

<b>Committee:</b> Housing Management & Almshouses Sub-Committee	<b>Dated:</b> 16/05/2019
<b>Subject:</b> City of London Almshouses Update	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Director of Community & Children's Services	<b>For Information</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Jacqueline Whitmore, Sheltered Housing Manager	

### Summary

This report gives Members an information update on the City of London Almshouses, in Lambeth. Some of the information in the report also relates to the eight Gresham Almshouses on the estate.

### Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- note the report.

### Main Report

#### Background

1. This report is presented to alternate meetings of the Housing Management and Almshouses Sub-Committee, it updates Members on operational matters relating to the Almshouses and their residents.

#### Current Position

#### Waiting List

2. There are currently five vacancies due to unexpected moves and a death. Officers intend to "hold" one ground floor property for respite support to residents when the renovation work starts in the new year, as there may be a need to temporarily move a resident during the works. There are several applications in process which officers will submit for approval to fill the current voids.

## **Social activities**

3. Residents were very pleased to meet with the Trustees at the Christmas hamper delivery event on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2018. Residents were delighted with their hampers, for which they send thanks to Trustees again this year. There were a few hampers left over, which were raffled off for charity, raising over £150.

## **Residents' financial status**

4. Officers are required to carry out a review to ensure that residents still meet the agreed eligibility criteria for occupation of the almshouses. This review will commence in May 2019 and details will be reported to the Trustees' meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2019.

## **Cat Survey**

5. At the request of Gresham Trustees, officers will complete a survey in May to gauge resident interest in having up to two indoor cats. This follows a similar exercise in 2017. There are well-documented positive outcomes for older people who can keep a pet, however officers have considerable concerns relating to care of cats, especially when residents are no longer able to care for themselves and require support from registered care workers to remain living in their homes.
6. The care workers are not permitted to care for pets as part of their support role. In the 2017 survey, only 17 out of 50 residents responded, and the outcome was nine against and eight in favour. Due to the low response rate it was considered appropriate to survey residents again. Officers will report to Trustees at the next Committee meeting.

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