

16 DECEMBER 2019

KEY DECISION: YES

**PROPOSED TAXI SHARING ARRANGEMENTS
FOR FARNBOROUGH INTERNATIONAL AIRSHOW 2020**

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This report outlines proposals and seeks Cabinet approval for public consultation on a taxi-sharing scheme to run between designated points for the duration of the trade days of Farnborough International Airshow 2020 (FIA20) (20th-24th July 2020).

Whilst the form and nature of any taxi-sharing scheme is discretionary, the Council is statutorily required to establish a suitable scheme following receipt of requests to do so by at least 10% of current taxi licence holders. By virtue of a 40 signatory petition, requests to this effect have been received; proposing a scheme similar to that established for FIA18.

Given the request and the success of similar past arrangements, Cabinet is requested to –

- 1) approve the proposed taxi-sharing scheme outlined below for public consultation; and
- 2) delegate authority to determine both current and future Airshow taxi sharing proposals to the Operational Services portfolio holder in conjunction with the Head of Operational Services; taking account of any representations that may be received on consultation as may be appropriate.

1. BACKGROUND & INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Taxis (Schemes for Hire at Separate Fares) Regulations 1986 empower local Councils' to set up schemes under which licensed taxis may be used for shared hire. Whilst normally a discretionary power, local authorities must establish such a scheme if requested to do so by the holders of at least 10% of current taxi licence holders (albeit the form and nature of any such scheme remains at the discretion of the authority).
- 1.2 In making such a scheme, the Regulations require the Council to obtain the consent of the Highway Authority and/or any landowner in respect of any pick-up and destination point forming a part of the scheme that is not on the highway. The authority is also required to consult the local Chief Constable of Police, and the relevant County Council. It is then required to publish any proposed scheme and invite public representations; considering such representations as may be appropriate before implementing any proposed arrangement.
- 1.3 Following discussions with the Taxi Trade, these powers to establish a taxi-sharing scheme were first used in Rushmoor for the Farnborough International Airshow 2004 (FIA04). At this time, a taxi-share scheme was implemented between the Farnborough Station and Cross Street, Farnborough. While pick-up and destination points have changed with show arrangements, similar schemes have been established for each Airshow since. All of these have generally been well received and have proven successful for all involved.

- 1.4 Significantly and by virtue of the petition given at **appendix A** (front sheet only provided), requests to implement a taxi-sharing scheme similar to that established for FIA18 for the duration of the trade days of FIA20 (20th-24th July 2020) have been received. As the 40 signatory petition equates to approximately 18% of current taxi licence holders, a suitable taxi-sharing scheme must therefore be established. This report outlines the proposed taxi-sharing scheme for FIA20 and, in accordance with regulatory procedure, seeks Cabinet approval for public consultation thereof.
- 1.5 Having established similar schemes in the past, many taxis are known to service the Airshow during permitted taxi-share periods. Whilst actual numbers and the impact of this are unknown, this may have resulted in a temporary reduction in and/or delay of availability of taxi services to the wider community. For this reason, the determination of a taxi-sharing scheme is thought to be a key decision.

2. DETAILS OF THE PROPOSAL

- 2.1 Whilst seeking an uplift to the fares to be charged, the trade request that the FIA20 scheme be established and run on a similar basis to that operated during the 2018 Airshow. This is a relatively simple and straightforward scheme and is outlined below with relevant commentary.

Authorised Places

- 2.2 The trade request that a scheme be established for return journeys between the official Airshow rank (Rank A) and the Farnborough main-line station (Rank B) (the 'authorised places'). The Airshow rank is a temporary taxi rank established for the duration of the Airshow on the Airshow site which, subject to show planning arrangements, will be located on land just off the Queens Gate Road, Farnborough. The two points, between which the scheme is proposed to operate, are shown at **appendix B**.

Signs on Vehicles and Authorised Places

- 2.3 It is proposed that every vehicle standing for hire under the terms of the scheme be obliged to display and carry a notice indicating that the vehicle is available for shared hire between the authorised places. This will be in addition to the signs and notices presently required under the conditions of each taxi vehicle and driver's licence.
- 2.4 It is similarly proposed that the authorised places (Ranks A and B) be designated by specified signage to provide prospective passengers with information on the operation of the shared taxi scheme, together with fare tables, the times of its operation and other relevant information.

