

MINUTES OF MONTHLY Meeting OF ROSCOMMON COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNCIL Chamber, Áras an Chontae, Roscommon
MONDAY, 23RD JUNE, 2025 AT 2.15 pm.

PRESENT:	Councillor Liam Callaghan	PRESIDED
MEMBERS:	Cllr M.Holland, Cllr R. Conboy, Cllr L. Brennan, Cllr V. Byrne, Cllr D. Connolly, Cllr T. Crosby, Cllr L. Cull, Cllr V. Duffy, Cllr L. Fallon, Cllr P. Fitzmaurice, Cllr M. Frain, Cllr E. Kelly, Cllr J. Keogh, Cllr S. Moylan, Cllr M. McDermott and Cllr T. Ward.	
OFFICIALS:	Shane Tiernan, Chief Executive Caitlín Conneely, Director of Services Chris Flynn, Director of Services Sean Mullarkey, Director of Finance Karen Hanley, Meetings Administrator Claudette Collins, Staff Officer Michaela Fallon, Assistant Staff Officer	
Apologies:	Cllr N. Dineen., John Mockler A/Director of Services	

84.25 DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST (SECTION 177 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 AS AMENDED)

There were no Disclosures of Conflict of Interest declared by Members.

85.25 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Connolly

SECONDED by Cllr. Keogh

It was **AGREED** to adopt the minutes of the Plenary Meeting of 26.05.2025.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Fallon

SECONDED by Cllr. Keogh

It was **AGREED** to adopt the minutes of the Special Meeting of 26.05.2025.

86.25 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

87.25 MANAGEMENT REPORT

- Management Report for May noted.

88.25 DISPOSAL OF OFFICE SPACE - ASSETS

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Keogh

SECONDED by Cllr. Connolly

It was **AGREED** that the Council consent to the disposal of property pursuant to the provisions of Article 206 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 of particulars of lands which it is proposed to dispose of at the location in County Roscommon and to the persons set out in the schedule hereunder. Particulars of the land which the County Council proposes to dispose:

The Land: Office space comprising a net internal area of 620m² located on the first floor of Monksland Innovation Hub.

The person(s) from whom the land was acquired: John and Margaret Geehan, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary.

The person(s) to whom the land is to be disposed of: Alkermes Pharma Ireland Limited

The consideration proposed in respect of the disposal: €154,929 plus VAT per annum

The term proposed in respect of the disposal: 5 Years

Members welcomed this disposal of office space and made the following points:

- It is great to see this investment in the Athlone area.
- Acknowledgement and praise for the Executive.
- It was questioned if there is a clause in the contract to review the rent after 5 years, and if so, would the review be index linked.

Director of Finance Sean Mullarkey confirmed that the rent will be reviewed after 5 years.

89.25 DISPOSAL OF LANDS - ASSETS

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Byrne

SECONDED by Cllr. Moylan

It was **AGREED** that the Council consent to the disposal of property pursuant to the provisions of Article 206 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 of particulars of lands which it is proposed to dispose of at the location in County Roscommon and to the persons set out in the schedule hereunder. Particulars of the land which the County Council proposes to dispose:

The Land: Site comprising of 0.15 Ha (0.37 Ac) in Ludamuddagh, Boyle, Co. Roscommon.

The person(s) from whom the land was acquired: Unknown (First registration with Roscommon County Council in April 1942)

The person(s) to whom the land is to be disposed of: Coras Iompair Eireann (CIE)

The consideration proposed in respect of the disposal: €1,000

90.25 DISPOSAL OF OFFICE SPACE - ASSETS

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Moylan

SECONDED by Cllr. Callaghan

It was **AGREED** that the Council consent to the disposal of property pursuant to the provisions of Article 206 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 of particulars of lands which it is proposed to dispose of at the location in County Roscommon and to the persons set out in the schedule hereunder. Particulars of the land which the County Council proposes to dispose:

The Land: Office space comprising a net internal area of 130m² located on the second floor of An Ríoga, Boyle.

The person(s) from whom the land was acquired: Shirley Regan, 10 Glencarrig, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim.

