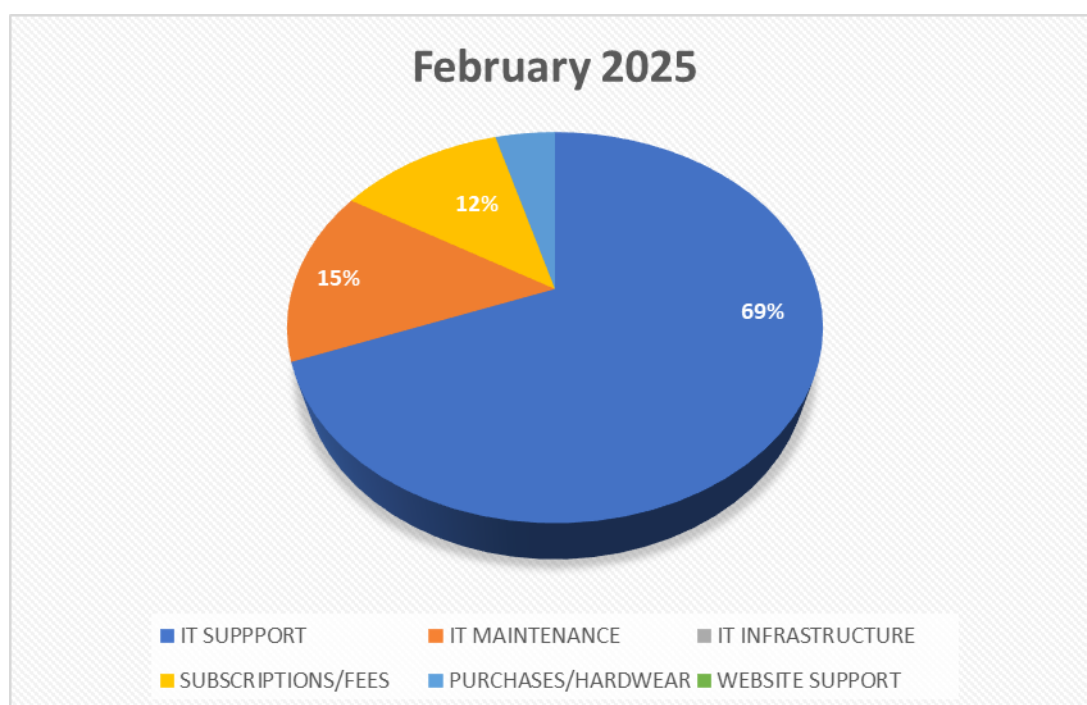


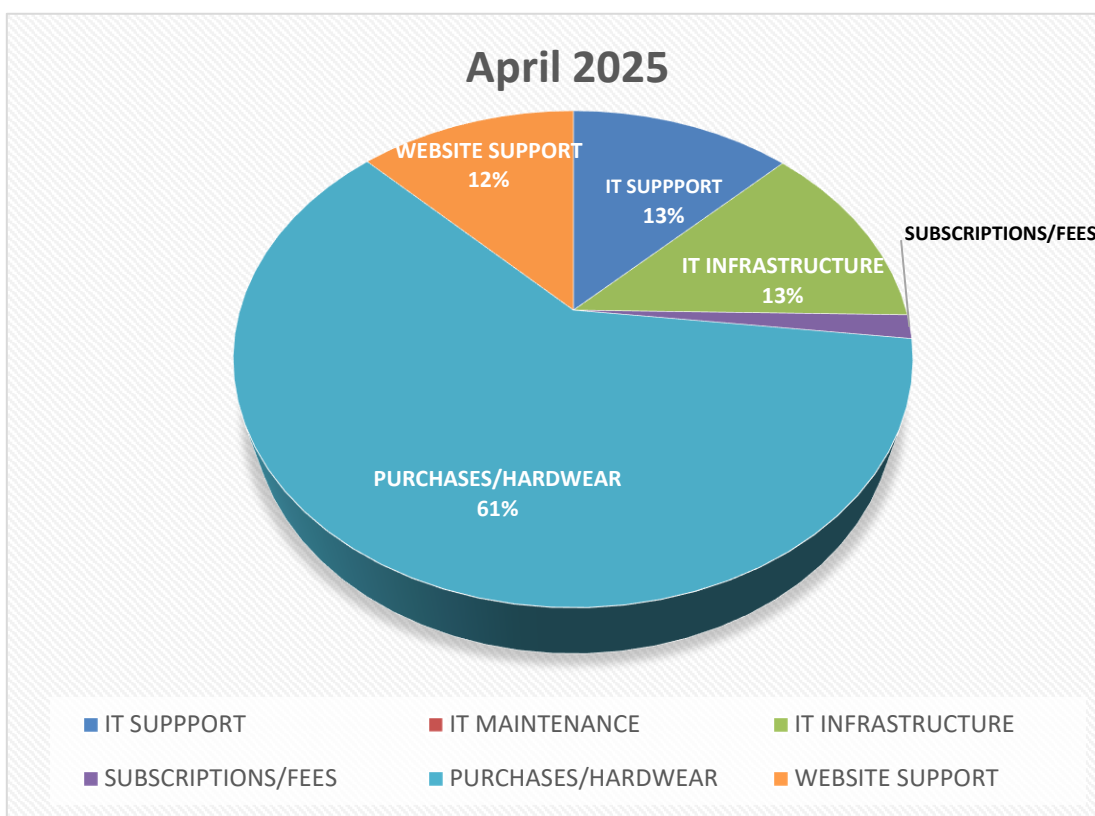
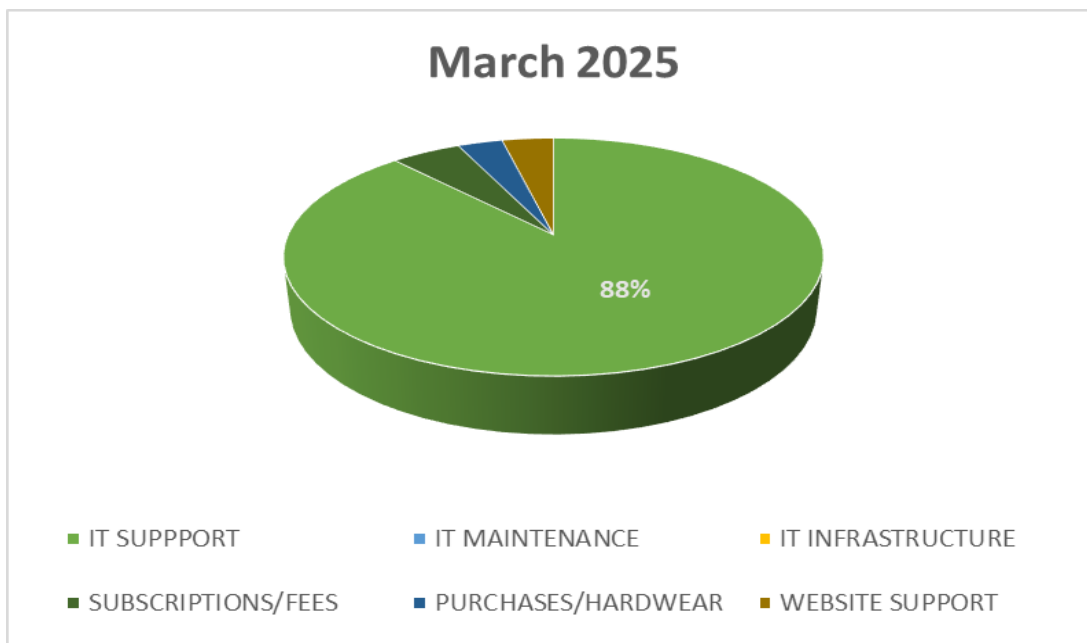


Meeting (No)	Finance & Administration (2)	
Date	30th September 2025	
Document	Ref No	
Budget 4055 Expenditure by Category ICT Maintenance		FA2/17

MONTH	FEBRUARY 25	MARCH 25	APRIL 25	MAY 25	JUNE 25
IT SUPPPORT	£875.52	£1,382.40	£372.00	£1,572.00	£5,172.00
IT MAINTENANCE	£184.32	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
IT INFRASTRUCTURE	£0.00	£0.00	£372.00	£0.00	£0.00
SUBSCRIPTIONS/FEES	£151.57	£77.99	£45.59	£508.78	£384.00
PURCHASES/HARDWEAR	£55.20	£50.40	£1,784.12	£1,108.96	£49.80
WEBSITE SUPPORT	£0.00	£57.60	£366.00	£48.00	£0.00
FOI/SAR REQUESTS	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
TOTAL	£1,266.61	£1,568.39	£2,939.71	£3,237.74	£5,605.80

