

## Taoiseach announces new campus for DIT

Dublin, April 2002:

Taoiseach announces new campus for Dublin Institute of Technology at Grangegorman to provide for phased relocation of DIT, with provision of facilities for ERHA

The Taoiseach, **Mr Bertie Ahern T.D.**, today announced that the Government has given the go ahead for a major education and health services development on the Eastern Regional Health Authority (ERHA) site at Grangegorman, Dublin 7.

Following the resolution of technical and financing issues, the Government has now given the green light to Phase I of the development of a modern new campus at Grangegorman for the Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT) and for upgraded facilities for the ERHA to meet the needs of the very vulnerable group of patients under the care of the Northern Area Health Board at Grangegorman. These latter facilities will be both on the site and at other Authority sites in the region.

Phase I will involve relocating all but three of the DIT faculties and offices – at present spread over 39 buildings on 30 different sites in the city – to the new campus at Grangegorman. The cost of all the Phase I developments is estimated at some €62 million. This includes an allocation of €3.5 million earmarked for health facilities, which is equivalent to the value of the portion of the Grangegorman site estimated for transfer from the ERHA to DIT.

The three remaining DIT premises are at Bolton St., Kevin St. and Aungier St. The Government has also agreed that an examination of the value for money of also relocating these facilities and other associated education development (ie: Phase II) to Grangegorman should be undertaken by the Departments of Education & Science and Finance on the basis of the case to be put forward by DIT and other relevant considerations and the results submitted to Government for early decision. A preliminary estimate of the cost of Phase II is €121.5 million.

It is expected that construction will commence in 2003 and – assuming Phase II passes value for money examination and is approved – continue until 2010.

“In approaching this issue, I was very conscious that Grangegorman is a unique site and is of strategic importance in the context of Dublin as a whole”, said the Taoiseach. “Its development – as this is made clear in the two reports on the matter – needs to be approached therefore with great care. We need a visionary Integrated Urban Design and Land Use Framework Plan to meet the education and health needs identified. The plan must incorporate community use and access and be informed by a high quality urban design perspective. I want to see the Plan set the development of the site in the context of the city as a whole. We can learn from and complement the wonderful work done by the City Council in the HARP area for example. Reflecting the needs of the local community is very important.”

The Government decision follows on from a study of the site’s potential carried out by an Interdepartmental Working Group, assisted by Farrell Grant Sparks in association with A&L Goodbody Consultants. The Working Group was set up to develop a strategic approach to the

development of this site so as to meet the education and health needs identified in an integrated way. The reports are being published today on [www.gov.ie/taoiseach/publication/](http://www.gov.ie/taoiseach/publication/)

A statutory Grangegorman Development Agency will be established to commence work on an Integrated Urban Design and Land Use Framework Plan for the Grangegorman site and to manage the development of the site as agent for ERHA, DIT and the Departments involved. The necessary legislation is being prepared by the Department of Education and Science, in consultation with the Department of Health and Children.

The Government also noted that the question of incorporating the Broadstone site (currently used as Bus depots by Dublin Bus and Bus Éireann) into the overall campus will require further examination. This site must also be looked at in terms of the need to provide integrated public transport services in the Greater Dublin Area, including possibly the Metro. Therefore, the needs of the proposed new campus and the impact in terms of cost and dislocation of relocating the existing Bus Éireann and Dublin Bus facilities to another or other location(s) in the city and the opportunities it offers CIE, will require further consideration and a value for money study.