

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BRIEF

Public Bus Services Ordinance (Chapter 230)

PUBLIC BUS FRANCHISEES SCHEDULE OF ROUTES ORDERS

INTRODUCTION

At the meeting of the Executive Council on 13 March 2001, the Council ADVISED and the Chief Executive ORDERED that the Schedule of Routes Orders for Kowloon Motor Bus Company (1933) Limited, Citybus Limited, New World First Bus Services Limited, New Lantao Bus Company (1973) Limited and Long Win Bus Company Limited, formalizing their route changes introduced on a temporary basis in the past two years up to 28 February 2001, should be made under section 5(1) of the Public Bus Services Ordinance (Cap. 230).

BACKGROUND

Need for New Schedule of Routes Orders

2. Under section 5(1) of the Public Bus Services Ordinance (the Ordinance), the Chief Executive in Council may grant any registered company the right to operate a public bus service on such routes as he specifies by order. The routes so specified form the franchised bus networks of the relevant bus franchises.

3. The franchised bus networks need to be adjusted from time to time to meet the changing transport needs of the community. Section 15(1) of the Ordinance provides that the Commissioner for Transport may, after consultation with the franchised bus companies, require them to introduce new routes and provide alterations to specified routes (including cancellation of any routes) on a temporary basis where appropriate. Such temporary changes may take effect for a period up to 24 months but not beyond unless they are

incorporated in the Schedule of Routes Orders made by the Chief Executive in Council under section 5(1) of the Ordinance.

4. The existing Schedule of Routes Orders were approved by the Chief Executive in Council in March 1999. It is now necessary to make new Schedule of Routes Orders to enable the service changes introduced in the past two years to continue to take effect.

Content of the New Schedule of Routes Orders – Service Changes in the Past Two Years

5. The following alterations to the services of the five franchised bus companies were made under section 15(1) of the Ordinance in the past two years up to 28 February 2001. All of these changes were implemented with the agreement of the bus companies -

- (a) Kowloon Motor Bus Company (1933) Limited introduced 22 new routes, withdrew 14 routes and made alterations to 181 routes;
- (b) Citybus Limited operated two bus franchises; the Company introduced three new routes, withdrew two routes and made alterations to 58 routes on its Urban Area and New Territories services, and introduced five new routes, withdrew four routes and made alterations to nine routes on its North Lantau and Chek Lap Kok Airport services;
- (c) New World First Bus Services Limited introduced seven new routes, withdrew six routes and made alterations to 51 routes;
- (d) New Lantao Bus Company (1973) Limited introduced four new routes, withdrew two routes and made alterations to 11 routes; and
- (e) Long Win Bus Company Limited introduced three new routes, withdrew two routes, and made alterations to 11 routes.

The above service changes are incorporated into the new Schedule of Routes Orders.

LEGISLATIVE TIMETABLE

6. The Orders will be published in the Gazette on 23 March 2001, and tabled at the Legislative Council for negative vetting on 28 March 2001 to take effect on 5 May 2001.

FINANCIAL AND STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

7. There are no financial or staffing implications for the Government.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

8. The District Councils concerned were consulted on the route changes before major changes were implemented.

ENQUIRIES

9. Any enquires can be directed to the following officer in Transport Department –

Mr Don Ho
Principal Transport Officer
(Tel No.: 2829 5460)

Transport Bureau
20 March 2001