**Women Against State Pension Inequality (WASPI)**

**Draft motion for consideration at the meeting of XXXX Council on XXXX**

**Council notes that:**

* In the 1995 Pensions Act, the Government increased State Pension age for women from 60 to 65, with a further increase to 66 in the 2011 Pensions Act.
* The change was not properly communicated to 3.8m women born in the 1950s until 2012, giving some only one year’s notice of a six year increase in their anticipated retirement age. XXXX of the affected women are in our own authority area.
* The Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman (PHSO) has found the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to have committed maladministration through its failure to adequately communicate State Pension age increases to women born in the 1950s.
* The PHSO has concluded the DWP should apologise to women affected and pay compensation as a result.
* The DWP has refused to accept the findings of the PHSO, which has now led the independent watchdog to lay its findings before Parliament, encouraging MPs to intervene to deliver a remedy to affected women.
* The All Party Parliamentary Group on State Pension Inequality for Women has concluded that “the impact of DWP maladministration on 1950s-born women has been as devastating as it is widespread.  The APPG believes that the case for category 6 injustice (£10,000) is overwhelming and clear. Women have had their emotional, physical, and mental circumstances totally obliterated by a lack of reasonable notice.”
* As of April 2024, more than 275,000 women have died waiting for justice since the campaign began in 2015.

**Council believes this injustice has not only had a profound effect on the individuals involved but on the wider community in XXXX and on local government, not least because:**

* Women who would have looked after older relatives or partners are unable to afford to do so, with a knock-on impact on local social care.
* Women who would have retired and engaged in caring responsibilities for grandchildren are having to continue working, increasing the childcare burden on the state locally.
* Women who have been left in poverty are struggling to meet their housing costs, with a knock-on impact on local housing stock.
* There is a broader impact on voluntary services of all kinds locally, which are missing out on able, active volunteers who would otherwise have been able to retire from full-time work as planned.
* Our local economy is negatively affected by the reduced spending power and disposable income the uncommunicated State Pension Age changes has brough about among women born in the 1950s.

**Council supports:**

* A swift resolution to this ongoing injustice before more and more women die waiting for compensation.
* The conclusion of the All Party Parliamentary Group on State Pension Inequality that women born in the 1950s have suffered a gross injustice, affecting their emotional, physical and mental circumstances in addition to causing financial hardship.
* The WASPI campaign and All Party Parliamentary Group’s calls for an immediate one-off compensation payment at category 6 injustice on the PHSO’s financial remedy scale (£10,000) to those affected.
* The PHSO’s recommendation for the DWP to issue a formal apology to those affected and provide an opportunity for MPs to urgently debate the APPG’s recommendations, and any others, Parliament.

**Council asks:**

* The Leader of the Council to write to local Members of Parliament; the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions; and Leader of the House of Commons; to outline the effects of the injustice to 1950s women on the community in XXXX and to seek:
	+ Urgent proposals from the DWP, outlining how they will deliver compensation for affected women.
	+ For all MPs to be given an opportunity to debate and vote on these proposals.