19 March 2015

Dear Councillor Finch,

Local Nature Partnerships

The Environmental Audit Committee published its report on Local Nature Partnerships (Twelfth Report, HC 858) today. It is available on the Committee’s website. 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 General Election in May, to undertake a review of the LNP initiative.

We discuss in our report some of the challenges which have made it difficult for LNPs to operate effectively, including funding and links to Local Enterprise Partnerships. We noted in our inquiry, however, that Essex was one of few areas of the country not covered by an LNP at all. I would be grateful if you could let me know if there are any particular barriers that have prevented an LNP being established in the county and what plans there might be to get one up and running in due course.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely

Joan Walley MP
Chair, Environmental Audit Committee