemination continue. Technical consultants were appointed to assist in progressing the project through the tender and construction stages. The procurement process to find a replacement contractor, following termination of Roadbridge Ltd.'s contract, culminated in the award of the main construction contract to Wills Bros Ltd. on 25th October 2023. This contract was signed on 8th December 2023.



Councillor John Keogh, Cathaoirleach, Roscommon County Council, Shane Tiernan, Chief Executive, Roscommon County Council, representatives of Wills Bros. Contractors and senior management of Roscommon County Council at the contract signing for the N5 Ballaghaderreen to Scramoge road project on 8th December 2023.

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 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 and Phase 2 (Option Selection) in March 2023. TII approval to proceed to Phase 3 (Design and Environmental Evaluation) has been received. Ground investigation and topographical surveys necessary to progress the project design commenced on site and continued throughout 2023 with the Phase 3 ground investigation works expected to be completed in Quarter 1, 2024. Taking into consideration the 2023 Grant Allocations to Local Authorities for National Roads. Leitrim County Council has prioritised the progression of the town bypass and associated traffic demand management and active travel measures through subsequent development phases. ARUP commenced Phase 3 (Design and Environmental Evaluation) of the project in June 2023. Landowner and stakeholder consultation is being carried out as the design of the project progresses.

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. Phases 0 and 1 have been completed. Phase 2 Option Selection is nearing completion.

The N61 Ballymurray to Lecarrow Road Project comprises the improvement of the N61 National Secondary Road between Ballymurray and Lecarrow, which will incorporate a bypass of Knockcroghery. The project was brought through to the completion of TII Phase 2 (Option Selection) by the appointed consultants Roughan & O' Donovan-AECOM Alliance (ROD-A) in 2021. This project was subsequently suspended by TII due to funding constraints.

Some funding was allocated in 2022 under the TII Minors Programme to develop an overall strategy to address safety and related issues on the section of the N61 between Roscommon town and Athlone pending the implementation of long-term solution(s). ROD-A was appointed in August 2022 to undertake this study. The study report was issued in December 2023 and was presented to the Elected Members of the Council at its Plenary Meeting held on 18th December 2023. The report identifies 15 priority interventions and TII funding has been sought in respect of 5 junction optimisation interventions.

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. Archaeological resolution field works were completed in November 2016. The project monograph detailing the excavation of a previously unknown multivallate enclosure complex at Ranelagh was completed in 2022. The land acquisition process is ongoing.

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

## National Road Pavement Projects

During 2023, works were completed on the N61 Athlone North (Phase 2), N61 Shankill to Cladagh Cross and N5 Frenchpark to Ballinagare Pavement Schemes. Pavement design and tender documentation was prepared in respect of the N63 Athleague to Clonyourish, N63 Clonyourish to Ballinagard Road and N5 Bellanagare to Moneylea Pavement Schemes in 2023.



## Lough Ree, Athlone to Ballyleague/Lanesborough Greenway

The Athlone to Ballyleague/Lanesborough Greenway project 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). Public Consultation No.1 took place in the Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone on 22nd March 2023. Phase 1 deliverables were completed in 2023.

## Mid-Shannon Greenway

The Mid-Shannon Greenway is the adopted name for proposed Greenway project between Ballyleague/Lanesborough and Tarmonbarry/ Strokestown/Roosky. This Greenway links into the Athlone to Ballyleague/Lanesborough Greenway scheme. Ryan Hanley was 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). Public Consultation No.1 took place in the Percy French Hotel, Strokestown on 19th April 2023. Phase 1 deliverables were completed in 2023.

## Lough Key to Carrick-on-Shannon Greenway

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 commenced in Quarter 1, 2023. Phase 0 deliverables were completed in Quarter 3, 2023. Public Consultation No.1 took place in the Lough Key Forest and Activity Park on 6th September 2023. Phase 1 deliverables are scheduled to be completed during Quarter 1, 2024.

# TII funded Active Travel Projects

During 2023, TII provided funding to progress *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).

Technical consultants were appointed in September 2023 to assist in progressing the projects.

## 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 2023* 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 2023, the National Transport Authority (NTA) allocated funds to local authorities with a view to spending €290 million on walking and cycling infrastructure. The Council received an allocation of €2.5m for 2023. The funding for 2023 is in respect of year 3 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.

In 2023, schemes have been completed in Lecarrow, Cloonfad and Ballinlough villages. A further 10 projects are at planning/procurement stage at yearend. A contractor has been procured for a scheme in Ballaghaderreen Town centre, which is due to commence construction in Quarter 1, 2024. A Safe Routes to School Programme (SRTS) scheme is under construction at St. Pauls' National School in Castlerea. 7 other school projects are in the planning stages under the Safe Routes to School Programme.

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. They will help towards connecting communities and making walking and cycling attractive, safe and accessible to everyone. 21 schemes have been completed to date in County Roscommon across the 3 Municipal Districts with a spend of €4,713,137.

## Community Involvement Schemes (CIS)

An allocation of €139,050 under the CIS was provided by the Department of Transport in 2023. 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. 4 projects were progressed under this scheme in 2023.

# 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 2023, the Council was approved grant funding of €442,825.00 from the Department under this scheme.

## 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 2023, the Council continued to engage paving contractors to replace defective footpath sections and install tactile paving where required. Works were carried out in Arigna, Ballyaghaderreen, Ballyleague, Cootehall, Boyle, Loughglynn, Monksland, 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.

The Council is actively seeking interest from consultants to deliver a scheme for flood defense works at Bogganfin, Athlone. This work has received funding from the OPW in the amount of €350,000.

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, Roscommon 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, Athlone and Carrick-on-Shannon. Deployment areas are taking orders for new connections and properties are live on the network in these areas. The Council had processed 419 pole applications by the end of 2023. 59.8% of premises were passed with over 3000 connections.

Table 3: National Broadband Ireland Fibre Rollout for the County

€76M Investment		<b>)K</b> mises	11,365 Premises Passed	3,019 Connections
Deployment Area	Premises		Status	Anticipated Date for Connection
ATHLONE	737	Availal	ole to Order/Pre-Order	Available to Order/Pre-Order
BALLINASLOE	833	Availal	ole to Order/Pre-Order	Available to Order/Pre-Order
BANAGHER	91	Netw	ork Build in Progress	July 2025 - December 2025
CARRICK-ON-SHANNON	2,484	Availal	ole to Order/Pre-Order	Available to Order/Pre-Order
CASTLEREA	3,752	Availal	ole to Order/Pre-Order	Available to Order/Pre-Order
CLOONFAD	655		Survey Pending	January 2026 - December 2026
CURRAGHBOY	1,720	Netw	ork Build in Progress	July 2025 - December 2025
DOWRA	146	S	Survey Complete	July 2024 - August 2024
ELPHIN	2,385	Netw	ork Build in Progress	January 2025 - June 2025
GURTEEN	953	S	Survey Complete	January 2026 - December 2026
KESHCARRIGAN	171	Availal	ole to Order/Pre-Order	Available to Order/Pre-Order
KNOCK	405	S	Survey Complete	January 2026 - December 2026
LONGFORD	291	Availal	ole to Order/Pre-Order	Available to Order/Pre-Order
NEWBRIDGE	161	S	Survey Complete	July 2025 - December 2025
RIVERSTOWN	29		Survey Pending	January 2026 - December 2026
ROOSKEY	894	S	Survey Complete	January 2026 - December 2026
ROSCOMMON	3,565	Availal	ole to Order/Pre-Order	Available to Order/Pre-Order
(Additional Presmises)	142		N/A	TBC



#### WiFi4EU

The *WiF4EU* project received EU funding to provide free Wi-Fi hotspots around the county. 52 access points are live in towns and villages in County Roscommon. Wi-Fi usage is consistent and is greatly valued in these localities.



#### **Broadband Connection Points (BCPs)**

The Council's broadband office continues to liaise with BCP sites and source funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) to develop hub facilities on an ongoing basis. There were no revenue streams from *Connected Hubs* or the *Digital Innovation Program* in 2023. The DRCD is to confirm if either funding stream will be operational in 2024.

BCPs in the county are offering not just hot-desks for remote working areas but also conference facilities for small and medium-sized enterprises and run training courses and thematic courses such as computer coding for children and families e.g. *Our Kids Code* and *MS Dreamspace*.

#### Coding

2023 saw the first STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) in our Community - Our Kids Code and Microsoft Dreamspace taster sessions and workshops. Gorthaganny National School and its adjacent Broadband Connection Point (BCP) or Digihub hosted and participated in the children's coding sessions. 2 neighbouring schools, Cloonbonniffe and Loughglynn National Schools, also participated. Almost 90 children from the 3 schools participated in the sessions.

#### Eduroam

Eduroam is an international roaming service that 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.

#### **Burial Grounds**

#### Cemetery Capital Works

Works, which commenced in 2022 on the extension to the existing Kilbegley Cemetery, were completed in 2023.

## Cemetery Improvement and Maintenance Scheme

€65,000 was allocated to the 2023 Cemetery Improvement and Maintenance Scheme. Grants were awarded to 94 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. 159 Abnormal Load Permits were issued in 2023.



### **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 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 2023 was 562.

## Galway to Athlone Cycleway

RPS Consulting Engineers were appointed in October 2019 to provide engineering, planning, environmental and other services on this cycleway, which forms part of the strategic Dublin to Galway route. Work has been ongoing since and the Emerging Preferred Route has been identified and published. Work was also undertaken on other elements of the project, which will culminate in the submission of a planning application to An Bord Pleanála.

However, in September 2023, due to the complexity and scale of the 200km Preferred Route, together with upward market pressures in recent years, RPS Consulting Engineers advised Westmeath County Council that the project is no longer financially viable for the company, having regard to the fixed price tender sum for the contract as signed in 2019. RPS Consulting Engineers sought mutual termination under the contract. To minimise any delay on the project and in particular the completion of the design and environmental evaluation phase of the scheme, the parties agreed to enter into a process to deal with the issues to hand. Because of this development, Westmeath County Council as the lead authority, on behalf of the participating local authorities and TII, is exploring various approaches to identify the most appropriate and effective mechanism for progressing and delivering the scheme through the design and environmental evaluation processes.

## **Road Safety**

#### Low Cost Safety Improvement Works

In 2023, 12 Safety Improvement Schemes were completed on Regional and Local Roads throughout the county from a specific Department of Transport grant of €380,000 for low cost safety measures. The Council also receive additional funding for specific schemes on national routes.

## **Planning**

As the statutory Planning Authority, Roscommon County Council's core responsibilities to ensure the proper planning and sustainable development of the county include the preparation of plans that promote and facilitate 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 Council's Planning Department also deals with unfinished housing developments as part of the process of working towards the Council taking in charge such developments.

## **Development Management**

707 planning applications were received in 2023, with a significant proportion of these being submitted on-line since the roll out of the on-line facility in June.

Demand for pre-planning discussions remained high in 2023, with 211 discussions taking place.

## 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 following is a summary of planning enforcement activity in 2023:

- > 88 planning enforcement complaints were received;
- > 49 warning letters were issued;
- > 24 Enforcement Notices were served;
- The Council initiated legal action in 6 enforcement cases.

Table 1: Planning Applications 2019-2023

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Applications Received	671	573	723	682¹	707
Decisions to Grant	410	331	417	376²	333
Decisions to Refuse	46	51	60	62	48
Refusal Rate	11.2%	15.4%	12.6%	14.16%	12.6%
Number of Appeals	16	17	17	23	17
Appeals upheld by An Bord Pleanála	9	1134	11 5	10 6	2 7
Section 5 Declarations of Exempted Development	30	57	65	37	106

- <sup>1</sup> Includes valid and invalid planning applications; excludes S.42 Extension of Durations and Part 8 developments.
- <sup>2</sup> Excludes Decisions on S.42 applications.
- <sup>3</sup> 2020-2022 appeal statistics have been updated to reflect all determinations.
- 4 17 cases appealed in 2020 with 2 subsequently withdrawn; 73% of the 15 determined cases were upheld.
- <sup>5</sup> 17 cases appealed in 2021. All appeals determined; 64% were upheld.
- <sup>6</sup> Of 23 appeals, 5 were subsequently withdrawn. Of the remaining 18 appeals determined, 55% were upheld.
- Only 2 of the appeals lodged in 2023 have been determined to date, with the Council's decision upheld on both.

## Resolving Unfinished Housing Developments (UHDs)

There were approximately 97 housing developments in County Roscommon which had not been taken in charge by the end of 2023, with 71 of those considered unfinished to some degree.

Work continued to resolve UHDs through ongoing engagement with relevant parties to agree and implement site resolution plans and works. 12 housing developments were taken in charge in 2023. A further 26 developments were complete but had not progressed to being taken in charge.

## Collecting Development Contributions

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

**Table 2: Development Contributions** 

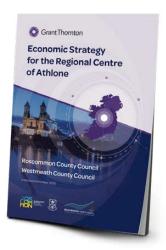
	2022	2023
Contributions invoiced	€563,608.00	€703,678.05
Contributions received	€657,554.66	€677,875.22

### Forward Planning

Several instances of collaborative working with neighbouring Planning Authorities occurred in 2023. The *Economic Strategy for the Regional Centre of Athlone*, which was jointly commissioned by Roscommon and Westmeath County Councils and prepared by consultancy firm Grant Thornton, was formally launched in February. The strategy provided an immediate focus on promoting increased employment and enterprise opportunities in Athlone and its hinterland and will inform the preparation of the *Athlone Joint Urban Area Plan (JUAP)*.