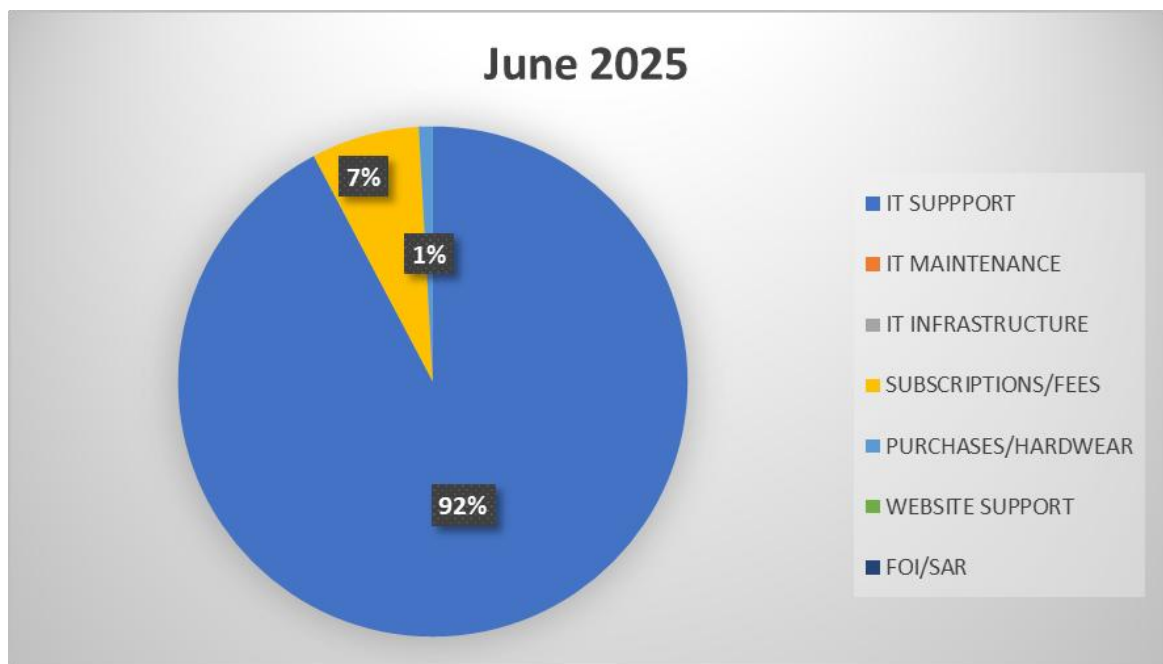
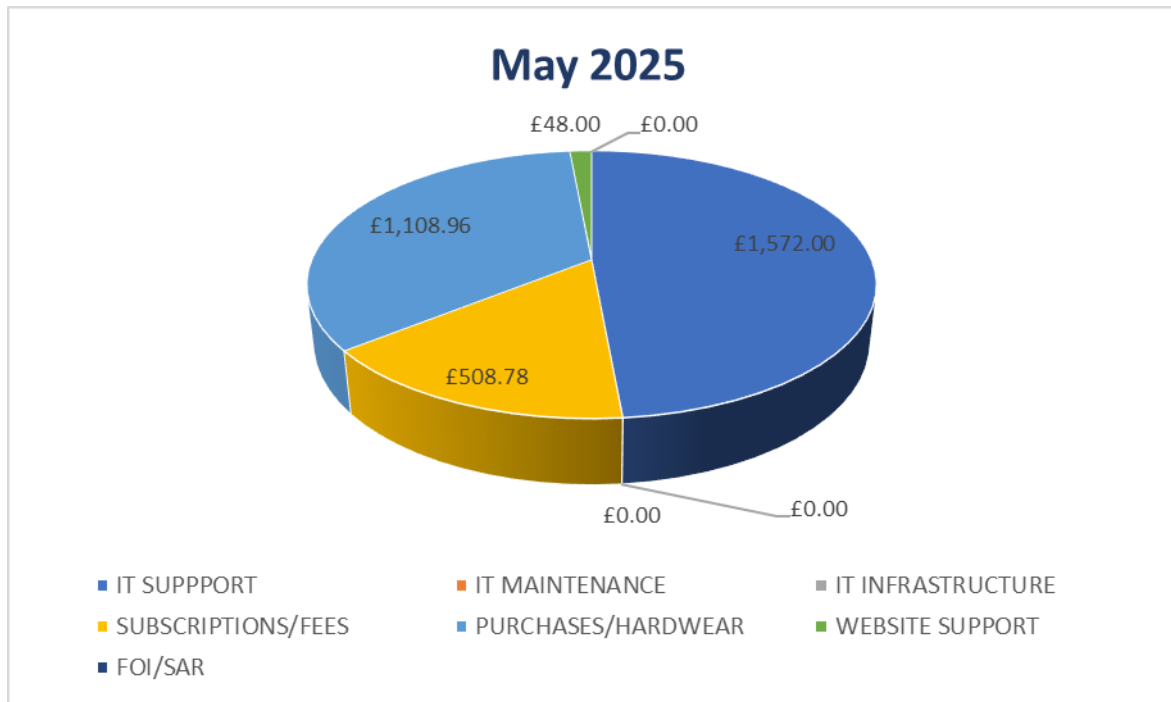


