

RUSHMOOR BOROUGH COUNCIL RECORD OF EXECUTIVE DECISION



Decision taken by individual Cabinet Member

DECISION MAKER *(Name and designation)*

Councillor Gareth Williams, Leader of the Council

DECISION AND THE REASON(S) FOR IT

Decision to enter into a contract for up to 12 months with Places Leisure to operate the Alpine Snowsports Centre on behalf of the Council.

Urgent decision in accordance with the Access to information Procedure Rules within the Constitution.

Urgent in nature due to the imperative to re-open the ski centre as soon as possible, retain staff and maintain access to necessary booking systems.

Recommendations outlined in the report due to go to Cabinet on 3 June 2025:

Cabinet is recommended to endorse an urgent decision:

- 1) Note the termination of the contract with Active Nation for the operation of the Alpine Snowsports Centre due to a material breach of contract by the contractor.
- 2) Approve the option to re-open the facility through a temporary contract to enable a full options appraisal to be brought forward.
- 3) Approve the Council to enter into an interim contract for up to 12 months, and financial arrangements with Places Leisure for the operation of the Alpine Snowsports Centre on the basis outlined in the Cabinet report, in order that the facility can be re-opened as soon as possible.
- 4) Approve the financial implications outlined in section 4 of the report and resultant impacts on budget.
- 5) Note the risks in section 4 of the report as the Council does not hold all relevant information from Active Nation relating to financial, health and safety, and employee matters.
- 6) Approve a budget provision of £100,000 funded from the Stability and Resilience reserve to support the decision to re-open the facility.

DATE DECISION TAKEN

6 May 2025

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Alternative options have not yet been worked up, however, these will require a long-term viability assessment of continuing to operate the facility reflecting the significant financial commitment to repair the integrity of the infrastructure, and costs of decommissioning the facility if it is no longer viable to operate. In the interim period, the facility could be operated without significant investment until it is no longer financially viable for the Council or due to safety concerns.

The Council does not have any operational financial information from Active Nation and proposes an open book basis by Places Leisure to provide a clearer financial picture over the next few months. This will enable a more informed decision to be made around the longer-term operation of the site.

In the five weeks since Active Nation ceased operations at Aldershot, the Council has been approached by a number of parties expressing an interest in helping to get the centre re-open. These have ranged from individual enthusiasts to specialist operators of other ski centres. Appropriate organisations will be contacted regarding any longer-term operator procurement options, if and when the time comes.

ANY CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

(Conflict of interests of any executive member who is consulted by the officer which relates to the decision. A note of dispensation should be attached).

None

Signed _____

Councillor Gareth Williams
Leader of Rushmoor Borough Council