The forward planning team in Roscommon County Council worked with colleagues in Westmeath County Council on various pre-draft activity on the *Athlone JUAP*, including commissioning a dedicated *JUAP* website (athlonejointplan.ie) and preparing a *Pre-Draft Strategic Issues Paper*. This paper was developed to foster engagement from stakeholders during pre-draft consultation on the *JUAP*. Consultation commenced on 7th December 2023.

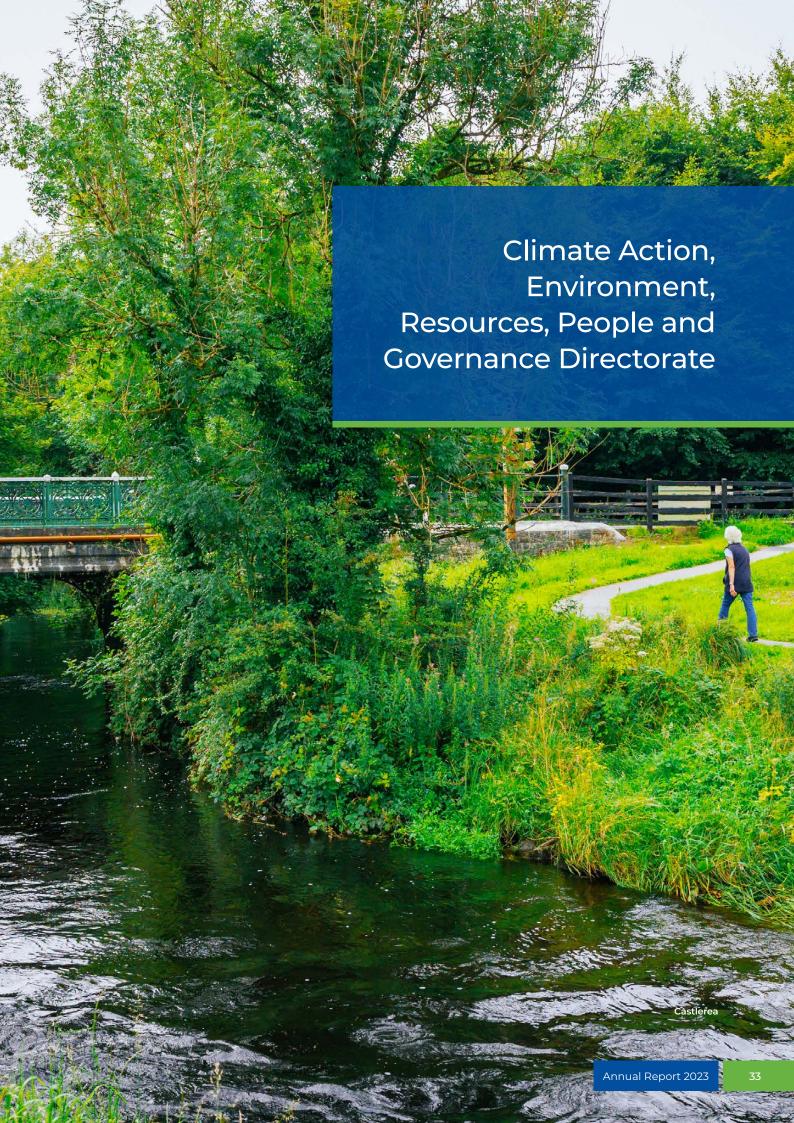
Similar collaborative pre-draft work was undertaken by Roscommon and Leitrim County Councils as part of the preparatory work for the *Carrick-on-Shannon Joint Local Area Plan (LAP)*. A dedicated website was launched in conjunction with the commencement of pre-draft public consultation on 12th October 2023. A *Strategic Issues Paper* was prepared jointly by Roscommon and Leitrim planning officials to inform the pre-draft consultation phase.





Preparatory work on the *Draft Roscommon Town Local Area Plan (LAP)* was on-going throughout the year, with the draft plan prepared in-house and informed by specialist environmental reports prepared by consultants. The statutory public consultation on the *Draft LAP* commenced on 15th December 2023.

The Council's forward planning team was also engaged in work related to the *Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT)* initiative. The 29 submissions received by 1st January 2023 on the Draft *RZLT* maps (published on 1st November 2022) were assessed to determine whether lands detailed in submissions were to remain as 'lands in scope' or be removed from subsequent *RZLT* maps. Determinations on all submissions issued to landowners in March 2023. The final *RZLT* maps were prepared and published on 1st December 2023. The forward planning team has worked in collaboration with the Council's GIS Officer on the preparation of all *RZLT* maps.



## Climate Action

The Climate Action Unit, consisting of a Climate Action Coordinator, Climate Action Officer and Community Climate Action Officer, which is funded by the Department of the Environment, Communications and Climate was established in 2023. This Unit supports the interdepartmental Climate Action Team (CAT), consisting of senior management across all Council Departments/Business Units. 5 meetings of the CAT were held in 2023 to facilitate the preparation of the *Local Authority Climate Action Plan (LACAP)*.

#### Climate Action Plan

The Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications instructed all local authorities to commence the process of preparing their statutory LACAPs in line with government guidance in Quarter 1, 2023. This guidance outlined the scope of the LACAP in 4 main areas, addressing Council operations, areas of Council influence, community engagement and the mobilisation and the facilitation role of the Council in support of the national climate objective and the designated decarbonisation zone in Roscommon Town. Consultants were engaged and carried out baseline emissions inventories and a climate change risk assessment that informed the preparation of the draft County Roscommon Climate Action Plan. In line with legislative provisions, pre-draft consultation was carried out throughout Quarters 2 and 3 of 2023 and a draft plan was prepared in association with the Planning, Environment, Climate Change and Corporate Governance Strategic Policy Committee, incorporating the required environmental assessment processes. Following approval by the Elected Members, the draft plan and associated assessments were placed on statutory public consultation throughout Quarter 4, 2023 in anticipation of the preparation of the final plan in Quarter 1, 2024.



#### Climate Action Roscommon

The Climate Action Roscommon public awareness programme was launched in Quarter 2, 2023 in support of the pre-draft LACAP consultation process. Following a request for expressions of interest, 12 community groups were selected to outline climate action initiatives in their areas and short, accessible videos were produced to display these activities on social media, the Council's website and on screens in Áras an Chontae.

## **Climate Action Training**

Dedicated climate action training was delivered to all departments/business units of the Council and Elected Members in Quarter 2, 2023 in association with the Climate Action Regional Office and the Local Authority National Training Group.





Launch of County Roscommon Climate Action Plan Pre-Draft Consultation.

#### Community Climate Action Fund

An extensive public awareness and information campaign was carried out on the *Community Climate Action Programme* throughout Quarters 2 and 3 of 2023. The *Community Climate Action Fund* was formally launched by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications in Quarter 4, 2023 with an allocation of €402,000 for County Roscommon. Applications were invited for appropriate community-based projects with the support of the Community Climate Officer, which will be assessed in 2024.

#### Electric Vehicle Charging – Just Transition Fund

The Climate Action Unit participated in the Zero Emissions Vehicle Ireland (ZEVI) scheme funded under the Just Transition programme, which provides grants to cover costs associated with civil, electrical, and installation works necessary to install publicly accessible 50 kW electric vehicle chargers. The Council submitted 10 applications to serve public facilities and supported communities in making their applications through the Pobal portal.

# Sustainable Energy Communities

The Climate Action Unit continued engagement with Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland and local communities throughout 2023 to support the establishment of sustainable energy communities and the preparation of *Energy Master Plans* to progress the national climate objective.

#### **Environment**

# Roscommon County Council's Environment Department covers a diverse range of functions and services. These include:

- 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;
- > Casual Trading;
- > Rural Water.

# 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 Roscommon were related to agriculture and hydro morphology. Tighter control of nitrogen inputs are proposed along with restorative mitigation works and new regulations to govern physical alterations. It is expected that the new RMBP will be launched in 2024.

#### Laboratory

The laboratory provides both a technical/analytical and sampling service and is accredited to ISO 17025 (1 of only 6 local authority testing laboratories accredited to this standard). The laboratory continued 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 and groundwater. The laboratory had an increase of 11% in sample throughput in 2023.

#### **National Inspection Plan**

The purpose of the registration and inspection system for domestic wastewater treatment systems is to protect ground and surface water quality (particularly drinking water sources) from risks posed by malfunctioning systems. The Council will continue to prioritise inspections of septic tanks in 2024. It is anticipated that there will be an increased up-take of grant schemes to up-grade onsite treatment systems as the maximum grant increases from €5,000 to €12,000 on 1st January 2024.

13 new inspections were completed in 2023 and all were uploaded to EDEN. A failure rate of 53% was recorded in 2023 which represented a reduction from the 2022 failure rate of 69% with non-compliances determined using the national inspection protocol.

A programme for closure of open historic advisory notices was implemented in 2023. 46 inspections of sites associated with historic advisory notices were completed. This programme requires the inspection of outstanding historic advisory notices, completing verification inspections and closing notices where works were completed. Where works have not been completed as per the original advisory notice, new advisory notices have issued. This resulted in 36 new advisory notices being issued to existing sites and 7 verification inspections being completed with files being closed.

#### Waste Management and Enforcement

A grant of €139,043 was allocated to the Council in 2023 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 the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) through CUWERLA.

#### 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 (WERLAs) were selected in each region. The 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**

#### **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 that is 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.

4 other closed landfills are located in the county. 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 required to be prepared to assist with applications for Certificates of Authorisation for the other 3 landfill sites in Strokestown, Boyle and Frenchpark.

#### National Litter Pollution **Monitoring System**

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

#### **Annual Programmes**

In 2023, the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications made funding available through the WERLAs to support *Anti-Dumping Initiatives*. The purpose of this initiative is to fund projects aimed at tackling problems using a collaborative approach involving local authorities and communities. The Council submitted a number of proposals for funding under the initiative. The total spend on projects was €111,017. The following projects were completed in 2023:

- 4 bulky goods collections held at each civic amenity site. 56.38kg of bulky waste was collected (including mattresses and furniture);
- Ballaghaderreen Waste Project including clean ups;
- > Tyre clean up;
- Design and print of A guide to Household Waste Management and Recycling;
- Waste Presentation Bye Laws Awareness Campaign;
- > Waste enforcement training;
- > Textile upcycling workshops.

#### **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. 94 primary and post primary schools are registered on the programme. 21 schools renewed their Green Flags in 2023.

#### **Casual Trading Bye Laws**

The Council's Casual Trading Bye-Laws 2022 came into effect on 1st January 2023. The Environment Department issued licences and carried out enforcement activities under these bye-laws throughout the year.



# Environmental Awareness and Media Campaigns

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

Campaigns organised and promoted during the year included:

- Launch of Your Guide to Household Waste Management and Recycling in County Roscommon;
- Greener Spaces Awards 21 prizes were awarded to community groups/schools;
- Roadside Anti-Littering "Bin it or Bring it Home" campaign;
- > Online Green Schools Seminars with An Taisce;
- Annual Christmas Environmental Awareness Competition;
- > Bring Bank Anti-Litter Campaign;
- > Bag it! Bin it! anti-dog fouling campaign;
- National Spring Clean 120 individuals/groups registered;
- > Gum Litter Taskforce Roadshow;
- Adopt a Road/Adopt a Bring Bank 22 community groups registered;
- National Tree Week 200 native trees distributed to 20 community groups;
- National Food Waste Recycling Week 4 workshops held in libraries in Roscommon;
- Green Business Hub €15,000 funding awarded to promote waste segregation in businesses;
- > Greening your Festival initiative.

Social media campaigns included:

- > WEEE Ireland and My Waste media campaigns;
- > Gov.ie Clean Air;
- > Illegal dumping;
- > Waste Presentation Bye-Laws;
- > Civic amenity and bring bank sites promotion.

#### **Rural Water**

In 2023, the rural water function was incorporated into the Environment Department's remit following the transition of water services to Uisce Éireann. The Council is continuing to close out works under the *Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2019 – 2021*. The next multi-annual programme is expected to be launched in Quarter 1, 2024.



Greener Spaces Awards 2023.



Bag it! Bin it! anti-dog fouling campaign.



National Spring Clean 2023.

#### Water Services

# Transition of Services to Irish Water

Pursuant to the Water Services (No.2) Act 2013, Uisce Éireann assumed responsibility for owning, operating and maintaining water and wastewater infrastructure and delivering water and wastewater services. The Council ceased to have functions and powers previously conferred on it by the Water Services Act 2007 with respect to water and wastewater activities. From 1st January 2014, the Council had acted as an agent of Uisce Éireann to deliver public water and wastewater services under a Service Level Agreement. The Government Policy Paper Uisce Éireann – Towards a National, Publicly Owned, Regulated Water Services Utility dated 23rd February 2021 and the Workplace Relations Commission document Framework for the Future Delivery of Water Services, June 2022 subsequently provided for a new agreement to replace the existing Service Level Agreement.

