


 **Credit Union Ltd.**



**WESTPORT
Credit Union**
HOURS OF BUSINESS
SATURDAY 10.00 AM - 12.00 PM
SUNDAY 12.00 PM - 1.00 PM



Annual Report 2024

 **WESTPORT CREDIT UNION**

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LEAGUE AFFILIATION FEES

It is proposed €2.00 from each members shares be deducted towards the cost of the affiliation fees which are payable to the Irish league of credit unions.

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TIKTOK & YOUTUBE**



Directors

Tommy Gill (Chairperson) Claire Grady (Vice-Chairperson) Liam Grant (Secretary), Michael Gormley, Paul O'Brien, Michael Brophy, Michael O'Donnell, Gerard Needham, Grainne O Mahony, Sheila Langan, Joan Jennings

Business Address

North Mall, Westport, Co. Mayo

Auditors

RBK Chartered Accountants, RBK House, Irishtown, Athlone, Co. Westmeath, N37 XP52

Bankers

Bank of Ireland, High Street, Westport, Co. Mayo

Solicitors

Oliver P Morahan & Son, James Street, Westport, Co. Mayo

Notice of AGM

Notice is hereby given that the 2024 Virtual Annual General Meeting of Westport Credit Union will take place via Webinar on Tuesday the 10th of December 2024 at 7pm.

Liam Grant, Secretary, Westport Credit Union

Agenda for AGM

1. The acceptance by the board of directors of the authorised representatives of members that are not natural persons.
2. Ascertainment that a quorum is present.
3. Adoption of Standing Orders.
4. Reading & Approval (Or correction of the minutes of the last A.G.M)
5. CEO's Report.
6. Financial Statements & Auditors Report. Consideration of the accounts.
7. Declaration of Proposed Dividend.
8. Board Oversight Committee Report.
9. Credit Committee Report.
10. Credit Control Committee Report.
11. Nominations Committee Report.
12. Membership Committee Report.
13. Appointment of Tellers.
14. Election of Auditors.
15. Election to fill vacancies on the Board of Directors.
16. Election to fill vacancies on the Board Oversight Committee.
17. Affiliation Fees.
18. Any Other Business.
19. Close of Meeting

Registration

Members who wish to attend can register on our website by filling in the form and clicking 'Submit'. The details required are as follows:

1, Name 2. Member Number 3. Email Address 4. Phone Number

Registration closes on Monday December 9th at 12 noon to allow us sufficient time to validate all registrations.

To register, scan the QR code below and register online:



REPORT of the CEO & Chairperson

As we reflect on the past year, we do so with immense pride and gratitude for all we have achieved together. This year was especially significant as we celebrated our 60th anniversary—a remarkable milestone that highlights the strength, resilience, and community spirit at the heart of Westport Credit Union.

A Year of Giving Back and Growth

At last year's AGM we established a community fund and allocated €100,000 from our 2023 surplus to support local clubs, societies, and organisations. We distributed those funds to 21 local organisations; that support will enable them to pursue impactful projects that will enrich the lives of those in Westport and surrounding areas and we look forward to following their progress.

Furthermore, we are delighted to announce a further allocation of €100,000 out of this year's surplus to support more local groups, clubs and organisations. This initiative reflects our deep commitment to our community and embodies the ethos of the Credit Union movement.

As part of our 60th Anniversary celebrations, we held a Family fun day in August which further emphasised our integral role in the community.

In addition to celebrating our legacy, this year has been a testament to our ongoing financial and strategic success. Westport Credit Union now manages assets of €112 million and maintains reserves of over €23 million, this is evidence of the trust you our members continue to place in us.

For a record-breaking 10th consecutive year, Credit Unions have topped the league table for best customer experience in Ireland, according to the 2024 Customer Experience Insight (CXi) Report. This is a huge endorsement of the excellent member service offered by Credit Unions on a daily basis through face-to-face engagement in branches and through online and digital offerings.

Strategic Achievements

Our commitment to member-centric services has driven significant progress across key areas:

- **Lending Growth:** The loan book grew by €2.08M representing a 9.2% increase on 2023. We increased our lending to the Agri sector by 285% following the launch of our Cultivate loan product in October 2023. Our focus on digital innovation enabled 27% of loans to be applied for and issued online, reflecting members' growing preference for seamless digital experiences.

- **Technology and Resilience:** Enhancements to our digital platforms, including mobile onboarding and an upgraded online banking system, have improved convenience and accessibility for our members. We are investing in our mobile app to give greater flexibility and services to those who wish to transact with us online, we hope to launch our new app in early 2025. We have invested in implementing an Operational resilience framework to ensure that we remain a trusted financial partner.
- **Reserves:** Increased from €21.9M to €23.3 million (20.67%), exceeding the regulatory requirement of 10%.
- **Strong surplus:** €1.3M achieved through controlled operating expenses and effective Investment portfolio management resulting in a return on assets of 1.16%.

Membership Growth and Product Development

As we review the past year's successes, a standout achievement has been the marked increase in our membership particularly among younger members, which represent 43% of all accounts opened. In the final quarter of the financial year, we witnessed a significant surge in the uptake of student current accounts, a clear indicator of our growing appeal among the younger demographic.

Our tailored student package, which includes free banking and highly competitive loan rates, has proven particularly effective. This commitment to supporting students' financial needs was further underscored as we issued over €120,000 in student loans during this period. These targeted efforts ensure that students not only receive the financial support they need but also begin their financial journey on strong footing with us.

Schools' initiative /Student Bursary

This year, we are proud to continue our tradition of supporting education within our community through our Student Bursary Program. We awarded bursaries to three of our student members, helping to alleviate some of the financial burdens associated with higher education. These bursaries are a testament to our commitment to investing in the future leaders of our community. We believe in empowering our members through education and are delighted to contribute to their academic and professional aspirations.

We continue to strengthen our links with local schools through a number of initiatives. The School Quiz and the Art Competition remain annual favourites. Additionally, our collaboration with Transition Year (TY) programs allows students to gain practical work experience by spending time with us at the Credit Union. We also provided training on fraud awareness and the dangers of money muling to our younger members. These interactions not only enrich the students' educational journeys but also strengthen our community ties, reinforcing our commitment to nurturing future generations

Mortgages

In this past year, our commitment to providing accessible and competitive mortgage options has remained a cornerstone of our efforts to support the financial well-being of our members. We issued €768,000 to members to help them buy their home or to refinance an existing mortgage on their current home. Our dedicated loans team continue to ensure that our members can purchase their new home with confidence that they have someone in their corner to support them every step of the way.

Commitment to Sustainability

This year, we advanced our commitment to sustainability by developing an ESG framework and in the coming year we will aim to deliver our services in a more sustainable way. We are committed to recycling in the office to reduce our carbon footprint, we have also reduced our paper consumption by transitioning to electronic processing for loans, member on boarding and AGM booklets. We will continue to focus on sustainability and will be expanding our ESG strategies. We would ask all our members to review their need for printed statements, physical AGM booklets and would encourage you to download our app where you have 24/7 access to your accounts.

