

# News

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## **Handover marks completion of Blackpool Talbot Gateway office**

Muse Developments has handed over the 126,000 sq ft Bickerstaffe Square office development at Talbot Gateway, Blackpool, to the Council.

Situated within Muse's 25-acre Talbot Gateway Central Business District (CBD) in the centre of the seaside town, the property, built by Eric Wright Construction, is highly efficient, having achieved a BREEAM Excellent score and an EPC A rating, the highest that can be awarded.

Now complete, it will be occupied in the main by Blackpool Council, with the first floor being let to a third party.

Built over five storeys, the building has retail units at ground floor, a central courtyard, a cycle store with the capacity to house 80 bicycles and a gym, complete with fitness studio, membership of which will be open to the public.

When complete, Talbot Gateway will provide new retail, commercial and community space for Blackpool, in addition to town centre parking and transport. Currently comprising a multi-storey car park and the largest Sainsbury's to be built in 2014 (60,000 sq ft of sales space), future plans include 3\* and 4\* hotels and the re-development of Blackpool North station.

John Wilson, managing director of Eric Wright Construction, said: "We're delighted to have delivered such a striking project in the centre of Blackpool, and been a part of this impressive scheme with Muse Developments.

"We are particularly proud of this project and we are pleased that we were able to work together with the local community to provide job opportunities for local unemployed people and apprentices throughout the build."

Andrew Barton, project manager at Muse Developments, added: "These are amongst the most impressive offices we have delivered and we're pleased that work is now complete. We look forward to Blackpool Council moving in over the next couple of months and delivering services to the town from their new, efficient offices.

"Although an ambitious scheme, Talbot Gateway has already begun to provide a much needed boost for the town centre, which will only be further evidenced when the neighbouring Sainsbury's store opens to the public within the coming weeks."

Cllr Fred Jackson, Blackpool Council's cabinet member for urban regeneration, said: "An extremely professional job has been done on this project and we can now look forward to the final phase of work; fitting out and moving our staff into the building.

"It's a very exciting project which has and will continue to bring hundreds of jobs into Blackpool and reshape the face of our town centre."