

«ROSCOMMON DIGITAL STRATEGY»

2022-2026



Comhairle Contae
Ros Comáin
Roscommon
County Council





"THE BIGGEST PART OF OUR
DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IS
CHANGING THE WAY WE THINK."





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Introduction



On behalf of Roscommon County Council, I welcome the Digital Strategy 2022-2026 which sets out the Council's digital priorities for the next four years. This strategy will introduce and embed the digital ethos through our service delivery and thus enhance its impact in making Roscommon a great place in which to live and work. This four-year digital strategy sets out our strategic goals and objectives and will maximise digital opportunities for the county. I believe that, by promoting our digital agenda, through a dynamic workforce, enhanced infrastructure and services, including the rollout of the National Broadband Plan, County

Roscommon will secure more sustainable economic growth and greater prosperity going into the future. Here in Roscommon we will be focussing on introducing measures and actions to create and develop a Digital/Smart county. Thanks to community and business participation in the consultation process, we now have a more comprehensive understanding of the real needs of people, and this strategy sets out the vision and aims for the delivery of services in Roscommon to better meet these needs. Finally, I would like to thank the Information Services Department and the working group for all their hard work and commitment in putting this strategy together.

We now live in a highly connected world of instant information access and transmission. Digital Transformation both in the workplace and society in general plays a major role in how we receive information, access services, and communicate with each other. The importance of digital connectivity became acutely apparent during the unprecedented effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and disruptive global events such as the war in Ukraine. These events have shown how indispensable digital connectivity is to allow societies function where previously there would have been very much greater disruption without such technology. Remote working; remote education, video calls with distant colleagues, friends and families, the provision of up to date online digital services; enabling businesses to connect with their customers are just some of the ways advances in technology have allowed us as a world to continue to function as never before.

**Shane Tiernan, Chief Executive
Roscommon County Council**

Digital Vision - County Roscommon

Roscommon County Council (RCC) has prepared a Digital Strategy 2022 -2026 to ensure Roscommon is ready to embrace and implement a thriving and competitive digital economy. The Strategy sets out Roscommon County Council's ambitions to meet the needs and requirements of the people of the county in enabling them to benefit from full connectivity and digital transformation throughout the county.

The Strategy prioritises three key themes:

1. Digital Community
2. Digital Infrastructure
3. Digital Economy and Enterprise



The Strategy will coordinate all activities for the development of a collaborative digital society and economy over the coming four and will build on existing resources, infrastructure, plans and policies to bring digital into all aspects of life in Roscommon and in doing so, creating a connected, inclusive and dynamic future for all its citizens and visitors.

The Digital Society

We are increasingly bound in the digital society, in which every aspect of our lives is profoundly affected by digital applications; the digitalisation and proliferation of data; how we communicate, socialize, work, learn, stay healthy and participate in politics and the economy.



Digital technologies are rapidly evolving and emerging to advance each of these factors. A healthy digital society will promote opportunity and access, protect citizens, drive efficiencies and knowledge and support better and more democratic policy making.

The Digital Economy

The digital economy has rapidly become the real economy with digital products, services and resources defining enterprise and commerce rather than just an element of the economy. All industries are undergoing digital transformation and the largest corporate organisations in the world have built their fortunes on it, over the past decade. Digital ecosystems are redefining the enterprise landscape. Tech giants have become the drivers of economic growth and value creation. Digital technologies disrupt markets for products, services, labour and other resources. In manufacturing for example, intensive use of data and 3D printing could transform value and production and supply chains and bring us closer to a circular economy.

The Digital Citizen

Digital Citizenship is a term used to define the appropriate and responsible use of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in society. It is an important area of policy and regulation to ensure that democratic structures, systems and norms are upheld and citizens' rights and opportunities are protected. Three principles underpin the digital citizen; respect, educate, and protect.



Vision – Roscommon has a thriving and competitive digital economy.

The County Roscommon Digital strategy establishes the overall digital direction of the County and sets out how technology will support and enable County Roscommon to grow and develop. Key to this is connectivity and access to services previously only enjoyed by capital cities.

To achieve this thriving digital economy we will;

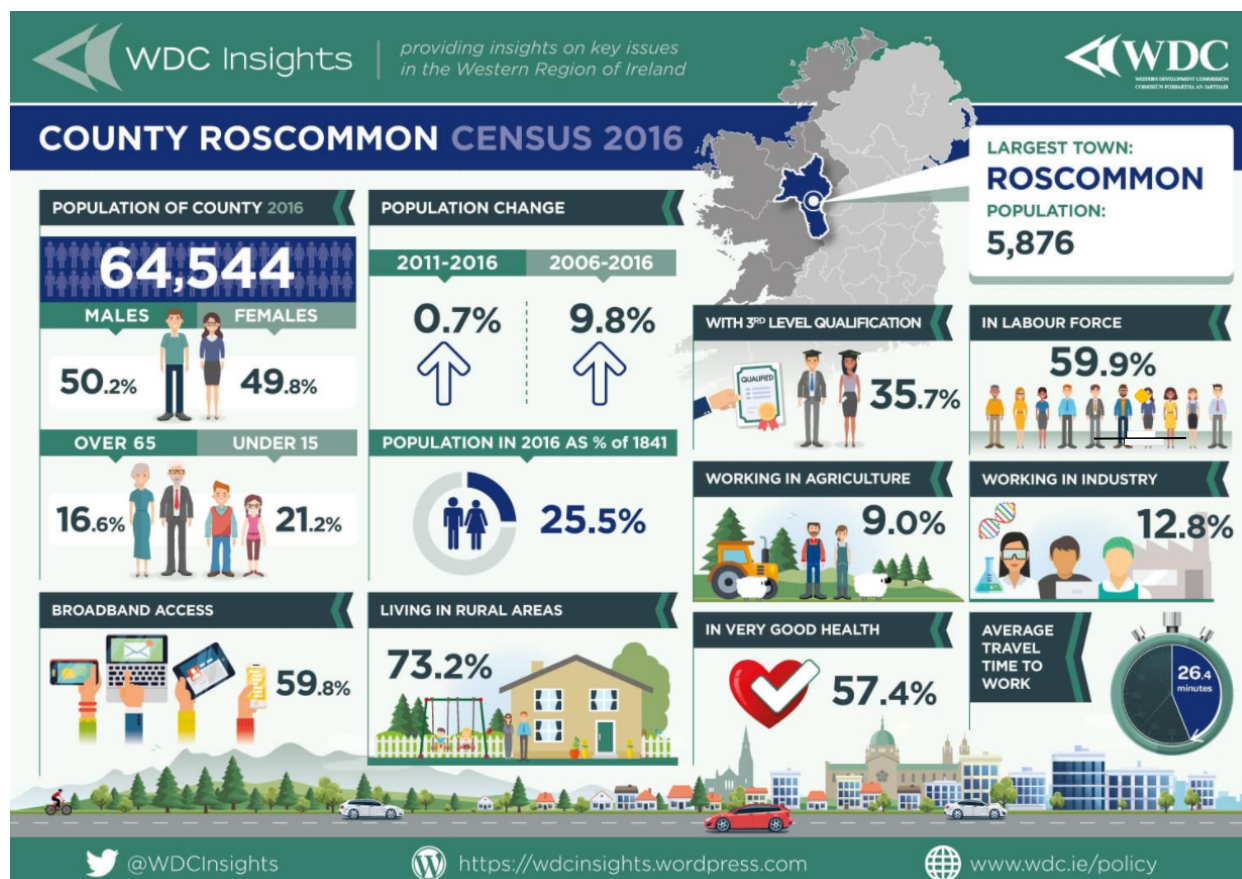
- Enhance our **digital innovation hubs**
- Improve our citizen's **digital skills**
- Adopt appropriate community, economic and cultural **digital initiatives**
- Develop **schools** with the latest information, tools and teaching.
- Connect **healthcare** providers to leading medical centres and patients to global expertise.
- Reduce the costs of **public services** and renew community engagement in the democratic process.
- Strengthen the resilience of the region in dealing with **emergencies**.

Digital Profile of County Roscommon

- **64.3%** of households in Roscommon County **own a PC**, compared to the national average of 67.2% and a peer average of 64.2%
- **59.8%** of households in Roscommon County have **Broadband access**, compared to the national average of 67.9% and a peer average of 61.2%
- **26.5%** of households in Roscommon County have **no access to the internet**, compared to a national average of 20.3% and a peer group average of 25.2%
- High-Speed Broadband **coverage** rate by commercial operators in Roscommon County is **39.6%**, compared to national average of 62.8% and a peer group average of 46.9%
- The LA area faces a number of structural challenges regarding digital infrastructure, challenges which may in part be addressed through the National Broadband Plan
- The area is currently ranked at '**Emerging/Formative**' in terms of digital infrastructure

Figures above from - DESI 2020 – (Digital Economy and Society Index)

Key Statistics:



County Development Plan 2022-2028 – Strategic Vision

Roscommon County Council is committed to working for the common good of the people of County Roscommon, and through this County Development Plan will set out a positive and sustainable approach to developing the county economically, socially and culturally for the benefit of current and future generations. There will be a strong focus on the regeneration and renewal of the towns and villages of the county, in order to return them to a position of being the major drivers in the county, to once again become vibrant and attractive places, capable of attracting new residents, inward investment and increased employment. The Council will also recognise the rural attributes of County Roscommon and policies will ensure that this Plan enhances the lives of people who live in, work and visit the county. The future envisioned in this six-year Plan reflects at the local level the strategic vision set out in the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Northern and Western Region - to make this “a vibrant, connected, natural, inclusive and smart place to work and live.”

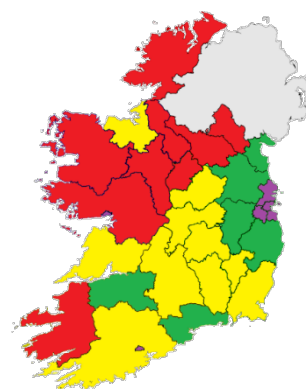
The National Context

The figure below highlights a range of National Policies, Strategies and Plans that all feed into the goals, objectives and targets that make up the County Roscommon Digital Strategy.

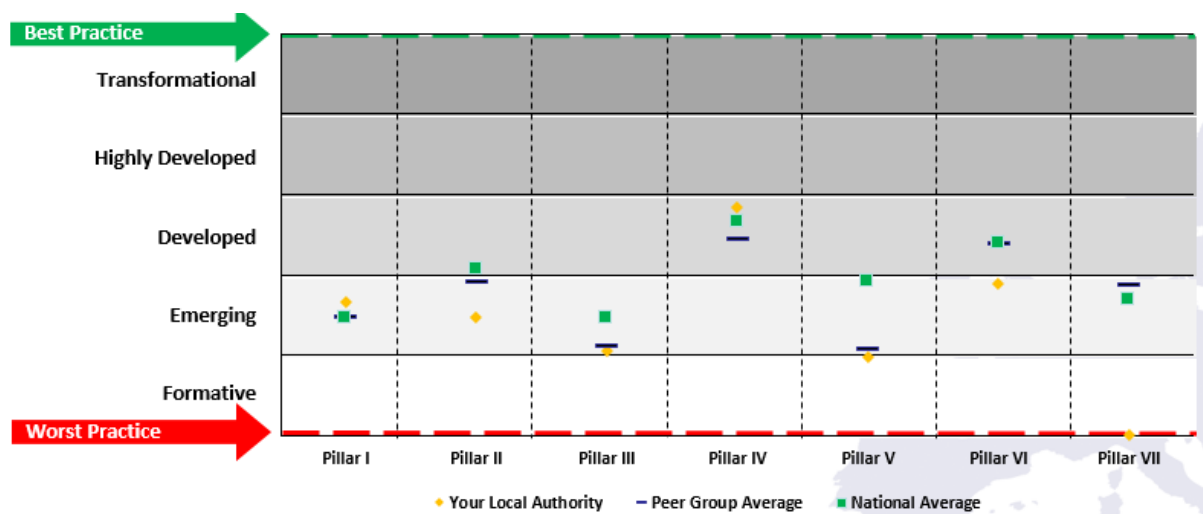


Digital Strategy - Consultation and Engagement

Indecon Economic Consultancy produced a digital readiness assessment (DRA) report for Roscommon County Council in early 2018, following the completion of an internal questionnaire. DRAs were carried out for each Local Authority. In the DRAs, each Local Authority is compared with its peers as well as the national average. DRA reports individual measures of digital progress and provides an individual 'score' for each of the 7 pillars, against which the LA is compared. Peer Groups based on level of urbanisation in each Local Authority. Roscommon is located in **Group 4 (Red)**: Areas where the rural population is > 60%.



Pillar I	Pillar II	Pillar III	Pillar IV	Pillar V	Pillar VI	Pillar VII
Transitioning to Digital	Digital Economy and Employment	Digital Skills	Digital Services	Infrastructure	Innovation and Entrepreneurship	Community and Culture



Roscommon performs well in certain areas such as Pillar 4 (Digital Services), but there is potential for on-going development. There is potential to improve performance over time in Pillars 2,3,5, 6 and 7.

Indecon, in conjunction with the Department of Rural and Community Development, held a two-day Workshop in Athlone covering each of the seven pillars and including a wide-ranging discussion of examples of best-practice internationally in developing regionally-based Digital Strategies. Guidelines were drafted for Local Authorities to use in developing their local digital strategies.

See Appendix B – Consultation and Engagement for more details



SWOT Analysis of County Roscommon

Understanding Roscommon's relative position, in a micro and macro context, is important as a backdrop to the development of the Digital Strategy. A SWOT analysis of Roscommon as conducted for the Roscommon Local Economic and Community Plan, will assist mapping out the digital journey and its potential for the county by identifying assets to build upon, barriers to be removed, gaps to fill and opportunities to maximise. Each of the SWOT factors acts as a starting position for generating strategy options and actions.

Strengths

(LECP Economic)

1. High levels of third level participation.
2. High speed fibre broadband now available in more of Roscommon.
3. LEO actively supporting micro-enterprise and economic development.
4. Proximity to Ireland West (Knock) Airport provides international connectivity.
5. Proximity to third level institutions in nearby counties -AIT, IT Sligo, NUIG, GMIT.

(LECP Community)

1. Strong community participation and ownership of local development process, LEADER and social inclusion activities.
2. Strong partnership approaches to development between communities, agencies and statutory bodies.
3. Potential to reinvigorate local communities with remote workers now that a remote working strategy is in place.
4. Enabling of local communities through the addition of Local WiFi and BCPs.

Weaknesses

(LECP Economic)

1. Lack of specialist enterprise and innovation infrastructure in the county.
2. No third level education/research centre in the county.
3. High out-migration of younger working age groups impacts growth potential.
4. Low levels of graduate employment and retention.
5. One third of workforce travel outside the county to their workplace resulting in lost economic activity locally.
6. Skills gaps in ICT, science, technical skills and languages.
7. Low levels of entrepreneurship with high dependency on retail and public sectors for employment.
8. High vacancy rate amongst commercial properties leading to lost opportunity.

(LECP Community)

1. Poor demographic vitality, particularly in north and west of county with relatively high older age dependency rates.
2. Much community infrastructure is in need of upgrading, including accessibility and energy efficiency issues.
3. Low levels of participation in education, training and community activity by some socially excluded groups, coupled with areas of high 'primary only' education.
4. Significant number of households without PCs/ internet access relative to other counties.



Opportunities

(LECP Economic)

1. Invest in enabling infrastructure and resources to foster and facilitate growth in knowledge sectors.
2. Potential to convert unused commercial premises to enterprise/incubation hubs.
3. Promote central location of county for enterprise and trade and position county as a strategic central hub.
4. Leverage support from nearby third level institutes/research centres to add value to local enterprise, e.g. research, innovation, training and graduate placement.
5. Partner with other neighbouring counties/regions to leverage resources and achieve economies of scale in relevant sectors.
6. Develop modern web presence for all enterprise with growth potential.
7. Actively develop and promote fibre broadband connectivity to foster new job creation.

(LECP Community)

1. The social/community enterprise sector in Roscommon is vibrant and varied but additional networking, training, shared resources and shared learning within the sector can lead to greater impacts and outcomes.
2. Establish broadband/IT hotspots in libraries and rural community locations to provide better IT/internet access.

Threats

(LECP Economic)

1. Lack of local identity with technology-based/growth sectors limits potential.
2. Faster growing neighbouring regions with better infrastructure present local challenges.
3. Brain drain resulting in lack of innovation capacity and sustainability of enterprise with growth potential.
4. Insufficient finance to provide necessary infrastructure, promote county and start new ventures.
5. Pace of deployment of County wide broadband infrastructure threatens capacity.

(LECP Community)

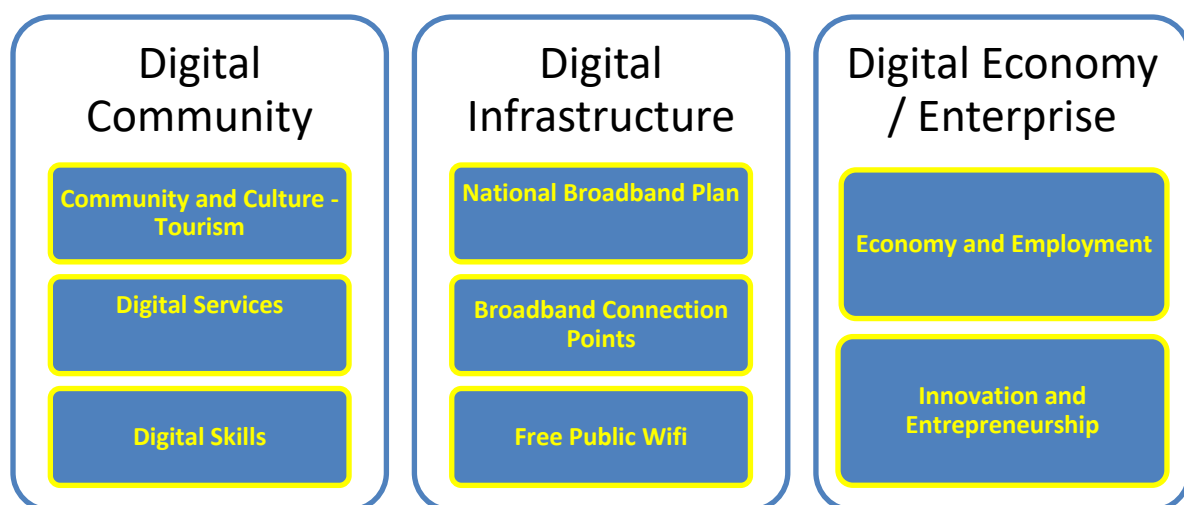
1. Lack of investment in community infrastructure will lead to reduced access to facilities in the future.
2. Lack of adequate broadband coverage will negatively impact on social and community fabric.

Strategy Themes

A Digital Readiness Assessment sets out the current status of Roscommon for each of the pillars illustrated in the figure below. Developing digital strategies based on these pillars has the advantage of ensuring a comprehensive digital strategy, can aid comparison with other Local Authority areas and also the National Digital Strategy.



This strategy has been split into 3 themes which will cover the 6 pillars above.



Objective 1 - Promote the use of digital technology within the Community and reduce social isolation by enabling people to stay connected via technology

Digital technology can help to create places and communities that manage spatial development, population growth, mobility, effects of climate change and transition to greater sustainability. Smart Communities will promote safety and liveability, and connect communities. In Roscommon, Smart Communities

Minister of State at the Department of Rural and Community Development and Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment Seán Canney TD launched the **Smart Community Initiative** in 2019

Smart Communities is a new approach that will bring exposure to digital content and technology out into the community and support people to discover the value of using digital in their daily lives. By working together and combining existing assets and resources under a shared vision the community will maximise reach, impact and engagement of current schemes and programmes.

The Smart Community initiative has the potential, in combination with local authority Digital Strategies, to deliver enhanced demand stimulation for uptake of High Speed Broadband services in urban and rural communities.

“Smart Villages are rural areas and communities which build on their existing strengths and assets as well as on developing new opportunities”, where “traditional and new networks and services are enhanced by means of digital, telecommunication technologies, innovations and the better use of knowledge”.

Eu Action for Smart Villages, European Commission



Can Your Community Actually Become Smarter?

There comes a time when community leaders struggle to make their community more efficient and smarter. Effective smart communities do so by applying a hub approach that connects people with the information and technology to drive improved quality of life, innovation, and better choices. Get the most out of your location technology investment by exploiting a combination of Internet of Things (IoT) devices, big data, inclusive apps, and community feedback to gain previously unimagined insight. At a local level, a community can embrace technology solutions to meet goals in delivery of smart infrastructure, smart buildings, green solutions and healthy communities.

1.2 Digital Technology and Community Engagement

Digital technology and Remote Working during COVID-19

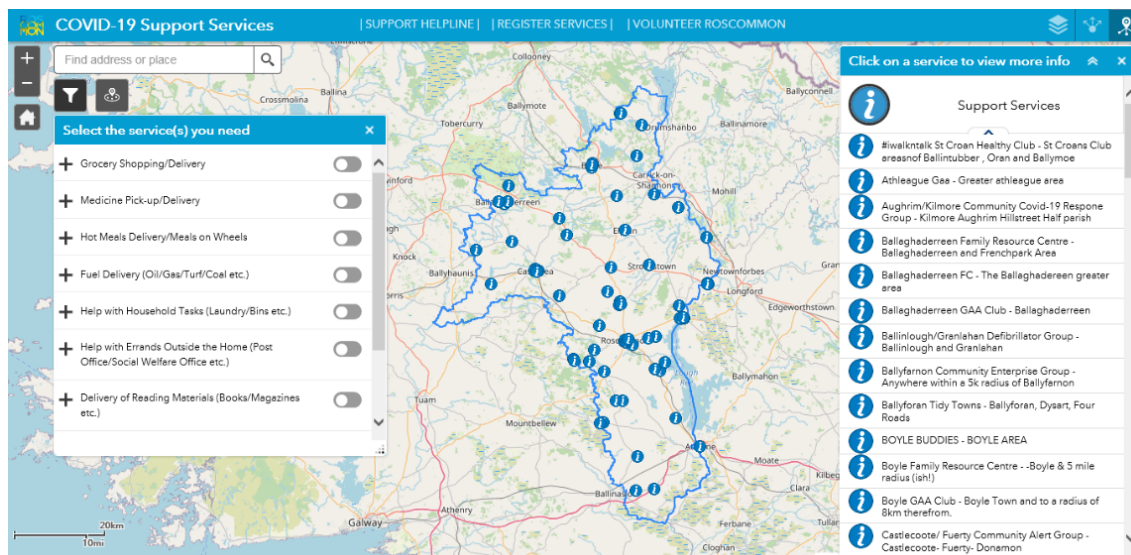
Access to Broadband has never been more critical, the COVID-19 pandemic led to an increased need for remote working, online sales and community engagement. Many companies have introduced remote working for its employees for the first time. This could permanently shift working patterns and could lead to more work-flexibility going forward. Remote workers are often more productive, more engaged (with lower levels of absenteeism) and more loyal—in fact, 54% of quizzed workers say they would change jobs for one which offered more flexibility.

