

EASTERN & MIDLAND

23 JAN 2019

REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Cllr Padraig Fleming

Re: Submission to the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy

Date : 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018

A Chara

Further to the submission to Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly (EMRA) with regard to the new Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy, and further to consultation with the elected members of Laois County Council, we would like to ensure that our policy in relation to the provision of rural housing is protected, which we believe adequately facilitates those that have a genuine reason to live in the countryside subject to proper planning and sustainable development and environmental protection standards.

The following is the Policy of the LAOIS County Development Plan 2017-2023 which we would

It is an objective to recognise the individual housing needs of people intrinsic to the rural areas located within the areas defined as 'rural areas under strong urban influence' and 'Strong Rural Areas' . Such needs may be accommodated on lands within the rural area under strong urban influence, subject to the availability of a suitable site and normal proper planning and sustainable development criteria.

It is an objective of the Council **only** to permit single houses in the area under strong urban influence and Strong Rural Area to facilitate those with a local rural housing need in the area, in particular those that have lived in an rural area.

In order to demonstrate a genuine rural housing need, any of the following criteria shall be met:

- a) the application is being made by a long term landowner or his/her son or daughter seeking to build their first home on the family lands; or
- b) the applicant is engaged in working the family farm and the house is for that persons own use;  
or

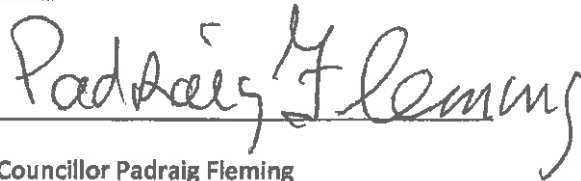
c) the applicant is working in rural activities<sup>2</sup> and for this reason needs to be accommodated near their place of work; or

d) the application is being made by a local rural person(s) who have spent a substantial period of their life living in the local rural area, and, who for family and/or work reasons need to live in the rural area.

Take this into account as part of the new EMRA Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy .

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Signed



Councillor Padraig Fleming

Laois County Council

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