Dear Commissioner Vella,

Review of the birds and habitats directives

The Environmental Audit Committee published its report on Local Nature Partnerships (Twelfth Report, HC 858) today. In our report we discuss the track record of the LNPs in their local nature conservation role since they were introduced two years ago, drawing directly from the perspectives of many LNPs who contributed evidence to our inquiry.

We call for the next Government, to be formed following the UK General Election in May, to undertake a review of the LNP initiative and to link that review into the UK’s input to the Commission’s current ‘fitness check’ of the Birds and Habitats Directives. We highlight, in particular, the scope for the experiences of the well-performing and less well-performing LNPs to inform the Directives review.

While this should be a task for the new post-Election UK Government, I would also ask that the Commission itself actively consider England’s experience with the LNPs in considering the means by which the required environmental protections are implemented.

Kindest Regards,


Joan Walley MP
Chair, Environmental Audit Committee