



Comhairle Contae
Ros Comáin
Roscommon
County Council



2024

Annual Report Tuarascáil Bhliantúil

An aerial photograph of a wide river flowing through a lush green landscape. A multi-arched stone bridge spans the river, with a red car visible on its surface. To the left of the bridge, there's a parking lot with several vehicles and a white building. The riverbank is lined with trees and grass. In the distance, more greenery and a body of water are visible under a blue sky with scattered clouds.

2024

Our Vision

*Working with you,
working for you.*

Our Mission

*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.*

Above: Lanesborough Bridge

Front Cover: Rathcroghan

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Introduction from Cathaoirleach and Chief Executive

We are honoured to present the 2024 Annual Report. This publication offers Roscommon County Council an opportunity to display its many accomplishments over the past year. The report underscores the Council's unwavering dedication to delivering a diverse array of high-quality services designed to foster growth, prosperity and an enhanced quality of life for everyone in Roscommon.

The Council maintained a strong emphasis on strategic investment in infrastructure throughout 2024. A major highlight was the commencement of construction for the *Ballaghaderreen to Scramogue Road Project*. Considerable progress was also made on walking, cycling and public transport infrastructure under the *Active Travel Investment Programme*. Projects advanced included the *Ballaghaderreen Town Development Scheme*; *Roscommon Town Schools Pedestrian/Cycle Bridge Link*; *Bealnamullia*, *Athlone Active Travel Scheme* and the *Ardsallagh Woods, Roscommon Town Project*. The rollout of high-speed broadband services for the benefit of individuals, businesses and communities continued under the *National Broadband Plan*. The delivery of 66 social housing units under the *Acquisition and Construction Programme* represented a significant achievement by the Council in responding to the national housing crisis. We look forward to the decisive role that these investments will play in stimulating robust and sustainable economic growth throughout our county for many years to come.

Creating sustainable economic growth demands extensive strategic planning. Consequently, the Council continued developing *Local Area Plans* in 2024 to drive our county's development. The *Draft Roscommon Town Local Area Plan* was approved by Members of the Roscommon Municipal District. Roscommon and Leitrim County Councils collaborated on the preparation of the *Carrick-on-Shannon Joint Local Action Plan*. Similar cooperation occurred with Westmeath County Council on preparing the *Athlone Joint Urban Area Plan*. The Council also adopted its *Corporate Plan* for the period 2024-2029. This created a strategic framework whereby the Council's vision, mission, goals and objectives were identified for the next five years. We are confident that these plans will be transformative, generating significant and meaningful economic growth that will benefit all communities, residents and businesses in Roscommon.



Cllr. Paschal Fitzmaurice
Cathaoirleach
Roscommon County Council



Mr. Shane Tiernan
Chief Executive
Roscommon County Council

The Council's Local Enterprise Office were very active in 2024 in promoting County Roscommon as an ideal location for business and investment. Companies supported by the Local Enterprise Office created 153 jobs. 164 businesses, employing 1,038 people, received grant funding. 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 on digital solutions to enhance business operations and exploit new opportunities. Initiatives were also launched to help businesses adapt to climate change challenges. These included energy audits and advice under the *Green for Business Programme* and *Energy Efficiency Grants*. The exceptional services provided by the Local Enterprise Office to its growing client base gives us great confidence that it will continue to achieve significant success in attracting inward investment to our county, promoting business growth and placing local micro and small businesses at the heart of job creation.



Roscommon County Council recognises the critical role of regeneration in promoting economic and community development. As a result, numerous innovative projects have been advanced in various locations under different schemes. The unique and striking *Covered Civic Space* in the Market Square, Roscommon was officially launched during the year. Construction works were completed for the *Monksland Sciences and Soft-Landing Space* and the *Castlerea Food Hub*. Progress continued on the *Energising Boyle Town Centre and King House Project*. Works began for the *Ballaghaderreen Public Realm Scheme* and funding was secured for the *Strokestown Public Realm Scheme*. Several projects were successfully completed under the *Town and Village Renewal Scheme* including park projects in Athleague and Ballintubber whilst significant works in Monksland, Arigna and Cootehall continued. Communities continued to benefit from initiatives supported by the *Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme*. These included the completion of the *Northwater Accessible for All Kayak Project* and the *Ballintubber and Ballymoe Waterways Project*. A number of other projects funded by the *Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme* commenced construction, including the *Arigna Discovery Park and Miners Trail*, *Rathcroghan Looped Trails* and the *Mote Park Sensory Sculpture and Trail Experience*. The visual and amenity impact of these initiatives has been immense, significantly enhancing the appeal of our county's towns, villages and rural areas as desirable places to live, visit and conduct business.

The Council worked extensively throughout 2024, alongside key partners and stakeholders from the tourism industry, to attract visitors to the county. The *Visit Roscommon* marketing campaign successfully garnered extensive media coverage for the county across various platforms. A notable highlight was Ireland AM's Breakfast Show, which broadcasted live from King House in the Spring of 2024, providing excellent exposure for Boyle and its surrounding areas. 29 events received funding through the *Festivals and Events Grant*. Roscommon's *Night and Day Festival* enjoyed a fantastic second year at Lough Key Forest and Activity Park. The truly magical *Enchanted Christmas Trail* event, which was part of the *Roscommon Christmas Festival*, transformed Loughaneane Park into a winter wonderland, featuring a stunning display of lights, illuminated Christmas characters and a captivating performance of *The Snow Queen's Enchanted Realm*. The *Choose Roscommon for a Richer Life* campaign highlighted Roscommon as an ideal place to reside and visit. The Council's ongoing dedication to promoting tourism in County Roscommon was clearly demonstrated through its public consultation process for the *Roscommon Tourism Strategy 2025-2030*. Its commitment to preserving the richness of our natural and built heritage continued through implementation of the *County Roscommon Heritage Plan*. Support for *National Heritage Week* led to a significant turnout at over 50 heritage events. 35 heritage projects were assisted through various supports including the *Built Heritage Investment Scheme*, *Historic Structures Fund*, *Community Monuments Fund* and the *Local Biodiversity Action Fund*. We expect that these and many other similar activities will further bolster the county's well-deserved reputation and boost its popularity as an attractive, vibrant and rewarding tourist destination.

The Council's support, encouragement and promotion of the arts was maintained by the Arts Office through working collaboratively and inclusively with artists, agencies and communities across various fields including music, film, visual arts, literature, theatre and dance. Almost 100 artists and artist-led projects were supported in 2024 under the *Artist Bursary Scheme*, the *Roscommon New Writing Award*, the *Chapbook Award*, *Slow Art Bursaries*, *Inclusion in the Arts Bursaries*, *Bealtaine Festival*, *Culture Night*, *CARE* and the *Commemorations Programme*. Over 80 events were held in venues throughout the county as part of *Bealtaine Festival*, *Culture Night*, *Cultural Companions* and *Creative Heartlands*. Roscommon's first-ever *World Circus Day*, which took place in Castlereagh, attracted over 1,500 people. Youth arts programmes created inspiring and accessible experiences for thousands of children and young people through initiatives such as *Artists in Schools*, *Music Generation Roscommon*, *Cruinniú na nÓg* and *Roscommon County Youth Theatre*. The Arts Centre presented a diverse programme, featuring 115 live performances and five exhibitions, to an audience of over 120,000 people. King House continued to offer many enjoyable experiences including the annual *Boyle Arts Festival*, *Halloween Hauntings* and the *Christmas Craft Fair*. The Douglas Hyde Centre hosted the Roscommon launch of the *De Burca Rare Book Re-issue of Beside the Fire*. The importance of events like these cannot be overstated, as they help preserve our cultural heritage, strengthen community bonds and enhance social connections, all while drawing visitors, generating employment and boosting local economies.

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. Community initiatives in 2024 included *Comhairle na nÓg* activities which serve as a powerful platform for youth engagement, the *Age Friendly Programme*, *Social Inclusion Week* and the *Creative Ireland Programme*. Funding was made available to a large number of community organisations under initiatives such as the *Clár Programme*, the *Local Enhancement Programme* and the *Community Recognition Fund*. Following an extensive public consultation process, the *Local Economic and Community Plan 2023-2029* was launched during the year. Its purpose is to enhance local and community development within the county by fostering better coordination in the planning and delivery of services. The plan encourages active participation and partnership among various stakeholders, including the Council,

community groups, businesses and residents. By improving planning and service delivery, the plan aims to contribute to a higher standard of living for all. Going forward, we look forward to building on our relationships with local communities and working together to realise mutual 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, the Council adopted the *Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024-2029*. Its launch, in conjunction with launches for the Council's *Local Economic and Community Plan* and Roscommon Leader Partnership's *Local Development Strategy*, at a joint event, emphasised the connections and dependencies that exist between local development and climate action. Implementation of the *Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024-2029* progressed through a range of initiatives during the year. The *Roscommon Town Decarbonising Zone* has been launched. The Council also adopted the *National Waste Management Plan for the Circular Economy*. We wholeheartedly embrace these initiatives as they reinforce the Council's position as a leader in climate action, consolidating 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 its inhabitants.

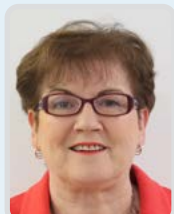
We conclude by commending the Elected Members, both those who achieved success in the Local Elections 2024 and those who retired from public service for their leadership, initiative and zeal during the year. We pay tribute to the late Councillor John Naughton who sadly passed in October 2024. We remember John as a true gentleman, a loyal friend and an excellent colleague who devoted many years to passionately advocating for and serving the people of Roscommon with steadfast dedication. We wish to acknowledge 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 dynamism, determination and diligence throughout 2024. Our most sincere gratitude goes to the many statutory and non-statutory agencies as well as voluntary and community organisations for their positive energy, enthusiasm and engagement during the year. We look forward to even greater success in the future as the Council strives 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'**.

Elected Members

Elected Members after 2024 Local Elections



Boyle Municipal District



Cllr. Valerie Byrne
Non-Party



Cllr. Liam Callaghan
Fine Gael



Cllr. Leah Cull
Sinn Féin



Cllr. Michéal Frain
Non-Party



Cllr. Sean Moylan
Fianna Fáil



Cllr. Tom Crosby
Non-Party



Roscommon Municipal District



Cllr. Nigel Dineen
Independent Ireland



Cllr. Paschal Fitzmaurice
Fianna Fáil



Cllr. Marty McDermott
Fianna Fáil



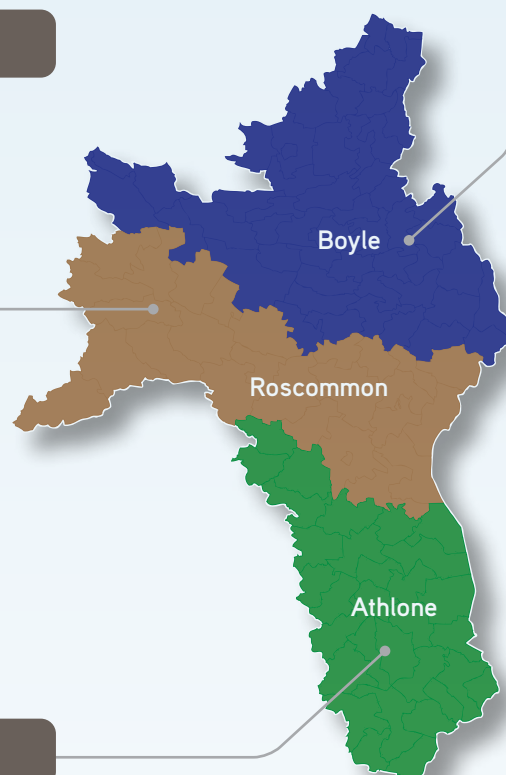
Cllr. Anthony Waldron (RIP)
Non-Party



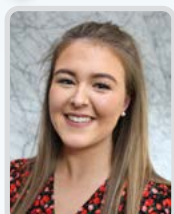
Cllr. Gareth Scahill
Fine Gael



Cllr. Larry Brennan
Fianna Fáil



Athlone Municipal District



Cllr. Emer Kelly
Non-Party



Cllr. Laurence Fallon
Non-Party



Cllr. John Keogh
Fianna Fáil



Cllr. John Naughten (RIP)
Fine Gael



Cllr. Tony Ward
Non-Party



Cllr. Domnick Connolly
Fine Gael

Elected Members before 2024 Local Elections

Athlone Municipal District

Cllr. Emer Kelly
Non-Party
Cllr. Laurence Fallon
Non-Party
Cllr. John Keogh
Fianna Fáil
Cllr. John Naughten (RIP)
Fine Gael
Cllr. Tony Ward
Non-Party
Cllr. Donal Kilduff
Non-Party

Boyle Municipal District

Cllr. Valerie Byrne
Non-Party
Cllr. Liam Callaghan
Fine Gael
Cllr. John Cummins
Fianna Fáil
Cllr. Michael Mulligan
Sinn Féin
Cllr. Joe Murphy
Fianna Fáil
Cllr. Tom Crosby
Non-Party

Roscommon Municipal District

Cllr. Nigel Dineen
Non-Party
Cllr. Paschal Fitzmaurice
Fianna Fáil
Cllr. Orla Leyden
Fianna Fáil
Cllr. Kathleen Shanagher
Non-Party
Cllr. Marty McDermott
Fianna Fáil
Cllr. Anthony Waldron (RIP)
Non-Party

Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs)

January to June 2024

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

Councillors

- › Cllr. Orla Leyden, Chairperson
- › Cllr. Kathleen Shanagher
- › Cllr. John Keogh
- › Cllr. Nigel Dineen
- › Cllr. Valerie Byrne
- › Cllr. Joe Murphy
- › Cllr. Emer Kelly
- › Cllr. Liam Callaghan
- › Cllr. Tom Crosby

Sectoral Nominations

- › John Mee, Business/Commercial
- › Liam Murray, Development/Construction
- › Susan Gaynor, Community/Voluntary – Public Participation Network (PPN)
- › Alan Moran, PPN

One meeting of this SPC was held on 24th June 2024. Issues considered included:

- › Libraries Update;
- › Heritage Plan Update;
- › Roscommon County Council Civic Memorials Policy;
- › Climate Action Update.

Housing, ICT and Rural Water SPC

Councillors

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

Sectoral Nominations

- › Monica Mahon, Trade Union
- › Cormac Dalton, Development/Construction
- › Jim O'Connor, Agriculture/Farming
- › Margaret Mulligan, Social Inclusion
- › Bernie Kearney, Community and Voluntary

Two meetings of this SPC were held on 22nd February and 9th May 2024. Issues considered included:

- › Capital Pipeline 2024, 2025;
- › Radon Monitoring Programme;
- › Tenant Purchase Amendments;
- › Update on Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant;
- › Quarter, 4 2023 and Quarter 1, 2024 Reports on Strategic Plan for People with Disability;
- › Local Disability Strategy for Disabled People 2022-2027.

Planning, Environment, Climate Change and Corporate Governance SPC

Councillors

- › Cllr. John Naughten (RIP), Chairperson
- › Cllr. Laurence Fallon
- › Cllr. Tom Crosby
- › Cllr. Paschal Fitzmaurice
- › Cllr. Orla Leyden
- › Cllr. Kathleen Shanagher
- › Cllr. Michael Mulligan
- › Cllr. Donal Kilduff
- › Cllr. Tony Ward

Sectoral Nominations

- › Ned O'Connor, Agriculture/Farming
- › Ciaran King, Development/Construction
- › Sean Mahon, Business/Commercial

Two meetings of this SPC were held on 15th January and 15th April 2024. Issues considered included:

- › Draft Roscommon Town Local Area Plan 2024-2030;
- › Draft Chief Executive's Report on Submissions regarding Draft Climate Action Plan;
- › Re-turn Ireland's Deposit Return Scheme;
- › Recognition of Citizens of Roscommon Reaching 100 Years of Age.

Roads Transportation and Emergency Services SPC

Councillors

- › Cllr. Anthony Waldron (RIP), Chairperson
- › Cllr. Nigel Dineen
- › Cllr. Valerie Byrne
- › Cllr. Emer Kelly
- › Cllr. John Cummins
- › Cllr. Laurence Fallon
- › Cllr. Donal Kilduff
- › Cllr. Michael Mulligan
- › Cllr. Marty McDermott

Sectoral Nominations

- › Mary Clifford, Business/Commercial
- › Paul Glynn, Community/Voluntary
- › Philip Glover, Development/ Construction Industry Federation

Two meetings of this SPC were held on 28th February and 1st May 2024. Issues considered included:

- › County Roscommon Road Safety Plan 2023-2030;
- › Salt Bins Scheme;
- › Active Travel Investment Programme.

July to December 2024

Climate Action, Environment, Rural Water SPC

Councillors

- › Cllr. Marty McDermott, Chairperson
- › Cllr. Valerie Byrne
- › Cllr. Leah Cull
- › Cllr. Nigel Dineen
- › Cllr. Laurence Fallon
- › Cllr. Paschal Fitzmaurice
- › Cllr. Michéal Frain
- › Cllr. Anthony Waldron (RIP)
- › Cllr. Tony Ward

No meetings of this SPC were held in 2024.

Sectoral Nominations

- › Jim O'Connor, Agriculture/Farming
- › Dan O'Brien, Development/Construction
- › Ray Gannon, Business/Commercial
- › Helen McGinty, Trade Union
- › Owen Murphy, Environmental/Conservation
- › Paul Glynn, Community/Voluntary
- › Bernie Kearney, Social Inclusion

Economic Development, Enterprise, Regeneration SPC

Councillors

- › Cllr. John Keogh, Chairperson
- › Cllr. Pascal Fitzmaurice
- › Cllr. Nigel Dineen
- › Cllr. Michael Frain
- › Cllr. Sean Moylan
- › Cllr. Gareth Scahill
- › Cllr. Anthony Waldron (RIP)
- › Cllr. Tom Crosby

No meetings of this SPC were held in 2024.

Sectoral Nominations

- › Mel McGerr, Business/Commercial
- › Liam Murray, Construction/Development
- › Niall Croghan, Community/Voluntary PPN
- › Eilish Feeley, Environment
- › Aidan Sampey, Trade Union
- › Sean Finan, Agriculture/Farming

Housing, Integration, Community, Culture SPC

Councillors

- › Cllr. Gareth Scahill, Chairperson
- › Cllr. Larry Brennan
- › Cllr. Liam Callaghan
- › Cllr. Domnick Connolly
- › Cllr. Leah Cull
- › Cllr. Emer Kelly
- › Cllr. John Keogh
- › Cllr. Tony Ward

No meetings of this SPC were held in 2024.

Sectoral Nominations

- › Gerry Coffey, Community/Voluntary
- › Andrew Mannion, Trade Union
- › Cormac Dalton, Development/Construction
- › Pat Leonard, Agriculture/Farming
- › Grace Regan, Social Inclusion
- › Paul Blackwell, Environment/Conservation

Roads, Planning, Emergency Services SPC

Councillors

- › Cllr. Tom Crosby, Chairperson
- › Cllr. Larry Brennan
- › Cllr. Valerie Byrne
- › Cllr. Liam Callaghan
- › Cllr. Domnick Connolly
- › Cllr. Emer Kelly
- › Cllr. Laurence Fallon
- › Cllr. Marty McDermott
- › Cllr. Sean Moylan

No meetings of this SPC were held in 2024.

Sectoral Nominations

- › Michael Beattie, Agriculture/Farming
- › Aileen Cassidy, Trade Union
- › Margaret Mulligan, Environment/Conservation
- › James Ganly, Community/Voluntary
- › Emma Healy, Business/Commercial
- › Vacant, Development/Construction



Housing, Culture and International Protection Directorate

Roscommon Town Centre

Housing



Acquisition and Construction Programme

In 2024, Roscommon County Council delivered the following social housing units under the *Acquisition and Construction Programme*:

- › Harristown, Castlerea – 2 units;
- › Windmill Drive, Elphin – 10 units;
- › Elm Court, Lisnamult, Roscommon - 12 units;
- › An Taras, Pound Street, Ballaghaderreen – 1 unit;
- › Dysart (Modular Unit) – 1 unit;
- › Esker Lawns Turnkey – 2 units;
- › Old Tuam Road, Monksland Turnkey - 2 units;
- › Ardnagh, Roscommon Turnkey – 3 units;
- › The Paddocks, Athleague Turnkey – 8 units;
- › Acquisition Programme - 10 (Tenant In-Situ Scheme – 9, Persons with a Specific Disability – 1);
- › Buy and Renew Scheme – 15 (where significant refurbishment is required to bring units to habitable standard).



Elm Court, Ardnagh.



Windmill Drive, Elphin.



Windmill Drive, Elphin.

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 four social housing units in Roscommon town through the *RLS*.

Long-term Leasing

This form of provision widens the options for increasing the supply of social housing. The Council has entered into long-term lease arrangements with private owners for four properties in Boyle and Roscommon town. In 2024, 24 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 approved private company, Home for Life. *MTR* tenants have the option to buy back their home after five 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.

Table 1: Active MTR Tenancies

Total Active MTR Tenancies	Total Approved Housing Body Tenancies	Total Home for Life Tenancies
22	6	16

Table 2: MTR Tenancies Activated in 2024

MTR Tenancies Activated in 2024	MTR Property Buyback in 2024
2	0

Casual Vacancies

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage funded 27 casual vacancy units to the value of €297,000 under the 2024 *Voids Programme*.

Assessments and Allocations Housing

On 4th November 2024, the annual *Social Housing Needs Assessment* was finalised. At the end of 2024, 820 (including transfers) and 337 (excluding transfers) applicants were on the approved housing list.

Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)

The Council continues to provide private rented accommodation financial support through the *RAS* to those who have a long-term housing need. At the end of 2024, 331 households were receiving support through *RAS*. 221 households were in private rented accommodation and 110 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 2024, 66 applicants were accommodated via the scheme. At the end of 2024, 364 households were in receipt of social housing support via the *HAP* Scheme.



Standards for Rented Residential Property

In 2024, 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 Private Rented Dwellings

Number of Inspections Carried Out	938
Number of Dwellings Deemed Compliant	319
Number of Improvement Letters Issued to Landlords	616

Homelessness

The Council provides a range of responses to homelessness in accordance with the *West Region Homelessness Action Plan*. 132 households presented for homeless services in 2024, 51 of which required short-term accommodation. 24 homeless households availed of social housing support through various mechanisms such as local authority housing, Approved Housing Body housing, HAP, Homeless HAP Schemes and RAS type leases.

18 tenancies have been agreed under the *Homeless HAP Scheme* since its introduction in 2020. 10 of these are still active while eight are closed.

In 2021, a Homeless Action Team (HAT) was established to facilitate the co-ordination of *Housing First* and *Housing-Led* support services. In 2024, there were six referrals to the HAT for consideration. Four of these referrals were accommodated in Council properties. The remaining two referrals are awaiting accommodation under the *Housing First* programme. 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. The Council received 29 applications in 2024 for consideration under the scheme.

Table 4: Tenant Purchase Scheme

Applications Received	29
Offers of Sale	22
Sales Closed	14

Housing Loans

The *Local Authority Home Loans Scheme* replaced the *Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan Scheme* on 4th January 2022. The Council received 29 home loan applications in 2024.

Table 5: Local Authority Home Loans

Applications Received	29
Loans Approved	17
Loan Drawdown	10

The *Local Authority Purchase and Renovation Loan Scheme* was launched on 22nd July 2024. The Council did not receive any applications under this scheme in 2024.

Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029

The new *Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029* was adopted in September 2024. It outlines details of need and property types over a 5-year period. A number of projects are advancing including developments at the following locations:

- › Cluain Áirne, Roscommon – Planning permission sought for one or more additional group housing units at Cluain Áirne and proceed to construction of five 4-bed units;
- › Complete conversion/extension of three Traveller specific hybrid housing units at Páirc Naomh Phádraig to group housing (3-bed houses);
- › The Meadows, Ballaghderreen – derelict house acquired which requires major refurbishment to bring it up to habitable standard.

Energy Efficiency Programme

The Council was given approval for 38 units through the 2024 *Energy Efficiency Programme*. Of these, 31 units were completed. Seven units remain to be completed in Quarter 1, 2025.

In addition, seven units from 2023 were also completed bringing the total units for 2024 to 38.

The results for delivered units under the 2024 *Energy Retrofit Programme* of existing local authority stock are outlined in **Table 6**.

Overall, three units achieved A1 Rating; 26 units achieved A2 Rating; one unit achieved A3 Rating; five units achieved B1 Rating and three units achieved B2 Rating.

The Housing Department completed 38 units. However, as payment was not processed by the Department until 2025, delivery will not be counted in the National Oversight and Oversight Commission (NOAC) report for 2024. The NOAC report for 2024 will indicate that seven units were completed.

Table 6: Energy Retrofit Programme 2024 Analysis

Number of Units	Pre-Works BER (Building Energy Rating)	Post-Works BER (Building Energy Rating)
3	G	A2
3	F	A2
6	D2	A2
5	E2	A2
6	E1	A2
1	E2	B1
1	E1	A3
1	C2	A2
2	C2	A1
1	C1	A1
2	C2	A2
1	E1	B1
1	D2	B1
3	D2	B2
2	D1	B1
38		

Housing Maintenance

The Housing Department received 1,173 maintenance calls and spent €536,491 on response maintenance works in 2024. This equates to an average of €457.36 per call out.

Housing Grants

The Council paid out €1,447,692 in 2024 to 214 grant applicants (80% Department funded and 20% Council funded) under the following schemes:

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

In 2024, the Council received a budget allocation of €587,874 under the *Disabled Person Grant Scheme including Improvement Works in-Lieu (IWLS)* (90% Department funded and 10% Council funded).

National Housing Strategy for People with a Disability 2022-2027

In 2024, the Disability Steering Group held four meetings. 33 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 28 properties and one property was specially adapted to cater for a physically disabled person in the household.

Estate Management

The Council continues to promote good estate management practices which encourage pride of place and result in vibrant communities. In 2024, the following took place:

- › The Housing Liaison Officer together with the Litter Warden carried out regular waste bye-law inspections of local authority estates;
- › Anti-social behavior complaints in respect of 12 local authority households were received. 12 matters were resolved;
- › Two Possession Orders were granted in the District Court;
- › 11 tenant welfare issues were supported and resolved.

Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant

On 14th July 2022, the *Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant*, which is funded by the *Croí Conáithe (Towns) Fund*, was launched. This grant benefits those who wish to turn a former vacant house or building into either a rental property (10-year agreement) or their principal private residence. 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 7** indicates the number of applications received, approved and payments made in 2024.

Table 7: Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant

Number of Applications Received	152
Number of Approvals Granted	113
Number of Grant Payments Issued	44
Total Payments	€2,603,056

Derelict Sites

In 2024, the total number of derelict sites registered in Roscommon stood at 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 Sites Register* as of 1st January 2023 is subject to a derelict site levy of 7% of the market value.

Eight derelict sites were removed from the register in 2024 after engagement with property owners and works completed to render the properties non-derelict. CPOs (Compulsory Purchase Orders) commenced on five properties. Four of these properties have been vested by Roscommon County Council. The *Derelict Sites Register* is available to view on the Council's website.

Dangerous Structures and Places

The Dangerous Structures/Places function operates under the remit of the Local Government (Sanitary Services) Act 1964 as amended. It involves maintaining public safety around the public thoroughfare of privately owned buildings, structures or sites deemed to be a danger to the public. The Council is committed to treating any report of a dangerous structure as a priority issue and promptly investigates any reports. Owners are required by law to make sure their property does not contain any dangerous structures. If it does, the owner must take steps to remedy the situation or otherwise face prosecution. The Council is empowered to deal with structures or places which are a danger or likely to be a danger to the public.

Five dangerous sites were identified in 2024 and property owners were issued 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 Plan 2023–2028* and the *Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023–2027* and aim to:

- › Support, encourage, nurture and promote the arts and artists through diverse programmes, events, funding schemes and partnerships;
- › Work collaboratively and inclusively locally, regionally and nationally with artists, venues, organisations, departments, agencies and communities;
- › Facilitate and support opportunities to enhance the environment in which art is made, engaged and received.

A Selection of Projects in 2024

Almost 100 artists and artist-led projects were supported in 2024 under the *Artist Bursary Scheme*, the *Roscommon New Writing Award*, the *Chapbook Award*, *Slow Art Bursaries*, *Inclusion in the Arts Bursaries*, *Bealtaine Festival*, *Culture Night*, *CARE* and the *Commemorations Programme*.

Over 80 events took place in venues county-wide for *Bealtaine Festival*, *Culture Night*, *Cultural Companions* and *Creative Heartlands*. Roscommon's first *World Circus Day* took place in Somers Park, Castlerea on 20th April 2024 where over 1,500 people enjoyed spectacular circus performances on a beautiful sunny day.

World Circus Day
– Aerial Performer
Jenny Tufts



Youth Arts Programmes

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*, *Music Generation Roscommon*, *Cruinniú na nÓg* and *Roscommon County Youth Theatre*.

Creative Places Ballaghaderreen

Creative Places Ballaghaderreen, a 1-year research and development arts project, saw artists Nollaig Molloy, Julie Sharkey and Anna King, together with the steering group and local community groups, explore how to develop an inclusive, sustainable arts programme for the local area. It was clear during the year that the community embraced a broad view of arts and culture.



Creative Places Ballaghaderreen.



Roscommon County Youth Theatre 2024.



Cruinniú na nÓg Museum of Believing at King House.



Poetry Laneway.

Poetry Laneway

This launch of this initiative focussed on Chapel Lane, Roscommon Town. *Living Laneways* is an innovative public art programme where artists respond creatively to the public laneways of Roscommon town. The laneway commissioning programme, a concept devised by artist Rhona Byrne who worked with GKMP Architects and Roscommon County Council on the *Roscommon Town URDF Public Realm Project*, aims to provide visual enhancement to the back streets and laneway links approaching the Main Street and Market Square.

Creative Ireland Programme

This programme, which is guided by the *Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023-2027* and the internal Culture Team, delivered 83 projects and events along with 18 additional initiatives for *Cruinniú na nÓg*, Ireland's national day of free creativity for young people. It engaged over 130,000 participants and supported 380 creative professionals.

National recognition came with *Timelines Growth and Catastrophe*, a large tapestry conceived, designed and woven collaboratively by eight Irish weavers, including Roscommon's Frances Crowe. The first exhibition of a national tour took place at Roscommon Arts Centre on *Culture Night 2024*, featuring artist tours and talks.



Timelines Tapestry at Roscommon Arts Centre.

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 2024. This included 115 live performances and five exhibitions to an audience of over 120,000 people. The four pillars of the Roscommon Arts Centre consist of:

- › **Performance:** A year-round diverse programme of live performances in the centre's 194-seater auditorium.
- › **Visual Art:** Five 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 on-site and off-site opportunities for the public to expand and deepen their engagement with the arts, which is inclusive and complements 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.

Highlights included the *AIR (Artist in Residence)* initiative with four artists Shane Hynan, Tatiana Santos, Kasia and Liadain Kaminska and *Artist on My Green* where two artists undertook projects with two Residents Associations in the county.



Druid Shadow of a Gunman at Roscommon Arts Centre.

Druid Theatre Company started their nationwide tour in Roscommon Arts Centre in February with four performances of *Shadow of a Gunman*. Anna Newell's *Sweet Dreams are Made of This* for children and young people with complex needs was performed in Creggs National School and St. Michael's as part of the Arts Centre's involvement in the *Network for Extraordinary Audiences*. The *Roscommon International Film Festival* had its inaugural run. Primary and post-primary schools brought their energy and creativity to the centre for education programmes in the gallery and theatre.



Chris O'Dowd opens Boyle Arts Festival 2024 at King House.

King House Interpretative Galleries and Museum

King House continued to develop its cultural offering in 2024 through enhanced collections and exhibitions and a regular programme of daytime and evening performances and events. Many additional events took place such as weddings, after-funeral gatherings, outdoor events, Royal Irish Academy of Music piano exams, the annual *Boyle Arts Festival*, *Halloween Hauntings* and the *Christmas Craft Fair*. The house opens to the public for tours from Easter to the end of October with private bookings available all year.

King House welcomed Ireland AM during the year with the house featuring as the backdrop for Deric Ó h'Artagáin's live weather broadcast which included the exciting history of King House and how it came to be restored through the efforts of Roscommon County Council.

RRDF (Rural Regeneration Development Fund) ReEnergising Boyle upgrades have significantly improved King House energy efficiency.

Douglas Hyde Centre

This centre is to open visitors from July to September, with private bookings available all year. Dr. Hyde's contribution to modern Ireland is highlighted in a contemporary exhibition by the use of informative charts, maps and photographs. The venue hosted the Roscommon launch of the *De Burca Rare Book Reissue of Beside the Fire*, a collection of folktales which were edited and translated by Dr. Douglas Hyde.



Cathaoirleach Cllr. Paschal Fitzmaurice with artist Greer MacKeogh, Arts Officer Rhona McGrath, former Director of Services Majella Hunt and special guest Vincent Woods at the opening of the *In These Rooms* Exhibition at An Ríoga.

An Ríoga Gallery

An Ríoga Gallery, which is located on the ground floor of the former Royal Hotel in Boyle, is home to the New Art Gallery Collective who manage a gallery and craft shop. The gallery also hosted the *Boyle Arts Festival 2024 Open Exhibition* and the *In These Rooms Exhibition* by artist Greer Mac Keogh during September. This exhibition was the culmination of a Creative Ireland commission to the artist whose research, conversations and artistic response have spanned eight years and various phases of the Royal Hotel's final years including its recent restoration and renovation by Roscommon County Council under the *RRDF*. The *In These Rooms Exhibition* invited visitors on a contemplative journey through space, memory and human connection. MacKeogh's work explored themes of identity and belonging, using a range of media that captured both the familiar and the elusive. Drawing on her distinct style, the exhibition presented a deeply personal yet universally resonant experience.



Artist Greer MacKeogh at the opening of the *In These Rooms* Exhibition at An Ríoga.

Library

The Library Service provided a range of resources and services throughout 2024. 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

848 events took place in libraries in 2024, including 278 visits to libraries from school classes and Early Learning Centres. Events included 135 *Right to Read* related events and 36 *Healthy Ireland at Your Library* events. Regular events, hosted by libraries, included Digital Skills Classes, Saturday Storytime, Book Clubs, Writers Groups, Craft Club, Bridge Club, Parents' Groups and Conversational Irish Groups. Events also took place for national programmes including *Heritage Week*, *Seachtain na Gaeilge* and *Culture Night*.

Right to Read (National Literacy Programme)

Ireland Reads Day, a national celebration of reading took place in February with events for adults and children including visits from local authors, poets and story and song sessions.

250 people attended 10 *Spring into Storytime* events in libraries across the county.

Summer Stars, the free summer reading programme for children is designed to encourage children to continue reading outside of the school year. 1,236 children took part in *Summer Stars* in 2024, an increase of 28% on 2023. Children borrowed 10,851 items from their local library during the summer.

The *Children's Book Festival* ran throughout October 2024. 27 events took place in the five library branches and the mobile library, including storytelling, creative writing workshops and arts and crafts sessions. Local author Annmarie Murray launched her book *The Cave of the Cats* and ran a number of workshops with local schools, including a workshop at the Rathcroghan Visitor Centre.

In December, the library service hosted 22 *Family Time at Your Library* events, which were attended by 500 people. Events included author visits, puppet shows and flip book workshops.



Coding Workshop in Strokestown Library.



Author Alan Nolan in Ballaghaderreen Library.



Before and after - Sensory Garden in Castlerea Library.



World Down Syndrome Day event, Roscommon Library.

Sense-Ability

Through the support of the *Community Recognition Fund*, a new sensory garden was completed to the rear of Castlerea Library. A selection of equipment from the *Sense-Ability* collection was in use at a celebration for *World Down Syndrome Day* in Roscommon Library.

See and Learn early literacy kits were added to the *Sense-Ability* collection. These kits include instructions and practical resources designed to help children with Down Syndrome and other children with similar learning needs to learn early speech, language, reading and numeracy skills.

SiarScéal

Supported by Creative Ireland, the annual *Siarscéal Literary Festival* continued in 2024. Over 180 young adults took part in *Siarscéal* events across three counties. The festival concluded with a celebration day, attended by 40 people.

Ballaghaderreen Library

While works continued on the refurbishment of Dillon House, a temporary branch library opened in Ballaghaderreen in February.



Temporary Ballaghaderreen Library.

Collaboration with Sports Partnership

In collaboration with Roscommon Sports Partnership, the new *Activator Pole* lending service was launched in June. Roscommon Sports Partnership ran a number of taster sessions in branch libraries. On completion of the taster session, library users can borrow the poles from the library, just like they would borrow a book.

Roscommon libraries, Roscommon Sports Partnership and the Roscommon Children and Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC) also collaborated to deliver the *Balance Bike Loan Scheme*. This scheme is available to participants in the *Balance Bike Programme* and is delivered by tutors through Roscommon Sports Partnership. Participants can borrow a balance bike from the library.



Activator Pole Taster Session.

Library Development Strategies

The Library Service continues to offer services in line with *The Library is the Place: Information, Recreation, Inspiration National Public Library Strategy 2023-2027*. This strategy 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.

Mobile Library

The mobile library service increased services to Elphin in 2024. It also continued to offer services in Ballaghaderreen, Monksland, Keadue, Ballyfarnon, Rooskey and Tarmonbarry. It makes regular visits to schools and community events and attended *National Play Day* in Lough Key.



Mobile Library.

Funding Supports

Funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) *Dormant Accounts Fund* facilitated the Library Service to purchase height adjustable desks, ergonomic chairs and rollators to help people with mobility issues to select and carry books.

In April 2024, the DRCD approved funding of €225,000 to support the replacement of the mobile library vehicle under the *Libraries Capital Programme 2023-2027*.

Online Resources

Services included eBooks, eAudiobooks, online courses, online language learning, eNewspapers and eMagazines.

The Library Service continued to provide access to *Touch-Type, Read and Spell (TTRS)* licences in 2024. The addition of Lexia Core and Lexia PowerUp literacy licences further expanded the online offering of support to people in need of supports.

Library Usage

There were 101,439 visits to library service points in 2024. More than 127,000 items were borrowed by library users, in person and online.

International Protection

Community Integration Forum

The Roscommon Community Response Forum, which was established in March 2022 in response to refugees fleeing the war in Ukraine, underwent reconstruction in 2024. It is now known as the Community Integration Forum.

The role of the Community Integration Forum is to coordinate and provide collaboration across the mainstream services, NGOs (Non-Governmental Organisations), community and voluntary organisations for Ukrainian refugees, IP (International Protection) Applicants and Those with Status and Programme Refugees.

The forum acts as a collaborative network and working group for the supports being provided to the cohort. Driven and chaired by the local authority, the group consists of representatives from key stakeholders and service providers at management level within the county such as welfare, childcare, health, education and employment.

The sub-groups in 2024 included:

- › Transport;
- › Social Inclusion;
- › Integration Workers Network.

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 Ukraine. To date:

- › 375 properties have been offered in County Roscommon;
- › 270 properties have been allocated to Ukrainian families;
- › 822 persons reside in properties in the *Offer a Home* programme;
- › 77 houses have been withdrawn.

Emergency Refurbishment Ukraine Project (ERUP)

Seven properties are on the emergency refurbishment tracker. One emergency refurbishment has been completed. This programme closed in November 2024.

Accommodation Service providers within the County

There are currently seven service providers accommodating Ukrainian refugees, all of which are under contract with the International Protection Accommodation Services (IPAS). At the end of 2024, approximately 250 refugees were accommodated in IPAS centres.

Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT)

The *Programme for Government* committed 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 LAITs in each local authority to co-ordinate the provision of supports to the following:

- › IP Applicants;
- › Those with Refugee, Subsidiary Protection or Permission to Remain Status;
- › Programme Refugees; and
- › 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 direct point of contacts, providing information, guidance, and advice, to ensure that these cohorts receive applicable benefits and entitlements.

The Roscommon LAIT commenced employment in Quarter 2, 2024. A full team was in place by Quarter 4. The team comprises of an Integration Support Coordinator, two Integration Support Workers and an Assistant Staff Officer reporting to the Director of Services.

Directory of Services and Information Booklets

The LAIT has created a Directory of Services that contains information on the relevant services and agencies that support integration. Information booklets were also created for each town in Roscommon that have IPAS centres. These booklets are provided to IP Applicants as they arrive in the county.



Information Booklet.

Networking and Representation

To ensure collective cooperation and collaboration among service providers, the LAIT undertook an extensive networking campaign and delivered presentations on the role of the LAIT across the county to service providers including the Volunteer Centre, Family Resource Centres, PPN (Public Participation Network), CYPSC (Children and Young People's Services Committee), PPFS (Prevention, Partnership and Family Support), Local Partnership Company, Redcross, Ruhama, Women's Network, IPAS Centre Managers and BOTP providers.

The LAIT has strategically joined committees that can have a positive influence for its cohorts by placing them on the agendas of such committees. These include:

- Migrant Integration Strategy Working Group;
- CYPSC Social Inclusion Measures Sub Committee;
- Prevention, Partnership and Family Support (Tusla);
- Roscommon Parenting Strategy Sub Committee;
- Creative Arts Working Group;
- Children and Family Support Networks (x 2).

Clinics

Weekly clinics are held in Roscommon town every Tuesday in conjunction with a translator from the Roscommon Partnership Company and the *Offer a Home* team to support BOTPs with any queries and concerns.

Weekly clinics are also held in each of the IPAS/IRPP (Irish Refugee Protection Programme) centres, with an average of six clinics per week. In 2024, there were six centres with approximately 450 residents.

Follow up from the clinics vary each week with areas of support consisting of health care, education, transport, accommodation, employment, social isolation, advocacy and English classes.

Events and Training

The LAIT was involved in 2024 in a variety of events that highlight the cohort in a positive light.

For *World Refugee Day* on 20th June, the unit ran a campaign in schools across the county asking teachers to spend some time with students discussing refugees and the many reasons they come to Ireland. A video created by young people living in accommodation centres was shared with the schools as a discussion point.

This video is available at:

<https://www.youthworkireland.ie/waiting-waiting>



World Refugee Day.



Portrait Celebration of Difference for Culture Night - Trinity Arts Centre.

The LAIT was a member of an interagency working group to organise a celebration event for World Refugee Day. This event took place in the Ballaghaderreen Family Resource Centre and was well attended by BOTPs.

Healthy Ireland, the FAI and the LAIT ran a camp for children living in IPAS centres in Castlerea. The children were afforded opportunities to participate in the camp without any affordability or transport barriers. This event has led to ongoing communication with the FAI to ensure that their services are reaching the most disadvantaged young people in society.

The LAIT partnered with other stakeholders in a *Portrait Celebration of Difference for Culture Night* which was held in Trinity Arts Centre, Castlerea in September. This event, which was open to the public, highlighted the vast number of cultures living together in the area.

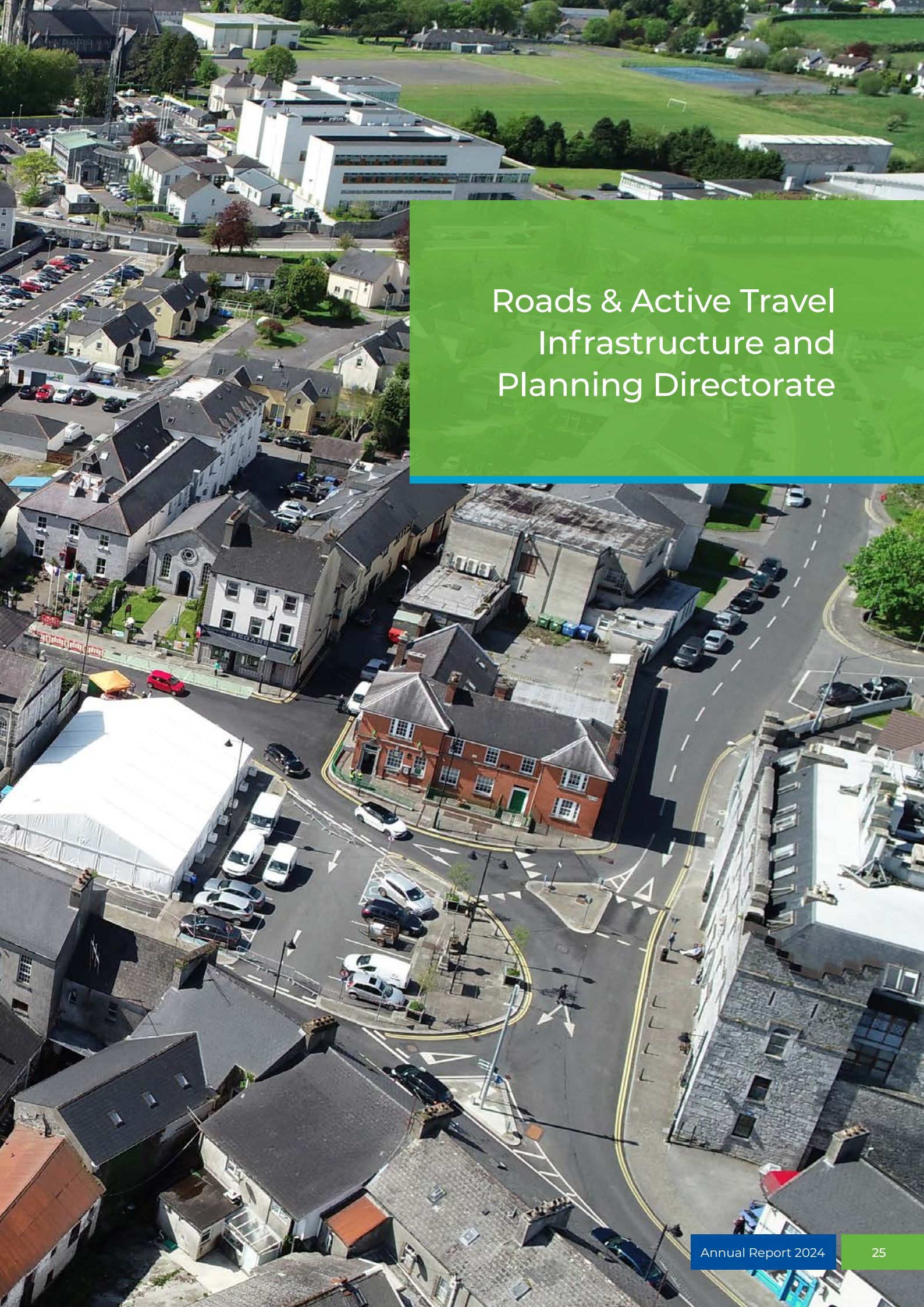
The LAIT convened a focus group with residents living in the IPAS centre in Ballaghaderreen to ensure that their voices were heard in relation the new *Parenting Strategy for Roscommon* led by the Tusla Prevention, Partnership and Family Support (PPFS).

An end-of-year gathering was organised for the residents of IPAS centres. They were brought to Roscommon town to enjoy the *Christmas Lights Festival* and dinner. In conjunction with Foróige, Roscommon Leader Partnership and the Castlerea Family Resource Centre, care packages were put together for children and their families.

The LAIT commissioned training for integration workers across the county which was delivered by Comhlámh inclusion experts. This training provided a space for those working on integration in County Roscommon to explore a range of interconnected topics including culture, power, difference and change.

Through training, participants strengthen their skills in self-reflection, critical thinking, dialoguing and communication, all of which are key for integration work in local community settings. The expected outcomes include:

- › Increased awareness of one's own 'backpack' and how this shapes the way we meet situations as well as others;
- › Greater understanding of 'power over' dynamics in community settings and of the assumptions and biases that impede integration;
- › Greater ability to notice and increased confidence to challenge assumptions and biases as and when they show up in different settings;
- › Enriched perspective on existing integration projects and what good practice in community settings looks like;
- › Renewed energy and inspiration for integration work, with special focus on the role of creativity and relationship building.



Roads & Active Travel Infrastructure and Planning Directorate

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 2024 included road construction and maintenance; bridge rehabilitation; drainage works; the carrying out of safety and traffic management measures; active travel measures; climate change adaptation and resilience works; the implementation of *Community Involvement* and *Local Improvement Schemes* and footpath repairs. County Roscommon road class and length details are outlined in **Table 1**.

Table 1: County Roscommon Road Class and Length

Road Class	Length (Metres)
Motorway	20,220
National Primary	83,492
National Secondary	148,056
Regional	375,760
Local Roads	3,423,237
Total All Roads	4,050,765

Ballaghaderreen to Scramoge Project.

Funding

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) allocates funding to operate, maintain and improve the national 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 2024 are outlined in **Table 2**.

Table 2: County Roscommon National and Non-National Roads Funding Allocations 2024

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	€21,299,500
Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII)	National Primary and Secondary Routes	€72,720,412
National Transport Authority	Active Travel Investment Programme	€3,550,000
Department of Rural and Community Development	Non-Public Roads Local Improvement Schemes	€879,428
Roscommon County Council	Regional and Local Roads / Public Lighting	€2,398,600
Total		€100,847,940

National Road Projects

Ballaghaderreen to Scramoge Road Project

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.



Ballaghaderreen to Scramoge Project.



Ballaghaderreen to Scramoge Project.

Archaeological site works are complete and reporting and dissemination continue. Technical consultants have been appointed to assist in progressing the project through the tender and construction stages. The procurement process to find a replacement contractor, following the termination of Roadbridge Ltd.'s contract, culminated in the award of the main construction contract to Wills Bros Ltd. on 25th October 2023. The contract was signed on 8th December 2023.

Establishment of site compound(s), environmental surveys and monitoring, design and other preliminary works commenced in Quarter 4, 2023. Construction commenced in late Quarter 1, 2024 and is progressing well. The realignment of a 1km section of the R368 regional road, including a large structure, was completed under a road closure in Quarter 4, 2024, and re-opened shortly before Christmas 2024.

N4 Carrick on Shannon Bypass and Traffic Management Project

The *N4 Carrick on Shannon Bypass and Traffic Management 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. 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. Leitrim County Council has prioritised the progression of the town bypass and associated traffic demand management and active travel measures through subsequent development phases. Following TII approval, ARUP commenced Phase 3 (Design and Environmental Evaluation) in June 2023. Ground investigation and topographical survey data necessary to progress the Phase 3 Design was procured during 2023/2024. Environmental surveys and assessments necessary to inform the design have been carried out and are being updated as required. Public Display No. 4 was held in the Landmark Hotel, Carrick-on-Shannon on 20th March 2024. Feedback received was reviewed and used to inform the design wherever possible. The Phase 3 TII Design Peer Review was held on 20th November 2024. Comments arising are being addressed. Landowner and stakeholder consultation is continuing.

N60 Oran Road Realignment Project

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 project is complete save for the land acquisition process, which is substantially complete with one outstanding case to be settled.

N61 Tulsk to Gortnacranagh Road Project

The *N61 Tulsk to Gortnacranagh 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 Gortnacranagh townland. TII approved the appointment of Roughan & O' Donovan-AECOM Alliance (ROD-A) as technical consultants to progress the project through the TII Phases (1-4). Phase 1 has been completed. ROD-A is currently progressing Phase 2 (Option Selection). It is anticipated that the Options Selection Report identifying the preferred route corridor will be finalised in Quarter 2, 2025.

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

Following the suspension of the *N61 Ballymurray to Knockcroghery Project* in 2022, TII provided some funding to undertake a study of the N61 between Roscommon town and Athlone to develop an overall strategy to address safety and related issues on this section of the N61. Roughan O' Donovan-AECOM Alliance was appointed to undertake the study and presented findings to the Elected Members of Roscommon County Council in December 2023. The report identified 15 priority interventions and TII funding was sought in respect of five junction optimisation interventions. TII provided seed funding for two junction optimisation schemes in 2024 at St. Brigid's Junction Moyvannan and St. John's Junction Killighan and Gort. In late 2024, Amey OW Ireland and Roadplan Consulting Ltd. were appointed to provide technical consultancy services for TII Phases 2-5 on the St. Brigid's and St John's projects.

