

**December 1, 2008.**

***Owen appointed as new chief executive at Gloucestershire First***

David Owen has been appointed as the new Chief Executive at Gloucestershire First, the countywide economic partnership, succeeding Stan Jones who retires in January.

Mr Owen (36) is joining from the University of Gloucestershire where, since 2002 as director of enterprise and innovation, he managed a 15-fold increase in the university's business engagement activity.

In this role, he played a leading part in the university's support for economic development by greatly increasing its work with many local and regional companies and regional government.

Formerly enterprise network manager at Bristol University, Mr Owen returned to the south west after spells as managing director with Liverpool Business Services Ltd and marketing director at Liverpool John Moore's University.

A native of Gloucestershire and married with two daughters, he is a member of the Institute of Directors, the Institute of Knowledge Transfer and the Association of University Technology Managers.

Commenting on his new job, Mr Owen said: "For the past six years I have seen the positive impact that economic development can have on the county.

"The challenge of leading Gloucestershire First now is greater than ever, given the global economic picture. However, I am looking forward to working with our partners to ensure we continue to attract inward investment and do everything possible to help existing businesses negotiate these uncertain times."

Cllr Chas Fellows, chairman of Gloucestershire First and leader of Stroud District Council, said: "I am pleased David has agreed to join us because we feel he has the experience needed to give continued impetus to our work.

"Largely thanks to Stan Jones, Gloucestershire First is highly regarded as a successful economic driver by many in the south west. It must now use all its contacts and influence to minimise the impact of this recession and maintain morale until more stable conditions return."

Ends

Gloucestershire First is the countywide economic partnership established to develop and support the economic wellbeing of the county. It brings together partners in the field of economic development to contribute to an overall strategic plan for Gloucestershire. Further information is available on [www.glosfirst.co.uk](http://www.glosfirst.co.uk)

Pictured: Stan Jones and Cllr Chas Fellows welcome David Owen (centre) to his new post as Chief Executive of Gloucestershire First.



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