Community Spirit

Community Response Forum – COVID-19 - As part of the Government response to the Covid-19 crisis, RCC in partnership with principal response agencies and community and voluntary groups came together to form out CRF to lead the co-ordination of COVID-19 community supports and resilience. The CRF brings together a number of organisations to identify vulnerable groups and individuals in Roscommon and to ensure delivery of targeted social care supports and assistance to vulnerable groups and individuals.

Case Study - My online services (Covid)

- Support services interactive map
- Register support services
- Community support helpline
- Register as a volunteer
- COVID-19 information pack



Case Study

Digital Innovation & the Community

Roscommon County Council received funding from the Department of rural and Community Development in 2021 to develop a Defibrillator App for County Roscommon. We teamed up with Roscommon Rapid Response Group to deliver the EmcallApp for the citizens of Co Roscommon. We are delighted to be associated with this potentially lifesaving project.

CPR and defibrillation within 5 min can improve cardiac arrest survival rates by up to 50%.

Approximately 5,000 people suffer a cardiac arrest in Ireland each year.

Only 250 people or 5% survive an out of hospital cardiac arrest.

For every minute that passes after a cardiac arrest without treatment, the chances of survival fall by 10%.

Purpose of EmCall:

- NOTIFY EMERGENCY SERVICES
- PROVIDE LOCATION COORDINATES
- LOCATE NEAREST DEFIBRILLATOR
- NOTIFY NEAREST CPR TRAINED RESPONDER

TARGET - 5 MINUTE RESPONSE TIME

DOWNLOAD EMCALL NOW

SAVE TIME
SAVE LIVES
DOWNLOAD

Available on the
App Store

GET IT ON
Google Play

As Sponsors of the
Roscommon Rapid Response Group

EMCALL EMERGENCY RESPONSE APP

1.3 Smart Ageing and E-Health

Smart Ageing is a concept that combines innovation and technology to produce products and services to improve the quality of life for people aged 50 and over. The share of older people in the County's population is rising. The consequences of population ageing present enormous challenges and opportunities. ICT has the potential for easing the social burdens of the older population and for boosting economic growth in a region.

There are many **ICT innovations for ageing society** as outlined.

1. Online Services:

RCC will encourage the adoption of the Age Friendly Library recommendations to ensure library services continue to enhance their opportunity for supporting older people to access information and complete relevant online services.

2. Support Services:

- a) Seniors Alert Scheme
- b) Community support line
- c) Rural online and phonecall GP service.
- d) Online Consultant's Appointments.

3. Adaptable housing:

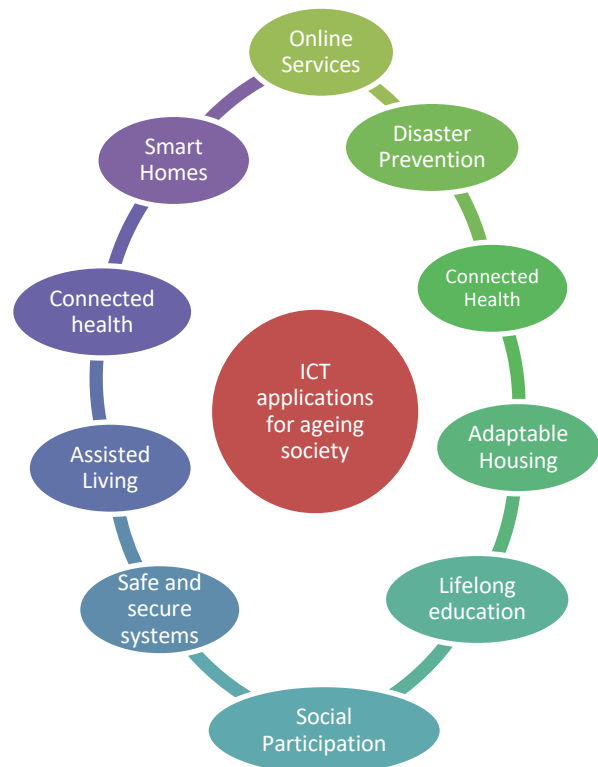
There is a substantial need for the adaptation of the existing housing stock to better meet the needs of an older population

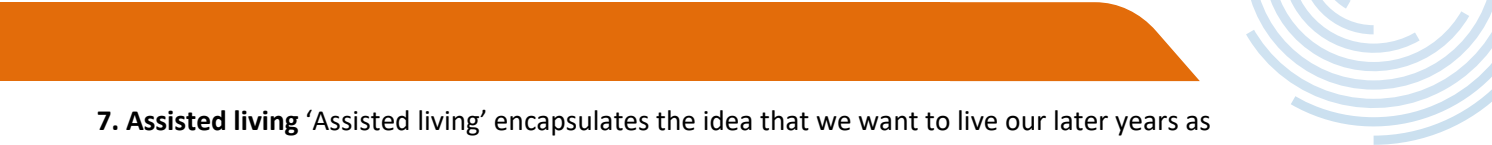
4. Lifelong education:

RCC recognise that we have an ageing population in the county and we are actively promoting and assisting in the delivery of IT training for older people through the BCP (Broadband Connection Points) network. We are also actively engaged with elderly groups like Age Friendly Ireland and Age Active Ireland to promote education and the use of digital technology amongst our elderly population.

5. Social participation: promoting positive e-participation to civil society through volunteer activities; expanding the ICT-utilised social networks for elderly people and creating a community volunteering culture.

6. Safe and secure system: preventing accidents with elderly through the use of emergency assistance systems, security features, fall prevention, automated timers, and alerts and social alarming.





7. Assisted living ‘Assisted living’ encapsulates the idea that we want to live our later years as independently as possible and away from hospitals or care homes. This includes the use of sensors, communication technology, as well as mobility aids, actuators, gaming concept, and human-machine interface to support people’s needs and wishes.

8. Connected health Connected health is a model for healthcare delivery that uses technology to provide healthcare remotely. People are increasingly using wearable sensors to generate continuous data through connected devices, whether that is blood pressure or distance walked. These personal devices are being used more for medical applications too. Appropriate data analytics methods and wireless technology to enable remote patient monitoring, point of care diagnostics, and self-care will transform healthcare. Connected health is a large and growing global market encompassing mobile health (mHealth) through healthcare IT to telecare and telehealth.

9. Smart Homes The concept of the smart home is a promising and cost-effective way of improving home care for the elderly and the disabled in a non-obtrusive way, allowing greater independence, maintaining good health and preventing social isolation. Smart homes are equipped with sensors, actuators, and/or biomedical monitors. The devices operate in a network connected to a remote centre for data collection and processing.

Roscommon County Council will continue to engage with and support the providers of Smart Ageing and E Health Technology in County Roscommon. As an inclusive local authority we will also endeavour to make our online services more accessible and user friendly for our elderly population.

Objective 2 – Provide practical supports to local communities


1.4 Leader

Leader provides practical and needed supports including grants, training, work placement and advice to community and voluntary groups, social inclusion target groups, small businesses, farm families and businesses and potential entrepreneurs. Leader also collaborate with a wide range of local organisations in the delivery of services

SICAP- Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme

Roscommon LEADER Partnership Company is delivering the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018-2022 SICAP programme on behalf of Roscommon Local Community Development Committee, which is a committee of Roscommon County Council. The Programme has Two Goals: 1. To support communities and target groups to engage with relevant stakeholders in identifying and addressing social exclusion and equality issues, developing the capacity of Local Community Groups, and creating more sustainable communities. 2. To support disadvantaged individuals to improve the quality of their lives through the provision of lifelong learning and labour market supports.

Case Study

LEADER Project Case Study	
Project Name:	Purchase of computer equipment to expand innovative on-line sales and develop rural tourism business
Promoter Name	Úna Bhán Tourism Co-operative Society Limited Úna Bhán provides tourism related services to small scale accommodation providers, craft workers, walking guides, providers of fishing services and others. Úna Bhán is heavily involved in numerous community events and activities.
Project Background	<p>This project is for the purchase of computer and A3 printing equipment to ensure the services Úna Bhán Tourism provide will continue develop to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research and develop Úna Bhán 'on-line shop' as a means of revenue earning for small scale rural producers and sustainability 2. Research initiatives to promote social economic and social enterprise development for the area. 3. Provide new marketing initiatives through the use of the internet and social media. 4. Identify and develop new service initiatives to disadvantage areas. 5. Input data and update websites and social media outlets for local businesses on an ongoing basis. <p>In order to maintain and expand essential rural community services in Úna Bhán Tourism the purchase of new computers and an A3 Colour Printer are required.</p>
Project Budget (LEADER funding)	€5,008.25
Summary	<p>Úna Bhán would not have been able to continue providing the services it presently offers in the absence of grant aid from RLP. It was critical for Úna Bhán to upgrade existing computer equipment in order to maintain and develop an effect eCommerce business and provide support for priority business sectors in County Roscommon.</p> 



Objective 3 - Digital preservation and dissemination of our heritage

1.5 Heritage

Roscommon Heritage Office has supported many digital projects to date. It is hoped that this can be further developed and expanded as part of the new County Roscommon Heritage Plan 2022-2027 which may consider the inclusion of a strategic goal to further support growing developments and opportunities in using digital technology in collection and dissemination of heritage information, promoting best practice in heritage conservation and management and raising awareness of our heritage.

Heritage – Ongoing Initiatives

Roscommon Cemeteries Mapviewer:

Launched in October 2019, the cemeteries map viewer is available on www.roscommoncoco.ie/cemeteries. It is a central point for information on all cemeteries in the county. The cemeteries Mapviewer portal is updated on an ongoing basis by the Heritage Office.

A Guided Tour Series:

This is a series of video guided tours of heritage sites around the county which are available on the Roscommon County Council Youtube channel. Guided tours were produced for three sites in 2020 and a further site is due for completion in 2022.

County Roscommon Folklore and Oral History Network / Roscommon Media Archive

Since 2006 County Roscommon Folklore and Oral History Network have been carrying out oral history interviews and the entire collection has been presented to the public through the County Library Service. The digital platform and dissemination of this collection is being reviewed at present in conjunction with the County Library Service.

Roscommon Heritage Online Initiatives:

The Heritage Section of the RCC website is updated on an ongoing basis. All publications and reports produced by the Heritage Office are available to the public on

<http://www.roscommoncoco.ie/en/Download-It/Heritage-Publications/>

Heritage office survey data is available on the RCC open data portal and this is updated on an ongoing basis - [Roscommon County Council Open Data Portal \(arcgis.com\)](http://www.roscommoncoco.ie/en/Download-It/Heritage-Publications/)

The Roscommon County Council website is used to encourage digital engagement in a number of local and national heritage initiatives -

<http://www.roscommoncoco.ie/en/Services/Community/Heritage/In-this-together-Roscommon-Heritage-Online/>

Use of digital outreach and engagement:

A Roscommon 'Know Your Locality' heritage training and information course was successfully delivered online to participants in the county by the Irish Archaeological Field School in spring 2021.

Digital Exhibitions and Social Media Updates:

The Heritage Office supplies content on a regular basis for use on RCC social media channels. Roscommon County Council supports the Heritage Council heritage mapping initiative. Heritage data from Roscommon is added on an ongoing basis as it becomes available and can be viewed at www.heritagemaps.ie

Objective 4 – Promoting Arts in Co Roscommon

1.6 Arts

The Roscommon Arts Plan 2022 – 2027 will consider the inclusion of a strategic goal to further support the growing developments and opportunities in creating and presenting digital and blended or ‘phygital’ work. Currently the Arts Office supports artists and arts organisations to produce digital work through bursaries, commissions, training and mentoring. Best practice is guided by engaging industry experts to work with the Roscommon arts community with additional funding and supports available through the Arts Council of Ireland, Creative Ireland, the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media and others.

Applications to Grants and Bursaries increased when managed through Online Services in 2021 and the Arts Office has achieved very high engagement in online artist training programs.

Arts - Case Study

Roscommon County Council engaged with eight people this Spring for another successful **Conversations in Portrait Project**. A call went out for people, over age 70 in a nursing home or cocooning at home, missing their cultural activities and interested in making new connections at this time. Over three **Zoom** sessions, artist Andy Parsons painted their portrait, while talking and getting to know each person and how they have responded to the last few months of Covid.

Organised by Roscommon County Council Arts Office. Part of the KEEP WELL campaign delivered by Roscommon County Council and Healthy Ireland, an initiative of the Government of Ireland with funding from the Healthy Ireland Fund and the Sláintecare fund delivered by Pobal. (*Pobal works on behalf of Government to support communities and local agencies toward achieving social inclusion and development*).

Sadie:



Our sample portrait is Abbey Haven resident, Sadie Milmoie, aged 90. Sadie is a very sociable lady who has remained positive throughout this pandemic. Sadie being painted via Zoom

1.7 Tourism –



Number of overseas Visitors to Roscommon in 2017 – 54,000 (Failte Ireland)

Revenue Generated - €24m

The www.visitroscommon.ie website contains information on all Attractions, Activities and Accommodation within County Roscommon. The site is updated continually to include all new tourism initiatives introduced in County Roscommon.

www.visitroscommon.ie provides a link to **Ireland's Hidden Heartlands** website – expanding the information available to tourist. Touch screen kiosk in place in Roscommon Town which links to our tourism website.

Action Plan

- new website for King House was developed www.visitkinghouse.ie and associated Social media being updated regularly
- New tourism videos to highlight counties attractions to be developed.
- Additional imagery purchased to use on Visit Roscommon Social media pages and website to market the county.
- In 2023 we will host two online Social Media Training for the Tourism Trade
- A networking events will take place in 2023 within the tourism trade to encourage their linkage with our Tourism website and social media pages. As part of this the trade will offer prizes, as incentives, on our social media pages to increase engagement
- Propose to install Touch screen kiosk in Boyle as part of Destination Towns funding in 2023
- Expand GIS (Geographic Information Systems) mapping to Roscommon Walks and Cycleways

1.8 Diaspora

Roscommon's Diaspora Strategy hopes to maximise opportunities offered by Digital Connectivity. The need here is to make it easier for people to source relevant information when they search and to be more proactive in terms of offering meaningful links from Roscommon to people elsewhere. Global Rossie day was live-streamed across the globe in 2020 which involved showcasing three hours of video footage and interviews from across the County.

Key Actions

- Develop a central County website focusing on 'all things Roscommon', including tourism, heritage and culture, family history and the economy
- Promote the live streaming of key Roscommon events such as cultural, sporting, conferences, launches, commemorations and St Patrick's Day Parades.
- Share information and solutions on solving issues for return emigrants and their families through collaboration with neighbouring counties
- Provide updates to Global Rossies through Roscommon Bound website and social media channels.

Example



2) Digital Services

Objective 1 - Increase the amount of local authority services that are available online

1.9 Services provided by RCC

Roscommon County Council's 'digital first' policy has resulted in an increased number of services available digitally. Roscommon County Council will continue to build new, standardised, modern accessible digital services.

Digital Service Currently available	Description
Public I	Plenary meetings of the Council are available to view online
Social Media	Active Facebook page, twitter account and website
Real Time Information (RTI)	Real time information on road closures due to roadworks, flooding cultural activities health related events such as COVID-19 or other events.
MapAlerter	An official free alert service that delivers localised SMS, email and app notifications for water disruptions, road works, floods, planning activity, severe weather and other topics.
Open-data platform	Allows Council, residents, partners and businesses to access and use data to develop proactive solutions to social issues.
My Online Services	A range of online services where customers can report issues, apply for a grant or pay a bill.
Customer App	Allows rents and rates customers to pay bills, view accounts/statements and download demands from this free app on their phone or computer.
Free Public Wi-Fi	Free public Wi-Fi in Council offices and Internet access in libraries.
Eplan	Search Planning Applications

2.0 Digital Transformation

Digital Transformation (DX) refers to the integration of digital technology into all areas of an organisation resulting in fundamental changes to processes and operations and delivering value to customers, clients, citizens and internally to the organisation and its workforce. Roscommon County Council has embraced the Digital Transformation challenge with a strong sense of focus and delivery in recent times and is now a leading local authority in the areas of Open Data, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), cloud IT and document management and virtual communications tools.

The online service programme, delivered and promoted by the Digital Transformation Team, is increasing the availability of online services for the public and for staff. The Digital Transformation team provides quality and accessible online services, that are modern, efficient, engaging and meet citizens' expectations. By identifying business process improvements, that achieve resource optimization, digital online services are replacing some manual based processes. These are available through the online self-service portal that allows customers and citizens to access and engage with Council services anywhere, anytime while reducing the administrative burden on staff. Online services are integral to the enhanced performance of Roscommon County Council generating consistent data that will be used to aid insight driven decision making.

A range of online services can be accessed through the My Online Services portal. Customers can register as users and can apply, report and pay for a range of services. They can also track their requests. A full list of online services is available at

<https://roscommon-self.achieveservice.com/MyServices> and these include;

- Report an issue
- Apply for grants/job/licence
- Customer APP to pay rents/rates
- Pay for other service
- Online Library Services
- Online Map Portal



The Digital Transformation Team will continue to develop and promote online services that will offer the public an efficient way of doing business with Roscommon County Council.



Case Study

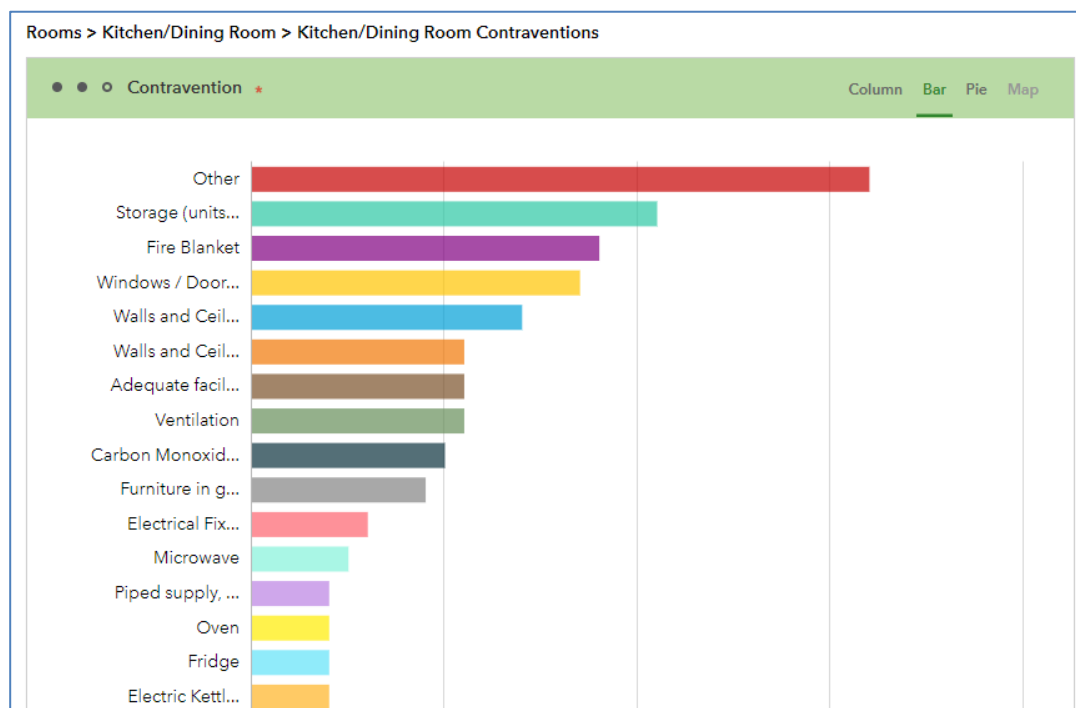
Case Management System for area offices

Roscommon Municipal District Office handle up to 5,000 calls annually from around the County. A process improvement programme was completed at Roscommon County Council which resulted in a new digital call logging system to record, map and automatically assign calls to relevant staff. Customers are automatically updated on the progress of the case via email and SMS and a tracking system allows staff to monitor and manage cases logged. This highly effective system has proven beneficial with staff and customers because of its ease of use and precise logging of calls.

Case Study

Rental Inspections

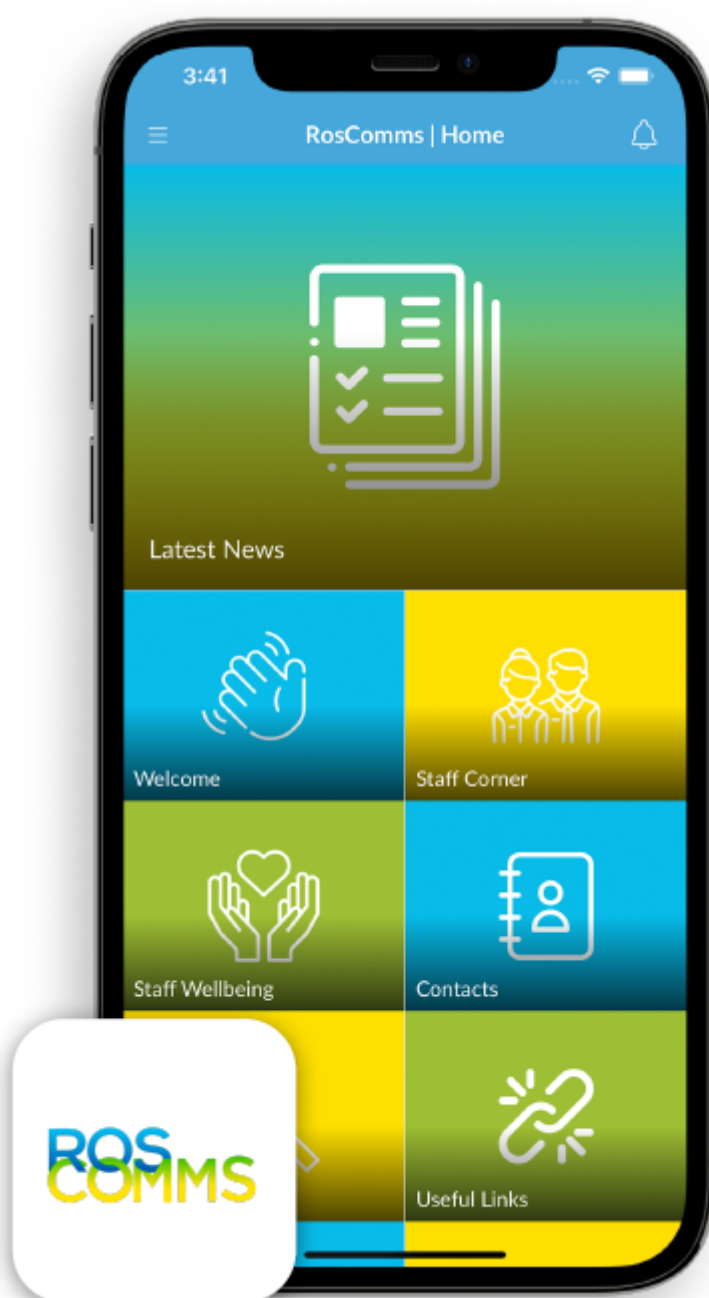
The Council conducts inspections on private rented accommodation to check for contraventions of the *Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2017*. These inspections were previously paper-based, with results noted on paper forms and then transposed to spreadsheets to track overall results and statistics. This process was quite time-consuming, and transposing of data and collation of statistics was vulnerable to human error. It was determined that this process could benefit from Digital Transformation. A **Mobile App** was developed to allow for results and photographs to be captured and recorded in a single process on a smartphone or tablet.