In 2023, the transformation of Uisce Éireann to operate as the national, standalone, regulated water services utility progressed. Uisce Éireann began the integration, on a phased basis, of the day-to-day operation and delivery of water and wastewater services into its own organisational structure. On 19th July 2023, a Master Co-Operation Agreement was signed by the Council to replace the Service Level Agreement it had with Uisce Éireann. The purpose of the Master Co-Operation Agreement is to provide Uisce Éireann with full responsibility for the management and direction of water and wastewater services. Separately, a Support Services Agreement is proposed which sets out the services that the Council has agreed to provide to support the delivery by Uisce Éireann of water and wastewater services. This Support Services Agreement is expected to be signed in 2024.

# Annual Service Plan with Uisce Éireann

The 2023 Annual Service Plan contained performance targets for the operation and maintenance of existing water and wastewater schemes and the delivery of capital projects, as agreed in late 2022 as part of the staff headcount and budget negotiations. The total budget allocated to Roscommon was €8.6 million.

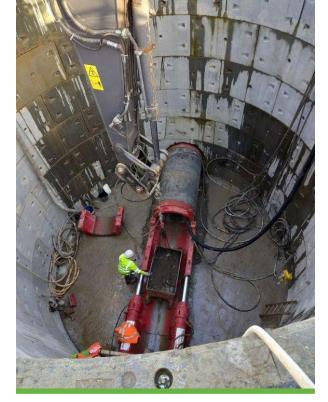
#### Capital Schemes

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

#### **Infrastructure Portfolio**

#### Roscommon Town Main Drainage Scheme

The Roscommon Town Main Drainage Scheme project was completed towards the end of 2023. As part of the project, crews installed more than 7km of new sewers and upgraded and constructed pumping stations across Roscommon town. The original sewer network was overloaded but completed works means it can now provide for both current and future population growth in the town. The benefits of the works in terms of the development of the town are immense, supporting housing and commercial development. Completion of this €20m project means the community can grow and the risk of sewer flooding has reduced. It also represents good news for water quality in the local Jiggy and Hind rivers, ensuring compliance with the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive and the protection of our environment.





Roscommon Town Main Drainage Scheme – Castlerea Road Pumping Station.

Roscommon Town Main Drainage Scheme – Tunnelling Works.

#### Ballaghaderreen Wastewater Treatment Plant

The contractor Veolia took over the project in January 2020. Veolia 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 Uisce Éireann 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.

## 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. Uisce Éireann has requested a review of any outstanding items that may be considered for delivery under this programme. This programme continues to address high-risk 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.

#### 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. The programme is intended to provide water and wastewater treatment plant growth capacity in smaller settlements that would not otherwise be provided for in the investment plan.

The Lecarrow Wastewater Treatment Plant has qualified for this programme. Initial survey work and site investigation has commenced. The Ballinameen Wastewater Treatment Plant has also been included in the programme. Workshops were held in April 2023. Existing drawings and further information requests have been submitted to Uisce Éireann.

#### National Water Resources Plan North West Region

A submission was made on the *Draft Regional Water Resource Plan – North West (RWRP-NW)* in February 2023.

The RWRP-NW sets out options for providing a more secure, reliable and sustainable water supply for 732,700 customers in the North West region over the next 25 years. The plan outlines current and future 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 119 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 17,700 kilometres of distribution network and 119 Water Resource Zones. These treatment plants also serve 74,000 businesses. The region covers approximately 26,900 square kilometres, extending from County Clare to County Donegal.

The 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.

#### **Water Networks Portfolio**

# Water Networks Rehabilitation Programme

Farrans Ltd. has been appointed regional contractor to undertake works on behalf of Uisce Éireann.

#### Pressure Management Works

A new pressure management programme was developed during 2022 and was 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

This programme entered the 5th year of targeting District Metered Areas with high unaccounted for water figures in 2023. The Find and Fix Programme involves the verification of highlighted District Metered Areas through isolating areas of high unaccounted for usage and then focusing leak detection works to locate and repair leaks in these areas. Through monitoring associated usage and leakage reductions, daily usage within targeted District Metered Areas can be guided towards a sustainable economic leakage level target. The programme continues to contribute towards achieving reductions in unaccounted for water and leakage throughout the county.

#### First Fix Programme

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

## Information Systems

The Information Systems and Digital Transformation Department is comprised of 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 customers.

Resource time continued to be dedicated, in 2023, to supporting blended working solutions. The ICT Operations Team supported secure connections to the corporate network and provided staff with upto-date managed devices to facilitate connections from remote working locations.

The ICT Operations Team continued to utilise and build on services that 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 staff to work in new ways while simultaneously reducing the carbon footprint by cutting back on the need for physical devices.

The ICT Operations Team also continued to achieve progress in 2023 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 in order to maximise the impact of emerging technologies;
- Investigating and implementing new technologies that 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. Over 17,000 issues have been reported via *Report It* and in excess of €18m in grant funding has been awarded to community groups via *My Online Services* since it went live in 2020. 4,800 people had registered as self-service customer users on this digital platform at the end of 2023. This allows them to access a range of Council services anytime, anywhere and from any device.

The Council has also logged details for 13,000 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 2023 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 view and collect location-based information. For example, in 2023, the *Household Waste Field Survey* was updated to include back office administrative capabilities and a Power BI based report.

The Council continued to gather more information digitally in 2023. 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 2023 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.

# Corporate Services

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; local elections; register of electors; insurances; facilities management; veterinary functions; dog control; civic receptions; events; customer services; customer complaints; freedom of information; access to information on the environment; data protection; protected disclosures; ethics and political donation declarations and health and safety.

# 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 2023. The Annual Meeting was held in June where Cllr. John Keogh was elected Cathaoirleach and Cllr. John Cummins as Leas Cathaoirleach. The Budget Meeting was held in November 2023 to approve the 2024 Budget.

Roscommon Municipal District held 12 meetings, Athlone 8 meetings and Boyle 10 meetings during 2023.

#### Corporate Plan 2020-2024

The Corporate Plan was adopted by the Elected Members in 2020. This plan serves as the Council's strategic framework for action during the lifetime of the present elected Council in line with the Local Government Act 2001. 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 for our people.

#### **Register of Electors**

The Electoral Reform Act 2022 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 up to 15 days before an electoral event. **Table 1** shows the position with the numbers of electors on the Rolling Register as at 18th December 2023.

**Table 1: Register of Electors** 

Dáil Constituency	Presidential Electors	Dáil Electors		
Roscommon - Galway Constituency Electors	41,431	43,039		
Sligo – Leitrim Constituency Electors in County Roscommon	5,759			
Midlands - North – West Parliament Constituenc	47,128			
Local Electoral Areas Ele	50,434			
> Athlone Local Elector	15,265			
> Boyle Local Electoral	17,994			
> Roscommon Local El	17,220			

#### Civic Reception

The Council hosts civic receptions for persons in its administrative area who distinguish themselves and bring pride and honour to their community through their achievements. The nomination of persons for a civic honour is a reserved function of the Council.

On 23rd November 2023, 21 recipients, including teams and individuals were honoured at a Civic Reception in Roscommon Arts Centre. These Civic Award recipients had displayed excellence in fields such as singing, drama, football, soccer, cycling, golf and handball. They were presented with a signed commemorative scroll.

#### Representative Trips Abroad

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Tom Crosby, accompanied by the Chief Executive, Mr. Shane Tiernan and at the invitation of the County Roscommon Society of New York, visited New York in March 2023 to meet with the Roscommon diaspora and to promote economic and tourism opportunities for Roscommon. Cllr. Orla Leyden represented the Council in Chartrettes, Paris in June 2023 to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of its town twinning with Roscommon town.

#### **Dermot Early Bursary**

The Council has established an annual sports bursary in honour of the late Dermot Earley. The scholarships afford 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 2023/2024 were Aisling Hanly representing Kilbride GAA Club and Cormac Rynn representing Trident Swim Club.

#### Social Media

The Council operates Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube and LinkedIn social media accounts. Social media enhances its communication and engagement with the public. The Council operates several profiles across multiple platforms including library services, the arts centre and the Local Enterprise Office. Social media platforms provide the Council with the ability to share information quickly and easily to a large audience supporting national campaigns, recruitment opportunities and promoting awareness of Council services.



#### **Veterinary Functions**

The Council operates a service contract with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) to oversee food safety in 8 approved slaughterhouses and 5 approved stand-alone meat manufacturing plants. There are also 3 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. 2,786 cattle, 2,350 sheep and 255 pigs were slaughtered in 2023 in Council supervised slaughterhouses in County Roscommon.

#### **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 Ltd. 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 2023, expenditure on dog control services amounted to €212,821.07. The total income in respect of licences and fees was €74,482.83.

The Dog Breeding Establishments Act, 2010 requires premises to apply for inclusion on the *Register of Dog Breeding Establishments*. 2 establishments were included on the Council's register at the end of 2023.

# Freedom of Information (FOI)

The Council received 81 FOI requests in 2023. A breakdown of the outcome of these requests is outlined in **Table 2**.

#### **Table 2: FOI Requests**

Number of requests undetermined at 1st January 2023	5
Number of requests received during 2023	81
Number of requests granted	26
Number of requests part-granted	27
Number of requests refused	25
Number of FOI requests transferred, withdrawn or dealt with outside of FOI	2
Number of requests undetermined at 31st December 2023	6

# Access to Information on the Environment (AIE)

The Council received 14 AIE requests in 2023. Details of the outcome of these requests are presented in **Table 3**.

**Table 3: AIE Requests** 

Number of AIE requests undetermined at 1st January 2023	0
Number of AIE requests received during 2023	14
Number of AIE requests granted	8
Number of AIE requests part-granted	2
Number of AIE requests refused	4
Number of AIE requests withdrawn	0
Number of requests undetermined at 31st December 2023	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 2023 in order to discharge its data protection responsibilities. The Council processed 4 Subject Access Requests (SARs) during the year.

#### Ethics Declarations and Reporting of Political Donations

Ethics declarations were submitted by 18 Elected Members and 150 Relevant Employees 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 2023, 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 was prepared and 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 2023

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

#### Health and Safety

The Council continues to implement the local authorities *Safety Management Systems*. This implementation is carried out by the ongoing review of current systems, implementation of the health and safety inspection programme and the completion of the annual work programme. Communication and consultation with employees is 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, Uisce Éireann and other stakeholders take place as appropriate.

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

The 2023 work programme included:

- Monitoring of the Safety Management System through ongoing work inspections;
- Operation and ongoing review of ISO 45001 Certification standard for the Fire Service;
- Development and updating of the Council's existing Safety Management System documentation including health and safety policies, risk assessments etc.;
- Development and delivery of an Occupational Health, Welfare and Staff Wellbeing Programme including the provision of health screening to approximately 220 staff;
- Continued co-operation with external parties such as the Health and Safety Authority and Uisce Éireann;
- Monitoring of existing contractor control procedures;
- Continuous improvement in Council 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;
- Management of all construction works in compliance with relevant legislation;
- The provision of advice and support to all Council departments and units in relation to health and safety.

# 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;
- c. 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 reported 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 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 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 and 2009 respectively.

The Council is a member of the SEAI Energy Decarbonisation Partnership Programme and is committed to:

- Working with SEAI to achieve our 2030 and 2050 energy decarbonisation targets and deliver on the wider public sector mandate;
- Embedding an energy management programme appropriate to the size of our organisation;
- Developing a project pipeline towards 2030 energy decarbonisation targets and plan strategically towards achieving net zero by 2050;
- Reporting annually on our organisation and building stock energy performance;

- Working with SEAI to undertake an annual review of our energy management and energy decarbonisation actions;
- Reporting our progress on energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emission reductions annually to SEAI;
- Considering energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emission reductions when procuring and designing equipment and facilities;
- Collaborating with SEAI to communicate the benefits of energy-related climate action.

The Council has joined the Midland Energy Agency (MEA), aligning with the Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) 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 on targeting the primary energy users of the Council, which include buildings, public lighting, electricity usage and transport fuel with a view to achieving further energy efficiency.

#### **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 68% 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 2023, the Council spent €1.8 million on energyrelated 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, the 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 savings;
- Energy efficiency upgrades to buildings and public lighting.



In 2023, 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 measures are contributing to significant annual energy-related savings for the Council. 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. The SEAI energy monitoring and reporting data for 2022 show that the Council has achieved a 40.5% improvement in energy efficiency.

#### **Actions Planned**

The 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;
- Building energy upgrade projects in partnership with the SEAI and MEA;
- > LED upgrades to existing public lighting.



The Human Resources Department promotes and supports a culture of quality customer service through workforce planning, recruitment and selection of staff, 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

The 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. The recruitment process was extremely busy during 2023. Interviews were mainly conducted remotely which meant that candidates had every opportunity to attend their interviews. Retention of staff and filling of vacancies continued to be a priority throughout the year. The total number of staff employed by the Council at 31st December 2023 was 490.

#### 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 plans, unit plans and integrated performance plans. These plans establish goals, targets and timeframes to ensure that every employee in the organisation 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. The Human Resources Department delivered a comprehensive and equitable training and development programme during 2023, which included training in the areas of Irish human rights & equality, mental health & well-being, age friendly housing and disability & reasonable accommodation.

#### Building Momentum – Public Service Agreement 2021-2023

The Building Momentum – Public Service Agreement 2021-2023 delivers an extension to the framework of public service agreements, including the most recent 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 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 that maximises and motivates employee attendance. This policy aims to reduce absenteeism and results in improved service delivery and reduced costs. The percentage of working days lost to sickness absenteeism in 2023 was 3.64%.

