

	Meeting (No)	Market & Town Hall Committee (2)
	Date	23rd September 2025
	Document	Ref No
	Budget Considerations for 2026/27	MTH2/23

The committee may wish to take the following items into consideration for the draft budget request for 2026/2027.

Marketing & Promotion budget

The Marketing and Promotion budget (4140) for the current year was reduced to £2150. This budget should be sufficient to provide the 3 special markets for the following year; no amendment is required.

300th Anniversary Market

The committee have previously discussed that they wish to begin setting aside funds for a special market to celebrate the 300th anniversary of Neston Market in 2028. The task and Finish group have held a meeting to discuss initial ideas and the required budget.

The group have requested any underspend from 2025/26 is earmarked to 'kick start' the fund for this market – they are hoping for £1000 from this year.

They then would like to raise £1000 in 2026/27 and a further £1000 in 2027/2028 from the precept, to give a total of the £3000. However, if there aren't sufficient funds to earmark £1000 from the current year then the figure for the next 2 years would have to be increased.

Fire retardant treatment

The stage and window curtains were treated with a fire-retardant spray in September 2022; this protection was guaranteed for 4 years so is due to be resprayed in 2026. The cost for the treatment in 2022 was £1250 +VAT, obviously further updated quotes would be required.

However, for the new stage back curtains that were fitted in July 2025 we have been advised that the fire retardant is valid for 10 years, so they do not need to be re sprayed in 2026.

The stage front curtains are in a very bad state of repair and ideally need to be replaced, we have had a quote of £1765 +VAT (2025/26 price) for this, again additional quotes would be required. An initial quote to include moving the curtain opening pulley system to be off stage has also been obtained at £450 + VAT which ideally could also be considered by committee.

If our caretaker could spray the window curtains and blinds with a 'shop bought' fire retardant spray then it would make sense to spend committee budget on a

reconfigured pulley system and replacement curtains, that would already be fire retarded, rather than having old curtains resprayed.

Waste collection

New Legislation regarding waste collection and recycling will come into force from April 2027. I am looking into the costs for this and hope to implement the changes during 2026/2027. Current indications are that the increase is likely to be around £190.20 +VAT per year (£15.85 +VAT per month) for budget 4426 Waste Collections, however this is based on 2025/26 prices.

The cost of the additional indoor bins required to facilitate the changes effectively would be approximately £261.00 +VAT which would come from the responsive maintenance budget.

The committee may wish to consider increasing these budgets to allow for the changes.

Responsive Maintenance budget

Given that Neston Town Council is now responsible for arranging and paying for its own minor maintenance issues, under £1500, the committee may wish to consider increasing this budget. The current year's budget was set at £4700; this was prior to our meeting with CWaC property services. We have encountered some significant issues that we have had to fund and we are fortunate that our caretaker can turn his hand to most tasks, which has saved the expense of hiring in contractors for many situations. However, at month 6 we have less than £1000 left in the budget. It is therefore clear that next year's budget will need to increase.

Any increase should also take into account the issues raised regarding the front stage curtain and fire proofing. Plus, monies required to purchase some new indoor bins/recycling stations to allow for the new legislation, see above.

Nicky McMahon
Market & Town Hall Manager