Exclusive and Shared Compellability

- 2.5 It is proposed that the scheme will run on both a shared and exclusive basis. The existing right of the hirer of a taxi to demand an exclusive service and to be carried to any other place will remain. However, passengers who wish to share the vehicle for journeys between the authorised places would be afforded 'shared compellability' arrangements.

Fares

- 2.6 In accordance with Department for Transport (DfT) guidance, any scheme for shared fares should offer an incentive both to the taxi proprietor and passengers. Such a scheme should therefore ensure that the driver receives more in fares than for an exclusive hire and that each passenger pays less.
- 2.7 In a change to FIA18, the trade propose a flat fare taxi-share system charging £4.50 per person up to a maximum charge of £18 for each taxi; regardless of the number of passengers conveyed in excess of four. Previously, a charge of £4.00 up to a maximum of £16 per taxi applied for FIA18.
- 2.8 Based on the proposals and the journey assessment given at **appendix C**, a typical exclusive fare (in accordance with existing fare chart charges) between the proposed destination points ranges between £5.40 to £6.80 dependent on the route taken.

NB: A definitive figure cannot be provided at this stage as traffic flow routes in, out and around the Airshow site have not yet been finalised. However, having taken account of all possible routes between the authorised places, the given journey assessment shows that a standard exclusive journey would ordinarily cost more than the proposed taxi-share scheme which therefore accords with DfT guidelines.

Marshalling

- 2.9 It is also proposed that marshals regulate the operation of the taxi-sharing scheme, attending the Farnborough station rank in the morning and the Airshow rank in the afternoon in accordance with peak demands and the general flow and migration of customers. Marshals will be contracted by Farnborough International Ltd, the organisers of the Airshow.

3. CONSULTATION

Necessary Consents

- 3.1 Following receipt of the request for a taxi-sharing scheme, the Highways Authority and those with relevant land interests (including TAG and South Western Railway) have confirmed their approval of the proposals by virtue of the correspondence given at **appendix D**.
- 3.2 At the time of writing, the other statutory consultees (e.g. Police) have not made any comment on the proposals. Where appropriate, these may be considered with any representations following any period of public consultation (see below).

Public Consultation

- 3.3 Regulation 5 of the 1986 Regulations requires the details of any proposed taxi-sharing arrangement to be published in a local newspaper and at the Council Offices by way of public consultation on the proposals. Representations regarding the proposals may then be made within a period of not less than 28 days. Regulation 6 subsequently provides that the Council may make the scheme with or without modifications after due consideration of any representations made. This report seeks Cabinet approval for public consultation of the proposals outlined above.

Member Consultation

- 3.4 By way of effecting suitable Member consultation, the views of the Licensing, Audit & General Purposes Committee will also be sought during any public consultation period and fed back to Cabinet as may be appropriate. This is scheduled to be taken to their meeting of 27th January 2020.

4. IMPLICATIONS

Legal Implications

- 4.2 Having received a request by 18% of the licensed trade, the Council is required to establish a suitable taxi-sharing scheme. The form and nature of the scheme is subject to the Council's discretion, but both the trade request and the proposals outlined above largely follow those established for FIA18, are proven and have previously worked successfully without challenge.

Financial and Resource Implications

- 4.3 While the Council may incur some limited administrative costs in terms of the public consultation and signage necessary to effect a scheme, there are no significant financial implications associated with this report. All costs are factored into and can be borne by existing budgets.

Equalities Impact Implications

- 4.4 Whilst there is no directly available and/or attributable data to quantify any impact, there may be some temporary reduction and/or delay in availability of taxi services to the wider community while the taxi-share scheme operates. However, as the majority of taxi drivers are self-employed and choose when they work anyway, it is generally considered that there are no equality impact implications for those with protected characteristics.