#### **Labour Activation Measures**

The Council has facilitated 1 apprentice under the *Apprenticeship Incentivisation Scheme* in the finance area. The aim is to ensure that, at the end of the programme, the participant will have enhanced their skills and competencies in their chosen area of expertise.



# Regeneration and Economic Development

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 2023 included the following:

- The completion of a unique and striking Covered Civic Space in Market Square, Roscommon. The historic well was also unveiled. Artists have been engaged to enhance laneways leading to the Market Square and to provide sculptural pieces. These works are expected to be completed in 2024;
- An application to the value of €12.3m for the Roscommon Town – Putting the Spokes Back into the Wheel project was approved in Quarter 1, 2021. This project aims to link the backlands of Main Street, retail parks and Circular Road to support the main town core and a cycling perimeter route. Design works on the project were progressed in 2023. Part 8 planning approval was secured for the Roscommon Town East public realm enhancement element of the project, which includes Athlone Road, Goff Street, Henry Street, Church Street and Circular Road from Caseys to the Lanesboro Road. Construction is expected to commence in 2024.





The Historic Well, Market Square, Roscommon.



The Covered Civic Space at night, Market Square, Roscommon.

#### Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF)

Activity in 2023 included the following:

- > Works on the redevelopment of the Royal Hotel site in Boyle into the An Ríoga enterprise centre and community space which were completed during the year with the building formally launched by Minister Heather Humphries in July 2023;
- Construction work on the Castlerea Food Hub which was significantly progressed;
- Commencement of works at the Monksland Life Sciences and Soft-Landing Space;
- > Substantial works on the Energising Boyle Town Centre and King House project. Upgrades to King House, including exhibitions, energy efficiency works and campus facilities, were substantially completed. Works also commenced on public realm enhancements at Bridge Street and Shop Street including the adjacent carpark. These works are due for completion in 2024;
- Award of the construction contract for Ballaghaderreen Public Realm enhancements. Works are expected to commence in 2024;
- Part 8 planning was secured in 2023 for the Public Realm Enhancement Scheme in Strokestown. A construction fund application was submitted for the project and is awaiting a funding decision in 2024;



Minister Heather Humphries officially opens An Ríoga, July 2023.

- Commencement of preliminary design works on the Putting the Heart into Monksland Project. Public consultation events were ongoing in 2023 and will continue into 2024. A Part 8 planning application is also scheduled for 2024;
- Appointment of a design team for the Boyle Community Library project. A construction tender will be published in 2024.

#### Town and Village Renewal Scheme

In 2023, a number of town and village projects were brought to completion, including projects at Cloonfad, Four Roads and Dysart. Examples of works carried out include the provision of paved pedestrian areas, outdoor meeting areas, digital hubs, street lighting, street furniture, bike racks, landscaping and painting. Town and Village Project Development Funding also facilitated the commissioning and completion of a feasibility study around proposals for the repurposing of 2 former Garda barracks in Ballintubber and Tarmonbarry into multi-purpose community spaces.

Funding also resulted in progress for a number of other projects including the commencement of significant works in Ballintubber, Monksland, Athleague, Ballinagare and Cootehall. These works include the development of community parks, sports parks and recreational amenities with seating and performance areas, walking trails, pedestrian plazas, gazebos and playgrounds.



 ${\bf Cloon fad\ Village-Outdoor\ Meeting\ Area.}$ 

Carrying on the trend towards significant investment in community amenities, new applications were also submitted in 2023, which await a funding decision in 2024. These include applications for Monksland, Ballaghaderreen, Strokestown, Elphin and Castleplunkett.

#### Town and Village Streetscape Enhancement Scheme

In 2022, Ballinlough was selected for the *Town and Village Streetscape Enhancement Grant Scheme*, which was funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development. Work was completed in 2023. The streetscape scheme has greatly improved the visual aspect of the town.





Town and Village Streetscape Enhancement, Ballinlough.

#### Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)

The Regeneration Unit was busy progressing the following projects during 2023:

- > Works were completed at the Doon Shore amenity area in Boyle. These included the enhancement of approach roads and traffic areas and the development of trails, paved areas, perimeters, lawns, benches and a bicycle stand. Smaller projects in Gorthaganny, Lough Key Forest Park, Boyle and the Palace Neighbourhood Park, Elphin were also completed. Works included planting and upgrades to facilities and walking trails;
- The Ballintubber and Ballymoe Waterways project commenced with the substantial completion of a slipway in 2023. The completion of a second slipway and ancillary works are expected in 2024;



Node 1 – Ballyleague.

- Works were significantly completed on the development of the recreational amenity linking both marinas in Ballyleague. These works included the addition of 2 look out nodes, landscaping works with a dedicated garden space, resurfacing of the carpark, a new awning and additional signage. Remaining works will take place in 2024;
- A number of other ORIS funded projects were advanced through a design and construction tender in 2023 including Arigna Discovery Park and Miners Trail, Rathcroghan Looped Trails, the North Water Accessible Kayak Launch and the Mote Park Sensory Sculpture and Trail Experience. These projects are expected to commence construction in 2024;
- Further applications for funding were made in 2023 to carry out works including the refurbishment and upgrade of existing amenities and the improvement and addition of walkways, seating, trails and signage in locations such as Donamon, Boyle, Elphin, Athleague and Castlerea.

At the end of 2023, the Regeneration Unit had in excess of 50 projects active throughout the County at various stages of progression. These projects involve almost €45 million in Department funding with the Council providing funding in excess of €10 million.



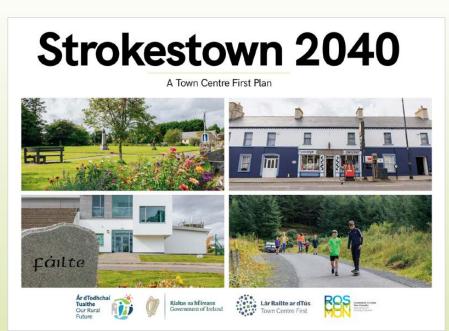
Seating Area Node 2 - Ballyleague.

#### **Town Centre First Initiative**

The Town Centre First 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 the first town in County Roscommon to complete its Town Centre First Plan. The Strokestown 2040 A Town Centre First Plan outlines 8 transformational proposals demonstrating a vision for Strokestown until 2040 and is available on <a href="https://www.roscommoncoco.ie">www.roscommoncoco.ie</a>.

#### Roscommon Bound

Marketing consultants have been appointed to deliver a *Roscommon Bound* project in 2024. The planning phase of the project is complete. A national marketing campaign, networking events, a brand ambassadors' scheme and global *Rossie Day* will take place in 2024.



## Community Development

## One of the main functions of Roscommon County Council is to provide democratic representation and civic leadership for the local community.

Thriving communities are essential to making the county's towns, villages and rural areas inviting places to live, work and visit. The Council recognises the importance of community and voluntary groups and offers many supports for community development, participation, activities and projects. It works with local communities and other partners such as local development companies, government departments and state agencies to assist them to address the needs of the community.

#### **CLÁR 2023**

€709,628 was allocated to 15 community organisations under the *CLÁR 2023* programme. The following table provides details of the funding that was allocated.

Table 1: CLÁR Funding

Name of Group	Amount Approved	Description of the Project
Ballaghaderreen Community Park	€32,760	Install drainage on the on field playing area
Ballinagare Health and Leisure Centre	€50,000	Internal renovation of the community centre
Ballintleva National School	€50,000	Installation of an astro-turf pitch and ancillary site works
Ballintubber Development Association	€50,000	Purchase and installation of playground equipment
Ballyleague Hall	€50,000	Internal renovation of the community centre
Boyle Celtic Football Club	€50,000	Construction of a spectator stand
Castleplunkett Development Association	€50,000	Regeneration of local amenity
Castlerea St Kevins GAA	€50,000	Walkway and associated lighting
Elphin GAA Club	€50,000	Construction of a new spectator stand
Kilbride GAA	€50,000	Resurface car park providing drainage, lighting and wiring for car charging ports
Kilglass Community and GAA Centre	€50,000	New eco-friendly car park including wheelchair accessibility areas, a bike rack and green spaces
Moore Community Hall	€26,868	Complete the upgrading of car parking facilities
St Joseph's GAA Kilteevan	€50,000	Renovation of grounds
Tremane Hurling Club	€50,000	Installation of a surface of artificial grass carpet with underlay of shock pads
Tulsk National School	€50,000	Conversion of schools existing training pitch to an astro-turf pitch



Clár Project - Car Park resurfacing at Boyle GAA Club.



Clár Project - Astro Pitch Facility at Kilmore GAA Club.

2023 also saw the completion of a significant number of projects that had received funding under the *CLÁR 2022* programme. These included works at GAA clubs in Ballinameen, Boyle and Kilmore and community halls and centres in Ballaghaderreen, Gorthaganny, Kilmurry, Moore and Keadue (St Ronans). This funding assisted these organisations to improve car parks, develop disabled access facilities, upgrade floors and heating systems and provide a multi-use games area.

# Community Support Fund 2023

The Community Support Fund was provided by the Government to support community and voluntary groups. The aim of the fund is to support groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas, with their running costs and with carrying out minor improvements to their facilities. The Council was allocated an amount of €279,884 from the fund. 152 community groups receiving funding.

# Community Recognition Fund 2023

The Community Recognition Fund was introduced in 2023 to support the development of community infrastructure and facilities in recognition of the contribution being made by communities across the country in welcoming and hosting significant numbers of new arrivals from Ukraine and other countries. The Council received a total of €689,057. 19 projects were approved for funding. Works on these projects are continuing.

#### 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, Ireland's CAP (Common Agricultural Policy) Strategic Plan.

The LEADER 2023-2027 Funding Agreement was signed on 22nd December 2023. The agreed Local Action Group (LAG) for the delivery of the LEADER Programme 2023-2027 in County Roscommon is the Roscommon Local Development Committee (LCDC) with Roscommon LEADER Partnership designated by Roscommon LCDC as the Implementing Partner and the Council as the Financial Partner. The value of funding under this new programme is €6.8m.

#### Public Participation Network (PPN)

The PPN is the main link through which the Council connects with community, voluntary, social inclusion and environmental groups across County Roscommon. In addition to facilitating the two-way flow of information between the Council and communities, the PPN provides a structure for groups to nominate community representatives onto various local decision-making structures in the county. This includes electing representatives to sit on the LCDC, Joint Policing Committee, Heritage Forum and the Council's 4 Strategic Policy Committees. The PPN facilitated the participation of 17 representatives across 7 Council led committees.

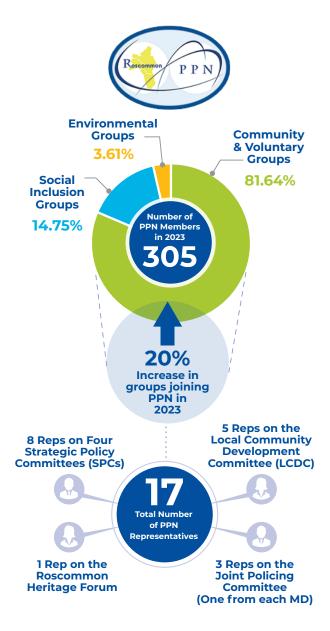
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Local Authority Members Association Awards.

In relation to public consultations, member groups engaged on multiple local policy formulations in 2023, including the new Local Economic and Community Plan (2023-2029), Local Development Strategy, Local Authority Climate Action Plan (2024-2029) and the PPN's County Vision for Wellbeing. A first of its kind approach in delivering co-ordinated dual consultations, the Planning Roscommon Together initiative has been highlighted as national best practice by the Department of Rural and Community Development. This innovative concept also received an awards nomination under the Best Communications Category of the 2023 Local Authority Members Association Awards.

The PPN also developed their County Vision for Community Wellbeing, which involved engaging with local groups, articulating their goals and aspirations for the future and identifying what is needed to support future generations and make Roscommon a great place to live, work and invest in.

New methods to promote enhanced community engagement were also adopted in 2023 including the delivery of a series of online seminars, funding webinars and in-person networking events. In addition, the PPN facilitated the delivery of numerous training and capacity building workshops, empowering groups to access key local authority funding, thus enabling sustainable local development. The network currently supports a growing membership of over 300 groups in County Roscommon.



# Roscommon Social Inclusion Unit

The Social Inclusion Unit continued in 2023 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

Social Inclusion Unit events in 2023 included a hugely successful *Play Day* held in 2 locations, Loughnaneane Park and Somers Park, in conjunction with the Roscommon County Childcare Committee. A full week of *Bike Events* was scheduled in co-ordination with Roscommon Sports Partnership. The unit funded *Social Inclusion Week* activities for a number of community groups and was particularly proud to host the launch of Roscommon Women's Network's *Intercultural Arts Project* in Áras an Chontae as the key event of the week.



National Play Day.

#### Age Friendly

The Social Inclusion Unit implements the *Age Friendly Strategy* and supports the work of the Age Friendly Working Group, County Alliance and the Roscommon Older Peoples Council.

Activities throughout 2023 included participation in the PPN organised *Plenary and Community Networking* event where information was shared about future activities planned for the residents of County Roscommon, fostering a sense of community and well-being.

