

# CARBON DATA & TARGETS SUMMARY

OUR ROUTE TO EMISSIONS  
REDUCTION AS A COUNCIL  
AND ACROSS THE DISTRICT

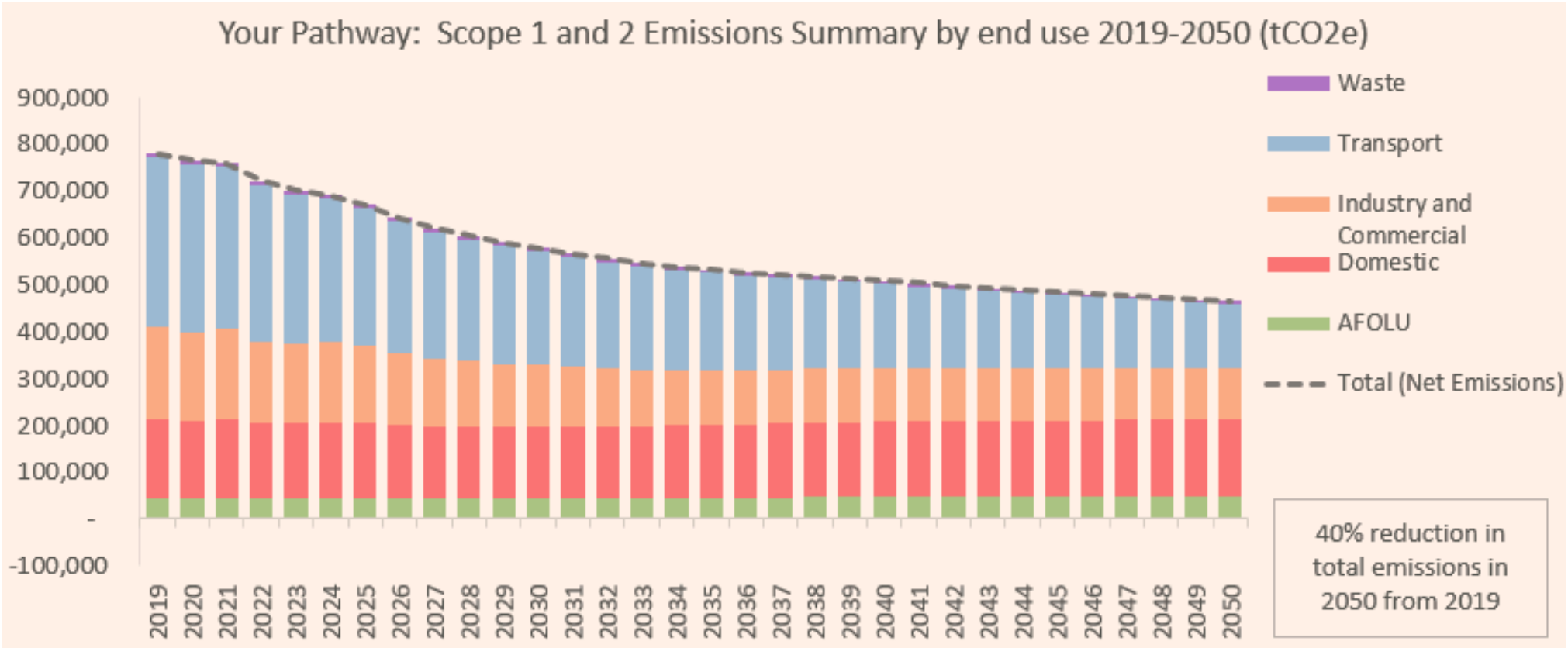


Stroud District Council set an ambitious target of carbon neutrality by 2030 for council offices and operations, and for the wider district. The concept of “Carbon Neutrality” (no requirement to reduce emissions, but simply to offset them) is widely being replaced by Net Zero, which means driving all emissions down to as low as possible before attempting to balance or offset any remaining carbon emissions.