Case Study

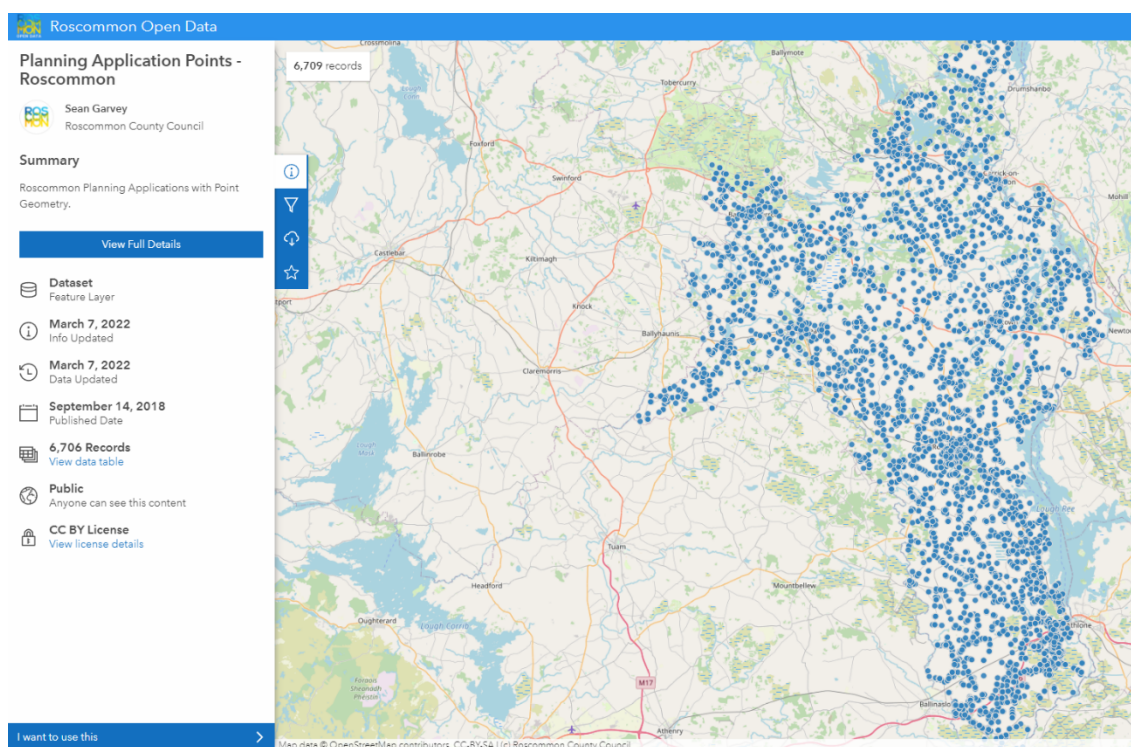
RosComms App – Communicating with our staff

In 2022 we partnered with Thrive to develop and launch 'RosComms' - our Staff App which has already brought about great improvements in communication and engagement with Council employees. RosComms has been a particular success in terms of reaching our outdoor staff who represent almost half of our workforce. Access to the App for this group brings a host of benefits including real time access to information, opportunities for targeted messaging and digital solutions to previously paper based procedures. This app forms part of our ongoing commitment to a progressive and effective communications strategy. At present over 65% of our staff have opted in to use the Staff App.



Case Study

Planning Applications in County Roscommon



Open Data

The open data portal has been made available by Roscommon County Council for the purpose of promoting innovation and transparency through the publication of data relating to the County of Roscommon in open, free and reusable formats. These datasets cover topics such as Business and Enterprise, Community, Arts and Heritage and Corporate Governance. This Open Data portal is accessible at the following link: <https://data-roscoco.opendata.arcgis.com>.

3) Digital Skills

Objective 1 – To support digital education and training

2.1 Digital Skills and Education

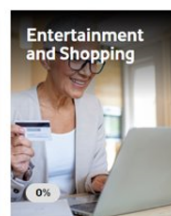
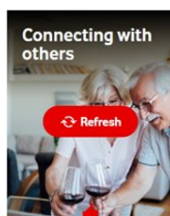
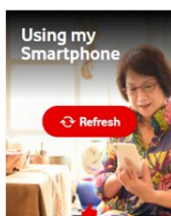
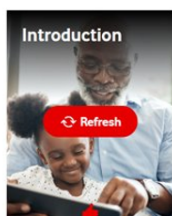
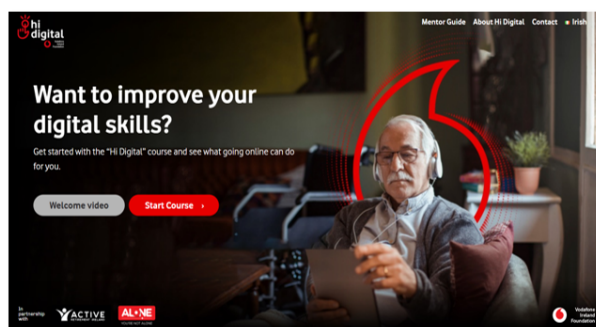
- Support digital education and training to increase the digital skills of all of Roscommon's citizens. Collaborate with organisations which provide digital skills training and by encouraging greater engagement through raising awareness.
- Ensure that students are provided with the means to embrace digital technologies.
- Local Enterprise Office assist by promoting coder dojo and business innovation training.
- Work with Leader to promote digital skills training throughout the county
- Education – support for more inclusive learning programmes through BCPs and libraries
- Encourage and support the use of digital services so that all citizens can reap the financial, health and social benefits they offer.
- Increase the numbers graduating with higher level digital skills
- Increase the share of adults in Roscommon having basic digital skills in line with the targets set out in the Digital Ireland Framework 2022.

Case Study

Digital Skills training being rolled out through our BCP network in Co Roscommon

What is Hi Digital?

- Vodafone Ireland Foundation, Active Retirement Ireland and ALONE have partnered to deliver a 5 year, **nationwide digital skills programme for 65+ year olds**
- The **FREE training** uses a blended learning model. A special trainer will deliver in-person, small-sized classes.
- Participants will be guided through the content on the hidigital.ie platform. The course covers basic and essential online skills



Objective 2 – Promote Entrepreneurship, ICT and Technology Skills

Third Level Participation and Graduate Retention

Roscommon benefits from presence of third level institutions nearby. In recent years Roscommon has produced a consistently high number of students that proceed to third level education, approximately 60% of the 17-19 age group annually, which is amongst the highest nationally. Whilst this is a positive trend, Roscommon needs to harness this and provide more opportunities for graduates to take up employment in their own county.

Digital Strategy for Schools

The Department of Education's vision for ICT integration in Irish schools is to: “Realise the potential of digital technologies to enhance teaching, learning and assessment so that Ireland’s young people become engaged thinkers, active learners, knowledge constructors and global citizens to participate fully in society and the economy”. Roscommon County Council will encourage this and promote digital initiatives in our schools and wider community as appropriate.

Case Study

Roscommon County Council is currently working with Microsoft Ireland to deliver Microsoft Dream Space Den across our BCP network. Tawnytaskin BCP are the first to participate in this program in Roscommon.

Broadband Connection Points Digital Skills – Dream Space Den



Microsoft

DreamSpace

Dream Space Den

Model

- **Self-learning** – A space for young people to engage with all available Dream Space content without the need for an educator or facilitator
- A Digital Skills **amenity and resource** for all members of the **community** (*Teachers, Parents, Young People, etc.*)
- Through coordination with Site Owners, the ability for teachers to **visit** the space with their class
- **Dream Space Dens** will include (*Resources are only to be used on site*):
 - ✓ Dream Space Banner and Branding
 - ✓ STEM Education Resources (*micro:bits*)
 - ✓ Content Boxes – Books, Guides, Worksheets, Resources etc.
 - ✓ QR Codes – Directing to all available online Dream Space Content
 - ✓ VR Component – Explore Dream Space in Virtual Reality
 - ✓ Dream Space Team Q&A – The ability to directly ask the Dream Space team a question
 - ✓ Devices (*Site & Budget Depending*)

Objective 3 – Promote and facilitate links with Universities

Case Study

Eduroam



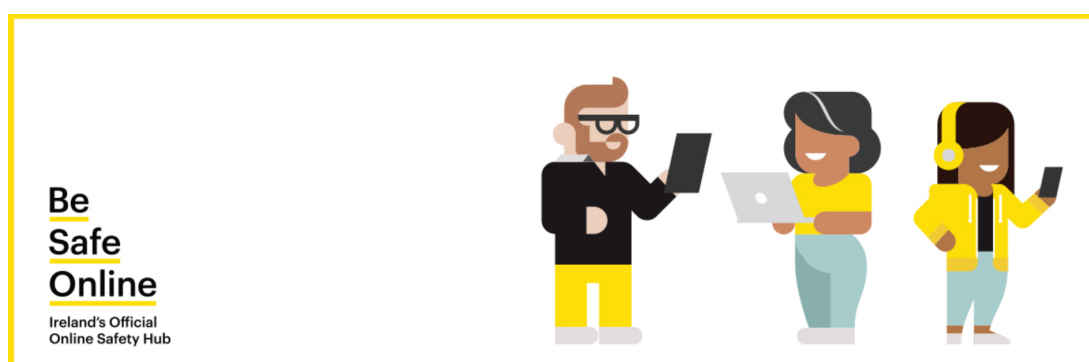
Eduroam is an international roaming service for users in research, higher education and further education. It provides researchers, teachers, and students network access when visiting an institution other than their own. Eduroam allows roaming research and educational users to more easily obtain Internet access via the WiFi service at participating sites. When attaching to Eduroam WiFi users are authenticated via their home institution. If authentication succeeds the user is granted wireless network access.

Further information on Eduroam is available at <https://www.eduroam.ie/eduroam-in-ireland>

Eduroam access is currently available in Boyle and Castlerea Libraries and will be available in all Roscommon County Libraries by 2023.

2.2 Internet Security

Objective 4 – Promote awareness of Internet Security



Roscommon County Council aim to actively promote Internet Security by providing up to date Internet security information and advice on our homepage. Further information for the public can be found at the following link <https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/be-safe-online/>

Objective 4 – Digitally enhance our library services

2.3 Libraries

Roscommon Library Service operates through six infrastructure service points: Roscommon County Library, Ballaghaderreen, Boyle, Castlerea, Strokestown and the Mobile library.

Work Matters

The Work Matters (WM) service is being delivered nationally across all Public Library Authorities including Roscommon County Council. One of the main themes of the current National Public Library Strategy is to support the public in work and business related tasks. This is the Work Matters service.

Work Matters includes the following resources and services:



In the library

- Skilled staff to refer you to appropriate business resources in your search for employment
- Extensive collection of business and employment related titles.
- Driver Theory Test Book or CD for car, bus and truck
- WiFi access and public PCs with Internet and Microsoft Office
- Education- link to universities through Eduroam

From anywhere

- e-books, e-audiobooks, e-magazines and journals
- e-learning courses
- Online newspapers and Online Language Learning
- Using the library barcode number borrowers have access to the above resources incl. Business and Employment related material see [Online resources-Libraries](#)
- Access to online [Encyclopaedia Britannica](#)
- Online catalogue to browse, order, extend your loans and view your member account


Strategies / Actions

- Collaborate with organisations which provide digital skills training
- Promote the importance of software coding among young people


- Promote Entrepreneurship programmes such as Young Enterprise Scheme
- Provide students with the means to embrace digital technologies
- Make Libraries the 'go-to' provider of digital access, training and support for local communities particularly students
- Provide digital training to library staff so that they can offer support to residents
- Explore the design and funding requirements for a peer-to-peer learning program for developing and improving technical skills within the community
- Publish all digital learning programs / opportunities online onto a single website, then market / advertise this website

Community and Culture - Objectives and Actions

	<u>Objective</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Lead</u>
1	Promote the use of digital technology in Community and reduce social isolation by enabling people to stay connected via technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop digital skills training, young people to mentor older people • Promote the use of digital technologies, undertake a programme that follows the roll-out, identify group who may need specific training e.g. those with disabilities • Encourage organisations to have an online presence and every village and town to set up a website • Develop partnerships with community and cultural organisations. • Digital Innovation Category - Community and Enterprise Grant Schemes. • Training for Community Groups on completion of digitised forms for grants 	Ongoing	Community & Enterprise
2	Provide Supports to Local Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Community groups to create SMART communities • Support communities in identifying and addressing social exclusion and equality issues • Develop the capacity of Local Community Groups to create more sustainable communities • Support disadvantaged individuals to improve the quality of their lives through the provision of lifelong learning and labour market supports. 	Ongoing	Leader



3	Digital preservation and dissemination of our Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support digital technologies in the dissemination of heritage information • Continue to update and improve Cemetery Map Viewer and archive the material • Update the County Roscommon Folklore and Oral History Network • Undertake GDPR cleaning and publication online of Cemetery Registers • Continue with Digital Exhibitions and Social Media Updates 	Ongoing	Heritage Officer
4	Promoting arts in County Roscommon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to support artists to produce digital work through bursaries, commissions, training and mentoring. • Promote engagement with industry experts 	Ongoing	Arts Officer
5	Promote Tourism through the use of digital technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuously update King House website and Social media channels • Develop trails videos to highlight the Summer, Spring, Family and Accessible Trails in the county • Continuously update Visit Roscommon Social media pages and website • Host online Social Media Trainings for the Tourism Trade • Install Touch screen kiosk in Boyle • GIS mapping of Roscommon Walks 	Ongoing	Tourism Officer
6	Diaspora	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a central County website focusing on 'all things Roscommon' • Promote the live streaming of key Roscommon events • Collaborate with neighbouring counties to assist and support return emigrants • Provide updates to Global Rossies through Roscommon Bound website and social media channels. 	2022	Community & Enterprise
7	Provide online services for customers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the amount of local authority services that are available online • Develop digital systems for dealing with customer queries. • Provide 24/7 self-service for doing business with Roscommon County Council. • Increase the use of online services for grant applications • Publish official, non-personal, government data on Open Data 	Ongoing	Information Systems



		<p>website and make it available and easily accessible online</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invest in and upgrade IT systems. 		
8	Support for Digital education and Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate with organisations that provide digital skills training, encouraging greater engagement through raising awareness Continue to offer digital skills training to the general public and businesses through Leader and Libraries. 	Ongoing	Library Services
9	Promote Entrepreneurship, ICT and Technology Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the importance of software coding among young people Entrepreneurship programmes e.g. Young Enterprise Scheme, Competitions, Award 		
10	Provide enhanced Library Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop the role of libraries in improving digital inclusion to make them the 'go-to' provider of digital access, training and support for local communities and students. Continue to train library staff in digital technologies so that they can offer support to members of the public Explore the design and funding requirements for a peer-to-peer learning program for technical skills. Publish digital learning programs Education- link to universities through Eduroam Ensure that students at all educational institutions are provided with the means to embrace digital technologies. 	Ongoing	Library Services

Theme 2 - Digital Infrastructure

4) National Broadband Plan

Objective 1 – Facilitate connection to high speed broadband for all citizens

2.1 Broadband availability Statistics for Roscommon

There are six main forms of broadband access currently available in County Roscommon

Broadband Type	Status
Copper Landline	RCC Broadband Officer will engage with the public to confirm that broadband speeds in towns and villages are in line with service provider commitments to Government.
Mobile Phone Network	RCC continuously engage with the department and service providers to target mobile phone blackspots in the county.
Wireless Broadband	RCC facilitate service providers in this area to deliver a viable high speed alternative to many areas where fibre is unavailable.
Satellite Broadband	Satellite Broadband, where available can provide a viable alternative for many users where fibre connection is currently unavailable
MAN Systems	Hi-speed Fibre-Optic Broadband infrastructure is available through the Metropolitan Area Network (MAN) in Roscommon, Carrick on Shannon and Athlone with a choice of carrier providing top class high speed broadband to cater to all business needs.
Fibre Broadband	High speed fibre is available to 43% of the County. It is currently being rolled out as part of the NBP. RCC are working in partnership with NBI to deliver this throughout Roscommon in a timely fashion.

2.2 National Broadband Plan (NBP)

The National Broadband Plan (NBP) is the largest ever telecommunications project undertaken by the Irish State. It aims to radically transform the country's broadband landscape through the delivery of quality, affordable high-speed broadband to all parts of Ireland where such services are not available commercially. The NBP will ensure that all people and businesses have access to high-speed broadband, no matter where they live or work. Once completed, all parts of Ireland will have access to a modern and reliable broadband network, capable of supporting the communications, information, education and entertainment requirements of current and future generations. The network will be designed, built and operated by National Broadband Ireland, using a combination of State subsidy and commercial investment. It will make its services available to all of the rollout area,

which accounts for 23% of the population in about approximately 537,000 homes, farms, schools and businesses. **(NBI Website)**

NBP Rollout in County Roscommon.

High Speed Broadband will be delivered to every premises in Ireland through a combination of commercial investment and state investment.

The figures below provide an overview of the total number of premises in Roscommon that are in the commercial area (BLUE) and the State's Intervention Area (AMBER).

The figures below are based on the available data at the commencement of the NBP rollout.

Total Premises - 39,345

NBP Intervention Premises – **Amber** 19,381 (49%)

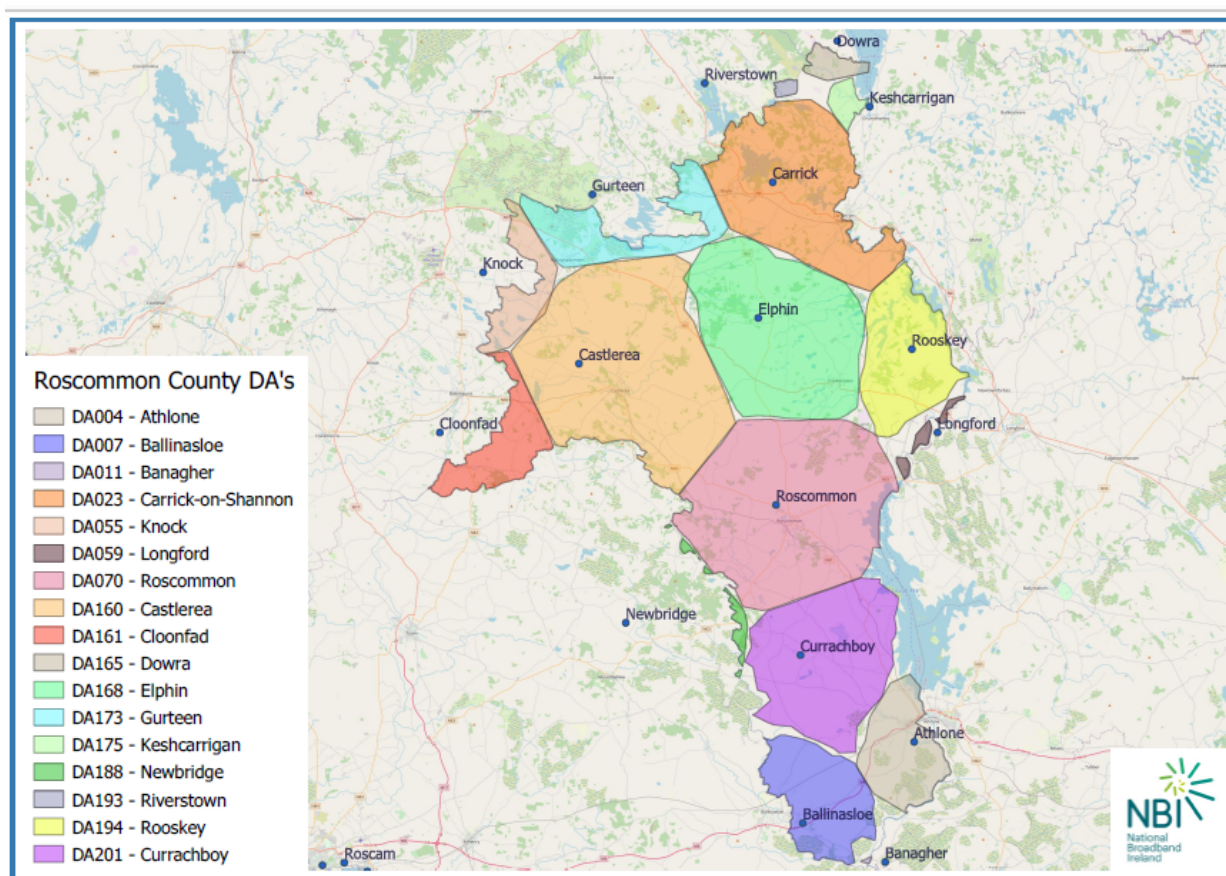
Premises already served by Commercial Operators - **Blue** 20,219 (51%)

The National Broadband Map can be viewed at <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/5634d-national-broadband-plan-map/#interactive-map>

NBI will rollout high speed broadband to 19,381 premises in County Roscommon

Survey and design works commenced in Co. Roscommon in April 2020. As of November 2022

Ballinasloe, Roscommon and Carrick on Shannon deployment areas are now connected which means that 35% of the properties have high speed broadband available.



The first homes were connected in County Roscommon to the NBI network in Q3 2021 in the Ballinasloe and Athlone Deployment areas.

Case Study



Gerry Gordon (Centre) of **Autopia** in Mount Prospect, Roscommon was one of the first businesses to go live in County Roscommon under the National Broadband Plan. Gerry carries out most of his business online and his work life has been transformed following connection to high speed broadband by NBI. Previously Gerry would have to make a 4km journey to Roscommon town to process a standard credit card transaction.