A meeting was held with the Patient Advice and Liaison Service Co-ordinator where an age friendly walkability audit was carried out in Roscommon University Hospital. This audit resulted in the establishment of a dedicated team focused on enhancing the hospital's facilities for all age groups, ensuring that everyone can navigate the hospital premises safely and comfortably.

The Harvest Festival was held in the Enterprise Hub, Castlerea in October. This event was organised by the Roscommon Older Persons Network Committee in association with the Council's Age Friendly Office, the Roscommon Healthy Co-ordinator, Roscommon LEADER Partnership and the Gardaí. It drew approximately 300 attendees.

The festival featured educational presentations, health checks, and cultural displays. Highlights included An Garda Síochána's safety campaigns, Croí's blood pressure services and traditional threshing and dancing.



Harvest Festival - Shane Tiernan, Chief Executive; Mairead McKeon Moore, Age Friendly Programme Manager; Una Ni Chuinn, A/SEO Community; Margaret Mulligan, Older Persons Network; Sgt Deirdre Coleman; Bernie Kearney, Chairperson, Older Persons Network.

#### 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 highlighted mental health issues for young people. Roscommon Comhairle na nÓg's Annual Youth Conference took place on 18th October 2023 at the Castlerea Enterprise Hub. This conference was hosted by the Council, coordinated by Youth Work Ireland Midlands and planned and facilitated by members of Roscommon Comhairle na nÓg.



During 2023, the Council, through the Community 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 the 3-year period 2023-2025.

#### Migrant Integration Strategy

The Council finalised the *County Migrant Integration Strategy* during 2023. This was a tripart initiative involving Roscommon LEADER Partnership and Roscommon Children's and Young People's Services.



JPC Public Meeting.



Launch of Round 3 Healthy Ireland.

# 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 Council officials. The JPC met 4 times in 2023. A public meeting was held on 11th September in the Abbey Hotel, Roscommon. The JPC continued to implement its work plan during the year.

Table 2: JPC Meetings 2023

Date	% Attendance
13th March 2023	<b>72</b> %
19th June 2023	76%
11th September 2023 – Public Meeting	60%
4th December 2023	80%

JPC events in 2023 included the following:

- A radio advertisement campaign to heighten awareness around internet safety and fraud together with Garda interviews. This was funded under the 2022 Community Safety Innovation Fund and was aired on Shannonside Northern Sound. 105 advertisements of 30 seconds duration were aired from 28th March to 28th April 2023.
- The Council attended the Go Purple Day - Coffee Morning at the Roscommon Family Resource Centre promoting healthy relationships and access to domestic abuse services.
- Representation at the Northern and Western Regional Networking Event for JPCs.

#### **Tourism**

The Roscommon Tourism Department recognises Roscommon as a high-quality tourism and recreational destination for visitors and locals alike. The implementation of the Roscommon Tourism Strategy in collaboration with industry partners and tourism stakeholders is key to achieving sustainable growth within the sector for the years ahead.

#### Marketing and Media

Roscommon Tourism invested heavily in a yearlong Visit Roscommon



### **Tourism Networking**

Tourism county networking events were held during 2023 with stakeholders receiving updates on tourism initiatives throughout the year.

#### Ireland's Hidden Heartlands

Meetings and trade workshops for *Ireland's Hidden* Heartlands (Upper, Middle and Lower Shannon) continued throughout the year. Work continued on the Destination and Experience Development Plan for the Upper Shannon and Shannon Erne Region.

#### Fáilte Ireland Funding

Works through Fáilte Ireland's Destination Town funding for Boyle continued with the majority of the public realm works completed. Funding was received to update and reprint the Explore Roscommon marketing brochure and for improvements to Visit Roscommon and King House websites.

79.759 1 325%

#### Social Media Snapshot









365,002 1 587.1%



18.923 ± 378











#### King House

Energy upgrade work to King House, which were facilitated by Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) funding, were carried out. Completion of these works is due in early 2024. Guided and self-guided tours continued during the season with visitors enjoying the new Connaught Rangers Exhibition and technological improvements to the visitor experience. Seasonal events took place throughout the year including recitals, performances, outdoor concert events, the hugely successful Halloween Horror at the Museum and the Christmas Craft Fair. The Cultural Companions programme was rolled out from August to September, which included a wide range of activities for older persons. The Boyle Arts Festival, which was launched at King House by renowned Irish actor Brendan Gleeson, hosted the main art exhibition in addition to a series of events as part of a 10-day festival.

#### Douglas Hyde Interpretative Centre

The Douglas Hyde Centre opened from July to September. Lectures were delivered over the season on Dr. Douglas Hyde and his influence on Irish culture. A culture night event was held to launch the Decade of Centenaries 2023: Artist Commission in response to the Douglas Hyde Cultural Influencer by Padraig Cunningham.

# Community Tourism Event – An Enchanted Christmas Trail

Roscommon Tourism in association with the Roscommon Lights Committee and the Roscommon Town Team organised *An Enchanted Christmas Trail* event at Loughnaneane Park, Roscommon which took place alongside the *Roscommon Christmas Market*. The park was transformed into a winter wonderland with twinkling lights and Christmas scenes creating a truly magical ambiance. The Enchanted Croí Theatre performed an original play of *The Night the Toys Sparkled* at the wonderful amphitheatre. A nationwide marketing campaign was rolled out to promote the event, which was attended by over 3,000 people.



Irish Actor Brendan Gleeson launching the Boyle Arts Festival at King House.

#### Festivals and Events

37 applications were received for the Festivals and Events Grant in 2023. 26 events were awarded funding. Total funding allocated amounted to €40,000. Roscommon's newest music and arts festival, the Night and Day Festival, took place in Lough Key Forest and Activity Park.

#### Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) Funding

Roscommon Tourism completed 2 ORIS Measure 1 funded projects in 2023 including the mapping of all outdoor activities in County Roscommon update and the and relaunch of the Roscommon Walks and Cycleways Booklet, which was promoted in the Autumn by Roscommon boxing sisters, Lisa and Aoife O' Rourke.



Lisa and Aoife O'Rourke promoting the Roscommon Walks and Cycleways Brochure at the Demesne in Castlerea.

# 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. The 2023 work programme involved collaboration with over 33 partners and the provision of support on an ongoing basis to community groups to help them with their heritage projects.

The Heritage Work Programme for 2023 was supported by 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.

Table 1: Heritage Office Work Programme Funding Streams 2023

Funding Stream	Number of Projects	Funding	
Creative Ireland Funding	2	€11,500	
Built Heritage Investment Scheme	16	€102,984	
Historic Structures Fund	4	€107,800	
Local Biodiversity Action Fund	4	€49,392	
County Heritage Plan Funding	3	€52,865	
Community Monuments Fund	3	€64,943	
Funding Streams Budget	32	€389,484	

Actions delivered during 2023 included the promotion of *National Heritage Week*. 50 events from around the county registered on **www.heritageweek.ie**. Over 2,000 people attended these events.

The Heritage Office continued to promote the implementation of the *All Ireland Pollinator Plan*. Actions for pollinators included reduced mowing at several sites around the county. These actions were reviewed and updated on <a href="https://pollinators.biodiversityireland.ie">https://pollinators.biodiversityireland.ie</a>. *Pollinator Awards* were incorporated into the new *Roscommon County Council Greener Spaces Competition*. 15 awards were presented under a number of categories.

Invasive alien species treatment was carried out at 67 sites. Site data was submitted to the National Biodiversity Data Centre and logged on https://actionsoninvasives.biodiversityireland.ie.

Council actions for pollinators saw reduced mowing at the Gaelic Chieftain near Boyle which allowed native wildflowers to thrive.

A Conservation Management Plan was prepared for Cloonshanville Abbey and graveyard. A conservation method statement and specification of works was prepared for Elphin Cathedral. Works also commenced on the Owen O'Conor Mausoleum Conservation Project in Ballintubber graveyard.

A workshop and project meeting took place for a Roscommon Field Names Project for volunteers who wished to record their field names. Aleen Cust schools work books were sent to all primary schools in the county in association with the Aleen Cust Commemoration Society and an exhibition was held in Roscommon Library for National Heritage Week. Support was provided to the Group for the Study of Irish Historic Settlement for the very successful Historic Settlement in Roscommon Conference.

The Heritage Officer participated in meetings of the Royal Sites of Ireland UNESCO World Heritage Bid Steering Group. A draft Memorandum of Understanding between the National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and partner local authorities in relation to the nomination of the Royal Sites of Ireland as a World Heritage Property is under preparation.

The community archaeology element of the Farming Rathcroghan EIP (European Innovation Partnership) entailed farm planning specialist input; statutory legislative processes and stakeholder engagement; a Heritage Week event; participant training input; inputs to Farming Rathcroghan project equipment design, trialling and project implementation; community outreach and public awareness. This also included trialling intervention works at national monuments at Rathcroghan, the Rathnadarve enclosure and the Mucklaghs linear earthworks, the first works of its kind in the country, in association with the National Monuments Service.

The *Táin March Festival* took place in July 2023 with an associated *Royal Rathcroghan Schools Programme* in the Autumn. 158 pupils from 6 schools participated in this online programme. Phase 1 of a *Survey of the Heritage of Holy Wells in County Roscommon* was carried out. Public submissions were received for 30 sites. 52 wells were surveyed. 42 persons attended a talk at Ogulla Well. Information collected included names, associated saints, pattern day rituals, cures and folklore.

An audit was carried out on the Roscommon Oral History Collection. The Projects Roscommon Cemeteries Mapviewer www.roscommoncoc.ie/cemeteries was updated. The Roscommon Heritage Research Bursary was awarded. The Roscommon Schools Heritage Programme supported Heritage in Schools visits to over 30 primary schools.



Conservation works commencing at the Owen O'Conor Mausoleum in Ballintubber graveyard.



Farming Rathcroghan EIP Community Archaeology Event – National Heritage Week.



MAD Youth Theatre presented the story of the Táin in Roscommon and Rathcroghan as part of the Táin March Festival 2023.

Heritage news and information was shared on an ongoing basis on Council social media sites using hastags #LoveYourHeritage and #Roscommon Heritage. 78 Heritage Office news items and 55 social media posts were shared.



# **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 2023 was €72.8m while for the Capital Account the expenditure was €52m.

# Key Points related to Financial Activity in 2023

- A surplus of €27k was delivered on the Revenue Account;
- The Capital Account reported a cumulative credit balance of €27.5m;
- The cumulative General Reserve at the end of 2023 stood at €297k;
- A combined total of €124.8m 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.

#### **Revenue Collection**

The table below summaries revenue collection performance since 2018:

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Rates	88%	89%	89%	68%	89%	86%
Rents	90%	91%	93%	93%	91%	92%
Housing Loans	75%	71%	65%	62%	76%	55%

#### Summary of Major Revenue Collections for 2023

The table below provides an overview of revenue collection performance for 2023:

A Debtor Type	B Opening Arrears at 01/01/2023	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 31/12/2023 =(G-H)	J Specific Doubtful Arrears	K  % Collected =(H)/(G-J)
Rates	1,343,850	12,464,375	1,201,666	253,175	-	12,353,385	10,887,091	1,466,294	23,633*	88%
Rents & Annuities	524,603	6,112,051	-	6,389	4	6,630,261	5,983,251	647,010	-	90%
Housing Loans	135,470	392,299	-	-	-	527,769	395,857	131,912	-	75%

<sup>\*</sup>Specific doubtful arrears = (i) Vacancy applications pending/criteria not met & (ii) Accounts in examinership/receivership/liquidation.

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 2023

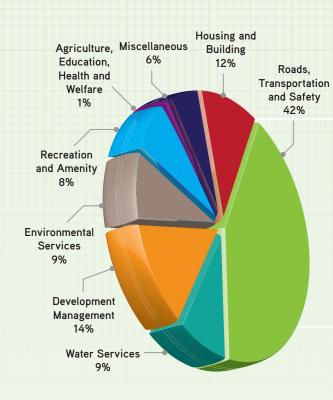
The Income and Expenditure Account Statement brings together all the revenue related income and expenditure. It shows the surplus/(deficit) for the year.

