

# Public Document Pack

Amendments to White Paper Motion (in the name of Cllr M  
Dobson) - WASPI

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## COUNCIL MEETING – 15th January 2025

NOTICE OF:	Reference No:	Date Received:	Date Forwarded:
White Paper Amendment	A1 to WP2	14/01/2025	14/01/2025

Submitted by:	Councillor Norma Harrington
Relevant Board/Regulatory Panel:	Executive Board
Executive Member/Chair:	Executive Member (Communities, Customer Services and Community Safety)
Relevant Director	Director of Communities, Housing and Environment

**Add the following after “support their cause” in the second paragraph:**

“, and added further financial strain by removing their winter fuel payments.”

**Motion would read:**

“Council is dissatisfied that the verdict of maladministration from The Parliamentary Ombudsman, meaning women born in Leeds in the 1950s did not get adequate notice of the changes to the rises in the state pension age and should therefore be compensated, has not been adopted and rectified by the current Government.

“Council is dismayed to note that, despite actively campaigning for the WASPI women in opposition, once in power the current Government has reneged on previous public commitments to support their cause, and added further financial strain by removing their winter fuel payments.

“Council reaffirms its agreement to Councillor Coupar's white paper motion of September 2017 and calls on the Government to urgently look again at the findings of the Ombudsman and honour both the findings of the Ombudsman and their previous commitment that women born in the 1950s, and who have found the goalposts moved in terms of when they receive their state pension, are compensated.

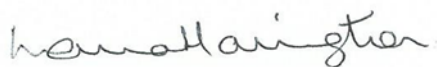
“Further, that this Council continues to support the WASPI (Women Against State Pension Inequality) campaign group, which campaigns for justice for all women born in the 1950s affected by the changes to the State Pension Law (1995/2011 Acts). The 1995 Pension Act included plans to increase women’s SPA (State Pension Age) to 65, the same as men’s. WASPI agrees with equalisation but does not agree with the unfair way the changes are being implemented – with little or no personal notice (1995/2011 Pension Acts), faster than promised (2011 Pension Act), and no time to make alternative plans.

“Many women born in the 1950's are living in hardship. Retirement plans have been shattered with devastating consequences. Many of these women are already out of the labour market, caring for elderly relatives, providing childcare for grandchildren, or suffer discrimination in the workplace so struggle to find employment.

“Women born in this decade are suffering financially. These women have worked hard, raised families, and paid their tax and National Insurance with the expectation that they would be financially secure when reaching 60.      Page 3

“It is not the pension age itself that is in dispute - it is widely accepted that women and men should retire at the same time. The issue is that the rise in the women's state pension age has been too rapid and has happened without sufficient notice being given to the women affected, leaving women with no time to make alternative arrangements.

“Council therefore calls on the Government to urgently review their decision based on the Ombudsman's findings and arrange proper recompense for the women concerned.”



Councillor Norma Harrington

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Deadlines for submission

White Papers	- 10.00 am on the day before the issue of the Summons
Questions	- 10.00 am on Monday before the meeting
Amendments (including references back)	- 10.00 am on the day before the meeting

(All submissions should be made to Governance Services for receipt to be recorded and distribution made)

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**COUNCIL MEETING –15th January 2025**

NOTICE OF:	Reference No:	Date Received:	Date Forwarded:
White Paper Amendment	A2 TO WP2	14/1/25	14/1/25

Submitted by:	Councillor Colin Campbell
Relevant Board/Regulatory Panel:	Executive Board
Executive Member/Chair:	Executive Member (Communities, Customer Services & Community Safety)
Relevant Director	Director of Communities, Housing and Environment

In the first paragraph, insert the words “despite earlier promises,” after the words “should therefore be compensated, has....”

The amended White Paper motion would then read:

Council is dissatisfied that the verdict of maladministration from The Parliamentary Ombudsman, meaning women born in Leeds in the 1950s did not get adequate notice of the changes to the rises in the state pension age and should therefore be compensated, has despite earlier promises, not been adopted and rectified by the current Government.

Council is dismayed to note that, despite actively campaigning for the WASPI women in opposition, once in power the current Government has reneged on previous public commitments to support their cause.

Council reaffirms its agreement to Councillor Coupar's white paper motion of September 2017 and calls on the Government to urgently look again at the findings of the Ombudsman and honour both the findings of the Ombudsman and their previous commitment that women born in the 1950s, and who have found the goalposts moved in terms of when they receive their state pension, are compensated.

Further, that this Council continues to support the WASPI (Women Against State Pension Inequality) campaign group, which campaigns for justice for all women born in the 1950s affected by the changes to the State Pension Law (1995/2011 Acts). The 1995 Pension Act included plans to increase women’s SPA (State Pension Age) to 65, the same as men’s. WASPI agrees with equalisation but does not agree with the unfair way the changes are being implemented – with little or no personal notice (1995/2011 Pension Acts), faster than promised (2011 Pension Act), and no time to make alternative plans.

Many women born in the 1950's are living in hardship. Retirement plans have been shattered with devastating consequences. Many of these women are already out of the labour market, caring for elderly relatives, providing childcare for grandchildren, or suffer discrimination in the workplace so struggle to find employment.

Women born in this decade are suffering financially. These women have worked hard, raised families, and paid their tax and National Insurance with the expectation that they would be financially secure when reaching 60. Page 5

It is not the pension age itself that is in dispute - it is widely accepted that women and men should retire at the same time. The issue is that the rise in the women's state pension age has been too rapid and has happened without sufficient notice being given to the women affected, leaving women with no time to make alternative arrangements.

