

-  NET ZERO
-  SUSTAINABLE PLACES
-  INCLUSIVE GROWTH

A clear picture of infrastructure needs



Innovative community hub approach to improve condition of rural fire stations



THE SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE (SFRS) has 356 fire stations across the length and breadth of Scotland, with many of the more rural and island stations needing urgent investment to ensure:

- They remain as fit-for-purpose workplaces providing the equipment and space to respond to the needs of local communities
- The buildings meet statutory standards whilst providing an inclusive and dignified workplace so SFRS can attract and retain good people, and

- The stations are structurally sound and are financially viable to maintain

To support the SFRS our Asset Strategy and Workplace team, together with colleagues from across the hub Programme, Infrastructure Technology and Infrastructure Strategy teams, helped prepare an Outline Business Case (OBC) to maximise public value, and to seize the opportunity to support broader community resilience, including more joined-up public service delivery.

A particular focus of the OBC is to clearly show the link between the planned investment and the broad range of outcomes to be delivered, including:

- Enhanced rural and island service delivery
- Improved recruitment and retention of staff
- Carbon reduction
- Reduction in backlog maintenance expenditure

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- Reduced exposure to legal risk due to unsuitable facilities
- Investment in local communities

The OBC's recommended way forward is to replace the out-dated stations with Community Resilience Hubs which are built using modern methods of construction and promote collaborative partnership working, not only with other blue light organisations but other public service providers and community groups too.

A Scotland-wide programme approach is planned to deliver cost savings from economies of scale and provide communities and fire fighters with fit-for-purpose, compliant buildings from which to deliver community services.

Ijaz Bashir, Head of Asset Management, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, said: "Scottish Fire and Rescue Service has developed an innovative physical solution to keeping Scotland's remote rural and island communities safe. The Scottish Futures Trust helped us shape this solution and capture the vision, objectives, and benefits in a compelling Outline Business Case."

The initiative's strategic objectives align with the Scottish Government's three key themes for infrastructure investment namely:

- Enabling the transition to net zero emissions and environmental sustainability
- Driving inclusive economic growth, and
- Building resilient and sustainable places.

The OBC has been submitted to the Scottish Government and funding discussions are ongoing. In the meantime a pilot project is being progressed to test the concept and showcase the outcomes and benefits.