

Higher Education Authority

Report of special meeting held 16th February 2016

Present Dr. Mary Canning
 Ms Siobhan Harkin (via teleconference)
 Dr. Stephen Kinsella, Deputy Chair (via teleconference)
 Mr. Gordon Ryan (via teleconference)
 Professor Anthony Staines (via teleconference)
 Dr. Brian Thornes (via teleconference)

Apology: Mr. Bahram Bekhradnia
 Dr. Jim Mountjoy
 Mr. Kevin O'Donoghue
 Mr. Declan Walsh

In attendance: Mr. Tom Boland
 Mr. Andrew Brownlee
 Mr. Padraic Mellett
 Mr. Damien Kilgannon

1. Purpose of the meeting

1.1 The purpose of the meeting was to consider a revised land acquisition proposal from Carlow IT. The quorum for HEA board meetings was met with five members participating via teleconference and one member attending in person. Another member, Dr. Jim Mountjoy, conveyed his approval for the proposal electronically.

2. Proposed acquisition by Carlow Institute of Technology in Wexford

2.1 Mr. Kilgannon introduced this item. He advised members that the Board had approved this purchase at its meeting on 6th October 2015. The Institute was subsequently advised that the vendor was seeking a purchase price of €2m. The HEA had set a ceiling purchase price of €1.8m, this being the level it was understood the vendor was seeking. Members were advised of the following;

- The revised purchase price has been independently verified by a professional valuer.
- The revised purchase price has been approved by the Institute's governing body.
- The Department of Education and Skills has committed to fund the proposed acquisition at the revised value.
- This proposed purchase is fully compliant with the HEA's protocol on land acquisitions.

Decision: Members agreed to the purchase at the revised valuation on the understanding that due process was followed and the DES has agreed to fund the purchase.

Padraic Mellett, 17/2/16