Objective 2 – Improve mobile phone coverage in County Roscommon

2.3 Mobile Phone coverage

Roscommon is working with telecoms operators to address blackspots. Roscommon plans to work in partnership between the local communities and telecoms operators to see the use of publicly owned property used to site mobile phone infrastructure. Work is ongoing between the RCC asset management department, RCC planners and Telecoms operators to continually update the mobile phone network in County Roscommon. On Comreg's coverage map it's possible to compare coverage of all service providers <https://coveragemap.comreg.ie>

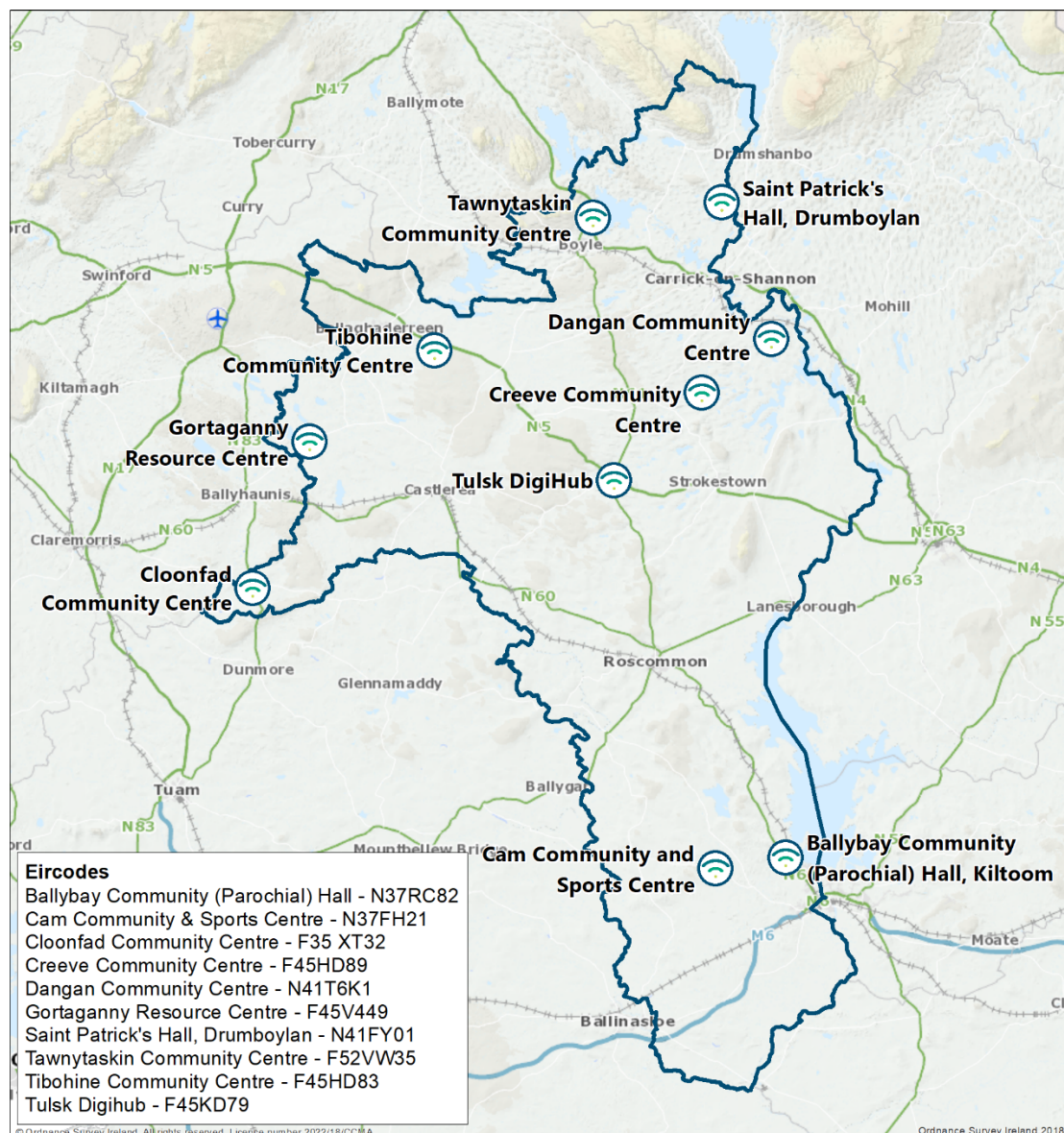
5) Broadband Connection Points

Objective 3 – Facilitate the setting up of rural Broadband Connection points

2.4 Broadband Connection Points

What are Broadband Connection Points (BCPs)?

Broadband Connection Points (or BCPs) are public locations which have been selected to receive high-speed connectivity in the first year of the National Broadband Plan. They include public areas such as community halls and enterprise hubs.



Why are BCPs being rolled out?

It is essential that high speed, high quality broadband services are accessible as quickly as possible to ensure businesses can connect, and for other benefits such as e-learning and digital tourism. This is why, NBI is bringing connectivity to local communities, while the roll-out to homes and businesses progresses. Each BCP is providing up to 150Mb high speed, high quality fibre broadband access to the local community. This will enable people living in the area to go to the selected location and access broadband for daily use including remote working and general internet requirements.

Is there a BCP in my area?

- 10 Broadband Connection Points, BCPs, are now operational in the County in order to bring high speed broadband to rural communities.
- All 10 are equipped with office furniture and equipment and available for remote working
- A booking can be made in a BCP on the Roscommon County Council website through the following link

<https://roscoco.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=2270a33b0e6241e69a5d5d4e8607b1ad>

6) Free Public Wifi

Objective 4 – Provide free public Wifi in County Roscommon



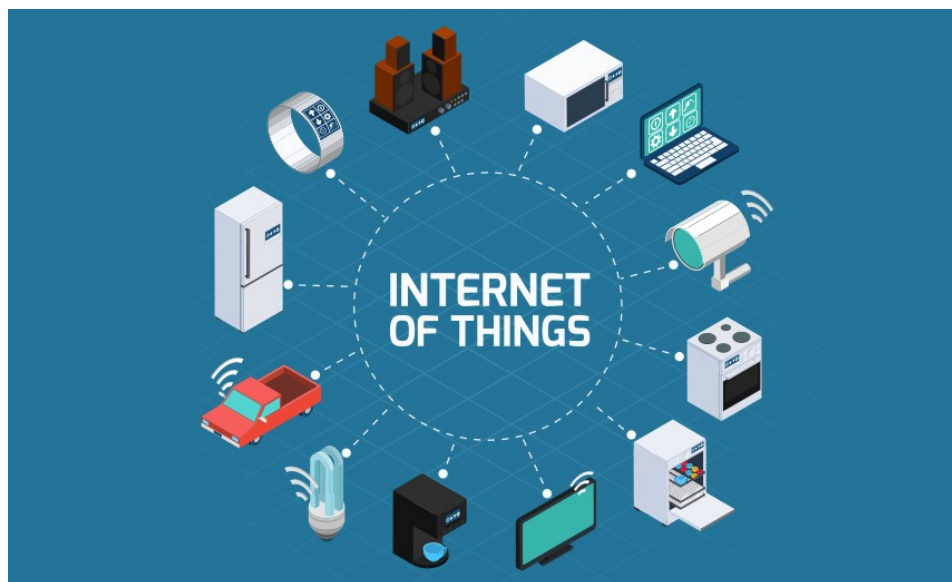
connectivity across Europe. This initiative provided vouchers to the value of €15 000 to cover the equipment and installation costs of Wi-Fi access points to thousands of municipalities throughout Europe. Beneficiaries select the 'centres of community life' where the WiFi4EU hotspots will be installed. The Wi-Fi hotspots can be installed in indoor or outdoor public spaces, where no similar offers of free Wi-Fi connectivity already exist.

WiFi4EU is an initiative led by the European Commission to bring public Wi-Fi connections to local municipalities. As part of its Digital Single Market Strategy, the Juncker Commission has set out to improve

WiFi4EU Roscommon -

Roscommon was successful in obtaining four vouchers which meant free public WiFi hotspots were enabled all around the County. Roscommon County Council is delighted that 52 Access Points for free public WiFi are now available throughout the county. All free WiFi locations in County Roscommon can be viewed at the following link <https://roscoco.maps.arcgis.com/home/index.html>

2.6 Internet of things



Internet of things (IoT)

The Internet of Things, or IoT, refers to the billions of physical devices around the world that are now connected to the internet, all collecting and sharing data. Examples include Smart homes, Energy Management, Elderly Care, Flood relief, Smart Farming, Environmental Monitoring and Smart Healthcare.

Smart Initiatives

Roscommon County Council plans to develop smart public infrastructure e.g. install smart street furniture such as smart outdoor public digital displays and smart benches. Units can be Wifi enabled and can also have smart sensors installed to measure active travel initiatives, environment data etc. Going forward there will be cross departmental engagement within the local authority to develop IoT initiatives across a range of projects within the county to continuously improve our customer service and enable better management and operation of our assets.

Actions

- Develop Roscommon's smart public infrastructure e.g. install smart street furniture such as smart outdoor public digital displays and smart benches.
- Lough Ree Thermal Image Monitoring
- Initiate pilot schemes to set up air quality sensors, noise pollution and footfall counters.

Infrastructure - Objectives and Actions

	<u>Objective</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Lead</u>
11	Facilitate high speed broadband to all citizens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist NBI with the rollout of the National Broadband Plan Implement the Mobile phone and broadband taskforce actions Development of Shared Telecommunications Infrastructure Imbed digital requirements within our planning and regeneration strategies. To promote remote working in accordance with national policy 	Ongoing	Roads & Transportation
12	Improve mobile phone coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with service providers to increase coverage across the County Work with local communities and telecoms operators to explore using publicly owned property site mobile phone infrastructure Assist with accelerating deployment of 5G across the County 	Ongoing	Roads & Transportation
13	Assist in setting up BCPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with communities to progress BCP's as part of early rollout of NBP. Support BCP sites through the coordination of Department supports and funding mechanisms 	2023	Broadband Officer
14	Provide free wifi to the public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver free public wifi to public centres and tourist attractions under the Wifi4EU scheme Deploy Public Wi-Fi Access points in Public Buildings, Parks, Town Centres and other public spaces. 	2022	Broadband Officer
15	Internet of Things IoT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote IoT engagements across all departments Develop Roscommon's smart public infrastructure Lough Ree Thermal Image Monitoring 	Ongoing	Roads & Transportation



Theme 3 - Digital Economy and Enterprise

7) Economy and Employment

Objective 1 - Support the development of a network of remote working, co-working and business workspaces

Blended Working



Roscommon County Council is currently facilitating remote working for all staff in accordance with the national Blended Working Policy Framework. This Framework is one phase in a significant programme of work that aims to promote blended working across the Civil Service.

The importance of digital hubs



Rural digital hubs can be the catalyst and drivers of a whole range of initiatives and activities that enable rural villages to build on the social capital inherent in rural communities. They are often combined with co-working spaces to attract and retain digital entrepreneurs. In recent years, many different types of digital hub have emerged in rural areas in response to different contexts and challenges. Two types of Hub have emerged -

1. Regional level hubs that build capacity across the sector and drive innovation through knowledge transfer such as the Digital Innovation Hubs.
2. Hubs that are micro-local and operate at village or community level. These are located in village halls, community centres and libraries and offer activities such as digital skills training, fab-labs and innovation support in areas such as e-health. These digital hubs require the support and engagement of community stakeholders

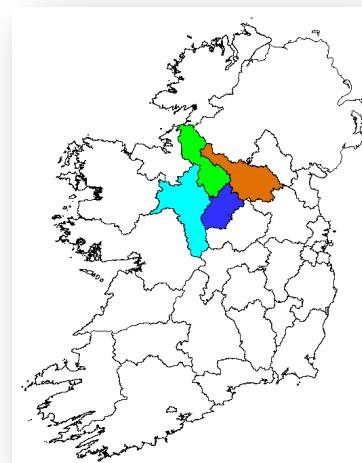
2.7 Regional Collaboration



USEFE

The Upper Shannon Erne Future Economy (USEFE) Project is a joint initiative between Bord na Mona, The ESB, Cavan, Leitrim, Longford and Roscommon Local Authorities. It covers several topics including Digital. Cross collaboration between the local authorities has taken place in developing this Strategy in particular regarding job creation.

The four counties are very similar in relation to population, infrastructure, business and enterprise and have similar issues relating to high speed broadband.



Joint Objectives and Actions

2. Work together on initiatives to improve infrastructure and create job opportunities
3. Collaborate on Funding applications for joint initiatives.

2.8 Regional Initiatives

The Western Development Commission (WDC) has just launched a new online jobs portal aimed at attracting professionals and their families to make new lives in the West of Ireland. **Westernjobs.ie** will help job seekers to find open roles across the region and assist employers in gauging the availability and depth of skills that they require. With more and more people working remotely due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the WDC is encouraging people to make a permanent and viable move to the West where they can enjoy housing costs that are among the lowest in Ireland.



Smart Atlantic Way

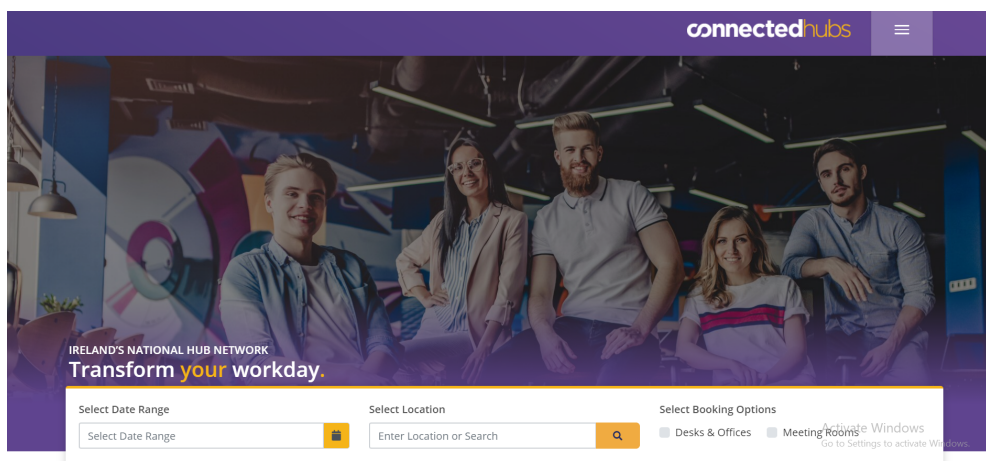


The **vision** of the Smart Atlantic Way (SAW) initiative is to co-develop the enabling collaborative mechanisms and digital infrastructure to optimally harness available resources, capacities and natural endowments distributed across the region and to create new capacities as well as value chains which will strengthen our regional economy and address other priority challenges. Roscommon is one of nine Counties involved in this initiative. See Appendix for more detail.

Objective 3 – Promote and assist rural digital hubs and enterprise centres

2.9 Digital Hubs and Enterprise Centres

Connected Hubs



ConnectedHubs.ie is your one-stop-shop for hubs throughout Ireland. Launched in May 2021, it is designed to simplify and standardise the process of sourcing and booking spaces, desks, offices and events in hubs for a day, a week, a month, a year or longer.

ConnectedHubs.ie is operated by The National Hub Network, a Government of Ireland initiative that provides a vehicle for individual hubs to come together under a shared identity to maximise the economic opportunity of remote working. The National Hub Network has the support of Government, remote working advocacy groups and industry representatives. In this way, ConnectedHubs.ie also encompasses a range of key features that deliver significant benefits to member hubs, hub clients, employers, local communities and the wider economy.

Through a network of connected hubs, you can source the following facilities and services all over Ireland:

- Private offices and meeting rooms

- Coworking and collaborative spaces
- Hot desks – for a day, a week or longer term
- Online meeting technologies and spaces
- Virtual office facilities
- World-class enterprise and business supports to help you grow your start-up or emerging business
- Networking and community events with businesses and professionals locally and throughout the network

It is envisaged that many of our BCP sites in County Roscommon will be on boarded on to the connected hubs network in the near future.

Case Study - Tulsk Digihub

Member of connectedhubs.ie

The Western Development Commission (WDC) as Lead Partner and local authority Broadband Officers sourced and identified properties suitable for development as Rural Digital Working hubs. Roscommon's first hub is located in Unit 1, No.1 Meadow Brook, Tulsk, County Roscommon

Digihub Target Groups:

1. Remote workers/tele-workers/e-workers
2. Local start ups
3. Community Groups
4. Students (distance learning/ on-line education)

The Digiwest network of Rural Digital Working Hubs is ideally placed to attract jobs to rural areas. Digihub Tulsk will enable the local community to retain their existing population and encourage those who have left to return for a better quality of life. This will directly lead to rural rejuvenation and regeneration of the area. Tulsk is now equipped with all the facilities and IT requirements for a state of the art modern day digital hub. Tulsk as a member of the initial Digiwest Hubs network is now part of ConnectedHubs.ie which is managed by the Western Development Commission in conjunction with the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD). Members of the National Hub Network also contribute to the ongoing development and moderation of content for the site. Each Hub manages its own listings and space availability settings. Digihub Tulsk has a very active and progressive committee and is available for booking through connectedhubs.ie



Boyle Enterprise Centres

Boyle town is home to Boyle Enterprise and More (Run by Boyle Chamber of Commerce) and the privately owned Spool Factory. Both locations have high speed broadband and have facilities for remote working and individual office spaces.

Castlerea Enterprise Centre

Castlerea Enterprise Centre is home to The Hub and provides office space, a conference centre and community facilities. The Enterprise Hub in Castlerea offers the ideal setting for remote working with high-speed broadband and top quality work stations.

Roscommon Enterprise Centre

Roscommon Enterprise Centre provides 16 individual working units on the Racecourse Road, Roscommon town.

Roscommon County Council will be actively promoting the measures outlined in the recent Enterprise Plan announced for the West.



This new Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024 for the West is future-focused and centred around a number of priorities including:

- Advancing the entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystem.
- Strengthening and harnessing the cultural and creative sector.
- Realising the Atlantic West jobs potential in renewable energy.
- Driving the scaling of a competitive life sciences sector regionally.
- Growing the AgTech and food sectors and transition to sustainable Bio economy.
- Expanding prospects for sustainable tourism.
- Facilitating a green and digital transformation.

8) Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Objective 1 - Encourage businesses to invest

3.0 Innovation and Enterprise -



Case Study


Trading Online Voucher

Trading Online vouchers are a Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment initiative delivered through Local Enterprise Offices to encourage and support microenterprises to trade online. Roscommon LEO provides grants of up to €2,500 at 50% matched funding for the development or upgrade of a website for e-commerce to an average of 25 to 30 businesses per year. In 2020, there were 272 Trading Online Vouchers approved, with 263 of those at the 90% funding offer. Demand for this scheme in 2020 was unprecedented.

Trading Online Voucher case studies below

- Cormicans
- Kingsize - Justin Dixon

TRADING ONLINE VOUCHER SCHEME GROW YOUR BUSINESS THROUGH ONLINE TRADING		TRADING ONLINE VOUCHER SCHEME GROW YOUR BUSINESS THROUGH ONLINE TRADING	
Kingsize		Cormicans	
<p>"Not alone has online trade increased significantly but a large percentage of purchases made in store can be attributed to customers having found us online"</p>		<p>"Participating in the Trading Online Voucher Scheme was very beneficial for our business and has resulted in an increase in our online sales"</p>	
<p>"This has increased our online traffic, footfall in the shops and phone communications"</p>		<p>"We've increased our customer base and are now serving customers all over the country, for instance in Donegal, Cork, Kerry and Dublin"</p>	
<p>Kingsize, a men's retailer with premises in Galway and Dublin, have been in business under owner and manager Justin Dixon for 5 years.</p> <p>Whilst business was steady, Justin heard about the Trading Online Voucher scheme and attended an Information Session run by his Local Enterprise Office in Roscommon. Justin found the application process clear and straightforward and is now seeing the benefit of having engaged with the scheme.</p> <p>Kingsize used the trading online voucher to greatly enhance the look and functionality of kingsize.ie. It is now more user friendly, allows customers to filter searches and uses PayPal.</p> <p>Kingsize is a destination shop so Justin also used the voucher to make the website mobile-friendly. The Kingsize shop is now easy to locate so the website brings customers to the door as well as encouraging them to shop online.</p> <p>Since upgrading the website, Justin has seen a 25% increase in monthly traffic to kingsize.ie. Whilst the nature of his product often requires face-to-face contact, repeat customers tend to deal with Justin online.</p> <p>Since participating in the scheme, Justin has taken on two additional employees. As the online business is showing such good returns, he plans to take on another employee. Their main focus will be to manage and promote the online and social media presence.</p> <p>Justin believes the voucher has helped cement Kingsize as a market leader in its field. He now has his sights on expanding beyond his current market which includes all of Ireland, Northern Ireland and the UK.</p>		<p>Cormicans office • art • school</p> <p>Cormicans School & Art Supplies is a well established family-run business for 35 years in Roscommon and Athlone. Owner, Fergal Cormican had a solid school book client base and was looking to expand into the area of art & craft supplies to target markets.</p> <p>The website was of a good standard initially, however Fergal felt that front and back end technical work was needed to enhance overall functionality. Fergal found out about the Trading Online Voucher Scheme through his Local Enterprise Office in Roscommon. Fergal used his Voucher to make the website more 'mobile ready' and offer online products to wider audiences.</p> <p>Fergal also developed an ongoing and consistent Search Engine Optimisation marketing strategy which was a key factor in enabling Cormicans School & Art Supplies to enhance its web presence and increase its online sales capacity.</p> <p>Cormicans School & Art Supplies has increased its export market since the upgrade of the website and has had international sales in Dubai and the US. The business aims to create employment as a result of increased online sales.</p>	



Local Enterprise Office Roscommon will work with companies to improve the business in terms of how work gets done, creating efficiencies, improving how customers and companies engage and interact, and creating new value and revenue streams for businesses. Broadly speaking, Digitalisation supports competitiveness, productivity and value creation. It covers five main areas:

1. Data processing and analysis (i.e. gathering customer trends, values insights)
2. Cloud computing (i.e. moving software/data to the cloud for accessibility)
3. Cybersecurity (i.e. protecting records, information, IP and data from attacks)
4. Internet of Things (software/technology connectivity)
5. Industry 4.0 (i.e. process automation in manufacturing facilities)

It is delivered across key business areas:

- Customer
- Strategy
- Technology
- Operations
- Organisation and Culture

Digitalisation for Micro Enterprise will provide strategic intervention for clients to work with third party advisors to:

- Assist them to identify where they are on their digital journey,
- Develop a digital adaptation plan based on their identified need,
- Implement their digital adaption plan.

Case Study – Roscommon Company who benefitted from LEO Online Trading Vouchers

Dan O'Brien and Liam Casey, Lidan Designs



Innovative design tailored to your needs

Lidan Designs specializes in the design, manufacture, and installation of premium wood products and structures. As people's lifestyles have changed dramatically the need for additional space has never been greater whether it is for a home office, additional accommodation or a leisure space such as home gym, children's playroom, art or music studio. Recognising the need Lidan Designs created a product which maximises the use of sustainable and natural material, leveraging cutting-edge design. We pride ourselves on the quality of our products. www.lidandesigns.com

3.1 Innovation

Digital Hubs and Innovation Centres

Having spaces available with high quality digital connectivity is a critical part of the Roscommon Local Enterprise Office Strategy to develop the county as a base for innovative business in the tech, creative and life sciences sectors. Work is underway to develop a flagship Digital and Lifesciences Innovation Centre in Monksland and WDC funding has facilitated the Digital Working Hub in Tulsk as part of the DigiWest project. Rural working hubs are available in many local centres around the county to promote remote working in these communities. Boyle Enterprise Centre provides a range of fully serviced workspace units and desk spaces that is home to a number of growing businesses in the Tech sector.

Student Enterprise Programmes

Roscommon LEO as part of its remit in developing an Entrepreneurial Culture in the county runs Student Enterprise Programmes in both Secondary and National Schools. Eight Secondary schools participated in the programme in 2021, giving students the opportunity to take a business from idea stage, through market research to production, selling, record keeping, management and finally writing a comprehensive report on the business. Participation in the Student Enterprise Programme enables students acquire and develop a wide range of business attributes and skills including digital skills and awareness.

Submit.com

Roscommon LEO have recently introduced a new online platform, submit.com, to improve the grant application management process. This will enable clients to enter, amend and submit their applications entirely online and will ensure a more efficient system of giving access and reviewing those applications for the Evaluation Committee. The system has been designed specifically for use in LEOs by a Cork company, Submit.com. Mentoring, and Trading Online Vouchers will go on this platform as well as any new grant schemes that are introduced over the next number of years.

3.2 Innovation Partnerships

Roscommon County Council will continue to engage with a range of private sector institutions and organisations to promote innovation and entrepreneurship within the county.

