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MEMORANDUM E (20) 74 (C)

FROM: FIRST MINISTER AND DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER

DATE: 22 APRIL 2020

TO: EXECUTIVE

FINAL EXECUTIVE PAPER - COVID 19 – RECOVERY

1. As part of the discussion on our financial strategy we need to have an eye on the wider process we intend to follow to prepare for the time when we can move out of the crisis phase into the recovery phase.
2. The first challenge will be the next review of the regulations which needs to happen in the week beginning 4 May. Ahead of that review, there is a need to understand what the science tells us about the level and trajectory of the disease and its impact on public health, as well as having an understanding of the impact that the current situation is having on citizens and the wider economy. While we will not have all of the information we might want, officials will be drawing together an evidence pack to inform decision making.
3. Looking further ahead, we need to have a broader conversation about how we will aim to come out of this crisis. We are aiming to bring a short paper to Executive on Friday 24 April to set out at a high level the proposed approach and to agree a date for convening a single issue Executive to discuss the approach to recovery. That discussion should be different in nature from our usual meetings and we will explore using an independent facilitator.
4. Our current strategy has three themes – societal, economic and health. Those are the right themes and we will develop the approach to recovery under these headings. We will be looking to develop the following four elements.

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5. Firstly, we need to understand from around the world what has and has not worked – looking particularly at those who are further on in time terms in addressing the disease.
6. Secondly, we need data to understand how NI is being affected and will be affected going forward – that will not all become available at once so we need to be clear what is possible and how it can be collected.
7. Thirdly, we need clarity about what we have the power to affect and what we don't and, where there are opportunities, a sense of what the most fruitful new avenues to explore are as capacity is limited.
8. Fourthly, we need to engage in a process of co-design with those who can assist us in formulating our approach both because we need wider inputs and because this process affects everyone and cannot be done within Government alone. We will need to choose carefully when we start that as we need to have consistent messaging which does not risk confusing the public.
9. There is a lot to do here and we need to make a start to the thinking needed for tomorrow, while continuing to send strong messages about what we want people to do today. We will come back to this issue on Friday 24 April.

**HE RT. HON. ARLENE FOSTER MLA
FIRST MINISTER**

**MICHELLE O'NEILL MLA
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