**OUR DISTRICT**

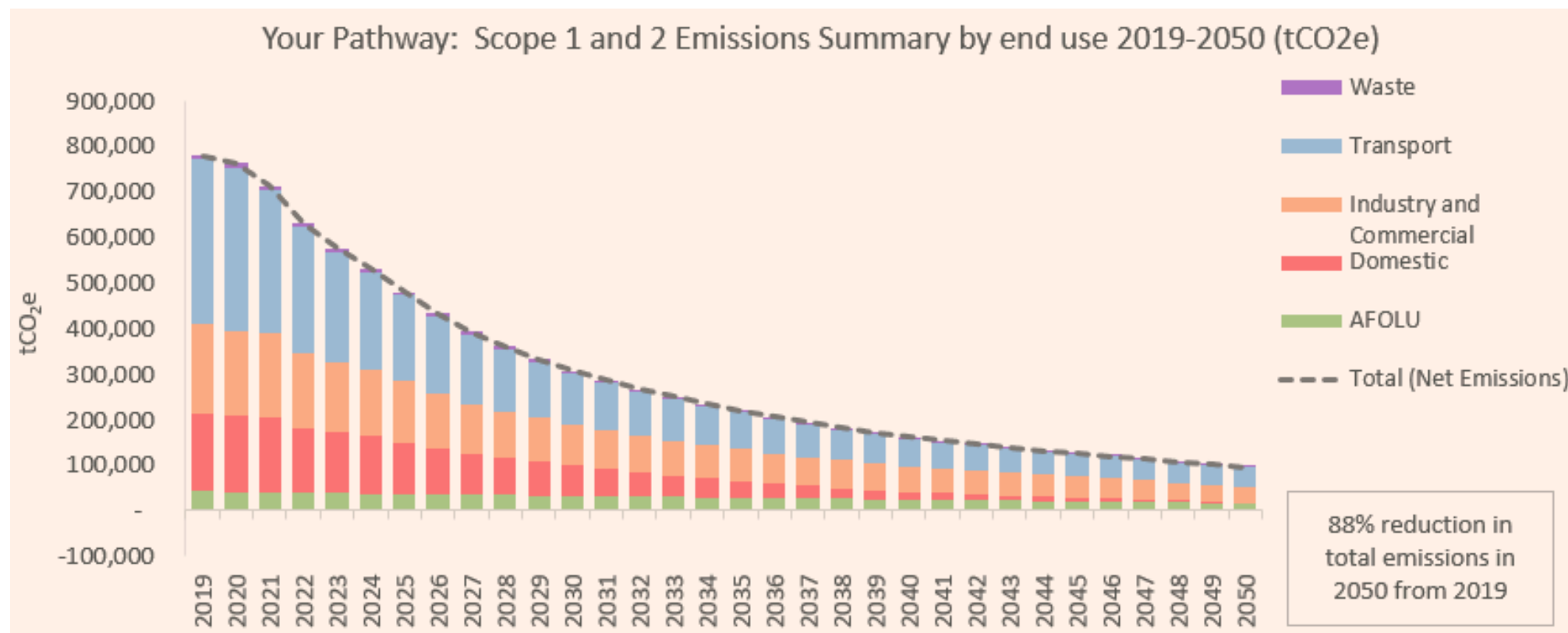
Fig. 1 and 2 below illustrate district-wide emissions trajectory, based on “business as usual” (no increasing efforts) and the trajectory following Government-aligned targets. It is clear that the majority of emissions within Stroud District are outside of the Council’s direct control or are subject to long term decision making and processes over which the council has a varying level of influence.

