

## Press Release

### Green light for Grangegorman project

- **Development to include new mental health facilities and single campus for DIT**
- **Project to create employment in construction and other sectors**

*Dublin, 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2010:* An Taoiseach, Mr. Brian Cowen T.D. today launched a major new infrastructure development project for Dublin's north inner city. This new urban quarter will include state of the art mental health facilities, a purpose-built campus for Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT) and a variety of public amenities, to be built on the grounds of St. Brendan's Hospital in Grangegorman in Dublin 7. The project will create over 4,000 new construction jobs and a further 1,000 jobs in areas such as retail, administration, maintenance and other services.

Announcing the start of work on the project, the Taoiseach said "This is a significant project in terms of generating jobs and providing a key piece of infrastructure for education and to develop our knowledge economy. It is by any standards a huge project, and is anticipated to create 4,500 full-time construction jobs alone over the period, and over 1,100 more full-time jobs on completion of construction. "

The Minister for Education and Skills, Tánaiste Mary Coughlan TD, said "The role of higher education was never more important to society than it is today. We need to maintain Ireland's position in the top quarter of OECD countries and this campus will help us achieve this goal. What is being created here at Grangegorman is the kind of learning environment that will enhance the development of every student enrolling in DIT. The value of our human capital has always been our greatest asset and the students graduating from this campus will play a crucial role in advancing our society and improving the quality of life of our citizens."

Welcoming the Government announcement, Grangegorman Development Agency Chairman **Mr. John Fitzgerald** said that the Grangegorman project was vital not only for DIT and the HSE, but also for the north-west inner city and for Dublin as a whole.

He said “This is a project which will greatly improve the quality of health and education provision in the city while at the same time provide a vital boost to the surrounding neighbourhoods and to the Irish construction industry. It is a real value for money project.”

St. Brendan’s Hospital, which provides a service to approximately 80 residents, has been identified as one of the psychiatric hospitals in need of major redevelopment. Now it is to get brand new state of art accommodation on the site, with construction commencing over the coming weeks. The 54 bed facility will provide patients with their own single bedrooms and ensuite facilities, therapy and rehabilitation spaces, enhanced with courtyards settings and a light filled environment to maximize the recovery journey for patients. **Mr. Brian Gilroy**, HSE National Director of Estates believes that this project is very significant in terms of health service delivery. **Mr. Martin Rogan**, HSE Assistant National Director for Mental Health said “This development will enable the HSE to improve access for patients and clients to very high quality facilities and services. It is an important part of the positive changes occurring in mental health services across the country”.

The President of DIT, **Professor Brian Norton** said “This is a really significant development for the future of Dublin and for Dublin Institute of Technology, and I am very proud to be leading DIT at this exciting time. The Institute has been an integral part of this city for 125 years, not just as an educational provider but as a social and cultural resource. By consolidating all our activities on a single campus, we can continue to deliver student-centred education, industry-related research and technology transfer to future generations. Already HSE and DIT are cooperating in major research and development projects, such as the new Environmental Health Sciences Institute which will be established at Grangegorman and for which DIT has been awarded €12.9 million in PRTL funding.”

Dublin Institute of Technology, one of the largest third level institutions in the country, is currently spread throughout the city centre on 39 separate sites. The move to Grangegorman is vital to the continued success and development of DIT which has been an integral part of Dublin for over 100 years.

The plans for the Grangegorman project will go on display in a number of locations around the Dublin 7 area from Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September. They include the award-winning Masterplan which shows how the site will blend the needs of education, health and the

community and how the whole development will be incorporated into the heart of the city in a way that restores the coherence of the north-west inner city.

Members of the public will be able to view the overall plans and can make submissions to the Grangegorman Development Agency if they wish. All submissions will be public and the Agency will have an obligation to examine each one. Further information on this consultation process will be available in national and local media in the coming days and will be available from the Agency's, website [www.ggda.ie](http://www.ggda.ie).

**Ends**

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