

## **Budget Forum 24<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

### **Proposal to remove the school's delegated funding for copyright licence, E-teach and Cleapps membership**

#### **History**

Currently schools are delegated an amount of £147,000 for copyright licences and E-teach fees. Schools have the option to use this funding to buy into an SLA, to allow the council to centrally purchase licences on behalf of all schools and realise an economy of scale saving. The licences covered by the two SLAs (licences and e-teach) are identified in the list below:

- Copyright licence – a blanket licence allowing copying from books, magazines, journals and websites, the licence also allows use of copies for digital whiteboards and presentation software.
- Cleapps – radon testing and health and safety
- TV licences
- Radio licences
- Phonographic performance licence
- Music performance copyright licence
- Public video screening licence
- Printed music licence
- Education recording licence
- E-Teach

The following licences are not covered, and schools wishing to hold such licences currently need to purchase these separately.

- Church Copyright licence (covering songs of worship) – (This is not purchased on behalf of all schools as not required by all schools)
- Motion Picture Licensing company (covers non-theatrical copyright licencing) (this is not purchased as the Copyright licencing act allows for use of motion pictures for educational use)

Currently £147,000 is delegated to schools to cover licences and E-teach membership, however the cost this year is estimated at £150,000.

All schools currently decide to buy back into the central SLA to save on costs. AS all schools usually purchase this SLA, this is an example of funds delegated to schools which are immediately transferred back to the Local Authority.

Some schools also purchase the Church Copyright licence from their delegated budget.

#### **Proposal**

To avoid delegating funds to schools which they have limited option but to repay back, and to save on administration time, It is proposed that:

- The Directorate top-slice the amount of £160,000 from the delegated schools' budget and retain this funding centrally. (From April 2026)
- This centrally retained budget will be used to purchase all copyright licences and memberships for Cleapps and E-teach on behalf of all schools. This will also include the Church copyright licence payments for those schools that currently require this.
- Schools would no longer be required to procure their own licences for copyright and e-teach, which will no longer be delegated within the funding formula.