

## Open Agenda

Copy No:

No: 40/2020

### Memorandum for Executive Council

**SUBJECT**

### **ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL 2020**

Memorandum by the Chairman of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee

**ADVICE SOUGHT**

- 1. Council is asked to consider and advise whether the Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill, 2020, should be printed, published and presented as Government Business at the next formal meeting of the Legislative Council. A copy of the Bill is at Annex A.**

**BACKGROUND & CONSIDERATIONS**

2. The Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill, 2020, will amend the Principal Ordinance to give Governor in Council the power by Order to extend the validity of vehicle and driving licences.
3. The Bill arises from concerns that if there was an outbreak of a virus on-Island some or all of the following services may be unavailable:
  - (i) Medical tests required for those over 70 to renew their driving licences
  - (ii) MOT inspections needed for renewal of vehicle licences
  - (iii) Post Office services to administratively renew driving and vehicle licences.
4. The unavailability of such services could mean that licences expire and those affected are unable to legally drive.
5. The Road Traffic Ordinance 1985 currently contains no power for extensions to be made in such circumstances. The Bill addresses this by giving Governor in Council the ability to do so. Although this would be particularly relevant to an outbreak of a virus it could also be used in other circumstances; for example if the hospital did not have resources for medical tests.
6. The Bill allows for the extension of the following licences:
  - (i) Vehicle licences
  - (ii) Full driving licences
  - (iii) Provisional driving licences
  - (iv) Foreign driving licence exemptions
7. The Bill allows for the extensions to be made either generally or for a specific category of person/vehicle. Licences can be extended up to three months at a time.

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### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8. No direct financial impact.

### ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

9. Would be beneficial to the economy as there is potential to allow parts of the economy to keep operating in a crisis situation.

### CONSISTENCY WITH INVESTMENT POLICY PRINCIPLES

10. N/A

### PUBLIC/ SOCIAL IMPACT

11. Would have a beneficial impact as it would allow licences to be extended during a crisis situation.

### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

12. No direct environmental impact.

### PREVIOUS CONSULTATION/ COMMITTEE INPUT

13. The Bill has been approved by the Environment and Natural Resources Committee.

### PUBLIC REACTION

14. A positive public reaction is expected as the Bill prevents licences becoming invalid in a crisis situation.

### PUBLICITY

15. The decision will be covered in the radio briefing following the meeting. If agreed to be presented as Government business at the next formal meeting of the Legislative Council the Bill will be published via the normal process ahead of this Meeting. Separate publicity outlining the changes/extensions should be considered if the Bill is passed at the formal LegCo meeting.

### SUPPORT TO STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

16. This paper supports the 'Effective, efficient and accountable public sector' goal and Strategic Objective 9.1 Ensure effective governance through efficient and effective systems and processes.

### LINK TO SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN GOALS

17. N/A

### OPEN/CLOSED AGENDA ITEM Corporate Support Corporate Services

18. This paper is recommended for the open agenda.

RKY

27<sup>th</sup> May 2020

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