N61 Coolteige Phase 1 Road Project

The *N61 Coolteige Phase 1 Road Project* involves the realignment and improvement of approximately 3km of a section of national secondary road on the northern outskirts of Roscommon town predominately to Type 1 single carriageway standard. The project is complete save for the resolution of outstanding land acquisition cases.

N61 Tulsk to Clashaganny Road Realignment Project

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. Further progression of the project is under review.

National Road Pavement Projects

The *N5 Bellanagare to Moneylea Pavement Scheme* was tendered in 2024. However, TII approval to award the contract was not granted due to budgetary constraints. Pavement design and tender documentation was prepared in respect of the *N5 Cloonfree* and the *N61 Fourmile House to Clashaganny Pavement Schemes* in 2024. The *N5 Cloonfree Pavement Scheme* was tendered in November 2024.

Lough Ree Greenway, Athlone to Ballyleague/Lanesborough/Roscommon

The *Lough Ree Greenway* project links into the proposed *Galway to Athlone Greenway* in the Athlone area. RPS has been appointed to progress the project in accordance with TII Project Managers Manual for Greenway Projects. Public Consultation No. 1 took place in the Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone on 22nd March 2023. All Phase 1 deliverables were completed in 2023/2024. Following TII approval, RPS commenced Phase 2 Options Selection in late 2024.

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 *Lough Ree Greenway* scheme. Ryan Hanley progressed 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 during Quarter 4, 2023. The Phase 1 Gate Review Statement was issued to TII in Quarter 4, 2023. Procurement of technical consultancy services for Phases 2-4 of TII's Project Management Guidelines is ongoing.

Lough Key to Carrick-on-Shannon Greenway

Roughan & O'Donovan Consulting Engineers progressed 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 were completed during Quarter 2, 2024. The Phase 1 Gate Review Statement was issued to TII in Quarter 2, 2024. The procurement of technical consultancy services for Phases 2-4 of TII's Project Management Guidelines was progressed in Quarter 3 and Quarter 4, 2024.

TII funded Active Travel Projects

During 2024, 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 2024 to assist in progressing the projects.

Roads Works Programme – Non-National Roads

More than 430 separate projects on regional and local roads were completed under the three *Municipal District Road Works Schemes 2024* with funding from the Department of Transport and the Council's own resources.

Active Travel Investment Programme

Building on the successful delivery of active travel projects under the previous programme for government, the *Programme for Government 2025: Securing Ireland's Future* confirms the new government's commitment to continued investment in sustainable transport infrastructure. As part of this initiative, Roscommon County Council was allocated €3,250,000 for projects in 2025. This funding, which was designated under the *Active Travel Investment Programme*, aims to enhance walking, cycling and public transport infrastructure in areas beyond major urban centres. By developing high quality facilities, the programme will encourage more people to embrace active and sustainable travel, supporting climate action while improving connectivity and accessibility for everyone.



Coláiste Chiaráin, Summerhill - Safe Routes to School Project.

Significant progress has been made on the *Ballaghaderreen Town Development Scheme*, with construction advancing on Barrack Street and works on Pound Street, Cathedral Street and Chapel Street being substantially completed. The Feasibility and Options Selection report is being drafted by design consultants for the *Roscommon Town Schools Pedestrian/Cycle Bridge Link Project* and was finalised for the *Bealnamullia, Athlone Active Travel Scheme*. The *L7055 Ardsallagh Woods, Roscommon Town Project* is progressing, with the design consultants finalising the tender documents.

for its construction. Additionally, design work is progressing on four other active travel schemes located in Ballyforan, Cortober, Curraghboy, and Roscommon town.

Under the *Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Programme*, projects at Carrick National School, Ballinlough, St. Paul's National School, Castlerea, St. Joseph's National School and Coláiste Chiaráin, Summerhill were successfully completed in 2024. The SRTS scheme at Scoil Náisiúnta Cruachain, Croghan is due for completion in Quarter 2, 2025, while design work continues for projects at St. Michael's and St. Patrick's National Schools, Cootehall, Scoil na nAingeal Naofa National School, Boyle and St. Attracta's National School, Ballaghaderreen. Five additional national schools, as follows, were selected in November 2024, for Round 3 of the programme:

- › St. Patrick's National School, Ballyfarnon;
- › Brusna National School, Ballaghaderreen;
- › Camcloon National School, Ballydangan;
- › Cornafulla National School, Cornafulla;
- › St. Ciaran's National School, Moore.

The preparation of *Audit and Delivery Plans* for these projects is now underway.

To date, 25 schemes have been completed under the *Active Travel Investment Programme* across Roscommon's three Municipal Districts, with a total investment of €7,916,207. This continued investment is transforming sustainable transport in the county, making it safer, more accessible and a more attractive choice for all.

Community Involvement Schemes (CIS)

An allocation of €159,000 under the *CIS* was provided by the Department of Transport in 2024. 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. Four projects were progressed under this scheme in 2024.



St. Joseph's National School, Summerhill
- Safe Routes to School Project.

Local Improvement Scheme (LIS)

The Department of Rural and Community Development operates the *LIS* for the improvement of local non-public roads. In 2024, the Council received notification of a 2-year allocation of €1,541,106 consisting of €879,428 for 2024 and €661,678 for 2025. This funding is complemented by a local financial contribution from landowners/householders, as well as local authority resources.

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

19 projects received funding in 2024. Total expenditure on projects amounted to €746,596.

St. Paul's National School, Castlerea
- Safe Routes to School Project.



Footpath Repairs Programme

As part of the *Risk Mitigation Measures*, funding was received from Irish Public Bodies. Defective footways 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 2024, the Council continued to engage paving contractors to replace defective footpath sections and install tactile paving where required. Works were also undertaken by local area offices. Works were carried out in Ballaghaderreen, Boyle, Ballyleague, Cloontuskert, Cloonfad and Knockcroghery.

Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Programme

The objective of the *CFRAM Programme* is the identification and design of flood relief schemes to alleviate the risk of flooding. Under the programme, Athlone, Roscommon, Athleague, Castlerea, Boyle and Cortober were assessed for flood risk. Works are proposed for all the towns with the exception of Castlerea. In 2021, Roscommon County Council received an offer of funding from the OPW in the amount of €350,000 for a project to defend flooding in Bogganfin. Despite extensive efforts by the Council, it has been unable to appoint a consultant for this project.

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. The project involves the assessment and development of a flood relief scheme and other measures to manage the existing flood risk in Carrick-on-Shannon and Cortober and also the potential for significant increases in this risk due to climate change, ongoing development and other pressures that may arise in the future. Site investigation is now complete. Seasonal environmental surveys are complete and options are being assessed. Leitrim County Council conducted a series of public consultations, the majority of which took place on 7th November 2024. On completion of the Option Selection stage, it is anticipated that the scheme will progress to design and environmental

evaluation and Leitrim County Council will seek consent for the proposed scheme in accordance with provisions of the Planning and Development Act.

The *Hydraulic Modelling Report* was reviewed by Leitrim County Council, Roscommon County Council and the OPW and is substantially complete.

Lough Funshinagh

Environmental surveys that initiated in 2023 continued through Quarters 1 and 2, 2024. These were carried out by Ryan Hanley, Engineering and Environments Consultants. However, 2024 marked the most severe flooding event ever recorded at Lough Funshinagh. The year began with significantly rising water levels, culminating in a record peak during April 2024, reaching 69.3 meters AOD (Above Ordnance Datum), which was 350mm higher than the previous maximum recorded in 2021.



Access to a number of homes adjacent to flood water.

Because of rising water levels, floodwaters submerged over 500 hectares of agricultural land, spilling onto public roads and surrounding residential houses, farmyards and businesses. Flood defences barely managed to protect surrounding homes in the Ballagh, Lisphelim and Curraghboy areas. One house was completely inundated, forcing a young family to evacuate.

Critical transportation routes, including the R-362 regional road and four other local primary and secondary routes, became impassable, isolating communities and hindering emergency response efforts. While the regional road reopened a number of weeks following its closure, local roads at Ballagh and Lisphelim remained closed for all of 2024.



Aerial view of Ballagh Flood Defence.



Farm sheds submerged.

In response to worsening flood events, MWP Engineering Consultants were re-engaged to update and develop their existing reports. The OPW provided funding for a full-time position dedicated to flood management in County Roscommon.

In June 2024, Arup was appointed as the environmental consultant for the permanent flood relief scheme. However, due to the severity of the 2024 events, an interim scheme was deemed necessary in advance of the permanent scheme. Teams from Ryan Hanley, MWP and Arup were directed to prioritise the delivery of an interim flood protection solution. This led to the design, assessment and submission of a planning application to An Bord Pleanála in September 2024. Roscommon County Council await the determination of this application.

Since September 2024, consultants have refocused their efforts on delivering a long-term, permanent flood relief scheme for Lough Funshinagh.



Regional Road under 750mm of water in Curraghboy.

Burial Grounds

€65,000 was allocated to the 2024 *Cemetery Improvement and Maintenance Scheme* for the maintenance of burial grounds in County Roscommon. Grants were awarded to 87 voluntary groups.

Lisphelim Local Road
closed and under water.



Road Safety

Low Cost Safety Improvement Works

In 2024, 13 *Safety Improvement Schemes* were completed on regional and local roads throughout the county from a specific Department of Transport grant of €385,000 for low-cost safety measures. In addition, four safety schemes, funded by Transport Infrastructure Ireland were delivered in Boyle, Strokestown, Knockcroghery and Frenchpark.

County Roscommon Road Safety Plan 2024-2030

The *County Roscommon Road Safety Plan 2024-2030* was agreed by the Roscommon Road Safety Together Committee. The Plan is aligned to the *Government Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030*. At the core of the 2021-2030 strategy is the aim to achieve *Vision Zero* in Ireland by 2050. There are three distinct phases set out in the *Government Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030* which the local safety plan mirror. Phases listed are as follows:

- › Phase 1 2021-2024;
- › Phase 2 2025-2027;
- › Phase 3 2028-2030.

Actions under Phase 1 are outlined in the *County Roscommon Road Safety Plan 2024-2030*. These are under continuous review and will be further developed under Phases 2 and 3.

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. 111 Abnormal Load Permits were issued in 2024.

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 2024 was 810.

Broadband Office

Work continued in 2024 with National Broadband Ireland (NBI) regarding build designs with less Section 254 planning pole and overhead cable applications across the network than previous years (five applications in 2024). However, there were more road opening licences for network build and new connections, all of which were processed by the Roads and Transportation Department. Athlone, Ballinasloe, Castlerea, Carrick-on-Shannon, Elphin, Keshcarrigan, Longford, Newbridge, Rooskey and Roscommon are ready to Pre-order/ Order.

A network status report per NBI Deployment Area is provided in **Table 3**. 14,247 (75%) out of 19,000 premises have been passed. The uptake of new connections stands at 4,457 (31%) of the 14,247 premises passed.

The Connecting Communities Progress Map below shows the status of each deployment area. 46 poles were granted Section 254 licences in 2024.

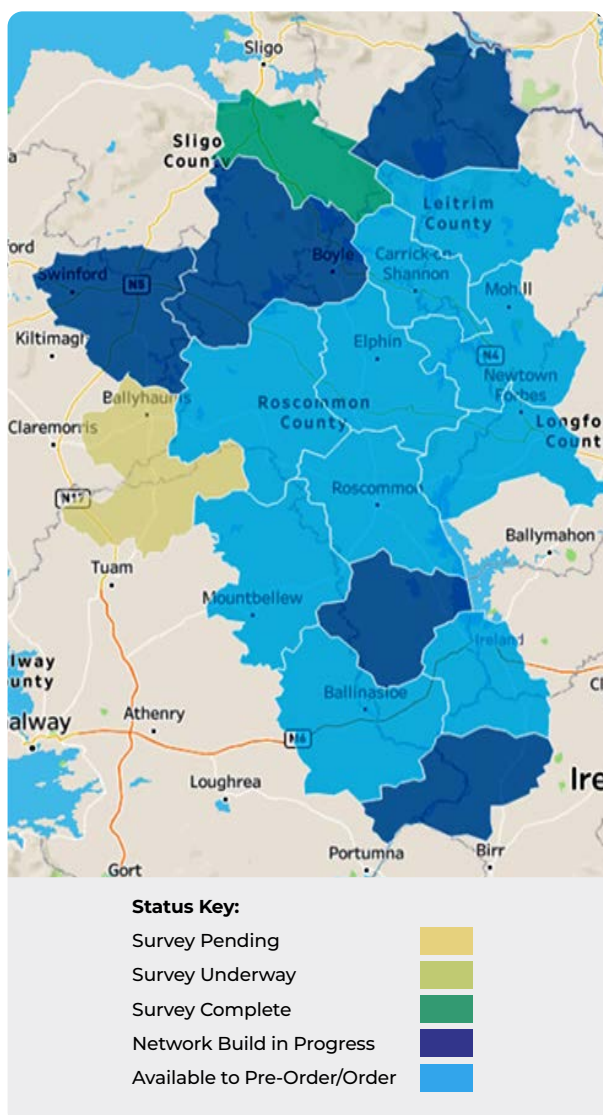


Table 3: Network Status per NBI Deployment Area

€76M Investment 19K Premises 14,247 Premises Passed 4,457 Connections			
Deployment Area	Premises	Status	Anticipated Date for Connection
ATHLONE	778	Available to Order/Pre-Order	Available to Order/Pre-Order
BALLINASLOE	835	Available to Order/Pre-Order	Available to Order/Pre-Order
BANAGHER	91	Network Build in Progress	April 2025 - June 2025
CARRICK-ON-SHANNON	2,486	Available to Order/Pre-Order	Available to Order/Pre-Order
CASTLEREA	3,696	Available to Order/Pre-Order	Available to Order/Pre-Order
CLOONFAD	658	Survey Pending	July 2026 - December 2026
CURRAGHBOY	1,797	Network Build in Progress	April 2025 - June 2025
DOWRA	25	Network Build in Progress	July 2026 - December 2026
ELPHIN	2,392	Available to Order/Pre-Order	Available to Order/Pre-Order
GURTEEN	933	Network Build in Progress	October 2025 - December 2025
KESHCARRIGAN	300	Available to Order/Pre-Order	Available to Order/Pre-Order
KNOCK	423	Network Build in Progress	January 2026 - June 2026
LONGFORD	295	Available to Order/Pre-Order	Available to Order/Pre-Order
NEWBRIDGE	78	Available to Order/Pre-Order	Available to Order/Pre-Order
RIVERSTOWN	29	Survey Complete	July 2026 - December 2026
ROOSKEY	891	Available to Order/Pre-Order	Available to Order/Pre-Order
ROSCOMMON	3,561	Available to Order/Pre-Order	Available to Order/Pre-Order
(Additional Presmises)	158	N/A	TBC

MapRoad Licencing for Road Opening Licences

There were 810 number road opening licences for 2024. 592 licences related to broadband and 410 related to the *National Broadband Plan* (NBP) through NBI rollout works. The remainder of the licences came from Eircom Ltd (trading as EIR) and SIRO in delivery of the NBP in the commercial blue areas of towns and villages. EIR had 172 road opening licences relating to Broadband rollout. Siro had nine and eNet had one licence.

WiFi4EU

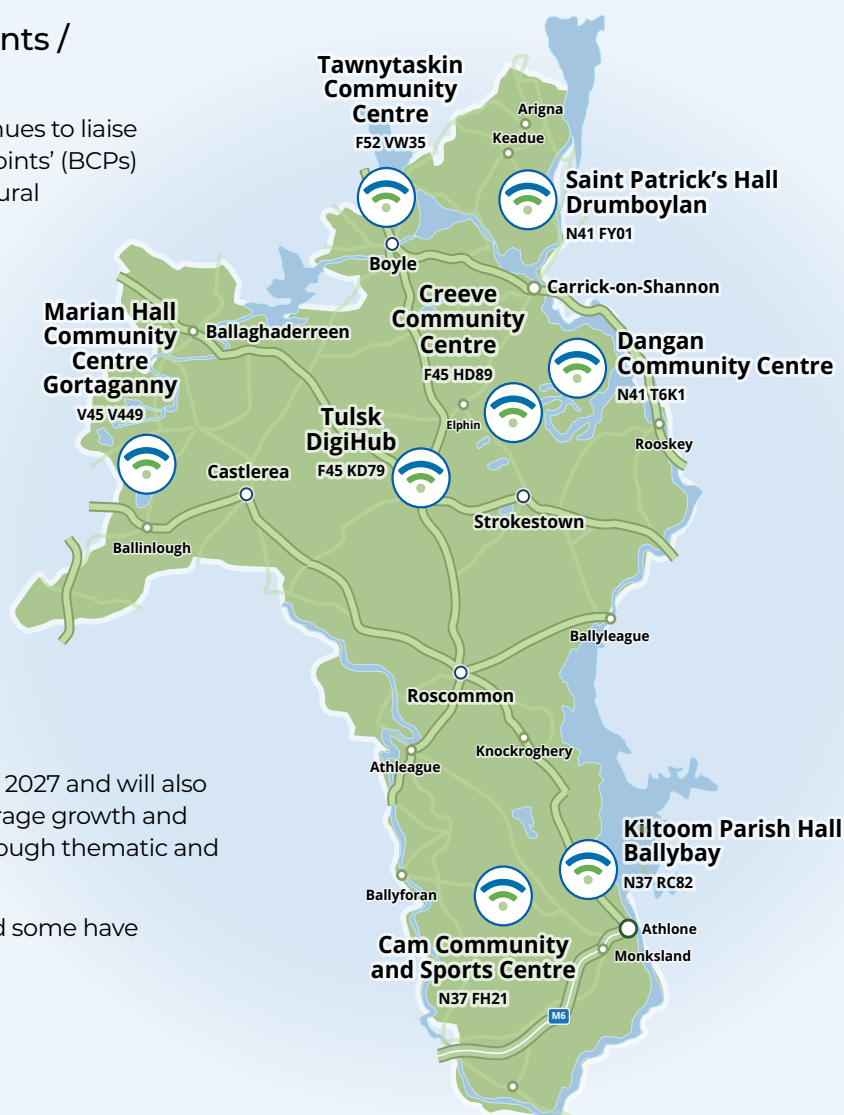
WiFi4EU continues to serve both the local communities and visitors from other countries especially EU countries. The usage rate continues to be high.

Broadband Connection Points / DigiHubs/Incubation Hubs

The Council's broadband office continues to liaise with the 10 Broadband Connection Points' (BCPs) facilities and source Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) funding to develop hub facilities on an ongoing basis. There were no revenue streams from Connected Hubs or Digital Innovation Program funds in 2024. The DRCD confirmed their continued support for the BCPs by setting up a tender for new firewall web security solutions for all of the near 300nr BCPs nationwide, including Roscommon's 10 BCPs. The firewall solution should be commencing in early Quarter 3, 2025 with full technical support from Vodafone Ireland.

The *National Hub Strategy* will run to 2027 and will also define support structures and encourage growth and stimulation of BCPs and digihubs through thematic and training-based funding and grants.

The usage of the BCPs is sporadic and some have greater footfall than others.



EIR/ OpenEIR / Eircom, SIRO

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

Roscommon County Council continues to support the delivery of superfast broadband in towns and villages by processing road-opening licences in a timely manner, not just for NBI but the other companies delivering the NBP.

Digital Communities

Roscommon County Council continued to engage with the Department of Rural and Community Development with regard to thematic funding. It also continued engagement with *OurKidsCode for 2025 Coding Plans*. The Council has engaged with Foróige through the Local Creative Youth Partnership Co-ordinator, Galway Roscommon Education Training Board. Small funding streams were secured by the Council through the *Creative Ireland Programme* for creative labs and thematic programmes in a select number of BCPs / DigiHubs.

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 promoting and facilitating the development of sustainable communities and enterprise, while ensuring the protection of the natural and built heritage of the county; development management (including providing pre-planning advice and assessing and determining planning applications) and planning enforcement in relation to unauthorised or non-planning compliant developments.

The 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

763 planning applications were received in 2024, with 80% (612) of those being submitted via the on-line facility that was introduced in June 2023. 129 pre-planning discussions were facilitated in 2024.

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 2024:

- 67 **Planning Enforcement Complaints** were received;
- 75 **Warning Letters** were issued;
- 12 **Enforcement Notices** were served;
- The Council initiated **Legal Action** in two enforcement cases.

Table 1: Planning Applications 2020-2024

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Applications Received¹	573	723	682	707	763
Decisions to Grant²	331	417	376	333	447
Decisions to Refuse	51	60	62	48	54
Refusal Rate	15.4%	12.6%	14.16%	12.6%	10.78%
Number of Appeals to An Bord Pleanala (ABP)³	17	17	23	17	21
Number of Appeal Decisions from ABP	15	17	17	16	11
Number of Appeals upheld by ABP	13	11	11	14 ⁴	10
Section 5 Declarations of Exempted Development	57	65	37	106	182

¹ Includes valid and invalid planning applications; excludes S.42 Extension of Durations and Part 8 developments.

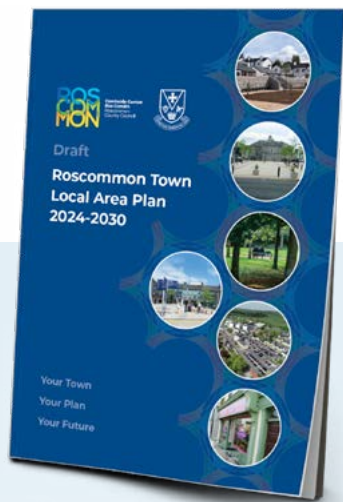
² Excludes decisions on Section 42 Extensions of Duration.

³ Of the appeals lodged, a number were subsequently withdrawn – two in 2020 and six in 2022. In addition, one appeal lodged in 2023 was dismissed by An Bord Pleanala.

⁴ Two decisions were substantially upheld on appeal, but modified.

Resolving Unfinished Housing Developments (UHDs)

Approximately 96 housing developments in County Roscommon had not been taken in charge by the end of 2024. Development activity was on-going in 14 unfinished housing developments at various times during the year, as agreed site resolution works were undertaken. One housing development was taken in charge while a further five were satisfactorily completed to enable progression to the final stage of the taking in charge process.



Forward Planning

Roscommon Town Local Area Plan 2024-2030

The statutory process relating to the making of the *Roscommon Town Local Area Plan (LAP) 2024-2030* was on going between January and July. The initial public consultation on the draft LAP concluded on 5th February and was later followed by the public consultation on the proposed material alterations to the draft (between 14th May and 13th June). Members of the Roscommon Municipal District formally agreed to make the plan on 25th July. The plan came into effect on 5th September with the exception of two pockets of land that were the subject of a Draft Direction from the Minister of State for Local Government and Planning. This gave rise to further public consultation specifically relating to the Draft Direction. The Direction was confirmed by the Minister on 20th December and required the removal of two parcels of land and their associated land use zonings from the final plan.

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

	2023	2024
Invoiced	€703,678	€1,563,600
Received	€677,875	€969,842

Applications to avail of the Temporary Development Contribution Waiver (as provided for in Circular Letter 08/2023) totalled €1,054,040 in 2024.

Joint Plan Making Activity

The non-statutory pre-draft public consultation on the *Athlone Joint Urban Area Plan* concluded on 1st February. Following this, as part of the progression to the preparation of the draft plan, Westmeath County Council, in consultation with Roscommon County Council, led the tender process for the procurement of consultants.

Roscommon County Council also worked collaboratively with Leitrim County Council on the preparation of the *Carrick-on-Shannon Joint Local Area Plan*. The public consultation period on the draft plan ran from 14th August to 4th October and was followed by the preparation of the *Chief Executive's Report on Submissions Received*. This report was formally considered by Elected Members of the Boyle Municipal District and the Carrick-on-Shannon Municipal District at their respective Municipal District meetings on 9th December, at which a number of material alterations to the draft plan were proposed.

Two-Year Progress Report – Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028

The *Two-Year Progress Report on the Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028* was prepared as per the requirements of Section 15(2) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). This report was brought before Members at the Plenary Meeting of the Council in July 2024.

Climate Action,
Environment,
Resources, People and
Governance Directorate

Lough Ree

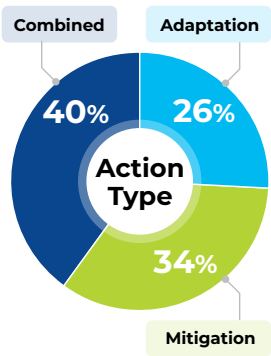
Climate Action

Roscommon County Council Local Authority Climate Action Plan, 2024-2029

Roscommon County Council fulfilled its requirements in relation to the Low Carbon Development Act 2015 (as amended) with the adoption of the *Local Authority Climate Action Plan (LACAP)* in January 2024. This plan was prepared in accordance with government guidance and contains 62 wide-ranging actions (44 general actions, 18 specific to the Roscommon Town Decarbonising Zone) under five themes supporting climate initiatives over the next five years. The plan was adopted on a statutory basis and will remain in force from 2024 to 2029.

The service level agreement between the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications and Roscommon County Council has moved from the *LACAP* preparation phase to an implementation phase that will guide the activity of the Climate Action Unit over the life of the plan.

Table 1 summarises the distribution of actions across each theme, the number focused on adaptation, mitigation or combined and actions that have been completed or progressed over the course of 2024 or those yet to be commenced.



Gníomhaithe ar Son
na hAeráide Ros Comáin
Climate Action
Roscommon

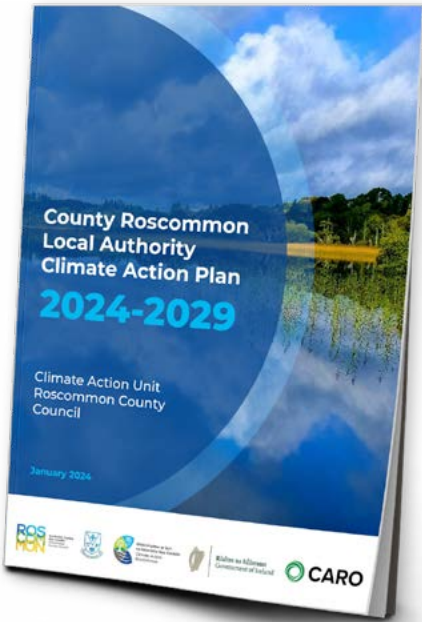


Table 1: Summary of Climate Actions 2024 – County Roscommon LACAP

	 Governance & Leadership	 Built Environment & Transport	 Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure	 Communities: Resilience & Transition	 Sustainability & Resource Management
Actions Commenced in 2024	9	19	11	12	8
Actions Completed in 2024	3	5	6	3	3
Actions Commenced - Completion after 2024	8 (8 recurring)	17 (15 recurring)	7 (11 recurring)	9 (12 recurring)	2 (8 recurring)
Actions to be Commenced after 2024	0	2	1	0	0

The plan was launched in April 2024 in Lough Ree Forest Park, Boyle. This was a joint event held with the Council's Community Department for the launch of their *Local Economic and Community Plan* and Roscommon Leader Partnership for the launch of the *Local Development Strategy*. This served to highlight connections between local development and climate action in a well-attended event, supported by a range of exhibitors aligned to common goals within the plans and strategies.