Fig. 1: District-level trajectory if it continues with “business as usual”



## OUR DISTRICT

Fig. 2: District-level trajectory if it aligns with Government Net Zero targets



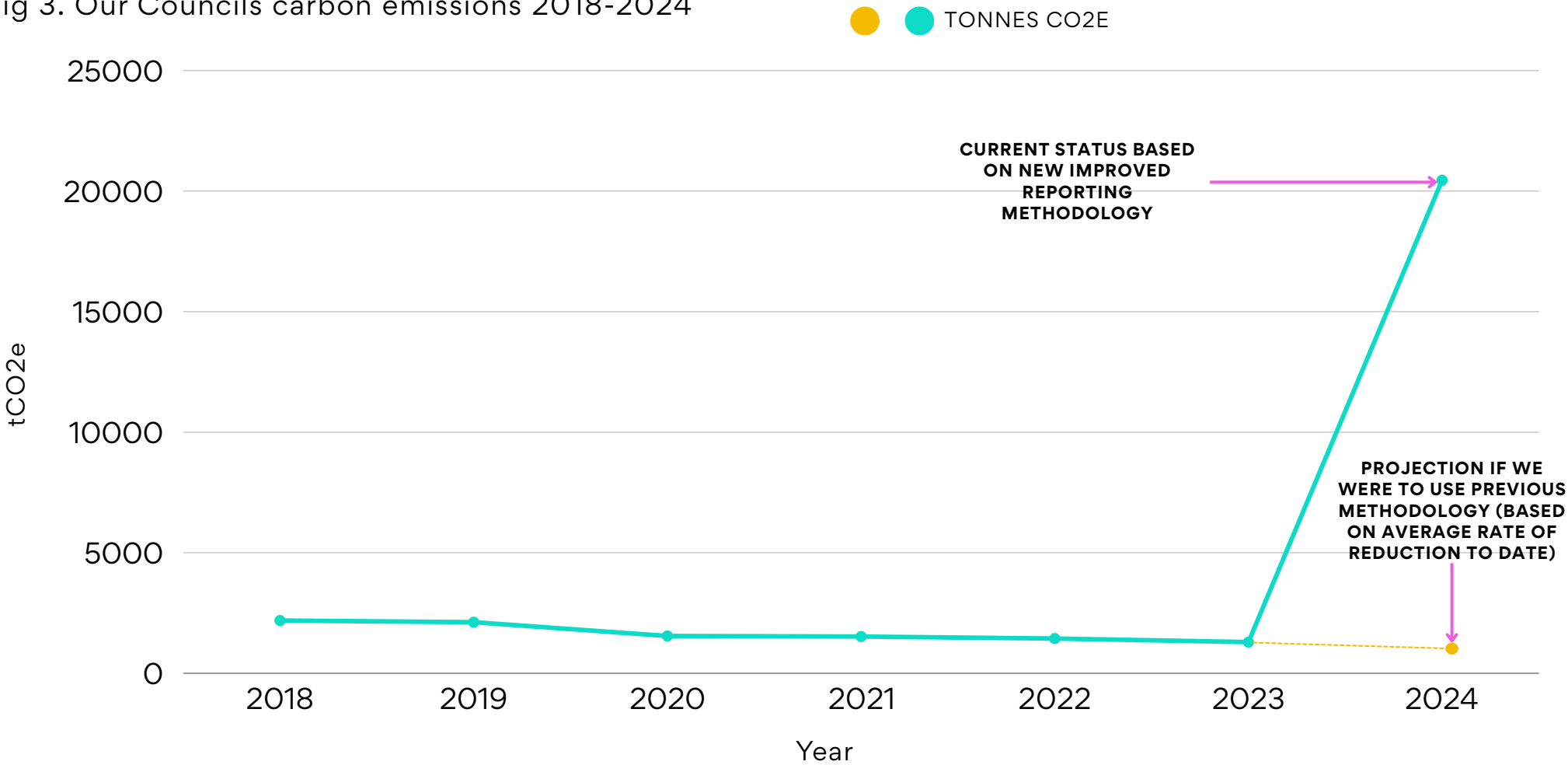
# OUR COUNCIL

Since declaring a climate emergency in 2019, our reported council-wide emissions have been steadily decreasing by an average of 179 tCO2e per year.

