

Hanafin appoints John Fitzgerald as Chairman to the Grangegorman Development Agency

Dublin, April 2006:

Mary Hanafin T.D., Minister for Education and Science today (13th April 2006) announced the appointment of **Mr. John Fitzgerald**, City Manager of Dublin City Council as the Chairman of the Grangegorman Development Agency.

Mr. Fitzgerald was appointed Dublin City Manager in mid 1996. He qualified as an Accountant while working in industry and then moved to Cork Corporation as City Finance Officer. He subsequently took up duty as Dublin City Treasurer and moved to the position of Dublin Assistant City and County Manager immediately prior to reorganisation of Local Government in Dublin. He was one of three Managers involved in the formation of the three new Dublin counties and was appointed first County Manager with South Dublin County Council in January, 1994.

He is Chair of The Steering Group which prepared and monitors the Strategic Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area. He contributes to the work of a number of agencies involved in promotion of local government in the Dublin region and nationally.

Mr. Fitzgerald's term as Dublin City Manager finishes in June 2006

Grangegorman is a unique site and is of strategic importance to Dublin City. It is located in a high-density residential area less than a mile from the City Centre. Speaking on the appointment Minister Hanafin said "I am very pleased that Mr. Fitzgerald has accepted my request and that of the Government to Chair this important Development Agency. His experience with regeneration and development projects generally will bring a unique insight and perspective into the development of the Grangegorman site."

Under the Grangegorman Development Agency Act 2005 the Agency's function, in the first instance, is to prepare a strategic planning scheme for the Grangegorman Site. The plan must provide for the needs of Dublin Institute of Technology, the Health Service Executive, the Ministers for Education and Science and Health and Children, the local community and the City.

The Act provides for wide ranging consultation with all the parties that may have an involvement in the site. This ranges from those who are directly concerned - local residents, DIT, HSE and the Dublin City Council - to those parties whose future involvement may have a bearing on the site reaching its full potential such as the IDA and Dublin Bus. The Department of Transport will also have a major input because of the public transport requirements of the developed site.

Minister Hanafin concluded "one of the first functions that Mr Fitzgerald will undertake as the new Chairman will be to begin the process for the election of a local resident representative for nomination to the Agency."

Minister Hanafin expects to be in a position to announce the other nominees to the Agency shortly.