Minister Eamonn Ryan presided over the national launch of *Local Authority Climate Action Plans* in Ennis on 10th and 11th April 2024 which was attended by the Director of Services and the Climate Action Unit.

Climate Action Team

There were four meetings of the Climate Action Team over the course of 2024. Composed of senior management across the organisation, the Climate Action Team addressed the approval of the final draft plan for transmission to the Council in January. On completion of the plan, the terms of reference for the Climate Action Team were amended and meetings were scheduled on a quarterly basis to facilitate the implementation phase. These meetings reviewed progress on individual actions and reporting requirements at a national level. A pilot *Monitoring System for Climate Actions* has been developed by the Council's IS Department to streamline required reporting processes. In addition to supporting governance and leadership actions in the *Climate Action Plan*, the system has the potential to monitor and report on other plans in the organisation and coordinate the efforts of various units within the organisation. The Climate Action Team continues to embed climate action in all Council services and functions.



Local Authority Climate Action Plan Launch.

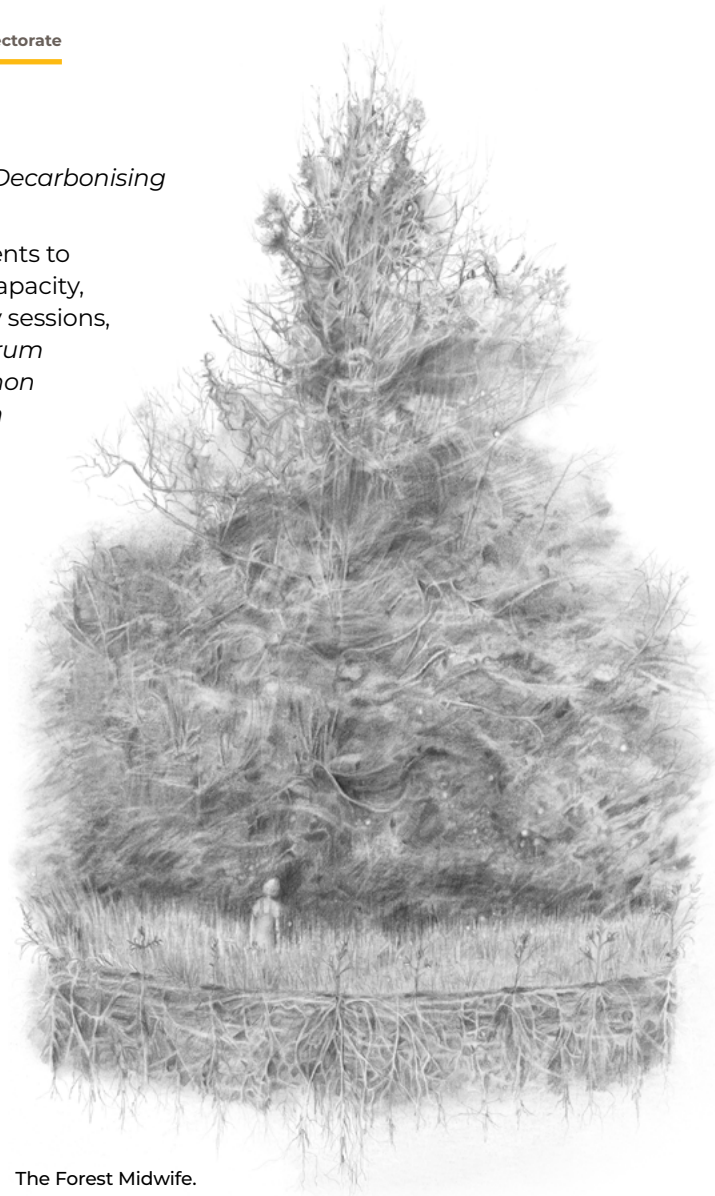
Climate Action Unit



The Climate Action Unit, consisting of the Climate Action Coordinator Officer and Community Officer, progressed implementation of the LACAP through a range of activities over the course of 2024, including the following:

- Reuseable shopping bags made locally from recycled materials and *Climate Action* branded keep-cups procured and distributed at events throughout the year in support of sustainable behavioural change;
- Electric Vehicle (EV) demonstration for Council staff – a range of electric vehicles were arranged for display and a test drive in May;
- SEAI information event – mentors presented a range of options to increase household energy efficiency, outline renewable opportunities and held one-on-one clinics with Council staff in December;
- In conjunction with Age Friendly Roscommon, facilitated the running of an *Over 60's Climate Course*;

- › Hosted a national *Nature-Based Solutions for Decarbonising Zones Workshop* for the CARO in October;
- › Attended and presented at a wide range of events to promote climate action awareness and build capacity, including Public Participation Network plenary sessions, Cruinniú na nÓg events, national *Wetlands Forum AGM*, *Rediscovery Centre Open Day*, *Roscommon Women's Network ECCO Project*, *Rathcroghan Farming Conference* and the *EirGrid Energy Citizens Roadshow*;
- › The Climate Action Unit is engaged with the Department of the Taoiseach on the *We're Taking Climate Action* communications initiative that aims to mainstream climate action through national and local government;
- › In conjunction with the Council's Arts Office, co-funded the *Forest Midwife Project* in support of awareness raising and biodiversity enhancement in the county;
- › The Climate Action Unit, in conjunction with Roscommon Library, launched a repair café for communities and a publicly accessible tool library to promote reuse and repair with funding from the EPA;
- › The Climate Action Unit, in conjunction with Roscommon Library, established a dedicated Climate Section within the library containing useful information on practical climate action.



The Forest Midwife.



Climate Action Books Launch.



Just Transition

County Roscommon is located within the *EU Just Transition Territorial Plan* area and the Climate Action Unit has been engaged with a number of projects supported by the *Just Transition Fund (JTF)* which is managed by the Eastern and Midlands Regional Authority and administered by Pobal.

Wind Turbine and EV Maintenance Course

The Climate Action Unit, in conjunction with the Galway Roscommon Educational Training Board (GRETb) has developed two courses to support upskilling in communities that have been affected by unemployment associated with the transition to a carbon neutral society. A *DIY Wind Turbine Construction Course* commenced in December 2024, with the first class graduating in February 2025. There is significant interest in the course which currently has a waiting list and will run concurrently up to the funding deadline of March 2026, at which stage the GRETb will review for future iterations. The course currently operates out of the GRETb premises in Lisnamult. However, it is intended to move this to Council premises once available.

An accredited *EV Maintenance Course* is also in development that will upskill mechanics to maintain electric vehicles. The course is funded by the JTF and facilitated by the GRETb. It is anticipated that the course will operate out of a Ballaghaderreen facility, currently under refurbishment by Roscommon County Council and also funded under the JTF.

JTF Groundworks

The Climate Action Unit also participated in the *Just Transition Groundworks EU Project* that supports Sustainable Energy Communities in achieving their community renewable energy goals through the development of knowledge networks and sharing of best practice.

EV Infrastructure

The Climate Action Unit continue to work with the Council's Roads and Transportation Department and *Zero Emissions Vehicle Ireland EV Infrastructure Scheme* funded under the JTF. The scheme supports associated civil, electrical and installation works costs of EV charging infrastructure provision. Applications for funding of chargers at 10 publicly accessible, Council-owned locations within the county are currently under review. The Climate Action Unit also provided support to a number of communities in making their applications through the Pobal portal.

Sustainable Energy Communities

The Climate Action Unit continues to promote the development of Sustainable Energy Communities (SECs) in conjunction with SEAI mentors. Roscommon Transition Town completed their *Energy Masterplan* with support from Roscommon County Council in 2024. Located within the Decarbonising Zone, the Climate Action Unit will continue to support the implementation of identified actions in the *Energy Masterplan* in support of GHG (Greenhouse Gases) mitigation, climate adaptation and overall quality of life in the area.

The Climate Action Unit is engaged with mentors in the expansion of the SEC network throughout the county and continues to provide bridging finance support to communities for the development of a community-specific *Energy Masterplan*. SECS were established in Ballaghaderreen and Strokestown in 2024.

Decarbonising Zone

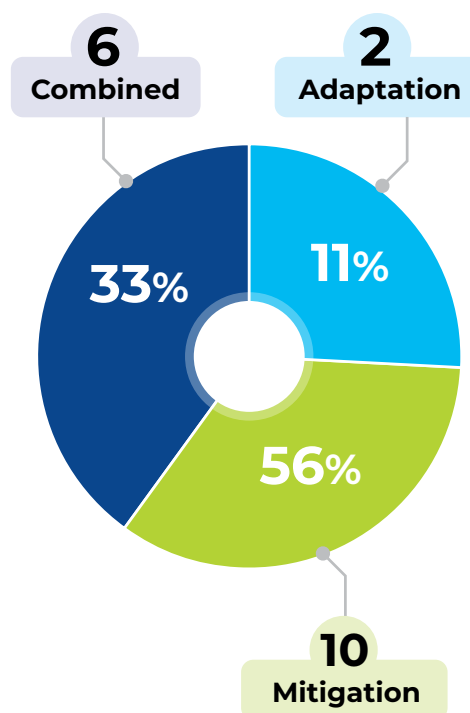
The Roscommon Town Decarbonising Zone (DZ) was formally launched by the Roscommon County Council Cathaoirleach at a public event in the Town Square in September 2024 in conjunction with the Roscommon Tidy Towns *Global Rossie* diaspora event. Held during *Sustainable Development Goal Week*, a wide range of climate related activities took place on the day, including:

- › *Local Biodiversity Fund – Loughnaneane Park Project Launch* and information;
- › Breeding Waders EIP, Bat Society, Traditional Crafts, CycleUp stands and presentations;
- › Environment Department – recycling information;
- › Sports Partnership cycling demonstration;
- › Hedgerow information walk.

There are 18 dedicated actions in the LACAP in support of the DZ, divided into five thematic areas as follows:



Action Type by DZ Actions



The Climate Action Unit continues to work with communities within the town and support the Roscommon Transition Town SEC in the development of projects to promote renewable energy, energy efficiency and sustainable transport options into the future. The Climate Action Unit also engage with Active Travel, Regeneration and Town Teams on the integration of climate considerations into new proposals.

Table 2: Summary of Climate Actions 2024 – Decarbonisation Zone

	 Governance & Leadership	 Built Environment & Transport	 Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure	 Communities: Resilience & Transition	 Sustainability & Resource Management
Actions Commenced in 2024	2	7	2	4	2
Actions Completed in 2024	1	3	2	1	0
Actions Commenced that will be Completed after 2024	2 (2 recurring)	7 (7 recurring)	2 (2 recurring)	3 (4 recurring)	2 (2 recurring)
Actions to be Commenced after 2024	0	1	0	0	0

Community Climate Action Programme

The *Community Climate Action Fund* was launched in 2024 by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. Roscommon County Council secured €402,000 for 15 projects under the *Community Climate Action Programme Strand 1* and an additional €118,000 for two further projects under *Strand 1A* – Roscommon based projects with a Northern Ireland partner.

Progress is ongoing, with three projects completed to date in the areas of solar PV (Photovoltaic), which will boost renewable energy use in the community sector while reducing energy costs. A further six projects are at an advanced state of completion and these range from energy efficiency measures in community facilities and equipment to biodiversity planting, sustainable agricultural initiatives and circular economy related projects. The Climate Action Unit maintains close contact with the groups and the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications to align the objectives of the fund and ensure its effective implementation.

The second phase of the programme is anticipated to launch in Quarter 3, 2025 with an additional allocation of €402,000 for *Strand 1* projects (plus additional allocation for *Strand 1A* where applicable). A comprehensive communications and information campaign targeting local communities will be conducted in advance of Phase 2.



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 is proposed along with restorative mitigation works and new regulations to govern physical alterations. The new *RBMP* was launched in 2024.

Laboratory

The laboratory provides both a technical/analytical and sampling service and is accredited to ISO 17025 (one of only six local authority testing laboratories accredited to this standard). The laboratory continued to provide a shared sampling and testing service to six other local authorities. This entailed sampling and testing of drinking waters, wastewaters, trade effluents, landfill leachates, surface waters, bathing waters and groundwater.

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 increased from €5,000 to €12,000 on 1st January 2024.

13 new inspections were completed in 2024 and all were uploaded to EDEN. A failure rate of 85% was recorded in 2024 which represented an increase from the 2023 failure rate of 53% 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. At the end of 2024, 31 of the 46 historical inspections advisory notices remained open.

Waste Management and Enforcement

In 2024 Roscommon County Council continued to liaise with Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authorities (WERLA) and the EPA and to enforce the National Enforcement Priorities as contained in the Council's *Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI) Plan*.

The Council's Litter and Waste Enforcement Team carried out various inspections and enforcement duties under the Waste Management Act 1996 (as amended) and Litter Pollution Act 1997 (as amended), including the investigation of all waste and litter complaints and inspections of permitted and certified waste facilities, commercial premises, permitted and unauthorised waste collectors, illegal dumping, construction and development sites, Waste Presentation Bye-Laws and other producer responsibility initiatives. Roscommon County Council actively enforced waste and litter legislation as required. The Council issued 57 fines under the Litter Pollution Act in 2024 and carried out 353 household and commercial inspections under Waste Presentation Bye-Laws.

The Council received a grant of €139,043 in 2024 from the *Environment Fund* to support dedicated and measurable enforcement initiatives as detailed in the Council's *RMCEI Plan*. Performance against the plan was measured and reported on the *National Environmental Management Information System* which was developed in partnership between the Department of Environment Climate Action and Communications and the Local Government Management Agency.

National Waste Management Plan

The Waste Management Act 1996 requires local authorities to make a waste management plan either individually or collectively for their functional areas. The first *National Waste Management Plan* was adopted by the 31 local authorities in February 2024. The *National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy* sets out a framework for the prevention and management of waste in Ireland for the period 2024 to 2030. Climate change is a key driver for both behavioural change and improved waste management practices. The plan outlines the targeted policies and key deliverables required to enable the transition towards a circular economy model.

Connacht-Ulster Waste Region

Roscommon is part of the Connacht Ulster Region in terms of waste management. The Regional Waste Management Planning Office is based in Mayo County Council as the regional lead authority, acting on behalf of the other authorities with responsibility for the successful implementation of the *National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy*. In addition, WERLAs were selected in each region. The Council continued to engage with the Connacht-Ulster Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority (CUWERLA) on national priorities and items of regional interest. Leitrim and Donegal County Councils are the joint lead authorities for CUWERLA and are responsible for coordinating waste enforcement actions within the region, setting priorities and common objectives for waste enforcement and ensuring consistent enforcement of waste legislation. Local authority personnel continue to act as first responders to specific breaches of waste legislation.

Recycling Centres

The Council continues to operate recycling centres at Boyle, Roscommon, Ballaghaderreen and Castlerea. Sites are open to the public three 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 two closed licensed landfills at Ballaghaderreen and Roscommon. It is obliged to continuously monitor environmental risks associated with these closed facilities such as landfill gas and groundwater/surface water contamination. Regular servicing and maintenance works are also carried out.

Four 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 Registration for the other three 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 25 quantification surveys and 87 litter pollution surveys in 2024.

Annual Programmes

In 2024, 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. In 2024, the Council submitted several funding proposals under the initiative, with a total project expenditure of €97,683. The following projects were completed in 2024:

- › Bulky goods collections held at Castlerea Civic Amenity site;
- › *Ballaghaderreen Waste Project*;
- › Purchase and placement of illegal dumping signage;
- › Purchase of CCTV equipment;
- › Update of “Your Guide to Household Waste and Recycling in County Roscommon” booklet;
- › *Waste Presentation Byelaws Awareness Campaign*;
- › *End of Life Vehicles Awareness Campaign*;
- › Awareness video regarding the impact of illegal dumping around rivers;
- › Clean up of five Illegal dumping blackspots.

Green Schools Programme

Green Schools is a leading environmental management and education program for schools. The programme is coordinated by the Environmental Education Unit of An Taisce in partnership with Roscommon County Council and works on 10 different themes, each of which take two years to complete. 30 primary and post primary schools renewed their Green Flag in 2024. 50 Schools have been awarded/ renewed green flag status in the two years to 31st December 2024.

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 2024.



Bulky goods Collection Service.

Green Schools Awards.



Environmental Awareness and Media Campaigns

The Environmental Education and Awareness Officer proactively involved the public, including schools, community groups, and businesses, in promoting sustainable practices. This was achieved through various initiatives, competitions, information sessions and support. These efforts aimed to help the public comprehend and contribute to a healthier and more sustainable environment.

Education and Awareness Initiatives

- › *Greener Spaces Competition* – Recognised and rewarded community groups and schools for their efforts in creating and maintaining green spaces within the county. 20 community groups and schools were recognised at an awards ceremony held in November 2024;
- › *Environmental Awareness Competitions* – Annual schools competition promoting the importance of recycling and sustainable practices;
- › *Relove Fashion Competition* – Sustainable fashion competition for secondary school students, developed by the Rediscovery Centre, Ireland's National Centre for the Circular Economy, and supported by Roscommon County Council;
- › *Picker Pals* – Initiative which encouraged children and their families to participate in litter picking. 16 classrooms from 15 schools were involved in 2024.

Community and Business Initiatives

- › *Bring Bank Anti-Dumping Campaign*;
- › *Adopt a Road/Adopt a Bring Bank* - 20 applications received from community groups;
- › *National Food Waste Recycling Week* – Five information sessions held in libraries in Roscommon;
- › *Green Business Hub*;
- › *Greening your Festival*;
- › *Tidy Towns* – Workshops held on *Dealing with Litter Effectively and the Circular Economy for Everyone*.

National Campaigns

- › *National Tree Week* – 300 native trees distributed to 21 community groups and schools;
- › *National Spring Clean* – 104 Spring Cleans registered;
- › *Gum Litter Taskforce Roadshow*.



Green Business Hub Breakfast.



Greener Spaces Awards.



Gum Litter Taskforce Roadshow.



Social Media

- › WEEE Ireland – campaigns included *Farm Fence Batteries*, *Dream of Change*, *We'll Take it Back*;
- › MyWaste – campaigns included *Butts Belong in the Bin*, *Your Country Your Waste*, *Circular Living*;
- › The Irish Farm Film Producers Group (IFFPG) *Farm Plastics Recycling Days*;
- › *Stop Food Waste*;
- › *Household Waste Management and Recycling*;
- › *Let's Clear the Air*;
- › *Bag it! Bin it!* anti-dog fouling campaign.



Rural Water

Uisce Éireann is responsible for the provision, operation and maintenance of water and wastewater to homes and businesses in County Roscommon. While some Council staff continue their work in this area, they now operate under the management and direction of Uisce Éireann.

In 2024, the rural water function was incorporated into the Environment Department's remit following the transition of water services to Uisce Éireann. The Council continues support to the group water scheme sector by assisting communities to sustain themselves and manage their own water affairs into the future.

The Council continues to close out works under the *Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2019-2021*. The new *Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2024-2026* was launched in Quarter 4, 2024. It includes a number of measures to enhance the rural water sector and includes additional grant funding levels under a number of measures to ensure that rural dwellers have access to clean and safe drinking water. An external expert panel continues to evaluate applications for funding under this programme.

Water Services

The delivery of water services in the county is under the operational direction of Uisce Eireann since July 2023. All costs associated with staff providing this service will continue to be reimbursed to Roscommon County Council through a service level agreement until 2026 when all staff will have transitioned or returned to the Council.

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.

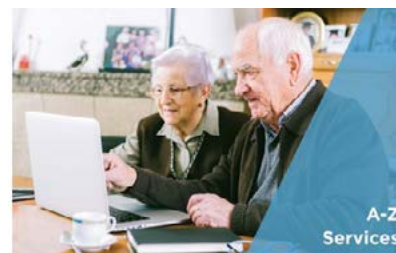
Resource time continued to be dedicated, in 2024, to supporting blended working solutions. The ICT Operations Team supported secure connections to the corporate network and provided staff with up-to-date managed devices to facilitate connections from remote working locations. Teams telephony was also implemented resulting in greater connectivity for staff both inside and outside the office.

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. One such measure to reduce the carbon footprint was the implementation of single devices for all staff, removing the need for both office and remote working devices.

The ICT Operations Team also bolstered the Council's cyber security defence by implementing anti-encryption and internal email scanning software. It continues to work on policies and procedures to comply with NIS2 European Cyber Security Regulations.

The ICT Operations Team also continued to achieve progress in 2024 regarding the following:

- › 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 tasked with the delivery of a digital transformation programme of works for the organisation. This transformation programme is not just about adopting new technologies but fundamentally changing how the Council operates, benefiting both staff and citizens alike.

In 2024, the Digital Transformation Team continued to integrate digital tools and platforms into Council work practices, enabling staff to collaborate more efficiently and effectively. Cloud-based solutions enabled seamless access to documents and data from anywhere, fostering a more flexible and responsive work environment. This shift has also led to significant time savings, as routine tasks are automated, allowing staff to focus on more strategic and impactful work.

The Council's digital transformation programme facilitates improved access to services and information for the citizens of Roscommon. The Council's *MyOnline Services* citizen portal and mobile customer apps have made it easier for residents to interact with the Council, whether it is paying bills, completing necessary forms or reporting issues. These digital channels are available 24/7, providing convenience and accessibility that traditional methods simply cannot match.

The Council's *MyOnline Services* portal has gone from strength to strength. At the end of 2024, there were over 5,000 citizens registered with 'self-service' accounts. 20,000 municipal and environmental issues have been reported online and 70 grant funding schemes, to the value of almost €21 million, have been processed through paperless channels. These figures demonstrate a positive trend in the adoption and utilization of digital services by the citizens of Roscommon, highlighting the success of the Council's digital transformation efforts.

GIS

The GIS Team continued throughout the year to maintain and develop systems that provide Council staff and members of the public with access to map-based information. It also enhanced the capacity for staff and the public to contribute information via surveys and web applications. The GIS Team works closely with the Digital Transformation Team to support their delivery of the transformation programme.

GIS systems include tools to view and collect location-based information. For example, in 2024, *Street Surveys* were created for various towns around the county to capture public sentiment about the quality of the county's urban spaces and provide reports on the information gathered. The GIS Team also created a website containing information for the electorate about the 2024 Local Elections.

The Council continued to gather more information digitally in 2024. Systems such as the *Bring Banks Survey* enabled Council staff to assess the current state of bring banks and target improvements that can be made to these facilities. 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 2024 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 2024. Following the 2024 Local Elections, the Annual Meeting was held in June where Cllr. Paschal Fitzmaurice was elected Cathaoirleach and Cllr. Larry Brennan as Leas Cathaoirleach. The Budget Meeting was held in November 2024 to approve the 2025 Budget.

Roscommon Municipal District held 12 meetings, Athlone nine meetings and Boyle eight meetings during 2024.

Corporate Plan 2024-2029

The development of the Council's *Corporate Plan* for the period 2024-2029 involved a comprehensive and inclusive process, designed to create a strategic framework that aligns with local, regional, national and European policies. This plan, prepared in compliance with the Local Government Act 2001 and the Local Government Reform Act 2014, was initiated following the election of a new Council in June 2024. The process consisted of a thorough review of previous plans and achievements and identifying the vision, mission, goals and objectives of the Council for the next five years. Key elements were refined through extensive consultations with internal and external stakeholders, including the public, Elected Members and staff. These were facilitated through workshops, briefings and online consultations.

Internal stakeholders such as the Corporate Policy Group, Strategic Policy Committees, Local Community Development Committee, Elected Members, management team and staff played a crucial role in shaping the plan. External stakeholders, including the Public Participation Network (PPN) representing community groups across the county, contributed through widely publicised online consultations advertised via social and traditional media. This broad stakeholder engagement ensured that the plan addressed the diverse needs and priorities of the community, encompassing various activities of the Council, including Municipal District functions.



The consultation events and engagements were instrumental in identifying goals and priority objectives. Led by the Council's Corporate Services Department, the plan's development included extensive engagement activities such as management team briefings, workshops with key groups, online public consultations, Elected Members consultations, staff surveys and PPN surveys. Briefings to the Local Community Development Committee and PPN further validated the key goals, formulating supporting strategies and activities. The plan was adopted by the Elected Members in December 2024.

The *Corporate Plan* outlines a clear vision and mission, supported by detailed performance goals based on a quantified operational baseline, making risk quantification and measurement straightforward. The risk management framework continuously monitors for potential obstacles or risks, ensuring the plan can be adjusted as needed. Flexibility and re-evaluation are built into the plan to accommodate shifting priorities and resource reallocation through the annual budget process. The Management Team plays a crucial role in implementing the *Corporate Plan*, addressing challenges, and adapting it in response to changing circumstances.

This plan is a central component of Roscommon County Council's business architecture, providing a framework that will guide the Council's actions over the next five years. It represents a commitment to delivering major projects that will enhance the quality of life for residents and foster sustainable development across the county. By building on achievements and continuing to innovate, Roscommon County Council aims to ensure that the county remains a vibrant and thriving community.

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 is continuously updated and remains 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 17th December 2024.

Table 1: Register of Electors

Dáil Constituency	Presidential Electors	Dáil Electors
Roscommon - Galway Constituency Electors	49,446	51,417
Midlands - North – West European Parliament Constituency Electors		50,749
Local Electoral Areas Electors		53,724
› Athlone Local Electoral Area		16,108
› Boyle Local Electoral Area		19,459
› Roscommon Local Electoral Area		18,157

Local Elections

Local Elections took place on the 7th June 2024 together with polls for the European Elections.

