Report on Printer Rental vs. Domestic Printing: Recommendation for Copier Hire

Introduction:

In 2024, we purchased a new printer with scanning capabilities at a cost of £463.98. Alongside this, we incurred additional expenses for ink cartridges (£38.99, £103.99, £99.98, and £192.62). However, these cartridges were expensive and required complicated chip replacements, creating both operational challenges and hidden costs. Furthermore, we have paid for 3 hours of IT support at £30.00 per hour when things went wrong.

We are currently in-putting a massive amount of data to facilitate the new cemetery software. The administration needs of Barnton Parish Council events group has also increased.

To address these issues and obtain better value for money, I have reviewed two copier rental options in comparison to the current domestic printing and scanning setup. Below are the details and the cost breakdown of each option, both options include ink and maintenance;-

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Option 1: Copy Print Solutions Ltd.

Device Overview:

- **Brand/Model:** Fully Refurbished Sharp (MX Range) or Toshiba (e-Studio Range)
- **Print Speed:** 25 PPM or above (Mono & Colour)
- **Paper Handling:**
    - 100-sheet Document Feeder
    - Supports A6 to SRA3 paper (52–280gsm)
    - 2 x 550-sheet multi trays (A4/A3)
    - 100-sheet multi bypass tray
- **Key Features:**
    - PostScript support (standard)
    - AirPrint compatibility (standard)

- Print Resolution: 1,200 x 1,200 dpi
- 6GB RAM
- 128GB SSD Storage
- Cloud Enabled

Cost Breakdown:

- **Purchase Price:** £995.00 (one-time)
- **Lease Options:**
  - **3-Year Lease:** £31.34/month
  - **5-Year Lease:** £20.59/month
  - **Rolling Monthly Rental (90 days, no finance required):** £30.00/month

Service Costs (including toner, parts, labour, and maintenance):

- **Colour Print:** £0.028 per page (£28.00 per 1,000 pages)
- **Mono Print:** £0.0028 per page (£2.80 per 1,000 pages)

Option 2: Active 8 Managed Technologies Ltd.

Device Overview:

- **Brand/Model:** Refurbished Canon DX-C3822i
- **Print Speed:** 22 PPM (Mono & Colour)
- **Paper Handling:**
  - Document Feeder
  - Duplex Printing
  - Supports A4/A3
  - Network / AirPrint
- **Key Features:**
  - Copy, Scan to Email/Folder
  - Adobe PostScript

    - McAfee Security
    - 2 x 550-sheet Trays
    - Cabinet Included

Cost Breakdown:

- **Purchase Price:** £998.00 (one-time)
- **Lease Options:**
    - **3-Year Lease:** £105.00 per quarter
    - **5-Year Lease:** £69.00 per quarter

Service Costs (including toner, parts, labour, and maintenance):

- **Colour Print:** £0.035 per page
- **Mono Print:** £0.0035 per page

Challenges with Current Domestic Printers:

1. **High Cartridge Costs:** The ongoing costs for ink cartridges are substantial, significantly impacting the overall cost of operation.
2. **Complicated Maintenance:** The need to replace chips in cheaper cartridges adds time and frustration to maintenance, reducing productivity.
3. **Limited Scanning Features:** The flatbed scanning only allows single-page scans, which is inefficient for batch scanning and sending documents to email.

Why Copier Hire is the Better Option:

Both copier rental options offer comprehensive service coverage, including toner, parts, labour, and maintenance. The primary differences between the two options lie in the costs and features:

- **Lower Monthly Costs:** Copy Print Solutions offers a more affordable leasing option at **£20.59 per month** for a 5-year lease. In comparison, Active 8 Managed Technologies charges £69.00 per quarter (equivalent

to £23 per month) for a 5-year lease. The 3-year lease option from Active 8 is significantly higher at £35 per month.

- **Enhanced Functionality:** The Copy Print Solutions model supports a **100-sheet document feeder** and higher print speeds (25 PPM), which aligns with the needs of the Parish Council. The Canon DX-C3822i has similar features but at a slightly lower print speed (22 PPM). The Copy Print model also has cloud-enabled capabilities, offering greater flexibility for modern office environments.
- **Service and Support:** Both options include full-service coverage but Copy Print Solutions provides the added benefit of **AirPrint compatibility** and **PostScript support**, which ensures seamless integration with mobile devices and advanced document processing.

Conclusion:

The current office costs are between £40.00 - £50.00 per month.

The same service for printer hire would cost £20.59.

Considering the high costs, maintenance complexity, and limitations of the current domestic printers, I recommend opting for the **Copy Print Solutions Ltd.** rental option. This choice provides the best balance of cost-effectiveness, functionality, and ongoing support. The flexible leasing options, combined with lower service costs and advanced features, will provide significant savings over time while meeting the operational needs of the Parish Council.

By choosing this rental option, we will be able to streamline our printing and scanning processes, eliminate unexpected costs, and ensure that our equipment remains in top condition with minimal effort required on our part.