Creating a Technological University for Dublin

Submission in respect of
'Ireland 2040 – Our Plan', the National Planning Framework

02.11.17

On behalf of the Technological University for Dublin Alliance we would like to strongly welcome the draft National Planning Framework, **Ireland 2040 – Our Plan.**

The document goes a long way towards recognising the importance of Dublin as a driver of prosperity for the whole country. In the opening section, **Changing and Growing Ireland**, the document acknowledges the upcoming challenge – "*Demand for school places is set to increase to 2025 and for third-level education places to peak in the years immediately thereafter.*"   The recent national focus on providing primary and second level school places will need to be matched by a commensurate investment at third level.
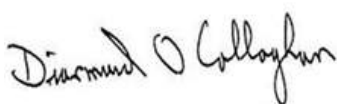
In particular, under **Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health Services** we would like to warmly welcome the acknowledgement of the Grangegorman project – "*The consolidation of the DIT campus at Grangegorman is a critical flagship infrastructural project for the higher education sector.*"

The identification of the metropolitan area is being matched by the ambition of Dublin Institute of Technology along with Institute of Technology Blanchardstown and Institute of Technology Tallaght to merge to become Ireland's first technological university, serving the whole metropolitan area.

In terms of specific **future growth enablers for Dublin** the extensive list focuses strongly on transport infrastructure – all very important issues. However while the other four cities include an objective – "*The continued expansion of and integration with the City's third level institutions*" *a* similar objective is not included for Dublin. The third level sector is a key enabler of growth for Dublin and we would like to propose that a similar objective be included specifically for Dublin.

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