

<b>Committee</b> Housing Management & Almshouses Sub-Committee	<b>Dated:</b> 16 Sep 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**

#### **2. Waiting List**

There are currently 3 vacant properties we have 2 new residents since the last report who are very pleased with their new homes, and a further applicant awaiting her property to have the final void work complete, which should be finished by 9 September. There are several applications in process to fill the current voids; officers will submit for approval as soon as references and required assessments are undertaken.

#### **3. Social activities**

Residents were not interested in having an "away day" trip this year. The Almshouses Manager, Mrs Taylor, has agreed to arrange an old-fashioned picnic tea with a quiz after, in September. Mrs Taylor arranged something similar last year which was well received. Residents continue to enjoy their weekly activities ie coffee morning, movie night.

#### **4. Residents financial status**

Officers undertook a review of residents' individual financial status to ensure they still met the agreed eligibility criteria. The work took several months to complete, however all residents currently meet the financial criteria (income of less than £17,000 per year and savings of less than £30,000).

After his secondment to project work ended, our Income Recovery Officer Dean Robinson has returned to his role monitoring and supporting residents who are in difficulty paying their Weekly Maintenance Charge. Dean undertakes regular "surgeries" in the office where he can speak to residents directly about any financial issues and support any resident in arrears to agree a payment plan. This is working well and residents he has interviewed have found this support helpful.

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