Council therefore calls on the Government to urgently review their decision based on the Ombudsman's findings and arrange proper recompense for the women concerned.

Proposed by:

*Colin Campbell.*

Cllr Colin Campbell

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**COUNCIL MEETING –15th January 2025**

NOTICE OF:	Reference No:	Date Received:	Date Forwarded:
White Paper Amendment	A3 TO WP2	14/1/25	14/1/25

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Submitted by: Councillor Wayne Dixon  
 Relevant Board/Regulatory Panel: Executive Board  
 Executive Member/Chair: Executive Member (Communities, Customer Services and Community Safety)  
 Relevant Director: Director of Communities, Housing and Environment

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Leave all, then insert as a final paragraph:

“This Council notes the Executive Member for Communities raised this at Full Council in 2016 and in 2017, condemns successive Governments for having implemented these changes and now calls on the Labour Government to reconsider transitional arrangements for women born on or after 6th April 1951 so women do not live in hardship, and introduce legislation so accrued rights to the basic State Pension cannot be changed in the future”.

The amended White Paper motion would then read:

Council is dissatisfied that the verdict of maladministration from The Parliamentary Ombudsman, meaning women born in Leeds in the 1950s did not get adequate notice of the changes to the rises in the state pension age and should therefore be compensated, has not been adopted and rectified by the current Government.

Council is dismayed to note that, despite actively campaigning for the WASPI women in opposition, once in power the current Government has reneged on previous public commitments to support their cause.

Council reaffirms its agreement to Councillor Coupar's white paper motion of September 2017 and calls on the Government to urgently look again at the findings of the Ombudsman and honour both the findings of the Ombudsman and their previous commitment that women born in the 1950s, and who have found the goalposts moved in terms of when they receive their state pension, are compensated.

Further, that this Council continues to support the WASPI (Women Against State Pension Inequality) campaign group, which campaigns for justice for all women born in the 1950s affected by the changes to the State Pension Law (1995/2011 Acts). The 1995 Pension Act included plans to increase women's SPA (State Pension Age) to 65, the same as men's. WASPI agrees with equalisation but does not agree with the unfair way the changes are being implemented – with little or no personal notice (1995/2011 Pension Acts), faster than promised (2011 Pension Act), and no time to make alternative plans.

Many women born in the 1950's are living in hardship. Retirement plans have been shattered with devastating consequences. Many of these women are already out of the labour market, caring for elderly relatives, providing childcare for grandchildren, or suffer discrimination in the workplace so struggle to find employment.

Women born in this decade are suffering financially. These women have worked hard, raised families, and paid their tax and National Insurance with the expectation that they would be financially secure when reaching 60.

It is not the pension age itself that is in dispute - it is widely accepted that women and men should retire at the same time. The issue is that the rise in the women's state pension age has been too rapid and has happened without sufficient notice being given to the women affected, leaving women with no time to make alternative arrangements.

Council therefore calls on the Government to urgently review their decision based on the Ombudsman's findings and arrange proper recompense for the women concerned.

This Council notes the Executive Member for Communities raised this at Full Council in 2016 and in 2017, condemns successive Governments for having implemented these changes and now calls on the Labour Government to reconsider transitional arrangements for women born on or after 6th April 1951 so women do not live in hardship, and introduce legislation so accrued rights to the basic State Pension cannot be changed in the future.

Proposed by:



Cllr Wayne Dixon

Seconded by:



Cllr Rob Chesterfield

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**COUNCIL MEETING –15th January 2025**

NOTICE OF:	Reference No:	Date Received:	Date Forwarded:
White Paper Amendment	A4 TO WP2	14/1/25	14/1/25

Submitted by: Councillor Debra Coupar  
 Relevant Board/Regulatory Panel: Executive Board  
 Executive Member/Chair: Executive Member (Communities, Customer Services and Community Safety)  
 Relevant Director: Director of Communities, Housing and Environment

Delete all and replace with:

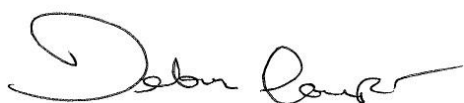
“This Council agrees with the WASPI campaign that changes to pension laws in 1995 and 2011 implemented under Conservative and Liberal Democrat Governments unfairly impacted women born in the 1950s, especially the short notice they were given to put plans in place to mitigate the unexpected loss of pension.

Council notes the perilous state of the national economy left by the outgoing Conservative Government six months ago, underlined by the £22bn black hole in the public finances, and the incoming Labour Government’s commitment to stabilise the economy and improve the outlook for all including pensioners.

Council welcomes the Labour Government’s £31bn commitment to the pensions triple lock which will increase the state pension by more than £470 a year from April, supporting pensioners in communities across Leeds.

Council also welcomes the additional £7.1m the Government allocated to support vulnerable residents in Leeds this winter through the Household Support Fund, including additional support for low income pensioners.

Council endorses the Age Friendly Leeds Partnership’s submission to the inquiry by the cross party Work and Pensions Select Committee into pensioner poverty and calls on the Government to fully consider the recommendations from the committee to see what more can be done to support pensioners in poverty when they are published. Council further asks that the Government look into the concerns raised by the WASPI campaign.”



**Deadlines for submission**

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