Expenditure by Division	Gross Expenditure 2023 €	Income 2023 €	Net Expenditure 2023 €	Net Expenditure 2022 €
Housing and Building	8,942,705	10,785,378	(1,842,674)	(1,421,607)
Roads, Transportation & Safety	30,277,999	23,268,172	7,009,827	6,954,658
Water Services	6,263,397	6,595,490	(332,093)	(581,550)
Development Management	10,046,157	5,421,676	4,624,481	4,463,422
Environmental Services	6,914,949	1,484,389	5,430,560	5,015,136
Recreation & Amenity	5,696,791	1,391,032	4,305,759	3,499,581
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	706,755	401,165	305,591	454,469
Miscellaneous Services	4,034,905	5,974,711	(1,939,806)	(1,265,796)
Total Expenditure/Income	72,883,658	55,322,013		
Net cost of Divisions to be funded from Rates and Local Property Tax			17,561,644	17,118,313
Rates			12,464,375	12,496,462
Local Property Tax			10,756,634	10,825,752
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year before Transfer			5,659,364	6,203,901
Transfers from/(to) Reserves			(5,632,245)	(6,177,851)
Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year			27,120	26,050
General Reserve at 1st January			269,994	243,944
General Reserve at 31st December			297,113	269,994

# Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet) as at 31st December 2023

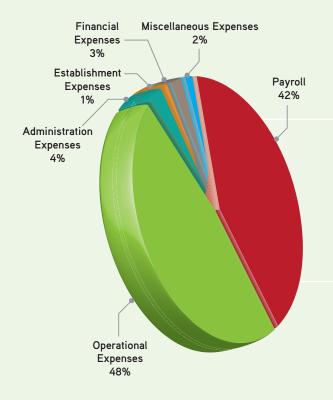
	2023 €	2022 €
Fixed Assets	€	€
Operational	239,955,816	236,776,449
Infrastructural	1,615,664,454	1,615,664,454
Community	12,767,727	12,769,146
Non-Operational	1,178,676	1,178,676
Non Operational	1,869,566,674	1,866,388,726
	.,000,000,01	1,000,000,120
Work-in-Progress and Preliminary Expenses	35,345,075	23,441,554
Long Term Debtors	11,475,821	9,682,903
Current Assets		
Trade Debtors & Prepayments	4,837,061	5,180,523
Bank Investments	9,227,167	10,790,386
Cash at Bank	21,588,224	19,747,505
Cash in Transit	129,678	154,178
	35,782,130	35,872,591
Current Liabilities		
Creditors & Accruals	8,582,269	8,426,743
	8,582,269	8,426,743
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)	27,199,861	27,445,848
Creditors (Amounts greater than one year)		
Loans Payable	27,850,627	27,311,156
Refundable Deposits	932,360	776,671
Other	3,323,452	1,680,975
	32,106,439	29,768,801
Net Assets / (Liabilities)	1,911,480,991	1,897,190,229
, (2.2		.,,
Represented By		
Capitalisation	1,869,566,674	1,866,388,726
Income WIP	33,130,923	20,226,644
General Revenue Reserve	297,113	269,994
Other Specific Reserves	-	-
Other Balances	8,486,281	10,304,865
Total Reserves	1,911,480,991	1,897,190,229

#### Revenue Expenditure 2023



#### Spend by programme

	€	%
Housing & Building	8,942,705	12%
Roads Transportation & Safety	30,277,999	42%
Water Services	6,263,397	9%
Development Management	10,046,157	14%
Environmental Services	6,914,949	9%
Recreation & Amenity	5,686,790	8%
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	706,755	1%
Miscellaneous	4,034,905	6%
Total	72,873,657	100%



#### What money was spent on

	€	%
Payroll	30,555,264	42%
Operational Expenses	35,225,685	48%
'	' '	4%
Administration Expenses	2,795,111	.,,
Establishment Expenses	402,792	1%
Financial Expenses	2,354,857	3%
Miscellaneous Expenses	1,549,948	2%
Total	72,883,657	100%

An Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage



#### STATEMENT OF INTERNAL FINANCIAL CONTROL (SIFC)

#### Introduction

I, Shane Tiernan, Chief Executive (CE) of Roscommon County Council am responsible for the annual financial statement (AFS), prepared by the Head of Finance, in accordance with the accounting code of practice issued by the Minister under section 107 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

I certify that the financial statements of Roscommon County Council for the year ended 31 December 2023, are in agreement with the books of account and have been prepared in accordance with the accounting requirements of the Minister of Housing Local Government and Heritage.

The AFS is subject to external audit, by an auditor of the Local Government Audit Service, whose purpose is to form an independent opinion of the accounts and state whether the annual financial statement presents *fairly the financial position* of the local authority and of its income and expenditure for the period in question, and whether the transactions of the local authority under which they purport to have been carried out. The AFS reports on the day-to-day activity of Roscommon County Council in the form of the Statement of Comprehensive Income & Expenditure, summarised by Division. The Statement of Financial Position outlines Roscommon County Council overall financial position as of the 31st of December 2023.

The Statement of Comprehensive Income represents expenditure and income on the day-to-day running of Roscommon County Council.

The key sources of income for Roscommon County Council are as follows:

	Current Year	Previous Year
	€	€
Goods & Services	19,185,350	18,519,743
Grants & Subsidies	35,725,955	31,879,674
Other Contributions (as appropriate)	410,709	145,452
Rates	12,464,375	12,496,462
Local Property Tax	10,756,634	10,825,752



Activity on the Income and Expenditure account for 2023 is as follows: The income for 2023 is in line with 2022.

	Current Year €	Previous Year €
Income	78,543,023	73,867,083
Expenditure	72,883,658	67,663,182
Transfers to Capital	5,632,245	6,177,851
Exceptional Item	0	0
Surplus/(Deficit) for	27,120	26,050
Prior Year Adjustment	0	0
Opening Revenue Reserve	269,994	243,944
Closing Revenue Reserve	297,114	269,994

The overall surplus for 2023 is in line with 2022.

The Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet) represents the total financial activity of the council for the year together with comparative year figures as appropriate.

The statement includes assets and liabilities as follows:

- Assets both recently constructed/purchased and historical assets
- Work in progress and preliminary schemes- mainly roads and housing
- Long Term Debtors housing loans
- Current Assets- including Stock, Debtors, Cash at bank
- Current and long term liabilities- mortgage and non-mortgage loan borrowings
- Various Reserves/Balances

The Net Assets of Roscommon County Council at the end of 2023 total €1,911,480,991 and are as follows:

	Current <b>Year</b> €	Previous Year €
Fixed Assets	1,869,566,674	1,866,388,726
Works in Progress	35,345,075	23,441,554
Long Term debtors	11,475,821	9,682,903
Current Assets	35,782,130	35,872,591
Current Liabilities	8,582,269	8,426,743



 Net Current Assets/ (Liabilities)
 27,199,861
 27,445,848

 Creditors (Amounts greater than 1 year)
 32,106,439
 29,768,801

 Net Assets/(Liabilities)
 1,911,480,991
 1,897,190,229

A Statement of Funds Flow was introduced as part of AFS 2011. While the guidance of International Accounting Standard 7 Statement of Cash Flows has been followed, the business of local authorities is substantially different to most private sector organisations and therefore some minor changes to the format have been agreed to ensure the data displayed is meaningful and useful within the local government sector.

#### System of Internal Financial Controls

As CE of Roscommon County Council, I acknowledge my responsibility for ensuring that an effective system of internal financial control is maintained and operated by the Roscommon County Council. This responsibility is exercised in the context of the resources available to Roscommon County Council. Also, any system of internal financial control can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions authorised and properly recorded, and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or would be detected in a timely manner. Maintaining the system of internal financial controls is a continuous process and the system and its effectiveness are kept under ongoing review.

#### Financial control environment

As CE of Roscommon County Council, I confirm that a financial control environment containing the following elements is in place:

- Financial responsibilities have been assigned at management level with corresponding accountability.
- Reporting arrangements have been established at all levels where responsibility for financial management has been assigned.
- Formal procedures have been established for reporting significant control failures and ensuring appropriate corrective action.
- There is an Audit Committee which as part of its work programme regularly review the internal financial control system.
- Procedures for all key business processes have been documented.
- There are systems in place to safeguard the assets.

#### Administrative Controls and Management Reporting

As CE of Roscommon County Council, I confirm that a framework of administrative procedures and regular management reporting is in place including segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability and, in particular, that:

- procedures for key business processes have been documented
- there are systems aimed at ensuring the security of the ICT systems
- there are systems in place to safeguard the assets of the local authority and



- there are appropriate capital investment control guidelines and formal project management disciplines in operation.

#### Procurement compliance

Roscommon County Council ensures that there is an appropriate and ongoing focus on good practice in tendering and purchasing and that procedures are in place to ensure compliance with all relevant procurement guidelines.

#### Internal audit and Audit Committee

As Chief Executive, I can confirm that Roscommon County Council has an internal audit function with appropriately trained personnel, which operates in accordance with a written charter. Its work is informed by analysis of the financial risks to which Roscommon County Council is exposed and its annual internal audit plans are based on this analysis. I am satisfied that there are procedures in place to ensure that the reports of the internal audit function are followed up.

I can confirm that Roscommon County Council has an effective audit committee which carries out an annual effectiveness review of their activities. I can also confirm that an Audit Committee is in place in accordance with the requirements of Section 122 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended).

The statutory functions of audit committees as set out in section 59 and 60 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 are as follows:

- I. to review financial and budgetary reporting practices and procedures within the local authority that has established it;
- II. to foster the development of best practice in the performance by the local authority of its internal audit function;
- III. to review any audited financial statement, auditor's report or auditor's special report in relation to the local authority and assess any actions taken within that authority by its chief executive in response to such a statement or report and to report to that authority on its findings;
- IV. to assess and promote efficiency and value for money with respect to the local authority's performance of its functions; and
- V. to review systems that are operated by the local authority for the management of risks.

I recognise that the audit committee plays a crucial role in the governance framework of local authorities, particularly in the context of increased public sector accountability. They have an independent role in advising the Council on financial reporting processes,



internal control, risk management and audit matters as part of the systematic review of the control environment and governance procedures of the local authority.

I acknowledge the Audit Committee's role in the risk management process and in the continuing review of the control environment and governance procedures in Roscommon County Council.

#### Risk and control framework

Roscommon County Council has implemented a risk management system which identifies and reports key risks and the management actions being taken to address and, to the extent possible, mitigate those risks.

A corporate risk register is in place which identifies the key risks and evaluates and grades them according to their significance. The register is reviewed and updated by the Management Team on a regular basis. There is also a risk register in place for each service division and these are also reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

The outcome of these assessments is used to plan and allocate resources to ensure risks are managed to an acceptable level. The risk register details the controls and actions needed to mitigate risks and responsibilities for the operation of controls are assigned to specific staff.

As Chief Executive, I confirm that key risks and related controls have been identified and processes have been put in place to monitor the operation of those key controls and report any identified deficiencies.

The Statement of Internal Financial Control will be included in the draft Annual Report submitted to Council members by 30 May 2023 and thereafter included in the published Annual Report prepared and adopted by the Council by 30 June 2023.

Signed by:

Chief Executive

Dated:

-May 12024

## 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.

2023 was a very busy year for LEO Roscommon. 171 businesses employing 996 people were supported as a direct result of grants approved for new and existing businesses employing additional staff in County Roscommon.

Some of the major financial supports provided include *Priming Grants* to support 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 12 businesses in 2023, which were projected to create an additional 26 jobs. The LEO is now in a position to financially support over 10 businesses on their journey to exporting.

2023 again saw an increase in participants in training courses, mentoring assignments and mentoring clinics. These were delivered in-house and remotely and tailored specifically towards the needs of small, micro and start-up businesses in Roscommon.



Roscommon Community College students Joshua McCormack and Evan McNeil, winners of the overall national senior title and 2 other awards at the national *Student Enterprise Programme* awards in Croke Park with their business MC Compactors.

The LEO engaged with 8 second level schools to sow the seed of entrepreneurship at a local, county and national level.

The LEO introduced a number of initiatives in 2023 to help businesses adapt and address the challenges presented by the *Climate Change Agenda*. Energy audits and advice were provided to small and micro businesses under the *Green for Business* programme. *Energy Efficiency Grants* were also introduced.

Digital Start provides support for eligible businesses to obtain digital strategy, technical and/or advisory services. Expert digital consultants help to develop a unique digital strategy that transforms businesses by identifying where they are on their digital business journey, developing a digital adaptation plan based on their identified needs and assisting them to implement their digital plan. It is not intended to cover costs associated with website development, digital marketing or hardware but rather areas such as business process optimisation, enhancing the digital customer experience and utilising data better.

There was a high demand for *Trading Online Vouchers* in 2023. These were grant aided at 50% and assisted 25 businesses to transition to an e-commerce model. 11 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 throughout County Roscommon. Engagement with Enterprise Ireland and the IDA continued throughout 2023 promoting Roscommon as a location for business and inward investment.



The 2023 County Enterprise Overall Winner was Lark Bridal Ltd., a family owned bridal wear business based in Monksland, Athlone which was founded in 2013 by Ruth Larkin. Lark Bridal Ltd. went on to represent LEO Roscommon at the National Enterprise Awards held in the Mansion House, Dublin and won the West Regional Enterprise Award.

### **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 (as amended) provide for matters of procedure, administration and control for the purposes of securing the implementation of and compliance with regulatory requirements. These regulations generally apply to new buildings and existing buildings that undergo an extension, a material alteration or a material change of use.

#### **Commencement Notices**

In 2023, the Building Control Unit processed 185 Commencement Notices for 168 new buildings. A number of these related to extensions, material changes of use and alterations of existing 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 2023 was 15.2%. 20 Section 11 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

34 Certificate of Compliance on Completion applications were made in 2023. 24 limited visual site inspections were carried out in relation to these applications.

#### Fire Safety Certificates

76 applications for Fire Safety Certificates were received under Building Control legislation during 2023.



The Building Control Unit worked closely with Roscommon GAA on the redevelopment of the Main Stand at Hyde Park, Roscommon to ensure compliance with safety in sportsgrounds requirements and best practice with regard to access for people with disabilities.

#### **Disability Access Certificate**

A Disability Access Certificate is granted by the Building Control Authority to certify the 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. 34 Disability Access Certificate and 1 Revised Disability Access Certificate applications were submitted in 2023. 12 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.



#### **Fire Services**

The Council is the statutory Fire Authority for County Roscommon. Its Fire Service provide a range of fire safety and enforcement services in addition to operational fire brigade services.