The data contained within this report shows ICT support and expenditure at Neston Town Council from February - June 2025. Please note that all figures are excluding VAT. Each month is broken down per area of expenditure from invoices and timesheets provided by the Council's IT contractor on a monthly basis.



The Town Council’s new server was purchased in April 2025 and installed in June 2025. This was a planned one-off purchase to upgrade the Council’s system, which was budgeted for and scheduled for 25/26 after the previous server reached 5 years old, to ensure stability across the organisation and to protect the Council’s records and databases, the majority of which are digital.

The installation was more involved than first predicated, requiring further updates and an increase in technician hours in order to complete the upgrade and to ensure all officers’ machines were back up and running to full capacity again. The Council’s IT consultant has provided a full rundown of works completed which is attached as an appendix to this report (page 4).



Zoë Dean
Locum Chief Officer, Neston Town Council
September 2025

Detailed information regarding the upgrades and server replacement:

The Town Council's new server was purchased in April 2025 and installed in June 2025. This was a pre-planned one-off purchase. Designed to upgrade the Council's critical IT systems, which was budgeted for and scheduled for 25/26 after the previous server reached 5 years old in 2024. The "Server 2019" software on which the server ran was also beyond the mainstream support level and had progressed into long term servicing support only. The new server was installed with server 2022 software (upgradable to server 2025 at a future point if required) and which has extended support until 2031. Comprising of newer, faster hardware it's an appropriate, modern, solution for the Council.

This new server also ensures technical stability and efficiency across the organisation and further protects the Council's records and databases, the vast majority of which are digital, through utilizing stronger and more contemporary software, encryption and hardware.

The installation became a bit more involved than first planned back in early 2024, as Microsoft suddenly announced in April 2025, that Windows 10 was being put into end of life, with all support completely removed from October of 2025 (somewhat unusual for such a widely adopted operating system). The plan was therefore adapted in June 2025 to include the upgrades to the staff hardware also as this became necessary as none of the existing desktop PCs were windows 11 compatible. This was done by utilising windows 11 compatible components and installing them within the existing hardware. In short, this measure avoiding the expensive need to purchase five or six new computers at the cost of some £3000-£3500 in the immediate future.

This process however required additional work and an increase in technician hours in order to complete the server upgrade, data migration from the 11 devices, completing and testing the Desktop PC upgrades and performing full resets on the Laptop devices. However the cost savings achieved were considerable and the upgrades have future proofed the organisations hardware.

This leaves the Council in an excellent position in terms of IT security. The server will be added to the long-term replacement list 5+ years hence and will work efficiently until then. There is scope to add additional users to the server should the staff team increase proving flexible headroom for the organisation.

The Desktop PC's are all now windows 11 compatible and should remain in support for the next 3-5 years (and possibly indefinitely if Microsoft keep their word that Windows 11 will be the last OS upgrade). The minor hardware refresh for the desktop PCs should push back the need to replace them until at least 2028 (barring any serious component failure). The laptops have all had a gentle refresh and are fully upgraded to Windows 11. Two of the laptop have had replacement batteries installed - these being the two older laptops from circa 2019/2020. It is anticipated the laptops will not need replacement before 2028 at the earliest and likely longer and as they were purchased deliberately as devices for which parts can be replaced, as opposed to some laptops where the components are all soldered to the mainboard of the computer, should provide flexibility for ease of maintenance in the future too.

George Eaton
Managing Director, Belowzer0 Multimedia Ltd