

**COUNCIL MEETING –15th January 2025**

NOTICE OF:	Reference No:	Date Received:	Date Forwarded:
White Paper	WP2	6/1/25	7/1/25

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Submitted by:	Councillor Mark Dobson
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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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.



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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 - 10.00 am on the day before the meeting  
(including references back)

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

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