Digital and Lifesciences Innovation Centre - Monksland



A life sciences and co-working hub is being developed in Monksland Business Park - providing high-speed broadband and resources, as well as a space for local business to interact. The facility will support start-up companies in an effort for make the wider midlands region a more vibrant space for employment and enterprise, the funding is part of the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund. The project is being promoted in conjunction with Roscommon County Council and Enterprise Ireland

MIRC Midlands Innovation and Research Centre – Athlone IT



The Midlands Innovation and Research Centre at Athlone Institute of Technology - working in partnership with Enterprise Ireland - provides incubation and business support for innovative start-ups, delivers the New Frontiers entrepreneur development programme in collaboration with Maynooth University, and makes available the resources and expertise of AIT to support client companies and enterprise in the region.

Whether you are a prospective entrepreneur, a start-up, an existing company committed to ongoing innovation or an academic interested in commercialising your research, the MIRC is open to you.

Digital Economy and Enterprise - Objectives and Actions

	<u>Objective</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Lead</u>
16	Facilitate Blended Working as an organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roscommon County Council is currently facilitating remote working for all staff in accordance with the national Blended Working Policy Framework. Ensure staff are equipped to carry out their duties remotely in a safe and effective manner. 	2022	Corporate Services
17	Support the development of a network of remote working, co-working and business workspaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to Invest in digital hubs Support the establishment of co-working spaces Promote the setting up of rural working hubs Ensure business locations are made available e.g. digital hubs 	Ongoing	Corporate Services
18	Regional Collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to work with neighbouring counties in groups such as the Atlantic Economic Corridor, WDC, Smart Atlantic Way and USEFE Established Forums to exchange knowledge among enterprises 	Ongoing	AEC Officer
19	Digital Hubs and Enterprise Centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to play our part in the AEC Enterprise Hubs Project Assist with feasibility study investigating the expansion of the Digiwest network Promote remote working 	Ongoing	AEC Officer
20	Encourage businesses to invest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide support to companies seeking to transform digitally Undertake initiatives to attract digital companies to the region Implement a digital awareness campaign Established Forums to exchange knowledge among enterprises Develop digital clusters/incubation programmes Promote shop local online and Trading Online Vouchers 	Ongoing	Local enterprise Office




21	Promote Innovation and Entrepreneurship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop Digital Hub and Innovation Centre in Monksland • Developing an Entrepreneurial Culture • “Invest Roscommon” Strategy – Promote Roscommon’s Towns • Have more business people trained in the skills they need e.g. farming community 	Ongoing	Community & Enterprise
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Monitoring and Review

The Roscommon Digital Strategy 2022-2026 has put in place a blueprint for the digital progression of our county for the next four years. The objectives and actions can be linked to the three key themes of (1) Digital Community, (2) Digital Infrastructure and (3) Digital Economy and Enterprise. The Digital Strategy is underpinned and supported by various existing plans within the Council, which include:

- Roscommon County Council Corporate Plan (2019-2024)
- Roscommon County Council County Development Plan 2022-2028
- Roscommon County Council Climate Change Adaption Strategy (2019-2024)
- Roscommon Local Economic and Community Plan (2016-2021)
- Roscommon Heritage Plan (2022 – 2027)

In terms of monitoring, the strategy will undergo quarterly progress reviews by an Oversight and Monitoring Committee who will focus on:

- A review of objectives and actions associated with each of the three Themes to determine the status of each
- Implementing Key Performance Indicators for each of the actions with a Lead and Target Date
- A review to determine whether new action items need to be added or existing items closed
- Preparing an annual report which will be presented to senior management.

Given that this strategy covers many functions and operations of Roscommon County Council, it is important that the Digital Strategy Oversight and Monitoring Committee brings together representatives from all the key functional areas that have a responsibility to deliver on the Digital Strategy. The representatives should have the various technical, operational and management expertise to successfully carry out the necessary tasks and implement the actions contained within strategy. The Management Team will nominate representation to the Digital Strategy Steering Group and assign its Chair. The annual review of the strategy will present an overview of the progress of the strategy over the year and make recommendations on any considerations or modifications that need to be made for the coming year.

Delivery of the Digital Strategy

The establishment of an **oversight and monitoring committee** is a key element of the success of the DG. The committee will be responsible for continually tracking the progress of the implementation plan and identifying areas of further opportunity and areas of delayed progress.

They will liaise with the responsible lead department for updates on particular actions and evaluate action progress in line with the timelines set out in the implementation plan, the committee will show progress on actions by updating the implementation plan monitoring section on an annual basis.



Delivery of Change.

Key performance indicators have been identified for each of the priorities and action points. Specific projects will be identified to support the improvement of these performance indicators. These projects will have quarterly reporting on progress with an annual review of the actions and performance indicators.

Conclusion

Roscommon's Digital Strategy provides a structured framework on how we move forward with our digital agenda. Digitisation is changing the way we live, work and enjoy life and social interaction. There are opportunities for increased deployment and development of digital services

which will contribute enormously to the quality of life, to economic growth, to social fabric and cohesion, to training and education, and to ongoing communications in Roscommon. Roscommon County Council will continue to work with all partnership agencies to deliver on these Digital opportunities for the county. Digital systems and services are the way of the future and Roscommon County Council wants to assist, support and capitalise on the opportunities to assist our citizens, services, businesses and communities as we plan our way forward to our digital future. The Council is well advanced with its Digital Transformation journey in delivering services in a more efficient effective and seamless manner to its customers and transforming internal digitisation to maximise value for money and deliver high quality efficient business processes.

The three key themes outlined in this document have a range of objectives/actions that can be achieved out to 2026. Delivering on the objectives is a priority in addressing the challenges of Just Transition, Climate Change, Remote Working and the opportunities presented by the move towards a Low Carbon Digital Future. Roscommon County Council wants to capitalise on opportunities to assist our citizens, services, businesses, and communities as we navigate our way through the first few years of a 'Digital Roscommon'. Delivery of the Strategy will build a digital capacity to pave the way for future prosperity, cohesion, and sustainability across the economy and communities of the county. As we have seen with the Covid 19 Crisis, digital tools have been an essential element in our immediate response and this will be fundamental to our ongoing recovery. Roscommon County Council commits to develop and activate communities through exposure to digital content and technology and support people to discover the value of using digital in every aspect of their daily lives.



Digital Terms and References

BBO - Broadband Officer
BCP - Broadband Connection Point
Big Data - Extremely large datasets that can be analysed automatically.
DCCAE - Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment
DESI - Digital Economy and Society Index
Decarbonisation - Reducing greenhouse gas emissions produced as a result of transport.
Digital Economy - Online business activities and digital service enterprise.
Digital Ecosystem - A group of interconnected information technology resources.
Digital Media - Media that is enabled and transferrable by digital technologies.
Digital Society - A society that adopts and integrates ICT into everyday life.
Digital Transformation - Cloud computing and integrated ICT across the organisation.
DPER - Departments of Public Expenditure and Reforms
DRA - Digital Readiness Assessment
DRCD - Department of Rural and Community Development
GIS - Geographical Information Systems
LEO - Local Enterprise Office
Machine Learning - The study of computer algorithms that improve automatically through experience.
MAN - Metropolitan Area Network
NACEC - National Association of Community Enterprise Centres
NBI - National Broadband Ireland
NBP - National Broadband Plan
NDS - National Digital Strategy
NEXT2MET - An innovative, interregional exchange project, which aims at increasing attractiveness for knowledge, opportunities, and capital of territories located close to metropolitan areas.
NRN - National Rural Network
Online Trading Vouchers - A grant scheme run by Local Enterprise Offices for businesses to go online.
PPN - Public Participation Network
Remote Working - The activity of employees working remotely from their host employer premises.
Other terms include telework, e-working, co-working, virtual office etc.
RCC - Roscommon County Council
Smart Communities /Cities - Communities or Locations active in the integration of technology into planning and delivery of services and supports.
STEAM Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics
WDC - Western Development Commission
WiFi4EU - An EU funded programme to deliver public wifi networks in towns and villages.
3D Printing - The process of making a physical object from a three-dimensional digital model, typically by laying down many thin layers of a material in succession



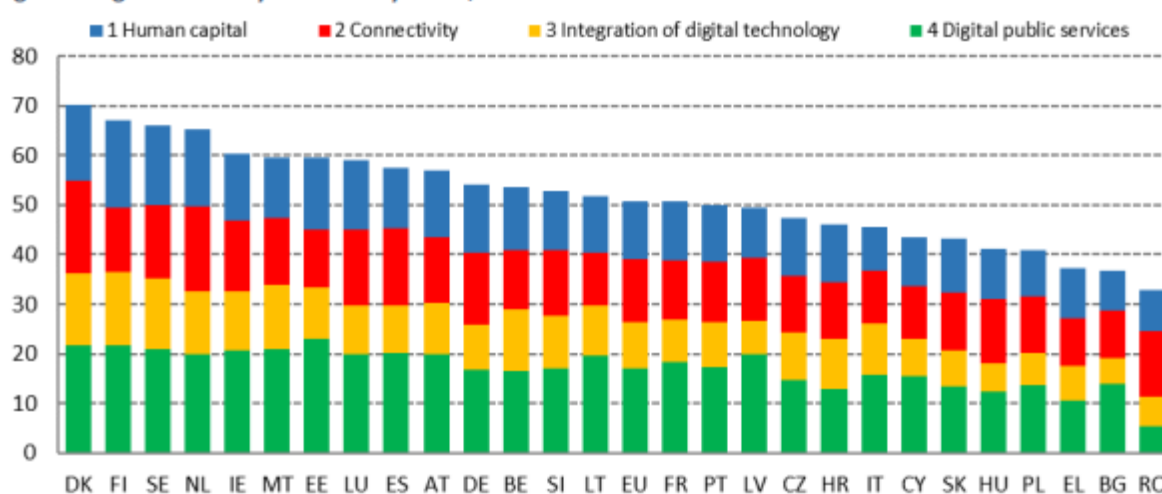
Appendices

Appendix A	-	CSO Stats
Appendix B	-	Research Findings and Questionnaires
Appendix C	-	Research findings - Business Workshop
Appendix D	-	Maps
Appendix E	-	Funding Streams
Appendix F	-	Actions & Objectives

Appendix A - Facts and Figures (CSO Stats)

The European Commission has been monitoring Member States' digital competitiveness with the Digital Economy and Society Index (DESI) reports since 2015. The below figure shows the 2021 DESI ranking of Member States. Denmark, Finland, Sweden and the Netherlands have the most advanced digital economies in the EU, followed by **Ireland**, Malta and Estonia.

Figure 8 Digital Economy and Society Index, 2021

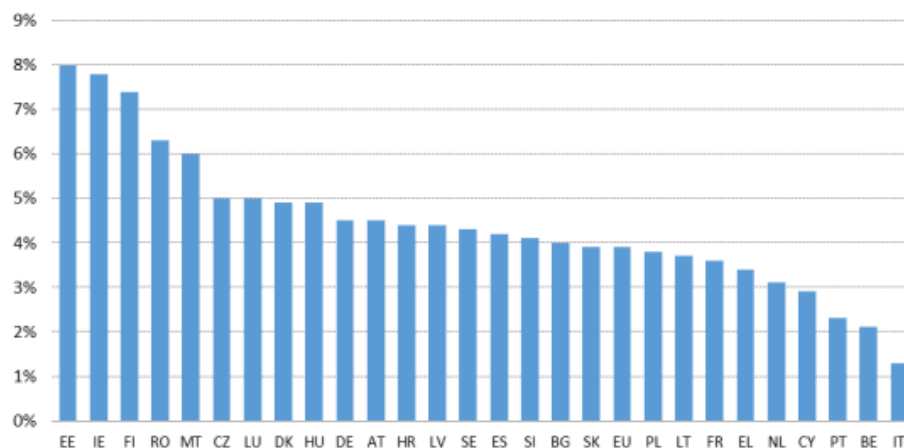


Source: DESI 2021, European Commission.

With growing demand for ICT specialists and jobs becoming even more driven by digital technology, the EU employers are looking for staff with the necessary skills to satisfy the growing demand for ICT specialists and workers able to properly use the digital technologies. We observe a slow but overall increase of students pursuing and graduating in ICT domains. In 2019, 3.9% of Europeans graduated with an ICT diploma. The countries with the highest share are Estonia (8%), **Ireland (7.8%)** and Finland (7.4%).



Figure 13 ICT Graduates (% of graduates), 2019



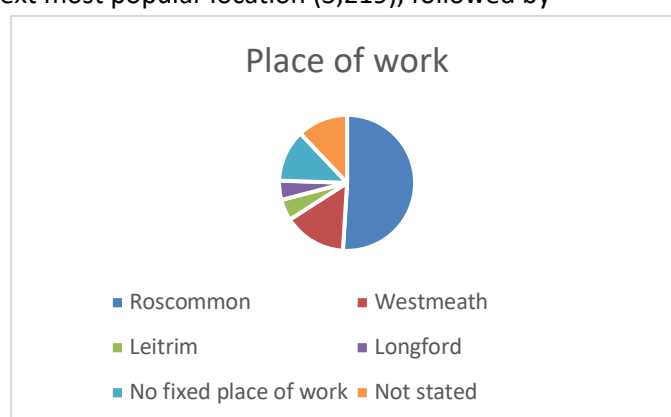
Source: Eurostat, Education and training statistics (table educ_uoegrad03, using selection ISCED11=ED5-8 and ISCEDF_13).

CSO Stats

Place of work and place of residence.

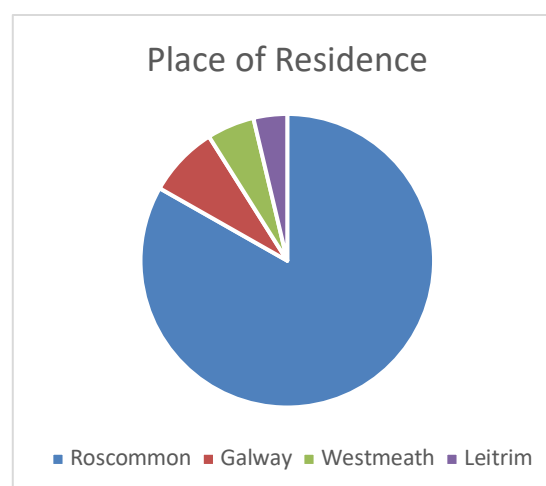
In 2016, 25,488 residents of County Roscommon were in employment. Of these 10,993 worked in County Roscommon with County Westmeath the next most popular location (3,219), followed by County Leitrim (1,084) and County Longford (988). A total of 2,678 had no fixed place of work, while 2,598 did not state their work location

Place of work	No.
Roscommon	10,993
Westmeath	3,219
Leitrim	1,084
Longford	988
No fixed place of work	2,678
Not stated	2,598



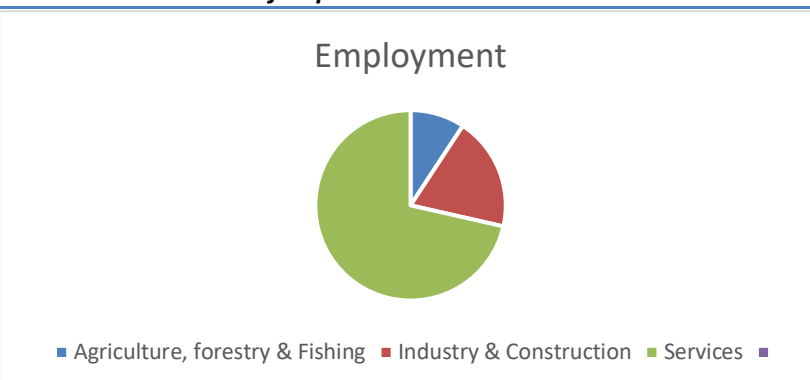
In 2016, there were 14,840 people whose place of work was located in County Roscommon. Of these 10,993 resided in County Roscommon while 1,034 resided in County Galway. County Westmeath (692) and County Leitrim (491) were the next most popular locations for County Roscommon to draw workers from. These figures exclude people with no fixed place of work or who did not state their work location.

Place of Residence	No.
Roscommon	10993
Galway	1034
Westmeath	692
Leitrim	491





Employment	
Employed (2016)	25,819
Employment Change (2011-2016)	5.9%
Labour Force Participation Rate (2016)	58.3%
Numbers Employed by Sector (2016) Total	25,819
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	2,311 (9.0%)
Industry and Construction	4,809 (18.6%)
Services	17,819 (69.0%)
<i>Source: CSO Census of Population 2016</i>	



Agency Assisted Employment (2015)	
Employment in Agency Assisted Irish Owned Companies	1,686
Employment in Agency Assisted Foreign Owned Companies	936

Labour Catchments in County Roscommon (2016)*	
Roscommon labour catchment	7,235 (2016), 7,306 (2006)
Boyle labour catchment	1,448 (2016), 1,964 (2006)
Castlerea labour catchment	1,452 (2016), 1,587 (2006)
* The labour catchment of a town is that area from which it draws most of its workforce. These figures are the number of workers living in the catchment areas of these towns.	

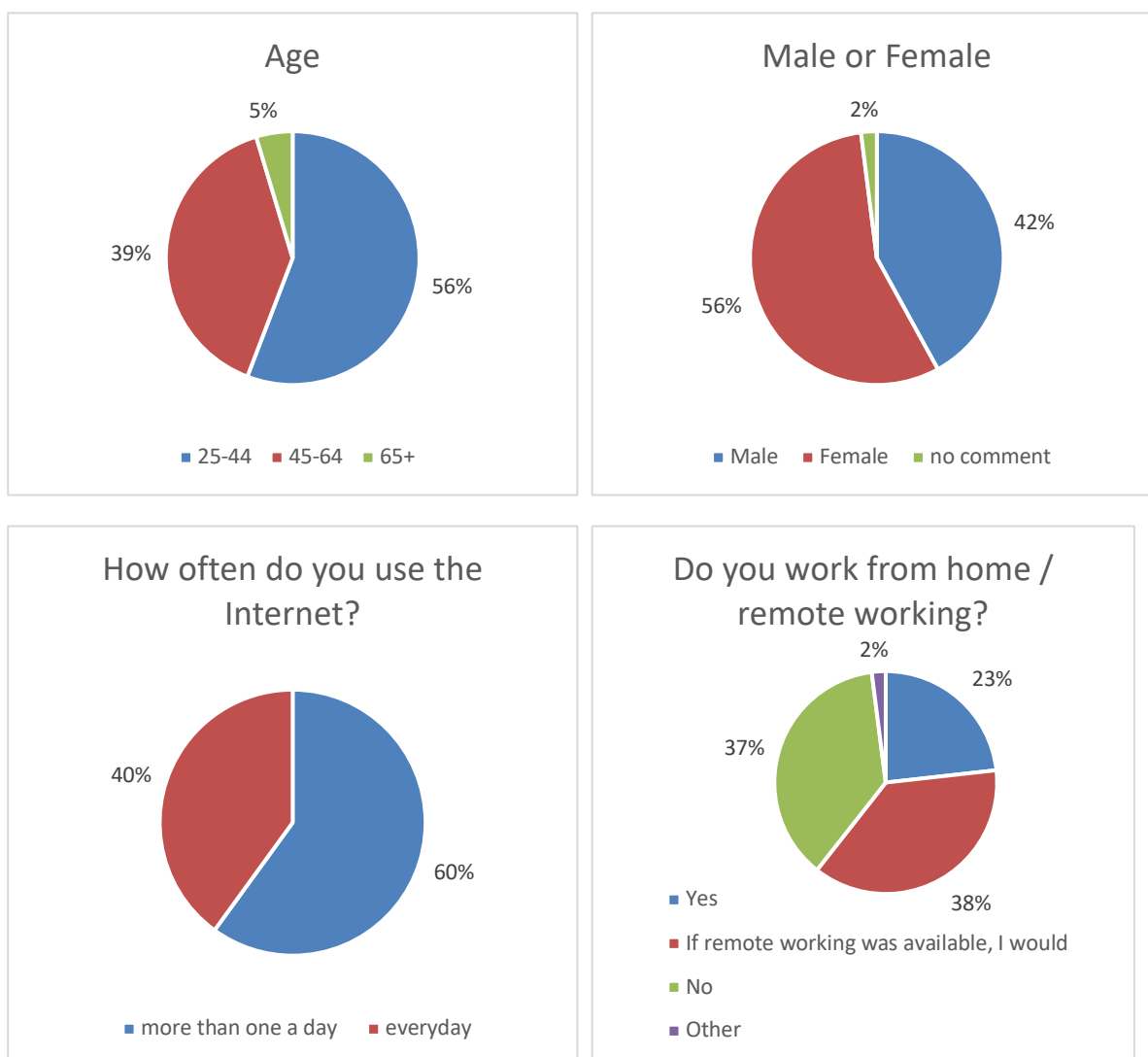
Appendix B Research findings – Consultation, Engagement and Questionnaires

Consultation and Engagement

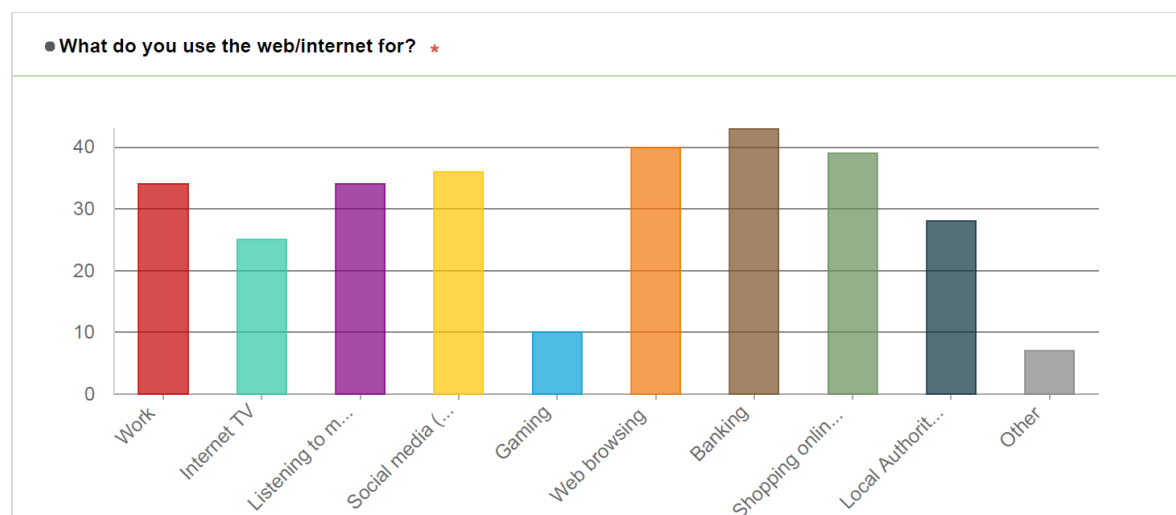
Digital Survey Questionnaires	<p>Roscommon County Council in preparing a Digital Strategy covering topics such as Infrastructure, Digital Economy, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Digital Skills, Digital Services and Community sought input from the community. The Broadband Officer invited the public to participate by completing Questionnaires. Three different questionnaires for Business, Non-Profit Organisations and Consumers were circulated.</p> <p>INVITATION TO COMPLETE QUESTIONNAIRES ON CO. ROSCOMMON' S DIGITAL STRATEGY</p>																																																																																																									
Consultation with sections in Roscommon County Council	<table><tr><th colspan="7">Input from various Sections</th></tr><tr><th>Chapters</th><th>BBO</th><th>IS</th><th>LEO</th><th>Community</th><th>Enterprise</th><th>Other</th></tr><tr><td>Introduction</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Background</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Roscommon's current Status</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Transition to Digital</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Digital Economy and Employment</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Digital Skills</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Digital Services</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Infrastructure</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Innovation and Entrepreneurship</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Community and Culture</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Digital Work Programme</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Monitoring and review</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Appendices</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>	Input from various Sections							Chapters	BBO	IS	LEO	Community	Enterprise	Other	Introduction							Background							Roscommon's current Status							Transition to Digital							Digital Economy and Employment							Digital Skills							Digital Services							Infrastructure							Innovation and Entrepreneurship							Community and Culture							Digital Work Programme							Monitoring and review							Appendices						
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USEFE Digital Futures Workshop	<p>A business consultation workshop was held in Ballymahon Library on Tuesday 22nd October 2019. The event was organised by the USEFE Digital Group, made up of the Broadband Officers from the four Local Authorities of Cavan, Leitrim, Longford and Roscommon and the USEFE Co-Ordinator. The purpose of the workshop was to raise awareness of the emerging Digital Strategies being prepared by the Broadband Officers, and to garner information and insights regarding the key priorities for business in relation to the Digital Development agenda. See Appendix A for more details and results from the workshop.</p>																																																																																																									



