Dear City Planning Delivery Unit,

Location: City of Westminster

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 17 June 2014.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

IIA Scoping Report:
Given the limited scope in Westminster for new build housing and as such Green Infrastructure (GI) to be provided it should certainly be a priority for the creation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) within any redevelopment which takes place in the area. This can have health benefits as identified in the scoping report and objective 7 mentions that the provision is most likely to happen as part of creation within built structures where green roofs and walls or rain gardens can be implemented.

The protection of the 30 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) should be a key consideration throughout the City Plan process as given the amount of open space deficiency identified within the borough and the benefits both for human health and that of biodiversity loss of any sites would be detrimental and almost impossible to replace. Objectives 13 and 14 should both be used to help ensure that the plan overall has policies in it that will bring forward improvements in the open spaces in Westminster and also to improve the public realm through some potential greening measures to create a better environment for the public to want to walk through.

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Piotr Behnke on 0300 060 1963. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

We really value your feedback to help us improve the service we offer. We have attached a feedback form to this letter and welcome any comments you might have about our service.

Yours sincerely,