

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 7 December 2004, the Council **ADVISED** and the Chief Executive **ORDERED** that, the Schedule of Routes Orders* (“the Orders”) should be made under section 5(1) of the Public Bus Services Ordinance (Cap. 230) (“the Ordinance”) 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, to formalise their service changes introduced during the period between 19 January 2003 and 30 September 2004.

JUSTIFICATIONS

2. The service changes have been made to better serve the travelling public and to improve the efficiency of bus operation. They should be formalised to ensure the continued provision of these services.

THE SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION

Content of the Orders – Service Changes made between 19 January 2003 and 30 September 2004

3. The following changes to the services of the five franchised bus companies were introduced under section 15(1) of the Ordinance between 19 January 2003 and 30 September 2004, with the agreement of the franchised bus companies concerned -

* Note: The Schedule of Routes Orders are available for Members’ inspection at the Legislative Council Secretariat

- (a) Kowloon Motor Bus Company (1933) Limited introduced 10 new routes, cancelled nine routes and made alterations to 121 routes;
- (b) Citybus Limited operates two bus franchises. The company introduced two new routes, cancelled one route and made alterations to 37 routes in respect of its franchise for Hong Kong Island and cross-harbour bus services; and made alterations to six routes in respect of its franchise for North Lantau and Chek Lap Kok Airport bus services;
- (c) New World First Bus Services Limited introduced three new routes, cancelled two routes and made alterations to 27 routes;
- (d) New Lantao Bus Company (1973) Limited cancelled one route and made alterations to six routes; and
- (e) Long Win Bus Company Limited made alterations to six routes.

In making these changes, we had regard to our policy objective to rationalise bus services on busy corridors to help relieve traffic congestion and improve air quality, whilst ensuring that demand for bus services would be appropriately met. These changes have been specified in the Orders.

LEGISLATIVE TIMETABLE

4. The legislative timetable will be as follows –

Publication in the Gazette	10 December 2004
Tabling at the Legislative Council	15 December 2004

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSAL

5. The proposal is in conformity with the Basic Law, including the provisions concerning human rights, and does not have any implication on the binding effect of the Ordinance. The proposal has no productivity or financial and civil service implications. It does not have any major economic, environmental or sustainability implications.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

6. The District Councils concerned were consulted on the service changes before the changes were introduced under section 15(1) of the Ordinance.

PUBLICITY

7. This brief is issued for Legislative Council Members' reference.

BACKGROUND

8. Under section 5(1) of 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.

9. The franchised bus network needs 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 bus companies, require them to introduce new routes and make alterations to specified routes on a temporary basis where appropriate. Such changes may take effect for a period up to 24 months ("the relevant period") only and will expire upon expiry of the relevant period unless they are specified in the Orders made by the Chief Executive in Council under section 5(1) of the Ordinance before expiry of the relevant period.

10. The existing Orders were approved by the Chief Executive in Council in February 2003. It is now necessary to make new Orders to enable the service changes introduced between 19 January 2003 and 30 September 2004 to continue to take effect.

ENQUIRIES

11. Any enquiries concerning this brief can be directed to the following officer -

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Environment, Transport and Works Bureau
9 December 2004