



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

**Rt Hon Angela Rayner MP**

*Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of  
State for Housing, Communities and  
Local Government*  
2 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 4DF



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

**Steve Reed OBE MP**

*Secretary of State for Environment, Food  
and Rural Affairs*  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

Dame Glenys Stacey  
Office for Environmental Protection  
Wildwood  
Wildwood Drive  
Worcester  
WR5 2QT

19 March 2025

Dear Dame Glenys,

### **Development and Nature Recovery**

Thank you for your recent letter and for your engagement with the Development and Nature Recovery working paper. We are also grateful for your offer to continue to work with our departments across the range of issues raised in your letter.

We were pleased to hear that the OEP share our view that the Nature Restoration Fund has the potential to make a meaningful contribution to nature recovery whilst supporting our ambitions for growth. We would welcome the opportunity to continue to work with the OEP as the Planning and Infrastructure Bill makes its way through Parliament, and to discuss your reflections on the relevant clauses now that the Bill has been introduced.

We agree that the Environmental Principles Policy Statement is relevant to these reforms. We are pleased to confirm this has been considered in the development of the clauses, in line with the Environment Act duty, and will continue to be considered throughout the policy development process. The polluter pays principle is of course of especial relevance here and is directly embedded in the policy design through the developer levy.

As your letter rightly sets out, these measures do not exist in a vacuum, and it is vital that we are making the strategic links to wider reforms. Alongside the Nature Restoration Fund, we are considering how to use the powers secured through the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act to bring forward the new system of Environmental Outcomes Reports and are grateful to the OEP for your

helpful report on environmental assessments. We intend to publish a roadmap in due course that will set out how we intend to progress these important reforms in a way which improves the functioning of the system whilst securing better environmental outcomes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Angela Rayner', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

**THE RT HON ANGELA RAYNER MP**

Deputy Prime Minister And Secretary Of State For Housing, Communities And Local Government

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Steve Reed', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

**THE RT HON STEVE REED OBE MP**

Secretary Of State For Environment, Food And Rural Affairs