

Response to EXD/077

Robin Miller of Understanding Data Ltd, for Shalford Parish Council

In responding briefly to EXD/077, we draw attention again to the issues identified with the CEBR work in the evidence base:

- The benchmarks are too ambitious a target – any objective studying of the evidence base would have to reach this conclusion
- CEBR assumptions about the future economic climate of the benchmarks seem most strange set against known investment patterns likely to happen in the “CaMkOx” arc
- The CEBR assumptions around this potential future economic climate, which the NEAs seem to take as read, are not evidenced
- No effort has been made to show that in a real world context the aspirations for North Essex could in any way be achievable, both in terms of actual jobs achieved in the GCs or the impact the NEAs think will trickle down to the rest of North Essex

We do not believe this paper provides any confidence or reassurance around the CEBR modelling or by implication i) the NEAs’ employment aspirations which are required to make the GCs as a whole “work” from a sustainability – and therefore NPPF soundness – perspective; or ii) the broader NEA expectation of the GCs having a transformational effect on the three districts.

As a result it will be clear that we do not believe this paper should be afforded any weight in the Local Plan examination context.