Northwest Fire & Rescue



1. Asset information

The Project consists of the design, construction, financing, operation and maintenance for 16 community fire stations, of which seven are in Merseyside, five in Cumbria, and four in Lancashire. The fire stations represent well modernised operational facilities with additional resources for community use such as meeting rooms, multi-function lecture rooms and gyms. The stations were constructed on a mixture of new and existing sites in a range of locations from rural stations to busy inner-city stations.



services

The facilities became operational in 2013 and the concession runs until 2038.

2. Impact

Fire stations providing c.500,000 people first responders' network, protection against fire-related injuries and fatalities and mitigation of air, water and soil pollution caused by fire incidents.



3. Environment

GHG emissions

The company has an active energy reduction program in place with targets set and periodically sharpened and performance showing improvement over time. It minimises carbon use through improvement in energy efficiency strategies and low carbon on-site generation. The Authorities and FM Contactor are jointly responsible for the energy and monitoring is carried out by both parties with a pay and gain share.

During the year, material improvements were made to reduce energy consumption.

Climate risk

The project was screened to evaluate the potential physical impacts from climate change based on 'Paris-aligned' (RCP2.6 ~+1°C) and 'High emissions' (RCP8.5 ~+3.7°C) scenarios across three time periods (2020, 2050 and 2100). Most assets within the project maintains a Very Low or Low physical climate risk score under both scenarios, one asset see its exposure to physical risk increase after 2050.

Waste & Water

The company operates a policy to minimise waste sent to landfill. The waste collection has always been recorded as zero waste to landfill as it is transported to a waste to an energy plant where it is incinerated.

The company and its subcontractors have an active water usage reduction programme in place. Rain / grey water is harvested from the building roofs, treated to eradicate pollutants and used for toilet flushing.

The management services provider continues to monitor waste and water consumption and is actively exploring opportunities to reduce them wherever possible.

Biodiversity

The asset is built in compliance with local environmental regulations. During the concession period, the Portfolio Company focuses on promoting restoration efforts to improve degraded or removed ecosystems that act as natural carbon sinks and can improve resilience to climate-related damages, such as:

- habitats for indigenous species (i.e., bat boxes, insect hotels, beehives, wild bee hotels, fish ladders)
- expansion of green spaces in urban areas (i.e., planting indigenous tree species, shrubs and flower meadows).

Additionally, the Portfolio Company has a Biodiversity policy in place.

4. Social

Health & Safety

Health and safety is on the agenda each board meeting. Our asset managers work actively with the Portfolio Company or its management service providers, to promote a strong health and safety culture, facilitate the sharing of best practices.

We endorse a zero-tolerance approach to occupational health and safety incidents. Additionally, the Portfolio Company has a Health & Safety policy in place and regularly conducts a fire or health and safety audit.

Diversity

Not applicable as the Portfolio Company does not employ any staff.

Impact for local communities

North West Fire and Rescue plays a crucial role in the local communities by ensuring rapid response to emergencies, protecting lives, and minimizing property damage. The stations provide fire prevention education, support safety initiatives, and foster community resilience. Firefighters also engage in outreach programs, collaborating and educating residents. Their presence contributes to a safer, more prepared community, ultimately enhancing overall public well-being and reducing the impact of disasters.

5. Governance

Delegation & oversight

The Portfolio Company directors review on a quarterly basis comprehensive board report, including both general project management and financial management. The project has a rigorous governance structure in place with quarterly board meetings, ad-hoc meetings when required and an authority delegation matrix to the management services provider.

The Portfolio Company has robust ESG policies and procedures in place and clear board-level responsibility to monitor their application. The ESG standard policies include:

- Biodiversity policy
- Code of Conduct, including anti-bribery, anti-corruption and non-discrimination
- Conflict of interest
- Cyber-security
- Diversity
- ESG
- Health and safety (workplace accident prevention)
- Anti-slavery & Human Trafficking policy (Modern Day Slavery)
- Rapid escalation
- Responsible contractor
- Tax
- Whistleblowing

The Portfolio Company holds frequent meetings with the public sector client to promote collaboration, coordination and integration of operations.

Reporting

The Portfolio Company uses a quarterly board pack, reporting to the board of directors on the operational and financial performance of the project and compliance with its obligations and regulation/legislation, including the policies.

Additionally, the Portfolio Company reports annually into BBGI's ESG KPI survey, which composed of 100+ data points, covering all aspects of ESG oversight.

Cyber security

Portfolio Company and its subcontractors continuously monitor that the cyber security policy is in place and perform information risk analysis and develops mitigating measures. They have a robust and comprehensive IT backup system in place. Additionally, the Portfolio Company has a Cyber security policy in place.

