

Scrutiny request pro-forma	Request details
<b>No. 16</b>	
<b>1. Member request</b>	<b>Councillor Mrs W Stamp</b>
<b>2. Area of scrutiny requested and reasons for it</b>	<b>5 year land supply. The lack of it has put Council and residents at risk. This was raised at various meetings when the local development plan was inspected. A full explanation of how this happened/was allowed to happen/what was done when it became clear (sadly after the event) and who is responsible, or what circumstances are responsible for this. A full open and transparent explanation is required. I appreciate it will go back a few years. Thank you – I have mentioned this before but a full explanation is required please.</b>
<b>3. Indicate which part of the Committee's remit the request falls within</b>	<b>Matters involving the delivery of the Council's Priorities, relating to the review of corporate policy, the review or scrutiny of decisions made or actions taken, relating to corporate risk, and affecting the Council's area or the inhabitants of the area, including the draft budget.</b>
<b>4. If other, give further details</b>	.
<b>5. Has the matter been raised directly with Officers or another Committee?</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>6. If yes to 5, give further details including dates and any response</b>	<b>At various meetings.</b>
<b>7. Expected outcome of this requested scrutiny item</b>	<b>To identify where mistakes/errors were made giving a full explanation for all Members and residents, but more importantly not allowing it to happen in the future. Obviously some market forces or central government changes may affect this but resilience and robustness must be identified for future.</b>

#### Officer review and comments

1. It is confirmed that the nature of this request relates to an area within the remit of the Committee.
2. The Government's requires Councils to demonstrate that there are sufficient sites available to meet the housing requirements for the next five years. The Council reports on this annually in a published statement. Although in November 2020 it was assessed that just under a 5 year supply could be demonstrated, by the time of the Statement published in April 2021 this had fell to 3.26 years worth of supply. These statements set out Maldon District Council's housing land supply and identify specific sites which are considered to meet the criteria set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (MHCLG, 2019) and contribute to the five years provision.

3. There are several factors affecting the supply and its delivery year on year, and this includes the underlying strategy of the Local Plan for meeting the housing target and the existence of detailed planning consent. The implications of this have previously been explained at Member Workshops and further such workshops were held on 21 February and 1 March 2022.
4. Although the Workshops provided Members with information to gain a better understanding of the present position, including the process for assessing the supply year on year, the Working Group concluded that the following needed exploring in greater detail -
  - i) A clearer understanding of what has led to the present position, and why this issue was not identified and reported earlier
  - ii) What is proposed to resolve the present difficulty, and
  - iii) What impact this has on the Local Development Plan and the impending Review.