

PRESS CLIPPING

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Hickton helps create two new pools

Hickton, one of the UK's leading Clerk of Works practices, has been involved in the construction of two major new swimming pools in Sunderland. Hetton-le-Hole Coalfields Swimming Pool and Silksworth Community Pool, completed at the end of January, were built to the highest standards, meeting both FINA (Federation Internationale de Natation) and the Amateur Swimming Association's requirements. Pellikaan, the main contractor, and B3 architects designed and built the two developments, which will now provide modern sports and leisure facilities in the North-East.

The old Hetton Leisure Complex was demolished to make way for the new Hetton Coalfields Swimming Pool, which has a 25-metre pool with viewing area, learner pool, fitness, sauna, reception and changing facilities. Silksworth Community Pool, Tennis & Wellness Centre is a brand new facility, again with a 25m swimming pool, along with eight indoor and five outdoor tennis courts, Wellness Centre and meeting room facilities as well as a newly refurbished lounge and cafe area. Commissioned by Sunderland City Council and working closely with Pellikaan, Hickton Clerk of Works ensured that both projects complied with the architect's specification, British Standards and requirements of the client. Having Hickton's Clerk of Works on site helped achieve a coordinated and joined up approach between the various contractors. For example, by working with each of

the subcontractors, Hickton was able to provide Pellikaan with early independent warning of problems concerning time, cost and quality. Both projects posed quite complex challenges during construction – the first of which was to address the effects of historical coal mining activities in the immediate area. This required vibro-tamp of the ground and installation of over 4,000 foundation piles. Hickton was able to use its many years of experience in this area to work with the contractor on a speedy and efficient resolution. Demolition material from the old Hetton Leisure Complex was crushed, screened and re-used in the foundations to reduce traffic to and from site.

A spokesperson from Pellikaan, explains: "Having Hickton on site was an invaluable help because it gave us independent feedback on all aspects of the build. Take the example of subcontractors, where Hickton was able to give us accurate and timely feedback on standards, which provided advanced notice of any build quality issues before they arose. This 'right first time' approach was appreciated by both ourselves and the client." Hickton is an award winning ISO9001 Clerk of Works practice that provides highly qualified and experienced professionals to ensure that construction projects are completed 'right first time'. Hickton employs around 50 experienced inspectors based nationwide to provide Clerk of Works services.

