

MOTIONS

9.1 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR NELSON

That, as we approach Black History Month, with the scandal of the treatment of our Windrush generation fresh in our minds, this Council calls on the Cabinet to reconsider their position and reintroduce the celebration of black history in this borough.

The treatment of the Windrush generation by this country has reminded us and highlighted how important it is for black history to not only be taught, but also celebrated by our communities. To recognise and celebrate black history is not to ignore other history, but rather pay tribute to black men and women who helped build our country.

Hillingdon has in the past celebrated this important time in our calendar and, in our current climate, we believe it more pertinent than ever to revitalise the spirit of diversity.

By re-introducing the annual Black History Month events, this authority will be increasing learning outcomes and demonstrating greater and current understanding of the harm racism is causing to our society.

9.2 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR CURLING

That this Council recognises that a significant number of women in Hillingdon, born on or after 6 April 1950, have unfairly borne the burden of the increase to the state pension age with lack of appropriate notification.

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 also recognised that 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.

This Council therefore calls upon the Cabinet to receive a report into how this issue is affecting women in Hillingdon and how best to join other Councils (of all colours) in support of the WASPI campaign and to lobby Government to reconsider transitional arrangements for women born on or after 6 April 1950, 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.