In 2024, the Council revised its carbon accounting methodology to include a broader and more accurate dataset. This revision increased our reported emissions, not due to a sudden increase in actual emissions, but rather the inclusion of previously unaccounted-for sources. This has increased our Scope 3 emissions in particular (emissions from the goods and services the Council procures to deliver our services, from our pensions investments and from major capital projects).

Fig. 3 below shows our emissions to date, including our revised methodology, and a projection for where we would be had we retained the previous methodology

Fig 3. Our Councils carbon emissions 2018-2024



**OUR COUNCIL**

If the Council were to maintain a target to be Net Zero by 2030 across all scopes, we would need to reduce our carbon by an average of ~3,408 tonnes each year from now until 2030; our average reduction since 2018 has been around 179 tonnes per year.

Unfortunately, this is not a realistic target, partly due to the resources need to achieve this but also because many of the businesses and partners working with and for the Council that make up our scope 3 will be working to achieve Net Zero emissions by the 2050 target.

The below graph illustrates where we are now, and a front-loaded trajectory for reaching Net Zero by 2030

Fig 4. Carbon emissions to date and trajectory based on current target

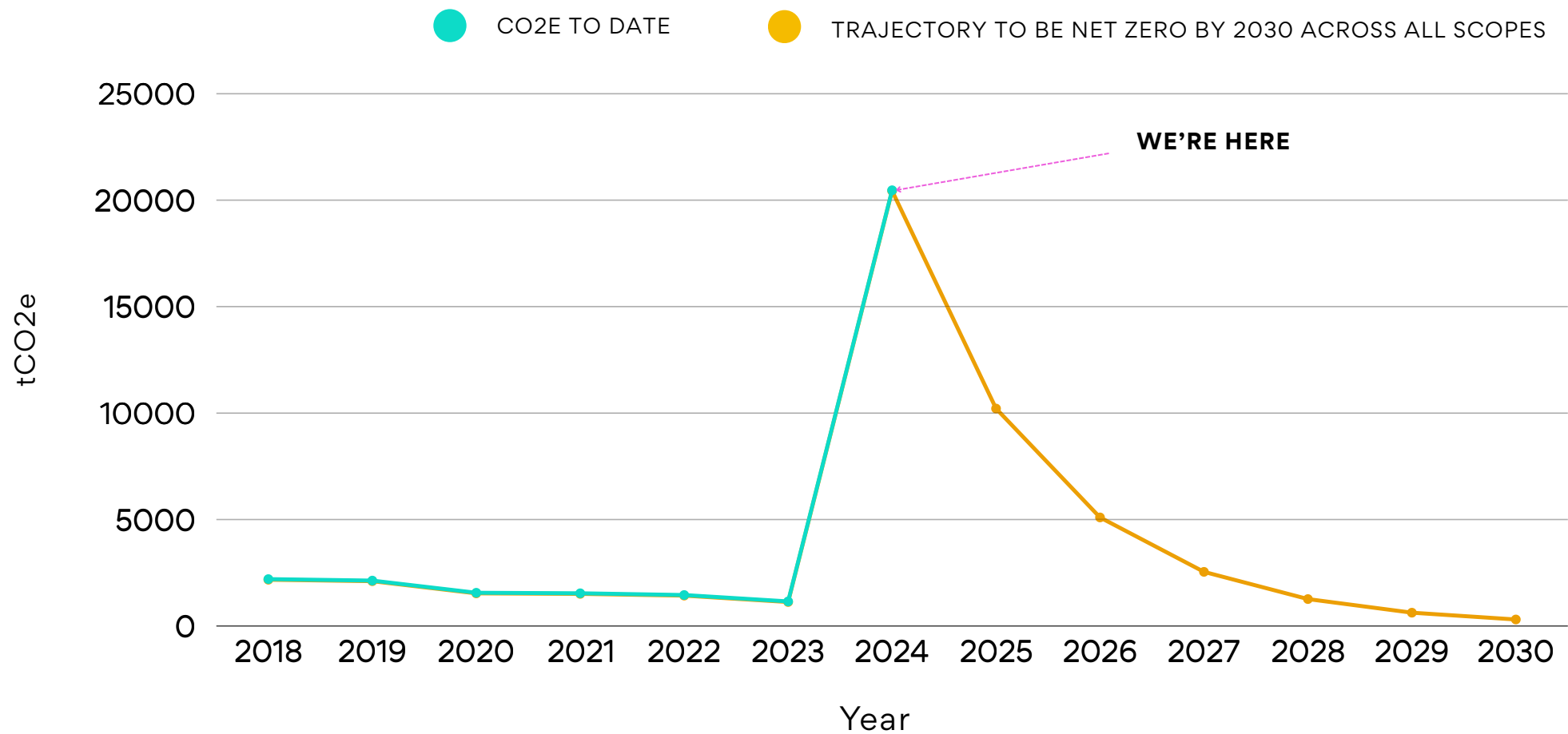
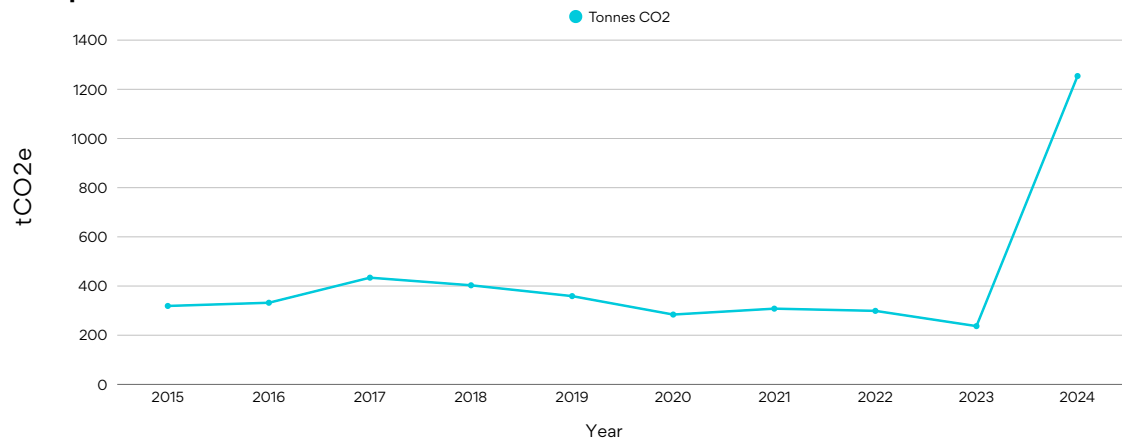