The number of Local Electoral Areas (LEAs) remained at three in County Roscommon. The number of Elected Members remained at 18 with an equal number of seats in each of the three LEAs. 37 candidates contested the three LEAs as follows:

- › Athlone – 10;
- › Boyle – 16;
- › Roscommon – 11.

The counting of votes in Roscommon County Council's Local Election commenced on 8th June 2024 in The Hyde Centre, Roscommon and concluded on 10th June 2024 with a recount in the Boyle LEA. The 18 Councillors were duly elected to the Council for a 5-year term of office.

Following the Local Elections, the Annual Meeting of the new Council took place on the 21st June 2024.



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 16th December 2024, 22 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. John Keogh, accompanied by Directors of Services Mark Keaveney and Greg O'Donnell, at the invitation of the County Roscommon Society of New York, visited New York in March 2024 to meet with the Roscommon diaspora and to promote economic and tourism opportunities for Roscommon.

Dermot Earley 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, one male and one female, with an accomplished background in sport who are attending their first year in third-level education. Successful applicants for the academic year 2024/2025 were Charlotte Blackweir representing Pádraig Pearse and Tommy Morris representing St. Aidans, Four Roads.

Social Media

The Council operates Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube and LinkedIn social media accounts. 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.

Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021

From 1st January to 31st December 2024 public bodies are required, under Section 10A of the Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021, to meet targets relating to advertising placement and spend in the Irish language. Public bodies are also required to furnish a report on these activities to An Coimisinéir Teanga. Roscommon County Council is required to place 20% of advertisements, including social media advertising, in the Irish Language or in English and Irish. It is also required to allocate 5% of advertising spend to advertising in Irish language media outlets.

Table 2: Irish or Bilingual Advertising

2024 Figures	
Total advertisements placed	291
Irish or bilingual advertisements placed	63
Percentage of advertisements in Irish or bilingual	21.65%

Veterinary Functions

The Council continued to operate a service contract throughout 2024 with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) to oversee food safety in seven approved slaughterhouses and five approved stand-alone meat manufacturing plants. There are also three food businesses registered with the Council. The supervision of slaughter was carried out by the Council's Veterinary Officer and temporary Veterinary Inspectors. All animals were inspected ante-mortem and post-mortem to ensure that meat was fit for human consumption. Traceability of all animals was also verified. 2,757 cattle, 1,713 sheep, 278 pigs and 29 goats were slaughtered in 2024 in Council supervised slaughterhouses in County Roscommon. At the end of December, the veterinary service transferred to the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine.

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 2024, expenditure on dog control services amounted to €220,575. The total income in respect of licences and fees was €76,552.

The Dog Breeding Establishments Act, 2010 requires premises to apply for inclusion on the Register of Dog Breeding Establishments. Two establishments were included on the Council's register at the end of 2024.

In October 2024, new XL Bully Regulations came into force. All XL Bully dogs require their owners to have a certificate of exemption to be in possession of the dog.

Freedom of Information (FOI)

The Council received 107 FOI requests in 2024. A breakdown of the outcome of these requests is outlined in **Table 3**.

Table 3: FOI Requests

Number of FOI requests undetermined at 1st January 2024	6
Number of FOI requests received during 2024	107
Number of FOI requests granted	32
Number of FOI requests part-granted	33
Number of FOI requests refused	36
Number of FOI requests transferred, withdrawn or dealt with outside of FOI	7
Number of FOI requests undetermined at 31st December 2024	5

Access to Information on the Environment (AIE)

The Council received 18 AIE requests in 2024. Details of the outcome of these requests are presented in **Table 4**.

Table 4: AIE Requests

Number of AIE requests undetermined at 1st January 2024	0
Number of AIE requests received during 2024	18
Number of AIE requests granted	8
Number of AIE requests part-granted	3
Number of AIE requests refused	5
Number of AIE requests withdrawn	0
Number of AIE requests undetermined at 31st December 2024	2

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 2024 in order to discharge its data protection responsibilities. The Council processed 14 Subject Access Requests (SARs) during the year.

Ethics Declarations and Reporting of Political Donations

Ethics declarations were submitted by all Elected Members and 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 2024, with requirements set out in the Local Elections (Disclosure of Donations and Expenditure Act 1999 (as amended) for the reporting of political donations.

Protected Disclosures

The following report in **Table 5** was prepared and published by the Council in accordance with Section 22 of the Protected Disclosures Act 2014:

Table 5: Protected Disclosures – Reporting Period 1st January to 31st December 2024

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 remains committed to implementing the local authorities' *Safety Management System*. This commitment is demonstrated through the continuous review of current systems, the execution of the health and safety inspection programme and the completion of the annual work programme. The Council ensures effective communication and consultation with employees, facilitating health and safety training as needed. Employees are supported in implementing safe work systems. The Council also liaises with the Health and Safety Authority, Uisce Éireann, and other stakeholders as appropriate.

Under the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act, 2005, health and safety are considered a joint responsibility of employers, management representatives and employees.

The 2024 work programme included:

- › Monitoring the *Safety Management System* through ongoing work inspections and accident statistics analysis;
- › Operating and continuously reviewing the *ISO 45001 Certification* standard for the Fire Service;
- › Developing and updating the Council's *Safety Management System* documentation, including health and safety policies, risk assessments and safe work plans;
- › Developing and delivering an *Occupational Health, Welfare, and Staff Wellbeing Programme*, including occupational vaccinations, lone working devices, wellbeing talks and sun safety packs for staff;
- › Continuing cooperation with external parties such as the Health and Safety Authority and Uisce Éireann;
- › Monitoring existing contractor control policies and procedures;
- › Continuously improving Council communication and cooperation processes, including quarterly safety management committee and safety representative committee meetings;

- › Continuing the development and delivery of *Manual Handling and Health and Safety Induction Training Programmes*;
- › Ensuring compliance with statutory duties for third-party inspections of Council-owned lifting and work equipment;
- › Managing all construction works in compliance with relevant legislation and the Council's construction project management policies and procedures;
- › Providing advice and support to all Council units regarding health and safety.

Public Sector Human Rights and Equality Duty

The Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty (the Duty) is contained in Section 42 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014. The Duty places a statutory obligation on the Council to have regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and protect the human rights of its staff, customers, service users and everyone affected by its policies and plans.

The Council has conducted an assessment of its responsibilities under this Duty, evaluating the human rights and equality issues relevant to its functions and purpose. The Council has identified specific actions that it is currently implementing or intends to take to address these issues. These human rights duty actions are integrated into supporting strategies and activities outlined in the Council's *Corporate Plan*. The ongoing implementation of the Duty, across all functions will underpin and drive a rolling assessment of equality and human rights issues across the various units of the Council. This, in turn, will enable the development of operational procedures to incorporate actions adequate to address the equality and human rights issues assessed. The Council will monitor and report on the progress made in addressing the identified issues through its *Annual Report*.

Roscommon County Council has conducted and published on its website an assessment of the human rights and equality issues it believes to be relevant to its functions and purpose. Policies, plans and actions have been put in place to address these and are set out in Appendix 4 of the *Corporate Plan*.

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

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 2024-2029*. 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 its 2030 and 2050 energy decarbonisation targets and deliver on the wider public sector mandate;
- › Embedding an energy management programme appropriate to the size of the Council;
- › Developing a project pipeline towards 2030 energy decarbonisation targets and plan strategically towards achieving net zero by 2050;
- › Reporting annually on the Council and building stock energy performance;
- › Working with SEAI to undertake an annual review of its energy management and energy decarbonisation actions;
- › Reporting its progress on energy efficiency and GHG emission reductions annually to SEAI;
- › Considering energy efficiency and GHG 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 is 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. This contract was renewed in October 2024 with Electric Skyline following a competition on eTenders. There are approximately 8,000 public lights in County Roscommon with 83% 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. It has been agreed at regional level to progress all public lighting LED retrofits through our respective maintenance contracts. This strategy enables better value for money and more efficient contract management. A detailed asset survey is also planned for public lighting infrastructure in the region which will allow for greater efficiency in planning and maintenance of the network.

Declaration in Accordance with S.I. 542 of 2009

Overview of Energy Usage

In 2024, the Council spent €1.85 million on energy-related charges with the main categories consisting of:

- › Public lighting energy and maintenance charges;
- › Electricity charges for lighting, equipment and space heating;
- › Thermal fuels for space heating (e.g. kerosene, biomass, natural gas);
- › 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;
- › Partial decarbonisation of the Council's fleet.



In 2024, 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. The Council's annual public lighting energy usage is now around 48% lower than in 2017, despite a 25% increase in the number of public lighting columns during the same period.

As of December 2023, Roscommon County Council's energy performance has improved by 46.3% compared to the 2009 baseline, meaning the Council is in line to achieve its energy efficiency improvement target by 2030. As of December 2023, its GHG emissions are 13.4% below the 2016 – 2018 baseline. However, it is expected that ongoing fleet decarbonisation efforts will significantly reduce the Council's GHG emissions and bring it into line with its 2030 targets.

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;
- › Further fleet decarbonisation;
- › Further building energy retrofits.



Human Resources

The Human Resources (HR) Department plays a vital role in supporting the workforce of Roscommon County Council. Its primary responsibilities include staff recruitment, training and development, industrial relations, employee well-being, workforce planning and compliance with employment legislation. In 2024, the HR Department continued to focus on strategic initiatives to enhance efficiency, promote employee engagement and support service delivery across the organisation.

Workforce Planning

Roscommon County Council recognises that its employees are the most valuable resource within the organisation. They play a crucial role in the achievement of its corporate objectives and are a key resource fundamental to the delivery of change. The HR 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 the year with 38 competitions advertised and interviews were conducted either remotely or in person. Retention of staff and filling of vacancies continued to be a priority throughout the year. The total number of staff employed by Roscommon County Council at 31st December 2024 was 502.

In Quarter 4, 2024, the HR Department commenced the process of preparing a *Strategic Workforce Plan* in line with the new *Corporate Plan* that was adopted by the Council in December 2024. Strategic workforce planning is the process of analysing and forecasting an organisation's workforce needs to ensure it has the right people, with the right skills, in the right roles, at the right time. It aligns workforce planning with business goals, enabling proactive decision-making on recruitment, development and succession planning to meet future demands.

Performance Management

The existing *Integrated Performance Management System* provides a structured framework that aligns individual and team objectives with Roscommon County Council's strategic goals as outlined in the *Corporate Plan*, thereby fostering a culture of continuous improvement and accountability. It combines key HR processes such as goal setting, performance appraisal, competency development and feedback mechanisms to enhance employee engagement and productivity. By leveraging data-driven insights and digital tools, the system ensures transparency, facilitates informed decision-making and supports talent development. Ultimately, the *Integrated Performance Management System* strengthens workforce capability, improves service delivery and contributes to the organisation's long-term success.

Staff Training and Development

In 2024, the HR Department successfully delivered a comprehensive training programme, ensuring the continuous professional development of staff across all levels. This programme encompassed a wide range of mandatory training courses to ensure compliance with regulatory and health and safety requirements alongside further education opportunities and leadership development initiatives. Through a combination of in-person sessions, e-learning and external partnerships, employees were equipped with the necessary skills to enhance service delivery and adapt to evolving workplace demands. The Council remains committed to fostering a culture of learning and career progression, supporting staff in achieving their full potential while strengthening organisational capacity.

Industrial Relations

The HR 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.

Uisce Éireann Transition

The HR Department continues to support staff assigned to Water Services who are delivering services under the direction of Uisce Éireann. Roscommon County Council continues to operate under a support service agreement with Uisce Éireann until the end of 2026. As of the 31st December 2024, 49 staff were assigned to Water Services.

Attendance Management

The Council's *Attendance Management Policy* helps to provide a working environment that maximises and motivates employee attendance. The policy aims to reduce absenteeism and results in improved service delivery and reduced costs. The percentage of working days lost to sickness absenteeism in 2024 was 4.33%.

Child Protection

The HR Department ensured compliance in 2024 with child protection regulations, with all relevant staff receiving updated training under the *Children First* guidelines. Safeguarding policies were reviewed and strengthened in collaboration with Department/Business Unit Heads to ensure a safe environment for children interacting with Council services.

Regeneration,
Economic Development,
Community, Tourism
and Heritage Directorate

Cloonlarge Loop Walk

Regeneration and Economic Development

The role of Roscommon County Council's Special Projects and Regeneration Department 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 2024 included the following:

- › The unique and striking Covered Civic Space in Market Square, Roscommon was officially launched by Minister for Housing Darragh O'Brien in May 2024.
- › Works also progressed significantly on the enhancement of laneways leading to Market Square with the completion and launch of the Poetry Laneway taking place. Works to the mosaic laneway were also significantly advanced with expected completion in Quarter 2, 2025.
- › The artist commissioned to provide a sculptural piece for the Market Square initiated metal work and casting of the piece in 2024 with an expected installation in Quarter 2, 2025.
- › An application to the value of €12.3 million, entitled *Roscommon Town – Putting the Spokes Back into the Wheel*, was approved in Quarter 1, 2021. The project includes three elements as follows:
 - › *Roscommon Town Centre East* – progressed to detailed design and construction tender pack in 2024 with a plan to publish the construction tender in 2025.
 - › *Roscommon Town Centre West* – Part 8 planning application approved in 2024 with detailed design and preparation of tender pack commenced. It is planned to publish the construction tender in late 2025.
 - › *Roscommon Town Outer Cycling Route* – Resource prioritisation is focused on the above two elements with preliminary design for the cycling route to follow.

The Covered Civic Space launched by Minister Dara O'Brien with the help of Music Generation Roscommon.





Poetry Laneway at night, Roscommon Town.



Mosaic Laneway – Roscommon Town.

Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF)

Activity in 2024 included the following:

- › Construction work on the *Castlereagh Food Hub* was completed with an official launch by Minister Heather Humphries taking place in May 2024. Construction works were also completed at the *Monksland Life Sciences and Soft-Landing Space* with an official launch by Minister Heather Humphries taking place in May 2024.
- › Works continued on the RRDF project *Energising Boyle Town Centre and King House*. In addition to upgrades to King House including exhibitions, energy efficiency works and campus facilities, which were completed in 2024, works also continued on public realm enhancements on Bridge Street and Shop Street, including the adjacent carpark. These works are due for completion in Quarter 2, 2025.
- › Construction works commenced on the *Ballaghaderreen Public Realm* enhancements with substantial progress made in 2024. Funding for the *Public Realm Enhancement Scheme* in Strokestown was approved in 2024. Detailed design and preparation of the construction tender pack has commenced with construction procurement to be completed by mid-2025. Preliminary design and continued public consultation were undertaken in 2024 as part of plans to develop a multi-purpose community hub for Monksland. A Part 8 planning application for this project is expected to be published in mid-2025. A construction tender was published in 2024 with assessment and appointment of the main contractor to be completed by the end of Quarter 2, 2025.



Minister Heather Humphries officially opens An Chistin, May 2024.



Minister Heather Humphries officially opens the Monksland Innovation Hub, May 2024

Town and Village Renewal Scheme

In 2024, a number of *Town and Village Renewal Scheme* projects were successfully completed, including park projects in Athleague and Ballintubber. Examples of works carried out included the development of gazebos, paved pedestrian areas, playgrounds, landscaping, lighting and seating. *Town and Village Renewal Scheme* project development funding also allowed the Council to commission and complete a masterplan including planning for the community centre environs in Ballinagare in 2024, with the aim of developing a recreational amenity on the community centre site. A further €150,000 project development funding was confirmed in late 2024 for three projects in Strokestown (Magnet Ballroom), Castlerea (Bennetts Walled Garden) and Roscommon town (Loughnaneane Park). This funding will facilitate the assessment and development of a planned design for these three important points of interest.

Town and Village Renewal Scheme funding also saw a number of other projects brought through the pipeline in 2024 with the continuation of significant works in Monksland, Arigna 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.



Circle of Life Park, Athleague.

Carrying on this trend of significant investment in community amenities, three further construction projects were granted funding in 2024. These included projects in Monksland, Ballaghaderreen and Castleplunkett. Works include tiered seating/amphitheatre in Monksland, an accessible town park in Ballaghaderreen and the regeneration of an existing amenity area in Castleplunkett into an outdoor recreation space including playground, seating and landscaping.

Ballintubber Park.



Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)

The Regeneration Unit was busy progressing the following projects during 2024:

- › Works were completed on the *Northwater Accessible For All Kayak Project*, which facilitated wheelchair accessible kayak launches to be installed at Doon Shore, Lough Key Forest Park and Boyle Canal. It also includes car park enhancements at all three locations, a swim dock at Doon Shore and substantial tree planting and signage at Boyle Canal.
- › The *Ballintubber and Ballymoe Waterways Project* was completed in 2024 following the development of two connected slipways and associated parking and landscaping along with a looped cycleway.
- › Work was fully completed on the development of the recreational amenity linking both marinas in Ballyleague. This work included the addition of two look out nodes, landscaping works with a dedicated garden space, resurfacing of the carpark, new awning and additional identity signage.
- › A number of other *ORIS* funded projects also commenced construction in 2024 including *Arigna Discovery Park and Miners Trail*, *Rathcroghan Looped Trails* and *Mote Park Sensory Sculpture and Trail Experience*. These projects are expected to be completed by mid-2025.
- › In 2024, further funding of almost €800,000 was approved for projects in Boyle, Donamon and Elphin. This funding will facilitate works including refurbishment and upgrade of existing amenities, improvement and addition of walkways, seating, trails and signage.
- › €100,000 in funding was also approved for project development measures at Athleague and Castlerea to assess the feasibility of a looped walk and a riverside boardwalk.

Large Scale Sports Infrastructure Fund

In 2024, funding was secured to progress the *iRos - Indoor Recreation and Outdoor Sports Park* for Roscommon town. A multi-disciplinary consultant was appointed in 2024 to progress the project through the planning and design phase. A Part 8 planning application for the development is expected to be published in late 2025.



Swim dock – Doon Shore, Boyle.



Wheelchair accessible kayak launch – Lough Key, Boyle.

EU Just Transition Fund

Three projects, as follows, were approved for funding under the *EU Just Transition Funding* stream in 2024:

- › *Hodson Bay Waterfront Park* – funding was secured from Failte Ireland to progress this project through the planning and design phase in partnership with Waterways Ireland. The project includes planned enhancements to the existing marina, the development of a lakeside promenade and upgrades to the existing watersports facility along with enhancements to connectivity and access to the site.
- › *Ballaghaderreen Community Centre* – funding was secured to refurbish and re-purpose an incomplete filling station in Ballaghaderreen to provide a community and training facility.
- › *Lough Key Forest and Adventure Park Masterplan (Design)* - this project proposes significant enhancement to existing facilities at Lough Key. The project is being led by Coillte in partnership with Roscommon County Council.

A further funding application was submitted to develop a feasibility study for the potential development of a *Riverside Park Amenity* in Tarmonbarry. A decision on this application is expected in 2025.

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF Thrive)

Funding has been secured to progress an integrated urban strategy with a focus on re-use of vacant or derelict heritage buildings in local authority ownership. A multi-disciplinary consultancy team has been engaged to develop the strategy and select a heritage building for progression through the Part 8 planning process.

CLÁR 2024

A total of €700,757 was allocated to 15 community organisations under the CLÁR 2024 programme. **Table 1** provides details of the funding that was allocated.

2024 also saw the completion of a significant number of projects, which had received funding under the CLÁR 2023 programme. These included works at GAA Clubs in Kiltewan, Kilglass and Castlereagh. Soccer clubs in Boyle and Ballaghaderreen and community centre upgrades in Athlone were also funded. Further projects for astro pitches, car park enhancements and upgrades of community gymnasiums were also substantially advanced in 2024 and will be due for completion in early 2025.

Table 1: CLÁR Funding

Name of Group	Amount Approved	Description of the Project
Ballintubber Development Association	€50,000	Surfacing of playground
Ballyleague National School	€50,000	Community car park
Boyle Town Teams	€39,649	Creation of a multi-use games area
Clann Na Gael GAA	€49,217	Upgrade the existing gravel carpark surface
Elphin Community Centre	€50,000	Refurbish toilet facilities, energy saving equipment and level outdoor area for outdoor classes
Enterprise Castlereagh Ltd.	€49,296	Installation of a lift
Gorthaganny (Marian Hall) Community Centre	€50,000	Carpark upgrades
Keadue Sportsfield Committee	€45,000	Extend and upgrade the existing walking/running track and tennis court
Moore United	€50,000	Redevelopment of pitch and improve playing surface
Reeside Athletics Club	€50,000	Construction of an 8-lane runway totalling 80m in length with long jump and high jump areas to the side
St Aidans GAA	€50,000	Installation of a disabled access covered viewing area in the stand and disabled access toilets
St Marys Hall Kilbegnet and Glinsk	€33,268	Install new windows and audio-visual equipment and update kitchen and storage in the centre
St Ronans Hall	€42,082	Internal and external works to community centre
Strokestown Community Centre	€49,050	Resurfacing of existing car park
Tulsk GAA	€43,195	Walkway development



CLÁR Project – Spectator stand at Boyle Celtic Soccer Club.



CLÁR Project – Walkway and lighting at Castlerea St Kevins GAA Club.

Summary

At the end of 2024, the Regeneration Department had over 70 active projects spread across the county at various stages of progression ranging from 'Feasibility Assessment' to 'Application Submitted and Awaiting Funding' through to 'In Design' or 'Under Active Construction'. This allows the Regeneration Department to implement an evolving pipeline of projects as funding becomes available. These projects represent almost €60 million in Department funding with Roscommon County Council providing matching funding in excess of €13 million to bring these projects to fruition.

Town Centre First

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. Roscommon County Council continues to support Town Teams throughout the county. A suite of supports for Town Teams was delivered in 2024 including capacity building and support to prepare a *Town Health Check* in three towns, Boyle, Ballaghaderreen and Monksland.

Work started on the *Castlerea Town Centre First Plan* and will be completed by the end of 2025. This follows the *Strokestown Town Centre First Plan* that has already been published.

Three projects in Roscommon, Strokestown and Castlerea successfully secured funding under the *Town and Village Project Development Measure Scheme*. These will be progressed in 2025.

A *Heritage Led Regeneration Plan* was completed for Strokestown with funding from the *Historic Towns Initiative* through the Heritage Council. A pipeline of heritage type projects is expected to follow.

Table 2: Regeneration and Special Projects Summary 2018-2024

Project Status	Number of Projects	Value €
Completed Projects	167	€26,035,000
Live Projects	71	€59,995,000
Future Project Pipeline	12	€64,190,000



Monksland Town Health Check.



Strokestown Heritage Led Regeneration Plan 2024.

Community Development

A key role of the Council is to provide democratic representation and civic leadership for the local community. Vibrant communities are vital to making our towns, villages and rural areas welcoming places to live, work and visit. Roscommon County Council values the contribution of community and voluntary groups and offers various supports to promote community development, participation, activities and projects.

We collaborate closely with local communities and partners, including local development companies, government departments and state agencies such as the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD), Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY), Health Service Executive (HSE), Education and Training Boards (ETBs), An Garda Síochána, Tusla and the Children and Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC) to help address the needs of stakeholders and communities.

Comhairle na nÓg

Roscommon Comhairle na nÓg is primarily funded through the *Comhairle na nÓg Development Fund* which is administered by Pobal on behalf of the DCEDIY. This fund provides annual financial support to each of the 31 local authorities in Ireland to facilitate the operation of their respective Comhairlí na nÓg. Specifically, each local authority receives up to €25,000 to support the development and activities of youth councils.

In 2024, Roscommon Comhairle na nÓg continued to serve as a dynamic platform for youth engagement, focusing on mental health and educational pressures. Advocacy efforts culminated in the *Listen Link* initiative, which aims to establish non-clinical listening services in secondary schools across the county. This initiative has gained traction, with significant discussions at both local and national levels, reflecting the commitment to enhancing youth mental health support.

A pivotal event was the *Annual Youth Conference* held in Castlerea, where over 160 delegates gathered to discuss pressing issues such as school stress, homework and vaping. This conference not only highlighted the challenges faced by young people but also fostered a collaborative environment for sharing solutions and strategies. The outcomes of these discussions have been instrumental in shaping ongoing projects and advocacy efforts.

Roscommon Comhairle na nÓg also participated in the national *Dáil na nÓg* initiative in March 2024, where youth representatives from across Ireland convened to debate mental health issues. This event provided a national platform for Roscommon's youth to voice their concerns and contribute to the broader conversation on mental health policies.

Looking ahead, Roscommon Comhairle na nÓg remains dedicated to empowering young people, advocating for their needs and fostering a supportive environment for their growth and well-being. Initiatives in 2024 have laid a solid foundation for continued progress in the coming years.

Age Friendly

The Social Inclusion Unit is responsible for the *Age Friendly Programme* and supports the work of the Older Person's Council (OPC), the Age Friendly Alliance and Age Friendly Ireland.

In 2024, Roscommon County Council's *Age Friendly Programme*, in collaboration with the OPC, continued to enhance the quality of life for older residents through a diverse range of initiatives.

Community Engagement and Events

A highlight of the year was the *Age Friendly Christmas Festival* held on 4th December 2024 at Kilbride Community Centre. The event featured health screenings, information stands and presentations on topics such as home safety and the *Message in a Bottle* initiative. Entertainment, including music and dancing, fostered a festive and inclusive atmosphere. The event was supported by Roscommon GAA and Civil Defence, who provided free transport for attendees.

Earlier in the year, the OPC organized an *Older Men's Health Morning* at the County Library. Activities included chair yoga, nutrition advice and a mobile health unit offering free health checks. The event aimed to promote physical well-being and social interaction among older men in the community.

Advocacy and Infrastructure Improvements

In February 2024, the OPC advocated for the retention of the post office in Roscommon town, engaging with local TDs and councillors to ensure continued access to essential services for older residents.

Additionally, a *Walkability Audit* was conducted at Carrick-on-Shannon train station. This initiative aimed to assess and improve the accessibility of public transport for older individuals, contributing to the development of an age friendly transport infrastructure.

