



Council
31 October 2019
Agenda Item 12

ADUR DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ward(s) Affected: N/A

Motion on Notice

Report by the Director for Communities

Executive Summary

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The report before Council sets out a motion received from Councillor Lavinia O'Connor
- 1.2 Council is asked to deal with the motion under provisions set out in paragraph 14 of the Council Procedure Rules (under part 4 of the Council Constitution - Rules of Procedure).

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Council determine the motion as set out in annex A to this report.

3. Context

- 3.1 A motion on notice has been received from Councillor Lavinia O'Connor, (attached as Annex A).
- 3.2 The content of the motion is relevant to a matter which affects the District.
- 3.3 There is nothing substantive within the motion that would cause its rejection under the terms of the Constitution.
- 3.4 The motion before Council is declaratory in nature, as defined in para 14.4.4 of the Council's Procedure Rules. Therefore, it may be considered and debated by the Full Council without being automatically referred to a future meeting of Full Council, as defined in para 14.4.5 of the Council's Procedure Rules, or, being referred to the Executive or Committee without debate, as defined in paragraphs 14.4.1, 14.4.2 and 14.4.3 of the Council's Procedure Rules.

4. Issues for consideration

- 4.1 Motions considered by Full Council are debated under rules set out under part 16 of the Council procedure rules and the Council is asked to debate the motion under these rules accordingly.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 The motion is declaratory in nature and therefore there are no direct financial implications.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1 As the motion is declaratory in nature there are no direct legal implications arising from it.

Background Papers

None

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Annex A

This Council pledges support for the campaign group 'Women Against State Pension Inequality' (WASPI) and joins 150+ Councils across the Country in calling upon the Government to make fair transitional State Pension arrangements for all women born in the 1950s women, including those in our own community who have unfairly borne the burden of the increase to the State Pension Age (SPA) with little or no appropriate notification.

3.8 million women had significant pension changes imposed on them by the Pensions Acts of 1995 and 2011 with little or no personal notification of the changes.

Some women had only two years notice of a six-year increase to their state pension age. Many had no notification at all. Many women born in the 1950's, who started work as teenagers, are now living in hardship. These are women who had fewer educational and career opportunities than men and who were paid significantly less than their male counterparts

Retirement plans have been shattered with devastating consequences. 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.

Because of the way the increases were brought in, women born in the 1950s have been hit particularly hard. Until the 1990s many women weren't allowed to join company pension schemes, and so are entirely dependent on state pension

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 them with no time to make alternative arrangements. Research shows that recommendations to give fair notice were ignored. The Turner Commission recommended 15 years notice, yet many women report receiving little or no notice.

Letters were sent out to women born in the early 1950s some 14 years after the 1995 Pensions Act

Following further pension reforms in 2011, some women were given as little as one year's notice of an up to a 6 year increase to their State Pension Age, compared to men who received 6 years' notice of a one year rise to their State Pension Age. Many

women report receiving NO letter EVER while others say letters were sent to the wrong address despite notifying the DWP of the address change

Waspi does not ask for a reversal of any Pension Act to age 60. The campaign group agrees with equalisation, but does not agree with the unfair way the changes were implemented. There is cross party support for the call for transitional arrangements and an All Party Parliamentary Group has been established to consider options. One option would be a 'bridging' pension to provide an income from age 60 until State Pension Age. An income that is not means-tested, so that women do not live in hardship due to pension changes they were not told about until it was too late to make alternative arrangements."

The significant loss of income to women who were expecting their pensions at 60 will also have an adverse effect on our local area.. Not all women are able to continue working due to ill health, caring responsibilities for parents, partners and/or grandchildren, or due redundancy, etc. There will therefore be less disposable income and there are many women having to sell their homes, claiming housing support or finding they need to claim benefits in their 60s to survive.

Local women have told us that pension changes have led to huge financial losses and taken away their independence. Re-entering the world of work as an older woman has proved difficult too, and sadly women talk about 'wishing their lives away'

In the Work and Pensions Select Committee 's March 2016 report on Communicating State pension increases, the Committee concluded that 'We will never know how many women did not know, or could not be reasonably expected to know, that their state pension age was increasing....many thousands of women justifiably feel aggrieved'

Several Councils across the country have recently passed the following motion to support the call for transitional arrangements and we ask that Adur Council do the same.