

## **APPENDIX A(ii)**

### **Minute Extract**

Executive: 25 March 2013

#### 137. Medium Term Financial Strategy 201318: Proposal to Withdraw and Close the Urban Ranger Service

##### Purpose of Report

To present to the Executive the business case relating to a proposal to close and withdraw the Urban Ranger service in order to contribute to the required budget savings targets set out in the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.

##### Decision

1. That the proposed closure of the Urban Ranger service be approved.
2. That the Director of Housing and Community Services be authorised to issue notices of redundancy to the three affected members of staff and proceed with the implementation of the decision in accordance with the Council's Management of Change policy and procedures.

##### Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

Policy Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on the 20 March 2013 requested the Executive to consider joining the Urban Ranger Service and the Commons Warden Service to provide some savings which would mitigate the risks across the city if the service was withdrawn completely. This was rejected for the reasons set out in the "Reason for Decision" below.

##### Reason for Decision

Having regard to the consultation responses provided by staff and the public, in addition to the views of the Policy Scrutiny Committee and the City of Lincoln Council and Employee Joint Consultative Committee, the Executive resolved that the closure of the Urban Rangers service was necessary in order to contribute savings towards the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

In common with other services being considered for closure [minutes nos. 138 & 139], the Urban Rangers service was discretionary and while it provided a valuable service to users of the city's parks and open spaces it did not directly contribute to the Council's refocused strategic priorities and the withdrawal of the service would contribute significantly towards the achievement of the necessary financial savings set out in the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.

The Council needed to find £1 million of ongoing revenue savings in

2013/14, rising to £3 million of ongoing revenue savings by 2016/17. Every effort had been made to implement savings without an impact on frontline services but the Council had now reached a point where it was necessary to cease provision of some discretionary nonstatutory services in order to achieve the level of savings required as a result of the Government's austerity programme.