Reviewer's report

Title: Are environmental area characteristics at birth associated with overweight and obesity in school-aged children? Findings from the SLOPE (Studying Lifecourse Obesity PrEdictors) population-based cohort in the south of England

Version: 0 Date: 02 Dec 2019

Reviewer: Duncan Radley

Reviewer's report:

This is an exceptionally high quality piece of work, adding much needed longitudinal analysis to a field overwhelming comprising of cross-sectional studies. The large and complex methodology is well explained and of a high standard, as is the presentation of results and the supplementary materials. The introduction and discussion are well constructed and interpretation of results are appropriate based on the study findings. I have no recommended major amendments and also I did not find any minor amendments were required.

One area that authors may wish to consider discussing in greater detail is the fact that whilst the outcome of the study is longitudinal, the exposure remains cross-sectional. Duration of exposure and changes over time may be of more importance in any relationship between environmental exposure and later weight status.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Not applicable
Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?  
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Yes

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If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English  
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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