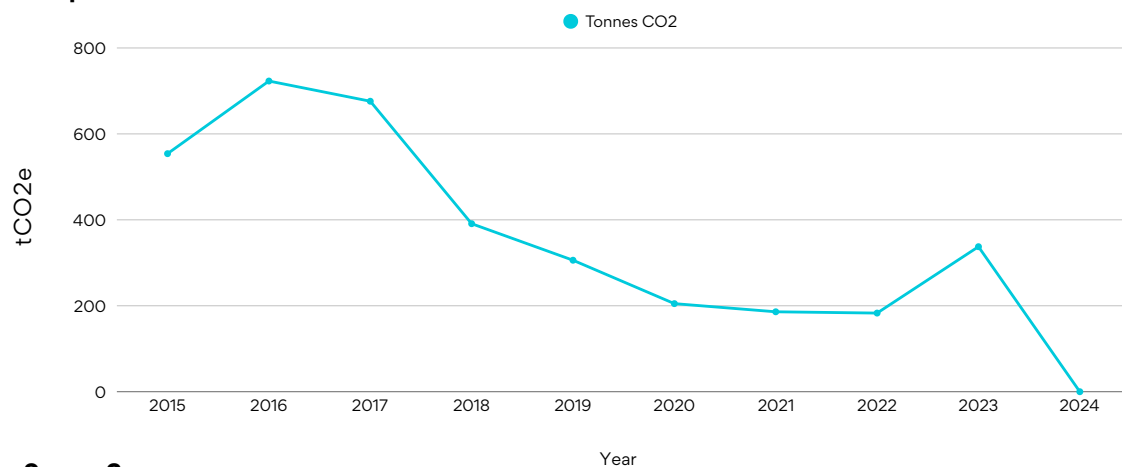
Fig 5. Council emissions by scope

### Scope 1



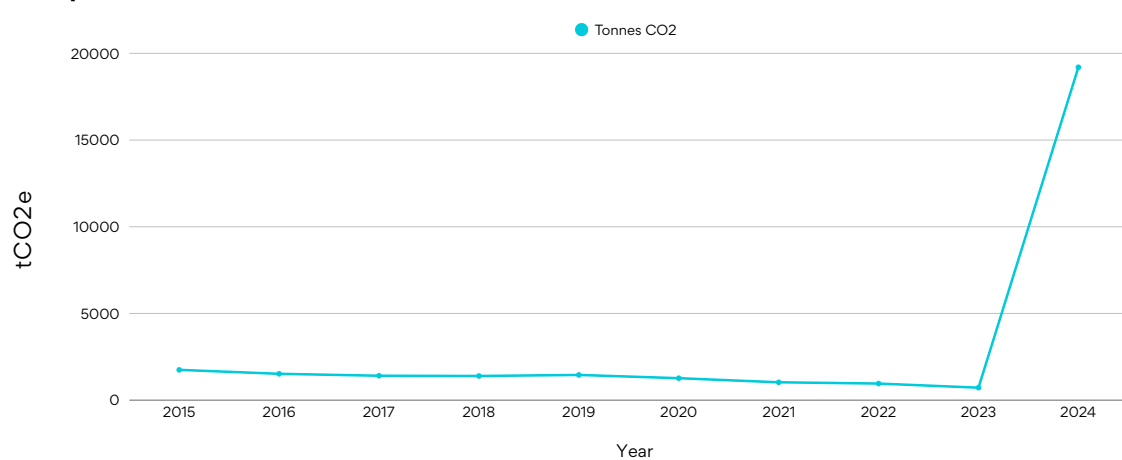
Scope 1 has sharply increased because our waste fleet emissions are now accounted for under scope 1, and we have implemented more accurate calculations

### Scope 2



Scope 2 is now accounted for as net zero because the Council's energy contract is based on a renewable energy tariff. We will report our consumption figures separately, but for the purposes of our emissions calculations, scope 2 emissions are zero