Looking Ahead

As we plan for 2025 and beyond, we remain committed to innovation, resilience, and community impact. We have redesigned our car loan product and now offer highly competitive affordable car loan rates, details of which you can find on our website or by contacting us in the Credit Union.

We have listened to our members and now are delighted to announce that in the new year we will be offering a new fixed term deposit account. The introduction of an interest-bearing deposit account will enhance member services by providing our members with more options for their savings.

Acknowledgements

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the team here in the Credit Union. We are incredibly proud of the commitment of the management team and staff and extremely grateful for their continued dedication and relentless hard work in helping our members achieve their financial goals. It would not be possible for us to provide the service we do without the voluntary input of our Directors, Board oversight committee and all the other volunteers who freely give up their time and we would like to thank them for the level of service, care, and professionalism they display on your behalf.

Finally, to you the member, a sincere thank you for your continued trust and loyalty, together we will continue to build a stronger, more sustainable future for Westport Credit Union and all our members.

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and a happy healthy 2025

“Digital when you want it and human when you need it”



Pauline Ryan
CEO



Tommy Gill
Chairperson

MEET THE TEAM

Board of Directors

Back Row L-R: Gerard Needham, Claire Grady, Grainne O'Mahony, Tommy Gill, Joan Jennings, Michael Brophy, Sheila Langan, Paul O'Brien
Front Row L-R: Michael Gormley, Liam Grant
Missing from Photograph: Michael O'Donnell



Board Oversight Committee

L-R: Paddy Geraghty, Jerry Craven, Mary Keane



Staff

Back Row: Karen Moore, Erika Dehner, Erin Cafferkey
Middle: Noreen Hastings, Mary Lawless, Kelly Loftus, Alicia Halloran, David Nevin, Marie Tresnan, Sabrina Corcoran, Shona O'Malley, Adrian Guiry
Front Row: Ray Walsh, Maura Forrestal, Chambers, Pauline Ryan, Adrian Guiry
Missing from Photograph: Ann Marie Munnelly, Sharon Beckett, Tommie Joe Gannon



CELEBRATING 60 YEARS

Sixty years ago, a group of idealistic young people came together in Westport to consider what they could do for their community. They settled on the idea of a credit union and started saving half a crown each of their own money. We've come a long way from our humble beginnings 60 years ago, so to mark this milestone anniversary, we did lots of celebrating in 2024. Read on to find out more about our 60th anniversary celebrations.



Design a Billboard Competition

At the start of 2024, we ran a Design a billboard competition with local secondary schools. The aim of the competition was to encourage students to use their artistic talents and come up with a special billboard to mark our 60th anniversary. Sam Maroszek from Rice College was the winner, and his design was displayed on Castlebar street for 2 weeks in March.



St. Patrick's Day Parade

The annual St. Patricks Day is a staple in the calendar every year. This year, to mark our 60th Anniversary the Westport Credit Union team walked in the parade and carried a 60th Anniversary banner. It was a fantastic day, as always, and the team really enjoyed it.



60th Anniversary Booklet

Scan the QR Code to view our 60th Anniversary booklet



60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION - 9TH AUGUST

We welcomed representatives from the Irish League of Credit Unions as well as past directors, staff and volunteers to Westport Credit Union to mark our special milestone.

We heard many inspiring stories of the commitment of founding directors, Michael Gormley & Michael Browne, who established Westport Credit Union 60 years ago and helped us develop into the modern and progressive Credit Union we are today.



Founding Directors Michael Browne & Michael Gormley



Liam Grant & Joan Jennings



Michael Gormley



Tommy Gill



Event Attendees



Organising Committee



Michael Browne, Joan Jennings,



Mary Kelly, Pat Kelly, Alice Reilly, Angela Gavin, Marie Ruane



Martin Busch, ILCU President

60TH ANNIVERSARY FAMILY FUN DAY - 11TH AUGUST

Our 60th Anniversary Family Fun Day was a huge success. We took over the north mall for an afternoon in August and welcomed huge crowds to celebrate our Anniversary.

Entertainment was provided by a range of local bands and musicians, Dan the Magician, Deena Kilroy Face Painters, the Chesham School of Dance as well as Disney Characters and inflatable games.

A range of local food stalls provided the refreshments and craft sellers also came along to showcase their products



COMMUNITY FUND

€100, 000 DONATED TO LOCAL GROUPS

Community Fund

We launched our inaugural community fund in 2024 to support local projects that benefit the communities within our common bond. 21 exceptional projects were selected based on their potential to make a significant impact on the community. The full list of recipients is available on our website.

The community fund will be open for applications again in 2025.



Order of Malta - Westport



Westport Tennis Club



Newport Foroige



Mulranny Tidy Towns



**Order of Malta -
Louisburgh**

COMMUNITY FUND



Westport Town band



Lankill NS



Tonragee Community Room



Glenhest Rovers



Louisburgh Scouts



Newport Handball Club



Cuilmore CCE

COMMUNITY FUND



Westport Kyokushin Karate Club



Westport Basketball Club



Brackloon NS



Westport First Responders



Newport Tidy Towns



Westport Badminton Club



Westport Scouts

SPONSORSHIP & DONATIONS

In addition to our community fund, we provided sponsorship and donations to a range of local causes. The groups we support each year are wide reaching and varied. Each has a different and positive impact in our community, and we are proud to provide support for many of these groups. Here a selection of the groups supported this year.



Mayo Fleadh Cheoil 2024

Olga Kennedy of Westport Comhaltas with Erin Cafferkey (Westport Credit Union)



Westport Chamber Music Festival

Christopher O'Malley, Gary Leahy, Erin Cafferkey (Westport Credit Union)



John Mc Fadden Festival Newport

Erika Dehner (Westport Credit Union) Cormac Kelly, Catherine Sheridan, Caroline O'Malley & Martin Hughes of the John McFadden Festival, Newport



Newport St. Patrick's Day Parade

Maura Forrester Chambers and Kelly Loftus (Westport Credit Union) with Kathleen Sweeney, Newport St. Patrick's Day Committee



Westport St. Patrick's Day Parade

Alicia Halloran (Westport Credit Union), Elsie Higgins, Rhone Chambers & Maria Dolan of Westport St. Patrick's Day Committee, Erin Cafferkey (Westport Credit Union)

APPLY FOR SPONSORSHIP

CALL: 098-25614

VISIT: www.westportcu.ie

SPONSORSHIP & DONATIONS



Mulranny Mens Shed

Representatives of Mulranny Men's Shed with Erin Cafferkey and Maura Forrestal Chambers of Westport Credit Union.



Rice College Soccer Team

David Nevin, Sabrian Corcoran and Alicia Halloran with members of the Rice College U-17 Soccer Team



Westport Social Services

Angela Moran, event organiser with Noreen Hastings, Westport Credit Union.



