



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUPPORTING PARTNERSHIPS WELCOMES STEVE READ AND MARTIN GERRISH OF SOMERSET WASTE PARTNERSHIP TO THE TEAM

Supporting Partnerships, the dedicated support and advice service for local authority partnership working, is pleased to announce that Steve Read, Managing Director and Martin Gerrish, Finance Director of Somerset Waste Partnership (SWP) have joined the team as Associates.

Steve, who is well known for his work at Project Integra in Hampshire, and more recently for the delivery of advanced partnership working in Somerset achieving high levels of recycling performance with real cost savings from partnership efficiencies, is delighted to be joining the team.

He said: “Supporting Partnerships have a good track record of working on local authority partnership projects and I am pleased to be able to make the expertise and knowledge generated in Somerset to the team on an associate consultancy basis whilst maintaining my focus on the tasks ahead in SWP.”

For Supporting Partnerships, co-founder Dr Jane Beasley said: “Steve and Martin will bring many years of real-time local authority experience to bear on some of the real challenges that face councils as they seek to take their partnerships to new levels and work more efficiently in the current climate of achieving more with less.”

Co-founder Ray Georgeson MBE added: “We were pleased to welcome Jane Stephenson and the Resource Futures team as Associate Partners in the summer. Adding Steve and Martin to the team further strengthens our offer and we look forward to contributing to the work needed to find new ways to collaborate on waste and resources management and save money whilst ensuring services meet public demands.”

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NOTES TO EDITORS

1. **Supporting Partnerships** is an initiative created by Dr Jane Beasley of Beasley Associates and Ray Georgeson of RGR - Ray Georgeson Resources Ltd. It is a group of industry experts with working knowledge of local authority partnerships collaborating to share their expertise with councils needing to develop and assess their partnerships. Today, as well as Jane and Ray the team includes Resource Futures and Somerset Waste Partnership. For more information visit www.supportingpartnerships.com
2. **Dr Jane Beasley and Ray Georgeson MBE** are both long-standing practitioners in the waste and resources industry, now running professional services consultancies. They worked together in the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit on the *Waste not: want not* review of waste policy in England, conducted by the Cabinet Office in 2002/3 and have previously had varied policy and delivery roles at CIWM and WRAP respectively.
3. **Recent partnership projects** they have worked on include a major national survey of the state of local authority partnerships (in 2010 for Defra/IESE) and a review of partnership options (in 2010/11) for Cumbria Waste Management Partnership.
4. **Steve Read** has been Managing Director of Somerset Waste Partnership (responsible to a Joint Committee with delegated powers over waste collection and disposal) since 2007. At SWP he has overseen the fusion of six local authority client teams into one highly regarded unit and the delivery of a harmonised, single contract for collection with class leading recycling rates. Steve, with the support of the Somerset Waste Board, has provided advice to other local authority partnerships in the south west and beyond and sits on Defra's Joint Waste Authority and Advanced Partnership Working Board. Steve is also behind SWP's award winning partnership with Marks and Spencer to recover more quality packaging. As Executive Officer for Hampshire's Project Integra between 2002 and 2007, as well as recognition for promoting partnership working, Steve conceived and delivered a materials analysis facility to monitor and promote material quality in co-mingled collections. Steve is also currently the Chair of the Resource Recovery Forum (RRF).

5. **Martin Gerrish** is a CIPFA qualified accountant and Group Manager for Environment Finance at Somerset County Council. Martin has been the responsible finance officer for the Somerset Waste Partnership during its development and since its inception in 2007. In this role Martin acts impartially under a service level agreement for the five Districts as well as the County Council. Martin has provided guidance on set up, cost sharing and critical financial issues in to a number of local authorities contemplating similar waste partnership arrangements. Among many other roles, Martin was previously the financial lead for the combination of Devon and Somerset Fire & Rescue Services and Martin continues to provide advice to those setting up similar bodies on issues such as grant, asset and debt transfer and council tax equalisation. Martin is widely regarded by District as well as County Council members and colleagues to have a strong handle on governance issues such as Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, and is often in demand to join working groups with those charged with these issues to assist with their development and implementation.

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