### Scope 3



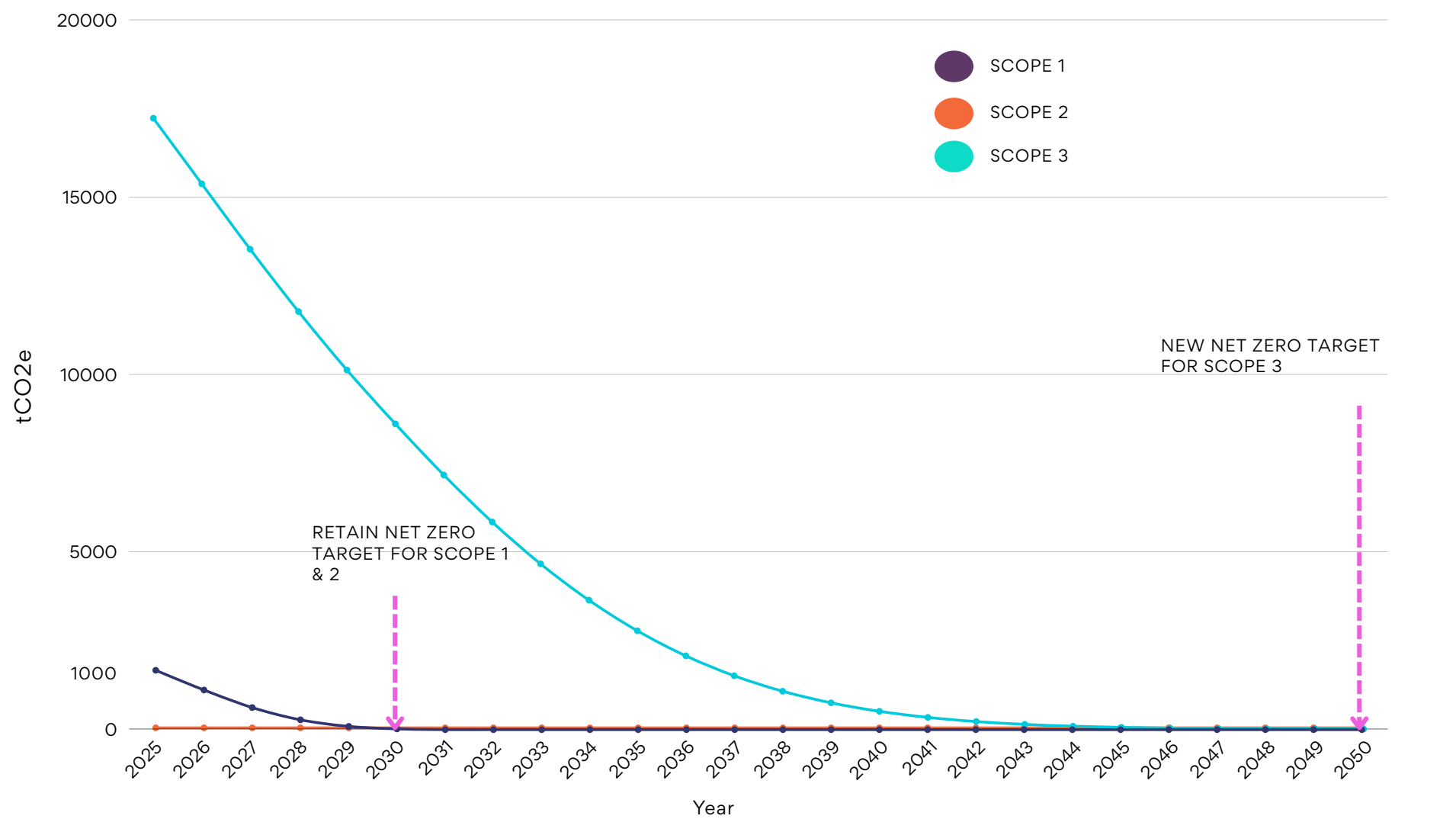
Scope 3 has seen the largest proportional increase as we now have data for more of our emissions, which gives us a far more accurate account. This is spend-based carbon accounting, and includes all procurement and pensions

**OUR COUNCIL AND DISTRICT - NEW TARGETS**

The Council believes it is possible to achieve Net Zero emissions across Scope 1 and Scope 2 by 2030. However, for our Scope 3 emissions, the target will now be to reduce those to net zero by 2050 or as soon as possible to align with our suppliers.

Our new ambition for the district will be to encourage and enable the district to meet net zero by 2050. Our new ambition for the council is to achieve net zero across scopes 1 and 2 by 2030, and net zero across scope 3 by 2050.

Fig 6. Council emissions by scope including new targets



## **OFFSETTING**

Carbon offsetting has a traded value of approximately £50 per tonne of CO<sub>2</sub>e as a baseline\*, so the absolute lowest cost to offset our emissions for 2024 would be £1.03m. If we were to assume little to no reduction year on year (in the case that we were to offset only), that would cost us £25.8m and would have to continue indefinitely.

Implementing measures to reduce our emissions at source is significantly more cost-effective long term.

\*<https://www.carbonpricingleadership.org/>