Grainne Uaile Festival Newport

Carol O'Malley of the Newport Grainne Uaile Festival with Noreen Hastings Westport Credit Union



Mayo GAA TV as part of Mayo Credit Unions



STUDENT BURSARY 2024

In 2024 our student bursary scheme returned for the second year. We gave away 3 bursaries of €1,000 each to student members in our common bond who were starting or already enrolled in 3rd level education. The bursaries are a huge help towards the cost of attending 3rd level education.



Rachel Knox

Music Production & Technology
Technical University of Shannon



Molly Tunney

University of Limerick,
Biological & Chemical Sciences



Ruth Chambers

University of Galway,
Mathematical Sciences

APPLY IN 2025

CALL US: 098-25614
VISIT: www.westportcu.ie

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2024

Credit Union Art Competition



Annamaria Pecs, Sacred Heart School and Ben Grimes, Drummin NS, both won awards at National Level of the Credit Union Art Competition. Annamaria came first in the 11-13 years category and Ben was awarded a merit in the 8-10 years additional needs category.

Chapter Champion Award

Michael Gormley, with over 60 years of dedicated service to the Credit Union movement at local, chapter, and national levels, was honoured as the Chapter Champion for Chapter 18 (Mayo Credit Unions) at their conference in Athlone, this award recognises his extensive contributions to the sector.



Paddington Bear Comes to Town



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2024

Credit Union School Quiz

Scoil Phadraig won the junior competition and St.Colmcilles (Quay School) were the winners of the senior competition. Both schools went on to represent Westport Credit Union at Chapter Level.



Member Appreciation Day

We celebrated Member Appreciation Day in October, gave goodie bags and refreshments to all our members who visited our branches on the day!



Easter Egg Boxes Donation

At Easter we delivered Easter eggs to local nursing homes, An Post staff and our neighbours on the Mall in Westport.





Mayo Pink Ribbon Cycle

In May the team at Westport Credit Union took on the Mayo Pink Ribbon Cycle but in a slightly different way! We borrowed exercise bikes from The Movement Gym and set them up outside the Banking Hall. We took it in turns to cycle and between us reached a total of over 500KM.

Members and some well known local faces dropped by to give us a hand with the cycling!

We raised a total of €1455 for Mayo Pink Ribbon



CULTIVATE AGRI LOANS

Mayo Black Face Sheep Breeders AGM



The Mayo Black Face Sheep Breeders group invited our loans team along to their AGM in January to talk all things Cultivate and meet local farmers.

Homeland Westport Visit

The team at Homeland Westport kindly invited us along to set up a stand and chat to their farming customers about our Cultivate farm finance. We ran a competition for all visitors to the stand and Tara, pictured below with Adrian and the Homeland Staff, was the lucky winner.



Meeting the Minister



Our CEO, Pauline Ryan, pictured with Joe Healy, Chairman of Cultivate and Minister of State with responsibility for Financial Services Credit Unions and Insurance, Neale Redmond, at a collaborative finance event in July.



FOR FREEDOM

NOT PROFIT

FOR A PERSONAL LOAN,
APPLY ONLINE OR IN PERSON TODAY



FOR YOU. NOT PROFIT.

Loans are subject to approval. Terms and conditions apply.

WARNING: If you do not meet the repayments on your loan, your account will go into arrears. This may affect your credit rating which may limit your ability to access credit in the future.

WESTPORT CREDIT UNION RETAIL PARTNERS & DISCOUNTS PROVIDED



Please see below the list of our ever growing Retail Partners and the various discounts which they offer on their products and services.

McHugh's Cafe	Westport	10%	Discount
West Coast Rare Books	Westport	10%	Discount
Lallys Pharmacy	Westport	10%	Discount
Euro Stretcher	Westport	10%	When you spend €20 on Balloons
Mayo Podiatry	Westport	20%	Off Treatments/Services
Teddy's Fasions	Westport	10%	Full Price Items Only
Market 57	Westport	15%	Discount
Eye World Opticians	Westport	5%	Discount Not Available on Sale Items
Duffys Bookshop	Westport	10%	Discount
Portwest	Westport	10%	RRP Items Only, Terms & Conditions Apply
Colm Cosgrove Cars	Westport	10%	Off Servicing
Squeeze the day	Westport	5%	Discount
Pax Whole Foods & Eco Goods	Westport	5%	Discount
Wild Atlantic Wear	Westport	10%	Discount

Westport Framing	Westport	10%	Discount
Urban Gruel	Westport	10%	Discount
Amber	Westport	10%	Discount
Goldens Pharmacy	Westport	10%	Discount
Westport House - Interactive Gaming Zone	Westport	5%	Off online tickets with code 'GAME05'
Ocean Spirit Leisure Centre	Westport	50%	First month's membership - can only be used once
O'Donnells Pharmacy	Westport	10%	Discount Not Available on Prescriptions & Sale Items
O'Donnells Footwear	Westport	10%	Full Price Items Only
Jack Dylan Jewellers	Westport	5%	Watches/Giftware & 10% on Jewellery (Full price items only)
West Tyre	Westport	5%	Discount on Tyres Only
O'Brien Interiors	Westport	5%	Discount
Attracta's Launderette	Newport	10%	Discount Not Available on Dry Cleaning
Patricia's Fashions	Newport	10%	Fashion, Crafts & Jewellery
Bertra Strand Apart	Westport	5%	Discount can be used for group stays or for family & friends coming to visit
Bree Mans Shop	Westport	10%	Full Price Items Only
Gills Cleaning Services Ltd.	Westport	20%	When you dry clean 3 items or more together (Does not apply to any other offer)
Shower GEM	Online	5%	Free Delivery and a 5% Christmas Discount (Use code WCUS at checkout)
Knockranny House Hotel	Westport	10%	Off all full price spa treatments & spa products at Spa Salveo
Le Patisserie di Angelo	Castlebar	10%	Discount
Kelly Tweed & Knitwear	Westport	10%	Off hats, caps, knitwear & tweeds. 15% off glasswear, scarves & blankets (full price items only)
Woodfire Pizza	Westport	10%	Off all purchases incl Takeaways
Westport Design	Westport	10%	Discount
Tinas Bistro	Westport	5%	Discount
Heaneys Pharmacy	Westport	10%	Website
Aodha	Westport	5%	Discount
The Galleon Restaurant	Westport	10%	Discount

A photograph of two men in a room that is being renovated. The room is covered with white plastic sheeting. One man, older with glasses and a dark sweater, is smiling and looking towards the other man. The second man, younger with a beard and wearing an orange work jacket, is also smiling and pointing his right index finger towards the camera. In the foreground, a golden retriever is standing on a wooden plank. There are various construction materials and tools visible in the background.

FOR HOMES

NOT PROFIT

FOR A PERSONAL LOAN,
APPLY ONLINE OR IN PERSON TODAY



FOR YOU. NOT PROFIT.