Roscommon Digital Strategy Consumer Questionnaire results summarised

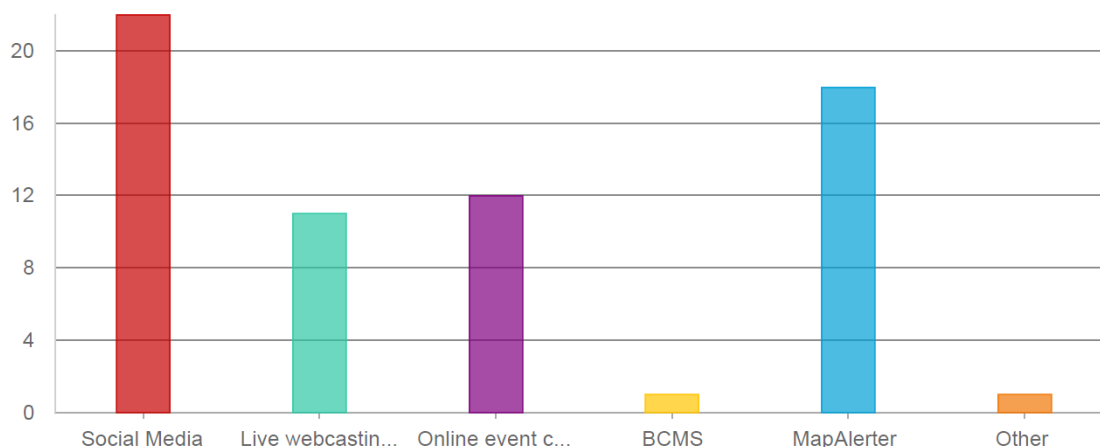


Internet / Web Users

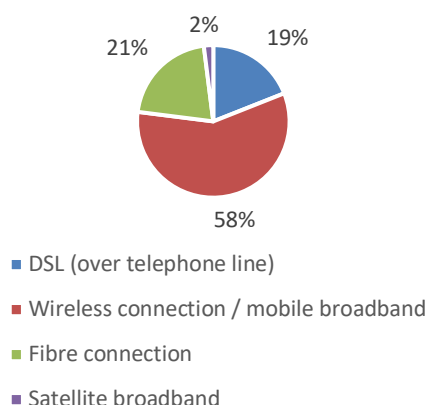




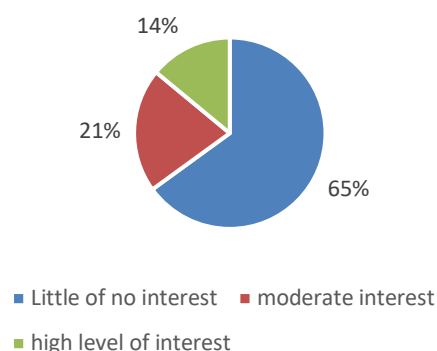
● Which digital public services do you use? *



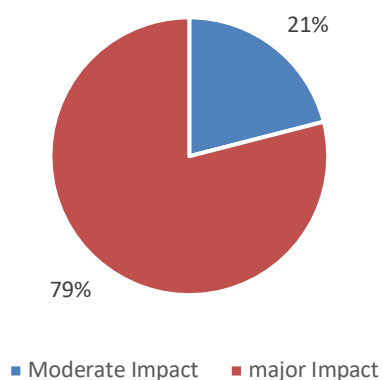
What type of connectivity method do you use to access the internet from home?



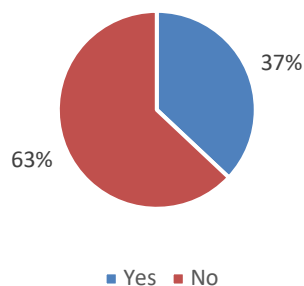
If you were offered training on using the internet / web how interested would you be in participating in it



To what extent has digital technologies impacted on your life?

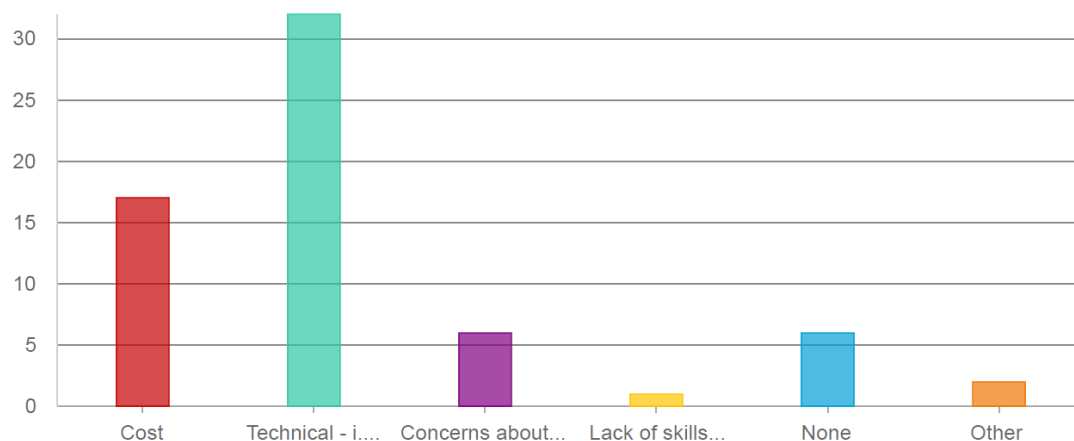


Are there any organisations that you deal with where transactions would be easier if they made more use of digital tehcnologies?

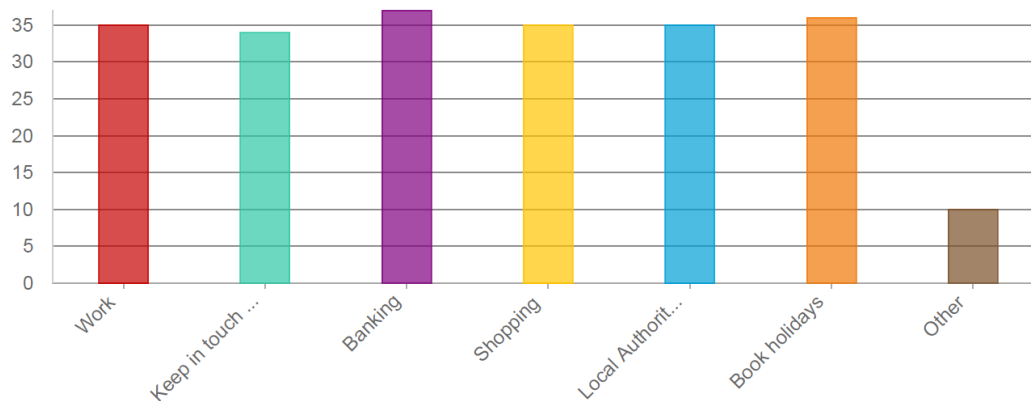




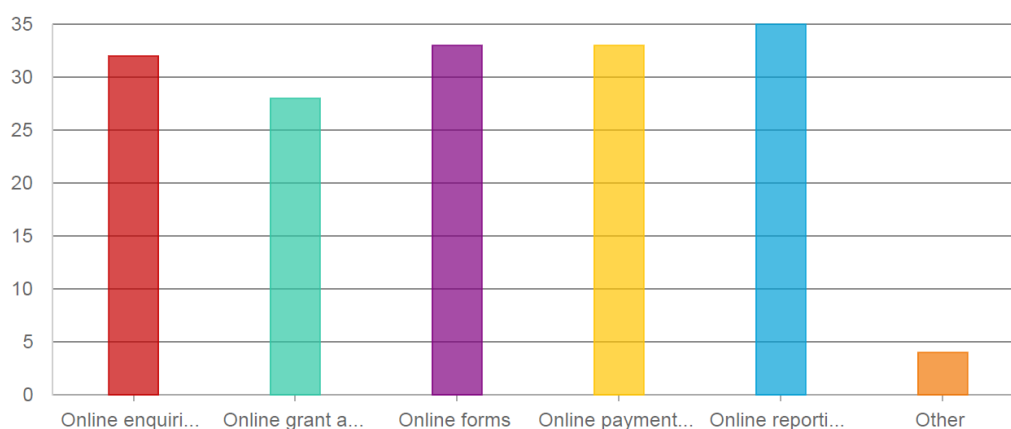
● Overall what do you consider to be the barriers you face in benefitting more from the use of digital technologies?

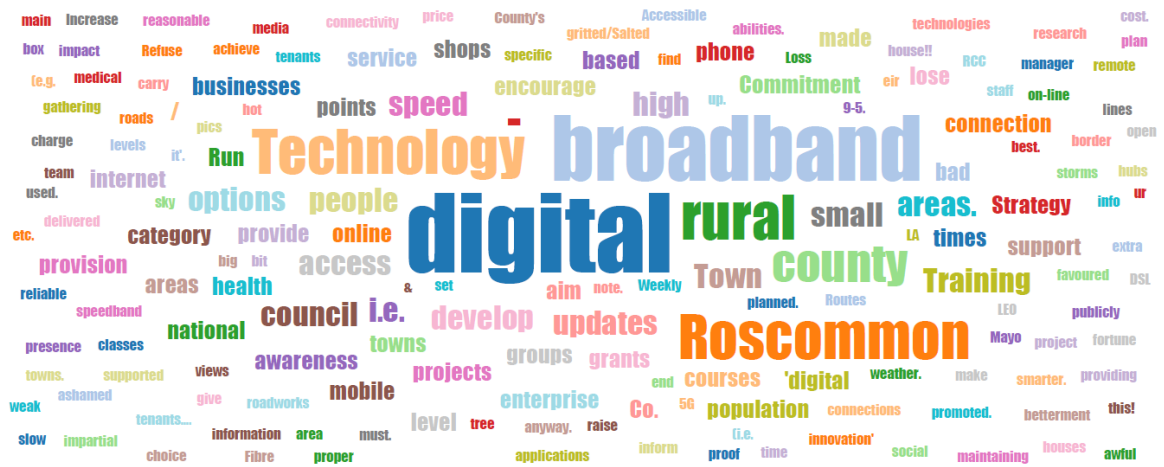


● If there were no barriers, what would you use digital technologies for? *



● What type of digital public services would you like to see provided by your local authority? *





Questionnaires

Consumer and PPN Questionnaire Response

Consumer Feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 100% use the internet once a day and over 60% use it more than once a day• 100% of people use the internet for banking but over 65% use it for Local Authority services• 80% of people said technology majorly impacted on their lives with a further 20% saying it moderately impacted on their lives.• Major barriers in benefiting from the use of digital technology were technical and cost and skills were only 2%.• 81% of people said they would use digital technology to access Local Authority services. Only banking and booking holidays featured higher.• Types of digital services people wanted their local authority to provide in order of priority were Online reporting of an issues, Online forms, Online payments, Online enquiries, Online grants• What people want to see in the digital strategy<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Applications Online○ Updates on roadworks○ Grant application online (extra marks for making application online)
Non-Profit Organisations feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 56% of groups had access to high speed broadband with 22% stating connectivity as an issue.• For what services do groups use digital technology<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 100% use technology for communication○ 89% use technology to provide information and promote activities○ 56% use technology to access Local Authority services• Digital Public Services used• 44% Social Media• 33% Online Event Calendar• 22% Map Alerter• 56% of groups felt digital technologies were having a major impact and 33% a moderate impact on their work.• 44% of groups had come under pressure from Government. Or semi state organisations to use digital technologies• Broadband availability followed by funding are the biggest challenges in benefitting more from digital technologies.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To assist the development of digital in Roscommon the following was suggested;
What would you like to see done in order to assist the successful development of a Digital Strategy in Roscommon?	<p>Training for community groups in effective publicity/communicating over social media platforms. Faster broadband speed.</p> <p>Local Authority to co-ordinate Community Groups to develop a focused digital strategy to advertise the County.</p> <p>Community Groups to have a forum to be able inform the Local Authority what their social media followers likes/dislikes/should do better are regarding the County which could assist in focusing tourism, local small business, etc. development in the County.</p>

Non-Profit Organisations

What would you like to see done in order to assist the successful development of a Digital Strategy in Roscommon?
Increase speed
<p>Training for community groups in effective publicity/communicating over social media platforms.</p> <p>Local Authority to co-ordinate Community Groups to develop a focused digital strategy to advertise the County.</p> <p>Community Groups to have a forum to be able inform the Local Authority what their social media followers likes/dislikes/should do better are regarding the County which could assist in focusing tourism, local small business, etc. development in the County.</p>
Increased coverage in rural areas.
More Laptops, desktops or tablets made available to groups like Men's. Sheds
high speed broadband
<p>Make the expansion of fibre/fast broadband the main pillar. Loading the RosCoCo page pre fibre was an opportunity to make tea (too many page elements to cope with slow speeds).</p> <p>Involve ALL potential stakeholders: Consider a "tell-a-granny" programme with young people helping older users. Make digital part of Ag Science courses. Run drop in programmes at Marts/Ag Fairs. Visit Active Retirement groups. Reach out to SMEs to create/improve their digital presence/marketplace (could be done through Leader/Town teams).</p> <p>Consider creating an accredited Virtual University.</p>
<p>Provide broadband as cheaply as possible</p> <p>Fibre will not be taken up as cost prohibitive</p>
Listen to what people want...the real people and not the edited version

Business Questionnaire Response

What would you like to see being done in order to facilitate the successful development of a digital strategy in Roscommon? What organisations should be involved?

Develop an innovation centre.

LEO and Arts Office

A joined up approach where the relevant organisations locally, both private and public, come together to assess, statistically evaluate and cost effectively and responsibly develop a short term and long term action plan addressing both immediate needs and pre-empting the demands of the future.

A working group could be established, made up of likeminded, progressive individuals and businesses from the areas of IT Infrastructure, Web design / development, Marketing, Digital media (Film/ Video Production, Animation etc.), Broadcast and Media (Radio Stations etc.)

In relation to High Speed Broadband and Rural roll out in particular, It would be more beneficial to assess the need and uptake in an area as opposed to just rolling out to areas based on maps / road route etc. Many premises who are on the current fibre network may not even want or use the high-speed service that is being installed outside their doors. While businesses and people who may work remotely or from home offices are left with no access to the high speed network even though they would gladly use the service and often times badly need the increased speeds to function effectively in national and international business markets.

Local business hubs online ie: local directory of services + associated promotion and management.

My interest is in using digital tech to facilitate on- the- ground action and solutions rather than digital tech supporting the regeneration of more of itself.

Pilot initiatives. Similar to Ennis a few years ago being a digital town at early stage. We need Roscommon to be the pilot capital of Ireland, try a number of different initiatives across the county, not all will work but we will portray a more forward thinking progressive county and get better PR than we are currently getting. I also believe that as one of the main beneficiaries of the NBP that the county should go public with its approval of the initiative. It's not our fault the budget is big but at least it is an infrastructure project we can benefit from not like National Children's Hospitals etc

Just to have a plan

Free web page building and hosting. Perhaps a .ros.ie

Fibre broadband in all areas

High speed broadband delivered.

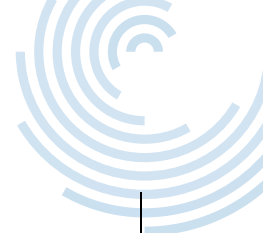
Stakeholders where there business or work duties has an absolute necessity to have access to high speed broadband connectivity

This may include the following stakeholders based in County Roscommon (unless otherwise stated):

- SME Business,
- Larger Businesses,
- Politicians,
- Community Groups,
- Members of the public.

Is there anything you would like to see in Roscommon's Digital Strategy to make it easier to use digital technologies more?

More choice of high speed rural providers at reasonable price points



Better quality broadband especially in rural areas.

Financial assistance / subsidise costs of provision of broadband for rural areas to encourage take up of options - rural options tend to be more expensive on the end consumer as the cheaper options are not made available outside of main population centres.

Training at community level especially for older people - emphasis on digital security.

The strategy should aim to achieve the best connections to the whole County so that no one area is favoured over another i.e. that Roscommon town does best.

The Digital Strategy should aim to carry out a publicly known digital project that the whole county could get behind to raise awareness about the County's digital abilities. If we provide the speed and connectivity it will be used.

The LEO could develop a category of support for digital specific projects that could be supported and promoted.

The RCC should digital proof their grants i.e. extra points for groups using technology to develop their projects or develop a 'digital innovation' category in our grants to encourage and support groups to be smarter.

Better hot desk facilities. Not everyone works 9-5. We need access out of hours and at weekends and more flexible times.

Basically the assurance that all homes can avail of high speed broadband at an affordable cost.

Need more time to think about this!

Commitment to have phone lines upgraded so we could have DSL broadband. Wireless is patchy and proven to be bad for health

Weekly updates about where and when roadworks are planned. Routes and Times of when roads will be gritted/Salted during the bad weather. Updates during storms i.e. if a tree is down etc

Commitment by LA to better connectivity. Too many 'black spots' remain in Co. Roscommon, mainly in rural areas. Too much focus on enterprise in larger towns. many small businesses (builders and service providers) are based in rural areas.

No internet or mobile phone connection in several areas of Co. Roscommon.

Even in Roscommon Town, internet provision is weak at peak times (i.e. very slow to download).

Better awareness of requirements, including equipment, to be a 'digital society'.

Ongoing training to upskill people required - computer skills are 'use it or lose it'. New technology and programmes/apps can become 'trendy' very quickly.

Not enough use of technology for accessing accounts, etc. (e.g. finger print for security)

Technology is too reliant on power/electricity. Major power cut in Roscommon Town recently meant most shops closed due to digital equipment. Loss of revenue as it happened on a Saturday.

Run on-line courses in digital and social media technologies

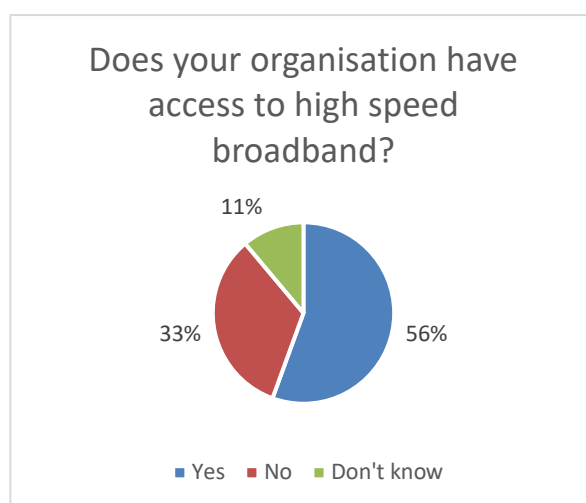
Have an online presence providing information on digital technology and how it can be used to the betterment of Roscommon

Roscommon Co council could do with maintaining the houses that they charge a small fortune for, am currently gathering pics and info from council tenants.... the county manager should be ashamed

Change of law at national level to force mobile operators to quote coverage based on geography as opposed to population

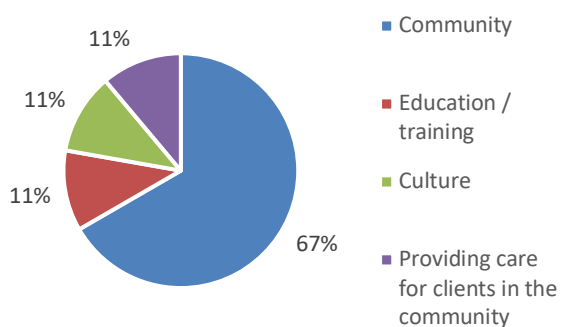
Increase highspeed broadband access across the county and open up more remote working enterprise hubs, especially where new businesses can be set up.
We are right on the border but in Mayo bit here's my views anyway. High speedband however it is delivered is a must.
To make applications online
I find that since moving to eir my reception is awful but when with sky I had no prob!! This is not your issue but something to note. The transition box is just opposite our house!!
Improved and reliable broadband services. Competitive broadband service providers. Accessible to all
Fibre broadband, national broadband plan
Greater broadband access and faster connection / download speeds.
A digital marketplace for individual towns - or even the county - and a team to go round and see what REGULAR AND FREQUENT updates need to be made to the marketplaces so that we don't lose small, family shops to the big multiples.
Continue to provide training but also remember to give people choice....not everyone wants to use digital
Refuse to use 5G until proper, impartial, medical research is done on the health impact of the technology
There are courses run in all towns and the council should inform tenants and others, as well as staff that classes are available for all levels

Roscommon Digital Strategy Non-Profit Questionnaire results summarised

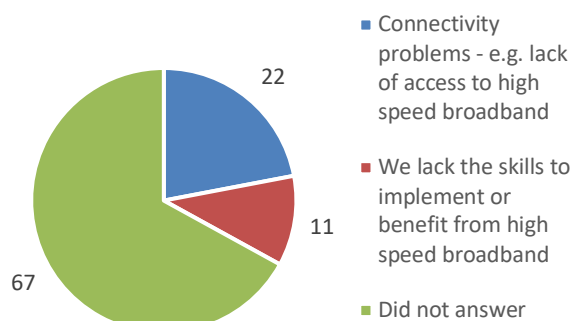




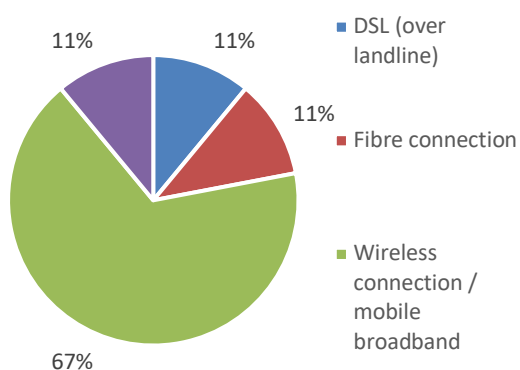
Which of the following best describes the sector that your organisation operates in?



What is the primary reason your organisation doesn't have access?