The person(s) to whom the land is to be disposed of: Coillte Cuideachta Ghníomhaíochta Ainmnithe

The consideration proposed in respect of the disposal: €12,600 per annum

The term proposed in respect of the disposal: 10 Years

Members welcomed this leasing of office space and made the following points:

- It is great to see the building at full capacity.
- It was noted that the rent amount was quite low.
- It was questioned if there would be an option for local community groups to take over the lease when the current term of rental has expired.
- It was questioned if there is a clause in the contract to review the rent after 5 years, and if so, would the review be index linked.
- Praise for the Council for acquiring the building which was derelict and an eye-sore to the town for many years and without the work, it would still be derelict.

Director of Finance Sean Mullarkey advised that two independent valuers were engaged to review the market rent in Boyle and recommended the rent amount. He added that the semi-state body were previously located in Lough Key, and this lease would create more available space in Lough Key, coinciding with the Lough Key Masterplan. He confirmed that the second floor had been designated as office accommodation while the ground floor had been designated for arts related activities so it is unlikely that the lease for this area would be offered to community groups. He explained that the aim is to ensure vibrancy in the middle of the town, and by attracting employment to the building, more money would be spent in the town.

Members welcomed Mr. Mullarkey's clarification and discussed the following:

- Acknowledgement for designating the ground floor for arts.
- Praise for seeking RRDF funding for projects such as this.
- Acknowledgement for the benefit of creating space in Lough Key.
- Reiteration that a rent review/break clause should be provided for in the contract.
- Acknowledgement that the market value was carried out professionally.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Fitzmaurice

SECONDED by Cllr. Keogh

It was **AGREED** that Roscommon County Council seek further RRDF and URDF funding for derelict buildings in towns throughout the county.

Cathaoirleach Cllr. Liam Callaghan added that he was delighted to see progress on this building and reiterated that similar projects should be looked at for similar buildings. He also noted the importance of having an anchor tenant in the building to pay for the costs as arts doesn't always generate significant income.

Director of Finance Sean Mullarkey explained that the contract provided for a break clause after three years and a rent review after five years. He noted that the regeneration of the building was paid for with 80% funding from outside bodies and 20% from Roscommon County Council. He advised that old buildings, such

as this one, are expensive to refurbish and would not have been possible without the 80% outside funding. He further explained that this would also be the case going forward, if other similar projects were to be explored.

91.25 DRAFT ROSCOMMON HERITAGE STRATEGY 2025-2029

With the agreement of members, this item was deferred until the July plenary meeting.

92.25 DRAFT LITTER MANAGEMENT PLAN

Cllr. Marty McDermott, Chairperson of the Climate Action, Environment, Rural Water SPC, introduced the presentation of the Draft Litter Management Plan, which had recently been approved at the SPC meeting, and asked Members for their support in adopting the plan. He outlined that the plan was aligned to key policy documents to ensure a cleaner, safer, healthier county.

Sabrina Lawless, Administrative Officer in the Environment Department, delivered a presentation on the Draft Litter Management Plan.

In the presentation, she outlined the following:

- Roscommon County Council is obliged to make and implement a Litter Management Plan as set out in Section 10 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997 (as amended) in order to set forth our objectives as an authority to prevent and control litter, include public awareness with a view to eliminating litter pollution and provide information on existing policies, programmes, facilities/services and steps to be taken by local authority to enforce the provisions of the Litter Pollution Act.
- The plan was developed with input from the SPC and public consultation. It provides a clear actionable framework for litter prevention and management and signals the Council's commitment to cleaner, more sustainable communities.
- The plan required three phases: the drafting phase, the statutory consultation phase, and the adoption phase.
- The four objectives of the plan are education and awareness, enforcement and prevention, community and business partnerships and services and facilities.
- Progress updates on the plan will be provided through the SPC.
- Annual reporting will be completed in line with the Litter Pollution Act requirements.
- Regular reviews of performance indicators such as The National Litter Pollution Monitoring System and Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) will be carried out.
- The environment department will use complaints data and enforcement statistics for reporting and engage with community groups for local feedback.