Loans are subject to approval. Terms and conditions apply.
WARNING: If you do not meet the repayments on your loan, your account will go into arrears. This may affect your credit rating which may limit your ability to access credit in the future.

Westport Credit Union Limited is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland.
Westport Credit Union Limited is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority,
and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority

STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS RESPONSIBILITIES

for the year ended 30th September 2024

The directors are responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with applicable Irish law and regulations. The directors are also responsible for preparing the other information included in the annual report. The Credit Union Act, 1997 (as amended) requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the credit union and of the income and expenditure of the credit union for that period.

In preparing those financial statements the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, identify those standards, and note the effect and reason for any material departure from those standards; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Credit Union will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for ensuring that the credit union keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the credit union, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and income and expenditure of the credit union to be determined with reasonable accuracy, enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Credit Union Act 1997 (as amended) and enable the financial statements to be audited. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the credit union and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Chairperson: Tommy Gill *Tommy Gill*
Secretary: Liam Grant *Liam Grant*
Date: 7-11-24

STATEMENT OF BOARD OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE'S RESPONSIBILITIES

for year ended 30th September 2024

The Credit Union Act, 1997 (as amended) requires the appointment of a Board Oversight Committee to assess whether the Board of Directors has operated in accordance with Part IV, Part IVA and any regulations made for the purposes of Part IV or Part IVA of the Credit Union Act, 1997 (as amended). In addition, they are required to assess whether the Board of Directors has operated in accordance with any other matter prescribed by the Central Bank.

Chairperson : Mary Keane *Mary Keane*

Board Oversight Committee

Date: 7-11 - 2024

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF WESTPORT CREDIT UNION LIMITED

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Westport Credit Union Limited ("The Credit Union"), which comprise the Statement of Comprehensive Income, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Changes in Reserves and the Statement of Cash Flows for the financial year ended 30 September 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, including the summary of significant accounting policies.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in the preparation of the financial statements is Irish law including the Credit Union Act, 1997 (as amended) and accounting standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council and promulgated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland)

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the Credit Union as at 30th September 2024, and of its surplus for the year then ended;

- have been properly prepared in accordance with FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Credit Union Act 1997 (as amended)

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Credit Union in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Ireland, including the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA) Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions, that individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Credit Union's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue. Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly

stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by the Credit Union Act 1997 (as amended)

Based solely on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, we report that:

- We have obtained all the information and explanations which we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit.
- In our opinion the accounting records of the Credit Union were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited,
- The financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.
- The financial statements contain all primary statements, notes and significant accounting policies required to be included in accordance with Section 111(1)(c) of the Credit Union Act 1997 (as amended)

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the Credit Union and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report.

Responsibilities of directors

As explained more fully in the directors' responsibilities statement [set out on page 28], the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the Credit Union's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the Credit Union or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (Ireland), the auditor will exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. The auditor will also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for their opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the credit union's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the credit union's ability to continue as a going concern. If they conclude that a material uncertainty exists, they are required to draw attention in the auditors' report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify their opinion. Their conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of the auditors' report. However, future events or conditions may cause the credit union to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves a true and fair view.
- The auditor communicates with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that may be identified during the audit.

The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities

This report is made solely to the Credit Union's members, as a body, in accordance with section 120 of the Credit Union Act 1997 (as amended). Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Credit Union's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Credit Union and the Credit Union's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Colm O'Grady



**For and on behalf of RBK Business Advisers
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditor,
RBK House,
Irishtown,
Athlone
Co. Westmeath**

Date: 7-11-2024

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME for the year ended 30th September 2024

Income	Schedule	2024 €	2023 €
Interest in members' loans	1	1,680,323	1,522,841
Other interest receivable and similar income	2	1,862,063	1,623,192
Net Interest Income		3,542,386	3,146,033
Other Income	3	116,335	136,841
Total Income		3,658,721	3,282,874
Expenditure			
Employment Costs		762,827	708,385
Other operating expenses	4	1,118,870	1,180,403
Depreciation		153,170	146,163
Bad debt provision/write off/recoveries		214,198	150,662
Total Expenditure		2,249,065	2,185,613
Surplus for the financial year		1,409,656	1,097,261
Divident & loan interest rebate paid		-	-
Add: Undistributed Surplus/(Deficit) at start of year		9,776,051	9,108,387
Total		11,085,707	10,205,648
Less:			
Transfer to Regulatory Reserve		(960,000)	(250,077)
Transfer to Unrealised Reserve		(258,405)	(79,520)
Transfer from Community Fund		100,000	-
Transfer to Community Fund		(100,000)	(100,000)
Total		(1,218,405)	(429,597)
Undistributed Surplus at end of year		9,867,302	9,776,051

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board and signed on its behalf by:

CEO		Date: 7th November 2024
Member of the Board Oversight Committee		Date: 7th November 2024
Member of the Board of Directors		Date: 7th November 2024

BALANCE SHEET

for the year ended 30th September 2024

	Notes	2024 €	2023 €
Assets			
Deposits and Investments	4	84,705,502	84,249,174
Investments in CUSOs	5	30,000	-
Loans to Members	6	24,658,489	22,574,932
Less: Provision for bad & doubtful debts	6	(2,024,317)	(1,784,424)
Tangible Fixed Assets	7	1,150,172	1,260,094
Debtors, Prepayments & Accrued Income	8	686,183	667,544
Cash & Bank		3,573,427	4,162,164
Total Assets		112,779,456	111,129,484
Other Liabilities			
Members' shares	9	85,765,072	85,569,004
Members' deposits	9	80,206	108,778
Members' current accounts	10	3,194,500	3,008,782
Other Creditors & accruals	12	432,375	445,273
		89,472,153	89,131,837
Members' Resources			
Regulatory Reserve		12,406,337	11,446,337
Other Realised Reserves		9,967,302	9,876,051
Unrealised Reserves		(260,680)	(519,085)
Distributions Reserve		663,535	663,535
Operational Risk Reserve		530,809	530,809
		23,307,303	21,997,647
Total Liabilities		112,779,456	111,129,484

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board and signed on its behalf by:

C.E.O. 