#### Fire Safety and Enforcement

Roscommon Fire Service attended a number of serious incidents at both private dwellings, commercial properties and road traffic collisions during 2023. It carried out inspections in 86 premises and issued advice and/or warnings to 18 premises under Section 18 of the Fire Services Acts.

#### Fire Service Operations

Fire Service operations are delivered through an NSAI accredited *ISO 45001 Occupational Health and Safety Management System*. Fire brigade units employing 45 part-time retained fire fighters from Roscommon Town, Ballaghaderreen, Boyle, Elphin and Strokestown were alerted 274 times during 2023, which included attendance at 67 road traffic collisions. Roscommon Fire Service hosted the *Chief Fire Officers Conference* in Kilronan Castle, Ballyfarnon and held an *Emergency Services Open Day* at Áras an Chontae Roscommon during the year.

#### Commercial and Community Licensing of Places of Entertainment

Notice of applications for licences or Certificates of Registration is provided for under Fire Services and Licensing legislation. Roscommon Fire Service carried out Fire Safety Inspections on a range of public premises during 2023. 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.

#### **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**

During 2023, training courses undertaken by civil defence volunteers included courses in Cardiac First Responder (CFR) and First Aid Responder (FAR). 8 volunteers completed the Emergency First Responder (EFR) course. 5 volunteers also completed Hugs@Home training that facilitated the teaching of practical stress management skills to fellow volunteers.

#### Search and Rescue

In 2023, 4 search operations for missing persons took place which included the provision of assistance to Mayo Civil Defence where volunteers provided over 400 hours of duties. These search operations included both water and land searches, drone operations and mapping support.

#### **Boat Operations**

2023, was a busy year for boat operations particularly in supporting water based missing person searches and providing boat cover for other community water based events such as triathlons, *Carers Day* and fishing competitions.

2 new coxswains successfully completed training in boating operations while 5 volunteers undertook the Personal Survival Technique training course at the National Maritime College in Cork.



Civil Defence responding to an inland waterways incident.

#### **National Service Day**

In September 2023, Roscommon hosted *National Services Day* in Strokestown. This day was an opportunity for primary response agencies to come together and display equipment and their services to the members of the public. A remembrance service took place to remember deceased members and to acknowledge the work of frontline workers.

#### **Radiation Monitoring**

In May 2023, 2 volunteers attended the EPA in Dublin to complete Radiation Monitoring training in preparation for a national radiation monitoring exercise that took place in June.

#### **Community Assistance**

In 2023, Roscommon Civil Defence covered 125 duties, involving over 1000 volunteer hours. These included football matches, hurling matches, horseracing, blood clinic, patient transfers, charity events and the *Carrick Camino*.

Roscommon Civil Defence took part in 2 parades during 2023 and attended the *Polish Open Day* and *Gardaí Open Day* events.

4 volunteers travelled to Lourdes for a 5-day military pilgrimage with the Defence Forces.



#### New Recruits, Training and Upgrades

During 2023, 5 new volunteers completed mandatory training requirements and were added to the volunteer register. Swiftwater Instructor training was completed by I volunteer to support the Civil Defence Unit's own instruction of its volunteers in Swiftwater and Flood First Responder. Another volunteer completed training to become a Search Instructor. New sonar equipment was purchased to enhance the civil defence unit's search capabilities.

In late 2023, work commenced on the new Civil Defence Headquarters for Roscommon. This purpose built building will further enhance operational capacity.

# 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*.



The following is an overview of activity by the LCDC in 2023:

- Sub-committees of the LCDC assess and make recommendations to the full LCDC. The subcommittees of Roscommon LCDC are:
  - ➤ Health and Wellbeing Sub-committee Healthy Ireland Round 4 2023-2025 budget is €210,721.42;
  - SICAP (Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme) Sub-committee - The SICAP 2024-2028 Call-off Contract was awarded to Roscommon Integrated Development Company CLG t/a Roscommon LEADER Partnership with a budget of €4.403.855:
  - > Grants Sub-committee made proposals to the LCDC on applications for funding streams such as the Community Enhancement Scheme and the Community Support Fund.

10 LCDC meetings were held in 2023.

Table 1: LCDC Meetings 2023

Date	% Attendance
18th January 2023	71%
7th March 2023	63%
22nd March 2023	63%
31st May 2023	68%
5th July 2023	74%
19th July 2023	63%
23rd August 2023	78%
20th September 2023	78%
22nd November 2023	58%
13th December 2023	58%

- The Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2023–2029 was approved.
- SICAP: 2022 End of Year Report was approved; 2023 Annual Plan was approved.
- The Migrant Integration Strategy 2023-2028 was approved;
- The Local Development Strategy (LDS) was approved. The LEADER Company prepared the strategy according to guidelines issued by the Department.



LECP Consultation Process.

#### Membership of LCDC at 31st December 2023

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	Ms Patricia Gilbride
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. Rita Kearney
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	Vacant
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. Pat Compton
Social, Economic & Community Interests	Disability Sector	1	Ms. Helen Hunt
Total Number of Members		19	

#### LEADER Summary Programme 2023 including EURI (European Union Recovery Instrument)

Theme	Sub-Theme	Original Project Budget	Number of Projects approved to year end 2023	Value of Projects approved to year end 2023
Rural Economic	Rural Tourism	€1,014,141.25	3	€49,961.12
Development, Enterprise	Enterprise Development	€1,738,595.07		
Development And Job	Rural Towns	€1,340,000.00		
Creation	Broadband	€20,645.58		
	Basic Services	€2,231,412.13		
Social Inclusion	Rural Youth	€406,663.17		
	Water Resources	€72,709.66		
Rural Environment	Biodiversity	€166,061.48		
Liviloriment	Renewable Energy	€200,000.00	1	€81,700.00
	Co-operation	€174,547.99		
	National Food Programme	€201,321.50		
Totals:		€7,566,097.83	4	€131,661.12

# Corporate Plan Report

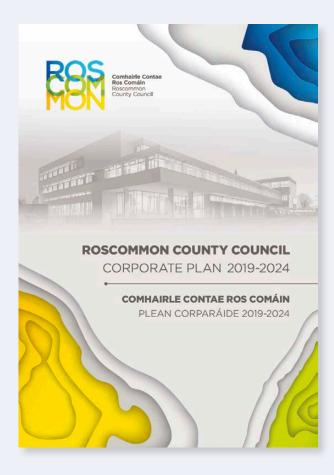
Roscommon County Council's Corporate Plan 2019-2024 was prepared in accordance with statutory provisions prescribed in Section 134 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended by Section 49 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014. It was formally adopted by Elected Members at their February 2020 Plenary 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 2023*, 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 2023* were delivered through *Schedules of Municipal District Works* developed by each Municipal District.

Highlights for 2023, in terms of progress achieved on the *Corporate Plan's* strategic objectives and actions contained in the *Annual Service Delivery Plan 2023* included:

- ➤ The Housing Department's Acquisition and Construction Programme delivery of 57 social housing units.
- The Annual Social Housing Needs Assessment was finalised.
- At the end of 2023, 329 households were receiving support under the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS).
- > 79 applicants were accommodated under the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) Scheme bringing to 982 the total number of applicants accommodated.
- The Council received 55 applications under its Tenant Purchase Scheme and 40 Local Authority Home Loan applications.
- County Roscommon National and Non-National Roads Funding allocations amounted to over €48m.
- The contract for the construction of the Ballaghaderreen to Scramogue Road Project was signed.
- The design and evaluation phase of the N4 Carrick-on-Shannon to Dromod Project commenced.
- Over 420 projects on Regional and Local Roads were completed.
- The Council received an allocation of €2.5m under the Active Travel Investment Programme.
- Work continued on the National Broadband Ireland Fibre Rollout process. Properties in Ballinasloe, Roscommon and Carrick -on-Shannon Deployment Areas are live on the network.
- 707 planning applications were received. 333 decisions to grant planning permission were issued.
- > 49 Warning Letters and 24 Enforcement Notices were served in relation to alleged unauthorised development. Legal action was initiated in 6 cases.
- > Public consultation commenced for the Draft Roscommon Town Local Area Plan.
- > Public consultation commenced for the Draft Roscommon Climate Action Plan.

- A Climate Action Roscommon awareness programme was introduced to support the Draft Roscommon Climate Action Plan consultation process.
- A Community Climate Action Fund was formally launched at the year-end with an allocation of €402,000 for County Roscommon.
- A grant of €139,043 was allocated to the Council from the Environment Fund to support dedicated and measurable enforcement initiatives
- Public consultation and engagement took place on A National Waste Management Plan for the Circular Economy.
- > 82 litter pollution surveys were carried out under the National Litter Pollution Monitoring System.
- Revised Casual Trading Byelaws came into effect on 1st January 2023.
- The Covered Civic Space in Market Square, Roscommon was completed.
- Works on the redevelopment of the Royal Hotel site in Boyle into the An Ríoga enterprise centre and community space concluded.
- > The construction contract for *Ballaghaderreen Public Realm* enhancement works was awarded.
- > €709,628 was allocated to 15 community organisations under the *CLÁR 2023* programme.
- ➤ £279,884 was allocated to the Council under the Community Support Fund. 152 community groups received funding.
- The Council received €689,057 under the Community Recognition Fund. 19 projects were approved for funding.
- The County Migrant Integration Strategy was finalised.
- > 171 businesses employing 996 people were supported by the Local Enterprise Office through grant funding.
- A total of 21 individuals and teams were honoured at a Civic Reception in Roscommon Arts Centre.
- The level of expenditure for the Council's Revenue and Capital Accounts was €72.8m and €52m respectively.

Reporting on the *Corporate Plan 2019-2024* and the *Annual Service Delivery Plan 2023* 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 2023 is provided in *Appendix 1* to this Annual Report.

## Appendix 1: Performance Indicators 2023

C: CORPORATE	'
C1: Total Number of Whole Time Equivalent	
A. The whole time equivalent (WTE) staffing number as at 31st December 2023	425.02
C2: Working Days Lost to Sickness	
A. Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave in 2023	3.19%
B. Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave in 2023	0.29%
C3: Local Authority Website and Social Media Usage	
A. The per capita total page views of the local authority's websites in 2023	0.89
B. The per capita total number of followers at end of 2023 of the local authority's social media accounts	1.03
C4: Overall Cost of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Provision per Whole-tin Equivalent	me
A. All ICT expenditure in the period from 1st January to 31st December 2023, divided by the WTE number supplied under the C1 indicator	€4,811.99
C5. Overall Cost of ICT as a Proportion of Revenue Expenditure	
A. All ICT expenditure calculated in C4 as a proportion of revenue expenditure	2.81

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 2023	6,546
B. The percentage of households within the local authority that the number at A represents (based on agglomerations of more than 500)	85.97%
E2: Number of Environmental Pollution Complaints Closed	
A1. The total number of pollution cases in respect of which a complaint was made during 2023	715
A2. The number of pollution cases closed from 1st January to 31st December 2023	716
A3. The total number of cases on hands at 31st December 2023	186
E3: Percentage of Local Authority Area within the 5 Levels of Litter Pollution	
<ul> <li>A. The percentage of the area within the local authority that when surveyed in 2023 was:</li> <li>1) unpolluted or litter free</li> <li>2) slightly polluted</li> <li>3) moderately polluted</li> <li>4) significantly polluted</li> <li>or 5) grossly polluted</li> </ul>	29% 56% 12% 1% 1%
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 2023	41.84%

continued >

E5: Energy Efficiency	
A. The cumulative percentage of energy savings achieved by 31st December 2023 relative to baseline year (2009)	-46.20%
E6: Public Lighting	
A. Total annual consumption of the public lighting system	2,222.86 MWh
B. Average billable wattage of each public light	75.82 W
C. Percentage of the total system that LED lights represent	65.05%
E7: Climate Change	
1A. Does the local authority have a designated (FTE) Climate Action Coordinator?	Yes
1B. Does the local authority have a designated (FTE) Climate Action Officer?	Yes
2. Does the local authority have a Climate Action Team?	Yes

F:	F: FIRE SERVICE				
F1:	F1: Cost per Capita of the Fire Service				
A.	. The Annual Financial Statement Programme E expenditure data for 2023 divided by the population of 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				
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) in respect of fire	6.34 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) in respect of all other (non-fire) emergency incidents	7.06 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	24.18%			
В.	Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	58.24%			
C.	Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	17.58%			
D.	Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	23.48%			
E.	Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	62.61%			
F.	Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	13.91%			

