

SQW CONSULTING

Press Release – 25 February 2009

SQW Consulting appoints new Director to expand Regeneration and Infrastructure services

SQW Consulting, one of the UK's largest and best regarded providers of sustainable economic and social development consultancy services, has appointed Stephen Lucas as a Director to help drive forward the expansion of its work in physical development and infrastructure projects. Based in SQW's Manchester office, he will work across the UK to advise clients on major infrastructure and regeneration projects with the aim of ensuring that they are designed to make optimal contributions towards local and regional regeneration objectives.

Mr Lucas is an economist with over 14 years experience of advising public and private sector clients on large, complex and multi-disciplinary economic development and regeneration studies. He was previously a Senior Director at CB Richard Ellis, a leading real estate advisor, and has also held senior positions at DTZ Pineda and Roger Tym & Partners.

Mr Lucas has been responsible for advising and acting as an expert witness on major regeneration schemes, including the Ruskin Square (or Croydon Gateway) scheme, part of the major Croydon Vision 2020 regeneration scheme, for Schrodgers and Stanhope plc; the Warrington Wireworks redevelopment scheme for Modus and the Central Milton Keynes scheme for English Partnerships.

He has also provided strategic advice on economic development and regeneration matters, including strategies for skills, entrepreneurship and inward investment, to regional development agencies, such as the North West Development Agency and the East Midlands Development Agency, and city authorities including Liverpool, Sheffield and Cork.

Mr Lucas has led a range of high profile infrastructure projects. He has advised BAA on its development strategy at Heathrow and Stansted and in Yorkshire advised Peel Holdings on their successful case for around £14 million of ERDF support for Robin Hood Sheffield Doncaster Airport. He has also advised the Department for Transport on the potential economic and business implications of proposed changes to maritime policy and legislation and worked with public transport agencies in Manchester,

Birmingham and South Wales to determine the regeneration impacts of their strategy and projects.

His other main area of expertise is in corporate relocation, where he has worked on location benchmarking studies for NWDA, comparing Manchester and Liverpool with key UK and European competitor locations, and advised many corporate organisations on office location matters, particularly from a labour market and infrastructure perspective.

Simon Pringle, Managing Director of SQW Consulting said: “I am delighted to welcome Steve Lucas as a Director with SQW Consulting and look forward to working closely with him. He brings extensive experience of major regeneration schemes and infrastructure projects from across the UK and internationally. Steve’s experience will be invaluable in helping SQW Consulting to expand its service offer in this area to both our public and private sector clients.”

Stephen Lucas said: “I am very pleased to be joining SQW Consulting. The firm has an outstanding reputation for producing high quality and challenging work.

“It is an exciting time to be part of SQW as the company is growing fast and has a longstanding track record in the area of regeneration and its impact on economic development. I look forward to working with the team to enhance and expand the services we can provide to clients across the UK.”

- ENDS -

Editors Notes

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Photo available on request

Stephen Lucas, who has joined as the new Director at SQW Consulting to assist with the expansion of its services in the area of major regeneration schemes and physical development.

About SQW Consulting

SQW Consulting is a leading independent consultancy in the area of sustainable economic and social development that is part of SQW Group. The firm is well-known for producing ‘The Cambridge Phenomenon’, a defining report that brought Cambridge’s high-tech industry to worldwide attention.

SQW Consulting’s clients include government departments in the UK and overseas, devolved administrations, regional development agencies, funding bodies, local authorities, partnerships and international organisations.

SQW's consultants bring extensive experience to their assignments, with backgrounds in academia, national and local government, industry, and development agencies. At any one time, they are working on over 100 projects in the areas of urban and rural regeneration; innovation and business development; higher education and technology transfer; and skills and young people.

SQW is headquartered in Cambridge with regional offices in Edinburgh, Leeds, London and Manchester. For more information: www.sqw.co.uk

About SQW Group

There are three other divisions in SQW Group:

- SQW Energy provides consultancy services in energy market design and regulation; energy technology strategy and policy and carbon assessment and management. For more information: www.sqwenergy.com
- Oxford Innovation is the UK's leading operator of innovation centres, providing office, laboratory and workshop premises to over 400 start-up companies in 15 centres. Oxford Innovation also manages three highly successful investment networks that link investors with entrepreneurs seeking funding from £20,000 to £2 million. For more information: www.oxin.co.uk
- SQW Asia is headquartered in Hong Kong and provides economic and management consultancy services, including: policy analysis and review; market, feasibility and planning studies for economic and physical development and investment; and advice to support project implementation. Services are provided for Government organizations in Hong Kong and China as well as foreign firms investing in China and Chinese organisations investing overseas.