



MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Camden Council splashes out £25 million to restore historic baths**

Camden's multi-million pound project to improve the health of local people by restoring one of the capital's most historic Victorian baths has been completed.

The Kentish Town Sports Centre, Grafton Road is set to officially re-open on Monday 26 July, more than 100-years since Camden residents first swam there.

Councillor Tulip Siddiq, Camden Council's Cabinet Member for Culture, said, 'I am happy to open Kentish Town Sports Centre on time and on cost. I am delighted that local people will be able to enjoy the high-quality facilities in the leisure centre.

The £25.3 million project has refurbished the baths to its former glory and will offer a wide range of swimming and physical activities for the local community, including:

- Three swimming pools: the magnificent refurbished five lane Willes pool, a new 25 metre Grafton pool, and a new teaching pool
- 90 gym stations, using the latest Techno gym cardio and resistance equipment
- New Wii Fit interactive area and café
- New reception, changing rooms, and fitness gym.
- The building of an extension has provided much needed floor space for the centre's aerobic studios.

Activities will include:

- Swimming for everyone from early morning to the end of the day
- State of the art fitness gym
- Full swimming lesson programme for children and adults of all abilities
- Supervised swimming and activities for people with disabilities
- Family and parent toddler pool sessions
- Dance, and innovative activities for children and young people
- Yoga and pilates, spin, stretch and tone classes for adults

The building has achieved a Very Good BREEAM (environmental building assessment) rating, a huge achievement for the refurbishment of a historic building. It will be more eco-friendly and cheaper to run by using an existing bore-hole to supply water to the pools and other energy efficient technologies.

Dr Ian Dungavell, Director of the Victorian Society, said: "Camden is a shining light on how to treat our historic leisure facilities. We hope that more local authorities will follow their example."



Camden Council has worked in partnership with Davis Langdon, Roberts Limbrick Architect, Cyril Sweett, Max Fordham Consulting Engineers, Alan Baxter and Associates and Wates Construction on the refurbishment of Kentish Town Sports Centre.

Through this successful collaboration, the Council and its partners have aimed to ensure Kentish Town sports centre remains in keeping with its original design and the project remained within budget.

For more information visit: [www.camden.gov.uk/ktsc](http://www.camden.gov.uk/ktsc)

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## **Notes to Editors**

### **Wates**

Wates is one of the UK's largest family-owned construction services and development companies. Established in 1897, it remains privately owned by the Wates Family. Wates employs over 2000 people and had a turnover of £945 million in 2009.

The company works across a range of sectors, including education, prisons, affordable housing, retail fit out and refurbishment, office interiors, land development and commercial buildings.

Wates has three areas of Corporate Responsibility focus: to reduce the impact of CO2 emissions from our activities; Target Zero of eliminating all non-hazardous waste to landfill by 2010; and boosting skills and employability in areas of most need. Wates was awarded Gold status in the Business in the Community Responsible Business index in 2009.

Safety is a top priority within the Wates Group, and the excellent safety record has resulted in RoSPA Gold Awards for Occupational Safety and the British Safety Council Awards for the past seven years.

Wates was recognised externally in a variety of ways during the year including:

Major Contractor of the Year by Building Magazine  
RoSPA gold medal for safety and health for the seventh year in succession  
Housing Excellence and Sustainable Contractor of the Year awards

Two CIOB gold awards for Construction Manager of the Year



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