H: HOUSING				
H1: Social Housing Stock				
A. The number of dwellings in the ownership of the local authority at 1st January 2023				
B. The number of dwellings added to the local authority owned stock during 2023 (whether constructed or acquired)	49			
C. The number of local authority owned dwellings sold in 2023	8			
D. The number of local authority owned dwellings demolished in 2023	o			
E. The number of dwellings in the ownership of the local authority at 31st December 2023	1445			
F. The number of local authority dwellings planned for demolition under a DHPLG approved s	cheme <b>0</b>			
H2: Housing Vacancies				
A. The percentage of the total number of local authority owned dwellings that were vacant on 31st December 2023	2.01%			
H3: Average Re-letting Time and Cost				
A. The time taken from the date of vacation of dwelling to the date in 2023 when a new tenand commenced in the dwelling, averaged across all units re-let during 2023	cy had 18.38 weeks			
B. The cost expended on getting the units re-tenanted in 2023 ready for re-letting, averaged acunits re-let in 2023	cross all €14,134.07			
H4: Housing Maintenance Cost				
A. Expenditure during 2023 on the maintenance of local authority housing compiled from 1st 3 to 31st December 2023, divided by the number of dwellings in the local authority stock at 31st December 2023	January st <b>€1,058.00</b>			
H5: Private Rented Sector Inspections				
A. Total number of registered tenancies in the local authority area at end of June 2023	2,195			
B. Number of rented dwellings inspected in 2023	535			
C. Percentage of inspected dwellings in 2023 that were found not to be compliant with the Sta Regulations	andards <b>69.91%</b>			
D. Number of non-compliant dwellings that became compliant in 2023	276			
E. The number of inspections (including re-inspections) undertaken by the local authority in 20	023 <b>839</b>			
H6: Long-term Homeless Adults				
A. Number of adult individuals in emergency accommodation that are long-term homeless as				
percentage of the total number of homeless adult individuals in emergency accommodation end of 2023				
percentage of the total number of homeless adult individuals in emergency accommodation				
percentage of the total number of homeless adult individuals in emergency accommodation end of 2023	the <b>38</b>			
percentage of the total number of homeless adult individuals in emergency accommodation and of 2023  H7: Social Housing Retrofit  A1. The total number of houses retrofitted between 1st January and 31st December 2023 under	the <b>38</b>			
percentage of the total number of homeless adult individuals in emergency accommodation end of 2023  H7: Social Housing Retrofit  A1. The total number of houses retrofitted between 1st January and 31st December 2023 under Social Housing Retrofit Programme  A2. The number of houses that achieved BER rating of B2 or above between 1st January and	38			
percentage of the total number of homeless adult individuals in emergency accommodation end of 2023  H7: Social Housing Retrofit  A1. The total number of houses retrofitted between 1st January and 31st December 2023 under Social Housing Retrofit Programme  A2. The number of houses that achieved BER rating of B2 or above between 1st January and 31st December 2023 under the Social Housing Retrofit Programme  A3. Number of heat pumps installed in those houses between 1st January to 31st December 2020	38 38			

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 2023 per 100,000 of population	37.01			
J2: Trading Online Vouchers				
A. The number of trading online voucher applications approved by the Local Enterprise Office in 2023 per 100,000 of population	35.58			
B. The number of those trading online vouchers that were drawn down in 2023 per 100,000 of population	21.35			
J3: Number of Mentoring Recipients	J3: Number of Mentoring Recipients			
A. The number of participants who received mentoring during the period 1st January to 31st December 2023 per 100,000 of population	415.61			
J4: Tourism				
A. Does the local authority have a current tourism strategy?	Yes			
B. Does the local authority have a designated Tourism Officer?	Yes			
J5: Economic Development Spend				
A. The spend on local economic development by the local authority in 2023 per head of population	€116.14			

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	1.36			
B. Number of items issued to library borrowers in the year				
C. Library active members per head of population				
D. Number of registered library members in the year				
L2: Cost of Operating a Library Service				
A. The Annual Financial Statement Programme F data for 2023 divided by the population of the local authority area per the 2022 Census	€33.01			
B. The annual per capita expenditure on collections in 2023	€1.50			

M: FINANCE				
M1: 5 Year Summary of Revenue Account Balance				
A. The cumulative surplus balance at 31st December 2019	€201,740			
B. The cumulative surplus balance at 31st December 2020	€218,803			
C. The cumulative surplus balance at 31st December 2021	€243,944			
D. The cumulative surplus balance at 31st December 2022	€269,994			
E. The cumulative surplus balance at 31st December 2023	€297,113			
F. The cumulative surplus at 31st December 2023 as a percentage of total income in 2023 from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the Annual Financial Statement	0.38%			
G. Revenue expenditure per capita in 2023	€1,037.36			

continued >

M2: 5 Year Summary of Percentage Collection Levels for Major Revenue Sources			
A. 2019:	Rates Rent & Annuities Housing Loans	89% 91% 76%	
B. 2020:	Rates Rent & Annuities Housing Loans	68% 93% 62%	
C. 2021:	Rates Rent & Annuities Housing Loans	89% 93% 65%	
D. 2022:	Rates Rent & Annuities Housing Loans	89% 91% 71%	
E. 2023:	Rates Rent & Annuities Housing Loans	88% 90% 75%	
M3: Publ	M3: Public Liability Claims		
A. Per ca	A. Per capita cost of settled claims for 2023 €7.10		
M4: Over	heads		
A. Overa	A. Overall central management charge as a percentage of total expenditure on revenue account <b>16.95</b>		
B. Total	B. Total payroll costs as a percentage of revenue expenditure 41.929		

P: PLANNING				
P1: New Buildings Inspected				
A. Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority				
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 2023	20			
B. Percentage of the determinations at A which confirmed (either with or without variation) the decision made by the local authority	65%			
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 2023 that were investigated	88			
B. Total number of cases that were closed during 2023	30			
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	16.67%			
D. Percentage of the cases at B that were resolved to the local authority's satisfaction through negotiations	0%			
E. Percentage of the cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	88.33%			
F. Total number of planning cases being investigated as at 31st December 2023	249			
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	€35.07			
P5: Application for Fire Safety Certificates				
A. The percentage of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2023 that were decided (granted or refused) within two months of receipt	28.95%			
B. The percentage of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2023 that were decided (granted or refused) within an extended period agreed with the applicant	39.47%			

R: ROADS				
R1: Ratings in Pavement Surface Condition Index (PSCI)				
<ul> <li>A. The percentage of</li> <li>(a) Regional</li> <li>(b) Local Primary</li> <li>(c) Local Secondary roads that received a PSCI condition rating in the 24-month period prior to 31st December 2023 and</li> <li>(d) Local Tertiary roads that received a PSCI condition rating in the 60 month period to 31st December 2023</li> </ul>	98.24% 99.00% 97.05% 74.00%			
<ul> <li>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 2023 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.</li> <li>(a) Regional Road</li> <li>At 31st December 2023, the % at PSCI rating categories; 1-4</li> <li>At 31st December 2023, the % at PSCI rating categories; 5-6</li> <li>At 31st December 2023, the % at PSCI rating categories; 7-8</li> <li>At 31st December 2023, the % at PSCI rating categories; 9-10</li> </ul>	1.77% 12.83% 34.91% 48.74%			
(b) Local Primary Road At 31st December 2023, the % at PSCI rating categories; 1-4 At 31st December 2023, the % at PSCI rating categories; 5-6 At 31st December 2023, the % at PSCI rating categories; 7-8 At 31st December 2023, the % at PSCI rating categories; 9-10	2.19% 39.03% 36.75% 21.05%			
(c) Local Secondary Road At 31st December 2023, the % at PSCI rating categories; 1-4 At 31st December 2023, the % at PSCI rating categories; 5-6 At 31st December 2023, the % at PSCI rating categories; 7-8 At 31st December 2023, the % at PSCI rating categories; 9-10	5.49% 40.01% 36.64% 16.95%			
(d) Local Tertiary Road At 31st December 2023, the % at PSCI rating categories; 1-4 At 31st December 2023, the % at PSCI rating categories; 5-6 At 31st December 2023, the % at PSCI rating categories; 7-8 At 31st December 2023, the % at PSCI rating categories; 9-10	12.06% 32.09% 11.97% 17.97%			
R2: Regional Road Grants Works				
A. Kilometres of regional road strengthened during 2023 and the amount expended on that work and unit cost per square metre	16.2km €3,889,511 €33.95			
B. Kilometres of regional road resealed during 2023 and the amount expended on that work and unit cost per square metre	0.0 km €0 €0			
C. Kilometres of local road (i.e. total of primary, secondary and tertiary) strengthened during 2023 and the amount expended on that work and unit cost per square metre	138.9 km €9,087,943 €17.10			
D. Kilometres of local road resealed during 2023 and the amount expended on that work and unit cost per square metre	172.3 km €2,913,972 €4.51			
R3: Percentage of Motor Tax Transactions Conducted Online				
A. The percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with online (i.e. transaction is processed and the tax disc is issued) in 2023	32.91%			

W: WATER				
W1: 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 2023				
W2: Percentage of Registered Schemes Monitored				
The number of registered schemes monitored by each local authority as a percentage of total schemes registered	100.00%			

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	14.10			

# Appendix 2: Councillors Conferences and Training Events 2023

Conferences/Seminars attended in Ireland by Roscommon County Council in 2023					
Start Date	End Date	Organiser	Training/Conference Event	Venue	Number of Cllrs attended
07/01/23	09/01/23	Celtic Conferences	The Finance Act 2021	Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth	1
03/02/23	05/02/23	Celtic Conferences	Modular Housing in Ireland	Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth	1
23/02/23	23/02/23	Association of Irish Local Government (AILG)	Module 1 - A Briefing on the Electoral Reform Act	The Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore, Co. Offaly	4
02/03/23	04/03/23	Local Authority Members Association (LAMA)	Spring Seminar 2023	West Lodge Hotel, Bantry, Co. Cork	7
25/03/23	25/03/23	AILG	Module 2 - Local Authority Climate Action Plan	The Fairways Hotel, Dundalk, Co. Louth	3
05/04/23	06/04/23	Other	The Suck Valley Way Conference	Gleesons Townhouse and the Abbey Hotel, Roscommon	7
19/04/23	20/04/23	AILG	Annual Training Conference 2023	Hotel Kilkenny, College Road, Kilkenny	6
15/06/23	15/06/23	AILG	Module 3 - Overview of Existing Planning Legislation and Policy Guidance	Mullingar Park Hotel, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath	4
22/07/23	22/07/23	AILG	Module 4 - Uisce Éireann (Irish Water) – A Briefing for Councillors	The Radisson Blu Hotel and Spa, Sligo	1
13/09/23	14/09/23	AILG	Autumn Seminar - The Future of Local Government in Ireland	The Sligo Park Hotel, Sligo	6
13/10/23	15/10/23	Celtic Conferences	A Practical Guide to Budget 2024	The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth	1
19/10/23	19/10/23	AILG	Module 5 - Elected Members Personal Security - Positive Home, Workplace and Mobile Security Practices	The Kilmore Hotel, Cavan	2
21/10/23	21/10/23	AILG	Elected Members Personal Security - Positive Home, Workplace and Mobile Security Practices	The Rose Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry	2
25/10/23	26/10/23	LAMA	Autumn Seminar - Climate Action, Sustainable Businesses and Balanced Regional Development	Ard Rí House Hotel, Tuam, Co. Galway	8
16/11/23	16/11/23	AILG	Module 6 - Road Safety: New Speed Limit Policy and Safeguarding Road Users	Tower Hotel, Waterford	2
18/11/23	18/11/23	AILG	Module 6 - Road Safety: New Speed Limit Policy and Safeguarding Road Users	Clayton Hotel, Galway	2
01/12/23	03/12/23	Celtic Conferences	Irish Social Welfare System	O'Donovan's Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork	1

The total cost in respect of the attendance by Elected Members at Training and Conferences was €22,641.

## Appendix 3: Councillors Committees 2023

#### List of County Committees and Outside Bodies on which Roscommon County Council was Formally Represented in 2023

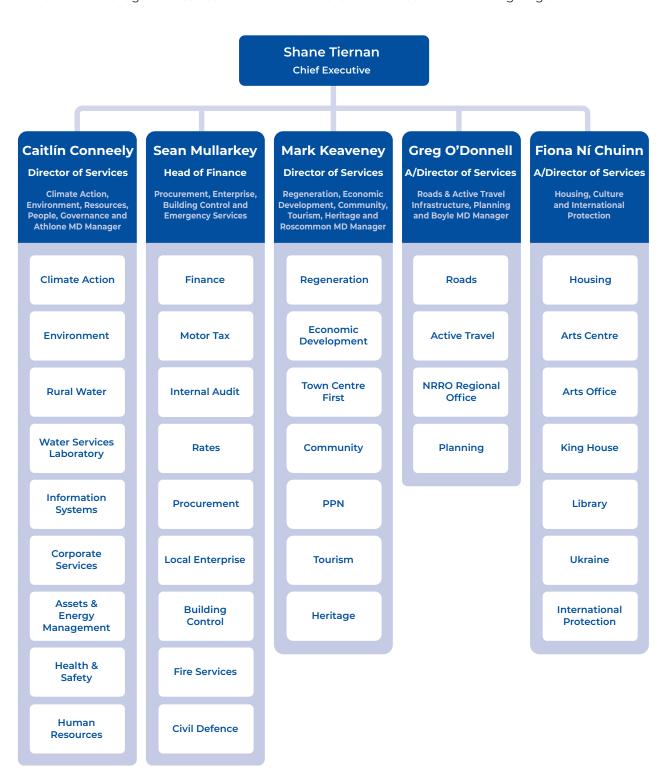
Committee Title	Purpose of the Committee	Elected Members representing Roscommon County Council
Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) Aontas Rialtas Áitiúil na hÉireann	The Association organises a programme of meetings that help members give voice to current issues in Council life. The AILG is 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 the County Councils 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, Fallon

#### List of County Committees and Outside Bodies on which Roscommon County Council was Formally Represented in 2023

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 the 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 support 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 with 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 2023

The Council's management structure at the end of 2023 is illustrated in the following diagram:







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