

## **Section 10 of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Draft Review of Policies and Conditions** (Pages 28-30 of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Draft Review of Policies and Conditions)

Summary of reasons for recommending that new Hackney Carriages No. 76 and above should be wheelchair-accessible (i.e. capable of carrying a person seated in a wheelchair)

- The Department for Transport has identified R&BBC as being a “first phase” local authority where the Taxi Accessibility Regulations will be introduced over the period 2010-2020. It is anticipated that eventually all R&BBC taxis will be required by law to be wheelchair-accessible.
- Wheelchair-accessible vehicles will require a greater investment which will limit the number of licences applied for. This will result in minimal effect on existing HC trade.

When 5 additional HC licences Nos. 71-75 were made available for wheelchair-accessible vehicles in 2000, there was one applicant. When wheelchair-accessible HC 60 became available in 2002 there were six applicants. Therefore there is unlikely to be a large take-up on new wheelchair accessible licences.

- There is a shortage of rank spaces in Redhill which is the favoured town. Rank provision is currently under review but spaces are not likely to be significantly increased on highway ranks, and no extra spaces are available at Redhill station. Insufficient rank spaces will be less of a problem if there is a limited number of additional HCs.
- Currently only 16% of R&BBC HCs are wheelchair-accessible. It would be good to increase this percentage. An additional 12 wheelchair-accessible HCs would increase the percentage to 27%.
- By requiring additional HCs to be wheelchair-accessible, existing owners of HC 1-53 and 61-70) will have their investment protected. Currently they pay a premium in excess of £20,000 for a licensed HC. Assuming there is no change in the current policy of allowing any type of vehicle to be licensed these HC will be in demand by applicants who do not wish to buy a more costly wheelchair-accessible HC.