

CHESTER FIRE STATION

Social Value Completion Case Study



CLIENT: Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service
LOCATION: Cheshire
CONSTRUCTION VALUE: £5.8m
CONTRACTOR: ISG Construction Ltd
START - FINISH DATE: September 2019 - January 2021
SECTOR: Blue Light
FORM OF CONTRACT: JCT D&B (2016)
DELIVERY TYPE: Design and Build

The new Chester Fire Station is a state-of-the-art facility which includes a training building and tower, an aerial ladder platform, and a specialist water rescue unit. The station also includes community facilities to further encourage integration and knowledge sharing with Chester residents. The project was delivered during COVID -19 pandemic.

ENHANCING SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

We worked closely with our labour agency partner to ensure that opportunities for employment were advertised in Cheshire. One individual working on site via a labour agency was supported closely by the ISG site team, who even bought him a toolkit. Recognising the importance of professional development, we promoted a range of formal courses to ISG and supply chain partners, with 62.2 training weeks completed. Passionate about supporting others Chloe Payne, ISG Social Value Apprentice, attended mentoring skills training, and has since gone on to mentor a young person.

Strong relations with our supply chain partners ensured that 6 apprentices were employed on the project, with a total of 88.8 apprentice weeks worked. The majority were employed in mechanical and electrical roles. The project created two new apprentice opportunities in electrical installation, one of which was recruited by Site Electrics Limited. ISG also directly employed and supported one level 5 degree apprentice through our ISG programme.



Social Value outcomes:

- £2,758,050 supply chain spend in Cheshire (as calculated by Social Profit Calculator LM3, including subcontractor local spend) – this represents 73% supply chain spend (including subcontractor local spend)
- Considerate Constructor Scheme score of 44 and Certificate of Excellence
- 3 educational activities
- 6 work experience placements
- 88.8 apprentice weeks
- 5 employment support activities
- 44% of labour from North West (16% from Cheshire)
- 6 apprentices supported by the project
- £5,138 charitable and pro bono donations
- 3 community events

RAISING ASPIRATIONS THROUGH LEARNING

Two of the six work placements supported by the project were young men, both aged 15 and high school pupils. Both individuals supported the ISG team to carry out tasks such as setting out, supporting the gateman, setting up site, and basic hand tool use under instruction. Mark Gibson, ISG Project Manager, is particularly passionate about supporting young people, and encouraged and mentored both boys to support them to achieve their green CSCS cards. They were also provided with free training, including asbestos awareness, PASMA, manual handling and level 1 Health & Safety. As a result of this support one of the young men has been employed as a local apprentice with an electrical engineering company.

We are passionate about promoting construction careers and inspiring the younger generation, and supported a range of local schools and colleges:

- Delivered a Week of Work Experience (WOWEX) programme. The programme offered young people a week-long work experience placement giving them the chance to gain hands-on experience in the construction industry and to build their key skills
- Our team supported a DEC (Design Engineer Construct) programme through, providing support for their virtual work experience, as part of 'student project' Q&A sessions.
- Worked in partnership with the Prince's Trust to provide CV support to young people, this involved us reviewing CVs and providing advice and guidance to support work readiness

INVESTING IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

Our project team and supply chain partners generously volunteered time and donated materials to support the local community in a number of ways:

- Community engagement event to view demolition activity, for local residents
- Donation of gardening tools and equipment to the Chester Postcode Gardener. This project supports individuals with mental health conditions, through volunteering projects which transforming local green spaces
- Through 'Trees for Life' the project offset the ISG construction carbon footprint by planting trees in a sustainably managed Scottish woodland
- Sponsorship of the Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service 2018 STAR Awards, whereby individuals in CFRS and community of Cheshire are recognised and celebrated for their outstanding contributions who have performed acts above and beyond the call of duty
- Landscaping of garden and donation of Covid-19 PPE for No71 mental health crisis centre

INVESTING IN THE LOCAL ECONOMY

We ensured our subcontractors sourced their supply chain and labour locally. We are very proud to have achieved £2,758,050 of supply chain spend within the Cheshire economy (as calculated by Social Profit calculator LM3). This figure represents ISG direct spend and the spend of our supply chain in the local economy, and makes up 73% of supply chain spend (including subcontractor local spend).

Our MEP subcontract partner achieved 75% spend within Cheshire as a result of their focus on supporting the local economy. A number of sub packages supported Cheshire SMEs, including mechanical and electrical materials and equipment, fire and security, audio visual equipment and labour provision.

CARBON POSITIVE STATION

Chester Fire Station is carbon positive – in other words, it uses less energy than it creates. Every opportunity was maximised on the project to reduce carbon emissions. The project also successfully achieved BREEAM very good. Please refer to ISG carbon case study for further details.

"A particularly pleasing aspect for me is that the building is carbon positive, which I think sends a real message about our commitment to being an organisation that not only cares about its people and communities, but also about the environment around us."

CHIEF FIRE OFFICER, MARK CASHIN

