

**PRAESTA PROMPT: CONNECT WITH EACH LINK IN THE CHAIN**  
**Creating a sustainable future**

As a leader, you recognise the importance of building connections with the work of others inside and outside your organisation. But the complexity of a constantly changing environment can feel relentless. There may be a temptation to keep your head down and focus exclusively on the task or team in front of you, even though you know that will risk unintended consequences elsewhere.

What might help build investment in a joined-up approach, however difficult it may be and whatever the time pressures? How best do we **connect with each link in the chain**? As individuals and teams, it can be helpful to reflect on questions like:

- Could we describe clearly to a newcomer, how our work fits within a wider system, who the key players are, and where the interdependencies lie?
- How well are we working with those other players to understand how the overall system works for them, and what we need to do together to make it work better?
- What are the barriers to collaboration and how can we best overcome them?
- Are we prepared to give up resources or control if the wider system needs it to deliver shared objectives?
- How best do we role-model joined-up thinking and action to others?
- What is the shift we each need to make in our mindsets and behaviours to enable us to fully appreciate and support every link in the chain?

These thoughts build on the new Praesta Insight booklet, “**Leading for the Long Term: Creating a Sustainable Future**”. [Click here](#) in case you missed its circulation. The booklet is based around six metaphors, of which the second is “**Connect with each link in the chain.**”