5. DELEGATED AUTHORITY PROPOSALS

- 5.1 The Council has established a taxi sharing scheme for each bi-annual Airshow since 2004. Whist fares, pick-up and destination points have changed over time and/or with show arrangements, all such schemes have been largely similar in nature; being relatively simple and straightforward to implement. Similarly, all schemes have generally been well received, implemented without problems and have proven successful for all involved.
- 5.2 Against this backdrop, and by way of expediting procedures and progression, Cabinet is also asked to delegate authority to determine both the current and similar future taxi sharing scheme proposals to the Operational Services portfolio holder; taking account of any representations that may be received on consultation as may be appropriate.

6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 Having received a request by 18% of the licensed trade, the Council is required to establish a suitable taxi-sharing scheme for the duration of the trade days of the Farnborough International Airshow 2020. A taxi-sharing scheme similar to that

established for FIA18 is therefore proposed to run between the Farnborough mainline station and a temporary Airshow rank from 20th-24th July 2020.

- 6.2 The proposals are relatively simple and straightforward and generally build upon and compliment the traffic arrangements used to accommodate the Airshow. Similar schemes have been implemented for previous shows.
- 6.3 Whilst the Licensing, Audit & General Purposes Committee will be consulted as part of public consultation processes, the Highways Authority and those with relevant land interests have already confirmed their approval of the proposals outlined in this report.

BACKGROUND

DOCUMENTS: - None

CONTACT DETAILS:

Report Author – **John McNab**, Environmental Health Manager
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Head of Service – **James Duggin**, Head of Operational Services
Email: james.duggin@rushmoor.gov.uk, **Tel:** 01252 398543

Appendices

Appendix	Title
A	- Taxi Trade Petition (front sheet only)
B	- Plan of authorised places
C	- Journey assessment
D	- Relevant consents

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TAXI TRADE PETITION REQUESTING TAXI SHARING SCHEME FOR FARNBOROUGH INTERNATIONAL AIRSHOW 2020

NB: Front page only - redacted in compliance with Data Protection Act requirements.