Cultural and Social Inclusion

The *Memory Café* initiative, organised by the Roscommon Dementia Alliance, continued to provide a supportive environment for individuals affected by dementia and their families. Held monthly at Lough Key Forest Park, these gatherings offered social interaction opportunities and access to valuable resources.

Furthermore, the *Creativity in Older Age Programme* facilitated cultural events across the county, engaging older residents in activities such as music, dance and storytelling. These events aimed to combat social isolation and promote active participation in cultural life.

Leadership and Recognition

Paddy Joe Burke was appointed as Roscommon's Age Friendly Ambassador in May 2024. His role involves promoting age friendly initiatives and representing the OPC at various events, enhancing the visibility and impact of the programme.

In recognition of its efforts, Roscommon County Council's *Age Friendly Programme* was shortlisted for the *Fit Farmers* initiative under the *Active and Healthy Ageing Award* at the *National Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Awards 2024*.

The *Age Friendly Programme* in Roscommon continues to make significant strides in creating an inclusive environment for older residents. Through community engagement, advocacy and cultural initiatives, the programme fosters a supportive and active community for all ages.

Roscommon Social Inclusion Unit

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

One of highlights of the year was *Social Inclusion Week 2024*, organised in collaboration with the Roscommon Public Participation Network (PPN). This week-long series of events focused on promoting equality, participation and access for all community members. Activities included workshops, cultural celebrations and community discussions designed to engage individuals from various backgrounds and abilities. The initiative underscored the Council's commitment to embedding social inclusion in its operations and fostering a more inclusive society.



Roscommon Pride Parade 2024.



Bike Week 2024.

Recreation and Inclusion

During 2024, the Social Inclusion Unit continued to focus on face-to-face events. These included a hugely successful *Play Day* held in Lough Key Forest Park, collaborating with the various stakeholders including the Roscommon County Child Care committee. Other events held included *Bike Week*, *Africa Day* and a variety of community initiatives.

Migrant Integration Strategy

In 2023, Roscommon County Council completed the development of the *County Migrant Integration Strategy*, representing a significant step forward in promoting inclusion, equality and community cohesion across the county. This strategy was the result of a collaborative, tri-agency approach involving Roscommon LEADER Partnership, Roscommon CYPSC and the Council. This joint effort ensured a wide-ranging and representative framework that reflects the diverse needs and experiences of migrants living in County Roscommon.

The *County Migrant Integration Strategy* outlines key actions to support the social, cultural and economic inclusion of migrants and people from diverse ethnic backgrounds. It aims to improve access to services, promote intercultural dialogue and foster a welcoming environment for all residents, regardless of their nationality or background.

Currently, the strategy is under formal review to ensure its continued relevance and alignment with emerging national priorities. This review process is being informed by anticipated updates to the *National Migrant Integration Strategy*, which is expected to provide new guidance and direction.

Once the revised national framework is published, Roscommon County Council will update its local strategy, accordingly, ensuring that it remains responsive to policy developments and the evolving needs of its migrant communities.

Community Recognition Fund 2023 and 2024

In 2023, Roscommon County Council was allocated €689,057 under the national *Community Recognition Fund*, an initiative by the DRCD. This fund was established to acknowledge and support communities that have welcomed individuals from Ukraine and other countries, aiming to enhance local infrastructure and facilities for the benefit of all residents. Projects under this scheme were progressed in 2024.

In 2024, Roscommon County Council received an allocation of €1,002,434 through this funding programme. This phase of the fund focuses on capital projects that provide medium to long-term benefits, with initiatives being developed and delivered across 2024, 2025 and 2026.



Ballaghaderreen Community Park Exercise Equipment.



PPN Plenary in the Abbey Hotel in November 2024.

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 local authority 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, the County Heritage Forum and the Council's four Strategic Policy Committees. The PPN facilitated 30 representatives on seven local committees in 2024. The network currently supports a growing membership of over 400 groups in the county.

In relation to public consultations, member groups engaged on multiple local policy formulations in 2024, including the *Roscommon County Council Corporate Plan (2024-2029)*, various *Local Area Plans (LAPs)* and the *Healthy Roscommon Community Wellbeing Plan (2024-2026)*. The PPN also continued to deliver a series of community engagement initiatives including online information sessions, funding webinars and in-person networking events in 2024 to support funding acquisition and capacity building for groups.

The PPN delivered its annual *County Roscommon Community Training Programme* which is an interagency collaboration responding to community training needs. This innovative programme is led by Roscommon PPN in association with Roscommon LEADER Partnership and the Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board (GRET). It is informed by a training needs analysis conducted with over 400 community groups in the county. Over the course of 2024, 12 community training workshops were delivered.

The PPN also delivered two highly informative county plenary events with its members in May and November 2024, providing communities with opportunities to ratify committee representatives, contribute to PPN workplans and hear all about the latest in funding and community supports.

Tourism

Roscommon continues to grow as a vibrant and sustainable tourism destination, offering a unique blend of rich heritage, natural beauty and authentic visitor experiences. Throughout the past year, the Roscommon Tourism Department has worked in close collaboration with tourism industry partners, local communities and national stakeholders to develop and promote tourism in County Roscommon.

Marketing and Media

Roscommon Tourism invested heavily in a year-long *Visit Roscommon* marketing campaign throughout 2024 using digital marketing, social media, radio and print media. Ireland AM's Breakfast Show broadcasted live from King House in the spring, with presenter Deiric O'Hartigan also presenting the weather forecast from the Crescent in Boyle. This provided fantastic media coverage for both King House and Boyle. *Visit Roscommon* achieved widespread national online coverage featuring in both Independent.ie and on the homepage of MSN for its *Visit Roscommon Countywide Christmas Marketing Campaign*.



Ireland AM'S Deiric O'Hartigan with Tour Guide Mary Lavin at King House, Boyle.

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 supported by Fáilte Ireland's *Destination Town* funding for Boyle continued and were fully completed in November 2024.

Just Transition Fund

Fáilte Ireland launched the *Just Transition Regenerative Tourism Scheme* in 2023, with an announcement that €68 million was available for the midland's counties over a 3-year period. A new Just Transition Activator was appointed to Roscommon County Council's Tourism Department to assist in the delivery of *Scheme B Funding for Private SMEs* (small and medium sized enterprises) in County Roscommon. Roscommon County Council prepared and submitted applications for *Scheme D State Partnership Project Funding*.

Roscommon Tourism Strategy 2025-2030

The public consultation process for the *Roscommon Tourism Strategy 2025-2030* commenced in September 2024. The strategy is to be officially launched in Quarter 2, 2025.

Tourism Ireland International Marketing

Roscommon Tourism along with representatives from the Roscommon tourism trade attended marketing workshops with international tour operators in Germany and Italy in June 2024. These networking events were organised by Tourism Ireland in association with Ireland West Airport. They provided an excellent opportunity to showcase not only Roscommon as a tourist destination but also the new direct flights between Cologne, Milan and Ireland West Airport providing easy access to the West of Ireland from these key European markets.



Roscommon Tourism Officer with representatives from Lough Key Forest and Activity Park, Strokestown Park and the Arigna Mining Experience at the Tourism Ireland Trade Event in Cologne, Germany.

Community Tourism Event – An Enchanted Christmas Trail

Roscommon County Council in association with the Roscommon Lights Committee and Roscommon Town Team organised the *Enchanted Christmas Trail* event at Loughnaneane Park, Roscommon for the second year running. This magical event transformed the park into a winter wonderland, featuring a captivating display of lights, illuminated Christmas characters and a performance of *The Snow Queen's Enchanted Realm* by local drama company Enchanted Croí Theatre.

The *Enchanted Christmas Trail* event was part of the *Roscommon Christmas Festival* that included over 40 market stalls in Roscommon Town Square, featuring artisan food, crafts and festive treats, as well as live entertainment such as the Roscommon Men's Choir, circus performances and a captivating dinosaur display. The festivities culminated with a spectacular fireworks display marking the grand finale of the weekend's celebrations.

Chief Executive Shane Tiernan and Leas Cathaoirleach Larry Brennan along with Karen McManus from Enchanted Croí Theatre, sisters Andrea and Carla Blake and Caoimhe Murray at the launch of the Enchanted Christmas Trail.





Cathaoirleach Paschal Fitzmaurice with An Taoiseach Simon Harris and Tourism Officer Lisa Joy at the Night and Day Festival in June 2024.

Festivals and Events

41 applications were received for the *Festivals and Events Grant*. 29 events were granted funding. Total funds allocated amounted to €41,250. Roscommon's newest music and arts festival, the *Night and Day Festival* enjoyed a fantastic second year at Lough Key Forest and Activity Park with a significant increase in attendance from 2023.



Night and Day Festival.

Roscommon Bound – Global Rossie Day

The Roscommon Bound *Choose Roscommon for a Richer Life* campaign was rolled out from May to September 2024. This campaign showcased Roscommon as an ideal place to live, work and visit. It highlighted Roscommon's key riches as community spirit, connectivity, tourism, wellness opportunities, economic development and heritage. The campaign aimed to attract individuals and families seeking a balanced lifestyle away from urban areas to Roscommon's peaceful landscapes. A highlight of this campaign was the inaugural *Global Rossie Day* held on 22nd September 2024, which featured local events, entertainment and activities designed to engage both residents and those with connections to Roscommon.



Chief Executive Shane Tiernan and Tourism Officer Lisa Joy at the launch of the Roscommon Bound – Choose Roscommon for a Richer Life Campaign.

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 Heritage Officer and Heritage Work Programme is supported with funding from the Heritage Council.

Key Achievements in 2024

54 events were registered in the county for *National Heritage Week*. 99 Heritage Office News emails were circulated. 48 social media posts were scheduled. 35 projects were delivered under the *Built Heritage Investment Scheme*, *Historic Structures Fund*, *Community Monuments Fund*, *Local Biodiversity Action Fund* and the *County Heritage Plan* scheme. Four Heritage Forum meetings took place.

A Biodiversity Officer was appointed in September 2024, as part of the Heritage Team. Completion of a *Survey of the Heritage of Holy Wells in County Roscommon*, by Tamlyn McHugh of Fadó Archaeology represented another key achievement. Survey results were compiled into *Customs & Cures – Roscommon's Holy Wells*, an exhibition in Roscommon County Library during *National Heritage Week* and a short film.

Policy and Strategic Work in 2024

Pre-draft public consultation for a new *County Heritage Strategy* was carried out in Quarter 1, 2024. The Heritage Forum prepared a draft strategy for consideration in Quarter 4, 2024.

Phase 1 of a phased series of works, towards the overall consolidation of the *County Roscommon Folklore and Oral History Collection* was carried out. This involved the generation of appropriate process, consent, usage and ethical policies, in addition to work on the construction of a project database.

In conjunction with the project partners, a Project Co-ordinator was appointed to assist with the progression of the *Royal Sites of Ireland' UNESCO World Heritage Bid*, which includes Rathcroghan.



Customs and Cures Roscommon's Holy Wells exhibition in Roscommon Library during National Heritage Week.



Viewing the completed conservation works to the Owen O'Connor mausoleum in Ballintubber, Piers O'Connor Nash; Eileen Kenny, Betty and Pat Garvey from Ballintubber Tidy Towns & Heritage and Fr. Pat O'Toole along with the project team - Niall Darroch, Stonemason, Eoin Halpin, Archaeologist and Michael O'Boyle, Conservation Architect.



A well-attended workshop on Recording Historic Graveyards took place over two days in Derrane graveyard under the Direction of John Tierney, Archaeologist.



Know Your Locality course participants enjoying their field trip under the direction of Dr. Stephen Mandal from the Irish Archaeology Field School.

Research, Surveys and Data Collection in 2024

Phase 2 of the *Survey of the Heritage of Holy Wells in County Roscommon* was carried out. This completed the survey for County Roscommon. In total 85 wells were surveyed. The survey contains an overview of the tradition of Holy Wells; locations, setting and types of Holy Wells; archaeology features; saints, pattern days and rituals of Holy Wells; cures and folklore of Holy Wells.

A new publication *Care of Earthen Monuments - a Farming Rathcroghan Model* was completed and is ready for launch in 2025. The *Farming Rathcroghan Project*, supported by the Heritage Council and Roscommon County Council produced this booklet to build on direct learnings achieved through the *Farming Rathcroghan European Innovation Partnership (EIP) Project 2019-2023*. This brings a bespoke guidance booklet to farming families and communities throughout Ireland to help manage and care for earthen archaeological monuments in the farming landscape.

Practical Conservation Projects Undertaken in 2024

The *Owen O'Connor Mausoleum Conservation Project* in Ballintubber was completed in May 2024. Phase 2 of works at Ballintubber Castle were completed in September 2024. This project was carried out by Ballintubber Development Association, supported by the Heritage Office. Phase 1 works to Cloonshanville Abbey were carried out.

Community Engagement and Awareness-Raising in 2024

The Big Dig came to Castlerea during *National Heritage Week*. *Mosaics in Roscommon*, a short film documenting the mosaic industry in Roscommon, was premiered as a digital project during *National Heritage Week*. A *Roscommon Field Names Workshop* and facilitated discussion took place on 5th July 2024. A seminar on the *Care and Conservation of Historic Graveyards* took place on 24th May 2024. A *Know Your Locality – Roscommon Course* was delivered in Quarter 1, 2024. A *Graveyard Recording Workshop* was held in Derrane graveyard on 7th and 8th November 2024.

The *Rathcroghan Royal Roots* programme, which was established by the *Farming Rathcroghan European Innovation Partnership (EIP) (2019-2023)*, aimed to build on community archaeology outputs with a key output being the dissemination of learnings from the project to a wide audience.

21 *Go Along Farm Walks* took place. A 1-day *Kids Camp* was developed, coordinated and delivered with 22 children taking part.



Royal Rathcroghan Community Archaeology Kids Camp.



Phase 1 conservation works underway at Cloonshanville Abbey assisted by funding from the Community Monuments Fund.

Carved head uncovered at Cloonshanville during conservation works carried out in 2024.

Funding Sources Accessed in 2024

Funding sources accessed in 2024 included the following:

- › *County Heritage Plan*, including *Community Archaeology Funding*, from the Heritage Council - €57,486;
- › *Built Heritage Investment Scheme* from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) - €104,169;
- › *Historic Structures Fund* from DHLGH - €88,235;
- › *Community Monuments Fund* from DHLGH - €257,821;
- › *Local Biodiversity Action Fund* from the DHLGH - €88,161;
- › Roscommon County Council's own resources.

Training Attended in 2024

Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context, the second national capacity-building workshop, was organised by the National Monuments Service in collaboration with the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) and the Office of Public Works (OPW). Four *Heritage Training and Development Programme* events were delivered.



Finance, Procurement, Enterprise, Building Control and Emergency Services Directorate

Roscommon Castle



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 2024 was €82.5m while for the Capital Account the expenditure was €128m.

Key Points related to Financial Activity in 2024

- › A surplus of €28k was delivered on the Revenue Account;
- › The Capital Account reported a cumulative credit balance of €22.6m;
- › The cumulative General Reserve at the end of 2024 stood at €326k;
- › A combined total of €211m 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:

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Rates	92%	88%	89%	89%	68%	89%	86%
Rents	89%	90%	91%	93%	93%	91%	92%
Housing Loans	89%	75%	71%	65%	62%	76%	55%

Summary of Major Revenue Collections for 2024

The table below provides an overview of revenue collection performance for 2024:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
Debtor Type	Opening Arrears at 01/01/2024	Accrued	Vacant Property Adjustments	Write Offs	Waivers & Credits	Total for Collection = (B+C-D-E-F)	Amount Collected	Closing Arrears at 31/12/2024 = (G-H)	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collected = (H)/(G-J)
Rates	1,466,294	12,460,320	1,133,197	267,677	20,759	12,504,980	11,522,088	982,892	14,049*	92%
Rents & Annuities	647,010	6,518,884	-	19,907	-	7,145,986	6,365,047	780,939	-	89%
Housing Loans	131,912	458,005	-	(99)	-	590,016	525,710	64,306	-	89%

*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 2024

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

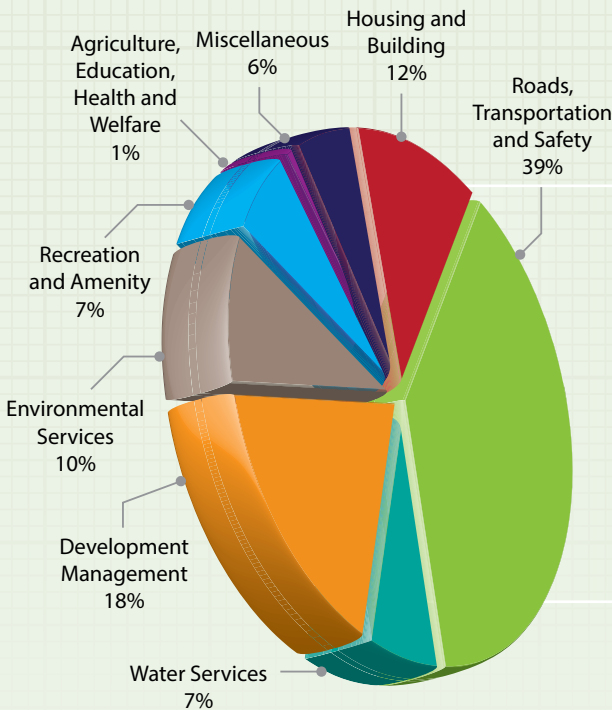
Expenditure by Division	Gross Expenditure 2024 €	Income 2024 €	Net Expenditure 2024 €	Net Expenditure 2023 €
Housing and Building	10,018,617	12,124,415	(2,105,799)	(1,842,674)
Roads, Transportation & Safety	32,238,608	24,967,963	7,270,645	7,009,827
Water Services	5,995,119	6,304,942	(309,823)	(332,093)
Development Management	14,962,113	9,957,159	5,004,954	4,624,481
Environmental Services	7,925,636	2,303,633	5,622,003	5,430,560
Recreation & Amenity	6,176,851	1,376,860	4,799,991	4,305,759
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	667,767	427,403	240,365	305,591
Miscellaneous Services	4,563,564	6,327,490	(1,763,925)	(1,939,806)
Total Expenditure/Income	82,548,275	63,789,864		
Net cost of Divisions to be funded from Rates and Local Property Tax			18,758,411	17,561,644
Rates			12,460,320	12,464,375
Local Property Tax			12,569,502	10,756,634
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year before Transfer			6,271,411	5,659,364
Transfers from/(to) Reserves			(6,242,941)	(5,632,245)
Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year			28,470	27,120
General Reserve at 1st January			297,113	269,994
General Reserve at 31st December			325,583	297,113

Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet) as at 31st December 2024

	2024 €	2023 €
Fixed Assets	€	€
Operational	248,579,245	239,955,816
Infrastructural	1,615,664,454	1,615,664,454
Community	12,766,308	12,767,727
Non-Operational	1,178,677	1,178,676
	1,878,188,685	1,869,566,674
Work-in-Progress and Preliminary Expenses	49,025,159	35,345,075
Long Term Debtors	12,140,668	11,475,821
Current Assets		
Trade Debtors & Prepayments	6,844,632	4,837,061
Bank Investments	6,757,338	9,227,167
Cash at Bank	18,585,613	21,588,224
Cash in Transit	102,388	129,678
	32,289,971	35,782,130
Current Liabilities		
Bank Overdraft	-	-
Creditors & Accruals	9,875,499	8,582,269
Finance Leases	180,369	-
	10,055,868	8,582,269
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)	22,234,103	27,199,861
Creditors (Amounts greater than one year)		
Loans Payable	28,190,629	27,850,627
Finance Leases	781,223	-
Refundable Deposits	1,103,004	932,360
Other	3,496,859	3,323,452
	33,571,714	32,106,439
Net Assets / (Liabilities)	1,928,016,901	1,911,480,991
Represented By		
Capitalisation	1,878,188,685	1,869,566,674
Income WIP	41,196,625	33,130,923
General Revenue Reserve	325,583	297,113
Other Specific Reserves	-	-
Other Balances	8,306,008	8,486,281
Total Reserves	1,928,016,901	1,911,480,991

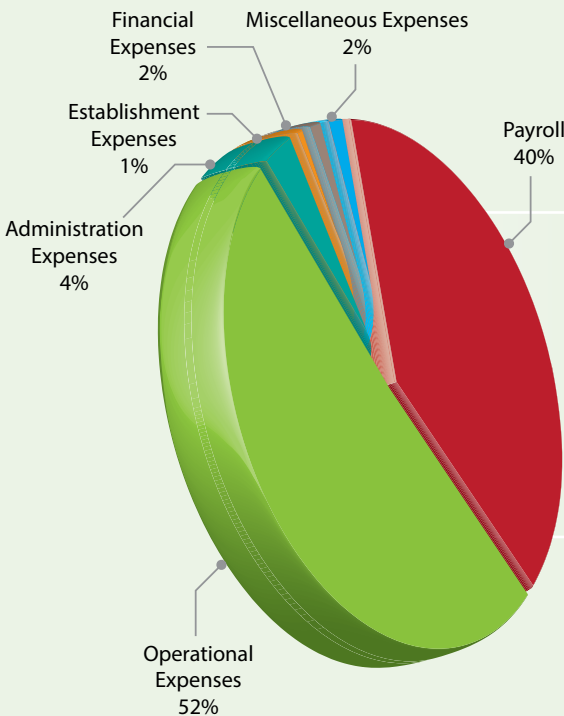
Revenue Expenditure 2024

Spend by programme



	€	%
Housing & Building	10,018,617	12%
Roads Transportation & Safety	32,238,608	39%
Water Services	5,995,119	7%
Development Management	14,962,113	18%
Environmental Services	7,925,636	10%
Recreation & Amenity	6,176,851	7%
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	667,767	1%
Miscellaneous	4,563,564	6%
Total	82,548,275	100%

What money was spent on



	€	%
Payroll	32,919,823	40%
Operational Expenses	42,753,005	52%
Administration Expenses	3,153,971	4%
Establishment Expenses	447,681	1%
Financial Expenses	1,989,663	2%
Miscellaneous Expenses	1,284,132	2%
Total	82,548,275	100%

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



ROSCOMMON COUNTY COUNCIL 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 2024, 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 audited body conform with the statutory or other authorisation 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 2024.

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	18,901,418	19,185,350
Grants & Subsidies	44,534,573	35,736,955
Other Contributions (as appropriate)	353,873	410,709
Rates	18,758,411	17,561,644
Local Property Tax	12,460,320	10,756,634



Activity on the Income and Expenditure account for 2024 is as follows:

	Current Year	Previous Year
	€	€
Income	88,819,686	78,543,023
Expenditure	82,548,275	72,883,658
Transfers to Capital	6,242,941	5,632,245
Exceptional Item	0	0
Surplus (Deficit)	28,470	27,120
Prior Year Adjustment	0	0
Opening Revenue Reserve	297,114	269,994
Closing Revenue Reserve	325,584	297,114

The overall surplus for 2024 is in line with 2023.

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 2024 total €1,928m and are as follows:

	Current Year	Previous Year
	€	€
Fixed Assets	1,878,188,685	1,869,566,674
Works in Progress	49,025,159	35,345,075
Long Term Debtors	12,140,668	11,475,821
Current Assets	32,289,971	35,782,130
Current Liabilities	10,055,868	8,582,269
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)	22,234,103	27,199,861
Creditors (Amounts greater than 1 year)	33,571,714	32,106,439
Net Assets/(Liabilities)	1,928,016,901	1,911,480,991

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 Chief Executive of Roscommon County Council, I acknowledge my responsibility for ensuring that an effective system of internal financial control is maintained and operated by 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 Chief Executive 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 Chief Executive 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 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 registers which detail 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 each year and thereafter included in the published Annual Report prepared and adopted by the Council by 30 June each year.

Signed by:


Chief Executive

Dated:



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



Roscommon County Council Governance Statement

Purpose

The purpose of this governance statement is to provide relevant information on the governance structures and governance arrangements within the local authority including on council, committees, senior management and related areas. It demonstrates our commitment to effective governance, recognises key legislative and good governance requirements and affirms the Council's compliance with the Local Government Code of Governance obligations.

Good Governance

Fundamentally, good governance in the local government sector and wider public sector is about delivering priorities, achieving objectives, behaving with integrity and acting in the public interest, in ways that are consistent with legal, regulatory and government policy obligations. Governance refers to the framework of rules, relationships, systems and processes by which the local authority is directed, controlled and held to account and whereby authority within an organisation is exercised and maintained. It encompasses authority, accountability, stewardship and leadership, direction and control.

Good Governance Principles

CORE PRINCIPLE 1 - Good governance means focusing on the purpose of the authority, on outcomes that deliver sustainable economic, community and wider societal benefits and on implementing a vision for the local authority.

CORE PRINCIPLE 2 - Good governance means promoting and demonstrating public service values through upholding high standards of conduct and behaviour.

CORE PRINCIPLE 3 - Good governance means members and officials working together to achieve a common purpose within a framework of clearly defined functions and roles.

CORE PRINCIPLE 4 - Good governance means developing the organisational capacity and the leadership capability and competencies of members and officials to operate effectively and fulfill the purpose of the organization.

CORE PRINCIPLE 5 - Good governance means taking well-informed and transparent decisions and managing risks and performance.



CORE PRINCIPLE 6 - Good governance means engaging openly and comprehensively with local people, citizens and other stakeholders to ensure robust public accountability.

CORE PRINCIPLE 7 - Good governance means actively contributing to the furtherance and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by delivering on the priorities and actions within the Climate Action Plan and the provisions of the Climate Act.

Our Commitment to Good Governance

As the Cathaoirleach and Chief Executive of the council, and on behalf of the elected members, management and staff we confirm that;

1. We embrace the governance principles as the fundamental bedrock and philosophy on how we operate as a governing body and as an executive.
2. We embrace the Local Government Code of Governance, and the core principles therein as the centerpiece of the governance framework for local authorities.
3. The Statement of Internal Financial Control is submitted by the Chief Executive to the Elected Members and to the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee reviews the SIFC and provides an assurance on an annual basis to the Elected Members. Mechanisms are available to the Audit Committee to notify the Elected Members of any issues that arise outside of the normal annual reporting.
4. Compliance with legal and regulatory obligations are acknowledged and adhered to.
5. There is clarity of roles and responsibilities based on the reserved and executive functions and based on committee terms of reference, charter or schemes in place.
6. Codes of Conduct and ethics declarations for members and employees are in place.
7. Procedures are in place for the making of protected disclosures in accordance with section 21(1) of the Protected Disclosures Act 2014 and confirmation that the annual report required under section 22(1) of the Act has been published.
8. The Council and Committees review their own performance on a periodic basis.