Date: 7th November 2024

Member of the Board
Oversight Committee 

Date: 7th November 2024

Member of the Board
of Directors 

Date: 7th November 2024

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN RESERVES for the
year ended 30th September 2024

	Regulatory Reserve	Operational Reserve	Distribution Reserve	Unrealised Reserve	Undistributed Surplus	Community Fund	Total
Opening balance at 1st October 2022	11,196,260	530,809	663,535	598,605	9,108,387	-	20,900,386
Surplus for the year	-	-	-	-	1,097,261	-	1,097,261
Transfer to regulatory Reserve	250,077	-	-	-	250,077	-	-
Transfer to Dividend Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfer to Unrealised Reserve	-	-	-	79,520	(79,520)	-	-
Transfer to Operatipnal Risk Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfer to Community Fund					(100,000)	100,000	
Closing Balance at 30th September 2023	11,446,337	530,809	663,535	(519,085)	9,776,051	100,000	21,997,647
Opening balance at 1st October 2023	11,446,337	530,809	663,535	(519,085)	9,776,051	100,000	21,997,647
Surplus for the year	-	-	-	-	1,409,656	-	1,409,656
Transfer to regulatory Reserve	960,000	-	-	-	(960,000)	-	-
Transfer to Dividend Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfer to Unrealised Reserve	-	-	-	258,405	(258,405)	-	-
Transfer to Operatipnal Risk Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfer to Community Fund	-	-	-	-	(100,000)	-	(100,000)
Closing Balance at 30th September 2024	12,406,337	530,809	663,535	(260,680)	9,867,302	100,000	23,307,303

The community fund assigned in 2023 has been allocated and charged to the I&E Account. It was decided by the Board to allocate a further €100k to the community fund for 2024/2025 which is shown above in the reserves.

The regulatory reserve of the Credit Union as a percentage of the total assets as at 30 September 2024 was 11.0% (2023: 10.3%).

The operational risk reserve of the Credit Union as a percentage of the total assets as at 30 September 2024 was 0.5% (2023: 0.5%).

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

for the year ended 30th September 2024

	Notes	2024 €	2023 €
Cash flows from operating activities			
Surplus		1,409,656	1,097,261
Adjustments for non-cash items:			
Movement in provision		239,893	201,009
Bad debt write offs		41,389	4,671
Depreciation	6	153,170	146,163
		<u>434,452</u>	<u>351,843</u>
Movements in:			
Increase in prepayment & accrued interest		(18,639)	(198,690)
Increase in creditor & accruals		(12,898)	160,514
		<u>(31,537)</u>	<u>(38,176)</u>
Cash flows from changes in operating assets & liabilities		1,812,571	1,410,928
Cash flows from Financing Activities			
Members shares, savings & deposits received		45,512,198	40,423,988
Members shares, savings & deposits repaid		(45,344,702)	(39,666,518)
New loans to members		(10,533,208)	(10,575,691)
Repayment of loans by members		8,408,262	7,906,245
Members current accounts lodgements		27,017,030	24,265,618
Members current accounts withdrawals		(26,831,311)	(23,248,175)
		<u>(1,771,731)</u>	<u>(894,533)</u>
Net cash flows from operating activities		40,840	(516,395)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Movements in Investments - Other		3,167,401	(2,226,022)
Movements in Investments - Financial		(30,000)	
Purchase of property, plant & equipment	6	(43,248)	(57,711)
Dividend & loan interest rebate paid		-	-
Net cash flows from investing activities		<u>3,094,153</u>	<u>(2,283,733)</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		3,134,993	(1,767,338)
Cash & cash equivalents at beginning of year	10	21,473,599	23,240,937
Cash & cash equivalents at end of year		<u>24,608,592</u>	<u>21,473,599</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30th September 2024

1. LEGAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Westport Union Limited is established under the Credit Union Act 1997 (as amended). Westport Credit Union Limited is registered with the Registrar of Credit Unions and is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland. The principal place of business is Westport Credit Union Limited, Northmall, Westport, Co. Mayo.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

2.1 Basis of preparation

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with FRS 102. "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (FRS 102). The financial statements are prepared on the historical cost basis.

2.2 Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis which assumes that the Credit Union will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. During the year, the Credit Union reported a surplus of €1,309,656 and at the balance sheet date, has total reserves of 20.67%. Board of Directors and the Management Team have prepared financial projections for the next three years. These illustrate that the Credit Union has sufficient resources to continue in operational existence in relation to meeting minimum liquidity requirements and reserve levels. On this basis, the Directors of Westport Credit Union Limited believe that it is appropriate to prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis.

2.3 Currency

The financial statements are presented in Euro (€) which is the functional currency of Westport Credit Union Limited. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest Euro.

2.4 Income

Interest on members' loans

Interest on Members' Loans is recognised on an accruals basis over time irrespective of when the interest is physically received by the Credit Union. An adjustment is made to the year-end amount receivable for any irrevocable amounts or amounts written off for whatever reason.

This is the method required by FRS102 and is prescribed by Section 110 (d) of the Credit Union Act 1997 (as amended).

Investment income

Investment income is recognised on an accruals basis using the effective interest rate method

Other income

Other income is recognised on an accruals basis.

2.5 Investments

Investments are accounted for depending on how they are designated at purchase:

Held at amortised cost

Investments held at amortised cost are measured by the effective interest rate method less impairment. This means that the investment is measured at the cost less any capital adjustments paid, plus or minus the cumulative amortisation of interest, and compared to the original and maturity amount, less any impairment necessary. As done in previous years, this spreads out the return on any investments, less any possible or identified impairment.

Central Bank deposits

Credit unions are obliged to maintain certain deposits with the Central Bank. These deposits are technically assets of the credit union but to which the credit union has restricted access. The funds on deposit with the Central Bank attract nominal interest and will not ordinarily be returned to the credit union while it is a going concern. The amounts are stated at the amount deposited plus accrued income and are not subject to impairment reviews.

Investments at fair value

Financial assets at fair value are classified as held for trading if they are acquired for sale in the short term. They are valued at fair value (market value) at the year-end date and all gains and losses are taken to the income and expenditure account.

The fair value of quoted investments is determined by reference to bid prices at the close of business on the balance sheet date. Where there is no active market these assets will be carried at cost plus accrued income less impairment.

2.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets include the categories listed below, which are stated at cost less depreciation and any potential impairment. Tangible fixed assets are reviewed for impairment if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value may not be recoverable.

Depreciation is calculated per annum as follows:

Premises - 4% - Straight Line

Fixtures and Fittings - 10% - Straight Line

Computers - 25% - Straight Line

The assets' residual values, useful lives and depreciation methods are reviewed, and adjusted prospectively if appropriate, or there is an indication of a significant change since the last reporting date.

Impairment of Tangible Fixed Assets

At each reporting date fixed assets are reviewed to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If there is an indication of possible impairment, the recoverable amount of any affected asset is estimated and compared with its carrying amount. If the estimated recoverable amount is lower, the carrying amount is reduced to its estimated recoverable amount, and an impairment loss is recognised immediately in the income and expenditure account. If an impairment loss subsequently reverses, the carrying amount of the asset is increased to the revised estimate of its recoverable amount, but not in excess of the amount that would have been determined had no impairment loss been recognised for the asset in prior years. A reversal of an impairment loss is recognised immediately in the income and expenditure accounts.

2.7 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and cash deposits with maturity of three months or less.

2.8 Members Share and Loans

Members' shares are redeemable and therefore classified as liabilities by the credit union, as they are due to members. They are measured at the amount deposited. Loans to members are financial assets with fixed payments. They are recognised when cash is advanced to members and measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Loans are only removed from the balance sheet when they are repaid by the member or written off by the credit union.