Members thanked Ms. Lawless for the informative presentation and discussed the following:

- Views were expressed that fines for illegal dumping should be increased, as the cost of clearing the litter—after deducting any fines—can still cost the Council, even if the case goes to court.
- Recognition for Tidy Town groups, litter wardens and the environment section for their hard work on the issue.
- Acknowledgment that education of the issue should start in primary school.
- Acknowledgment that compost bins will be rolled out to all households by the end of the year.
- Praise for the reverse register initiative, although there are concerns that there is a GDPR issue within the reverse register initiative.

- It was advised that CCTV in blackspots would help greatly.
- Suggestion that dog fouling bags should be made more available throughout the county.
- Praise for the adopt a road/bring bank initiatives.
- Acknowledgment that litter is reducing but that it is still a major issue.
- Concern that the emptying of public bins on the weekends and Bank Holidays needs to be more frequent.
- Return deposit scheme bins for cans/bottles can be sought for events/festivals.
- Suggestion of 'No Dogs Allowed' signs to be erected in graveyards.
- Concern that street cleaning machines were promised in the past but not delivered.
- The market for recycled clothing has changed, other countries no longer want recycled clothing which is leading to clothes bins overflowing. Even though these bins are privately owned, there is a perception that the Council owns them.
- A number of councilors attended a recent gum litter roadshow recently run by the Department of Environment which was very informative. They learned that gum litter is down from 70% to 3%.
- It was asked if Ms. Lawless could circulate further information on the reverse register after the meeting.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Fitzmaurice

SECONDED by Cllr. McDermott

It was **AGREED** to seek funding for solar compactable bins in public areas.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Fallon

SECONDED by Cllr. Byrne

It was **AGREED** that the Climate Action, Environment, Rural Water SCP and environment department would relook at the policy in relation to clothes banks.

Cathaoirleach Cllr. Callaghan requested that Standing Orders needed to be extended in order to continue the meeting.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Connolly

SECONDED by Cllr. Keogh

It was **AGREED** that Standing Orders were extended until 5.50pm.

Ms. Lawless advised that information was sought from waste collectors to identify the service/number of bins at each Eircode and this is reversed to identify Eircodes without a bin service so that they can be targeted. She noted that while there is a GDPR concern regarding CCTV, the Council has made significant progress in this area. She added that great initiatives such as the Green Schools Competition and Green Flag initiatives help educate children about environmental awareness at a young age. She also noted that there is a textile recycling crisis in Ireland which the environment section will aim to address with industry and government collaboration.

Ms. Lawless also explained that the fine for illegal dumping is €150 and if the case proceeds to court, the fine could be up to €4,000. A question was asked regarding the most recent court case and how much the fine was. She advised that the fines are case-dependent and explained that the solicitor's fees cost €750 and the offender was required to also pay a donation of €400 to a Tidy Town group in their locality.

Cathaoirleach Cllr. Callaghan thanked Ms. Lawless for her presentation and acknowledged the Tidy Town

groups around the county for the work they carry out in this area. He expressed frustration over litter being dumped on private property and emphasised the need for stricter law enforcement and harsher penalties.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. McDermott

SECONDED by Cllr. Bryne

It was **AGREED** to adopt the Draft Litter Management Plan 2025-2027.

93.25 SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT WAIVER SCHEME

Cllr. Keogh, Chairperson of the Economic Development, Enterprise and Regeneration Strategic Policy Committee, introduced the Small Business Support Waiver Scheme (SBSW Scheme), which was approved at the SPC meeting on 9th June 2025, and asked Members for their support.

Director of Finance Sean Mullarkey gave a presentation outlining the scheme. He advised that the SBSW Scheme aims to provide support and stability for small businesses to assist with the annual operational costs of their business and to provide a targeted support and a stable approach for the SME sector in relation to the payment of commercial rates. He added that it also ensures that enterprises remain attracted to doing business in Roscommon and that a number of neighbouring Local Authorities have similar schemes in place.

The total revenue generated from the payment of rates equals €13.8 million, which includes €1.4 million from vacant commercial properties that currently get a 100% write off of their rates. The highest 85 customers pay over €20,000 while 1487 customers pay €3,000 and below.