9. We have appropriate governance of arrangements in respect of subsidiary, associated and related companies.
10. As part of our commitment to effective oversight and accountability, we strive to enhance our overall assurance framework utilising external and internal assurance sources to ensure good performance as part of our governance culture.


Cathaoirleach

Date: _____


Chief Executive

Date: 11th June 2005

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.

2024 was a very busy year for LEO Roscommon. Companies supported by LEO created 153 jobs. This figure was up significantly from the 128 jobs created by LEO in 2023. The net jobs created by LEO supported clients in 2024 was 91, which takes into account companies that amalgamated, ceased trading and those that transferred on to Enterprise Ireland.

Figures for 2024 show that LEO Roscommon financially supported 164 small businesses that employ 1,038 people. 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, LEO invested in 10 businesses in 2024. It also continued to offer financial support to over 10 businesses to assist them on their journey to exporting.

2024 again saw an increase in participants taking part in training courses, mentoring assignments and mentoring clinics. The majority of these were delivered in-house and remotely and were tailored specifically towards the needs of small, micro and start-up businesses in Roscommon.



Posude, Kyle McLoughlin –
Winner of LEO Roscommon County Final.



Student Enterprise Programme Winners - GM Engineering, Roscommon Community College.

LEO Roscommon engaged with nine second-level schools and 11 primary schools in 2024 to sow the seed of entrepreneurship at a local, county and national level.

LEO Roscommon introduced a number of initiatives in 2024 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 for Business is a LEO initiative that is designed to give clients a digital edge. Expert digital consultants assist clients through:

- › Analysis of existing digital systems in the business to identify potential gaps in meeting business needs;
- › Exploration of opportunities to optimise existing systems and integrate with new solutions to enhance business operations. Guidance is provided on the implementation of new or enhanced digital solutions.

The *Grow Digital Voucher* offers small and medium businesses, with up to 50 employees, financial support to embrace digital technology. A Digital for Business Project Report must be completed within the previous two years.

There was a high demand in 2024 for *Trading Online Vouchers*, which were grant aided at 50%. These assisted 39 businesses to transition to an eCommerce model. These vouchers have been replaced with the *Market Explorer Grant* which is available to small enterprises (with between 1 and 50 paid employees) that meet the following criteria:

- › Operate as manufacturing or eligible internationally traded services businesses that are solvent and have current tax clearance from Revenue;
- › Are not currently clients of Enterprise Ireland or the IDA;
- › Operate commercially and are established and trading for at least 12 months, registered and carrying on activity within the area of LEO Roscommon;
- › Have demonstrated their intention to internationalise i.e.
 1. Have completed *Export Accelerator* or
 2. Similar *LEO Exporter Programme* or
 3. Have developed an Internationalisation Plan or
 4. Have initial small-scale exports that can be increased (suggestion is <10K).

10 LEO clients were also facilitated with Microfinance Ireland loan applications during the year.

LEO Roscommon 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 2024 promoting Roscommon as a location for business and inward investment.

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 the requirements of the Building Control Regulations. These regulations generally apply to new buildings and existing buildings which undergo an extension, a material alteration or a material change of use.

Certificate of Compliance on Completion

- › 30 applications were submitted via the Building Control Management System (BCMS);
- › 20 site inspections were conducted;
- › Revised information was requested in many cases before validation;
- › Applications included extensions, commercial buildings and multiple dwelling developments.

Disabled Access Certificates

- › 22 applications were received;
 - › 19 granted (some with conditions, after revision),
 - › Two deemed invalid,
 - › One required revised design information;
- › Six site inspections were carried out.

Revised Disabled Access Certificates

Two applications were received. Both were granted with conditions.

Dispensations/Relaxations

One application was granted with conditions.

Building Control Inspections

17 additional inspections were conducted (outside National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) returns):

- › Focused on high-risk sites, unauthorised works or change of use;
- › Often led to emails, advisory letters or Section 11 requests.



Building Control Inspection.

Section 11 Notices

- › Four Warning Letters issued for non-compliance;
- › 20 Section 11 information requests issued;
- › Multiple advisory letters/emails issued;
- › 245 commencement notices assessed. 90% needed revised information for validation;
- › 34 notices deemed invalid (due to various deficiencies).

Commencement Notices

- › 358 valid notices for new builds; 50 buildings inspected (14% inspection rate);
- › 90% required additional information before validation;
- › Increase in notices linked to exemption from planning development fees.

Building Control Queries

- › 221 queries logged in 2024 covering a range of BCMS and regulation topics.

Other Enforcement Activities

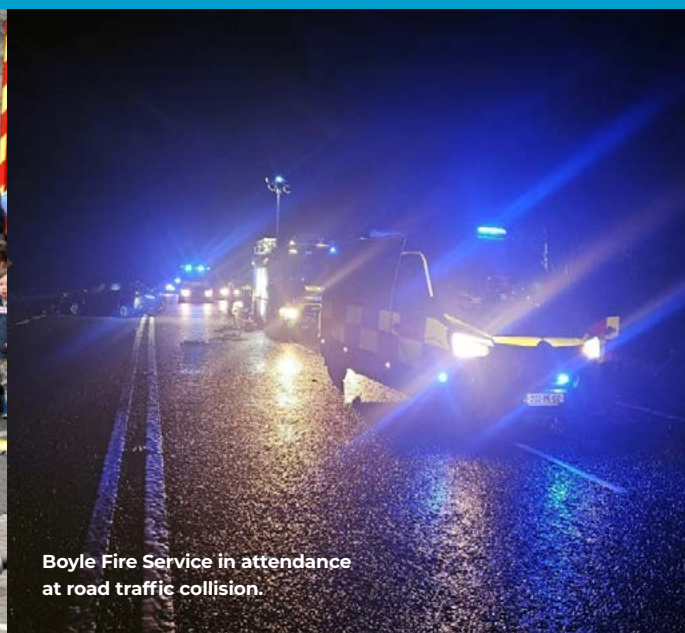
Oversight of:

- › Marketing of Construction Products (EU Construction Product Regulations 2013);
- › Building Energy Rating Certificates (EU Energy Performance Regulations 2012);
- › Registration of Multi-Storey Buildings (Local Government Act 1988).

Emergency Services



Roscommon Town Fire Service members demonstrating their vehicle extrication skills.



Boyle Fire Service in attendance at road traffic collision.

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

Fire Services

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

Fire Safety and Enforcement

Roscommon Fire Services attended a number of serious incidents at private dwellings, commercial properties and road traffic collisions during 2024. It also carried out inspections in 95 premises and issued advice and/or warnings to 14 premises under Sections 18 and 20A 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 46 part-time retained fire fighters (including five new recruit fire fighters) from Roscommon Town, Ballaghaderreen, Boyle, Elphin and Strokestown were alerted 329 times during 2024, which included attendance at 80 road traffic collisions. New and updated items of equipment were issued to the fire brigades during 2024 including automated external defibrillators, battery-operated hydraulic road traffic collision cutting equipment and a Class "B" type fire engine.

Commercial and Community Licensing of Places of Entertainment

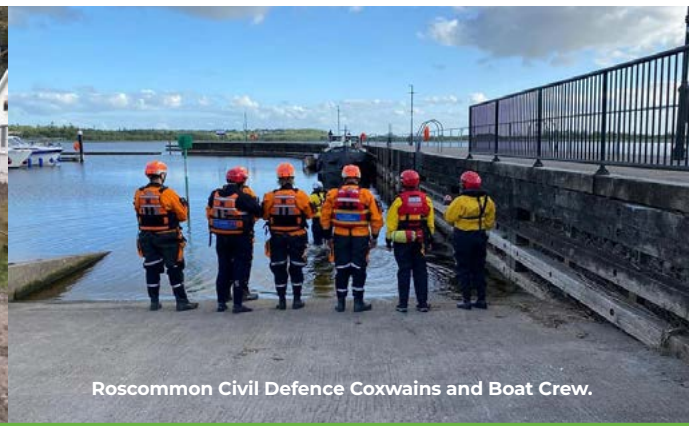
Notice of applications for licences or Certificates of Registration is provided for under Fire Services and Licensing legislation. Roscommon Fire Service carried out Fire Safety Inspections on a range of public premises during 2024. The Fire Service is required to provide Fire Safety Reports following 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).



Roscommon Civil Defence Officer and Volunteers.



Roscommon Civil Defence Coxswains and Boat Crew.

Civil Defence

Civil defence activities in 2024 included the following:

Training

20 courses were conducted in 2024 which included:

- › Patient Moving, Cardiac First Responder Advanced (CFRA), First Aid Responder (FAR) and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Upskilling;
- › Specialised training – two volunteers trained in Critical Incident Support;
- › Roscommon County Council staff training - 12 courses delivered (Cardiac First Response, First Aid Responder).

Search Operations

Six search operations conducted:

- › Supported Longford Civil Defence;
- › Involved water and land searches plus mapping support.

Boat Cover Duties

Duties included:

- › Triathlon swims;
- › Fishing competitions;
- › Inclusive event safety;
- › Competitive swims.

Training milestones included:

- › Two new coxswains trained;
- › Seven current crew upskilled.

Radiation Monitoring

One volunteer completed online Radiation Emergency Awareness Training.

Community Assistance

200 duties completed, covering:

- › Patient transfers;
- › Community events (GAA, athletics, horseracing, blood clinics, etc.).

Volunteer Development

Seven new volunteers completed mandatory training. The number of active volunteers in 2024 totalled 41.

Equipment and Funding Highlights

- › Corpuls Patient Monitor:
 - › Funded by €15,000 from Department of Defence (total cost: €21,170.10);
 - › Offers wireless connectivity, modular functions and future-ready design.
- › New Patient Transfer Vehicle:
 - › €80,813.46 total cost, €72,732.11 funded by CLÁR;
 - › Wheelchair accessible. Enabled fulfilment of terminally ill patient's last wish;
 - › Now central to fulfilling high-impact community requests.
- › New Whaley 500R Boat and Trailer:
 - › Replaced decommissioned Avon inflatable;
 - › Durable, versatile, suitable for all county waters;
 - › Cost: €20,185 with €11,000 funded from the Dormant Accounts Scheme.



Specialist equipment used to support water-based community events and rescue and recovery operations.

Local Community Development Committee Report

The LCDC has primary responsibility for coordinating, planning and overseeing the implementation of the *Local Economic and Community Plan*.



It was established in July 2014. It has 19 members, which includes representatives from the Council's Elected Members and staff, public bodies, local social partner interests, local community and publicly funded or supported local development bodies. Membership of the Roscommon LCDC, as at 31st December 2024, is shown in **Table 1**.

Table 1: Membership of LCDC at 31st December 2024

Pillar	Agency / Nominating Body	No. of Nominees	Name of Nominee
Statutory Interests			
Local Government	Roscommon County Council Members	3	Cllr. Laurence Fallon Cllr. Larry Brennan Cllr. Dominick Connolly
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
	Department of Social Protection	1	Mr. Eoin Power
	Health Service Executive (HSE)	1	Mr. Eamon Hannan
	Teagasc	1	Mr. Gabriel Trayers
Non Statutory Interests			
Local and Community Development	Roscommon LEADER Partnership Company	1	Ms. Carina Lennon
Social Inclusion (Private)	Public Participation Network (PPN)	1	Vacant
	PPN	1	Mr. Kevin Conry
Community and Voluntary (Private)	PPN	1	Mr. Vincent Moran
	PPN	1	Mr. Gerard Fallon
Environmental Pillar	PPN	1	Mr. Kevin Coyle
Social, Economic & Community Interests	Farming and Agriculture	1	Mr. Pat Leonard
	Business Representative	1	Vacant
	Trade Union Representative	1	Mr. Pat Compton
	Disability Sector	1	Ms. Helen Hunt
Total Number of Members:		19	

The LCDC acts as the Local Action Group (LAG) for the *LEADER Rural Development Programme 2023-2027* in Roscommon. *LEADER* has added to the already significant role played by the LCDC in the oversight of public funding to bring about improved social, economic and community development in the county. Eight LCDC and LAG meetings were held in 2024 as illustrated in **Table 2**.

SICAP 2024-2028 Programme

Roscommon LCDC carries out a management and oversight function in relation to the *Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme 2024-2028 (SICAP)*. This national programme aims to tackle poverty, social exclusion and long-term unemployment. Its vision is to improve the life chances and opportunities of those who are most marginalised in society, living in poverty or in unemployment through community development approaches, targeted supports and interagency collaboration.

The programme implementing partner, Roscommon Integrated Development Company t/a Roscommon LEADER Partnership, submitted a response to a tender request dated 8th September 2023. On 28th June 2024, with effect from 1st January 2024, a tri-party funding agreement was signed between the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD), Roscommon County Council and Roscommon LCDC. Upon the execution of this agreement, the LCDC entered into an agreement with Roscommon LEADER Partnership for the delivery of the SICAP Services (SICAP Call-Off Contract).

The framework allows for a budget up to a maximum of €5,610,637 over the life of the programme i.e., 2024-2028.

The total budget for SICAP in 2024 was €810,978.

Table 3 provides a summary of the SICAP Lot 30-1 Key Performance Indicator (KPI) Targets for 2024:

Table 2: LCDC and LAG Meetings 2024

Date	% Attendance
24th January 2024	82%
14th March 2024	72%
4th April 2024	83%
22nd May 2024	78%
24th July 2024	88%
18th September 2024	72%
23rd October 2024	77%
11th December 2024	82%

LEADER Rural Development Programme

The *LEADER Programme* provides support to rural communities across the European Union to actively engage and direct the local development of their area, through community-led local development. *LEADER* provides a bottom-up approach to delivering support to communities under the national *Rural Development Programme 2014-2020*. Grants are awarded by LAGs to projects that support delivery of a locally prepared development strategy.

Roscommon LCDC led LAG is the final decision-making body for *LEADER* allocations. Development and animation support is provided to project promoters by the implementing partner, Roscommon Leader Partnership. Roscommon County Council is the programme's local financial partner with funding administered nationally through the DRCD.

Table 3: Summary of SICAP Lot 30-1 KPI Targets for 2024

Date	Target	Actual	% Achieved
KPI 1 (Supporting Communities)	42	54	129%
KP2 (Supporting Individuals)	440	577	131%
% of KPI2 in Disadvantaged Areas	27%	35.7%	

The *LEADER Programme 2014-2020* was extended to 31st March 2021. The *Transitional LEADER programme* and *EURI (European Union Recovery Instrument) Funding Programmes* commenced in 2022. Final allocation of funding under these programmes extended to 31st December 2023. All expenditure under these programmes had to be incurred by 31st March 2024 with final claims submitted to the DRCD by June 2024.

Activity in 2024

30 projects were funded in relation to the *LEADER Programme 2014-2020* to the sum of €894,530. Projects, valuing €986,023, were approved by LCDC members under the new *Leader 2023-2027 Programme*. No payment had been made by year-end in relation to these projects.

Local Enhancement Programme

The *Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) 2024* was launched in December 2023 by Ministers Humphreys and O'Brien. This programme aims at providing support to community and voluntary groups working with communities that are impacted by disadvantage as identified in the *Local Economic Community Plan (LECP)*. A sum of €138,641 was allocated to Roscommon County Council of which €23,106 was ring-fenced for women's groups. The LCDC approved the submission of 120 projects to the Department for funding which were later approved. Projects were completed by the year-end.

Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2023-2029

The next iteration of the *LECP* was launched in March 2024 together with the *Local Development Plan* and the *Climate Action Plan* at Lough Key in Boyle. A robust public consultation was conducted which resulted in.

- Over 4,000 people engaging online via social media platforms;
- Over 60 community focus groups countywide;
- 275 public survey responses;
- Over 100 PPN survey responses to name a few elements of the consultation;
- More than 7,000 people engaged with at least one component of this process.

Six High Level Goals emerged together with attributable Sustainable Community Objectives (SCOs) and Sustainable Economic Objectives (SEOs).

The monitoring and implementation phase of the *LECP* commenced in Quarter 3, 2024. The LCDC is responsible for on-going monitoring of community elements of the *LECP*. Reports provided to LCDC members provide them with key information on each goal.

Interim reviews take place to ensure any new emerging needs are reflected in the plan, reacting to the changing socio-economic environment, with a final review in 2029 in preparation for the next iteration of the plan.

Health and Wellbeing Sub Committee

Progress was made under the *Healthy Ireland Round 4 Programme* in the areas of increasing physical activity and promoting positive mental health backed by a €75,000 budget from the Department of Health. Through a series of targeted, community-based initiatives and collaborations with Roscommon Sports Partnership and Roscommon LEADER Partnership, the Council ensured outreach to key target populations around the county.

Physical activity highlights included expansion of the *Fit Farmers Programme*, *Active Age Programmes*, *Young Carers Project* and inclusive events such as *Pride Colour Run* and the *Soccer Diversity Programme*.

A total of 1,559 individuals participated in *Healthy Ireland* funded physical activity programmes delivered by Roscommon Sports Partnership with an average increase in activity levels of 131%.

Mental health initiatives featured mindfulness training, Connect Cafés, bereavement support, sensory room development and projects such as *Horticulture for Mental Health*. Post-programme evaluation saw a self-reporting of 67% improvement in energy and vitality.

Healthy Roscommon also supported the community of Lough Funshinagh with a bespoke *Rise and Thrive* programme to support those affected by flooding in the area.

In addition, five individual wellbeing seminars were carried out on topics such as men's mental health, prostate health, menopause and teenage wellbeing. 916 individuals were supported through these events alone.



Ireland AM interviewing Aisling Dunne Roscommon HICC (Fit Farmers Programme).

Consultation was carried out to support the development of a *Healthy Roscommon Community Wellbeing Strategy* which is set for release in 2025. Strategic alignment with the *LECP* continued with the support of the LCDC's Health and Wellbeing Subcommittee.

The Dormant Accounts Action Plan 2024

The *Dormant Accounts Action Plan 2024* was launched in October 2024. The plan provides funding to address disadvantage across the country. Due to the large number of applications received and the fund being oversubscribed, one application of three was funded in Roscommon to support the delivery of Action 6.3 in the *National LGBTI+ Inclusion Strategy*.

An amount of €10,100 has been allocated to Roscommon County Council/LCDC for the Foróige, *Roscommon Youth Service Project*. Funding is required to be spent in line with the following measures:

- › Extending drop-in hours, developing information and guidance tools, holding additional community events;
- › Delivering LGBTI awareness/sensitivity training in healthcare settings, businesses, schools etc.;
- › Providing outreach support;
- › Providing sporting/physical activity programmes to promote inclusion, community participation, health and wellbeing.

Allocated funding is required to be spent by 31st October 2025. An agreed work plan between Roscommon County Council/LCDC and Foróige, Roscommon Youth Services was established in the form of a service level agreement prior to transferring any funding.

Empowering Communities Programme

The *Empowering Communities Programme* is an innovative, area-based pilot initiative launched by the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD). Its core aim is to enable communities to develop their own locally driven responses to the complex and interconnected challenges of poverty, social exclusion and inequality. By placing decision-making power directly into the hands of local residents, the programme encourages grassroots solutions and sustainable community development.

In County Roscommon, the DRCD identified the Castle Hill area of Castlerea as one of high deprivation and selected it for participation in the national pilot. The LCDC, working in close partnership with Roscommon LEADER Partnership, has adopted a collaborative and inclusive approach to the implementation of the programme over its 3-year duration.

Under this initiative, Roscommon LEADER Partnership has been designated as the programme's lead implementing partner. Its role will focus on working with residents to identify local priorities, promote social cohesion and provide practical supports. A dedicated Programme Coordinator and Family Support Worker will be recruited to drive the delivery of services on the ground. This work is being supported by annual funding of €140,000 from the DRCD, totalling €420,000 over three years, which will ensure sustained and meaningful engagement with the community.

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 2020-2024* 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 three 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. The Council's *Annual Service Delivery Plan 2024* 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 2024* were delivered through *Schedules of Municipal District Works* developed by each Municipal District.

Highlights for 2024, in terms of progress achieved on the Corporate Plan's strategic objectives and actions contained in the *Annual Service Delivery Plan 2024*, included:

-
- › The Housing Department's *Acquisition and Construction Programme* delivered 66 social housing units.
 - › The *Annual Social Housing Needs Assessment* was finalised.
 - › At the end of 2024, 331 households were receiving support under the *Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)*.
 - › 66 applicants were accommodated under the *Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) Scheme* bringing to 364 the total number of households in receipt of support under the scheme at the year end.
 - › The Council received 29 applications under its *Tenant Purchase Scheme* and 40 *Local Authority Home Loan* applications.
 - › The *Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029* was adopted.
 - › County Roscommon *National and Non-National Roads Funding* allocations amounted to over €100m.
 - › Construction commenced on the *Ballaghaderreen to Scramogue Road Project*.
 - › Public Display No. 4 and Phase 3 TII Design Peer Review were held for the *N4 Carrick-on-Shannon to Dromod Project*.
 - › Over 430 projects on Regional and Local Roads were completed.
 - › The Council received an allocation of €3.25m under the *Active Travel Investment Programme*.
 - › Work continued on the *National Broadband Ireland Fibre Rollout* process.
 - › 763 planning applications were received. 447 decisions to grant planning permission were issued.
 - › 75 Warning Letters and 12 Enforcement Notices were served in relation to alleged unauthorised development. Legal action was initiated in two cases.
 - › The *Roscommon Town Local Area Plan 2024-2030* was adopted.
 - › The *Two-Year Progress Report on the Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028* was presented to the Elected Members.
 - › The *County Roscommon Local Authority Climate Action Plan* was adopted.
 - › The *Roscommon Town Decarbonising Zone* was formally launched.
 - › A *Community Climate Action Fund* was launched. The Council secured €520,000 for 17 projects under the *Community Action Programme*.
 - › A grant of €139,043 was allocated to the Council from the *Environment Fund* to support dedicated and measurable enforcement initiatives.
 - › The *National Waste Management Plan for the Circular Economy* was adopted.
 - › 87 litter pollution surveys were carried out under the *National Litter Pollution Monitoring System*.
 - › 57 fines were issued under the Litter Pollution Act and 353 household and commercial inspections were carried out under Waste Presentation Byelaws.
 - › The Council's *Corporate Plan 2024-2029* was adopted.
 - › The completion of the *Covered Civic Space in Market Square*, Roscommon culminated with its official launch in May 2024.
 - › Construction works were completed for the *Castlerea Food Hub* and the *Monksland Life Sciences and Soft-Landing Space*.
 - › Work continued on the *Energising Boyle Centre and King House Project*.
 - › Substantial progress was made on *Ballaghaderreen Public Realm* enhancements whilst funding for the *Public Realm Enhancement Scheme* in Strokestown was approved.
 - › A number of *Town and Village Renewal Scheme* projects were successfully brought to completion including park projects in Athleague and Ballintubber.
 - › Works completed under the *Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)* included the *Northwater Accessible for all Kayak Project*, the *Ballintubber and Ballymoe Waterways Project* and the development of a recreational amenity linking both marinas in Ballyleague.
 - › €700,757 was allocated to 15 community organisations under the *CLÁR 2024* programme.
 - › Public consultation for the *Roscommon Tourism Strategy 2025-2030* commenced.
 - › 41 applications were received for the *Festivals and Events Grant*. 29 events were granted funding.
 - › Pre-draft public consultation for a new *County Heritage Strategy* was carried out.
 - › The *Local Enhancement Programme 2024* was launched.
 - › The next iteration of the *Local Economic and Community Plan* was launched.
 - › The Council received €1,002,434 under the *Community Recognition Fund*.
 - › The Roscommon Local Enterprise Office financially supported 164 small businesses that employ 1,038 people.
 - › The level of expenditure for the Council's Revenue and Capital Accounts was €82.5m and €128m respectively.
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Reporting on the *Corporate Plan 2019-2024* and the *Annual Service Delivery Plan 2024* 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 2024 is provided in *Appendix 1* to this Annual Report.

