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AGE CONCERN ENGLAND RESPONSE TO LAUNCH OF LIBERAL DEMOCRATS' MINI MANIFESTO FOR PENSIONERS

Gordon Lishman, Director-General of Age Concern England said:

"Finally the parties are realising that it is older people who could have the deciding votes at the upcoming General Election. People over the age of 55 are twice as likely to vote as those under 55, and the parties need to convince them that they will deliver for them if elected.

"Age Concern's research shows that two-thirds of over 55s say they are absolutely certain to vote and millions of their votes are up for grabs.

"Many older people will welcome policies on council tax and improvements to the pensions system for women. Women pensioners are most at risk of poverty in retirement and many pensioners who live on fixed incomes are hit hard by council tax bills.

"Age Concern believes that the only way to ensure that everyone has a decent income in retirement is to increase the basic state pension to at least £109 per week. If the parties want to win over the crucial older voters they need to show how they will provide a decent income in retirement, an end to ageism and access to good public services."