2.9 Members' current accounts

The credit union provides Member Personal Current Account Services in accordance with Section 49(3) of the Credit Union Act, 1997 (as amended).

2.10 Impairment of Loans

Westport Credit Union Limited assesses if there is objective evidence that any of its loans are impaired with due consideration of

environmental factors including loan loss trends, credit risk characteristics in loan classes, local & international economic climates, conditions in various sectors of the economy to which the Credit Union is exposed, and, other factors and, other factors such as legal & regulatory requirements. The loans are assessed collectively in groups that share similar credit risk characteristics. Individually significant loans are assessed on a loan by loan basis.

Key assumptions underpinning the Credit Union's estimates of collective provisions for loans with similar credit risk characteristics, and, Incurred But Not Reported provisions (IBNR) are based on the historical experiences of the Credit Union allied to the Credit Unions judgement of relevant conditions in the wider technological, market, economic or legal environment in which the Credit Union operates. In addition, if there is objective evidence that any individual loan is impaired, a specific loss will be recognised. Bad debt provisioning is monitored by Westport Credit Union through the use of quarterly loan book reviews, and provisions are made for any loans not performing, in line with regulatory requirements and accounting rules.

Any movement in bad debts, including provisions, collection of charged off amounts, or amounts charged off, are accounted for in the income and expenditure account.

If there is a decrease in the impairment loss arising from an event occurring after the impairment was recognised, the impairment is reversed. The reversal is such that the current carrying amount does not exceed what the carrying amount would have been, had the impairment not previously been recognised. The impairment reversal is recognised in the income and expenditure account.

2.11 Pension Costs

The Credit Union operates a defined contribution pension scheme with Irish Life. Contributions are charged to the income and expenditure account in the year in which they fall due.

2.12 Reserves

Regulatory reserve

Westport Credit Union Limited is required to maintain and establish a minimum Regulatory reserve of at least 10% of the assets of the Credit Union in accordance with the Credit Union Act 1997 (Regulatory Requirements) Regulations 2016.

Operational Risk Reserve

Westport Credit Union Limited has established an Operational Risk reserve which is a separate distinct reserve which the Credit Union is required to hold in addition to its Regulatory reserve. The

amount held in the Operational risk reserve is the estimated impact of operational risk events that may have a material impact on the business of Westport Credit Union Limited. The directors, having considered the requirements of the Section (45)(5)(a) of the Credit Union Act 1997 (as amended), determine that an operational risk reserve of €530,809 is appropriate.

Dividend reserve and Loan interest rebate reserve

Dividend and loan interest rebate reserves are the accumulated surplus to date that have been set aside for the purpose of future dividend and loan interest rebate payments.

Non Distributable Investment Income Reserves

Investment income that has been recognised in the financial statements but will not be received within 12 months of the balance sheet date is classified as “non distributable” and is not distributable as a dividend in accordance with Section 31 of the Credit Union Act 1997 (Regulatory Requirements) Regulations 2016. A reclassification between non-distributable and distributable is made as investments come within 12 months of maturity date.

Undistributed surplus

Undistributed surplus are the accumulated reserves of Westport Credit Union Limited to date that have not been declared as dividends returnable to members.

3. USE OF ESTIMATES AND JUDGEMENTS

The preparation of financial statements requires the use of certain accounting estimates.

It also requires the Directors to exercise judgement in applying the Credit Union's accounting policies. The areas requiring a higher degree of judgement, or complexity, and areas where assumptions or estimates are most significant to the financial statements are disclosed below:

Bad debts/Impairment losses on Loans to Members

Westport Credit Union Limited's accounting policy for impairment of loans is set out in the accounting policy note above. The estimation of loan losses is inherently uncertain and depends upon many factors, including loan loss trends, credit risk characteristics in loan classes, local and international economic climate, conditions in various sectors of the economy to which the Credit Union is exposed and other external factors such as legal and regulatory requirements.

Operational Risk Reserve

The Directors have considered the requirements of the Credit Union Act 1997 (as amended) and have considered an approach to the calculation of the operational risk reserve. The reserve has been calculate using the Basel III methodology

Investment in Credit Union Service Organisations (“CUSO”)

The investment in the CUSO represents Westport Credit Union Limited's investment in CU Mortgage Services Designated Activity Company. This investment was made for operational purposes. The Credit Union holds 1.59% Redeemable A Ordinary shares in the company. Westport Credit Union is not deemed to have influence over the operations of this company.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30th September 2024

4. Deposits and Investments

	2024 €	2023 €
4a. Deposits and Investments – Cash Equivalents		
Accounts in Authorised Credit Institutions (Irish & Non-Irish based)	20,721,215	17,097,487
Minimum Reserve Investment	213,949	213,948
Bank Bonds	-	-
Deposits and Investments – cash equivalents	20,935,164	17,311,435
4b. Deposits and Investments- Other	2024 €	2023 €
Accounts in Authorised Credit Institutions (Irish & Non-Irish based)	31,337,000	32,337,000
Bank Bonds	17,985,876	19,915,050
Irish / EMU	3,974,435	3,971,067
Minimum Reserve Investment	733,707	733,707
Deposits and Investments – other	54,031,018	56,956,824
4c. Other Financial Instruments held at Fair Value	2024 €	2023 €
Deposits held at fair value	6,500,000	7,000,000
UCITS Investment	3,239,320	2,980,915
Deposits and Investments held at Fair Value	9,739,320	9,980,915
Total Deposits and Investments	84,705,502	84,249,174

FRS 102 requires fair value measurements to be disclosed by the source of inputs, using a three level hierarchy:

- Quoted prices for identical instruments in an active market (Level 1);
- Prices of recent transactions for identical instruments and valuation techniques using observable market data (level 2), and
- Valuation techniques using unobservable market data (level 3).

The table below sets out fair value measurements using the fair value hierarchy:

At 30 September 2024	Total	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
		€	€	€
Accounts in Authorised Credit Institutions	6,500,000	-	-	6,500,000
Bank Bonds	-	-	-	-
Other investments	3,239,320	3,239,320	-	-
Total	9,739,320	3,239,320	-	6,500,000

At 30 September 2023	Total	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
		€	€	€
Accounts in Authorised Credit Institutions	7,000,000	-	-	7,000,000
Bank Bonds	-	-	-	-
Other investments	2,980,815	2,980,815	-	-
Total	9,980,815	2,980,815	-	7,000,000

A fair value adjustment of €258,405 (2023: €79,520) has been recognised in the income and expenditure account

Amundi Fund

The Credit Union has an investment in a UCITS which is a permitted investment under Credit Union investment regulations. The investment is a fund of corporate bonds of investment grade quality which is required to be carried at market value. At the balance sheet date, the fund is trading below its original investment value as a result of volatility in international bond markets. The investment has made a gain in the current year and an unrealised gain has been recorded in the income and expenditure account for the year ended 30 September 2024. This is an investment of medium term duration and in future years, as interest rates settle, the fund is expected to recover in value which should result in a reversal of the current unrealised losses.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30th September 2024