Appendix 1: Performance Indicators 2024

C: CORPORATE	
C1: Total Number of Whole-time Equivalent	
A. The whole time equivalent (WTE) staffing number as at 31/12/2024	433.90
C2: Working Days Lost to Sickness	
A. Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave in 2024	3.76%
B. Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave in 2024	0.29%
Total number of working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave in 2024	3978.36 days
Total number of working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave in 2024	291.5 days
Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence included within the total of self-certified sick leave days in 2024	2 days
Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence included within the total of medically certified sick leave days in 2024	273.5 days
Number of staff on long-term sick leave (i.e. a continuous period of more than 4 weeks)	35
C3: Local Authority Website and Social Media Usage	
A. The per capita total page views of the local authority's websites in 2024	2.24
B. The per capita total number of followers at end 2024 of the local authority's social media accounts	1.30
The cumulative total page views of all websites operated by the local authority for the period from 01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024 obtained from a page tagging on-site web analytics service or equivalent	157,185
The total number of social media users who, at 31/12/2024, were following the local authority on any social media sites	91,321
The number of social media accounts operated by the local authority	26
Indicate if there was a change to the cookie policies on the local authority sites and the date this came into effect	No
C4: Overall Cost of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Provision per Whole-time Equivalent	
A. All ICT expenditure in the period 01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024, divided by the WTE number supplied under the C1 indicator	€4,693.80
Total ICT expenditure in 2024	€2,013,211
C5. Overall Cost of ICT as a Proportion of Revenue Expenditure	
A. All ICT expenditure calculated in C4 as a proportion of Revenue expenditure	2.44
Total Revenue expenditure from 01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024 before transfers to or from reserves	€82,548,275

E: WASTE / ENVIRONMENT**E1: Number / Percentage 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 31/12/2024	11,531
B. The percentage of households within the local authority that the number at A represents (based on agglomerations of more than 500)	44.39%

E2: Number of Environmental Pollution Complaints Closed

A1. The total number of pollution cases in respect of which a complaint was made during 2024	891
A2. The number of pollution cases closed from 01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024	903
A3. The total number of cases on hands at 31/12/2024	174
The opening number of pollution cases carried forward from the year end 2023	186
(PI 2023 Return) Total number of pollution cases on hand at 31/12/2023	186

E3: Percentage of Local Authority Area within the 5 Levels of Litter Pollution

A. The percentage of the area within the local authority that when surveyed in 2024 was:	
1) unpolluted or litter free	39%
2) slightly polluted	41%
3) moderately polluted	10%
4) significantly polluted	10%
or 5) grossly polluted	1%

E4: Green Flag Status

A. The percentage of schools that have been awarded/renewed the green flag status in the 2 years to 31/12/2024	51.55%
Schools which attained a Green Flag for the first time in 2024	0
Schools which renewed their Green Flag in 2024	30
Schools which held a Green Flag from 2023 and therefore do not require renewal until 2025	20

E5: Energy Efficiency

A. The cumulative percentage of energy savings achieved by 31/12/2024 relative to baseline year (2009)	-40.14%
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E6: Public Lighting

A. Total annual consumption of the public lighting system	1847.30 MWh
B. Average wattage of each public light	63.78 W
A. Percentage of the total system that LED lights represent	83.04%
Number of LED lights in the public lighting system	6,516
Number of non-LED lights in the public lighting system	1,381

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: FIRE SERVICE**F1: Cost per Capita of the Fire Service**

A. The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme E expenditure data for 2024 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	€39.48
AFS Programme E expenditure data consisting of E11 - Operation of Fire Service and E12 - Fire Prevention for 2024	€2,773,907

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	6.86 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	6.75 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	22.22%
B. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	44.44%
C. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	33.33%
D. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	26.88%
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	60.0%
F. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	13.12%
Total number of call-outs in respect of fires from 01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024	108
Number of these fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	24
Number of these fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	48
Number of these fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	36
Total number of call-outs in respect of all other emergency incidents (i.e. not including fire) from 01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024	160
Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	43
Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	96
Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	21

H: HOUSING	
H1: Social Housing Stock	
A. The number of dwellings in the ownership of the local authority at 01/01/2024	1445
B. The number of dwellings added to the local authority owned stock during 2024 (whether constructed or acquired)	50
C. The number of local authority owned dwellings sold in 2024	14
D. The number of local authority owned dwellings demolished in 2024	0
E. The number of dwellings in the ownership of the local authority at 31/12/2024	1481
F. The number of local authority dwellings planned for demolition under a Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage approved scheme	0
H2: Housing Vacancies	
A. The percentage of the total number of local authority owned dwellings that were vacant on 31/12/2024	2.09%
The number of dwellings within their overall stock that were not tenanted on 31/12/2024	31
H3: Average Re-letting Time and Cost	
A. The time taken from the date of vacation of dwelling to the date in 2024 when a new tenancy had commenced in the dwelling, averaged across all units re-let during 2024	14.59 weeks
B. The cost expended on getting the units re-tenanted in 2024 ready for re-letting, averaged across all units re-let in 2024	€14,668.76
The number of dwellings that were re-tenanted on any date in 2024 (but excluding all those that had been vacant due to an estate-wide refurbishment scheme)	38
The number of weeks from the date of vacation to the date the dwelling is re-tenanted	554.57 weeks
Total expenditure on works necessary to enable re-letting of the dwellings	€5,574,12.91
H4: Housing Maintenance Cost	
A. Expenditure during 2024 on the maintenance of local authority housing compiled from 01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024, divided by the number of dwellings in the local authority stock 31/12/2024	€1,230.31
Expenditure on maintenance of local authority stock compiled from 01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024, including planned maintenance and expenditure that qualified for grants, such as Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) grants for energy efficient retro-fitting works but excluding expenditure on vacant properties and expenditure under approved major refurbishment schemes (i.e. approved Regeneration or under the Remedial Works Schemes)	€1,822,090.37
PI 2023: H1E. Number of Dwellings In Ownership at 31/12/2023	1445
H5: Private Rented Sector Inspections	
A. Total number of registered tenancies in the local authority area at end of June 2024	2497
B. Number of rented dwellings inspected in 2024	604
C. Percentage of inspected dwellings in 2024 that were found not to be compliant with the Standards Regulations	68.71%
D. Number of dwellings deemed compliant in 2024 (including those originally deemed non-compliant)	319
E. The number of inspections (including re-inspections) undertaken by the local authority in 2024	938

continued >

H6: Long-term Homeless Adults

A. Number of adult individuals in emergency accommodation that are long-term homeless as a percentage of the total number of homeless adult individuals in emergency accommodation at the end of 2024	46.15%
The number of adult individuals classified as homeless and in emergency accommodation on the night of 31/12/2024 as recorded on the PASS system	13
The number out of those individuals who, on 31/12/2024, had been in emergency accommodation for 6 months continuously, or for 6 months cumulatively within the previous 12 months	6

H7: Social Housing Retrofit

A1. The total number of houses retrofitted between 01/01/2024 and 31/12/2024 under the Social Housing Retrofit Programme	7
A2. The number of houses that achieved BER rating of B2 or above between 01/01/2024 and 31/12/2024 under the Social Housing Retrofit Programme	7
A3. Number of heat pumps installed in those houses between 01/01/2024 and 31/12/2024 under the Social Housing Retrofit Programme	7
B. The total annual energy savings in MWh from houses retrofitted between 01/01/2024 and 31/12/2024 under the Social Housing Retrofit Programme	63.8 MWh
C. Total carbon mission reduction tCO ₂ from houses retrofitted between 01/01/2024 and 31/12/2024 under the Social Housing Retrofit Programme	13.2

J: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**J1: Number of Jobs Created**

A. The number of jobs created with assistance from the Local Enterprise Office during the period 01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024 per 100,000 population	129.52
The number of jobs created with assistance from the Local Enterprise Office during the period 01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024	91.0

J2: Trading Online Vouchers

A. The number of trading online voucher applications approved by the Local Enterprise Office in 2024 per 100,000 of population	55.51
B. The number of those trading online vouchers that were drawn down in 2024 per 100,000 of population	14.23
The number of trading online voucher applications approved by the Local Enterprise Office in 2024	39
The number of those trading online vouchers that were drawn down in 2024	10

J3: Number of Mentoring Recipients

A. The number of participants who received mentoring during the period 01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024 per 100,000 of population	391.41
The number of participants who received mentoring during the period 01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024	275

J4: Tourism

A. Does the local authority have a current tourism strategy?	Yes
B. Does the local authority have a designated Tourism Officer?	Yes
The spend on local economic development by the local authority in 2024 per head of population	€205.35
The spend on local economic development by the local authority in 2024	€14,427,873

J5: Economic Development Spend

A. The spend on local economic development by the local authority in 2024 per head of population	€205.35
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L: LIBRARY / RECREATIONAL SERVICES**L1: Library Visits and Issues**

A. Number of visits to libraries per head of population for the local area as per 2022 census	1.44
B. Number of items issued to library borrowers in the year	207,343
C. Library active members per head of population	0.12
D. Number of registered library members in the year	6,702
Number of visits to its libraries from 01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024 per automatic counters if used	101,439

L2: Cost of Operating a Library Service

A. The Annual Financial Statement Programme F data for 2024 divided by the population of the local authority area per the 2022 Census	€37.19
B. The annual per capita expenditure on collections in 2024	€2.04
A. AFS Programme F data consisting of F02 - Operation of Library and Archival Service (inclusive of the relevant proportion of the central management charge for Programme F) for 2024	€2,613,224
B. The annual expenditure on new stock acquired by the library in the year	€143,666.39

M: FINANCE**M1: 5 Year Summary of Revenue Account Balance**

A. The cumulative surplus balance at 31st December 2020	€201,740
B. The cumulative surplus balance at 31st December 2021	€218,803
C. The cumulative surplus balance at 31st December 2022	€243,944
D. The cumulative surplus balance at 31st December 2023	€269,994
E. The cumulative surplus balance at 31st December 2024	€297,113
F. The cumulative surplus at 31/12/2024 as a percentage of total income in 2024 from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the Annual Financial Statement (AFS)	0.38%
G. Revenue Expenditure per Capita in 2024	€1,037.36
H. Revenue expenditure per capita in 2024 excluding significant out of county/shared service expenditure	Not available at the time of printing
The 2024 Total Income figure from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€88,819,686
The 2024 Total Expenditure figure from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€82,548,275

M2: 5 Year Summary of Percentage Collection Levels for Major Revenue Sources

A. 2020:	Rates Rent & Annuities Housing Loans	68% 93% 62%
B. 2021:	Rates Rent & Annuities Housing Loans	89% 93% 65%
C. 2022:	Rates Rent & Annuities Housing Loans	89% 91% 71%
D. 2023:	Rates Rent & Annuities Housing Loans	88% 90% 75%
E. 2024:	Rates Rent & Annuities Housing Loans	92% 89% 89%

M3: Public Liability Claims

A. Per capita cost of settled claims for 2024	€9.16
IPB Insurance: Number of notified claims for 2024	55
IPB Insurance: Number of settled claims for 2024	35
IPB Insurance: Total cost of settled claims for 2024	€643,816.75
Total cost of claims settled under excess for 2024	€0
Self-insured: Number of notified claims for 2024	0
Self-insured: Number of settled claims for 2024	0
Self-insured: Total cost of settled claims for 2024	€0

M4: Overheads

A. Overall central management charge as a percentage of total expenditure on revenue account	16.58%
B. Total payroll costs as a percentage of revenue expenditure	39.88%
Overall central management charge from the Local Authority FMS and defined in the Annual Budget	€13,690,073
Total payroll costs from Appendix 1 of the AFS for 2024 (including Salaries, Wages and Pensions)	€32,919,824

P: PLANNING**P1: New Buildings Inspected**

A. Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority	13.97%
Total number of new buildings notified to the local authority i.e. buildings where a valid Commencement Notice was served in the period 01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024 by a builder or developer on the local authority	358
Number of new buildings notified to the local authority in 2024 that were the subject of at least one on-site inspection during 2024 undertaken by the local authority	50

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 2024	22
B. Percentage of the determinations at A which confirmed (either with or without variation) the decision made by the local authority	81.82%
Number of determinations confirming the local authority's decision (either with or without variation)	18

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 01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024 that were investigated	67
B. Total number of cases that were closed during 2024	65
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	33.85%
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	66.15%
F. Total number of planning cases being investigated as at 31/12/2024	240
Number of cases at B that were dismissed as trivial, minor or without foundation or were closed because statute barred or an exempted development	22
Number of cases at B that were resolved to the local authority's satisfaction through negotiations	0
Number of cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	43

P4: Cost per Capita of the Planning Service

A. The 2024 Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme D data divided by the population of the local authority area per the 2022 Census	€38.89
AFS Programme D data consisting of D01 - Forward Planning, D02 - Development Management, D03 - Enforcement (inclusive of the relevant Programme D proportion of the central management charge) for 2024	€2,732,170

P5: Application for Fire Safety Certificates

A. The percentage of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2024 that were decided (granted or refused) within two months of receipt	33.33%
B. The percentage of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2024 that were decided (granted or refused) within an extended period agreed with the applicant	48.48%
The total number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2024 that were not withdrawn by the applicant	66
The number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2024 that were decided (granted or refused) within two months of the date of receipt of the application	22
The number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2024 that were decided (granted or refused) within an agreed extended time period	32

R: ROADS**R1: Ratings in Pavement Surface Condition Index (PSCI)**

A. The percentage of (a) Regional (b) Local Primary (c) Local Secondary roads that received a PSCI condition rating in the 24-month period prior to 31st December 2024 and (d) Local Tertiary roads that received a PSCI condition rating in the 60 month period to 31st December 2024	Not available at time of printing 98.35% 95.36% 75.86%
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 2024 rated in each of the following 4 groupings of the 10 PSCI rating categories; 1-4, 5-6, 7-8 and 9-10 for each road type. (a) Regional Road At 31/12/2024, the percentage at PSCI rating categories; 1-4 At 31/12/2024, the percentage at PSCI rating categories; 5-6 At 31/12/2024, the percentage at PSCI rating categories; 7-8 At 31/12/2024, the percentage at PSCI rating categories; 9-10	Not available at time of printing
(b) Local Primary Road At 31/12/2024, the percentage at PSCI rating categories; 1-4 At 31/12/2024, the percentage at PSCI rating categories; 5-6 At 31/12/2024, the percentage at PSCI rating categories; 7-8 At 31/12/2024, the percentage at PSCI rating categories; 9-10	1.61% 32.72% 34.75% 29.27%
(c) Local Secondary Road At 31/12/2024, the percentage at PSCI rating categories; 1-4 At 31/12/2024, the percentage at PSCI rating categories; 5-6 At 31/12/2024, the percentage at PSCI rating categories; 7-8 At 31/12/2024, the percentage at PSCI rating categories; 9-10	4.88% 35.06% 33.47% 21.95%
(d) Local Tertiary Road At 31/12/2024, the percentage at PSCI rating categories; 1-4 At 31/12/2024, the percentage at PSCI rating categories; 5-6 At 31/12/2024, the percentage at PSCI rating categories; 7-8 At 31/12/2024, the percentage at PSCI rating categories; 9-10	11.50% 30.64% 12.79% 20.93%

R2: Regional Road Grants Works

A. Kilometres of regional road strengthened during 2024 and the amount expended on that work and unit cost per square metre	7.9 km €2,412,325 €49.24
B. Kilometres of regional road resealed during 2024 and the amount expended on that work and unit cost per square metre	3.8 km €128,469 €5.06
C. Kilometres of local road (i.e. total of primary, secondary and tertiary) strengthened during 2024 and the amount expended on that work and unit cost per square metre	139.4 km €11,331,154 €20.63
D. Kilometres of local road resealed during 2024 and the amount expended on that work and unit cost per square metre	166.7 km €2,816,551 €4.42

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 2024	73.30%
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R4: Road Opening Licensing and Inspections

A. Total number of T2, T2 ¹ , T3, T4s issued by the local authority between 01/01/2024 and 31/12/2024	752
B. Total number of T5 notifications received from licence holders between 01/01/2024 and 31/12/2024	688
C. Percentage of licences that have been reviewed by the local authority prior to entering the Guarantee Period	59%
D. Percentage of licences that have been subject of an inspection prior to entering the Guarantee Period	28%

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 2024	98.92%
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W2: Percentage of Registered Schemes Monitored

A. The number of registered schemes monitored by each local authority as a percentage of total schemes registered	100%
How many local authority registered schemes were monitored in 2024	9
Total number of registered schemes in 2024	9

Y: YOUTH / COMMUNITY**Y1: Participation in Comhairle na nÓg Scheme**

A. Percentage of local schools involved in the local Youth Council/Comhairle na nÓg scheme	88.89%
Total number of second level schools in the local authority area at 31/12/2024	9
Number of second level schools in the local authority area from which representatives attended the local Comhairle na nÓg AGM held in 2024	8

Y2: Groups Associated with the Public Participation Network (PPN)

A. The number of organisations included in the County Register at 31/12/2024 and the proportion of those organisations that opted to be part of the Social Inclusion College within the PPN	13.01
Total number of organisations included in the County Register (maintained in accordance with section 128 of the Local Government Act 2001) for the local authority area as at 31/12/2024	415
Total number of those organisations that registered for the first time in 2024	110
Number of organisations that opted to join the Social Inclusion Electoral College on whatever date they registered for the PPN	54

Appendix 2: Councillors Conferences and Training Events 2024

Conferences/Seminars attended in Ireland by Roscommon County Council in 2024					
Start Date	End Date	Organiser	Training/Conference Event	Venue	Number of Councillors attended
19/01/2024	20/01/2024	Local Authorities Members Association (LAMA)	Spring Seminar - Building for Success	Abbey Hotel, Donegal Town	6
25/01/2024	25/01/2024	Association of Irish Local Government (AILG)	Module 1 - Elected Members Briefing: Annual Declarations, Donations, Code of Conduct and Local Representation Allowance Update	The Fairways Hotel, Dundalk, Co. Louth	2
02/02/2024	04/02/2024	Celtic Conferences	The Irish Housing Crisis - A Sustainable Option	O'Donovan's Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork	1
07/02/2024	08/02/2024	Association of Irish Regions (AIR)	Regions in Focus - Building Capacity to Address the Challenges of a Changing Ireland	Fitzgerald Woodlands Hotel, Co. Limerick	1
14/02/2024	15/02/2024	AILG	Annual Training Conference 2024	Arklow Bay Hotel, Arklow, Co. Wicklow	7
13/03/2024	14/03/2024	Suck Valley Way	Annual Conference 2024	Hannon's Hotel, Athlone Road, Roscommon	7
23/03/2024	23/03/2024	AILG	Local Election 2024 Preparation – A Briefing from the Electoral Commission	Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone, Co. Roscommon	5
11/07/2024	11/07/2024	AILG	Elected Member Induction Training	Mullingar Park Hotel, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath	4
13/07/2024	13/07/2024	AILG	Elected Member Induction Training	Radisson Hotel, Cork	1
11/09/2024	12/09/2024	AILG	Autumn Training Seminar 2024	Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan	7
26/09/2024	26/09/2024	AILG	September Training Module - An Overview of the Planning System	Horse and Jockey Hotel, Tipperary	1
28/09/2024	28/09/2024	AILG	September Training Module - An Overview of the Planning System	Bridge House Hotel, Tullamore, Co. Offaly	4
17/10/2024	18/10/2024	LAMA	Autumn Seminar- Community Engagement and Ireland's Place in Europe Going Forward	Newgrange Hotel, Navan, Co. Meath	6
24/10/2024	24/10/2024	AILG	October Training Module - Local Authority Finance and Budget	Sligo Park Hotel, Sligo	1
02/11/2024	02/11/2024	AILG	October Training Module - Local Authority Finance and Budget	Radisson Blu Hotel, Limerick	1
16/11/2024	16/11/2024	AILG	November Training Module - A Councillor's Guide to Home Upgrade Grants	Claregalway Hotel, Galway	2
22/11/2024	24/11/2024	Celtic Conferences	Corporate Governance	O'Donovan's Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork	1
13/12/2024	15/12/2024	Celtic Conferences	Health Services Entitlement	O'Donovan's Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork	1

Appendix 3: Councillors Committees 2024

List of County Committees and Outside Bodies on which Roscommon County Council was Formally Represented in 2024

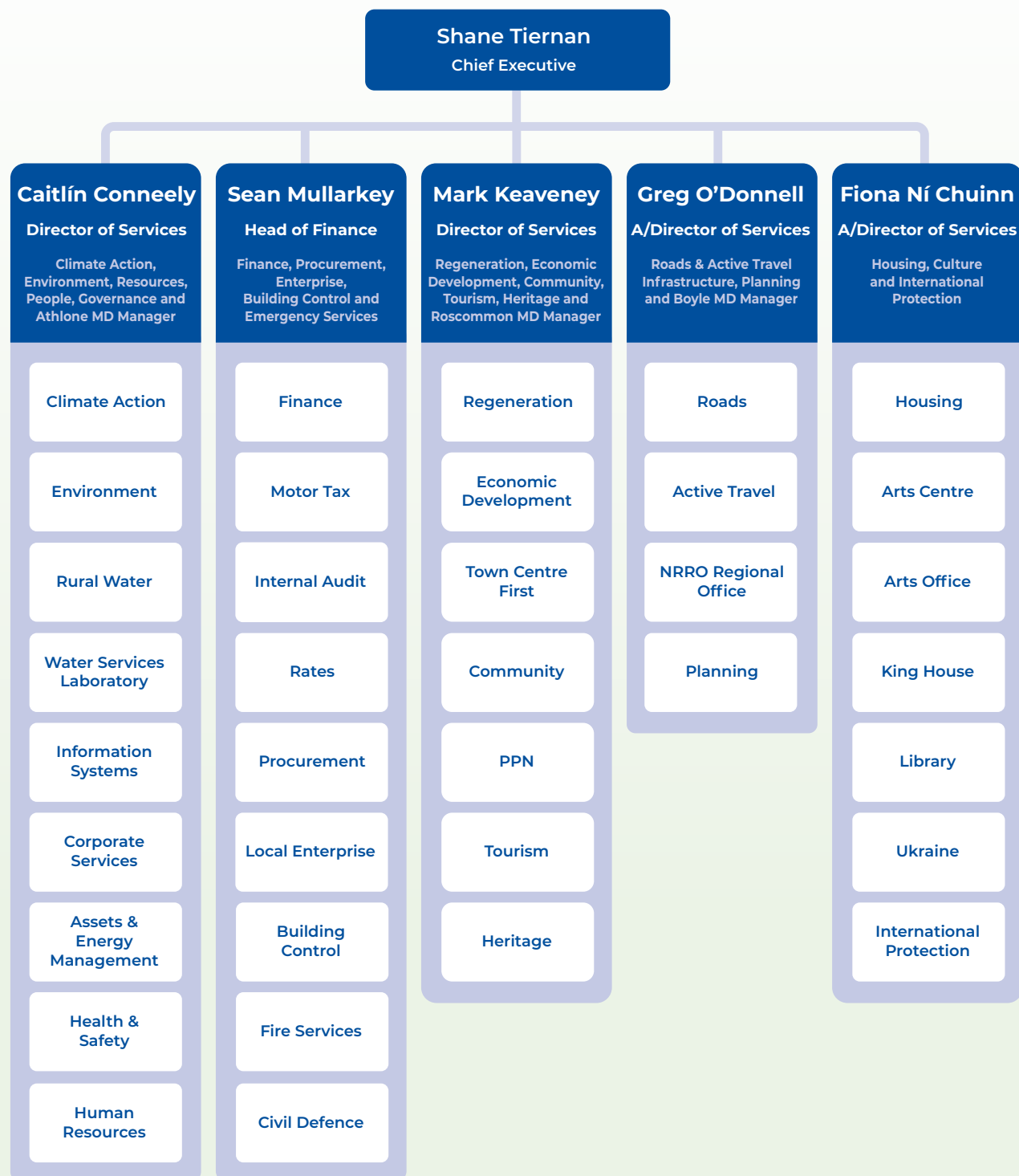
Committee Title	Purpose of the Committee	Elected Members Representing Roscommon County Council (Jan-June 2024)	Elected Members representing Roscommon County Council (June-Dec 2024)
Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) Aontas Rialtas Áitiúil na hÉireann	The Association organises a programme of meetings which help members give voice to current issues in Council life. The AILG is a networking, policy development and training resource for the Elected Members of Ireland's 31 County and City Councils.	Councillors Waldron (RIP), Fitzmaurice and Fallon	Councillors Brennan, Callaghan and Byrne
Northern and Western Regional Assembly	Managing and monitoring the EU funded operational programmes in the North and West Region.	Councillors Leyden and Naughten (RIP)	Councillors Frain and Naughten (RIP) (Jun – Oct) Councillor Callaghan (Dec)
Heritage Forum	An advisory body to oversee and advise on the preparation and implementation of the County Roscommon Heritage Plan.	Councillor Murphy	Councillor Scahill
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	Councillors Brennan, Connolly and Scahill
Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Limited (IPB)	Committee required as IPB is a Mutual Company.	Councillor Keogh	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	Councillor Naughten (RIP) (Jun – Oct) Councillor Connolly (Dec)
Library Association of Ireland	To attend the Annual General Meeting of the Library Association of Ireland as a delegate.	Councillor Callaghan	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 (RIP)	Councillors Callaghan, Connolly and Moylan
Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)	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	Councillors Brennan, Connolly and Fallon
Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC)	To advise on the provision and management of Traveller accommodation.	Councillors Shanagher, Cummins and Crosby	Councillors Callaghan, Crosby and Keogh

List of County Committees and Outside Bodies on which Roscommon County Council was Formally Represented in 2024

Committee Title	Purpose of the Committee	Elected Members Representing Roscommon County Council (Jan-June 2024)	Elected Members representing Roscommon County Council (June-Dec 2024)
Regional Health ForumWest	To ensure that local elected representatives continue to have an opportunity to exercise oversight of the health and personal social services provided by the HSE.	Councillors Ward, Cummins and Crosby	Councillors Kelly, Moylan and Scahill
Road Safety Together Committee	To make the roads in County Roscommon a safer place for all road users.	Councillors Waldron (RIP), Murphy and Naughten (RIP)	Councillors Frain, Kelly and Moylan
Roscommon Comhairle na nÓg Steering Committee	Local youth council, which supports children and young people to be heard in the development of local services and policies. The steering committee helps young people to access and engage with the local authority and with decision making bodies in the county.	Councillors McDermott and Crosby	Councillors Moylan and Scahill
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	Councillors Keogh and Scahill
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 (RIP), Kilduff, Shanagher, Dineen, Ward, Naughten (RIP), Fitzmaurice, Callaghan, Cummins, Fallon, Crosby, McDermott, and Murphy	Committee disbanded, pursuant to the Policing, Security and Community Safety Act 2024
Rural Water Local Monitoring Committee	To advise on the operation of and to monitor the implementation of the Rural Water Programme locally.	Councillors Kilduff, Cummins and Callaghan	Councillors Callaghan, Crosby and Frain
Western Inter-County Rail Committee	This committee is committed to the reopening of the Western Rail Corridor.	Councillor Crosby	Councillor Scahill
Midlands Regional Transition Steering Committee	The committee is focused on achieving the strategic objectives of the region.	n/a	Councillor Naughten (RIP) (Jun – Oct) Councillor Callaghan (Dec)
Standing Orders Committee	The committee considers matters of procedure and standing orders for the Council.	Councillors Dineen, Ward, Cummins, Naughten (RIP), McDermott and Crosby	Councillors Crosby, Fitzmaurice, McDermott, Moylan, Naughten (RIP) (Jun – Oct) and Scahill
Roscommon Outdoor Recreation Committee	This committee is in place to deliver a planned and co-ordinated approach to outdoor recreation needs aligned with national strategy.	n/a	Councillor Crosby

Appendix 4: Management Structure 2024

The Council's management structure at the end of 2024 is illustrated in the following diagram:







Lough O'Flynn Bog Loop

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