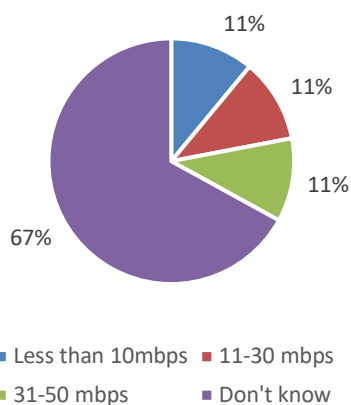


What type of connectivity method does your organisation primarily use to access the internet?

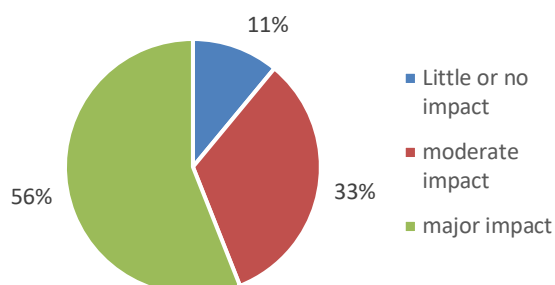




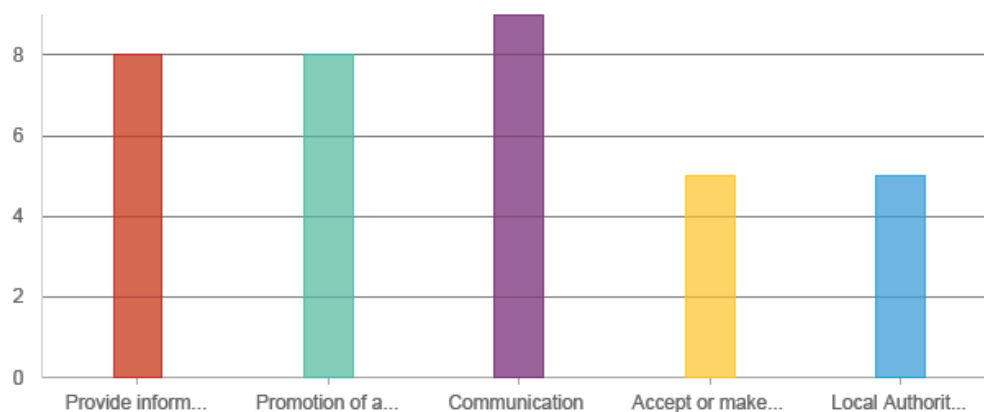
What download speed do you have at your business (if known)



Do you consider the increasing use of digital technologies by consumers is having an impact on your business or organisation?



For which of the following do you use digital technologies? *

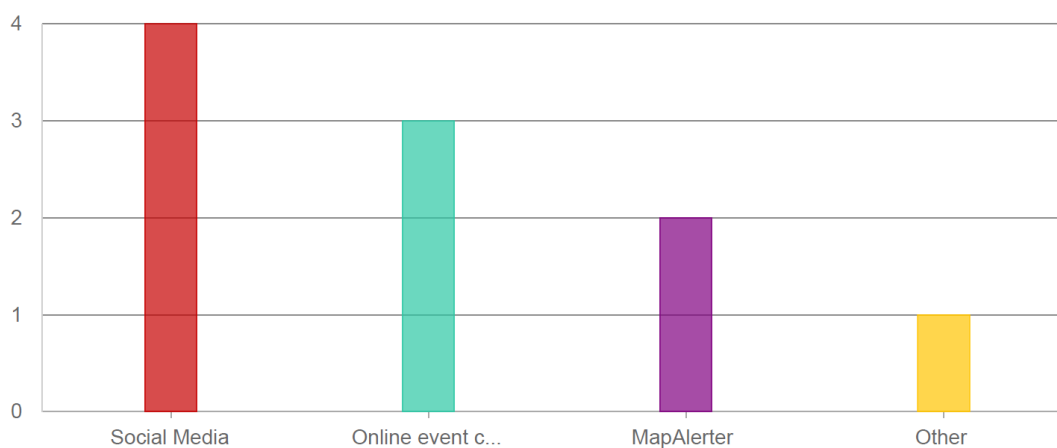


Answers

Count

Percentage

Which digital public services do you use? *

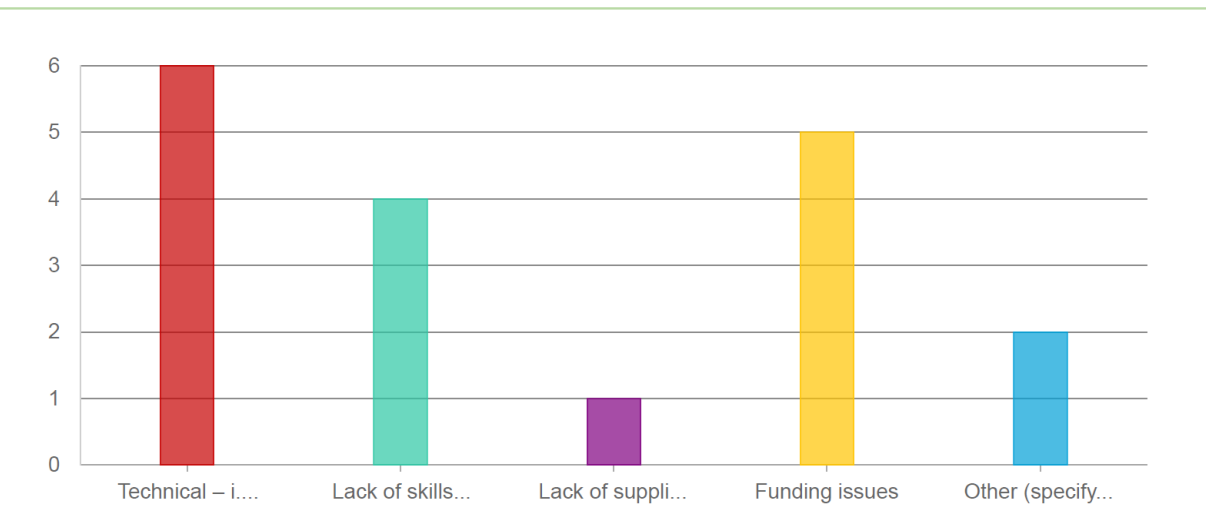




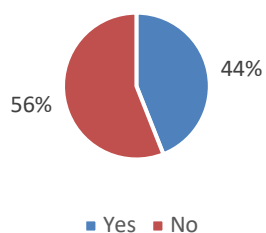
Has your organisation come under pressure from any of the following to make greater use of digital technologies?



Overall what do you consider to be the challenges your organisation is facing in benefitting more from the use of digital technologies?



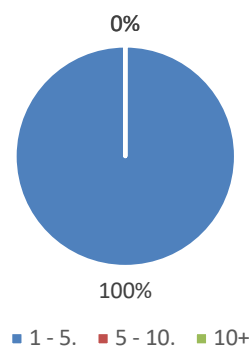
Would you like to take part in a non-profit organisation Strategy Consultation Workshop?



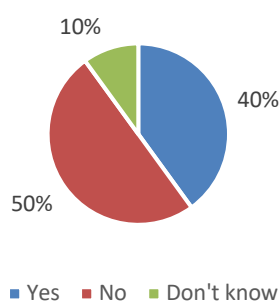


Roscommon Digital Strategy Business Questionnaire results summarised

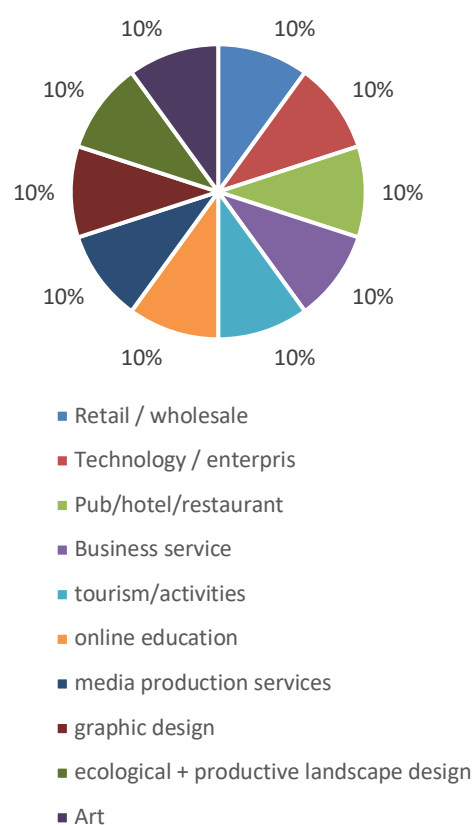
How many employees are there in your organisation?



Does your organisation have access to high speed broadband?

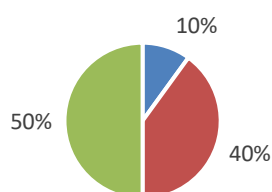


What business sector does your organisation primarily operate in?



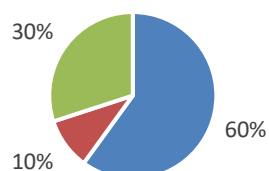


What is the primary reason your organisations doesn't have access?



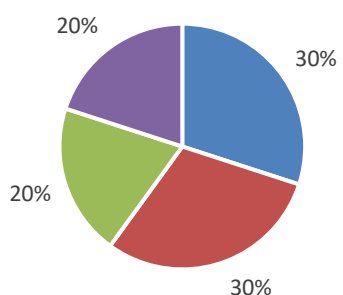
- No perceived need for high speed internet access in our organisation
- Connectivity problems e.g. lack of access to high speed broadband
- did not answer

What type of connectivity method does your organisation primarily use to access the internet?



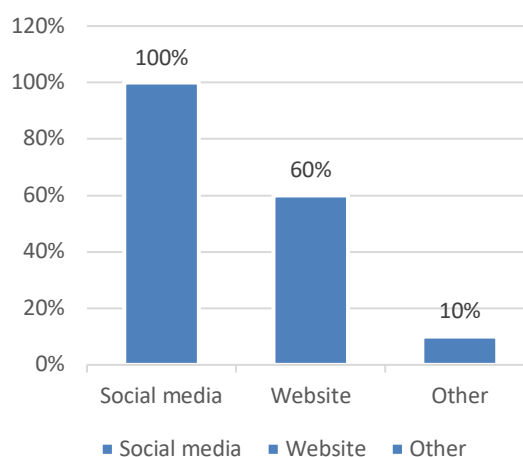
- DSL (over landline)
- Fibre connection
- Wireless connection / mobile broadband

What download speed do you have at your business (if known)



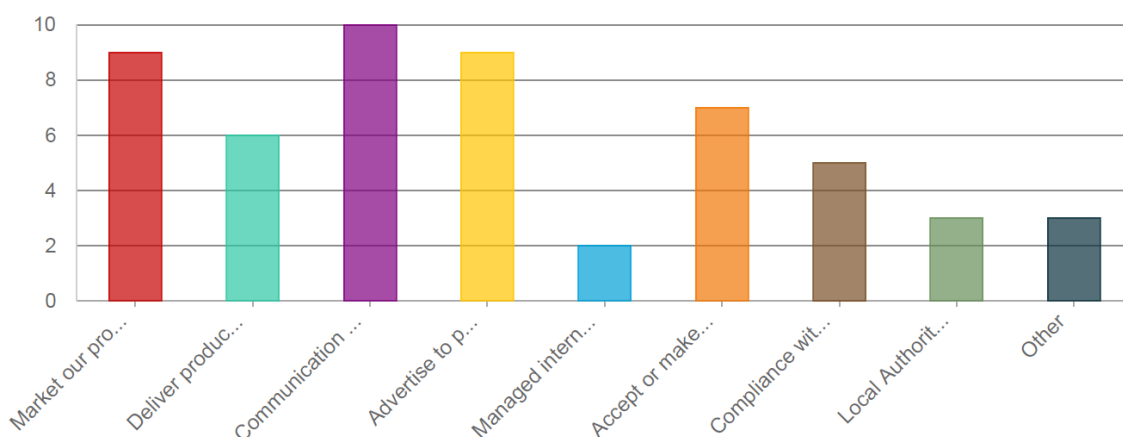
- Less than 10mbps
- 11-30 mbps
- 31-50 mbps
- Don't know

Do you have an online pressence?



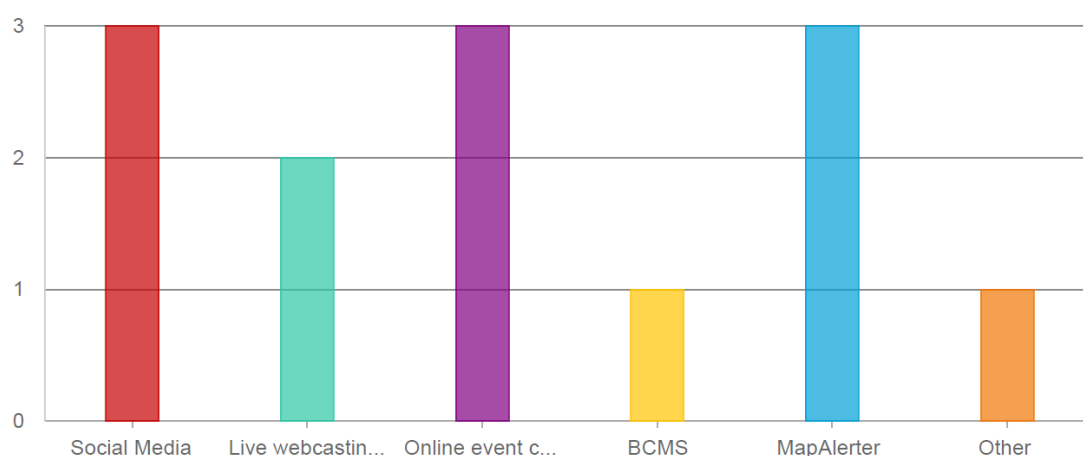
- Social media
- Website
- Other

For which of the following do you use digital technologies? *

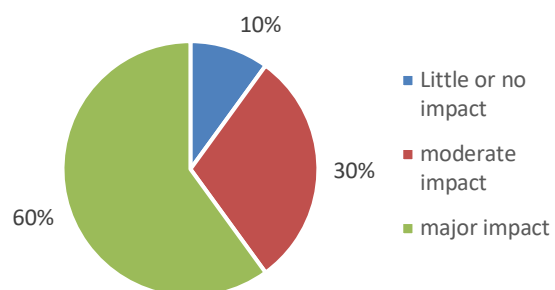




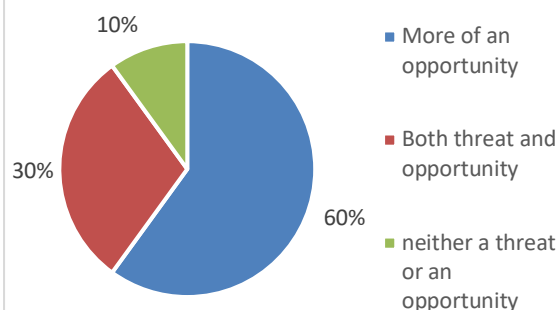
Which digital public services do you use? *



Do you consider the increasing use of digital technologies by consumers is having an impact on your business or organisation?

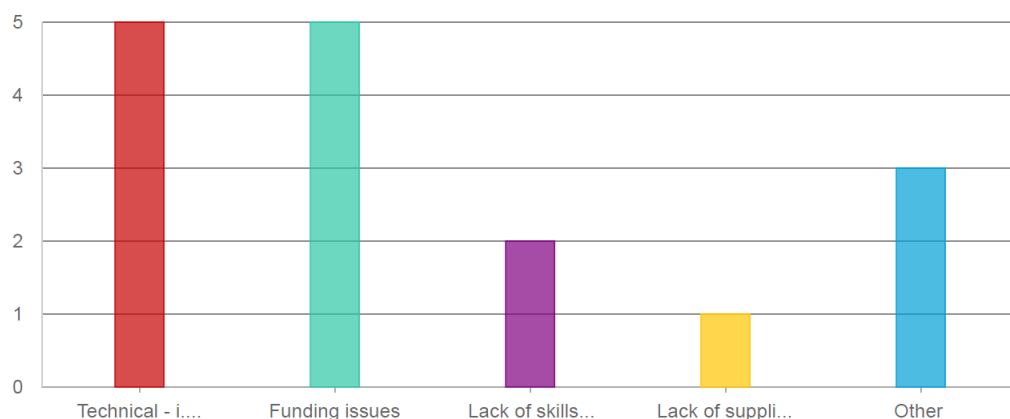


To what extent do you consider the increasing use of digital technologies by consumers presents your organisation?

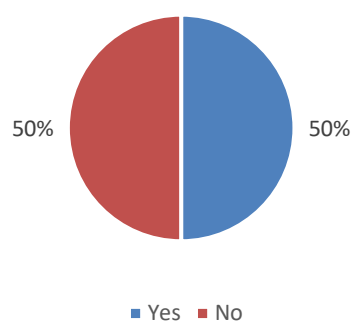




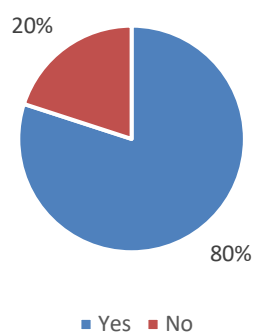
Overall what do you consider to be the challenges your organisation is facing in benefitting more from the use of digital technology?



Would you be willing to be a case study in the digital strategy?



Would you be willing to be a case study in the digital strategy?





Appendix C Research findings - Business Workshop

Question 1: Digital Activities in Business

- Infrastructure and Connectivity will be an essential foundation of building a digital economy and Smart Region;
- Local business collaboration around area promotion and shared learning and development can play a key role in a digital future;
- The authenticity of the local area and USP's of the local economy should form a key part of the Digital Strategy for each of the four counties as well as the commonality across the USEFE region;
- Digital resources can and must be a key driver in scaling business – online selling and promotion and new business models that rely on digital resources are opening up new opportunities on a scale never experienced before. The digital economy means that markets are accessible despite location;
- Local Digital Champions in the business community could help accelerate the take up of IT investment and skills development for the digital economy.

Question 2: Remote Working

- Remote working will address the skills shortage issues in rural and remote areas by retaining talent and promoting entrepreneurialism and opportunity;
- Revitalising local communities through a higher degree of activity in the locality from workers not leaving each day. Remote working hubs will add vitality and economic activity to run down town and village centres through physical regeneration and local spending;
- Networking activity through local hubs will act as a catalyst for collaborative ventures and shared services – new business creation and efficiency in service provision;
- Local Digital / Connectivity Champions could help create awareness and drive the agenda for remote working in local areas and through digital hubs. This could be a touch point and resource for information and support with skills and other aspects of digital economy;
- The work / life balance benefits of remote working will create a healthier and more energised community and society. The key benefits of this will be in reduced stress levels, greater social cohesion, more time for family and personal pursuits and higher productivity in career;
- Fibre will be an important element in creating the scope for remote working – in the home and in commercial premises. It will be important to get fibre routes and rings to the areas that need it most and where it will be utilised to its full benefit;
- Reduction in carbon footprint and creating a low carbon economy will be a key medium to long term benefit of remote working;
- Cost savings to employers in reduced facilities costs at workplace over time and greater productivity from staff participating in remote working.

Question 3: Digital Supports

- Delegates were surprised that the website / e-commerce vouchers through LEO was ranked so low. It was agreed that it is now worth investigating if the scheme can be better focused to meet the digital needs of enterprise including ongoing support for site maintenance;
- Investment in digital workspaces and quality facilities for video conferencing is essential but it needs to be planned out and integrated to avoid displacement. This can include private or commercially run facilities;
- Soft supports for digital development are as important as the infrastructure including enterprise networks, training, events and local business intelligence;

- Broadband rollout must prioritise the right locations where business will invest and cluster around the infrastructure.

Question 4: Developing a Smart Region

- Developing the environment for entrepreneurs to flourish and collaborate will be a prerequisite for a smart region. This will require a strong network of digital hubs where knowledge and resource sharing lead to new ideas and economies of scale;
- Quality marketing and PR with a tourism focus will form part of a smart region with a focus on sustainable activities and attractions and local culture and heritage – Irelands Hidden Heartlands;
- Connectivity will underpin everything in a smart regional economy and will be a key platform for future investment;

A low carbon future should be a core theme in any future digital strategy and towards a smart region.

Business Questionnaires and Workshop Feedback

The slides and narrative below present the results from the live poll to the four key questions relating to the Digital Agenda for business.

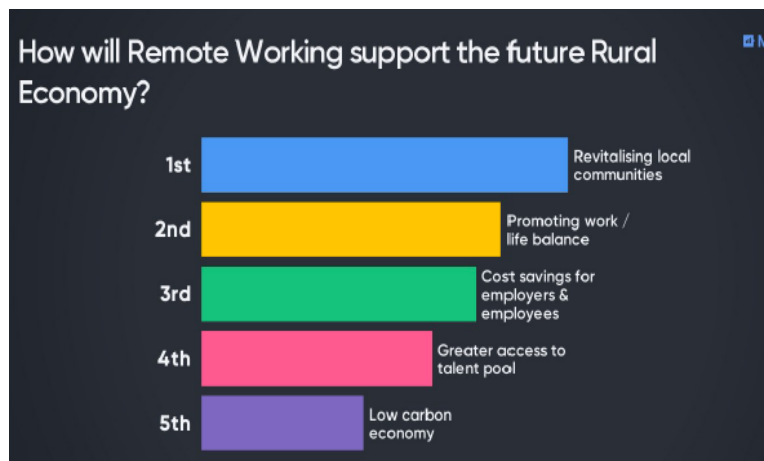
Slide 1 / Question 1



It is evident that delegates found all the factors listed to be of importance. It also shows that there was a slightly stronger leaning towards the need for investment in new IT systems and the development of IT skills among the workforce as the factors that will have the greatest potential impact on business performance in the short term. Most delegates also identified the importance of a good social media presence in supporting their business.

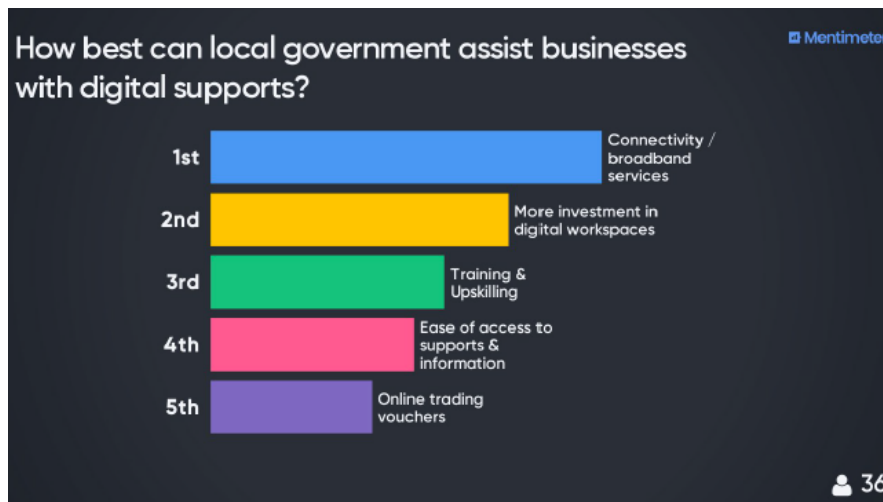
Slide 2 / Question 2

Remote Working was a theme of some discussion following the poll. This question relates directly to some businesses and entrepreneurs but also to the local economy and community in a broader sense. It was clear from the poll that most delegates felt that the greatest benefit to be gained from the expansion of remote working practice will be in its role in revitalising local



communities and especially in more rural areas.