Mr. Mullarkey explained that the margin gap is capped at 5% between the under €20,000 group and the over €20,000 group. E.g. If rates are increased by 7.5% for over €20,000 group the under €20,000 group will automatically increase by 2.5% to maintain the margin. E.g. 2 If rates are increased by 2.5%, rate increase applied to all rate payers. He added that the scheme will allow for a margin of 5% to be applied on any rate increase, meaning rate payers currently under €20,000 group will increase by 0%. The revenue from this will be used to fund projects in the county in the future.

Mr. Mullarkey outlined that a notice was published in the local newspapers and on the Council website in March 2025 inviting submissions or observations from the public by 28th March 2025. There were no submissions received within the timeframe.

The idea of the scheme was first raised at the previous Budget Meeting in November when rates were increased but the scheme was required to be considered at SPC level before being brought to Members for approval.

Members supported the SBSW Scheme and raised the following points:

- It is a great initiative which will ensure that increasing of rates would not have a great impact on smaller rate payers, who are the backbone of the economy within the county.
- Although some councillors were not in favour of increasing rates last year, the increased investment in local projects, supported by rates payments, is hugely positive.
- This scheme will give flexibility to smaller businesses who are struggling.
- Widespread praise for the finance section and the SPC for their work on the scheme.

Cathaoirleach Cllr. Callaghan outlined that smaller businesses, especially those in rural areas, are hugely affected by increases in rates and many businesses struggle when this occurs. He advised that this scheme would safeguard businesses against such increases.

Cllr. Ward noted that he had not supported increasing rates at the last Budget Meeting due to the strain on smaller businesses and the rising number of business closures throughout the county, which he believes are partly due to rates. He proposed a 5% decrease in rates.

Cathaoirleach Cllr. Callaghan informed Cllr. Ward that any proposals regarding changes to rates were to be considered at the next Budget Meeting, and that the purpose of this item on today's agenda was solely to decide on adopting the Small Business Support Waiver Scheme.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Keogh

SECONDED by Cllr. Fitzmaurice

It was **AGREED** to adopt the Small Business Support Waiver Scheme.

94.25 LCDC NOMINATION - SOCIAL INCLUSION

The Meetings Administrator stated that approval is sought for the appointment of a sectoral representative to the LCDC committee as circulated.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Fallon

SECONDED by Cllr. Connolly

It was **AGREED** to approve the following sectoral nominee for the LCDC committee.

Committee	Pillar	Nominee
LCDC	Social Inclusion	Martina Hourigan

95.25 CORRESPONDENCE

Noted as circulated in advance of the meeting.

96.25 NOTICES OF MOTION

97.25 CLLR. MCDERMOTT - M15:25 - CLOSURE OF SACRED HEART CHURCH

With the agreement of members, this motion was deferred until the July plenary meeting.

98.25 CLLRS. KELLY AND CONNOLLY - M16:25 - COARSE AND PIKE FISHING FEES

With the agreement of members, this motion was deferred until the July plenary meeting.

99.25 CHIEF EXECUTIVE BUSINESS

Nothing further to note.

100.25 COUNCILLORS CONFERENCES - PAYMENT/ATTENDANCE

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Keogh

SECONDED by Cllr. Fitzmaurice

It was **AGREED** to approve the list of payments for training and conferences as circulated.

101.25 VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS AND SYMPATHY

Circulated at the meeting.

102.25 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

SHE - See Her Elected Events

Cllr. Cull acknowledged the SHE – See Her Elected Events that took place over the last number of months supporting women and diversity in politics. She thanked Communications Officer Darragh Kelly for organising the events which included a number of roadshows and seminars. She outlined that she had learned vital information from the events, and said it was encouraging to see so many females from different backgrounds engaging in the events.

Cllr. Duffy and Cllr. Byrne also outlined that they attended some of the events and stated that they were extremely well ran and also thanked Darragh Kelly for his work.

NEXT MEETING


The next meeting will be on Monday, 28th July, 2025.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

The foregoing Minutes are
Confirmed and Signed:



Meetings Administrator



Countersigned



Cathaoirleach