

NOTICE OF MOTION: SAVE AURA'S SERVICES

Proposer: Councillor Sam Swash

Secunder: Councillor Carolyn Preece

Flintshire County Council notes:

1. that the council has presented a funding agreement to Aura on a 'take it or leave it basis';
2. that Aura did not agree to the funding agreement;
3. that Aura have briefed staff that the board could not accept the terms the council were offering, which are reportedly significantly different from the original funding agreement and from the outline agreement in June;
4. that councillors have been refused sight of the offered funding agreement;
5. that the resolution of the education scrutiny committee of the 9th September, that a special meeting be held prior to the cabinet meeting on 25th September, was not executed, and
6. the strength of feeling of Flintshire residents on this issue, highlighted by the support for the petition on the Flintshire People's Voice website.

Flintshire County Council believes:

1. that Aura has done an outstanding job in providing leisure and library services over the period of its existence;
2. that Flintshire residents strongly support the retention of the existing model, with Aura as service provider;
3. that the uncertainty caused by the failure to agree a reasonable funding agreement has caused significant anxiety to Aura staff;
4. that denying councillors access to a funding agreement offered in the council's name is deeply concerning;
5. that it is not possible, given the extra costs that the council would inevitably face in running these services through a local authority trading company, in house, or through a commercial contract to a private sector outsourcing company, to maintain existing services without a large cost increase if no agreement with Aura is reached;
6. that as a result, failing to agree a funding agreement with Aura is liable to result in the closure of services over the short or medium term, and
7. that it is not too late to prevent this disastrous outcome.

Flintshire County Council resolves:

1. to strongly condemn the failure, thus far, to agree a reasonable funding agreement with Aura;
2. to require that a copy of all agreements offered to Aura be provided to members;
3. to call for emergency negotiations with Aura on a reasonable long term agreement to continue delivery of services beyond 31st October, and
4. to demand a commitment from the Leader of the Council that his administration will not close any libraries or leisure centres during this council term.