

COUNCIL		
Report Title	Motion 3 in the name of Councillor Moore to be seconded by Councillor Johnston-Franklin	
Key Decision	n/a	Item No.
Ward	n/a	
Contributors	Chief Executive (Head of Business & Committee)	
Class	Part 1	Date: July 20 2016

“This Council calls on the Government to rethink their plans for state pension arrangements that discriminate against all women born on or after April 1st 1951, who have been unfairly affected by the changes to State Pension Age (PSA) in 2011.

This Council notes –

- That over £2.6 million women are affected by this policy, and some women will be up to £12,000 worse off due to the changes. Around 20,000 women in Lewisham *could fall* into this category
- That hundreds of thousands of women affected by the Pensions Acts of 1995 and 2011 were not notified of the changes until relatively recently, and some were not notified until two years ago of a six-year increase in pension age.
- The government e-petition number 110776 submitted by Women against State Pension Inequality (WASPI) attracted over 190,000 signatures.
- That Stephen Crabb MP, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, announced on 11th May 2016 that no transitional arrangements would be put in place due to budgetary restraints.
- That cost-neutral proposals were put forward by cross-party MPs on the Work and Pensions Select Committee which would have allowed women to retire early, but with a reduced pension.
- That this could push women affected into financial hardship as retirement plans are being ruined.
- That many women affected by these changes have caring commitments and suffer workplace discrimination which may lead them to struggle to find employment.

This Council believes –

1. That transitional measures need to be put in place to ensure that women are not affected adversely by the changes to the State Pension Age.
2. That pension age should be equalised between men and women, but should be implemented in a fair way to ensure women affected are not pushed into financial hardship.
3. That the current policy is unfair as women affected by the changes were not informed early enough to adjust their retirement plans

This Council therefore resolves to –

1. Ask the Mayor to write to the Secretary of State for Work and *Pensions* expressing our continuing concerns over the lack of transitional arrangements for women born in 1950s.

2. Ask the Mayor to write to our local MPs expressing the Council's concerns as stated above and to seek their support for our position on the proposals.