

Additional Information

Item No. 3

EXECUTIVE

25 MARCH 2013

SUBJECT:	MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2013-18 :PROPOSAL TO WITHDRAW AND CLOSE THE URBAN RANGER SERVICE: SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT
REPORT BY:	DIRECTOR OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
LEAD OFFICER:	STEVE BIRD ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (COMMUNITIES AND STREET SCENE)

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 Further to the report circulated with the agenda for the meeting, to present additional information relevant to the proposal to withdraw and close the Urban Ranger Service:
- Comments on the proposal received from Lincolnshire Police.
 - Additional comments received from staff
 - Further information on the scale and type of work undertaken by the Urban Ranger Service.

2. Comments from Lincolnshire Police

- 2.1 Comments on the proposal to withdraw and close the Urban Ranger Service were received from the Chief Inspector Local Policing for Lincoln & West Lindsey on 18 March 2013 as follows:

I would like to offer my community safety perspective in relation to the Urban Ranger Service. Urban Rangers are a front line resource which provides a reassuring presence in locations where you routinely do not see Police Officers or staff on duty unless in response to an incident. This is an important point; Rangers provide a reassuring and preventative presence, especially within our open and green space that ensures that low level anti social behaviour does not become serious or persistent crime or disorder.

Over recent years Rangers have been effective in tackling such things as the anti social use of motor cycles, which became a significant issue, especially within Greetwell Hollow, as well as helping to make parks, such as Hartsholme, a friendly and welcoming place, which encourages visitors even from outside of the City.

Urban Rangers for me represent a valuable public asset and an ideal opportunity to ensure that Lincoln remains a safe and welcoming place, as part of the wider protection team, which continues to evolve and tackle the issues which our community raises as their greatest concern.

In considering what effect their loss would have, I would have to state

that it may not be immediately obvious. However, my concern is that low level nuisance and anti social behaviour will increase within our parks and that perversely, reporting of such incidents will actually decrease in correlation with a decrease in public confidence and attendance.

3. Further comments from staff

- 3.1 Having consulted and invited comments from staff on the initial proposal, copies of the final committee report and business case relating to the proposal to withdraw and close the Urban Ranger Services were shared with the affected staff and a further joint response received from them as follows:

We have received a copy of the documents and wish to raise some points in relation to omissions/oversights. There are some points within the Commons Warden case that we feel should have been included in the Urban Ranger Service case namely:

- Issuing of fixed penalty notices for dog fouling and littering are not included in the Urban Ranger Service case*
- Liaison with Community Services staff and grounds maintenance contractors to ensure parks and open spaces are well maintained.*

We would request these points are raised.

- 3.2 This further response from staff should be read in conjunction with the staff comments already received as set out in Section E and Appendix D of the Business Case

4. Further information on the scale and type of work undertaken by the Urban Ranger Service.

- 4.1 Further information on the scale and type of incidents dealt with by the Urban Ranger Service has been requested and the Community Services Manager has compiled a summary analysis of the incidents dealt with in 2012 (attached as Appendix G).

- 4.2 This provides a summary analysis of the number, nature and type of incidents dealt with by the Urban Ranger Service during the calendar year 2012, together with comments on how such matters might be responded to (or not as the case may be) if the service is withdrawn.

- 4.3 This information supplements the information set out in Section B of the Business Case.