

## EXD\083 – Points arising from NEGC evidence

### Response from Wivenhoe Town Council

Wivenhoe Town Council wishes to thank the Inspector for the opportunity to comment on EXD\083.

We are perplexed as to why NEGC have not fully responded to the question. They have quietly excluded 99% of the costs so there is effectively no optimism bias at all which will make a green book appraisal a problematic situation when one is requested.

- For point i: NEGC display some tables that list the optimism bias per Garden City. We were surprised to see only one line of text, referencing the interim highways works to Greenstead Roundabout and additional works at Hare Green. This is surely an error as optimism bias has been neglected for ALL OTHER COSTS.
- There are not even 'working plans' for what will be required at Greenstead Roundabout or at Hare Green so these figures carry a shovel full of salt based on their premature concoction.
- Note: EXD\062 Appendix A offers a figure of £2,945,455 for Greenstead Roundabout and Hare Green highways improvements. This must be applying an optimism basis from the past given that a small cycle path in Wivenhoe cost £2.2m 4 years ago.
- This is compounded by the introductory text to EXD\082 where it states "A table is provided setting out the approach to optimism bias [EXD/062 (1/5), Appendix A], showing 44% optimism bias added to certain infrastructure items." It is interesting that the question about only certain infrastructure items being presented with all others being neglected is raised within the question but ignored in the NEGC Response.
- EXD\082 is another missed opportunity by NEGC to increase their contingencies to realistic levels.

### Summary

We question why the full financial scrutiny offered by industry standard devices such as optimism bias have been ignored. There is no mention of any of the other myriad road improvements or roads included in various aspects of the plan, of major ground remediations, land acquisition costs and associated legal costs, the cost of a sewerage transportation network, environmental infrastructure and much more besides including the 'soft' infrastructure that has formed the basis of many a wholly NEGC promise but appears no where on the budget sheet.