



Senior Executive Officer,
Forward Planning Section,
Land Use Planning & Transportation Department,
County Hall,
Tallaght,
Dublin 24,

21st April 2022

Reference: Public Consultation on Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft South Dublin County Development Plan 2022 –2028

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for your recent consultation. On behalf of Enterprise Ireland, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Council on the success of the 2016-2022 Development Plan and look forward to the adoption of the 2022-2028 Plan, which is set to further progress the sustainable economic and social development of the County.

Regarding the Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft South Dublin County Development Plan 2022 –2028 ('the Plan'), we would like to offer comment on Amendments Ref. 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3 which will not permit Data Centres under all Zoning Objectives. Ahead of finalising the Plan we ask that the Council take into consideration both the economic contribution of the sector to the growth of Irish companies as well as the future opportunities that will be created by innovation within the sector.

The growing industry has greatly benefited Irish enterprises who supply goods and services into data centres, particularly companies involved in the high-tech construction sector. Between 2010 and 2018 €7.13 billion was invested in Ireland through capital and operational expenditure on a direct and indirect basis by data centre operators, with 1,900 workers involved each year in their construction¹. In turn, Irish owned construction companies have utilised their expertise, becoming market leaders in the data centre construction industry across Europe. For example, a survey conducted in 2016 by the Construction Industry Federation of its members indicated that Irish companies were at the time engaged in data centre projects abroad with an estimated total

¹ A Study of the Economic Benefits of Data Centre Investment in Ireland, Grant Thornton, commissioned by IDA Ireland, 2018, [Economic Benefits of Data Centre Investment \(idaireland.com\)](https://www.idaireland.com)

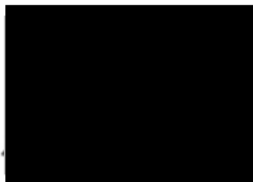
capital value of over €2.2 billion, directly employing 6,600 people². Exports to the data centre industry abroad continues to be crucial to the development of the Irish high-tech construction sector, with significant potential for further growth.

Continuous innovations in how data centres operate is also creating opportunities for the many Irish owned companies servicing the data centre sector, both here and internationally.

Given the above, it is worth reconsidering if data centres should remain 'open for consideration' under the Zoning Objectives previously set out in the Draft Plan (in particular the Zoning Objective 'To provide for enterprise and employment related uses'), allowing South Dublin County to remain open to exciting economic opportunities while also ensuring that developments will only be acceptable to the Planning Authority subject to detailed assessment against the principles of proper planning and sustainable development.

If you have any further questions in relation to this submission, feel free to contact me directly.

Yours sincerely,



Leo Clancy
Chief Executive Officer,
Enterprise Ireland

² Government Statement on the Role of Data Centres in Ireland's Enterprise Strategy, June 2018,