
Urban Green Spaces inquiry

Conclusions from the EFRA Committee

14 March 2024



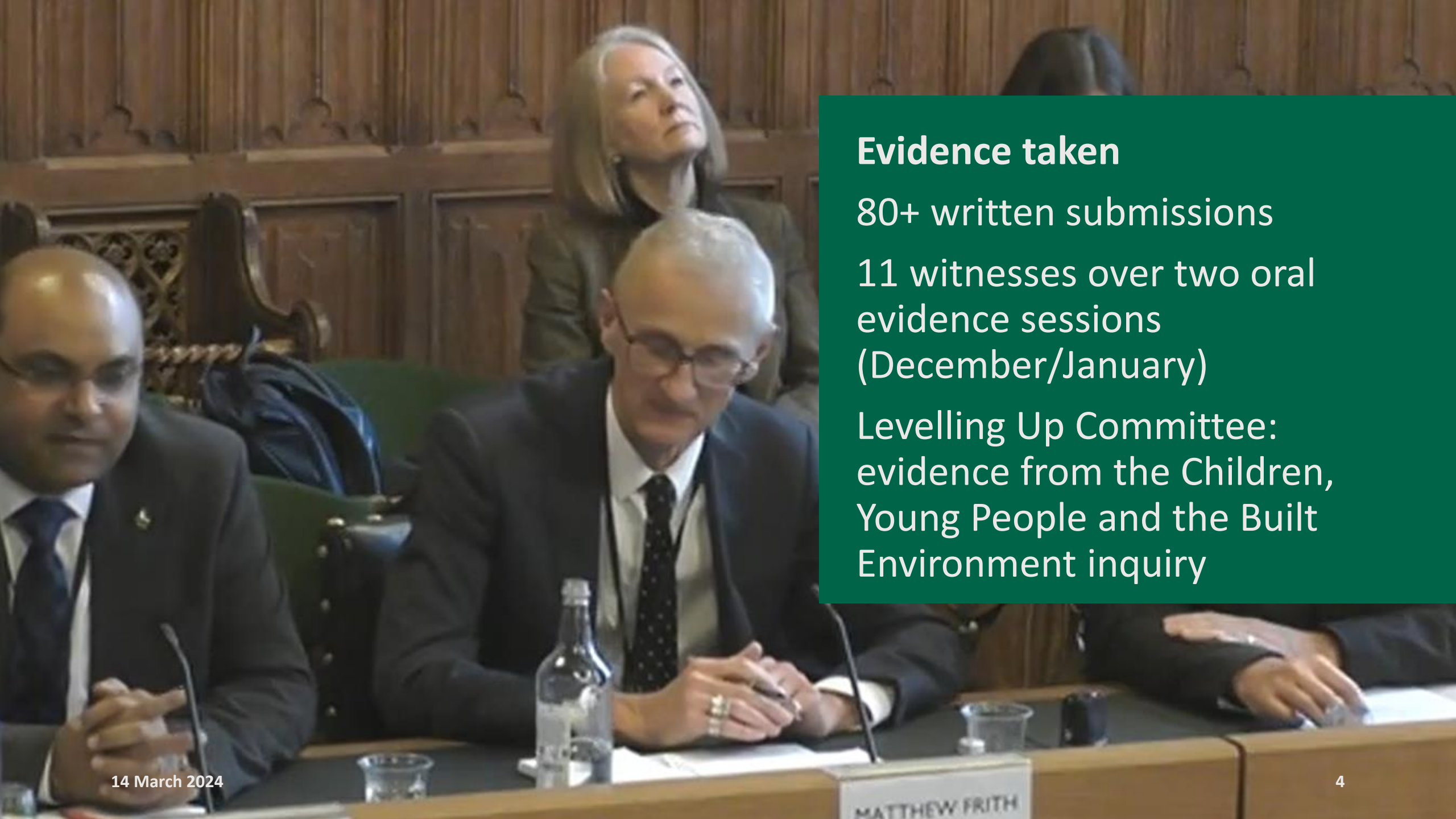
Select Committees are cross-party groups of MPs that scrutinise and make recommendations to Government.

Why an urban green spaces inquiry?



Green infrastructure vital for many responsibilities of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) – although cross-Government issue.

Follow up to the last Parliamentary inquiry on Public Parks by the Communities and Local Government Committee, 2016-17



Evidence taken

80+ written submissions

11 witnesses over two oral
evidence sessions
(December/January)

Levelling Up Committee:
evidence from the Children,
Young People and the Built
Environment inquiry



Themes

Green space is a **strong return on investment** due to impact on environment and public health.

Green spaces are **on the decline** and **access to them unequal**

Caused by a **lack of funding, skills, incentives and prioritisation** in planning system.



Findings

FUNDING

Government should support private finance but also establish a consistent public funding programme.

CAPACITY

Government should help the sector deal with recruitment issues and pull together guidance, mapping tools, and other best practices to help local authorities: embedded into planning system

NATIONAL STRATEGY

A champion for green spaces in central Government, better targets, clarity about various initiatives, and plans for retrofit/regeneration

PRIORITISATION

Reforms are needed to prioritise green spaces in planning.

Developers/construction industry should have responsibilities for installing green infrastructure and ensuring long-term maintenance

Next steps



Letter sent this morning (14 March) - Government response expected by 12 April.

An issue that connects to many areas of future interest to the Committee