This committee notes;

That paper and print products account for around 1% of all carbon emissions.

Taking the UK government's conversion factors for carbon emissions, just 100,000 sheets of A4 paper has a carbon footprint of 6,000kg and requires eight trees and 2,000kWh of energy. The same paper recycled seven times produces 3,200kg of carbon over its lifetime.

Paper
- Copier paper recycling can save 2 tonnes of wood for every tonne of paper
- Recycled paper creates 74% less air pollution, with 40% less energy needed and 35% less water needed.

Printers
Energy consumption during the printing process plays an important role in carbon release. This is almost negligible for an inkjet printer, which only needs 15 watts to print. Using a laser printer (the expected majority for Flintshire Council), which during the warm-up phase requires around 1300 watts:

- Per kilowatt hour, 474g CO_2, or 7.9g of CO_2 per minute is produced.
- A laser printer that prints 10 pages per minute with 1.3KW causes 7.9g CO_2 x 1.3KW = 10.27g CO_2.

Producing an average of CO_2 emissions per printed page is 5g if an inkjet printer is used, and 6g if a laser printer is used.

This doesn't take into consideration the components used in print devices can include non-recycled plastics used to make the device. Like the plastics required for toners and cartridges, essential to run the devices.

While toner waste is one of the major electronic waste materials posing serious environmental threat and health hazards. Globally, only about 20–30% of toner waste is recycled, while the remaining percentage is dumped in landfills.

Over 65 million printer cartridges are sold each year in the UK alone. Of these 65 million cartridges, only an estimated 15% are recycled or reused.

All while an estimated half of all pages printed are never even looked at.

The committee recommends to cabinet that a policy be implemented across all departments setting out that printing should only be considered where:
- There is a statutory requirement to provide information in printed form;
- A disabled staff member or service user requires material in printed form because they are disabled;
- A staff member or service user requires material in printed form because they are digitally excluded;
- The relevant chief officer has directed that a paper backup of the document is necessary for service resilience, or
- For the purposes of advertising a service or change in service to the general public; and
- That all paper, toners, inks and consumables procured will be made of recycled materials and recycled after use.

The committee also calls on the cabinet to initiate an efficiency review of the current stock of printers owned or operated by the council with a view to rationalising these to the minimum strictly necessary.

Proposed by Dan Rose
Seconded by Gillian Brockley