To TAXI LICENSING AT RUSHMOOR BOROUGH COUNCIL

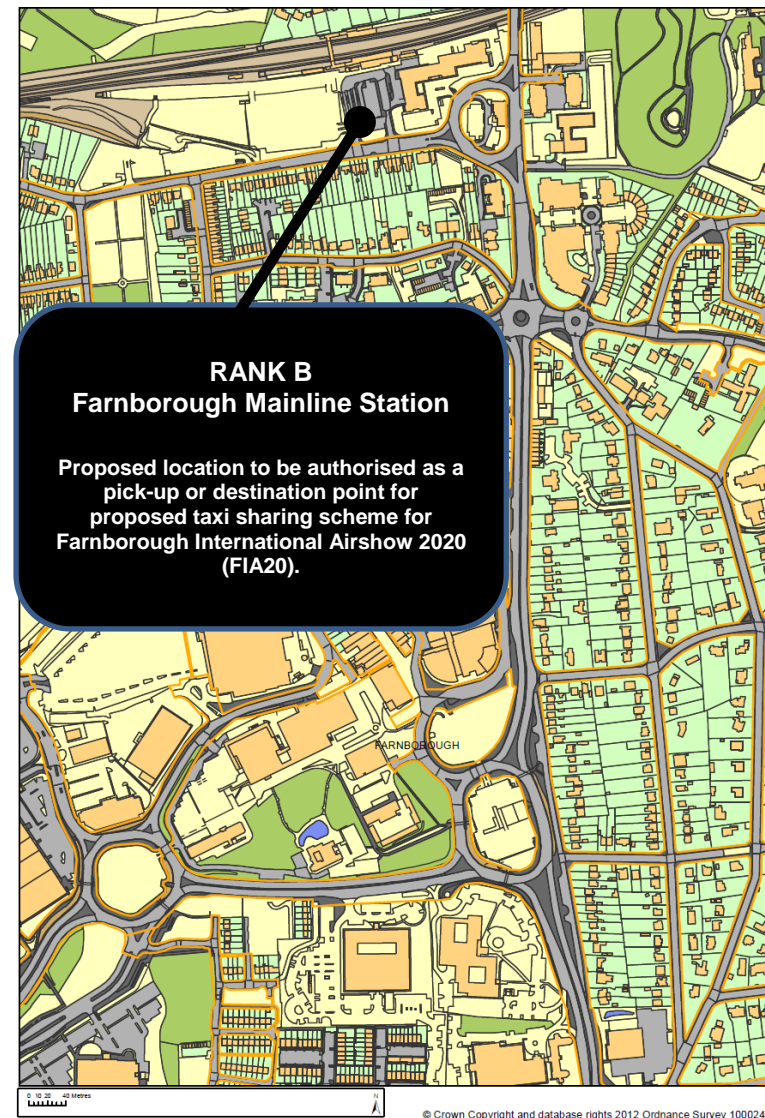
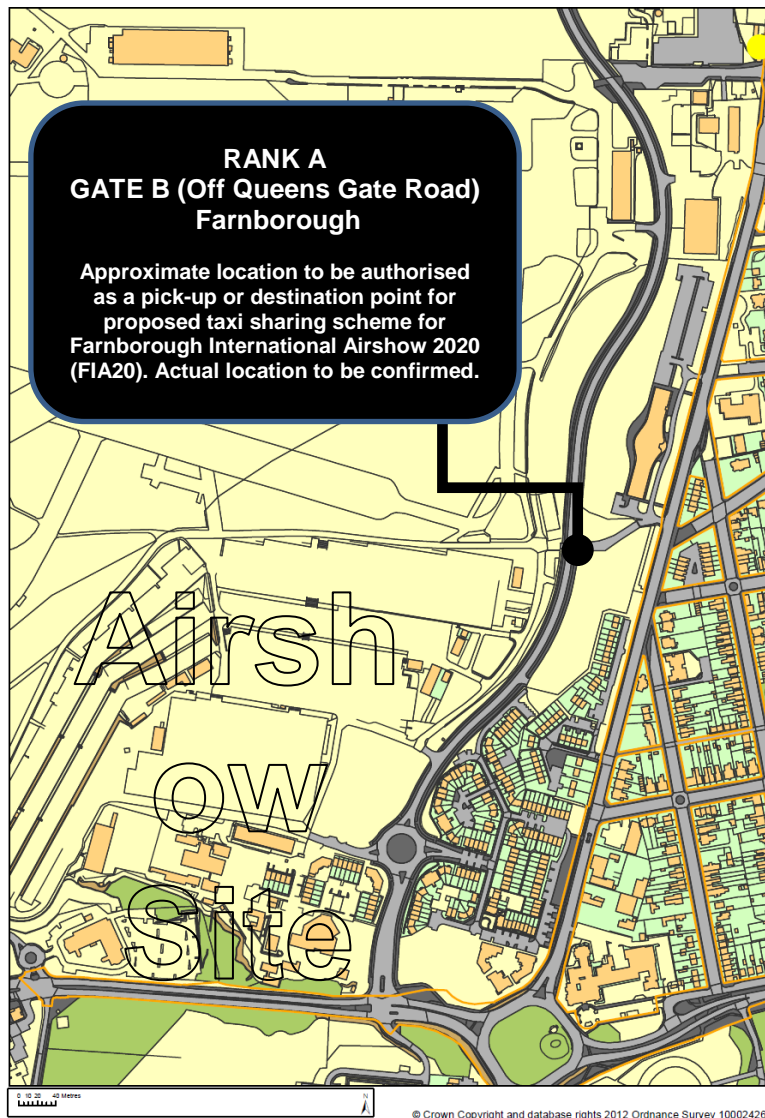
From THE TAXI TRADE

Ref: CAB SHARING, FARNBOROUGH AIRSHOW 2020

We the undersigned ask that you approve cab sharing for FIA20 at the rate of £18 for 4 people between Farnborough Main Line and the Airshow Drop-off point, plus Airshow Taxi Rank to Farnborough Main Line.