5. Investment in CUSOs

Cost	€
As at 1 October 2023	-
Additions in the year	30,000
As at 30 September 2024	30,000
Accumulated Impairment	
As at 1 October 2023	-
Impairment Loss	-
As at 30 September 2024	-
Net Book Value at	
As at 30 September 2024	30,000
As at 30 September 2024	-
Interests in CUSOs	

The Credit Union has interests in the following Credit Union Service Organisations:

Associate	Registered Address	Type of Shares Held	Proportion Held (%)	Net Assets €	Profit or Loss €
CU Mortgage Services Designated Activity Company	Suite 28 Morrison Chambers, 32 Nassau Street, Dublin 2, D02 XF22.	Redeemable A Ordinary.	1.59%	-*	-*
					Share of Net Assets
At 1 October 2023					-
Investment During the Year					30,000
Share of Profit/(Loss) for the Financial Year After Tax					-*
Share of Other Comprehensive Income					-*
At 30 September 2024					30,000

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30th September 2024

*CU Mortgages Services Designated Activity Company commenced trading during 2024 and has not yet prepared its first year financial statements. Consequently the net assets or profit/loss of the company is not yet available.

6. Loans to Members	2024 €	2023 €
Gross Loans to Members	24,658,489	22,574,932
Provision for bad & doubtful debts	(2,024,317)	(1,784,424)
Net loans to members	<u>22,634,172</u>	<u>20,790,508</u>
Opening provision for bad debts	1,784,424	1,583,415
Increase in bad debt provision	239,893	201,009
Closing provision for bad debts	<u>2,024,317</u>	<u>1,784,424</u>
The provision for bad debts is analysed as follows:		
Individually assessed loans	471,934	406,172
Group assessed loans	1,552,383	1,378,252
Provision for bad debts	<u>2,024,317</u>	<u>1,784,424</u>

The current provision in the financial statements is €2,024,317 (2023: €1,784,424) representing 8.21% (2023: 7.90%) of the total loan book

Bad and Doubtful Debts in the statement of comprehensive income comprise:

	2024 €	2023 €
Bad debts recovered	(35,550)	(31,261)
Loan Interest on Impaired Loans classified as bad debt recovered	(31,535)	(23,757)
Bad debts written off	41,389	4,671
Increase/(Decrease) in provision for bad & doubtful debt	239,894	201,009
Bad & doubtful debts	<u>214,198</u>	<u>150,662</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30th September 2024

7. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Land & Buildings	Computer Equipment	Fixtures & Fittings	Total
Cost				
At 1st October 2023	1,835,804	493,452	204,869	2,534,125
Additions	-	37,538	5,710	43,248
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 30th September 2024	1,835,804	530,990	210,579	2,577,373
Depreciation				
At 1st October 2023	715,215	404,984	153,832	1,274,031
Charge for the year	72,885	59,738	20,547	153,170
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 30th September 2024	788,100	464,723	174,380	1,427,201
Net book value at 30 September 2023	1,120,588	88,468	51,037	1,260,094
Net book value at 30 September 2024	1,047,704	66,268	36,199	1,150,172

Westport Credit Union's freehold premises includes properties at Mall House, Westport, Bridge Street, Westport and Long Street, Louisburgh.

The premises were valued by Sherry Fitzgerald Crowley in 2022. The estimated market value of the properties at that time were €1,450,000, €385,000 and €115,000 respectively. As the market values are in excess of carrying values, no provisions for impairment is required

8. Debtors, Prepayments and Accrued Income

	2024 €	2023 €
Loan Interest Receivable		
Prepayments	76,862	35,747
Other Debtors & Receivables	127,234	144,323
ILCU SPS Refund	438,044	443,431
	44,043	44,043
	<u>686,183</u>	<u>667,544</u>

8. Members' Funds

	2024 €	2023 €
Regular share accounts		
Deposit accounts	85,765,071	85,569,004
	80,206	108,778
Total Members' shares	<u>85,845,277</u>	<u>85,677,782</u>

9. Members' current accounts

	2024 €	2023 €
As at 1 October		
Lodgements	3,008,782	1,991,339
Withdrawals	27,017,030	24,265,618
Fees & Stamp Duty	(26,748,950)	(23,180,594)
	(82,362)	(67,581)
As at 30 September	<u>3,194,500</u>	<u>3,008,782</u>

	No of Accounts	Balance of Accounts
Debit		
Credit	143	(12,873)
Permitted Overdrafts	1,437	3,207,211
	<u>22</u>	<u>17,220</u>

11. Cash and Cash Equivalents

	2024 €	2023 €
Cash and Balances at Bank		
Deposits and investments	3,573,428	4,162,164
	20,935,164	17,311,435
	<u>24,508,592</u>	<u>21,473,599</u>

12. Other Creditors and Accruals	2024 €	2023 €
Creditors and Accruals	383,010	400,615
PAYE/PRSI	49,365	44,658
	432,373	445,273

13. Proposed Dividends and Loan Interest Rebate

The dividend is formally proposed by the Directors after the year end and is approved by the members at the AGM, at which time it becomes a liability.

	2024 €	2023 €
Dividend proposed		
Loan interest rebate proposed	105,621	0
Dividend and loan interest rebate rate:	0	0
Share accounts	0.125%	0%
Loan interest rebate rate (excluding mortgages):	0%	0%

14. Key Management Remuneration

The Directors of Westport Credit Union Limited are all unpaid volunteers. The remuneration to key management staff of Westport Credit Union Limited is set out in the table below.

	2024 €	2023 €
Remuneration including PRSI:	328,585	306,960
Pension	14,910	13,903
Total	343,495	320,863

15. Credit Risk disclosures

In line with regulatory requirements, Westport credit union: restricts the concentration of lending by the credit union within certain sectors or to connected persons or groups (concentration limits); restricts the absolute amount of lending to certain sectors to a set percentages of the regulatory reserve (large exposure limit); restricts the loan duration of certain loans to specified limits (maturity limits); requires specified lending practices to be in place where loans are made to certain sectors such as business loans, community loans or loans to another credit union. The carrying amount of the loans to members represents Westport Credit Unions maximum exposure to credit risk. The following provides information on the credit quality of loan repayments. Where loans are not impaired it is expected that the amounts repayable will be received in full.

Loan Arrears Analysis	2024		2023	
	€	%	€	%
Total loans not Impaired	23,894,136	96.90%	21,767,142	96.42%
Impaired Loans				
Between 1 and 9 Weeks Past Due	255,942	1.04%	397,872	1.76%
Between 10 and 18 Weeks Past Due	54,565	0.22%	42,328	0.19%
Between 19 and 26 Weeks Past Due	18,811	0.08%	41,283	0.19%
Between 27 and 39 Weeks Past Due	105,503	0.43%	42,920	0.19%
Between 40 and 52 Weeks Past Due	24,133	0.10%	52,265	0.23%
53 or more Weeks Past Due	305,399	1.24%	231,122	1.02%
Total Impaired loans	764,353	3.10%	807,790	3.58%
Total Gross loans	24,658,489	100%	22,574,932	100%

Factors that are considered in determining whether loans are impaired are discussed in the accounting policies, dealing with the use of estimates and judgements. Loans which are neither past due nor impaired are reviewed on a monthly basis. The credit union has not identified any material matters which impact upon the credit quality of these assets.