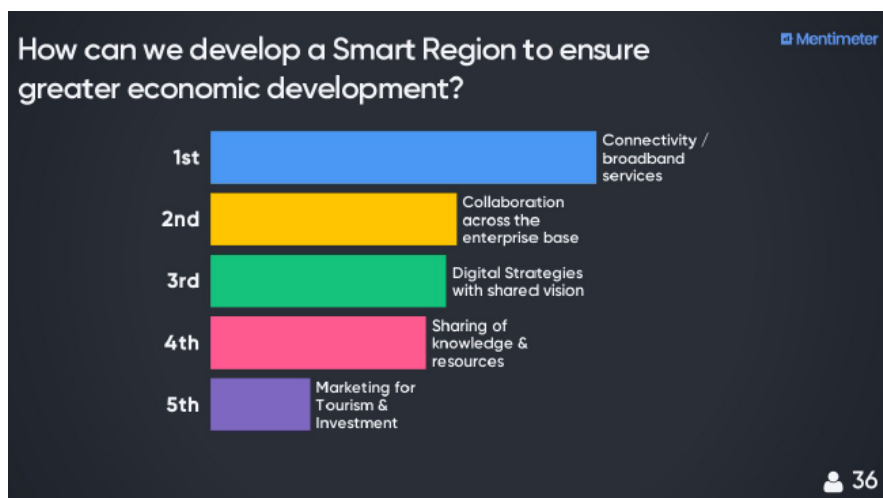
Slide 3 / Question 3



Digital Infrastructure, in terms of broadband and digital workspaces, were deemed critical factors in local government support for the digital economy. Through the NBP Broadband Officer network there is a core function in local government to drive the digital and connectivity agenda at a county level by prioritising locations

and hubs. The online trading voucher scheme was identified as an initiative that has served the business community well over the years but now needs to be revisited.

Slide 4 / Question 4

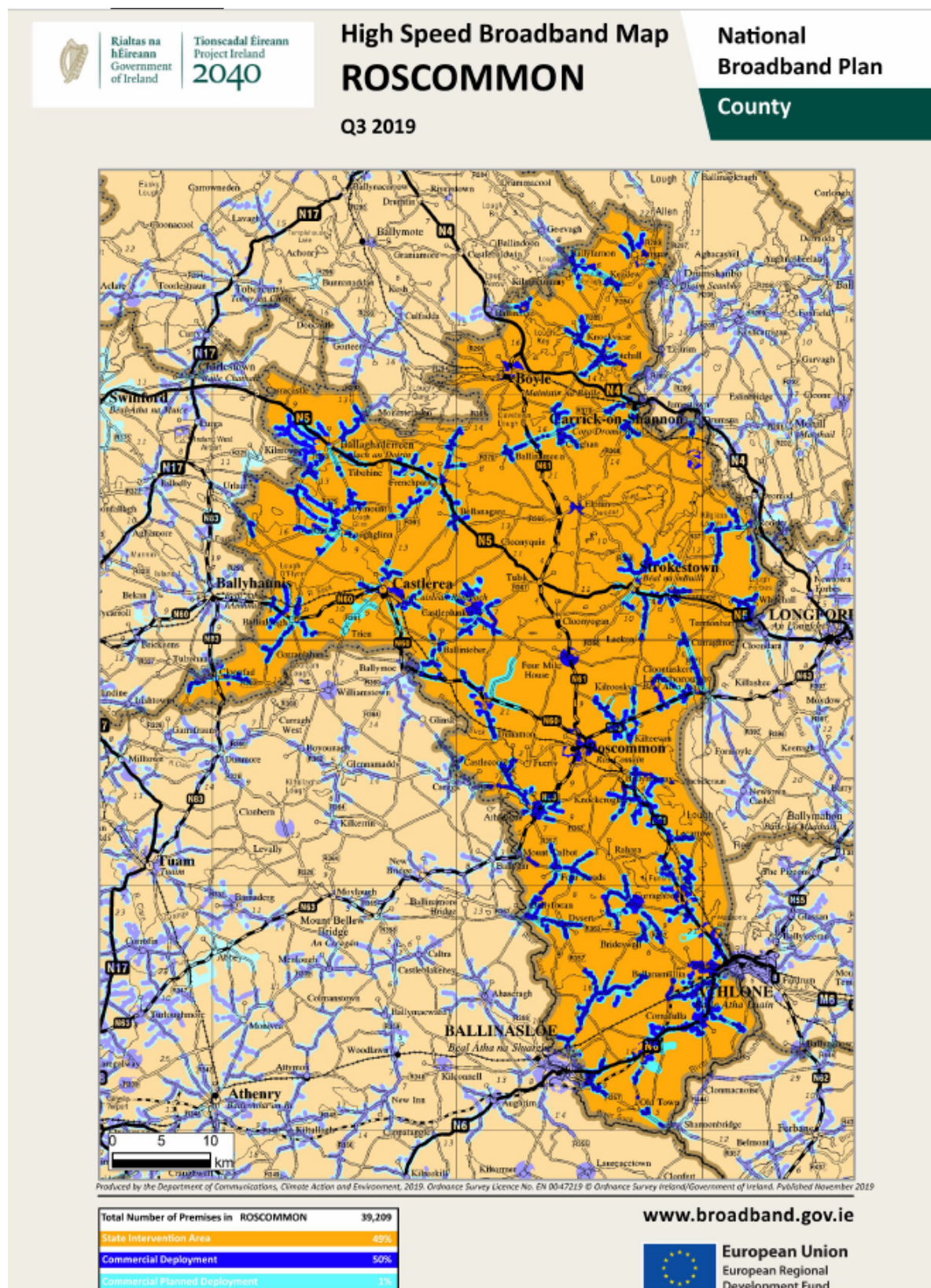


Again broadband came out as the top priority for the promotion of a smart region as a driver for economic development. Other factors were seen as important also but delegates felt that without a quality broadband infrastructure there would be no possibility of utilising other digital

resources or building a smart region. Throughout the table discussions this theme was recurring and consistent

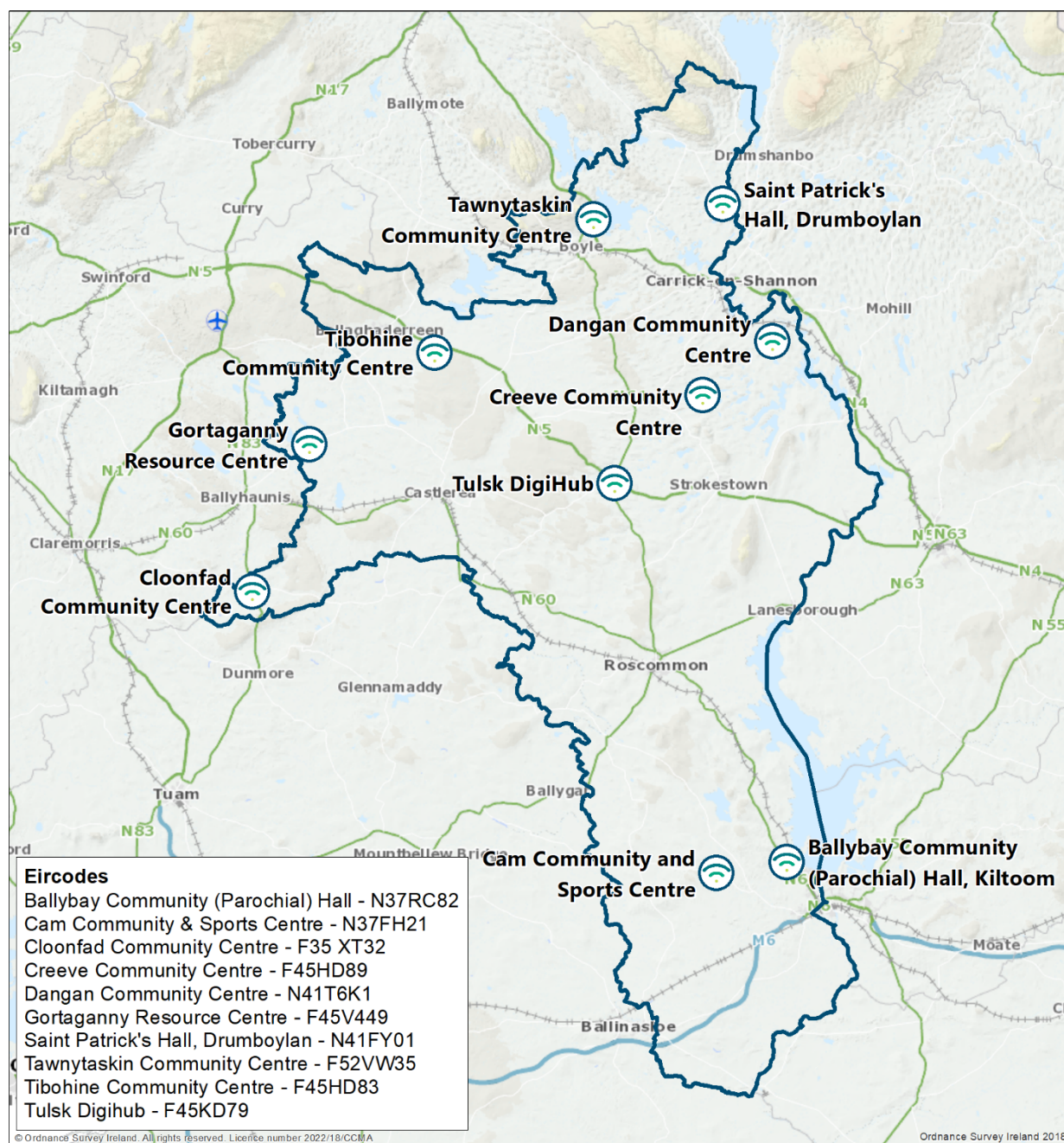
Appendix D Maps

National Broadband Plan Map

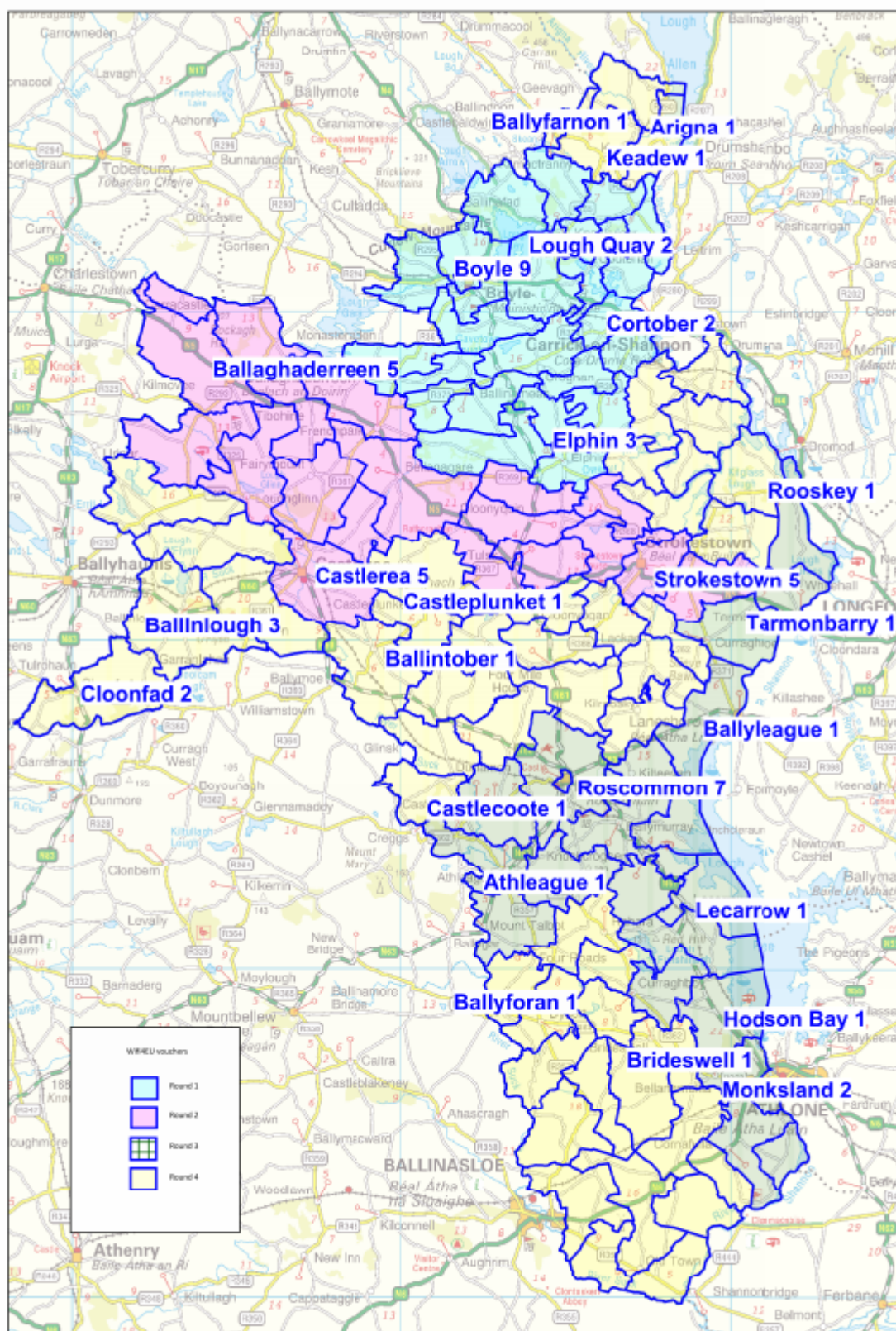




BCP location Map



Wifi4EU Location Map





Appendix E - Funding Streams



	Funding Scheme/Body		
	Departmental		State Agency and Other
1	Town and Village Renewal Scheme	1	EI: Enterprise Ireland High Potential Start-Up Funding
2	Libraries Investment <i>As part of the Library Capital Investment Programme 2016-2021</i>	2	EI: Enterprise Ireland Established SME Funding
3	Trading Online Voucher Scheme	3	WDC: Western Development Commission Business Investment Fund
4	Digital Skills for Citizens Scheme	4	WDC: Western Development Commission Community Loan Fund
5	ICT Infrastructure Grants - as part of <i>Digital Strategy for Schools 2015-2020 Enhancing Teaching Learning and Assessment</i>	5	WDC: Western Development Commission Creative Industries Micro-Loan Fund:
6	Project Ireland 2040	6	SEAI Electric SPSV Grant Scheme
7	Brexit Loan Scheme	7	eHealth Ireland QIC Digital Programme
8	Young Farmers' Capital Investment Scheme	8	eHealth Ireland eHealth Connect
9	Be Prepared Grant	9	LEOs Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters
10	Community Enhancement Scheme	10	LEOs Priming Grants
11	The Capitation Grant	11	LEOs Business Expansion Grants
12	Minor Grant Scheme	12	NDRC: National Digital Research Council
	EU	13	InterTradeIreland: FUSION Programme
1	LEADER 2020	14	InterTradeIreland: ACUMEN Programme - Market Research Stream
2	Horizon 2014 - 2020	15	Teagasc: Dairy Farm Grant
3	ESIF: European Structural and Investment Funds European Social Fund (ESF) 2014-2020	16	Creative Europe MEDIA Support for the Development of Video Games
4	EARDF European Agricultural Rural Development Fund 2014 - 2020		Technology Transfer Experiment (TTX) calls
5	Connecting Europe Facility (Telecom) 2018		SMART4ALL Knowledge Transfer Experiments (KTEs) are short-term (3 months) internship projects
6	WiFi4EU Initiative		SmartEEs2 Call for integration of flexible and wearable electronics technologies
7	COSME Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Programme 2014 - 2020		DigiFed offers grants for the development of smart applications.
8	SmartEEs Digital Innovation Hub		SmartAnythingEverywhere Initiative

Appendix F - Actions List


	<u>Objective</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Lead</u>
1	Promote the use of digital technology in Community and reduce social isolation by enabling people to stay connected via technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop digital skills training, young people to mentor older people • Promote the use of digital technologies, undertake a programme that follows the roll-out, identify group who may need specific training e.g. those with disabilities • Encourage organisations to have an online presence and every village and town to set up a website • Develop partnerships with community and cultural organisations. • Digital Innovation Category - Community and Enterprise Grant Schemes. • Training for Community Groups on completion of digitised forms for grants 	Ongoing	Community & Enterprise
2	Provide Supports to Local Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Community groups to create SMART communities • Support communities in identifying and addressing social exclusion and equality issues • Develop the capacity of Local Community Groups to create more sustainable communities • Support disadvantaged individuals to improve the quality of their lives through the provision of lifelong learning and labour market supports. 	Ongoing	Leader
3	Digital preservation and dissemination of our Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support digital technologies in the dissemination of heritage information • Continue to update and improve Cemetery Map Viewer and archive the material • Update the County Roscommon Folklore and Oral History Network • Undertake GDPR cleaning and publication online of Cemetery Registers • Continue with Digital Exhibitions and Social Media Updates 	Ongoing	Heritage Officer

4	Promoting arts in County Roscommon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support artists to produce digital work through bursaries, commissions, training and mentoring. Promote engagement with industry experts 	Ongoing	Arts Officer
5	Promote Tourism through the use of digital technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuously update King House website and Social media channels Develop trails videos to highlight the Summer, Spring, Family and Accessible Trails in the county Continuously update Visit Roscommon Social media pages and website Host online Social Media Trainings for the Tourism Trade Install Touch screen kiosk in Boyle GIS mapping of Roscommon Walks 	Ongoing	Tourism Officer
6	Diaspora	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a central County website focusing on 'all things Roscommon' Promote the live streaming of key Roscommon events Collaborate with neighbouring counties to assist and support return emigrants Provide updates to Global Rossies through Roscommon Bound website and social media channels. 	2022	Community & Enterprise
7	Provide online services for customers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the amount of local authority services that are available online Develop digital systems for dealing with customer queries. Provide 24/7 self-service for doing business with Roscommon County Council. Increase the use of online services for grant applications Publish official, non-personal, government data on Open Data website and make it available and easily accessible online Invest in and upgrade IT systems. 	Ongoing	Information Systems

8	Support for Digital education and Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate with organisations that provide digital skills training, encouraging greater engagement through raising awareness • Continue to offer digital skills training to the general public and businesses through Leader and Libraries. 	Ongoing	Library Services
9	Promote Entrepreneurship, ICT and Technology Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the importance of software coding among young people • Entrepreneurship programmes e.g. Young Enterprise Scheme, Competitions, Award 		
10	Provide enhanced Library Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop the role of libraries in improving digital inclusion to make them the 'go-to' provider of digital access, training and support for local communities and students. • Continue to train library staff in digital technologies so that they can offer support to members of the public • Explore the design and funding requirements for a peer-to-peer learning program for technical skills. • Publish digital learning programs • Education- link to universities through Eduroam • Ensure that students at all educational institutions are provided with the means to embrace digital technologies. 	Ongoing	Library Services
11	Facilitate high speed broadband to all citizens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist NBI with the rollout of the National Broadband Plan • Implement the Mobile phone and broadband taskforce actions • Development of Shared Telecommunications Infrastructure • Imbed digital requirements within our planning and regeneration strategies. • To promote remote working in accordance with national policy 	Ongoing	Roads & Transportation



12	Improve mobile phone coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with service providers to increase coverage across the County • Work with local communities and telecoms operators to explore using publicly owned property site mobile phone infrastructure • Assist with accelerating deployment of 5G across the County 	Ongoing	Roads & Transportation
13	Assist in setting up BCPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with communities to progress BCP's as part of early rollout of NBP. • Support BCP sites through the coordination of Department supports and funding mechanisms 	2023	Broadband Officer
14	Provide free wifi to the public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver free public wifi to public centres and tourist attractions under the Wifi4EU scheme • Deploy Public Wi-Fi Access points in Public Buildings, Parks, Town Centres and other public spaces. 	2022	Broadband Officer
15	Internet of Things IoT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote IoT engagements across all departments • Develop Roscommon's smart public infrastructure • Lough Ree Thermal Image Monitoring 	Ongoing	Roads & Transportation
16	Facilitate Blended Working as an organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roscommon County Council is currently facilitating remote working for all staff in accordance with the national Blended Working Policy Framework. Ensure staff are equipped to carry out their duties remotely in a safe and effective manner. 	2022	Corporate Services
17	Support the development of a network of remote working, co-working and business workspaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to Invest in digital hubs • Support the establishment of co-working spaces • Promote the setting up of rural working hubs • Ensure business locations are made available e.g. digital hubs 	Ongoing	Corporate Services





18	Regional Collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue to work with neighbouring counties in groups such as the Atlantic Economic Corridor, WDC, Smart Atlantic Way and USEFE• Established Forums to exchange knowledge among enterprises	Ongoing	AEC Officer
19	Digital Hubs and Enterprise Centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue to play our part in the AEC Enterprise Hubs Project• Assist with feasibility study investigating the expansion of the Digiwest network• Promote remote working	Ongoing	AEC Officer
20	Encourage businesses to invest	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide support to companies seeking to transform digitally• Undertake initiatives to attract digital companies to the region• Implement a digital awareness campaign• Established Forums to exchange knowledge among enterprises• Develop digital clusters/incubation programmes• Promote shop local online and Trading Online Vouchers	Ongoing	Local enterprise Office
21	Promote Innovation and Entrepreneurship	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop Digital Hub and Innovation Centre in Monksland• Developing an Entrepreneurial Culture• “Invest Roscommon” Strategy – Promote Roscommon’s Towns• Have more business people trained in the skills they need e.g. farming community	Ongoing	Community & Enterprise

The background is a solid dark blue with rounded corners. It features several abstract geometric elements: a large, faint, light blue concentric circle pattern in the lower-left quadrant; a smaller, similar pattern in the top-right corner; and three teal-colored hexagons with thin white outlines. One hexagon is in the upper-left, one in the lower-right, and a smaller one is on the left side, partially overlapping the large circle pattern. The title text is centered in the lower half of the image.

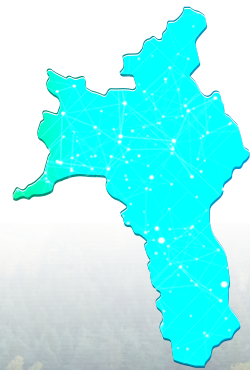
«ROSCOMMON DIGITAL STRATEGY»

2022-2026



"IT IS NOT THE STRONGEST OF THE SPECIES
THAT SURVIVES, NOR THE MOST INTELLIGENT
THAT SURVIVES. IT IS THE ONE THAT IS MOST
ADAPTABLE TO CHANGE.."

Charles Darwin (1809-1882)



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2022-2026

Roscommon County Council
Áras an Chontae, Roscommon
County Roscommon, F42VR98

Tel: +353 (0)90 6637100
Email: customerservice@roscommoncoco.ie



www.roscommon.ie

 RoscommonCountyCouncil

 @roscommoncoco