<u>Print name</u>	<u>Signature</u>	<u>Badge number</u>
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PLAN OF AUTHORISED PLACES BETWEEN WHICH PROPOSED TAXI-SHARING SCHEME IS PROPOSED TO OPERATE



APPENDIX C

JOURNEY ASSESSMENT OF TAXI JOURNEYS OF VARYING ROUTES

FROM / TO	ROUTE VIA	PROPOSED RANK(S)	APPROX DISTANCE (Yards)	FARE CALCULATION <small>(Based on Rate 1 of scheme of fares effective from 01.09.18)</small>		TOTAL APPROXIMATE FARE <small>(Based on Rate 1 of scheme of fares effective from 01.09.18)</small>
Queens Gate Road (Gate B) To Farnborough Station	Queens Gate Road, Fowler Avenue, Pinehurst Road (via The Village), Meudon Avenue, Farnborough Road, Union Street	A to B	3,555yds	First 1088 yards Each 149.5 yards (or part thereof)	£3.00 $\text{£}0.20 \times (3555 - 1088) / 149.5 = 3.40$	£6.40
Queens Gate Road (Gate B) To Farnborough Station	Queens Gate Road, Fowler Avenue, Pinehurst Road (via The Village), Sulzer Roundabout, Solartron Road, ASDA Car Park, Westmead, Victoria Road, Elm Grove Road, Union Street	A to B	3,575yds	First 1088 yards Each 149.5 yards (or part thereof)	£3.00 $\text{£}0.20 \times (3575 - 1088) / 149.5 = 3.40$	£6.40
Queens Gate Road (Gate B) To Farnborough Station	Queens Gate Road, Fowler Avenue (via Barons), Farnborough Road, Union Street	A to B	2,880yds	First 1088 yards Each 149.5 yards (or part thereof)	£3.00 $\text{£}0.20 \times (2880 - 1088) / 149.5 = 2.40$	£5.40
Queens Gate Road (Gate B) To Farnborough Station	Queens Gate Road, RAE Road, Farnborough Road, Union Street	A to B	2,750yds	First 1088 yards Each 149.5 yards (or part thereof)	£3.00 $\text{£}0.20 \times (2750 - 1088) / 149.5 = 2.40$	£5.40
Queens Gate Road (Gate B) To Farnborough Station	Queens Gate Road, Government House Road, Farnborough Road, Union Street	A to B	3,910yds	First 1088 yards Each 149.5 yards (or part thereof)	£3.00 $\text{£}0.20 \times (3910 - 1088) / 149.5 = 3.80$	£6.80

RELEVANT CONSENTS

Landowner consent: South Western Railway

From: Adele Richards
Sent: 16 October 2019 11:11
To: John McNab
Subject: Farnborough Airshow 2020

Morning John

Re your letter dated 11th October 2019 concerning the Farnborough Airshow 2020 in which you wish to implement a taxi sharing scheme, I wish to advise that as the Land Owner, South Western Railway give consent for this scheme.

I hope this email will suffice, however if not, please advise.

Regards

Adele Richards
Retail Team Co-ordinator
South Western Railway

Address: Overline House, Blechynden Terrace, Southampton SO15 1AL



Landowner consent: Farnborough Airport Ltd

From: Roger Walker
Sent: 15 November 2019 12:14
To: John McNab
Subject: Airshow Taxi Rank

Dear John

With ref to your letter dated 11 Oct 2019 your ref 19/02077/TAXGEN, I can confirm our consent to the proposal.

A couple of points to make; the company name of the airport is now Farnborough Airport Ltd and not TAG Aviation. Secondly, the road you refer to as 'off Queens Gate Road' is now known officially as Trenchard Way although it remains unadopted.

Rgds

Roger Walker
Director Airport Operations
Farnborough Airport
www.tagfarnborough.com

**Farnborough
Airport**

Highways consent

From: John Trusler
Sent: 23 October 2019 14:50
To: John McNab
Subject: Farnborough Airshow Taxi share fare arrangements.

John

As discussed, I am happy for you to proceed with the proposals set out in your letter dated 11th October 2019.

Many thanks

John

John Trusler | **Principal** Engineer

Rushmoor Borough Council

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