16. Additional financial instruments disclosures

16a. Financial risk management

Detailed budgets are set by Westport Credit Union Limited for the entire duration of its Strategic Plan, and updated annually based on any changes in circumstances. These budgets seek to maximise returns on investments and loans, minimise the cost of operating a significant branch operation while providing a return to members in a low interest rate environment.

This manages any potential interest rate risk that the credit union might possibly be exposed to. The main financial risks arising from the Credit Union's activities are credit risk, market risk, liquidity risk and interest rate risk. The Board reviews and agrees policies for managing each of these risks, which are summarised below.

Credit Risk: Credit risk is the risk that a borrower will default on their contractual obligations relating to repayments to the Credit Union, resulting in financial loss to the Credit Union.

WCU has invested in putting in place a lending team with strong underwriting experience to manage credit risk, and ensure that assessments in relation to loans are sufficiently robust. There are detailed policies and procedures in place to ensure these assessments can be measured constantly.

The first port of call for ensuring loans are repaid is to lend to members who can repay loans, this is noted above in the quality of lending section. When members encounter difficulty in paying loans, they have the option of discussing alternatives with our team. When members do not pay their loans, they are contacted regularly to ensure they are aware of their commitments. Monitoring of loans in arrears is carried out daily, with policies and procedures in place to deal with all scenarios.

The Credit Union's investments are also exposed to credit risk and the Credit Union mitigates the risk by only placing investments with financial institutions where the counterparties have strong credit ratings and using investment products authorised by Central Bank.

Liquidity Risk: The policy of Westport Credit Union Limited is to maintain sufficient funds in liquid form at all times to ensure that it can meet its liabilities as they fall due. The objective of the Credit Union's liquidity policy is to smooth the mismatches between maturing assets and liabilities and to provide a degree of protection against any unexpected developments that may arise.

Market Risk: Market Risk is generally comprised of interest rate risk, currency risk and other price risk. Westport Credit Union Limited conducts all its transactions in Euro and does not deal in derivatives or commodity markets. Therefore, Westport Credit Union Limited is not exposed to any form of currency risk or other price risk.

Interest Rate Risk: Westport Credit Union Limited main interest rate risk arises from differences between the interest rate exposures on the receivables and payables that form an integral part of a Credit Union's operations. The Credit Union considers rates of interest receivable when deciding on the dividend rate payable on members' shares. Westport Credit Union Limited does not use interest rate options to hedge its own positions.

16. Interest rate risk disclosures:

The following table shows the average interest rates applicable to relevant financial assets and liabilities;

	2024		2023	
	€	Average Interest Rate	€	Average Interest Rate
Gross loans to members	24,658,489	7.11%	22,574,932	7.17%

Any dividend payable is at the discretion of the Directors and is therefore not a financial liability to the Credit Union until declared and approved at the AGM.

17. Pensions

Westport Credit Union Limited operates a defined contribution pension scheme available to all employees of the Credit Union. Contributions payable to the scheme are held separately from those of the Credit Union in an independently administered fund. The contributions to the pension scheme are charged to the income and expenditure account in the period to which they relate.

18. Related Party Transactions

	2024		2023	
	No. of Loans	€	No. of Loans	€
Loans advanced to related parties during the year	2	55,500	1	11,500
Total loans outstanding to related parties at year end	3	60,576	3	18,898

The related party loans stated above comprise loans to members of the Board of Directors, the Management Team and members of the family of a member of the Board of Directors and the Management Team of Westport Credit Union Limited.

Total Loans outstanding to related parties represents 0.25% of the total loans outstanding at 30 September 2024 (2023: 0.08%)

The total amount of savings held by related parties at year end was €45,144 (2024: €30,744).

18. Insurance against Fraud

The Credit Union has Insurance against fraud in the amount of €5,200,000 in compliance with Section 47 of the Credit Union Act 1997 (as amended).

19. Comparative information

Comparative information has been reclassified where necessary to conform to current year presentation.

20. Post Balance Sheet Events

There have been no significant events affecting the company since the year end.

21. Capital Commitments

There were no material capital commitments at year end.

SCHEDULES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Schedule 1 - Loan Interest

	2024 €	2023 €
Loan interest received	1,639,208	1,512,988
Loan interest receivable	41,115	9,853
Total	1,680,323	1,522,841

Schedule 2 - Other interest receivable and similar income

	2024 €	2023 €
Investment income & gains received	1,628,025	1,428,177
Investment income receivable within 12 months	(24,367)	115,495
Fair value gain on investments	258,405	79,520
Total	1,862,063	1,623,192

Schedule 3 - Other Income

	2024 €	2023 €
Commissions	10,188	51,747
Miscellaneous/Rental	25,373	18,500
Members current accounts	80,774	66,594
Total	116,335	136,841

Schedule 4 - Other Management Expenses

	2024 €	2023 €
Rent and Rates	22,825	26,564
Lighting, Heating & Cleaning	30,201	51,544
Repairs & Renewals	5,508	9,446
Security	6,001	6,402
Printing & Stationary	11,688	11,455
Postage & Telephone	11,005	16,768
Donations & Sponsorship	7,890	14,814
Promotion & Advertising	61,163	64,484
Training Costs	18,180	14,165
AGM & Convention Expenses	18,031	19,499
Travel and Subsistence	5,004	4,432
Bank Charges	28,572	32,973
Central Bank and Levy Fees	167,521	154,534
CUDA affiliation fees	6,600	5,500
MPCAS fees	88,687	81,802
Audit Fee	24,600	24,600
Share and Loan insurance	145,637	137,935
General insurance	40,792	40,228
Legal and Professional Fees	122,140	142,432
Computer Maintenance	227,200	267,804
ILCU Affiliation Fees	13,091	11,620
60th Celebrations	25,509	-
Other costs	31,025	41,402
Total	1,118,870	1,180,403



To all of our Members, Families & Friends, we wish you a very

*Merry
Christmas &
Happy New Year*

**Opening Hours for the Festive Season
Westport**

Monday 23rd December - 9.30-16.30

Tuesday 24th December – 9.30-12.30

Wednesday 25th December - Closed

Thursday 26th December – Closed

Friday 27th December – Closed

Saturday 28th December – Closed

Sunday 29th December – Closed

Monday 30th December – Closed

Tuesday 31st December – 9.30-16.30

Reopen Friday 3rd January

Newport & Louisburgh

Last working day, Friday 20th December

Newport Reopen Saturday 4th January

Louisburgh Reopen Friday 3rd January