

NEWS RELEASE

Keys handed over to new Depot

Blaby District Council has received the keys to its brand new depot in Whetstone following an eight-month build programme.

Neighbourhood Services, made up of the Refuse and Recycling and Grounds Maintenance teams, will be making the short move to the modern, state-of-the-art facility over the coming weeks, with a grand opening in the autumn.

After over 60 years in Littlethorpe, the team's relocation will help to maintain the excellent reputation with residents for refuse and recycling. Currently, 97% of respondents to the most recent Residents Survey said they were satisfied with the service.

The new depot will be adjacent to the County Council-run Whetstone Recycling Site and contains an administration area, operational staff facilities and a fully equipped training room.

There will also be extensive vehicle maintenance facilities, such as a state-of-the-art vehicle servicing area, with the ability to expand the future workload if required.

Councillor Guy Jackson, Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood and Regulatory Services, said: "This development has been anticipated since planning permission was approved and the whole Council are excited by our fantastic new depot.

"This investment emphasises our commitment to the Neighbourhood Services team, and will enable them to continue their great work."

Tim Boxford, Associate at maber architects, designers of the new depot, said: "It has been fantastic to work with a client that has shared our vision that seemingly mundane buildings don't have to have mundane designs. We'd like to think that we



Jane Toman, Chief Executive

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have broken the mould for industrial buildings, by creating a set of simple, sleek forms realised in a striking palette of materials.”

Phil Harrison, Managing Director of Wates Construction Midlands and North, said: “Our delivery of Blaby District Council’s new depot has required a deep-rooted understanding of the technicalities involved in the build, as well as an established knowledge of the local environment to ensure the development is sympathetic to its surroundings.

“Wates’ proficiency in these areas has been demonstrated throughout the delivery of the scheme, which will ultimately enable the council to increase operational efficiency in its waste management.”

Once fully operational the depot will become the base for around 80 employees working within Neighbourhood Services.

ENDS

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Notes to Editors:

Blaby District Council currently undertakes contract work on behalf of other councils, including:

- Grounds maintenance within the district of Oadby & Wigston Borough Council
- Grass cutting for Leicestershire County Council

Please also note that Whetstone Recycling Site is solely the responsibility of Leicestershire County Council. Blaby District Council’s Whetstone Depot and the Recycling Site are not related.

Wates Construction

Wates was appointed to the project via the East Midlands Property Alliance (empa) framework agreement, which is managed by Scape. The framework was established in 2008 by local authorities to improve the cost efficiency of property services for local communities.

Wates Construction has a long track record of providing more for less to its clients across both the public and private sectors. Working on projects across a variety of

different areas, including education, commercial, heritage, local authority frameworks and mixed-use, Wates Construction specialises in maximising value by finding the most intelligent and creative ways to deliver outstanding buildings.

Wates Group, established over 119 years ago, employs approximately 4,000 people and posted a turnover of £1.27bn in 2015. Wates Group was awarded the Queen's Award for Enterprise 2016 for Sustainable Development for the second time in 2016, was the first large contractor ever to be awarded Business in the Community's Community Mark and in 2013 was awarded the inaugural National Business Award for Corporate Citizenship in recognition of its leadership and excellence in community investment.

Wates Construction brings together efficiency, responsibility and innovation all under the one roof – values which are, in a word, Wates.